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Rio Grande Valley Residents Protest Texas LNG at TCEQ Contested Case Hearing

Austin, TX -- Today, two communities that would be impacted by the proposed Texas LNG fracked gas project -- City of Port Isabel and Laguna Heights-- attended the first day of a three-day contested case hearing to challenge the company's air permit request from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Environmental organizations, the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe, and residents from the Rio Grande Valley area attended the hearing to watch and show support for the communities challenging the air permit. During the hearing, [there was a rally featuring several speakers](#) from the RGV area, including: **Josette Cruz**, anti-LNG activist and resident of Brownsville, TX; **Juan Mancias**, Chairman of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas; and **Rebekah Hinojosa**, Sierra Club Organizer.

Residents of the Rio Grande Valley have been fighting for years against a trio of proposed fracked gas facilities: Texas LNG, Annova LNG, and Rio Grande LNG and the associated Rio Bravo Pipeline. The construction of the Texas LNG project and the other two LNG terminals would bulldoze pristine lands near South Padre Island to build flammable pipelines, storage tanks, and smoking flare stacks or ground flares that would pollute nearby communities and irreparably destroy the habitat of the endangered ocelot.

"Residents from Port Isabel, Long Island Village, Laguna Heights and across the Rio Grande Valley have made it clear they don't want to breathe toxic air pollution from these fracked gas terminals. TCEQ needs to listen," said **Rebekah Hinojosa, Brownsville Sierra Club Organizer**.

Texas LNG would destroy a federally recognized indigenous historical site called "Garcia Pasture" with burial grounds and village remains that are sacred to the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas. The Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe was not consulted about these projects. Due to local efforts, opposition to LNG in the RGV has reached three continents and convinced the major international bank BNP Paribas to drop its support for the Texas LNG project.

"The pristine lands that Texas LNG plans to destroy to build the polluting fracked gas operation has ancient burial grounds and a village remains that is federally recognized by the National Park Service and is sacred to the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe." said **Juan Mancias, Chairman of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas**. "Texas LNG nor the other two LNG projects have never consulted with us; this is an act of environmental racism. The Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe were the original people of these lands."