

***WHEREAS**, the UPPER RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION CORPS, an AmeriCorps national service program since its inception in 2006, has proven to be an effective way to engage Americans in meeting a wide range of local needs and promote the ethic of service and volunteering; and*

***WHEREAS**, the AmeriCorps program, working closely with its nationwide network of programs, including the UPPER RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION CORPS-has strengthened America's communities and non-profit sector by investing hundreds of millions of dollars in their efforts; and*

***WHEREAS**, each year AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 75,000 citizens across the nation, including TWENTY-TWO currently in El Paso County working with TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE, who have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done for America" and give back in an intensive way to our community, our state, and our county; and*

***WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps members served a total of more than 705 Million hours nationwide, including 45,000 hours in EL PASO COUNTY as part of THE SOUTH TEXAS AMERICORPS INITIATIVE (1994 TO 2000) AND THE UPPER RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION CORPS (2006 to present), helping to improve the lives of our community's most vulnerable citizens, protect our environment, contribute to our public safety, and strengthen our educational system; and*

***WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps members nationwide, in return for their service, have earned nearly \$1.43 billion to use to further their own educational advancement at colleges and universities-including more than \$100,000 that has been awarded to El Paso members with The Texas AgriLife Extension Service; and*

***WHEREAS**, the annual national AmeriCorps Week, May 11-18, 2008, is an opportune time for the people of El Paso to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni for their powerful impact; thank all community partners in El Paso County and around our state and nation who make the program possible; and bring more Americans into service.*

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the El Paso County Judge and the El Paso County Commissioner's Court, hereby designate May 11-18, 2008 as*

"AMERICORPS WEEK"

and in so doing, urge all citizens to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni and raise awareness about the importance of national and community service.

***SIGNED**, this 12th day of May 2008*

Commissioner Luis G. Sarinana, Pct. 1

Commissioner Veronica Escobar, Pct. 2

Commissioner Miguel A. Teran, Pct. 3

Commissioner Daniel R. Haggerty, Pct. 4

Anthony Cobos County Judge