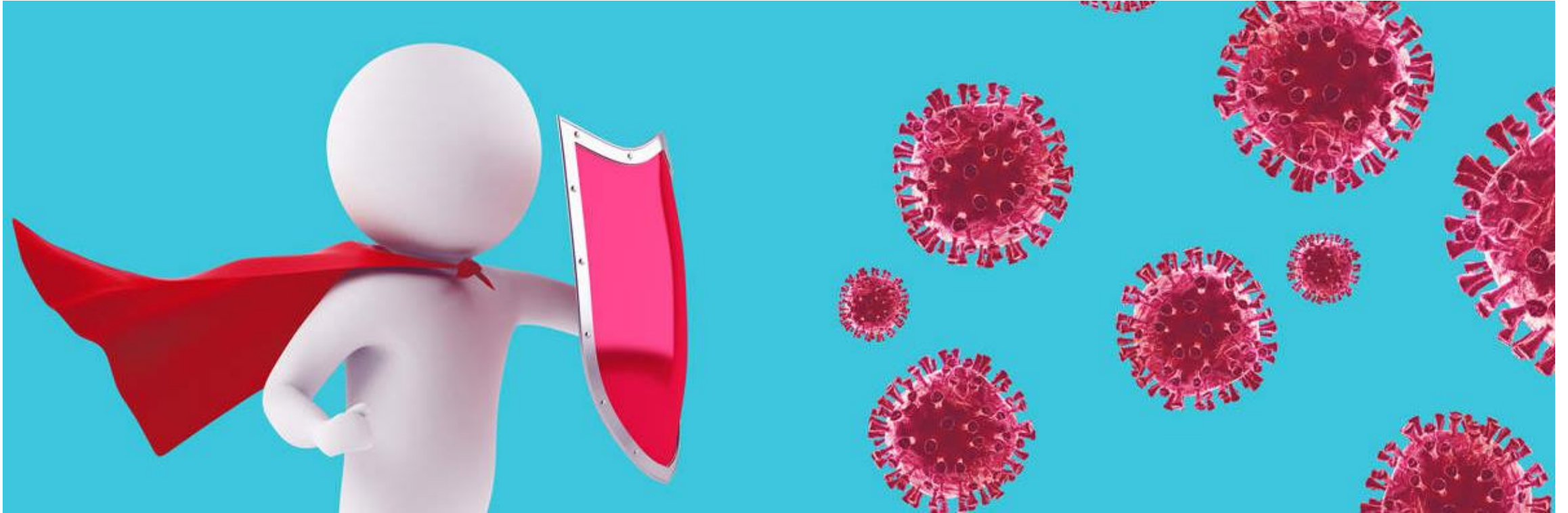


The background of the slide is a photograph of a mountain landscape during twilight. A bright crescent moon is visible in the center, partially obscured by the silhouettes of mountain peaks. The sky is filled with dark, textured clouds that catch the low light of the sun, creating a range of colors from deep blue to warm orange and yellow. The foreground shows the dark silhouettes of trees and shrubs.

Alpine City Council

CITY MANAGER AND CITY STAFF UPDATES: APRIL 20, 2021



COVID-19 UPDATE

🔍 Search city, county, or state

Brewster County, TX

🔗 SHARE

🔔 RECEIVE ALERTS



COVID RISK LEVEL ⓘ

High risk

Take precautions to avoid exposure, including [official recommended actions](#).



UPDATE

You can now see which locations are more vulnerable than others.

[See vulnerability details for Brewster County, TX](#)

DAILY NEW CASES

● **7.2** PER 100K

COVID not contained, but at low levels

INFECTION RATE

● **0.93**

COVID is still spreading, but slowly

POSITIVE TEST RATE

● **15.4%**

Indicates insufficient testing

ICU CAPACITY USED

● **Unknown**

Insufficient data to assess

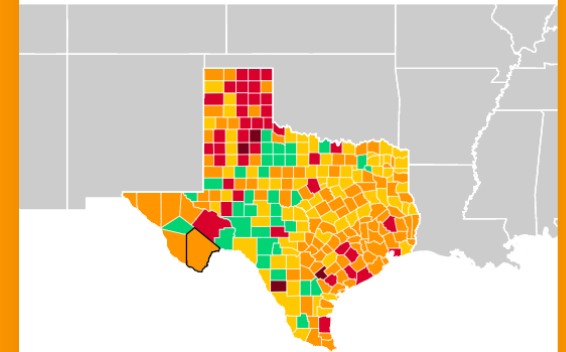
VACCINATED

● **46.7%** ¹⁺ DOSE

[New Indicator](#)

