

Department of Engineering, Mathematic, and Physics Presents

The EMAP 2009 Colloquium

Thursday, November 12, 4:30-5:30pm

Room: LBV 208

Free and Open to Public

Mr. Gerardo Pinzon, PE

Engineering Instructor

Local Environmental Issues

Abstract

City of Laredo has been in the top five fastest growing cities in the Nation for over 10 years. All of this thanks to the International Trade with Mexico, which is a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The City of Laredo is geographically located at the best entry point to the United States and Canada, which makes it cost effective and efficient to all parties.

This colossal economic boom experienced by the City of Laredo has not come without a negative impact. Unfortunately, the one left behind was our environment. Although the NAFTA did have an environmental impact component on its agreement, little or no enforcement was included. The City of Laredo was not excluded from this negative impact. The City of Laredo has experienced soil erosion due to the land clearing for warehouse space along the Rio Grande. The water quality and has been compromised due to the hazardous chemicals stored in the warehouses. Flooding of homes due to the rapid growth of land development is eminent because the storm water management was not allowed to keep with the demand. The water demand is on the rise continuously and now the water plant cannot keep up with it. Secondary water sources are too expensive and very inefficient. Finally, a point of view will be presented on the single use plastic bags from the grocery stores.

All in all, these are some of the local environmental issues currently faced by the City of Laredo due to its rapid growth. NAFTA had an obvious important economic role in the success of the City of Laredo. Politicians have recognized the environmental issues have not been fully addressed and now have fallen way behind; to catch up will require millions of dollars. We, as citizens of this community must remain loyal stewards of the environment.

Refreshment Starts at 4:00pm

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