

**Concho Valley Economic
Development District**

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Concho Valley Economic Development District, Incorporated (CVEDD) came into existence following the actions of the Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG) in 1993. The district is a Texas nonprofit corporation with United States I.R.S. designation as a 501 (C) 6 organization. CVEDD is operated under direction of the Board of Directors who also serve as an CEDS Committee for planning purposes. They meet every two months and represent a broad spectrum including: labor; business; local government; industry; finance; agriculture; professionals; education; health; unemployed; underemployed; and minorities, including racial and gender groups of the district.

CVEDD is staffed and administered under contract with the Concho Valley Council of Governments. Present staff members of the district are: John Austin Stokes - Executive Director and Albert Rodriguez - Regional Services Director.



The district serves the thirteen counties of: Coke; Concho; Crockett; Irion; Kimble; Mason; McCulloch; Menard; Reagan; Schleicher; Sterling; Sutton; and Tom Green. There are fifteen cities in the district with Census 2000 populations ranging from 155 in the City of Melvin to 88,439 in the City of San Angelo. The cities are: Big Lake; Brady; Bronte; Eden; Eldorado; Junction; Mason; Melvin; Menard; Mertzon; Paint Rock; Robert Lee; San Angelo; Sonora; and Sterling City.

The district is centrally located in West Texas. It is served with nine (9) U.S. and six (6) State highways. The one lack is a north-south interstate. However, recent notices have indicated that both the federal Ports-to-Plains trade corridor and the state's Trunk System include routes through the center of the Concho Valley passing through several cities. The upgrade and expansion of these highways will provide the region with additional access to economic markets of the state, nation and international trade.

The district is a sparsely populated rural area with a 2000 Census population of 148,212 citizens. A total of 104,010 of this population resides in Tom Green County and the remaining 44,202 is spread among the other twelve counties. Sterling County has the least amount with only a total of 1,393 residents in the entire county.

The geography of the district includes the dry and arid expanse in the west and the central Texas Hill Country in the east. The average rainfall in the west is 18 inches per year and in the east it averages just less than 25 inches per year. The growing season is exceptionally long due to the warm climate.

The district has had a roller-coaster history of economic development from the mid 1800s to current times. The land was settled by rugged pioneers who developed the area into agricultural production. Row crops have been grown in the northern portion of the district and farm animals have been the main cash crops in the central and southern portions. Cattle, goats, and sheep are the main products. The Concho Valley is a leading center for goats, sheep, wool and other related products. Row farming is primarily cotton and grain crops.

The district's fifteen cities contain infrastructure systems which have been in existence for a number of years. Streets, water systems, waste water systems, public buildings, and fire protection equipment need updating and enhancing to meet regulations and the demands of

growth. Most of the local governments have applied for the Texas Community Development Program for funding for infrastructure from year to year. These funds have provided assistance on a number of programs, but needs exceed the funding available. The U. S. Department of Agriculture through its Rural Development program has assisted in these needs for some of the rural areas. Serious needs continue to exist with assistance critical for economic growth.

There has been limited growth in the area. The lack of a diversified economy and the region's dependence on the petroleum and agribusiness sectors had left the counties and cities in the area in a "sustaining" mode in an effort to endure hard economic difficulties. However, recent advances in the petroleum industry have reflected well in those areas of the region with a significant interest in that industry. The area does not have alternative jobs available for these citizens who are trained for specific occupations. The northern and western portions of the district have had to deal with changes in governmental crop programs and continued droughts. The southern and eastern portions of the region have been dealing with the drought and the drop in prices for wool and mohair. However, there have been some advances in the economic condition of the area. For example, the City of San Angelo has replaced some of the jobs lost with the closing of two local manufacturing firms with the placement of two service operations. Economic diversification has occurred in cities like Bronte and Eden who have located detention centers in their respective areas. Additionally, McCulloch County and the City of Brady are marketing products from special sand found in the county, trailer manufacturing and computer cable. Finally, the economic pressure in the area has resulted in a resilient regional community that has begun to understand that their individual well-being is dependent on the collective well-being of the region. This, along with items such as the new West Texas Training Center, will better equip the region to face the economic development concerns that it faces in the 21st century.

The Concho Valley District has some rural cities which have a portion of the sales tax designated for economic development. The cities are utilizing the economic development sales tax in a variety of ways to augment and expand their economic development strategies. The cities have made good use of the sales tax to attract new industry and to save jobs at others. The main problem is the small amount of funds available in these areas.

Local funding for housing, infrastructure, and development is limited. The financial community is helpful toward growth, but is limited in the amount of funds which can be committed. Additional funding is needed for growth and retention of existing business.

Medical facilities are critical to the remote rural areas, as they are to larger population centers. There are a very limited number of physicians in the rural areas. This problem is addressed through the clinics, nurses, and physician's assistants in the district. A better system of networking among all of these providers is needed.

The counties of the district have problems with the communication systems for law enforcement and emergency services. These systems are old and do not reach the entire district and into neighboring regions as needed for good communications. Advances have been made in this area and inter-communication has improved however updating is needed to serve future needs.

The district has an excellent quality of life for its citizens. The region's climate and availability of health services within the populated areas of the region attract many retirees. The ample hunting and fishing facilities bring many sportsmen to the area during those seasons.

Goals, objectives and implementation plans for the district recognize the strengths and weaknesses. The district must address the needs of: streets, water systems, waste water systems, landfilling, recycling, medical networking, transportation, education, production of

products related to local raw materials, development of diversification of local economies, and providing financing for expansion and start-up business.

The Concho Valley Economic Development District, Inc. will continue to work with the Concho Valley RC&D, the Angelo State University - Small Business Development Center, the University of Texas - Permian Basin - University Center, the Big Country RC&D, the Hill Country RC&D, the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Colorado River Municipal Water District, American Electric Power, Lone Star Gas, Verizon Telephone, local chambers of commerce, and local economic development organizations to provide a coordinated effort to develop a vital economy in the entire district.

The cities and counties of the district are interested in growth. They support efforts of the district and each participant in the enhancement and promotion of the area for potential and expanding industries and the quality of life for citizens.

The Concho Valley Economic Development District, Inc. serves the **LAND OF PROMISE**. The promise is that the district provides opportunities for growth in an environment which encourages family living and community involvement.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Concho Valley Economic Development District, Incorporated (CVEDD) began due to actions of the Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG) in 1993. The district became a Texas nonprofit corporation under Charter Number 01285416-01 (Attachment A-1). The U.S. Internal Revenue Service designated CVEDD as a 501 (C) 6 organization, in 1995, with Employer Identification Number 75-2573427 (Attachment A-2). CVEDD is operated under direction of the Board of Directors, who also serve as an CEDS Committee for planning purposes (Attachment A-3). The Board of Directors provides a broad base which represents: labor, business, local government, industry, finance, agriculture, professionals, health, unemployed, underemployed and minorities including racial and gender groups of the district (Attachment A-4).

CVEDD is staffed and administered under contract with the Concho Valley Council of Governments (Attachment A-5). CVCOG also provides office space, communications, copying, and other services.

Present staff of the district is:

John Austin Stokes - Executive Director

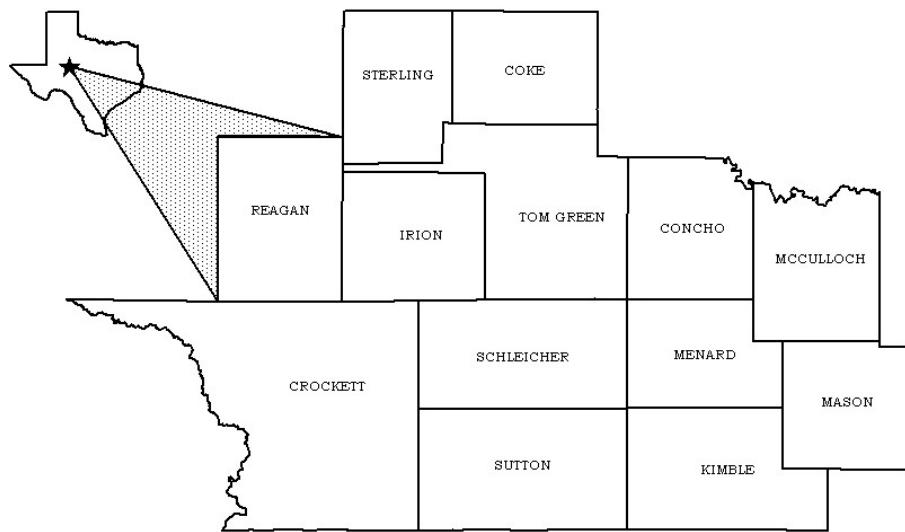
Albert Rodriguez - Regional Services Director

The district serves a thirteen-county region of West-central Texas, coinciding with the Service Delivery Area 10, designated by the Governor of Texas, for the Concho Valley Council of Governments which was created in 1967. The Council of Governments was assigned responsibility for consolidation and elimination of duplication of effort in providing services to the region. The thirteen counties served are: Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green (Figure 1).

The Board of Directors was organized in accordance with bylaws which were adopted on July 10, 1996 (Attachment A-6). Regular meetings occur six times per year beginning in October 1996. Minutes of Board meetings are included as Attachment B.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was reviewed, modified and accepted by cities, counties, chambers of commerce, and economic development corporations of the district.

CONCHO VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
FIGURE 1



Concho Valley Economic Development District, Inc.

The District initiated a planning process to examine and evaluate its economic condition and make recommendations for programs and strategies for economic development. The process began with an analysis of the existing document. Staff visited with all available council and commissioner's courts of the district. The second was the completion of this EDP as an update and expansion of the OEDP submitted in 1994. Annual review and recognition of the EDP by member counties for concurrence of goals will continue to provide direction for the Board in developing strategies and goals. Although this process was initiated locally and is controlled locally, the document is structured to fill the requirements established by the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration.

The following document describes the Concho Valley Development District's Economic Development Plan (EDP) with the following major goals:

- To enhance job opportunities within the district, especially for the low income, unemployed and underemployed.
- To strengthen and diversify the business, industrial, and agricultural sectors of the district's economy.
- To improve the quality of life within the district.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

THE AREA AND ITS ECONOMY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Concho Valley Economic Development District is well situated for easy access to major cities throughout the State of Texas and the Southwestern portion of the United States. The district is approximately at the midpoint between Houston and El Paso in the portion of the state referred to as West Central Texas (Figures 7). McCulloch County in the northeastern part of the district has been designated geographically as the center of Texas.

CVEDD is comprised of 13 counties with approximately 16,287 square miles. The geography of the district ranges from the rolling arid Permian basin oil fields in the northwest to the hill country in the southeast. The soil ranges from sandy loam in the west to clay with numerous rock outcrops in the east. The climate is temperate with annual rainfall average from eighteen (18) to twenty-five (25) inches. Annual temperatures range from an average of 30 degrees for the low in January to a high of 97 degrees in July. There is an average of 227 growing days in the district. (Figure 20). Coke, Crockett, Irion, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton and Tom Green Counties are the largest oil and gas producing lands of the district. These counties have not diversified their economies during the past due to the growth found in this one industry. The remaining counties (Concho, Kimble, McCulloch, Mason, and Menard) have relied on an agricultural economy.

The district is predominantly a sparsely populated rural area (Figures 2 & 6) with Tom Green County and the City of San Angelo as the only urban area in the district. Tom Green County has a population of 104,010 or 70.1% of the Census 2000 figure of 148,212 population in the

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY

Figure 2

COUNTY	% REGION POPULATION 1990	% REGION POPULATION 2000	% REGION POPULATION 2006	PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE	PERCENT RURAL	PERCENT URBAN
COKE	2.4	2.6	2.75	4.3	100.00	0.00
CONCHO	2.1	2.7	2.62	4.0	100.00	0.00
CROCKETT	2.9	2.8	2.75	1.5	100.00	0.00
IRION	1.1	1.2	1.21	1.7	100.00	0.00
KIMBLE	2.9	3.0	3.17	3.6	100.00	0.00
McCULLOCH	6.2	5.5	5.56	7.7	32.69	67.31
MASON	2.4	2.5	2.66	4.0	100.00	0.00
MENARD	1.6	1.6	1.59	2.6	100.00	0.00
REAGAN	3.2	2.2	2.12	2.8	100.00	0.00
SCHLEICHER	2.1	2.0	1.93	2.2	100.00	0.00
STERLING	1.0	0.9	0.93	1.5	100.00	0.00
SUTTON	2.9	2.8	2.85	2.8	100.00	0.00
TOM GREEN	69.2	70.2	69.92	68.3	14.98	85.02
AVERAGE	7.7	7.7	7.69	9.1	36.61	63.39

Source: Census Bureau

Urban is defined as containing a city of 5,000 and larger. The population continues to move toward urban areas. Between the 1980 and 1990 census counts the population became more urbanized and again between the 1990 and 2000 census counts. While the trend tends to continue, reductions in population are also shown more in the more urbanized areas. The Concho Valley Economic Development District, Inc. contains 16,287 square miles with low density. This provides a great potential for growth.

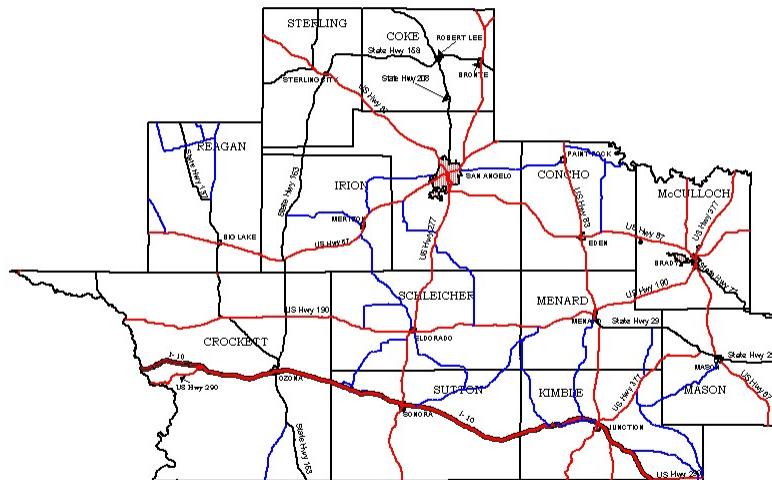
district. Population growth has been constant for the district, but several of the rural counties have experienced population decline (Figure 3). Population density in the district is concentrated in Tom Green County with 68.3 persons per square mile. The remaining counties have a density of 1.5 to 7.7 persons per square mile (Figure 2). Net migration has shown a shift of population from rural to urban areas (Figure 6). Tom Green County is the only one to show a steady in-migration over the past three decades.

The district contains fifteen incorporated cities: Big Lake, Brady, Bronte, Eden, Eldorado, Junction, Mason, Melvin, Menard, Mertzon, Paint Rock, Robert Lee, San Angelo, Sonora, and Sterling City. There are numerous inhabited places in the district with populations of less than 10 to more than 5,000. Crockett is the only county with no incorporated city. The cities and the road structure are shown in Figure 8.

Major roads in the area are Interstate 10 which runs east to west through Kimble, Sutton, and Crockett Counties; US87 traverses the district through Sterling, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch, and Mason Counties; US83 provides direct north-south access through Concho,

Menard, and Kimble Counties; US67 provides a connection through Tom Green, Irion, and Reagan Counties; and US277 provides service through Coke, Tom Green, Schleicher, and Sutton Counties (Figure 8). There are other US, State and farm-to-market roads throughout the area. Interstate 10 is the only interstate in the district. The Texas Trunk System has identified many of the above mentioned highways for upgrading to four lane divided service. This improvement will provide easy access to the panhandle and to

CONCHO VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
CITIES AND HIGHWAYS
FIGURE 8



Concho Valley Economic Development District, Inc.

San Antonio when completed. Additionally, the federal Ports-to-Plains trade corridor from Colorado through Oklahoma and Texas to Mexico will traverse through Sterling, Coke, Tom Green, Schleicher and Sutton counties as it passes through the Concho Valley region. Transportation is provided through highways, rail, and air. There are only short stretches of navigable waters in the CVEDD. Most of the communities have small airports for local use. The only commercial airport in the district is Mathis Field at San Angelo. Rail service is available in McCulloch, Tom Green, Irion, and Reagan Counties. Agricultural land use in the district is characterized by Figure 9. The agricultural use is for ranching of cattle, sheep and goats. The shaded portions in Coke, Concho, McCulloch, and Tom Green Counties also produce cotton and grain crops. Portions of McCulloch and Mason counties also yield marketable sands, gravel, and marble. The reduction in federal incentives for agricultural products has caused the district to look at its natural resources. Land use plans are

becoming more important. The petroleum industry has left pollution problems which will need to be addressed before meaningful economic development will take place. This is also true of returning the land to agricultural uses. Nine of the fifteen incorporated cities have planning and zoning commissions with zoning ordinances (Figure 10). Six of the cities also have an industrial plan. These communities have seen the need of zoning and planning for future growth.

PAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND FACTORS

The rural portion of the district has seen a dramatic change over the past decade. The two major parts of the economy were petroleum and agriculture. The petroleum industry permeated economy of the western states as it provided income and high paying jobs. The main economy in the remainder of the district was agriculture. Beginning in the 1980s, petroleum prices and state and federal policies deteriorated to the point that production dropped and jobs were lost. The recent upturn in the petroleum industry has begun to turn this around, however its full effect will be a while in maturing. This was followed with the decline of agricultural prices and subsidies as well as a six year drought. The result has been less money in the local economy and a loss of jobs. Rural communities have experienced an out-migration of youth and skilled citizens as no replacement jobs were available. Tom Green County has experienced the same problem but has been successful in adding new industries for diversification. The result has been addition to the job market in this county (Figure 15).

Diversification has been very slow and difficult for small communities. Menard County has seen a truffle farm and a recent addition of a wine grape farm. McCulloch County has seen new industries involved in mining a special sand and a new manufacturer of computer cables. Additionally, Curtis Filed Airport in Brady has been expanding its employment opportunities and is continuing to diversify.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The district is distinguished by many natural resources. These include climate, beauty of the area, quality of life, petroleum products, cotton, grain, cedar, deer, goats, sheep, cattle, sand, granite, old forts, a cavern, and others.

The beauty of the area and the climate have enticed many citizens to become part of the area after retirement. The quality of life provides an excellent place for year round sports, hiking, fishing, etc. These same resources encourage families and businesses to look to the area as a place to live and raise a family.

Petroleum products have long been important to the economy of the district. Figure 41 indicates oil and gas reserves in the western half of the district plus selected areas in every county. Cotton and wool are grown and harvested in the area. The district is the most prolific producer of wool in the United States. These fibers are processed to various degrees in the district. Cotton ginning is the first step in processing, but the cotton must then leave the district for manufacturing into end-products. Wool is scoured in the district. Other fiber is marketed in the district after production in other areas of the state and around the world.

Cedar or spruce grows naturally over much of our area. Industry in Kimble County processes the fiber to produce the oil. This is used in many products. A new use for the remaining pulp has assisted in development of a recycling plant for plastics. The use of the recycled plastic and cedar pulp produces a lumber product which is being marketed nationwide.

The entire area abounds in wild deer. This brings a large contingent of hunters into the area each autumn. The economy is enhanced with this industry. Ranchers and farmers lease lands for hunting; motels and restaurants house and feed them; gas stations, feed stores, and

grocery stores provide supplies, and other merchants sell merchandise to visiting hunters and their families.

Another associated, and increasing, activity is tourism throughout the region. The natural resources of The Caverns at Sonora and the early Indian paintings on rocks near Paint Rock attract many tourists. Other attractions include old forts in Coke, Crockett, Mason, Menard, and Tom Green Counties. Finally, some of the counties are venturing out into nature tourism such as bird watching and wildlife photography.

Ranching provides other resources in the area. Sheep, goats, and cattle provide a strong portion of the local economy. Goats produce leather, wool and meat; cattle produce meat and leather; and sheep produce wool, leather products, and manure which are composted into a final product in Menard. Many of these products are processed in the district.

Mining of sand, granite, and other natural resources provides a major influx into the local economy, especially in the eastern portion of the district.

The CVEDD has numerous natural resources which become obvious as new industry develops. The dry, clean air provides an ideal setting for manufacturers in the San Angelo area.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

LAND USE

The area is historically ranch land with crop lands included in the northern half of Concho and McCulloch Counties, the northeastern portion of Tom Green County, and the eastern portion of Coke County. Other crop land is found in scattered portions of the remaining counties.

Soil, rock formations, and levelness of the terrain contribute to the ability of the land to provide a crop base and for location of industrial sites. See Figure 42 for a view of the soil types

of the region. The geography of the area varies from rolling lands to the west with hills and broken areas in the east. Coke, McCulloch, Mason, Menard, Kimble, Sutton, Schleicher, and Tom Green Counties contain some areas of hills and valleys which are too steep for economical development.

Oil and gas production has been evident in all counties of the region, but, primarily in the central and western portions (see Figure 41 for documented deposits). Coke, Crockett, Irion, Reagan, Schleicher, and Sutton Counties have relied on this industry for a large portion of their tax base.

Another previous use found to have an impact on regional land use is landfilling of solid waste. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulate the use of land where waste is buried. Figure 39 indicates landfill sites that are closed while Figure 38 documents landfills which were open as of June 1, 2001. An updated and comprehensive closed landfill inventory is being developed by the Concho Valley Council of Governments which will include all land used for solid waste disposal.

There is no Superfund or state designated sites in the region. No sites have been identified with hazardous or toxic substances present.

PRIME OR UNIQUE FARMLAND

There is very little unique farmland in the thirteen county area. Notable exceptions are the truffle farms and a new area being developed for wine grapes in Menard County, east of the City of Menard. There are small areas of unique farmland for pecan orchards but these are so small and scattered that designation is a problem.

There is a great amount of prime farmland acreage. The following list gives an estimation of prime farmland in each county:

Coke County - There are 128,860 acres of prime farmland in the county plus 58,860 acres which are prime farmland when irrigated.



Concho County - There are 201,968 acres of prime farmland, and 10,690 acres which are prime when not frequently flooded, and 9,710 acres which are prime farmland when irrigated.

Crockett County - There is no prime farmland in the county.

Irion County - There are 190,210 acres of prime farmland in the county plus 29,360 acres which are prime farmland when irrigated.

Kimble County - There are 95,136 acres of prime farmland plus 7,933 acres which are prime farmland when irrigated.

Mason County - The county has a large amount of prime farmland. The soil survey is not complete by the Soil Conservation Service and acreage has not been determined.

McCulloch County - There are 170,337 acres of prime farmland with 33,731 acres which are prime farmland if irrigated.

Menard County - There are 51,309 acres of prime farmland and 27,692 acres which are prime farmland when irrigated.

Reagan County - There are 421,910 acres of the county which are prime farmland if the land is irrigated.

Schleicher County - There are 167,050 acres of prime farmland.

Sterling County - There are 227,080 acres of prime farmland plus 7,350 acres which are prime farmland when irrigated.

Sutton County - There are 96,400 acres of prime farmland.

Tom Green County - There are 307,523 acres of prime farmland plus 42,490 acres which are prime farmland if irrigated.

CONSERVATION AREAS, UNIQUE HABITATS, AND ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

There are no identified conservation areas or unique habitats listed in the area, but, there are ecologically sensitive areas at the headwaters of drainage systems where springs flow. The counties of Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, Menard, Schleicher, and Tom Green all have springs which flow into the headwaters of waterways.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

WATER AND WASTE WATER SYSTEMS

(See Figure 23 for a map of aquifers in the area)

Coke County - The Cities of Bronte and Robert Lee have been upgrading their treatment and distribution facilities for the past several years. Both cities have been on a program to expand service to citizens. Adequate service and pressure are available for fire protection in both cities.

Service improvements are enhanced through help from the Texas Community Development Program. The City of Bronte received a TCDP grant to replace the line from Oak Creek Lake to the city. The old line was of eight inch cast iron pipe that had deteriorated through time. The City of Robert Lee received a TCDP award to upgrade their water treatment plant that deteriorated to the point of being cited by the TCEQ.

Concho County - The Cities of Eden and Paint Rock are continually working to provide adequate water and sewer service. Paint Rock citizens use septic tanks. The City of Eden provides sewer service for its citizens. The waters of the area contain nitrogen and radium in amounts that exceed standards. The project to provide good drinking water will include either new water purification equipment, new water sources, or a combination. Fire protection needs in and around the City of Paint Rock are handled by tank trucks. Trucks must transport water to fires. The City of Eden's system provides approximately double the present requirements which includes fire protection needs. Eden was awarded a TCDP grant to replace existing water lines, loop the water system, place valves and provide fire hydrants for fire protection.

Crockett County - The county has worked with Texas Community Development Program funding to provide water and sewer in all of the inhabited areas. The Crockett County WCID #1 provides service to most of the citizens in the Ozona area.

Colonia areas are included in this system. The latest enhancements to the water system should provide adequate supply and pressure for residential, commercial, and fire protection needs in the Ozona area. Additionally, Crockett County recently received a TCDP grant award to upgrade the sewer system which had major problems such as homes becoming flooded with raw sewage due to the lines becoming plugged.

Irion County - The City of Mertzon provides local water from municipal wells. Adequate pressure and volume are available for fire fighting in the city due to recent increases in above

ground storage capacity. The previous storage tank was in numerous violations from the TCEQ. Along with the storage tank, the City also completed line work with valves for increased efficiency. Additionally, the City has acquired TCDP funds to provide new wells to provide adequate water supply through the recent drought conditions. Irion County was also successful in receiving a TCDP grant to provide an improved water system to the community of Barnhart.

Kimble County - The City of Junction provides water from the Llano River. The plant is capable of producing 2 million gallons per day. Current requirements are at 1.9 million gallons per day. The city must address increased capacity needs in the near future. Economic growth is limited due to this problem. Current use of water for fire fighting requires curtailment of other uses. Improvements in above ground storage capacity are now in progress. Sewer capacity is adequate for moderate growth with only 20% loading on a plant capacity of 300,000 G.P.D. Additionally, the city received a TCDP grant to upgrade the sewer system.

McCulloch County - The City of Brady provides water from municipal wells and from the Brady reservoir. Plant capacity is presently at 7 million G.P.D. with a peak load of 4 million G.P.D. Projects have provided greater pressure for citizen's use and fire control with the addition of a standpipe in the north portion of the City and a ground storage unit in the eastern portion of the City. Additionally, water lines in existence for 70 years have been replaced to provide for better distribution. Fire control needs are adequately met with this enhanced system. Sewer service is available for approximately double the present load. The City of Melvin provides water service from municipal wells. Daily capacity is 110,000 G.P.D. Service lines will not support high pressure fire needs. Deficiencies in the system had been cited by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and a project correcting the distribution deficiencies was completed. Tank trucks are still required to haul water to a fire scene. Septic tanks are used in the City of Melvin, as no waste water system is in place. The waste water problems of septic tanks must be addressed in the near

future. Finally, McCulloch County has also secured TCDP funds to 12,400 linear feet of water distribution lines to the community of Rochelle.

Mason County - The City of Mason provides water from municipal wells with loading at approximately 80% of capacity. Sewer service is provided with more than 50% capacity available. Renovations of both systems are continuing to provide adequate service and capacity. The most recent upgrade has been to the sewer system with new pipe lines and the addition of a new filtration unit. Pressure and capacity are available for fire protection within the city.

Menard County - The City of Menard provides water from municipal wells with a capacity of 8 million G.P.D. Peak loads have been 610,000 G.P.D., or approximately 7.6% of capacity. The sewer plant has a capacity of 170,000 G.P.D. with about 60% utilization. TCDP grants have provided the construction of a hydropneumatic tank, new PVC water lines, new SDR sewer lines, and more service connections and manholes. Adequate water pressure and capacity are available for fire protection needs.

Reagan County - The City of Big Lake provides water with a capacity of 3 million G.P.D. available from municipal wells. Approximate peak loads are 1.5 million G.P.D. This provides adequate supply for all needs, including fire protection. There was a problem with the lack of pressure in some portions of the system. However, the City has recently completed work on an above ground storage upgrade. Sewer capacity of 600,000 G.P.D. is presently loaded at approximately 50%. There are continuing needs of maintenance of the system which is aging.

Schleicher County - The City of Eldorado provides a capacity of more than two million gallons of water per day from municipal wells. Present peak load is 1.25 million G.P.D. The City has been successful in acquiring funds from the TCDP to provide storage and distribution improvements. Adequate pressure and capacity is available for daily usage and fire protection in the city. Updated sewer treatment capacity of 385,000 G.P.D. is in the finishing stages with

approximately a 35% load. Constant updating and expansion of both systems are required in order to provide adequate service.

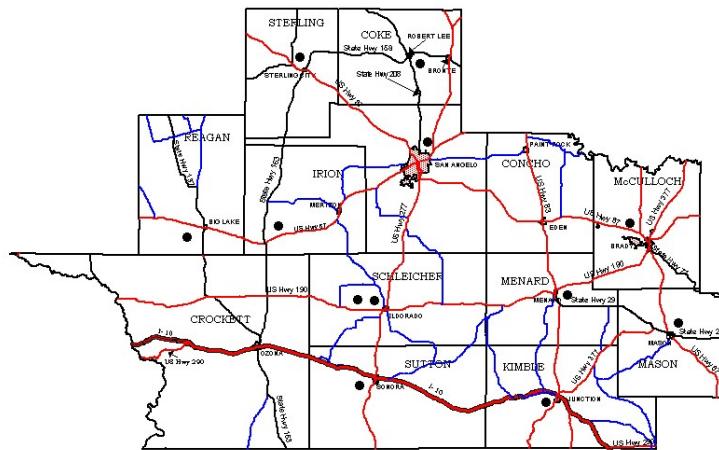
Sterling County - The City of Sterling City provides water from municipal wells. Present capacity of 500,000 G.P.D. is approximately 40% loaded. The city has recently completed piping and drilling as well as a booster station and water main looping to provide better water service. The old wells were not meeting needs for citizens and fire protection. New capacity is adequate for this use. The city provides sewer service with excess capacity at 95,000 G.P.D.

Sutton County - The City of Sonora provides water from 5 municipal wells with a daily capacity of 4 million gallons. A peak load of 1.5 million G.P.D. is being experienced. The City was recently awarded a TCDP grant for a new 400,000 gallon storage tank to provide water service to the city. Good capacity and pressure are available for citizens and fire protection. The sewer plant is rated at 1.5 million G.P.D. with a loading of approximately 60%.

Tom Green County - The City of San Angelo provides water with a capacity of 76 million G.P.D. from five lakes and a well field. Peak loading is currently about 40 million G.P.D., or approximately 53%. Adequate capacity and pressure assure good fire protection to local citizens. The sewer plant has a 16.3 million G.P.D. capacity with a 9 million G.P.D. load. This provides adequate service for present and planned growth. Additionally, Tom Green County was awarded a TCDP grant for water system improvements in the community of Christoval.

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

CONCHO VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
LANDFILLS
FIGURE 24



Concho Valley Economic Development District, Inc.

Figure 24 shows the locations for open solid waste landfills in the area. The following update will provide county by county specifics of service. All landfills in the area are either Type I or Type IV facilities for municipal solid waste. All except the City of San Angelo facility are permitted as "Arid Exempt" (AE) landfills. All sites are in compliance, but meeting operating requirements under RCRA rules known as Subtitle D and TCEQ 30TAC330 regulations, are making the costs skyrocket.

Coke County - A type IV-AE landfill is provided by the City of Robert Lee. This facility is permitted to accept yard trimmings, brush, and construction debris. The City of Bronte contracts with BFI to provide collection service and disposal in Taylor County. The City of Robert Lee contracts with Trashaway Services for collection with disposal in Tom Green County. Both services have been satisfactory to citizens and businesses in the area. Coke County provides used oil and used oil filter collection in both cities. The City of Robert Lee provides mulching of clean wood waste at its Type IV landfill. The mulch is then available for private and public use on gardens and

flower beds. Drop-off collection sites were constructed in 1996 for recyclable materials in the City of Robert Lee. A site is located at the post office and another on the north side of the school. Both sites provide collection of paper and corrugated cardboard.

Concho County - The City of Eden closed their landfill in 1993 and contracted with BFI for waste collection and disposal in Taylor County. The City of Paint Rock has recently closed their landfill due to lack of capacity. They are contracting with Trashaway Services for a Citizens' Collection Station. This provides a place for citizens to take waste to be transported to Tom Green County for disposal. The City of Eden provides used oil collection adjacent to the city hall.

Crockett County - The County contracts with Waste Management for collection and disposal service. The waste is hauled to Ector County for disposal. Yard and construction waste are being composted locally with coordination by the Crockett County WCID #1. The county provides used oil and used oil filter collection at a site in Ozona. Waste Management provides a drop-off collection center for recyclables at the same site. The county has expressed an interest in developing landfill capacities closer to residents.

Irion County - The County operates a landfill located approximately 0.6 mile west of Barnhart. Citizens may contract with either RSC or Trashaway Services to collect and dispose of waste. RSC disposes of waste in the county landfill while Trashaway disposes of their waste in Tom Green County. The county provides used oil and oil filter collection in the City of Mertzon and the community of Barnhart.

Kimble County - The City of Junction provides a Type IV-AE landfill for their citizens. This facility accepts yard trimmings and construction/demolition waste. The remainder of the waste in the city is collected by Trashaway Services for disposal in Tom Green County. A drop-off location is

available for those who do not have collection service. The City of Junction provides used oil and oil filter collection at the city maintenance facilities.

Mason County - The City of Mason operates a landfill and provides collection service in the city. The city also has one of the best developed recycling programs in a rural area. They collect: used oil; used oil filters; clear glass; brown glass; corrugated cardboard; aluminum cans; steel cans; newspapers and plastic. A building, baler, fork lift, and truck are dedicated to the processing of recyclables.

McCulloch County - The City of Brady operates a Type I-AE landfill and provides collection service in the city. The City of Melvin provides a citizen's collection station and transports their waste to the Brady landfill for disposal. The City of Brady has a drop-off recycling center for used oil, oil filters, corrugated cardboard, clear glass, brown glass, newspaper, aluminum cans, and steel cans. An oil filter crusher enhances this program. McCulloch County has instituted an office paper recycling program which encompasses the city, county, hospital, schools and some private firms. Cooperation with the City of Mason has begun and is expected to expand the recycling program. Yard trimmings are mulched at the landfill.