TEXAS

USA



Source Data: April 20, 2021 – 8:00am

https://covidactnow.org/us/tx/county/brewster_county?s=1163282

Local Information Update

Brewster County Statistics – April 13th, 2021

- Active Case Counts – 14 , Hospitalization – N/A

CV-Team Meetings stopped for time being

Vaccination 46.7% Brewster County versus 35.0% for State of Texas. Slowing down in Brewster County

City Staff had several cases (employees and immediate family members) in March 2021

- Numbers have stabilized and most have returned to work
- Continue temperature checks and monitoring team members



Dark Skies

Outputs from 3rd Workshop – April 8th

Reviewed Ordinance Updates for any final changes (included in packet)

Reviewed presentation delivered to County (ensuing five slides) relative to support for State Legislation that is in motion

Great community support and engagement (participants listed in an ensuing slide)

- Legislation relates to further use of HOT funds to advance initiatives relative to Dark Skies (opportunities in and around Alpine for further Events to: 1. bring visitors to community 2. engaging activities and 3. draw awareness

- Local team reaching out to Morrison's True Value (Bob Ward) and McCoy's (Robert Murphy)

Summary of Bill

HB 4305 & SB 2133

- for the promotion and preservation of dark skies **through construction and maintenance of infrastructure and the purchase and installation of hardware that reduces light pollution and sky glow**
- shall make a good-faith estimate based on reasonable documentation of the annual amount of area hotel revenue attributable to dark skies related events and activities *(Estimation of visitors to area for Marfa Lights, Sky Parties, etc.)*
- Limit up to 25% for HOT revenue
- Protects spending of Marketing & Advertising
- Purchasing lights **help local businesses and installation from local electrician**

Can you help support us?



Hotel Limpia - Orchard Building





National Parks & the Economy

Intertwined with our gateway communities

In 2019

- 500,000 visitors (Fort Davis NHS and Big Bend NP)
- Contributed \$44 million local economy
- \$13 million lodging
- ~650 jobs

Together we can:

*Preserve the resources that communities
and wildlife call home & visitors seek*



Preserving Dark Skies – A community effort with NPCA

Problem:

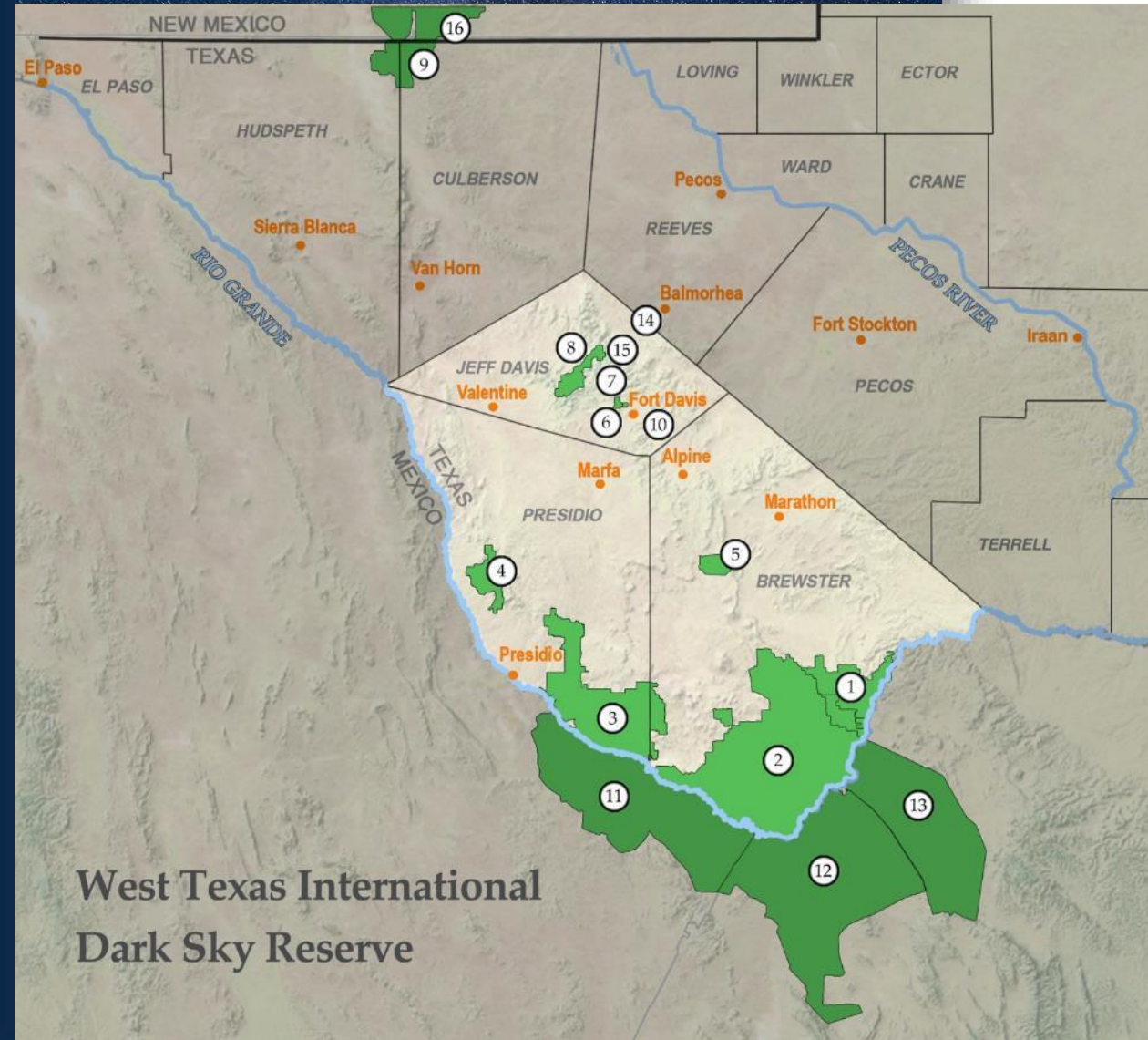
- Light pollution increasing 2% each year
- Exponential growth impacting wildlife, dark sky designations & visitor experience

