

HINOJOSA ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR THE DELTA REGION REVITALIZATION CORPORATION

Washington, DC (October 10, 2006) – Today, Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (TX-15) announced that the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded the Delta Region Revitalization Corporation with a \$2,617,029 investment to support the construction of the Mercado Delta, a multi-purpose marketplace and capacity building center for entrepreneurs in downtown Edcouch.

“The growth and economic successes we’ve had in South Texas have translated into record low unemployment figures, investment in our children’s education, a surge in entrepreneurship, and an improvement to the overall quality for our residents,” said Hinojosa. “The Mercado Delta is the next piece in this puzzle. It will contribute to the local economy, create jobs, and give small business owners an opportunity to succeed.”

In 2003, a group was formally organized with the founding 13-member Delta Region Revitalization Project Governing Board to start developing creative and unique strategies to bring employment opportunities and economic development to the communities of Edcouch, Elsa, Monte Alta and La Villa.

One strategy to increase economic and commercial activity in the Delta Region is the creation of an outdoor market, the Mercado Delta. The Mercado will serve as an area where local entrepreneurs and artisans can sell locally-produced and imported goods and products. The project envisions incentive programs for business owners, expansion of existing businesses and start-ups to support Mercado businesses, and will provide employment opportunities as well as opportunities to increase economic development.

The EDA provides financial assistance to meet the economic development needs of distressed communities throughout the United States, and promotes innovation and competitiveness preparing regions for growth and success in a worldwide economy.

“The EDA has recognized that the Mercado is a stepping stone to help the Delta Region realize the economic boon happening throughout the Rio Grande Valley,” continued Hinojosa. “I know that residents and business owners will benefit from this project, and I look forward to working together for the betterment of the community.”