Menard County - The City of Menard has a Type IV-AE landfill for yard trimmings and construction debris. They also have a transfer station situated at this facility. Waste Management provides collection for the city with disposal in Bexar County. The city provides a used oil and oil filter collection center. During 1996 they began expansion of recyclables collection with the addition of a recyclable material collection trailer. This allows them to have several locations for collection, including special events. Waste Management will transport and market collected recyclable materials.

Reagan County - The City of Big Lake provides a landfill for the citizens. The TCEQ recently permitted a new facility and the City of Big Lake is looking to import waste from the local area.

The city has a collection center for used oil and used oil filters. An oil filter crusher is available to enhance the program. The city added a wood chipper in 1996 to provide mulch from clean wood waste. Clean up service for yard trimmings is available twice a year in alleyways and yard trimmings may be chipped at the landfill at all times. This has significantly reduced waste going into the landfill. The school system, Reagan County, and the City of Big Lake are cooperating in a recycling program to educate children and the general public. They will put collection into practice at the school, county park, and at other scheduled places through use of the city's recycling collection trailer.

Schleicher County - The City of Eldorado provides collection with disposal at its Type IAE landfill. The TCEQ recently permitted a new landfill for the City of Eldorado. Several recycling opportunities are available. Used oil and oil filter collection are provided in the city. The City recently completed an expansion and upgrade of their recycling center and will begin operation of the newly expanded facility to provide a comprehensive recycling program for the citizens. Additionally, the city, county, and school system own a mobile recyclable material collection trailer which is used to collect aluminum cans, steel cans, clear glass, and brown glass at the city hall and at special events.

Sterling County - The county provides a Type I-AE landfill for its citizens. Persons dispose of their own waste or may contract for collection with a private hauler. Drop-off collection of used oil and used oil filters is available at the landfill entrance. A mobile recyclable material trailer is also used to provide collection of recyclable materials and transportation to markets.

Sutton County - The City of Sonora closed its Type I-AE landfill and has contracted to have its waste collected and transported to the City of San Angelo's landfill. The City is looking at reopening the landfill as a Type IV-AE so that it may collect yard trimmings and construction debris. Collection of Recyclables is provided at the city's Recycling Park. Items collected are:

used oil, used oil filters, clear glass, brown glass, green glass, aluminum cans, steel cans, mixed papers, and corrugated cardboard. The city also provides containers on the golf course and at special events. Free pick up is provided by the city for steel cans and mixed papers at businesses. The program generated enough revenue to offset much of their cost until recent downturns in the recycling markets worldwide turned the program into an expensive liability.

Tom Green County - The City of San Angelo provides a Type I landfill for its citizens. They contract for operation and collection with Trashaway Services, Inc. Tom Green County provides transfer stations at Christoval, Grape Creek, and Wall. The city provides used oil at the maintenance facility and at the Citizen's Collection Center. The Citizen's Collection Center is operated by a group of volunteers who call themselves "San Angelo Friends of the Environment" (S.A.F.E.). Collection began in early 1995 at a drop-off location which is open three and one-half days each week. Materials collected at the site are: used oil, oil filters, batteries, white goods, corrugated paper, newspaper, office paper, magazines, cereal boxes, glass, aluminum cans, steel cans, and glass. A back yard compost demonstration site is also provided at the center. The Center continues to expand and continues to add more items accepted for recycling.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SYSTEMS

The region is served with a road system of approximately 15,000 miles. Interstate 10 traverses the three counties in the southern part of the region. This links the region with San Antonio and Houston to the south and east and with El Paso to the west. Every city and county is served with state and U.S. highways that provide access in both east-west and north-south directions.

The main highway weakness is a north-south connector for the region. However this will be addressed with both the Texas Trunk System and the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor which will traverse through the center of the Concho Valley region. San Angelo is the largest city in Texas without an Interstate Highway.

Major traffic corridors in San Angelo have been slow in developing. Completion of the Houston-Harte Expressway through San Angelo have brought recent activity on a portion in the central city area.

The majority of the 15,000 miles of public roads in the area are two lanes. With the large expanse of sparsely populated country, industrial development will necessitate construction of better transportation systems.

Tourism is hampered by the lack of major connectors. Hunting, camping, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities are popular with guests to the area. It has been difficult to attract tourists, overnight lodging establishments, and other necessities of this trade due to lack of major access arteries.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The area contains many archaeological resources and historic buildings. Each county contains historic buildings of interest as all but one of the thirteen counties have Courthouses which were built in the early 1900s with architectural attractions. The **City of San Angelo** has a historical district in the center of town which offers many buildings including the Cactus Hotel and the Texas Theater. Many of these structures have been or are being restored with encouragement from the city.

The **City of Sonora** has a Main Street project. Many buildings have been restored and the city is inviting to tourists.

The **City of Menard** has restored historic downtown buildings and provided them for new businesses. The project has been very well accepted and continues to expand. This is enhanced with the “Ditch Walk”, a four block walk along a water way through historic buildings. Murals have been restored at the old Mission Theater.

The **City of Mason** has many restored buildings around the courthouse. Businesses are using these buildings in an attractive setting. A historic tour visits buildings in the city and the county. Activities are in progress to restore the movie theater where the film “Ole Yellar” premiered. This film is based on a book written by a native of Mason County.

The **City of Junction** has many historic buildings which are being used by businesses and restored to their usefulness.

Crockett County has retained its historic beauty in restoration and remodeling of the courthouse and other downtown structures.

Irion County has an abandoned courthouse in Sherwood which brings back memories of the early settlers to the area. This structure is sadly neglected and needs major repair.

Reagan County has an abandoned courthouse at Stiles which has been proposed as a museum. The facility must have major repair.

There are several early forts in the area which have visitor appeal. The City of San Angelo is proud of **Fort Concho** which has many restored buildings open for visitors. Special activities are conducted each year to acquaint people with the history of the area. Some of the buildings are

used as museums. A plaza area was recently constructed to connect an amphitheater, historic parts of the business district, the Concho River, and Fort Concho.

Others in the area are: **Fort McKavett** in Menard County has some restored structures and is a popular tourist stop; the City of Menard has the **Presidio San Luis de Amarillas** where ruins may be viewed; **Fort Chadbourne** in Coke County has not been rebuilt but provides a look at history through the remains of structures; and McCulloch County has ruins which may be viewed at **Camp San Saba**.

The **Caverns of Sonora** provide a view of underground natural formations.

For visitors in the Concho County area, **Pictographs** are painted on the rock bluffs along the Colorado River near the City of Paint Rock, by Indians who inhabited the area centuries ago.

Schleicher County has a historic **woolen mill** which offers an opportunity to see production of wool cloth using equipment and methods which have been in existence since 1940.

FLOODPLAINS AND WETLANDS

Floodplains generally follow waterways throughout the region. Cities affected with major floodplain areas are: Brady, Bronte, Junction, Mason, Menard, Robert Lee, and San Angelo. Floodplain maps indicate low lying areas of these counties are within the 100 year floodplain area. The area designated as having a greater danger of flooding than every 100 years is clear of dwellings in the majority of the area. Recent history has not recorded major flood damage.

Cities attempt to control changes in elevation, due to construction, which will impact the floodplain.

Wetlands are found in the eastern and northern portions of the region. These wetlands are only visible during seasons when abnormal amounts of rainfall occur. Figure 36 indicates

wetland regions in Coke, Concho, Mason, McCulloch, and Sterling Counties. These are scattered throughout designated portions of the region, in low lying areas. As the normal rainfall in the area is less than 25 inches in the east and 18 inches in the west, occurrences of these wetlands are rare.

Most of the wetland areas are ranch land with sparse population. The areas in Coke County include the City of Bronte and the City of Robert Lee and in Mason County the City of Mason is included. The remainder of the Concho Valley Economic Development District, Inc. is free from wetland areas except along waterways. In Tom Green County there is a large portion of the area surrounding Lake Nasworthy which has become designated as wetlands.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITATS

Endangered species have been identified in each county of the region. Figure 26 indicates areas where endangered species are found. The following list of endangered and threatened species was provided by the Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife:

° **Coke County**

- Endangered Species: Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); Concho Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri paucimaculata*); and Texas Poppy-mallow (*Callirhoe scabriuscula*).

- Threatened Species: Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); and Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

° **Concho County**

- Endangered Species: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*) and; Concho Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri paucimaculata*).

- Threatened Species: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*); and Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

° **Crockett County**

- Endangered Species: Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*); Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); and Lloyd's Hedgehog Cactus (*Echinocereus lloydii*).

- Threatened Species: Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*); Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*); Big Bend Blackhead Snake (*Tantilla rubra*); Rio Grande Darter (*Etheostoma grahami*); Proserpine Shiner (*Notropis proserpinus*); Pecos Pupfish (*Cyprinodon pecosensis*); Devils River Minnow (*Dionda diaboli*); Conchos Pupfish (*Cyprinodon eximus*); and the Blue Sucker (*Cycloleptus elongatus*).

° **Irion County**

- Endangered Species: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); and the Concho Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri paucimaculata*).

- Threatened Species: Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

◦ Kimble County

- Endangered Species: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); and the Tobusch Fishhook Cactus (*Ancistrocactus tobuschii*).

- Threatened Species: Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

◦ Mason County

- Endangered Species: Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*); Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); and the Concho Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri paucimaculata*).

- Threatened Species: Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

◦ McCulloch County

- Endangered Species: Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*); and the Texas Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri paucimaculata*).

- Threatened Species: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

◦ **Menard County**

- Endangered Species: Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); Concho Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri paucimaculata*); and the Clear Creek Gambusia (*Gambusia heterochir*).

- Threatened Species: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

◦ **Reagan County**

- Endangered Species: Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*); Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); and the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).

- Threatened Species: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

° Schleicher County

- Endangered Species: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); and the Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*).
- Threatened Species: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

° Sterling County

- Endangered Species: Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); and the Concho Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri paucimaculata*).
- Threatened Species: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

° Sutton County

- Endangered Species: Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*); Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); and the Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*).
- Threatened Species: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

° Tom Green County

- Endangered Species: Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*); and the Concho Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri paucimaculata*).
- Threatened Species: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*); Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Piping Plover (*Charadrius melanotos*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*); White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*); and the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

A **critical habitat** has been identified by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency to include portions of Concho, McCulloch, and Eastern Tom Green Counties along the Concho and Colorado Rivers. The endangered species identified with this critical habitat is the Concho Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri paucimaculata*). There are no other critical habitats identified in the thirteen county region.



POPULATION

The Concho Valley Economic Development District comprises thirteen counties spread over approximately 16,287 square miles of West -central Texas. It is predominantly a sparsely populated rural area with San Angelo being the only city with a population of more than 6,000 (Figure 2). The historic population of the counties and county subdivisions is shown in Figure 3. This chart indicates a steady growth for the district over the past four decades, but, all of the counties except Tom Green have shown periods of decline, with Menard County being the only one to have declines for three of the past four decades. Crockett, Reagan, and Tom Green were the only counties showing growth during the 1960s. The rate varied from 8.34 to 22.57 percent during that decade. In the same period decreases to a high of 20.02 percent were recorded in the remaining counties. Though the percentage of decrease in population was lower during the 1970s, Tom Green is the only county that has sustained growth. The district posted substantial growth during the 70s, but slowed in the 80s. The 90s continued to show slow but steady growth in the region. However, this growth was not informal. Some counties lost population while others grew substantially. It is interesting to note that the greatest growth occurred in the counties that diversified their economies. Both Coke and Concho counties were successful in placing detention centers in their counties, it is believed that this has a direct relationship with the growth that both counties experienced.

The district's population has a median age of approximately 35.6 years (Figure 4). In the San Angelo Metropolitan Statistical Area, the net migration accounted for a third of the growth during the 1980s with the balance due to a natural increase (Figure 6).

Population projections show growth of the district through the year 2030 (Figure 5). Tom Green projections show a 27 percent increase over the three decades. These figures were derived

from information provided by the Texas State Data Center, University of Texas San Antonio, using the most recent migration scenario which depicts the growth over the past decade, this is expected to be the most likely prospect for population growth for most counties.

Population density in the district is sparse, except in Tom Green and McCulloch Counties. Tom Green County has the highest density with 68.3 persons per square mile. McCulloch County follows with 7.7 persons per square mile. The remaining counties have from 1.5 to 4.3 persons per square mile (Figure 2). Low densities present significant challenges to development of the district.

The region is well situated with easy access to major cities outside the region. This is displayed in Figure 7. Due to the proximity of the border with Mexico and the central part of Texas, the district is located in an area of great potential. Recent developments in cooperative efforts between the United States and Mexico will lead to growth and prosperity in the development of this area. Proposed enhancements via the Texas Trunk System and the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor through the district will strengthen this opportunity.

Population is heavily distributed toward Tom Green County, with 69.2 percent of the 1990 population, and 70.1 percent of the 2000 population residing in Tom Green County (Figures 2 and 3). This compares with population projections of 71.3 percent in the year 2030 as forecast in Figure 5. Crockett, Irion and Sterling Counties each represent just about one and a half percent of the district population. McCulloch County contains approximately 7.7 percent of the district population and is the next most populated county after Tom Green. The district ranges in geography from the arid rolling prairie of the Permian Basin in the west, to the rocky hills of the Hill Country in the east. McCulloch County in the Northeastern corner of the district is the geographic center of the State of Texas. Soils range from clays to solid limestone and granite outcropping.

The educational attainment of citizens of the district is shown on Figure 12.

An average of 63 percent has more than a high school diploma, with 12.3 percent having a bachelor's degree or more. The highest percentage of educational attainment is in Tom Green County. The lowest percentage attaining at least a high school education is in Crockett County followed closely by Concho County. The percent of those with at least a high school education is an average of 30.5 percent. This is disturbing as we consider the needs of a high tech society.

The median family income of the district was \$29,734 in 2000 compared to \$34,478 for the State of Texas. The median family income ranged from \$19,458 in Menard County to \$36,158 in Reagan County (Figure 13).

Per capita income grew from an average of \$10,332 in 1990 to \$21,901 in 2000. This compares to \$26,834 for the State of Texas in 2000. In 2000 the per capita income level ranged from \$14,986 in Crockett County to \$25,480 in Reagan County (Figure 14).

The percentages of persons below the poverty level was 17.9 percent in 2000. This compares with a state average of 16.7

**FIGURE 19
PERCENTAGES OF POPULATION BELOW
POVERTY LEVEL**

COUNTY	PERSONS
COKE	17.20%
CONCHO	21.90%
CROCKETT	16.90%
IRION	13.00%
KIMBLE	18.80%
MCCULLOCH	22.70%
MASON	19.90%
MENARD	28.10%
REAGAN	12.90%
SCHLEICHER	17.00%
STERLING	12.00%
SUTTON	14.70%
TOM GREEN	17.20%
AVERAGE	17.90%
STATE AVG.	16.70%

The poverty level percentages indicates that the citizens of the district have a higher propensity to poverty than the state average. Labor, at reasonable rates, is available in the district.

Source: Census Bureau

percent (Figure 19). This indicates the low wages and number of citizens who are unemployed or underemployed.

The racial composition of the district in 2000 was 63.03 percent Anglo, 3.18 percent Black, 31.73 percent Hispanic, and 2.07 percent other (Figure 11). The percent of Hispanic ranged from a low of 16.90 percent in Coke County to 54.70 percent in Crockett County. Crockett and Sutton Counties were the only counties with a majority of its citizens of Hispanic origin in 2000, but, Concho, Reagan and Schleicher Counties are approaching that point. The increase in the percentage of Hispanic citizens has been constant throughout the past three decades.

LABOR FORCE

The labor force has grown considerably during the past four decennial census counts. In 1970 there were 45,585 persons in the labor force, and in 1990 there were 67,645 (Figure 15). Figure 17 demonstrates that there are approximately 74,616 persons in the civilian labor force. The trend indicates a steady growth.

There are approximately 47.7 percent of all the citizens in the region in the workforce. This percentage ranges from 704 persons in Sterling County to 51,880 persons in Tom Green County. In looking at the counties it will be noticed that the percent working has risen in the urban area, while it declined in most of the rural areas (Figure 17B). Approximately 50.5 percent of the males and 21.7 percent of the females are employed full time. The unemployment rate for males is approximately 60 percent of that of females (Figure 16). There were 52.2 percent of the citizens of the district not in the workforce. In January of 2008 there were 2,599 unemployed persons who have registered with the Texas Workforce Commission (Figure 17B). Crockett, Mason and Sutton Counties saw a decrease in the labor force from 1990 through 2008 (Figure 17). The unemployment rate shows an increase in seven of the thirteen counties.

Of the labor force in regards to races, 96.6 percent White, 99.4 percent Native American, 91.8 percent Black, 94.9 percent Hispanic, and 91.8 percent others were employed. This shows a good balance of employment without regard to race (Figure 16A).

The Civilian Labor Force Unemployment Rates have declined over the past decade. With periods of increase, the rate has declined from 5.8 in January 1992, to 3.6 in February 2008 (Figure 17A).

It is felt that the district has a number of citizens who have dropped out of the labor force. These people work part time and do not register with the Texas Workforce Commission when they are unemployed. This calls for a creative plan to train citizens and bring them back into gainful employment.