Solution:

- Tri County Community effort to update lights
- **OPTIONAL:** Use HOT Revenue to have dark sky friendly lighting w/ HB 4305 & SB 2133

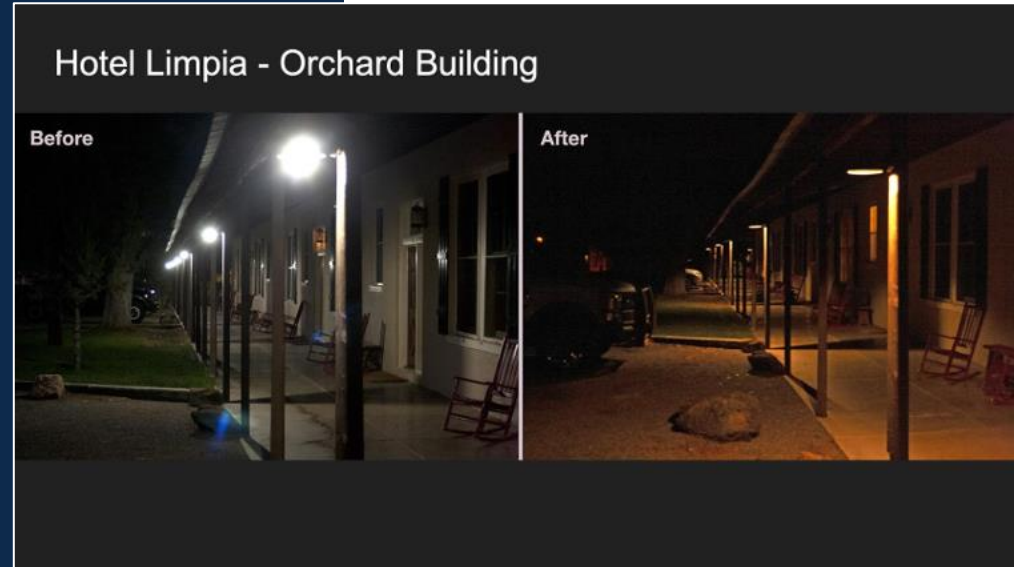
Outcome

- Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve *largest in the world
- Increase & educate visitors
- Cost savings



Lights Down, Stars Up

It's not about turning off lights...
just turning them
down physically, with
a hood, or a new bulb



Swiss Lodge Gets HOT Fixtures

•July 7, 2020

Press Release: [Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky](#) – For Immediate Release: June 29, 2020

On June 29, Blanco's Swiss Lodge motel became the first recipient of night sky friendly outdoor lighting fixtures paid for with Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds.