FIGURE 18 - 2004 LABOR FORCE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

COUNTY	AGRI.	MNG.	CNSTRUC.	SERVICE	P. UTL.	TRD.	FINANCE	MFCT.	GOVT.
COKE	3.2	11.9	3.2	9.7	4.3	14.0	5.4	2.2	44.3
CONCHO	4.3	N/A	0.0	32.9	2.9	18.6	2.9	2.9	34.4
CROCKETT	7.1	16.9	0.7	9.9	5.6	24.7	5.6	0.7	27.5
IRION	8.2	14.3	4.1	6.1	18.4	16.4	N/A	N/A	26.6
KIMBLE	3.5	N/A	2.8	17.4	2.1	31.3	3.5	15.3	23.7
McCULLOCH	2.0	N/A	2.0	19.0	6.7	28.0	3.2	8.7	26.8
MASON	5.9	N/A	2.4	17.8	2.4	32.1	5.9	3.6	28.5
MENARD	11.1	N/A	3.7	7.4	3.7	33.4	3.7	N/A	37.1
REAGAN	1.7	34.5	0.8	6.7	8.4	15.1	N/A	1.7	28.6
SCHLEICHER	7.9	23.7	1.3	6.6	11.8	10.5	3.9	N/A	34.2
STERLING	17.8	19.8	0.0	5.9	5.9	15.8	N/A	N/A	29.7
SUTTON	4.9	21.8	5.5	13.3	6.1	21.2	3.6	0.6	23.7
TOM GREEN	1.2	1.5	4.0	25.2	6.5	24.2	3.9	13.6	19.7
AVERAGE	6.1	11.1	2.3	13.7	6.5	21.9	3.2	3.8	39.8

Most of the manufacturing jobs in the region are in Kimble, McCulloch, and Tom Green Counties. The western half of the district is involved with the petroleum industry while the eastern half is involved with agriculture. N/A indicates less than 0.05 percent.

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

The largest portions of the work force are employed in government (39.8%), trade (21.9%), services (13.7%), and mining (11.1%) (Figure 18). The majority of the manufacturing jobs in the district are in Kimble, McCulloch, and Tom Green Counties. The mining employment is predominantly petroleum production in the western part of the district; however, this sector has had a dramatic decrease in employment between 1980 and 1990 (Figure 18A).

FIGURE 18A
PERCENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT
1980 - 1990

COUNTY	AGRI-CULTURE	MINING	RETAIL	SERVICE	MFG.	GOVT.	OTHER
COKE	-68.2	-49.8	39.9	13.9	-16.1	-15.1	-26.6
CONCHO	25.1	-21.4	2.4	8.1	-55.0	40.3	-4.3
CROCKETT	-26.9	-49.3	-38.5	29.9	82.1	0.0	7.8
IRION	-8.1	-50.4	10.9	64.0	173.9	3.3	30.1
KIMBLE	-5.7	-83.7	12.6	16.8	0.5	27.5	23.2
McCULLOCH	-19.8	466.7	-8.6	19.4	-13.7	36.5	-29.1
MASON	-17.3	35.7	7.6	-16.3	-44.3	-55.1	3.0
MENARD	4.7	-35.5	-15.3	4.0	130.0	13.3	-12.7
REAGAN	34.1	-3.8	13.0	30.0	0.0	100.0	3.1
SCHLEICHER	-35.3	-26.4	7.1	48.6	66.7	170.0	-1.5
STERLING	-0.9	51.4	-20.9	43.2	27.3	71.4	0.0
SUTTON	32.8	-43.7	-22.7	5.9	-59.6	-37.0	-34.0
TOM GREEN	24.0	-44.3	7.5	26.3	-12.9	26.4	2.4
AVERAGE	-4.7	11.2	-0.4	22.6	21.5	29.3	-3.0

Agriculture shows a decline in the region, but, several counties had increases. The decline in petroleum production (mining) is placing more emphasis on agriculture. Government, manufacturing, and services were the areas of largest growth for the district.

The current unemployment count is 2,599 as of February 2008 (Figure 17B). Of this number, 1,403 are male and 1,196 are female. It is widely assumed that the unemployed also include a larger number of females who have not registered as seeking jobs. If this could be documented, we would have a larger unemployment rate and a larger percentage of unemployed females. While no figures were available to document the educational level of the unemployed, the specific fields from which these workers came indicate a high percentage with no education beyond high school. The skills needed to fill the positions listed in Figure 30 will require training for most of these citizens.

Average wage levels in the district are considerably below the state and federal averages with higher wages in the western portion of the district due to the petroleum industry. Figure 29 indicates that the average weekly salary in the district is \$395.61, compared to the state average of \$518.08. The lowest average is in Mason County and the highest in Irion County. The salary comparison on specific trades indicates that managers of eating and drinking establishments are the only ones to have a higher wage in the district than the state.

A newly established West Texas Training Center will be providing greatly needed specialized training. Prior to the opening of the West Texas Training Center, few technical and vocational schools were available in the district. San Angelo has the American Commercial College which offers secretarial training, Angelo State University and Howard College which provide nursing courses, and Howard College which provides beautician training (Figure 32). H & R Block has a school to train accounting personnel in basic bookkeeping skills and secretarial skills. Aladdin Beauty College offers cosmetology courses. Central Texas College in Brady offers secretarial courses. Other technical training is done in surrounding areas such as Abilene, Kerrville, Midland, Odessa, San Antonio, Snyder, and Sweetwater.

The need to travel for specialized employment training will be greatly diminished with the new West Texas Training Center. The impact of the West Texas Training Center will be enormous as many of the unemployed have specialized or no training. Many are from farms, ranches, and other agricultural backgrounds and have few offices, industrial or general business skills. We have a need for welders in one portion of the district with a high number of petroleum industry workers in another who seek alternate employment. Figure 30 lists skills which are needed and for which demand is expected to grow over the next decade. Prior to the West Texas Training Center, the only training in the district for many of these occupations was on-the-job.

The forecast for jobs through the period ending in 2000, shows a general increase in employment of 11.7% (Figure 31). The largest growth will be in wind turbine services with a major decline in mining (primarily petroleum industry) and a flat market for manufacturing jobs.

The Concho Valley has a significant population of migrant seasonal farm workers. Statistics indicate that most of these workers do not register with regional agencies. The Texas Workforce Commission has developed an outreach program to attempt to document these workers and their impact on the district. A portion of this program is dedicated to the development employment opportunities as alternatives to the migrant and seasonal jobs. This is to provide employment on a regular basis to these workers.

Many employment opportunities are available to industry and unemployed citizens. We have access to Howard College and Angelo State University in San Angelo. Job Training Partnership Act programs are available throughout the district. The Texas Workforce Commission provides Job Search Seminars throughout the district. There are jobs available in San Angelo for many of the rural unemployed who are willing to relocate.

FIGURE 31
TOM GREEN COUNTY

MANUFACTURING	EMPLOYEES		INCREASE	%
	1995	1996		
Barry of San Angelo	93	115	22	23.7
Evans Meat Co.	200	225	25	12.5
Fixture Concepts	85	114	29	34.1
Newsfoto	135	145	10	7.4
San Angelo Packing	230	303	73	31.7

NON-MANUFACTURING

Baptist Mem. Center	353	385	32	9.1
City of San Angelo	1,077	1,100	23	2.1
Community Medical Center	620	650	30	4.8
Goodfellow - Civilian	572	753	181	31.6
Reece Albert, Inc.	150	200	50	33.3
San Angelo ISD	2,025	2,132	107	5.3
Shannon Clinic	320	420	100	31.3
Shannon Medical Ctr.	1,108	1,180	72	6.5
SITEL, Inc.	700	1,100	400	57.1
Tom Green County	480	500	20	4.2
West Texas Med. Assn.	278	340	62	22.3

Tom Green County shows an increase of 215 manufacturing and 1,054 non-manufacturing jobs. This total of 1,269 jobs created in 1996 provided new jobs to replace those lost. Figure 32 shows the decreased employment.

The Texas Department of Human Services identifies clients with employment potential and refers them to the Texas Workforce Commission for support services. This service also identifies families from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children group. The Texas Workforce Commission also receives referrals from the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program.

The Job Training Partnership Act is a federal program which directs funds to eligible individuals due to economic disadvantages and serious employment barriers. This program also serves those who are unemployed due to economic or technological change or industrial restructuring.

AREA ECONOMY

Principal economic activities in the district will vary from one area to the other. In the entire district, the highest percentage of workers are involved in government (39.8%) (Figure 18). This includes cities, counties, school districts, etc. The occupation with the next largest number of workers is in trade (21.9%). The lowest percentage of workers are in the construction industry (2.3%).

If we look at individual counties, we see the occupations change in importance. Sterling and Menard Counties have a large portion of their population in agriculture. Reagan County has 34.5% of their labor force in mining or petroleum production. Concho County has 32.9% involved in the service industry. Irion County has 18.4% of their workforce in transportation, communication, and public utilities. All of the counties have high percentages of workers in trade, with Kimble, Mason, and Menard Counties having more than 30 percent in this area. Overall, very little manufacturing is evident district. The only counties with an appreciable percentage in this area are: Kimble (15.3%), McCulloch (8.7%), and Tom Green (13.6%).

The number of workers in specific occupations has shifted over the past decade. The oil and communications industries have drastically declined in the district. This has caused a major shift from these segments into trades and services.

Major industries in the district include:

Tom Green County

Baptist Memorial Center, Barry of San Angelo, Community Medical Center, Evans Meat Co., Fixture Concepts, Goodfellow - Civilian, Newsfoto, San Angelo Packing, Shannon Clinic, Shannon Medical Center, SITEL, Inc., and West Texas Medical Association.

Kimble County

Kimble County Hospital, Leisure Nursing Home, Cedar Fiber Co, PAKS, A.E.R.T., Inc., Ad-Venturous, and METCO.

McCulloch County

Olgeby Norton Sand (60 employees), Borden Sand (55 employees), and Roddie Wool Processing (60 employees).

Sterling County

Florida Power & Light, Airtricity, Mission-Edison, Cielo. When FPLE completes phase 8 or 9 this will be one of the largest wind farms in the world and possibly the largest.

RECENT TRENDS

Employment has seen a decline in management and high tech jobs. The reduction in staff of Verizon, petroleum production companies, and others has reduced these occupational opportunities. The jobs to replace these have been somewhat plentiful, but, at lower skill levels. The transition has often required skills training to prepare the labor force for the jobs. The largest increases in employment have come from telemarketing, wind energy and medical related jobs. All of these require specific training.

Business trends have been toward diversification. The large complex of GTE operations is gone from the district. SITEL, Inc. has opened a new operation employing 1,100 in telemarketing. McCulloch County has gained three firms. Two of them are making an end product from the sand in eastern McCulloch County. The other firm, SSI-The Shop, Inc., produces computer related cables. These are deviations from the old standard for industry in the district, but, business as usual is not holding strength throughout the state.

Construction in the district has been confined mostly to 3 areas. One is the sand companies of McCulloch County, secondly in Sterling City is Wind Energy and the last being in the City of San Angelo. Building in San Angelo peaked in 1993 for both single family housing and business construction. The decline appears to have reversed in 1996 with totals below the 1993 level for total permits, but dollar volume was above the 1993 level (Figure 21).

ECONOMIC TIES TO SURROUNDING AREAS AND STATES

The Concho Valley district is tied strongly to the surrounding areas. San Antonio is a secondary center for education, medical facilities, and transportation. The same is true of Midland/Odessa. Reagan County provides a number of workers in the Midland/Odessa area. McCulloch and Tom Green Counties draw workers from Runnels County. Many of the counties rely on neighboring counties for workers and jobs. The sheep and wool industries look to Colorado and New England for processing and manufacturing of products from these raw materials. Also, there is a building relationship between the district and Mexico. As NAFTA becomes more and more operational, additional ties will develop between our countries.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

HOUSING

Housing is a problem in many of our counties. Coke and Concho Counties have had a need for moderately priced homes for the past few years due to the development of detention centers and Sterling County due to influx of personnel from the Wind Energy segment. Housing also is needed in all of the remaining counties due to lack of homes that meet basic standards. Many vacant homes throughout the area are in need of major repairs or replacement.

San Angelo and Tom Green County is experiencing an expansion in the amount of multiple resident housing. Most of this housing is targeted at the retired or those approaching retirement. Some of these units provide assisted living.

Some of the cities and counties are beginning to address housing needs through several actions. Cities such as Melvin are passing new ordinances concerning substandard housing. Cities throughout the district are involved with code enforcement to assure safe adequate housing. HOME funding is being used in several cities and counties to fund housing improvement. The Concho Valley Council of Governments has developed a Housing Finance Corporation to provide assistance to low to moderate income families in purchasing their first home. This program is available throughout the district. Programs are available for low interest loans and down payment assistance.

Housing is a need that must be addressed for the future growth in the district and in some cases may be the single most pressing need that is inhibiting growth.

WATER AND WASTE WATER

Water and waste water facilities are available throughout most of the populated part of the district. Each county is discussed separately.

Coke County - The Cities of Bronte and Robert Lee have been upgrading their treatment and distribution facilities for the past several years. Both cities have been on a program to expand service to citizens. Adequate service and pressure are available for fire protection in both cities. Service improvements are enhanced through help from the Texas Community Development Program. The City of Bronte received a TCDP grant to replace the line from Oak Creek Lake to the city. The old line was of eight inch cast iron pipe that had deteriorated through time. The City of Robert Lee received a TCDP award to upgrade their water treatment plant that deteriorated to the point of being cited by the TCEQ.

Concho County - The Cities of Eden and Paint Rock are continually working to provide adequate water and sewer service. Paint Rock citizens use septic tanks. The City of Eden provides sewer service for its citizens. The waters of the area contain nitrogen and radium in amounts that exceed standards. The project to provide good drinking water will include either new water purification equipment, new water sources, or a combination. Fire protection needs in and around the City of Paint Rock are handled by tank trucks. Trucks must transport water to fires. The City of Eden's system provides approximately double the present requirements which includes fire protection needs. Eden was awarded a TCDP grant to replace existing water lines, loop the water system, place valves and provide fire hydrants for fire protection.

Crockett County - The county has worked with Texas Community Development Program funding to provide water and sewer in all of the inhabited areas. The Crockett County WCID #1 provides service to most of the citizens in the Ozona area.

Colonia areas are included in this system. The latest enhancements to the water system should provide adequate supply and pressure for residential, commercial, and fire protection needs in the Ozona area. Additionally, Crockett County recently received a TCDP grant award to upgrade the sewer system which had major problems such as homes becoming flooded with raw sewage due to the lines becoming plugged.

Irion County - The City of Mertzon provides local water from municipal wells. Adequate pressure and volume are available for fire fighting in the city due to recent increases in above ground storage capacity. The previous storage tank was in numerous violations from the TCEQ. Along with the storage tank, the City also completed line work with valves for increased efficiency. Additionally, the City has acquired TCDP funds to provide new wells to provide adequate water supply through the recent drought conditions. Irion County was also successful in receiving a TCDP grant to provide an improved water system to the community of Barnhart.

Kimble County - The City of Junction provides water from the Llano River. The plant is capable of producing 2 million gallons per day. Current requirements are at 1.9 million gallons per day. The city must address increased capacity needs in the near future. Economic growth is limited due to this problem. Current use of water for fire fighting requires curtailment of other uses. Improvements in above ground storage capacity are now in progress. Sewer capacity is adequate for moderate growth with only 20% loading on a plant capacity of 300,000 G.P.D. Additionally, the city received a TCDP grant to upgrade the sewer system.

McCulloch County - The City of Brady provides water from municipal wells and from the Brady reservoir. Plant capacity is presently at 7 million G.P.D. with a peak load of 4 million G.P.D. Projects have provided greater pressure for citizen's use and fire control with the addition of a standpipe in the north portion of the City and a ground storage unit in the eastern portion of the City. Additionally, water lines in existence for 70 years have been replaced to provide for better

distribution. Fire control needs are adequately met with this enhanced system. Sewer service is available for approximately double the present load. The City of Melvin provides water service from municipal wells. Daily capacity is 110,000 G.P.D. Service lines will not support high pressure fire needs. Deficiencies in the system had been cited by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and a project correcting the distribution deficiencies was completed. Tank trucks are still required to haul water to a fire scene. Septic tanks are used in the City of Melvin, as no waste water system is in place. The waste water problems of septic tanks must be addressed in the near future. Finally, McCulloch County has also secured TCDP funds to 12,400 linear feet of water distribution lines to the community of Rochelle.

Mason County - The City of Mason provides water from municipal wells with loading at approximately 80% of capacity. Sewer service is provided with more than 50% capacity available. Renovations of both systems are continuing to provide adequate service and capacity. The most recent upgrade has been to the sewer system with new pipe lines and the addition of a new filtration unit. Pressure and capacity are available for fire protection within the city.

Menard County - The City of Menard provides water from municipal wells with a capacity of 8 million G.P.D. Peak loads have been 610,000 G.P.D., or approximately 7.6% of capacity. The sewer plant has a capacity of 170,000 G.P.D. with about 60% utilization. TCDP grants have provided the construction of a hydropneumatic tank, new PVC water lines, new SDR sewer lines, and more service connections and manholes. Adequate water pressure and capacity are available for fire protection needs.

Reagan County - The City of Big Lake provides water with a capacity of 3 million G.P.D. available from municipal wells. Approximate peak loads are 1.5 million G.P.D. This provides adequate supply for all needs, including fire protection. There was a problem with the lack of pressure in some portions of the system. However, the City has recently completed work on an

above ground storage upgrade. Sewer capacity of 600,000 G.P.D. is presently loaded at approximately 50%. There are continuing needs of maintenance of the system which is aging.

Schleicher County - The City of Eldorado provides a capacity of more than two million gallons of water per day from municipal wells. Present peak load is 1.25 million G.P.D. The City has been successful in acquiring funds from the TCDP to provide storage and distribution improvements. Adequate pressure and capacity is available for daily usage and fire protection in the city. Updated sewer treatment capacity of 385,000 G.P.D. is in the finishing stages with approximately a 35% load. Constant updating and expansion of both systems are required in order to provide adequate service.

Sterling County - The City of Sterling City provides water from municipal wells. Present capacity of 500,000 G.P.D. is approximately 40% loaded. The city has recently completed piping and drilling as well as a booster station and water main looping to provide better water service. The old wells were not meeting needs for citizens and fire protection. New capacity is adequate for this use. The city provides sewer service with excess capacity at 95,000 G.P.D.

Sutton County - The City of Sonora provides water from 5 municipal wells with a daily capacity of 4 million gallons. A peak load of 1.5 million G.P.D. is being experienced. The City was recently awarded a TCDP grant for a new 400,000 gallon storage tank to provide water service to the city. Good capacity and pressure are available for citizens and fire protection. The sewer plant is rated at 1.5 million G.P.D. with a loading of approximately 60%.

Tom Green County - The City of San Angelo provides water with a capacity of 76 million G.P.D. from five lakes and a well field. Peak loading is currently about 40 million G.P.D., or approximately 53%. Adequate capacity and pressure assure good fire protection to local citizens. The sewer plant has a 16.3 million G.P.D. capacity with a 9 million G.P.D. load. This provides

adequate service for present and planned growth. Additionally, Tom Green County was awarded a TCDP grant for water system improvements in the community of Christoval.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The educational opportunities in most of the counties of the CVEDD are associated with the public school system. Twenty independent school districts serve the district with exceptional educational facilities. Each county has at least one district and many rural districts are involved in providing education close to students places of residence.

As noted in the list, advanced skill educational opportunities are limited to three areas. The City of Brady has the Central Texas College which offers secretarial training. Kimble County has a branch of Texas Tech University which provides graduate level training for art instructors (in the summer). The City of San Angelo has Angelo State University and Howard College providing academic courses for bachelor and master levels. Angelo State University was recently transferred to the Texas Tech University System, this partnership is beneficial to both organizations as it helps with issues such as matching students with doctoral programs. Both Angelo State University and Howard College offer computer training, nursing degrees, and Howard College provides beautician certification. American Business College and H & R Block offer basic business, secretarial, and bookkeeping courses.

Angelo State University also has a Continuing Education section which provides training and assistance to non academic students.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

There are limited number of industrial parks in the district. Several of the communities have land or buildings available for development. Most of these are privately owned and are being

marketed both privately and by local development agencies. The development of industrial parks and facilities is a goal of many of the cities of the district.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

The district is served by a system of medical facilities with the center in San Angelo. We will discuss these facilities for each county.

Coke County - Nursing homes are provided in the cities of Bronte and Robert Lee. The City of Robert Lee is served by a clinic and a physician's assistant. Hospital facilities are located in San Angelo which is approximately 45 miles away. Emergency Medical Technicians operate an ambulance service in the county to transport and provide emergency care for residents.

Concho County - The City of Eden has a hospital and a clinic. Three doctors and one dentist provide service for residents. Major hospitals and specialists are available in San Angelo.

Crockett County - Services of one hospital and one clinic provide 12 patient beds with two doctors and one dentist. Major service is available in San Angelo.

Irion County - Service is available in San Angelo which is approximately 30 miles from the Irion County Courthouse. There are no physicians in Irion County.

Kimble County - Services of one hospital and one clinic are staffed with two doctors and one dentist in the City of Junction. Major medical services are in San Angelo and San Antonio which are approximately 100 miles away. The City of Kerrville also has service which is approximately 50 miles distant.

McCulloch County - Services are available in the City of Brady where a hospital and two clinics are located. Five doctors and two dentists provide professional services. Emergency medical

services are provided with three ambulances. Major medical services are provided in San Angelo which is approximately 75 miles distant.

Mason County - Services in the City of Mason include one clinic, one physician, and one physician's assistant. Two Emergency Medical Services ambulances are available to transport patients to San Angelo or San Antonio. Mileage to major facilities is approximately 110 miles.

Menard County - Two clinics are available in the City of Menard. One doctor and one physician's assistant staff these facilities. Two dentists are available locally. Emergency Medical Service provides ambulance service to San Angelo which is approximately 70 miles distant.

Reagan County - A local hospital in the City of Big Lake provides 18 beds and is served by two doctors. One dentist is available locally and EMS service is available for emergencies.

Schleicher County - No medical facilities are available in the county. Hospitals and doctors are available in San Angelo which is approximately 45 miles away. Emergency Medical Service is available to transport in cases of emergencies.

Sterling County - Medical facilities are available in the county. Hospitals and doctors are available in San Angelo which is approximately 45 miles distant. Sterling County Nursing Home (48 beds); Family Clinic with a Physician's Assistant. Ground and air Emergency Medical Service is available to transport emergency cases.

Sutton County - Medical facilities are available within the county. A hospital, nursing home, and EMS service provide necessary services. Major services are available in San Angelo, approximately 65 miles distant.

Tom Green County - Services in the City of San Angelo include: four hospitals with 787 beds; 15 clinics; over 170 doctors; and 43 dentists. Paramedic services are provided through the city fire

department. Air transport of patients is available to serve the entire Concho Valley region. This is also used to transport emergency cases to specialized facilities outside the district.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided by city departments in the Cities of Brady and San Angelo. The remainder of the district is served by volunteer departments who serve entire counties, except in Tom Green County where more dense populations require a number of rural departments with limited areas of service.

Fire insurance rates are low in the area due to the quality of the fire fighting force.

PROGRAMS FOR LOW INCOME POPULATION AND SENIOR-CITIZENS

The Concho Valley Economic Development District contains many programs for low-income and senior citizens. The City of San Angelo has recently developed a computer literacy training facility with public housing. The following facilities are scattered throughout the district: (the number after the activity indicates the number of facilities)

- ± Adult Enrichment Center (1)
- ± Adult Protective Services (3)
- ± Advocacy and Information (1)
- ± Crime Prevention (3)
- ± Education (4)
- ± Emergency Assistance (1 5)
- ± Emergency Response Systems (5)
- ± Employment (5)

- ± Food and Nutrition (10)
 - ± Health (25)
 - ± Home Repair (3)
 - ± Hospice (2)
 - ± Hospitals (7)
 - ± Housing (13)
 - ± Information and Assistance (19)
 - ± In-home Services (2)
 - ± Home Health Agencies (23)
 - ± Legal Assistance (3)
 - ± Libraries (16)
 - ± Medicaid/Medicare (11)
 - ± Medical Equipment and Technology (9)
 - ± Mental Health/Mental Retardation (5)
 - ± Nursing Home (17)
 - ± Nutrition Program (16)
 - ± Personal Safety (1)
 - ± Retiree Organizations (7)
 - ± Services for the Disabled (8)
 - ± Support Groups (15)
 - ± Transportation (4)
 - ± Volunteer Opportunities (7)
- All of these programs provide opportunities for aged and low-income persons. Assistance is available throughout the district by contacting one or more of these agencies.

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Each city of the district has a central business district with problems. These areas must be addressed in a way to revitalize them. Concerns are for renovation of buildings, streets, water, sewer, electrical, etc. Some of the communities have attempted to help the central business district through programs to encourage development.

The Concho Valley Economic Development District has many strengths on which to build on. Though the Concho Valley Economic Development District is committed to the enhancing and improving the entire Concho Valley region in its entirety, the strengths of the region will be discussed by individual county.

Coke County:

1. Recreational Opportunities:

- * Hunting
- * Fishing
- * Golf
- * Black powder competitions
- * Historic Fort Chadbourne
- * Motor-cross tournaments
- * Horseback trail rides
- * Baseball tournaments
- * Rodeos

2. Excellent Quality of Life:

- * Low crime rate
- * Park and Picnic opportunities
- * Adequate medical service
- * Excellent school systems

3. Progressive Business Potential:

- * Internet sites (Robert Lee and Coke County)
- * Close proximity to higher/technical educational opportunities
- * Economic Development Sales Tax
- * Printed promotional material
- * Highway access (SH 158, SH 208, and SH 277)
- * Natural resources (mesquite and cedar trees)

Concho County:

1. Recreational Opportunities:

- * Hunting
- * Fishing
- * Lake Ivie
- * Golf

2. Excellent Quality of Life:

- * Low crime rate
 - * Excellent school systems
 - * Patriotic, Christian communities
 - * Excellent medical facilities
 - * Excellent library system
 - * Clean, pollution-free environment
 - * New EMS/Fire facilities and equipment
 - * Museum (2002)
3. Progressive Business Potential:
- * Internet site
 - * Industrial Park
 - * Excellent highway access (US 83 and US 87)
 - * City of Eden has an Economic Development Sales Tax
 - * Strong Financial Institution support
 - * Available regional workforce
 - * Enthusiastic community leaders

Crockett County:

1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Hunting
 - * Golf
 - * Convention Center
 - * Cinco De Mayo Celebrations
 - * Pioneer Heritage Days
 - * Christmas Lighting
 - * Fishing
 - * Baseball
 - * Deerfest
 - * Davy Crockett Festival
 - * Arts & Crafts Fair
 - * Airport
 - * Escondido Draw Recreational Park
2. Excellent Quality of Life:
 - * Dry, warm climate
 - * Affordable living conditions
 - * Historic areas
3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Natural resources (natural gas)
 - * Low property taxes
 - * Plentiful electricity and water

Irion County:

1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Hunting
 - * Hunter=s Appreciation Dinner
 - * Youth Livestock Show
 - * Christmas at Sherwood
 - * Fishing
 - * Fall Festivals
 - * Monthly Community Meetings
 - * Ranch Rodeo

- * Salsa Festival

- 4. Excellent Quality of Life:
 - * Dry, warm climate * Quiet
 - * Excellent school system * Friendly people
 - * Low crime rate * Beautiful landscape
 - * Excellent volunteer Fire/EMS capabilities * Churches

- 5. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Low tax rate
 - * Close proximity to San Angelo (shopping, regional airport, healthcare)
 - * Infrastructure able to support expansion
 - * No competition for business.
 - * Excellent transportation access (US 67, SH 163, FM 853, FM 915, FM 2469, Texas-Pacifico Rail System)

KIMBLE COUNTY:

- 1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Hunting * Fishing
 - * Golfing * Canoeing/Kayaking
 - * Camping on the Llano River * Enjoying Activities in City Parks
 - * Swimming * Local museums
 - * Birdwatching * Rollerskating at Rollerama Junction
 - * Rodeo Activities * South Llano River State Park, 2,630 acre
 - * Hiking * Photo Safari

- 2. Quality of Life:
 - * Excellent public schools * Low crime rate
 - * Houses of Worship representing many denominations
 - * Kimble Hospital, a Medicare-designated Critical Access hospital, with focus on primary care
 - * Medical Clinic * Emergency Management Services
 - * Local Pharmacy
 - * Pleasant climate with an annual average temperature of 64.7 degrees & 24 inches of rain

- 3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Excellent highway access (I-10, US 83, US 290, US 377)

- * No restrictive zoning requirements.
- * Low tax environment with minimal regulatory and other governmental requirements.
- * Economic Development Corporation assistance for businesses
- * Kimble County Airport , a 5,000 ft. paved and lighted runway
- * Texas Tech University 400-acre campus Field Research Station with state and international participation (distance learning, classroom instruction, seminars)
- * Internet Service Providers Available
- * Available Cellular Telephone Access
- *Cable and Satellite Television Services Available

Mason County:

1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Hunting
 - * Golf
 - * Photography
 - * Fishing
 - * Bird watching
 - * Topaz and Quartz hunting
2. Excellent Quality of Life:
 - * Low crime rate
 - * Excellent school system
 - * Friendly people
 - * Ideal climate and terrain
3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Zone restrictions and building code enforcement to assure compatible and attractive community.
 - * Promotional material
 - * Room for expansion
 - * Financing opportunities

McCulloch County:

1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Hunting
 - * Swimming
 - * Rodeo
 - * Excellent Museum
 - * Fishing
 - * Golf
 - * Drag Boat Races
2. Excellent Quality of Life:
 - * Low crime rate
 - * 3 Parks
 - * Excellent medical facilities
 - * New Grade/Middle school
3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Economic Development Sales Tax
 - * Industrial Park

- * Buildings/Property available
- * Tax abatements
- * Enterprise zone
- * Resources (oil, natural gas, gravel, stone)
- * Access to four US Highways
- * High speed Internet
- * \$9.4 million water treatment plant
- * Municipal Airport (**4,000** Runway)
- * Comprehensive Community Development Plan

Menard County:

1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Hunting
 - * Fishing
 - * San Saba River
 - * Fort McKavitt State Historic Site
 - * Guided Kayak Adventures
 - * Tourism
 - * Presidio de San Saba
 - * R V Parks
 - * Golf
2. Excellent Quality of Life:
 - * Low crime rate
 - * Excellent school system
 - * Active Civic Organizations
 - * Presidio Restoration Society
 - * Ample clean water supply
 - * Garden Club
 - * Businessmen=s Club
 - * Business Women=s Club
 - * Chamber of Commerce
 - * EMS and Fire Department
 - * Excellent Restaurants
3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Economic Development Sales Tax
 - * Available industrial property
 - * Excellent highway access
 - * No zoning to impair new industries
 - * Local financing for industries
 - * Flood prevention plan
 - * Airport

Reagan County:

1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Hunting
 - * Fishing
 - * Golf
 - * Tennis
 - * Swimming
 - * Walking track
 - * Community Center
 - * Rodeo
 - * Wild Game Dinner
 - * Bluegrass Festival
 - * State & National Sheep
 - * 150 RV Spaces

- & Cattle Dog Trails *Hickman Museum
- * Historical Santa Rita and Texon
- 2. Excellent Quality of Life:
 - * Pleasant community * Excellent schools
 - * Low crime rate * Medical/EMS service
 - * Churches * Hospital and Care Center
- 3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Land available for development
 - * Underground water for development (brine water)
 - * Good highway access (US 67, SH 137)
 - * Rail service
 - * Large amount of well trained welders and mechanical technicians
 - * Economic Development Corporation

Schleicher County:

- 1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Hunting * Rodeo
 - * Airport * Parks
- 2. Excellent Quality of Life:
 - * Low crime rate * Good Medical Facility
 - * Ideal climate and terrain
- 3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Internet page * Close to higher education
 - * Local financing opportunities * Good highway access (US 190, US 277)
 - * 21 miles to I-10

Sterling County:

- 1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Hunting * Golf
 - * Tennis * Sport Activities for adults
 - * Stock show * Annual Hunter Appreciation Dinner
- 2. Excellent Quality of Life:
 - * Low crime rate * Medical Clinic
 - * Excellent Schools-new facility * EMS services
 - * Clean environment * Friendly people
 - * Fitness Center * Rehabilitation Center

- * Historical Senior Center
- * Meals on Wheels
- 3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Internet home page
 - * Close proximity to higher education
 - * No zoning restrictions
 - * Good highway access
 - * (US 87, SH 158, SH 163)
 - * Thriving Wind Energy Industry
 - * 43 miles to I-20
 - * Business Access to high density traffic on Hwy 87 (5300 vehicles per day)

Sutton County:

- 1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Caverns of Sonora
 - * Fishing
 - * Golf
 - * Old Train Depot
 - * Arts and Theatre
 - * Nature tourism
 - * Hunting
 - * Swimming
 - * Old Jail Museum
 - * Community Celebrations
 - * Birding
- 2. Excellent Quality of Life
 - * Excellent medical facilities
 - * Excellent water quality
 - * Excellent school system
 - * Downtown Association
 - * Churches
 - * great climate
 - * Low crime rate
 - * Family and neighborhood friendly city
 - * Main Street City
 - * Cultural activities
- 3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * Highway access (I-10 and US 277)
 - * Active Chamber of Commerce
 - * Adequate utility delivery
 - * Enterprise Zones
 - * Economic Development Sales Tax
 - * SBA Programs
 - * Active Development Corporation
 - * Industrial park incentives
 - * Progressive local government
 - * Smart Jobs training
 - * Local financing
 - * Close proximity to higher education

Tom Green County:

1. Recreational Opportunities:
 - * Fort Concho
 - * Fishing
 - * 3 Lakes
 - * Concho River
 - * Golf
 - * ASU Planetarium
 - * Professional baseball
 - * Hunting
 - * Birdwatching
 - * Paseo de Santa Angela
 - * State Park
 - * Historic city center
 - * Nature tourism
 - * Professional hockey
2. Excellent Quality of Life:
 - * Excellent local schools
 - * Angelo State University
 - * Clean Climate
 - * Fine Arts Museum
 - * Parochial schools
 - * Howard College
 - * Low vehicular traffic
 - * Superior regional medical service
3. Progressive Business Potential:
 - * West Texas Training Center
 - * Good water/city infrastructure
 - * Key link in Ports-to-Plains Corridor
 - * Goodfellow Air Force Base
 - * Strategically located
 - * Plentiful workforce
 - * City/County cooperation
 - * Railroad service
 - * Enterprise Zones
 - * Strong economic programs

* Excellent highway access (US 87, US 67, US 277, SH 208)

VISION—PRIORITIES

The Concho Valley Economic Development District has some weaknesses that it must address and attempt to minimize in an effort to fully attain the region's potential. The Concho Valley Economic Development District is committed to mitigating, improving or eliminating the shortcomings of the Concho Valley region, the weaknesses will be discussed by individual county.