Fort Davis, Texas
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**BIG BEND
CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE**



MARATHON, TEXAS
WHERE THE BIG BEND & DARK SKIES MEET



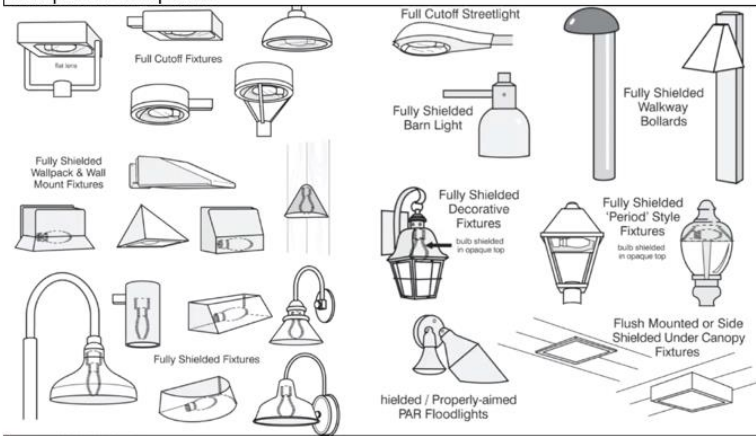
EST 1919

City of Alpine Outdoor Lighting Ordinance – Public Outreach effort

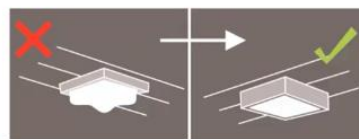
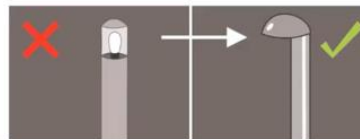
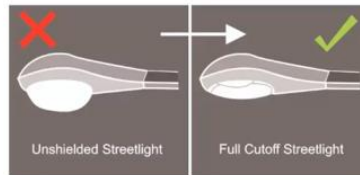
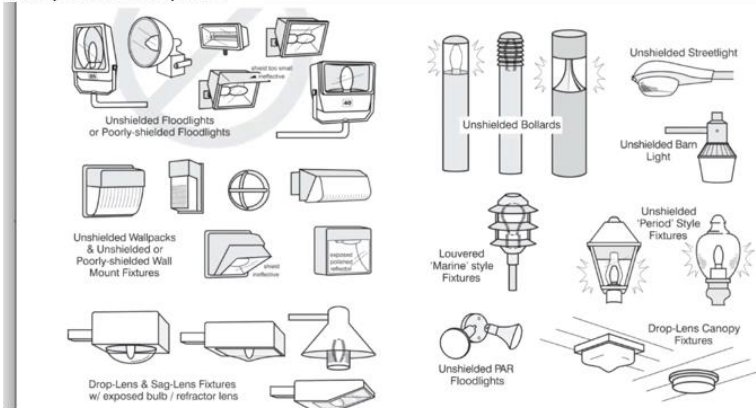
The following lists participants who helped craft and edit the outdoor lighting ordinance (2020-2021) and all contacts invited with opportunity for involvement

1. Amber Harrison harrison.arh@gmail.com
2. Bernie Zelazny <bdz@apcwizard.com>
3. Cathy Wright cathy_wright@startmail.com
4. Cindy Luongo-Cassidy <clc.tnsf@gmail.com>
5. Dave Dumas <dave@sierralarana.com>
6. Dave Oesper daveoesper@mac.com
7. David Busey db.designs@sbcglobal.net
8. Debbie Moran debbiemoran@earthlink.net
9. Ellen Weinacht ellen.weinacht@gmail.com
10. J.D. Newsom <jamesnewsom@gmail.com>
11. Janice Moss-Wren janicemoss@gmail.com
12. Jim Street <jimstreet970@gmail.com>
13. John Kennedy <john@bigbend.bike>
14. Kim Keith kimcharlenekeith@gmail.com
15. Laura Gold westtexasfriendsofthenightsky@gmail.com
16. Lisa Fielder <lfielder@gmail.com>
17. Shelley Bernstein <shelley@bigbendconservationalliance.org>
18. Teznie Pugh teznie.pugh@austin.utexas.edu (translation-Executive Summary)
19. William Wren R <bwren@utexas.edu>