Coke County:

1. Lack of industrial land/buildings available.
2. Lack of coordination and advertising of local events to attract outside parties.
3. Infrastructure improvements needed (street and road repair, water quality in Robert Lee).
4. Lack of additional housing for detention center employees. (Bronte)
5. Unemployed workers lack training to fit job opportunities.
6. The appearance of the communities need to be planned and needs continued improvements.

Concho County:

1. Need for upgrading of water and sewer systems in both the cities of Eden and Paint Rock.
2. Shortage of housing for rental or purchase.
3. Limited economic diversity, reliance on agriculture
4. Street deterioration.
5. Lack of tourist attractions, lack of recreational facilities.
6. Both cities need improvements in appearance.
7. Lack of on-site vocational training.

Crockett County:

1. Lack of available housing.
2. Remoteness from large cities for shopping and medical attention.
3. No rail or commercial air service.
4. Lack of skilled workforce.
5. Lack of economic diversification.
6. Reliance on the petroleum industry.
7. Lack of essential services
8. Landlocked

Irion County:

1. Lack of infrastructure for water and sewer services in the communities of Barnhart and Sherwood.
2. Lack of entertainment opportunities, especially for teens.
3. Paved streets and curbs throughout the County.
4. Limited housing capabilities.
5. Appearance of the communities.

Kimble County:

1. Need for City water supply system upgrades.
2. Housing Shortage
3. Lack of Skilled Workforce
4. Shortage of Skills-based Training
5. Little Use of the Internet to Market and Sell Products
6. Lack of County-wide Collaborative Community Effort to Establish County Goals

Mason County:

1. Need more retail establishments.
2. More rental housing needs to be added.
3. The water supply may not be adequate for some industrial or manufacturing purposes.
4. A portion of the county has flooding problems.
5. The county needs local job skills training.
6. The county needs to have more use of on-line courses at the post high school level.

7. A small but influential portion of the county does not want change.
8. The agricultural community needs training in diversification and marketing.

McCulloch County:

1. Housing needs to be developed.
2. Street paving in Melvin.
3. Lack of a trained labor force.
4. Lack of Higher/Technical education.
5. No public transportation.
6. Lack of recreational facilities.
7. Need improvements in water and sewer systems in both cities.
8. Need to demolish old/abandoned buildings.

Menard County:

1. Beautification of downtown area.
2. Removal of vacant rundown houses and cars throughout the county.
3. Lack of sufficient housing for additional residents.
4. Lack of adequate mid/low income housing.
5. Vacant buildings in the downtown area need to be renovated and leased or sold to businesses.
6. Lack of jobs for young adults.
7. Low tax base.
8. Reliance on agriculture.

Reagan County:

1. Streets in need of repair.
2. Large amounts of substandard structures within the City of Big Lake.
3. Lack of quality housing.
4. Limited training of workforce (most trained in mechanical and technical fields).
5. Drainage problems in portions of the City of Big Lake.
6. Weak gas pressure under peak demands.
7. Lack of Retail businesses

Schleicher County:

1. There is no public property or buildings available for industrial development.
2. Schleicher County is in need of adequate streets.
3. There are no continuing education classes in the county.
4. There is no economic specialist to concentrate on Schleicher County.
5. Water and sewer capabilities must be addressed for new industry.
6. The city does not have an economic development sales tax.
7. There is no active Chamber of Commerce.

Sterling County:

1. The county needs affordable housing.
2. The county has no industrial commercial property or buildings available.
3. The county needs promotional materials to highlight the county=s strengths.
4. Streets in Sterling City need to be upgraded.
5. The county has a limited work force.

Sutton County:

1. Lack of affordable housing
2. No rail service.
3. No commercial air service.
4. Need skills training for unemployed/underemployed.
5. Limited workforce.
6. Limited property availability (both rental and permanent).
7. Isolated from major cities.
8. Limited telecommunications service.
9. No four lane north and south highway.

Tom Green County:

1. Completion of San Angelo Regional Business and Industrial Center.
2. Continuing need to maintain infrastructure (water treatment plant, distribution lines, etc..)
3. Provision of adequate water and sewer service in the rural populated areas.
4. Provision of adequate fire fighting equipment and services in rural areas.
5. Provision of recycling and waste management in rural areas.
6. Competition for high tech and upper income jobs.
7. Development of the Concho River for commercial purposes.
8. Limited competitive air service.
9. Insufficient recreational facilities.
10. Decrease in manufacturing/industrial jobs.
11. Improved environment for entrepreneurship.

ACTION-STRATEGIES

The Concho Valley Economic Development District and its member governments have established some planning priorities as well as goals and objectives toward achieving those priorities. It is understood and reiterated that the CEDS is a living document and therefore not only allows for changes; but actually encourages adapting to an ever-changing environment. Therefore, while these priorities define the direction which the CVEDD will strive toward, changes are very possible. The priorities of the Concho Valley region will be discussed by individual county.

Coke County:

1. Water Improvements: Both Bronte and Robert Lee
2. Develop a funding plan for upgrading existing streets in both Bronte and Robert Lee.
3. Develop funding for additional housing in Bronte.
4. Promote cooperation between the both cities and the county to promote the area and enhance beautification efforts and education opportunities.

Concho County:

1. Increase available rental properties and affordable housing.
2. Market Tourism.
3. Upgrade the water supply and sewer systems.
4. Develop industrial park.
5. Upgrade streets.
6. Provide continuing education/technical training skills.

Crockett County:

1. Housing is the first priority for Crockett County.
2. Develop a diversified economy.
3. Skills training.

Irion County:

1. Infrastructure improvements (water, sewer, streets, and curbs).
2. Community appearances.
3. Continue upgrading Telecommunications.
4. Promotional materials
5. Development of new industries.
6. Housing availability.

Kimble County:

1. Water Supply Upgrades within the City of Junction
2. Encourage Expansion of the Housing Inventory
3. Provide Skills-based Training and “Distance Learning” to obtain Associate Degree
4. Promote Web-based Marketing by Local Businesses
5. Participatory Approach to Community Decision Making and Information Sharing

Mason County:

1. Assist local business to expand and create opportunities for new business to locate.
2. Expand electrical, water and sewer capabilities.
3. Expand the permanent and temporary housing market.
4. Create more interest in the Mason County home page.
5. Create a positive attitude of citizens toward economic growth and the growth of businesses.

McCulloch County:

1. Survey businesses for training required.
2. Create stable, custom base for business.
3. Secure financing for street repair.
4. Acquire land and infrastructure for Junior College.
5. Expand public transportation.
6. Route L.T.L. to one primary freight carrier.

7. Create Enterprise zones, tax abatements, develop industrial park with financing package.

Menard County:

1. Improve water and wastewater capacity within the City of Menard.
2. Renovate downtown area.
3. Renovate housing in the City of Menard.
4. Encourage post-graduate training in Menard County.
5. Expand tourism.

Reagan County:

1. Upgrade streets and roads
2. Eliminate substandard structures.
3. Encourage expansion of housing inventory.
4. Training of potential workers with targeted industries in mind.
5. Increase gas pressure.
6. Waste Water Treatment plant
7. Infrastructure to the Industrial Park

Schleicher County:

1. Upgrade streets and roads.
2. Expand water supply within Schleicher County.
3. Increase wastewater capacity within the City of Eldorado.
4. Bring continuing education classes to Schleicher County.
5. Promote economic growth (economic development sales tax).

Sterling County:

1. Look at ways to provide affordable housing for the city and county.
2. Upgrade streets and roads.
3. Create promotional material for the county and specifically the tourist attraction connected with hunting.
4. Identify land that is available for industrial expansion.
5. Lure industries to Sterling County by using the close proximity to San Angelo and Interstate 20.

Sutton County:

1. Need to promote affordable housing
2. Promote industry.
3. Improve infrastructure (water storage).
4. Educate labor force (focused training).
5. Retain and expand local business.
6. Recruit/Entice prospective employers.
7. Assist in initiating housing development.
8. Develop tourism model.

Tom Green County:

1. Completion of Regional Industrial Park.
2. Improve and expand City of San Angelo infrastructure (water, sewer, streets, bridge, drainage).
3. Construction of new recreational facilities.
4. Develop an environment for entrepreneurship.
5. Water and sewer service for rural areas.
6. Fire protection for rural areas.
7. Recycling and waste management in rural areas.
8. Develop Concho River Corridor.
9. Improve air transportation service and infrastructure.

The Concho Valley Economic Development District will work on accomplishing the previously listed priorities in an effective and efficient manner. The strategies towards mitigating shortcomings and enhancing strengths are as follows.

Coke County:

1. Determine private land available for industrial uses.
2. Work with Howard College and Angelo State University in San Angelo to develop continuing education classes and specific skills training in Coke County.
3. Work with the Concho Valley Economic Development District to develop plans to enhance the entrances to the cities and the county.
4. Develop plans to apply for grants to enhance housing and promote the first-time home owners programs of the Concho Valley Housing Finance Corporation.
5. Develop a plan to solicit expansion of local businesses.
6. Develop loan packaging and low interest loans for business creation and expansion to provide new jobs.
7. Develop plans to upgrade streets and roads throughout the county.

Concho County:

1. Research and pursue grant opportunities for water and sewer system improvements.
2. Research and pursue Parks and Wildlife grants for parks and recreational facilities.
3. Work with Howard College and Angelo State University and the Concho Valley Workforce to provide continuing education and skills training in the county.
4. Research and pursue grant and low interest loan opportunities that could enhance the housing stock available.
5. Work with the Regional Economic Development District on the possibilities for assistance in beautifying the entrances and other places in the county.
6. Research and pursue grant opportunities to help upgrade existing streets and roads.
7. Utilize the RC&D grant service for the private sector grants.

Crockett County:

1. Crockett County will work with landowners to educate them about community and economic diversification.
2. Crockett County will work with the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs and the Concho Valley Housing Finance Corporation to develop programs to address housing needs.
3. The county will work with economic development assistance organizations to assist in diversification.
4. Crockett County will work with employers and the Concho Valley Economic Development District, Inc. to provide needed skills training in the district and in Crockett County. The school system may be able to provide facilities for skills training.
5. Crockett County will work with local land owners to educate them about present and future economic opportunities

Irion County:

1. Start a local program of curbing and paving streets. Actively seek grants and private funds to assist local government finance these programs.
2. Start volunteer programs to assist and encourage land owners to clean and groom their communities.
3. Create promotional materials and an Internet listing.
4. Encourage the use of existing programs and financing mechanisms to encourage new business and construction of homes.
5. Actively seek grants and private funds to improve the infrastructure within the communities of Irion County.

Kimble County:

1. Modifications to the City water supply are being addressed.
2. Housing challenges to be given proper priority.
3. Currently working with the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board to bring their skill-based training in Junction. The training will be marketed to the unemployed and employed workforce.
4. Community effort already exists to facilitate earning an Associate Degree (a.k.a., a Junior College Degree) or technical certification while living in the City of Junction or Kimble County.
5. Research availability of different types of marketing products to ensure “outside of the County dollars” provide tax base wealth to Junction and Kimble County.
6. Schedule quarterly countywide meetings to encourage direct community participation in the decision making.

Mason County:

1. Bring in new business and entice local businesses to expand.
2. Research and pursue grants for expanding/upgrading the electrical, water and sewer capabilities.
3. Research and pursue grants for housing needs.
4. Work with area educational facilities, in Mason and the general area, to create continuing, or vocational, classes for the community.
5. Research better use of on-line capabilities.

6. Public education needs to be addressed to provide a positive attitude to development of industries in Mason County.
7. Research the creation of maps and flood prevention techniques.

McCulloch County:

1. Texas Workforce Training.
2. Secure employment levels for stability, increase population.
3. Grants for Junior College or satellite for larger college.
4. Expand fleet transportation.
5. Route all L.T.L. to one primary freight carrier through Chamber or McCulloch Industrial Foundation.
6. Support new business/expansion (tax abatements).

Menard County:

1. Develop plans for city water and waste water upgrades to provide capacity for growth. These plans should include plans for financing the projects.
2. Beautification of the downtown area should be planned for budgeting and/or grant applications.
3. City ordinances and financial assistance for removal of substandard housing and abandoned vehicles.
4. Develop plans for skills training and academic instruction for local citizens. Work with colleges and universities in the area for possible solutions.
5. Work with other governmental agencies to develop programs which will encourage construction and upgrade housing for low-income citizens.
6. Advertise for small businesses to locate or relocate to the area.
7. Diversify agriculture by enhancing tourism, commercializing the river, increase hunting potential, or any other means to increase tax base and influx of outside dollars.
8. Continue to work with the Library Club on construction of the new library and pursue bringing classes from Howard College or other providers of higher education or vocational education.

Reagan County:

1. Continue to develop plans to renovate streets and drainage concerns.
2. Substandard structures to be addressed by zoning ordinances.
3. Initiate housing programs to address adequate housing.
4. Workforce Training
5. Seek funding assistance in providing better gas pressure.
6. The Big Lake Golf Course, Reagan County and City of Big Lake need to work cooperatively to improve and maintain the Golf Course.

Schleicher County:

1. Research and pursue grant opportunities to upgrade existing streets and roads.
2. Research and pursue grant opportunities to expand the water and sewer systems of the City of Eldorado.
3. Work with Howard College and other providers of higher education to determine the

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4. possibility of education classes in the county.
Research the possibility of an economic development sales tax to support an economic development specialist.

Sterling County:

1. Look at ways to provide affordable housing .
2. Research and pursue grant opportunities that could help upgrade existing streets and roads.
3. Work with the Concho Valley Economic Development District, Inc. for promotion and economic development work.
4. Use private land for industrial expansion.
5. Promote the work force available with commuters from San Angelo and Big Spring.

Sutton County:

1. Work with developers to enhance housing.
2. Select industry that utilizes current talents and competes on levels of existing jobs.
3. Plan for infrastructure improvements.
4. Work with high school, chamber, and universities to develop and offer community site based educational offering to enhance service and industrial skills.
5. Promote current businesses to expand offering assistance and guidance on available aid and potential help.
6. Promote local community to prospective employers via the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation, Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Program, and local governments.
7. Work with local landowners to establish nature and wildlife tourism destinations.

Tom Green County:

1. Work with the Concho Valley Economic Development District in seeking and obtaining funding. Possible use of Economic Development Sales Tax funds.
2. Actively seek alternate funding sources to improve and expand city=s infrastructure. Continue budgeting and preparing for future needs.
3. Actively seek alternate funding sources to improve and expand the available recreational facilities. Continue budgeting and preparing for future needs.
4. Encourage entrepreneurship through the establishment of a technology incubator.
5. Actively seek funding sources to aid in the improvement and expansion of rural water and sewer service throughout the county.
6. Encourage local training of volunteer firemen to decrease cost of acquiring adequate training. Continue to seek funding sources to upgrade and expand equipment and facilities.
7. Actively seek out those illegally dumping municipal solid waste. Ensure adequate recycling and waste management opportunities exist for the rural residents of the county.
8. Encourage private/commercial development of Concho River Corridor through incentives.
9. Improve air transportation service and infrastructure by actively seeking out and promoting the regional air port service.