Examples of acceptable



Examples not acceptable



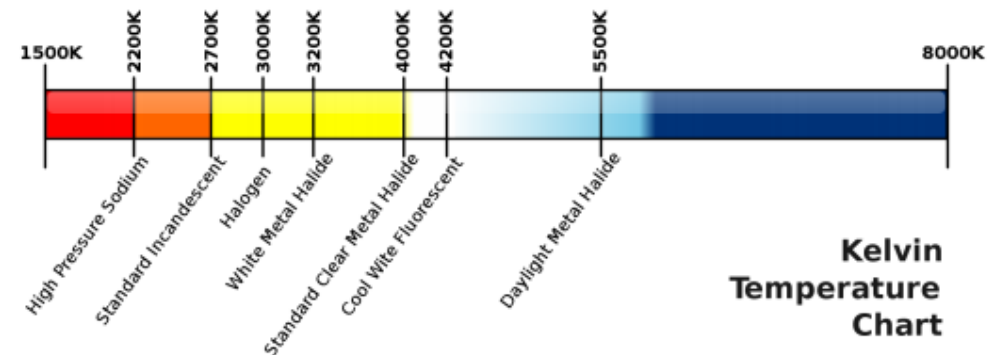
Next Steps

Council revisions to Ordinance
Consider impacts of timeline
on residents
Impacts to Government and
Non-Profit Facilities

First Reading May 4th (or 18th),
Public Hearing and Second
Reading May 18th (or June 1st)

Concerns about blue light reach far beyond our health. Outdoor lighting with strong blue content is likely to worsen skyglow because it has a significantly larger geographic reach than lighting consisting of less blue. According to the 2016 "World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness" street lighting and outdoor lighting retrofits using 4000K lamps could result in a factor of 2.5 increase in light pollution.³ Given that the rate of increase of lighting as seen from Earth orbit is about 2 percent per year⁴, and much of the increase is attributable to white LED, it is all the more important to address this problem.

Blue-rich white light sources are also known to increase glare and compromise human vision, especially in the aging eye^{5,6}. These lights create potential road safety problems for motorists and pedestrians alike. In natural settings, blue light at night has been shown to adversely affect wildlife behavior and reproduction^{7,8}. This particularly true in cities, which are often stopover points for migratory species.





Old School House Update

- On track to move Finance to facility in May 2021
- Blended use of both internal staff (Public Works presentation last week) and also use of local contractors
- Will open with billing in the front part of facility (east side) and core finance operation in the back of the facility
- Will work on multi-purpose conference room along with mitigation of storage building in future



Community Program Funding

- Short Term Request from the office of Congressman Tony Gonzales office
- Community Program Funding....aka 'Earmarks'
- Filed Four (4) Requests
 - Quiet Zone
 - Downtown sidewalks (in case we don't get the CDBG grant)
 - Pueblo Nuevo (to support our ½ investment)
 - Splashpad for Kokernot Park (to finalize the acquisition of those dollars)
- Required documentation of Community Support (ie, Resolutions, Proclamations, Community Meetings, etc...)
- SRSU filed for dollars to support Kokernot Lodge Project



Tourism Update

CHRIS RUGGIA

ALPINE TOURISM DIRECTOR

APRIL 20, 2021

Hotel Occupancy (2020 compared to 2019)

Q2 2020

Occupancy Rate:
-15.9%

Total Revenue:
-52.5%

Revenue per available room:
-25.15%

Q3 2020

Occupancy Rate:
-10.4%

Total Revenue:
-25%

Revenue per available room:
-15.25%

Q4 2020

Occupancy Rate:
-4%

Total Revenue:
-0.8%

Revenue per available room:
-4.76%

Film Lodging Rebate Program

Film Production: Free Dead or Alive

February 1-20, 2021

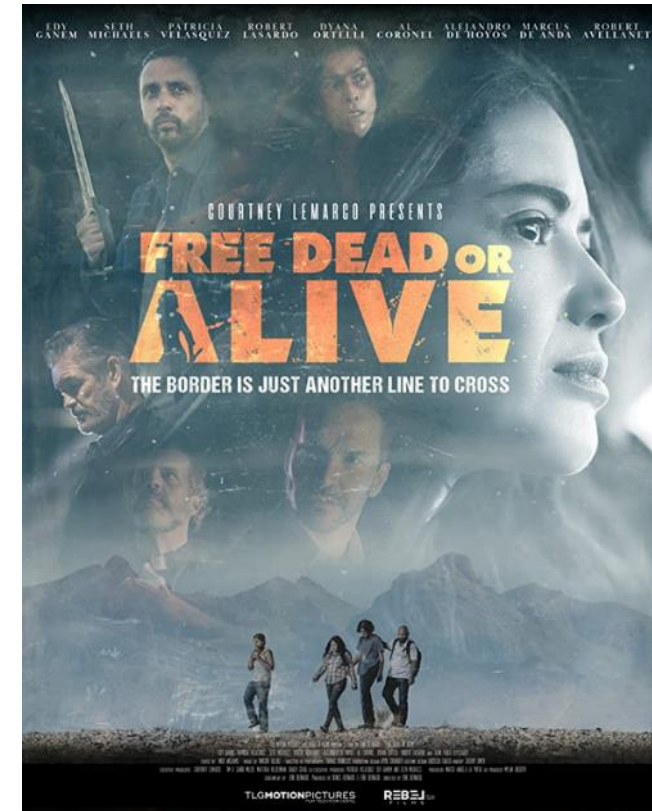
Alpine Hotel Revenue:

951 Room Nights

\$129,938.18

Film Rebate HOT expenditure:

\$7,500.00



Podcast: Heart of the Big Bend

Alpine Tourism Podcast covering:

**Alpine Events, Activities, Programs
In-Town & Area Attractions**

Starting this Friday, April 23

Production by KVLF

Bonus local broadcast (time DBA)





Texas Town & City Magazine

April issue Guest Article

At Home

Governor Abbott's emergency directives in April gave tourism promoters a dilemma: how to connect with their audiences without encouraging the movement of people (and the disease) during the lockdown.

Alpine decided to shift its social media feeds to an emotional support footing, posting inspirational landscape photos with messages encouraging viewers to take refuge in a restful idea of solitude in nature while sheltering at home.

In Alpine

Once the restrictions on activities loosened, the Alpine Visitor Center focused on the relative safety of the open air by providing services on the porch outside of the main building when possible and organizing a series of outdoor events with mask and distance policies. A weekly outdoor vendor's market with live music, a "Halloween Trail" costume walk for families, and a distanced Christmas

parade all gave visitors and residents activities to enjoy in a masked outdoor setting.

In the Parks

The wide open spaces of nearby Big Bend National Park and Big Bend Ranch State Park have seen a surge of first-time visits from Texas metro residents escaping the population density at home and bringing very welcome economic activity to Alpine and the region. While there have been local fears all along of viral transmission from travelers, our limited evidence suggests that most spikes in our COVID-19 cases have been caused by social events, and not visitors enjoying outdoor activities.

Our parents would never have dreamed that their suggestions to "go outside and play" would be so prescient, and even life-saving! ★

Night Skies: Lighting, Activities, Tourism

Working with:

West Texas Friends of the Night Sky

McDonald Observatory

Big Bend Conservation Alliance

National Parks Conservation Association

Alpine hotels and other businesses





Visitor Center

VISITOR CENTER GUEST COUNTS

MONTH	2021	2020
JANUARY	162	
FEBRARY	58	
MARCH		

INFORMATION REQUESTS	
Postcards	448
Website Info Packs	35
Direct Call for Info Packs	3
Relocation Packets	8

Midweek Mercantile and Music



SHOPPING • FOOD • LIVE MUSIC

MIDWEEK MERCANTILE AND MUSIC

ALPINE
TEXAS

















THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 4-7 pm
VENDORS • KIDS' ACTIVITIES
LIVE MUSIC BY THE SWIFTS

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape, featuring sandy terrain with sparse, low-lying shrubs and a prominent spiky plant in the foreground. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a clear sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey filter.