FIGURE 3
POPULATION HISTORY

COUNTY/City	1970	1980	RATE GROWTH	1990	RATE GROWTH	2000	RATE GROWTH	2006	RATE GROWTH
COKE	3,087	3,196	3.53%	3,424	7.13%	3,864	12.85%	4,010	3.80%
Bronte		983		962	-2.14%	1,076	11.85%	1,129	4.90%
Robert Lee		1,202		1,276	6.16%	1,171	-8.23%	1,159	-1.00%
CONCHO	2,937	2,915	-0.75%	3,044	4.43%	3,966	30.29%	3,826	-3.50%
Eden		1,294		1,567	21.10%	2,561	63.43%	2,451	-4.30%
Paint Rock		256		227	-11.33%	320	40.97%	313	-2.20%
CROCKETT	4,209	4,608	9.48%	4,078	-11.50%	4,099	0.51%	4,011	-2.10%
IRION	1,070	1,386	29.53%	1,629	17.53%	1,771	8.72%	1,761	-0.60%
Mertzon		687		778	13.25%	839	7.84%	820	-2.30%
KIMBLE	3,904	4,063	4.07%	4,122	1.45%	4,468	8.39%	4,633	3.70%
Junction		2,593		2,654	2.35%	2,618	-1.36%	2,659	1.60%
MASON	3,356	3,083	-8.13%	3,423	11.03%	3,738	9.20%	3,878	3.70%
Mason		2,153		2,041	-5.20%	2,134	4.56%	2,230	4.50%
McCULLOCH	8,571	8,735	1.91%	8,778	0.49%	8,205	-6.53%	8,134	-0.90%
Brady		5,969		5,946	-0.39%	5,523	-7.11%	5,514	-0.20%
Melvin		202		184	-8.91%	155	-15.76%	148	-4.50%
MENARD	2,646	2,346	-11.34%	2,252	-4.01%	2,360	4.80%	2,314	-1.90%
Menard		1,697		1,606	-5.36%	1,653	2.93%	1,611	-2.50%
REAGAN	3,239	4,135	27.66%	4,514	9.17%	3,326	-26.32%	3,094	-7.00%
Big Lake		3,404		3,672	7.87%	2,885	-21.43%	2,677	-7.20%
SCHLEICHER	2,791	2,820	1.04%	2,990	6.03%	2,935	-1.84%	2,821	-3.90%
Eldorado		2,061		2,019	-2.04%	1,951	-3.37%	1,897	-2.80%
STERLING	1,056	1,206	14.20%	1,438	19.24%	1,393	-3.13%	1,350	-3.10%
Sterling City		915		1,096	19.78%	1,081	-1.37%	1,057	-2.20%
SUTTON	3,175	5,130	61.57%	4,135	-19.40%	4,077	-1.40%	4,169	2.30%
Sonora		3,856		2,751	-28.66%	2,924	6.29%	3,067	4.90%
TOM GREEN	71,047	84,784	19.34%	98,458	16.13%	104,010	5.64%	102,277	-1.70%
San Angelo		73,240		84,462	15.32%	88,439	4.71%	87,212	-1.40%
TOTAL POPULATION	111,088	128,407		142,285	10.81%	148,212	4.17%	146,278	-1.30%

Source: Census Bureau & Texas State Data Center

FIGURE 4
GENERAL POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

COUNTY	AVERAGE ANNUAL % POP. CHANGE	MEDIAN AGE 1990	MEDIAN AGE 2000	MEDIAN AGE 2006	% POP BELOW POVERTY	% MALE	% FEMALE
COKE	1.29	51.8	43.1	43.3	17.20%	50.00%	50.00%
CONCHO	3.03	32.5	35.0	36.0	21.90%	64.40%	35.60%
CROCKETT	0.05	49.2	31.9	37.2	16.90%	49.50%	50.50%
IRION	0.87	40.8	29.8	39.9	13.00%	50.10%	49.90%
KIMBLE	0.84	52.5	41.6	43.1	18.80%	48.10%	51.90%
McCULLOCH	-0.65	47.1	36.9	40.4	34.50%	47.40%	52.60%
MASON	0.92	53.9	41.9	46.7	19.90%	48.00%	52.00%
MENARD	0.48	46.6	40.5	44.1	28.10%	49.90%	50.10%
REAGAN	-2.63	26.0	25.6	32.4	12.90%	50.10%	49.90%
SCHLEICHER	-0.18	35.6	32.4	38.8	17.00%	49.70%	50.30%
STERLING	-0.31	34.6	30.0	37.9	12.00%	49.10%	50.90%
SUTTON	-0.14	44.4	31.4	36.5	14.70%	49.90%	50.10%
TOM GREEN	0.56	36.0	30.4	33.8	17.20%	48.40%	51.60%
AVERAGE	0.42	42.4	34.7	35.6	17.65%	48.97%	51.03%

Source: Census Bureau

Median age dropped by almost 8 years between the 1990 and 2000 census counts and then rebounded back almost a year between 2000 and 2006. This still reflects an available workforce. The poverty level indicates a need for jobs. Poverty rates almost one entire percentage point higher than the State average of 16.7%. Additionally, poverty rates are higher in areas farther from the urban center. Positive change in population is greatest in the urban area and the immediate surrounding counties.

FIGURE 5
POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR THE CONCHO VALLEY

CENSUS AREA	1990	2000	2006	2020	2030	2040
COKE	3,424	3,864	4,010	4,095	4,125	4,175
CONCHO	3,044	3,966	3,826	4,441	4,495	4,515
CROCKETT	4,078	4,099	4,011	5,413	6,006	6,446
IRION	1,629	1,771	1,761	1,825	1,862	1,824
KIMBLE	4,122	4,468	4,633	4,646	4,738	4,819
MASON	3,423	3,738	3,878	3,896	3,975	4,054
McCULLOCH	8,778	8,205	8,134	8,475	8,525	8,685
MENARD	2,252	2,360	2,314	2,376	2,478	2,574
REAGAN	4,514	3,326	3,094	6,145	6,906	7,479
SCHLEICHER	2,990	2,935	2,821	3,839	4,188	4,467
STERLING	1,438	1,393	1,350	1,721	1,817	1,848
SUTTON	4,135	4,077	4,169	5,498	6,057	6,457
TOM GREEN	98,458	104,010	102,277	114,428	125,851	142,526
TOTAL POPULATION	142,285	148,212	146,278	166,798	181,023	199,869

Source: Department of Rural Sociology - University of Texas - San Antonio

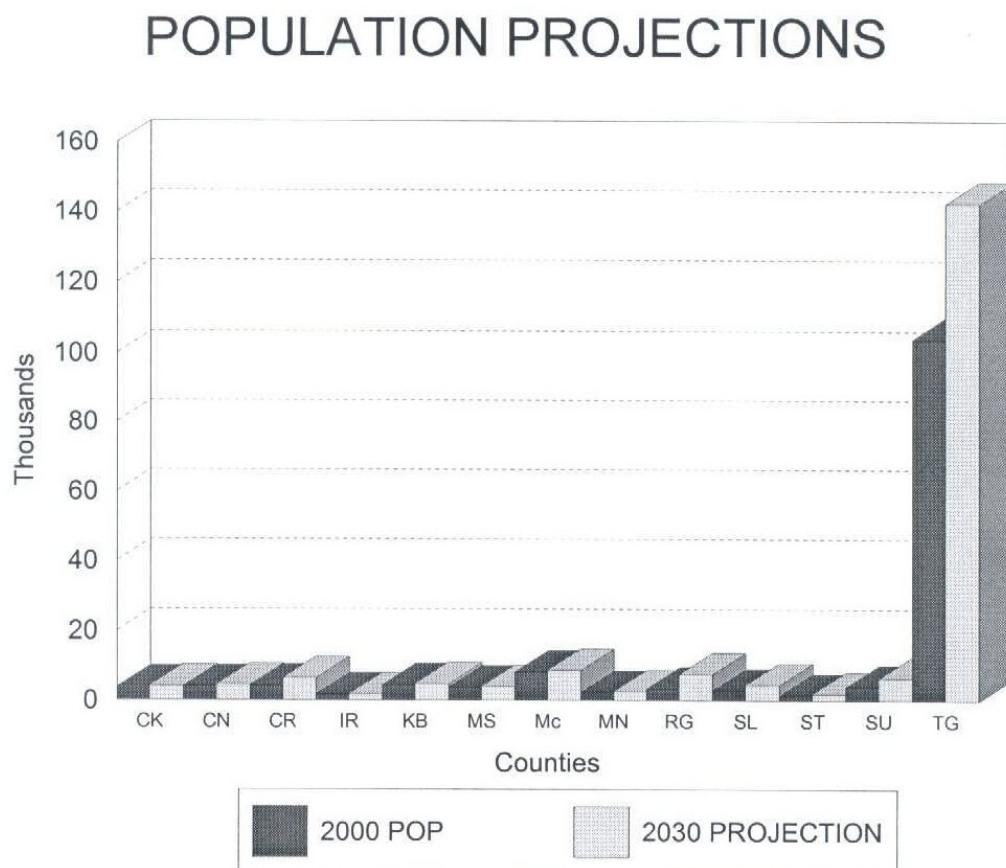


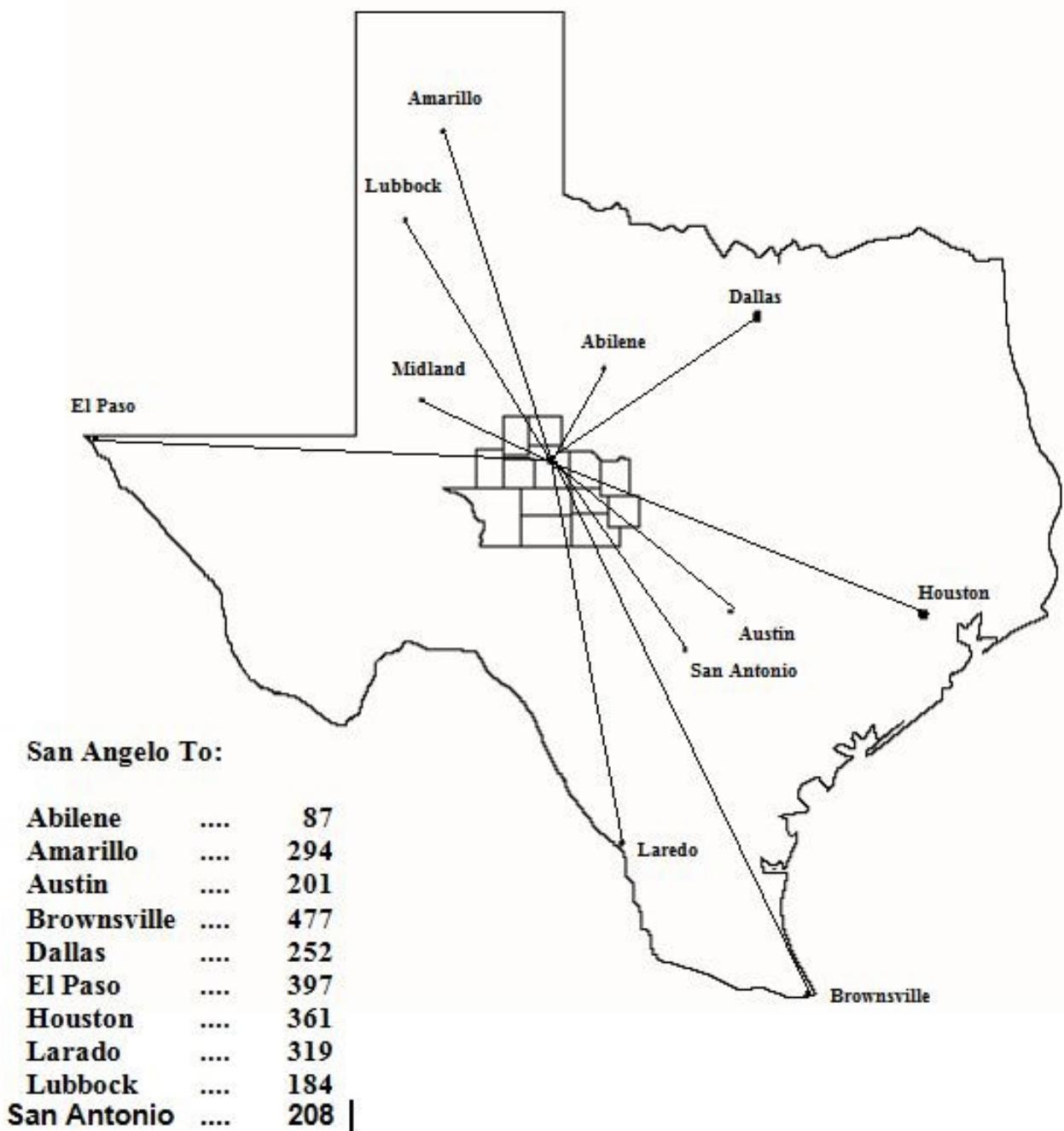
Figure 6

Migration

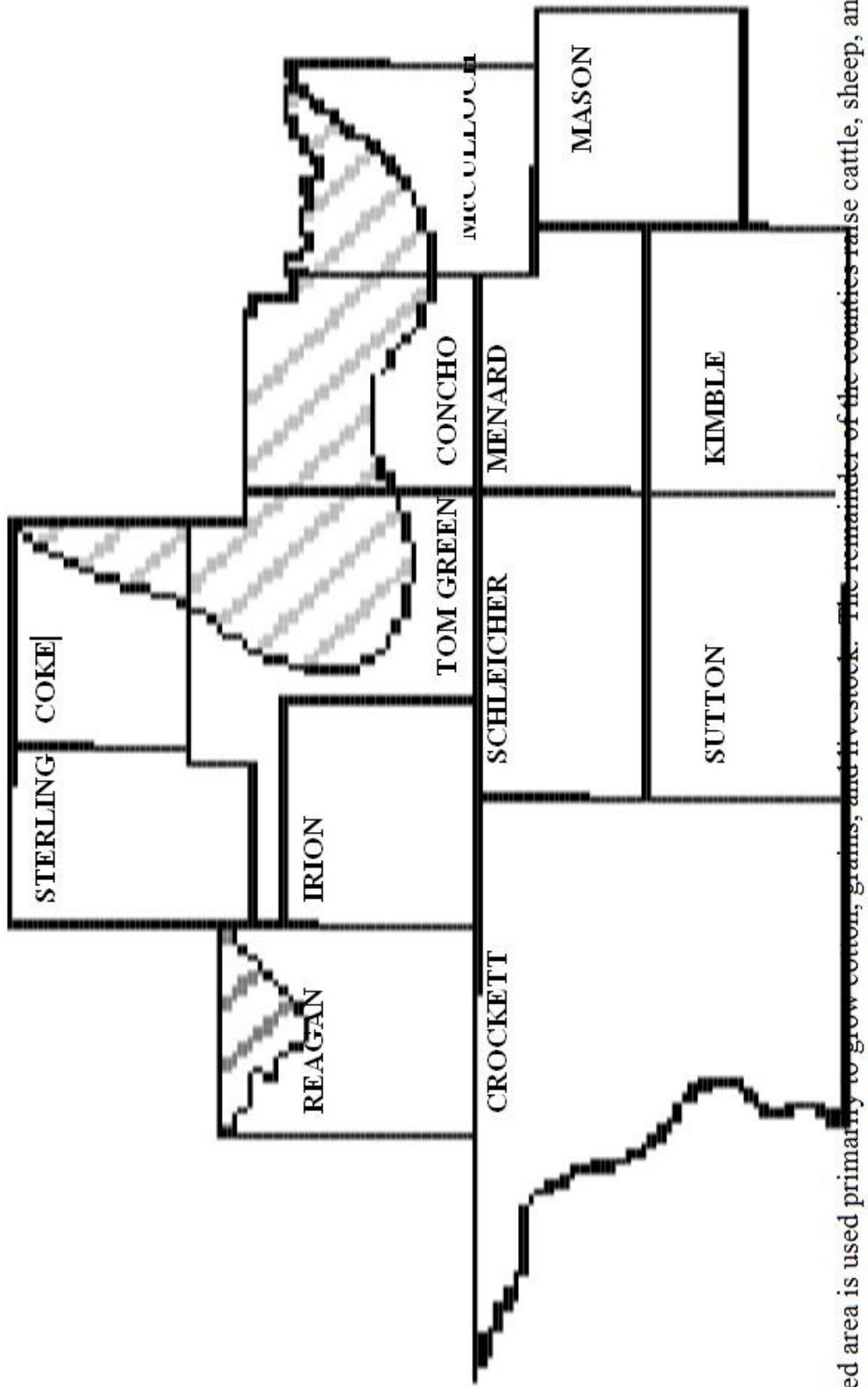
COUNTY	1980			1985			1990		
	In	Out	Net	In	Out	Net	In	Out	Net
Coke	5	38	-33	4	29	-25	0	0	31
Concho	12	35	-23	10	25	-15	0	0	41
Crockett	2	75	-73	1	87	-86	0	0	61
Irion	0	18	-18	0	37	-37	0	0	21
Kimble	0	65	-65	2	37	-35	44	15	29
Mason	0	39	-39	0	48	-48	0	0	27
McCulloch	45	26	19	34	47	-13	0	0	119
Menard	11	25	-14	8	27	-19	4	25	-21
Reagan	32	55	-23	13	94	-81	1	72	-71
Schleicher	42	30	12	20	41	-21	0	44	-44
Sterling	3	18	-15	0	38	-38	0	25	-25
Sutton	30	79	-49	15	78	-63	0	60	-60
Tom Green	352	39	313	463	25	438	498	32	466
TOTAL	534	542	-8	570	613	-43	547	573	-26

Source: Texas Department of Health

FIGURE 7
MILEAGE TO MAJOR CITIES



CONCHO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
GENERALIZED LAND USE
FIGURE 9



Shaded area is used primarily to grow cotton, grains, and livestock. The remainder of the counties raise cattle, sheep, and goats.

CONCHO VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

FIGURE 11



RACIAL COMPOSITION

COUNTY	% ANGLO	% BLACK	% HISPANIC	% OTHER
COKE	80.20	1.90	16.90	1.00
CONCHO	56.90	1.00	41.30	0.80
CROCKETT	43.50	0.70	54.70	1.10
IRION	74.20	0.40	24.60	0.80
KIMBLE	78.10	0.10	20.70	1.10
McCULLOCH	70.80	1.60	27.00	0.60
MASON	78.30	0.10	20.90	0.70
MENARD	66.70	0.50	31.70	1.10
REAGAN	46.40	3.00	49.50	1.10
SCHLEICHER	54.60	1.50	43.50	0.40
STERLING	68.40	0.10	31.00	0.50
SUTTON	47.40	0.20	51.70	0.70
TOM GREEN	62.60	4.10	30.70	2.60
TOTAL DISTRICT	63.03	3.18	31.73	2.07

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The percent Hispanic continues to grow in all of the counties. Races considered "other" are: American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, European, and numerous other groups. This portion has grown from less than 1% in the 1990 census to over 2% in 2006.

CONCHO VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

EDUCATIONAL PROFILE*
FIGURE 12



COUNTY	% LESS THAN GR. 9	% GRADE 9-12	% H.S. GRA D.	% 1-3 YRS. COLLEG E	% VOC. TRAIN	% 4+ YRS. COLLEG E	% H.S. OR MORE
COKE	11.5	24.0	30.8	18.7	3.9	11.0	64.5
CONCHO	28.0	19.2	28.5	12.5	2.6	9.2	52.8
CROCKETT	22.6	20.1	27.2	12.8	3.0	14.3	57.3
IRION	13.6	16.7	36.0	19.1	2.6	12.1	69.7
KIMBLE	16.6	20.3	32.4	16.4	2.9	11.5	63.1
McCULLOC H	20.3	17.7	30.0	16.2	3.3	12.5	62.0
MASON	17.5	17.7	31.2	17.5	4.0	12.1	64.8
MENARD	23.8	18.3	31.5	14.4	1.4	10.6	57.9
REAGAN	18.2	19.3	35.0	16.0	2.7	8.8	62.6
SCHLEICHE R	18.5	19.8	27.5	19.5	2.4	12.3	61.7
STERLING	16.5	15.7	33.7	16.2	5.7	12.2	68.5
SUTTON	21.0	17.8	24.9	16.9	1.6	17.9	61.2
TOM GREEN	12.8	15.0	27.3	25.4	4.7	14.9	72.3
AVERAGE	18.5	18.6	30.5	17.0	3.1	12.3	63.0

63 percent with at least a high school education indicates an improvement from the 1980 census figure of 53.8%. This increase, along with the reduction in average age of the citizens of the district, indicates a promise of a trained and/or trainable work force. The low percentage of vocational training indicates a lack of comprehensive training available in the area.

Source: Census Bureau

* Residents 18 years or older.

**CONCHO VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT,
INC.**
FIGURE 13

INCOME CHARACTERISTICS

COUNTY	HOUSEHOLD	
	<u>MEDIAN INCOME</u>	<u>% STATE MEDIAN</u>
<u>COKE</u>	\$25,700	74.5
<u>CONCHO</u>	\$23,050	66.8
<u>CROCKETT</u>	\$28,647	83.0
<u>IRION</u>	\$31,533	91.4
<u>KIMBLE</u>	\$23,530	68.2
<u>McCULLOCH</u>	\$23,532	68.2
<u>MASON</u>	\$22,164	64.2
<u>MENARD</u>	\$19,458	56.4
<u>REAGAN</u>	\$36,158	104.8
<u>SCHLEICHER</u>	\$29,721	86.2
<u>STERLING</u>	\$32,781	95.0
<u>SUTTON</u>	\$31,567	91.5
<u>TOM GREEN</u>	\$31,084	90.1
<u>REGION AVERAGE</u>	\$29,734	86.2
<u>STATE AVERAGE</u>	\$34,478	100.0

Median incomes are those with one-half of the population earning more and one-half earning less. The region has incomes which are over 25% less than state median. This indicates low wages for employers and a lack of high tech jobs. Salaries in the region continue to lag behind the state.

**CONCHO VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT, INC.
PER CAPITA INCOME
FIGURE 14**

COUNTY	1980	1990	1999*	% OF STATE AVERAGE
COKE	\$6,835	\$10,220	\$19,839	73.90%
CONCHO	\$5,917	\$8,126	\$18,818	70.10%
CROCKETT	\$6,767	\$10,232	\$14,986	55.84%
IRION	\$7,015	\$11,659	\$18,663	69.54%
KIMBLE	\$5,535	\$11,372	\$17,618	65.65%
McCULLOCH	\$5,414	\$8,847	\$18,891	70.39%
MASON	\$5,869	\$8,575	\$17,443	65.00%
MENARD	\$4,865	\$9,318	\$15,948	59.43%
REAGAN	\$6,466	\$10,243	\$25,480	94.95%
SCHLEICHER	\$6,610	\$10,615	\$15,197	56.63%
STERLING	\$7,138	\$12,698	\$15,845	59.04%
SUTTON	\$8,144	\$10,926	\$17,676	65.87%
TOM GREEN	\$6,798	\$11,482	\$23,453	87.40%
AVERAGE	\$6,413	\$10,332	\$21,901	81.61%
STATE		\$15,075	\$26,834	100.00%

Source: Census Bureau and *Bureau of Economic Analysis

Per capita income is defined as the total income of the county divided by the total population. While the region shows a low income, growth has been steady. The region is approximately 33% below the state level. This again indicates a lack of high tech jobs. Drops in percent of regional total, such as seen for Reagan County, indicates a slowing of the economy.

FIGURE 15
LABOR FORCE TRENDS

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE 1980	% IN LABOR FORCE	LABOR FORCE 1990	% IN LABOR FORCE	LABOR FORCE 2000	% IN LABOR FORCE
COKE	1,685	74.0	1,321	52.0	1,425	52.0
CONCHO	1,138	52.5	1,229	55.9	1,301	53.5
CROCKETT	1,441	56.3	1,907	59.2	1,762	59.3
IRION	387	54.1	634	62.3	742	60.6
KIMBLE	1,637	59.4	1,734	55.4	1,950	61.0
McCULLOCH	3,405	54.4	3,475	51.3	3,351	60.3
MASON	1,333	51.6	1,601	54.5	1,453	63.5
MENARD	951	50.4	895	49.0	899	51.5
REAGAN	1,262	58.3	1,672	61.4	1,862	62.8
SCHLEICHER	965	54.0	1,190	56.9	1,184	56.2
STERLING	426	57.3	521	58.9	622	62.0
SUTTON	1,292	60.1	2,317	64.1	1,957	63.7
TOM GREEN	29,663	59.3	42,060	65.0	49,137	66.1
TOTAL	45,585		60,556		67,645	
AVERAGE		57.1		57.4		57.9

The labor force is defined as persons 16 years of age and older. The percentage in the work force shows a slight growth over the period, but, the increase in total work force has grown significantly. The most sustained growth was in Concho, Irion, Kimble, Reagan, Sterling, and Tom Green counties. However, there is evidence that a segment of the labor force has dropped out as the percent has dropped in several counties. The indication is that there are potential workers available for increased economic stimulus. There is evidence that the growth in some of these counties has reversed since 1990.

Source: Census Bureau

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

FIGURE 16

COUNTY	% FULL TIME EMP MALES	% FULL TIME EMP FEMALES	% UNEMP MALES	% UNEMP FEMALES	MEAN WKS WORKED MALES	MEAN WKS WORKED FEMALES
COKE	42.4	20.8	2.5	3.6	29	26
CONCHO	42.7	23.2	2.2	2.1	31	40
CROCKETT	54.4	23.2	4.1	1.9	35	35
IRION	54.9	20.6	3.6	2.0	34	34
KIMBLE	45.0	23.9	2.8	2.8	33	29
McCULLOCH	38.4	17.8	3.5	2.9	30	26
MASON	46.3	19.7	0.5	1.4	33	28
MENARD	38.8	15.7	1.7	1.8	30	27
REAGAN	63.5	22.1	1.9	3.1	39	39
SCHLEICHER	55.0	20.2	2.1	1.7	36	32
STERLING	68.6	24.4	0.4	2.3	39	37
SUTTON	53.3	19.5	3.6	3.5	37	36
TOM GREEN	52.7	30.8	6.2	4.2	35	32
AVERAGE	50.5	21.7	2.7	2.6	34	32

Full time employment is defined as working 35 or more hours per week for a minimum of 50 weeks during the year. The low unemployment rate at census time and the low number of mean weeks worked combine to indicate a number of people have left the work force or have become part time workers. However, the percentage of unemployed females indicates a potential work force not being utilized.

FIGURE 16A

COUNTY	TOTAL % EMPLOYED	% NOT IN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED WHITE %	EMPLOYED ALUET %	EMPLOYED BLACK %	EMPLOYED HISPANIC %	EMPLOYED OTHER %
COKE	43.0	57.0	93.1	100.0	0.0	97.4	98.0
CONCHO	58.9	41.1	98.0	0.0	0.0	95.4	85.3
CROCKETT	40.8	59.2	96.3	100.0	100.0	94.7	0.0
IRION	48.4	51.6	96.6	0.0	0.0	96.5	100.0
KIMBLE	57.8	42.2	97.4	0.0	0.0	98.4	98.3
McCULLOCH	41.7	58.3	95.0	100.0	100.0	91.2	88.7
MASON	43.0	57.0	98.1	100.0	100.0	98.8	100.0
MENARD	49.8	50.2	93.1	0.0	0.0	91.2	94.6
REAGAN	41.4	58.6	96.2	0.0	63.6	98.3	98.1
SCHLEICHER	46.2	53.8	97.7	100.0	77.7	95.1	95.5
STERLING	44.4	55.6	96.3	100.0	0.0	92.3	92.2
SUTTON	42.5	57.5	96.4	100.0	0.0	93.8	94.3
TOM GREEN	48.2	51.8	96.9	99.3	92.1	94.9	94.5
AVERAGE	47.5	52.5	96.6	99.4	91.8	94.9	91.8
TEXAS	52.3	47.7	96.3	94.4	91.3	93.0	92.9

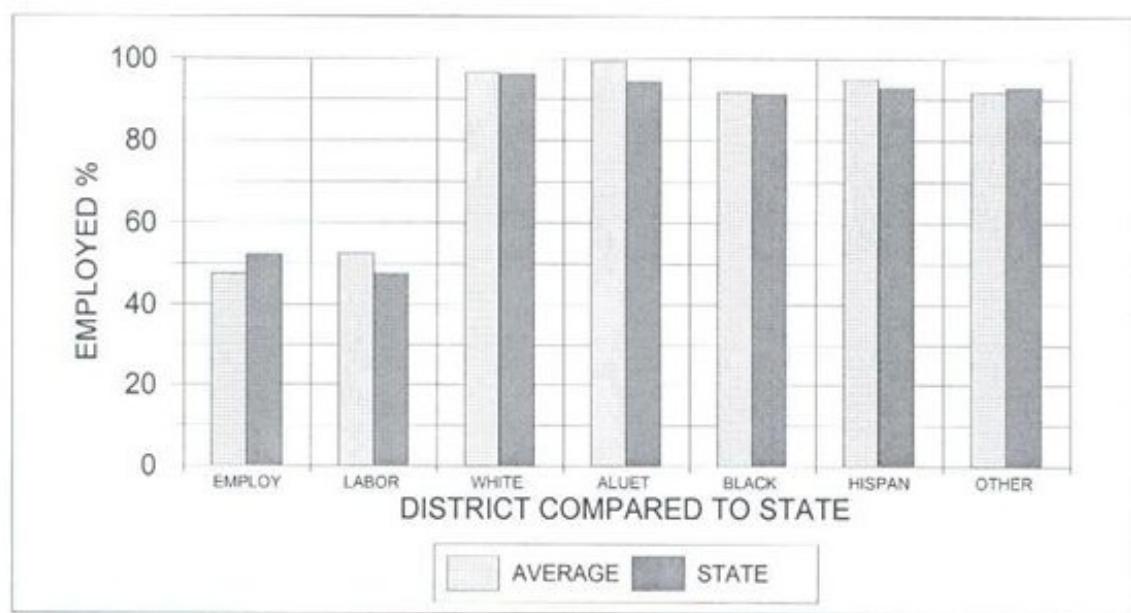


Figure 17 - CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE COMPARISON

	1980 Labor Force	1990 Labor Force	*2000 Labor Force	1980 Unemployment	1990 Unemployment	*2000 Unemployment
Coke	1,321	1,422	1,521	2.0	5.9	2.5
Concho	1,229	1,298	1,615	4.0	4.0	2.8
Crockett	1,907	1,762	1,853	2.2	5.0	3.6
Irion	634	742	708	2.5	4.6	3.4
Kimble	1,734	1,950	2,431	1.2	4.6	2.5
McCulloch	3,467	3,348	3,621	3.7	6.4	5.3
Mason	1,599	1,450	1,463	3.3	1.8	1.6
Menard	895	899	1,175	2.0	3.3	3.3
Reagan	1,672	1,862	1,733	3.5	4.0	3.7
Schleicher	1,157	1,184	1,481	1.6	3.4	3.2
Sterling	521	622	654	0.4	2.3	4.0
Sutton	2,317	1,957	1,880	0.9	5.6	3.9
Tom Green	39,996	45,412	50,621	3.4	7.9	3.4
Average	4,496	4,916	5,443	2.4	4.5	3.3

This chart graphically represents the economy change in the region. There has been growth in the labor force, the unemployment rate has been responding to national and state unemployment figures. While unemployment is not high as compared to state figures (4.2), the base of available employees would provide a substantial work force for new industry.

Source: Census Bureau and Texas Workforce Commission

FIGURE 17A
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR THE CONCHO VALLEY DISTRICT

YRS.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	AVG.
1997	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.3	5.4	5.3	4.9	5.0	4.7	5.3	4.9	4.8
1998	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.4	6.0	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.8	5.3
1999	5.6	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.7	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.8	5.1	4.7	5.0
2000	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.6	4.5	5.0	4.6	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.6	4.5
2001	4.1	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.9	4.6	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.0
2002	4.3	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.5
2003	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.5	4.2	5.4	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.6
2004	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	4.1	5.1	4.8	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.1
2005	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.7	5.5	4.8	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.3	4.5
2006	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.2
Avg.	4.6	4.3	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.7	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.7	4.2

Unemployment peaked at 5.8 percent in January, 1998. Since that time the population has expanded while the rate has declined. The amount of available labor in the area remains high. This will provide a good base for new and expanded industry in the district.

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

FIGURE 17B
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT
2006

COUNTY	MALE UNEMP L. RATE	FEMALE UNEMPL. RATE	TOTAL LABOR FORCE	EM- PLOYED	UNEM- PLOYED
COKE	1.6	3.6	1,521	1,483	38
CONCHO	2.6	3.0	1,615	1,570	45
CROCKETT	3.8	3.2	1,853	1,786	67
IRION	3.7	3.0	708	684	24
KIMBLE	2.1	2.9	2,431	2,371	60
McCULLOCH	4.7	6.1	3,621	3,428	193
MASON	0.7	3.0	1,463	1,439	24
MENARD	3.3	3.3	1,175	1,136	39
REAGAN	2.1	6.6	1,733	1,669	64
SCHLEICHER	2.7	4.2	1,481	1,433	48
STERLING	1.0	8.5	654	628	26
SUTTON	3.2	5.1	1,880	1,806	74
TOM GREEN	3.6	3.2	50,621	48,879	1,742
TOTAL	AVG. 2.7	AVG. 4.2	70,756	68,312	2,444

There are a number of citizens not in the labor force. The high unemployment rate for women indicates that there is an adequate labor force available. The low rate for males in some of the counties would also indicate that there are people who are available but have dropped out of the labor force due to lack of jobs.

FIGURE 44
SEX OF UNEMPLOYED WORK FORCE

County	Female	Male	Total	% Female	% Male
Coke	24	14	38	3.6	1.6
Concho	19	26	45	3.0	2.6
Crockett	21	46	67	3.2	3.8
Irion	8	16	24	3.0	3.7
Kimble	32	28	60	2.9	2.1
Mason	18	6	24	3.0	0.7
McCulloch	95	98	193	6.1	4.7
Menard	20	19	39	3.3	3.3
Reagan	40	24	64	6.6	2.1
Schleicher	23	25	48	4.2	2.7
Sterling	22	4	26	8.5	1.0
Sutton	37	37	74	5.1	3.2
Tom Green	768	974	1742	3.2	3.6
TOTAL	1,127	1,317	2,444		

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

FIGURE 47
LABOR SKILLS NEEDED IN CONCHO VALLEY

HEALTH SERVICES

Dieticians/Nutritionists
Health Professionals (Companion/Medical Assistant)
Home Health Aides
Licensed Practical Nurses
Medical Lab Technologists
Nursing Aides/Orderlies
Occupational Therapists and Assistants
Physical Therapists and Assistants
Registered Nurses

SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS

Carpenters
Electricians
Heating/A.C. Mechanics
Main Repairers (Pipefitting, Boilermaking, Insulating, Welding)
Plumbers/Pipefitters
Welders and Cutters

ENGINEERING AND ACCOUNTING

Accountants and Auditors
Manufacturing and Automated Systems Tech
Word Processing Typist

EATING AND DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS

Managers
Waiters/Waitresses

BUSINESS SERVICES

Computer Systems Analysts
Information Technology Support Specialists
Network Systems Technician

AUTO REPAIR

Auto Body Repair Workers
Auto Mechanics
Diesel/Bus/Truck Mechanics

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Managers
Retail Clerks

TRUCKING AND WAREHOUSING

Truck Drivers

SOCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

Child Care Workers
Correction Officers
Police Patrol Officers

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Elementary School Teachers
Special Education Teachers