Utilities Update



Water Leaks Update

Volume of Leaks up in March/April

Impacts of Freeze in February

Ground Shifting during hot and cold temperature variations

Teamwork with employees and efficiencies continuing to mature

Full write-up in Packet

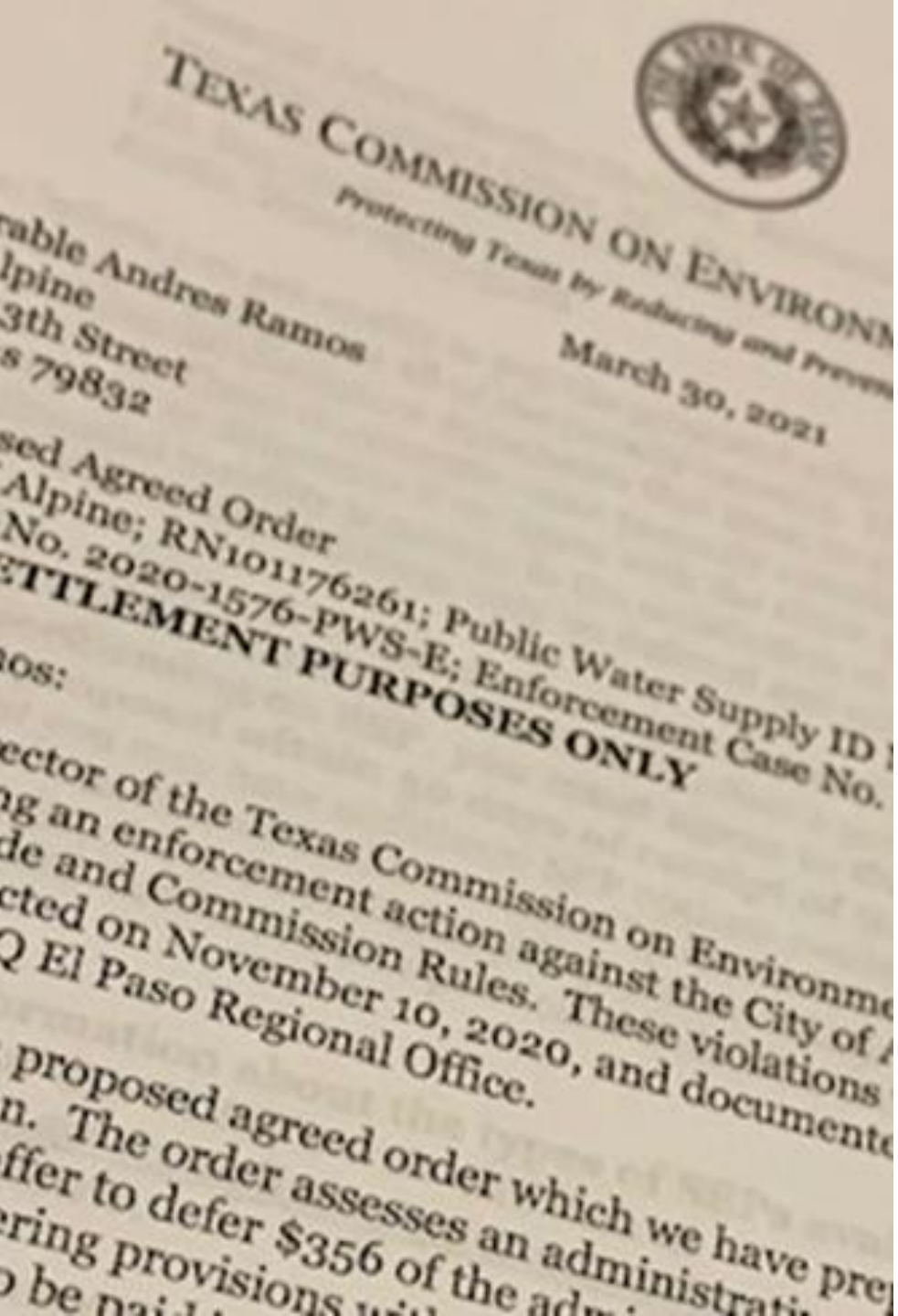
Infrastructure Construction and Improvements

The Collections and Distribution Division installed over 1,300ft of 4" C900 PVC pipe down Lechuguilla

In addition to our CAP projects, the Distribution & Collections crews have also been engaged in the completion of numerous water & sewer taps, a major sewer line replacement (100ft of main) on John W., as well as numerous leaks

Crews will be focusing on new taps, tap assessments and Fire Hydrant replacement during the months of May-June 2021, and a comprehensive CLA-VAL change out in early summer of 21'.





TCEQ Compliance Inspections 2017-2020

Relative to Inspections this past fall, TCEQ reiterated to City of Alpine admin & field staff that “this is the best inspections that the city has had in 20 years, and that there has been a drastic improvement in the way that things are operating now.”

Three violations over the past 4 years have now been sent to enforcement (specifics outlined in Packet)

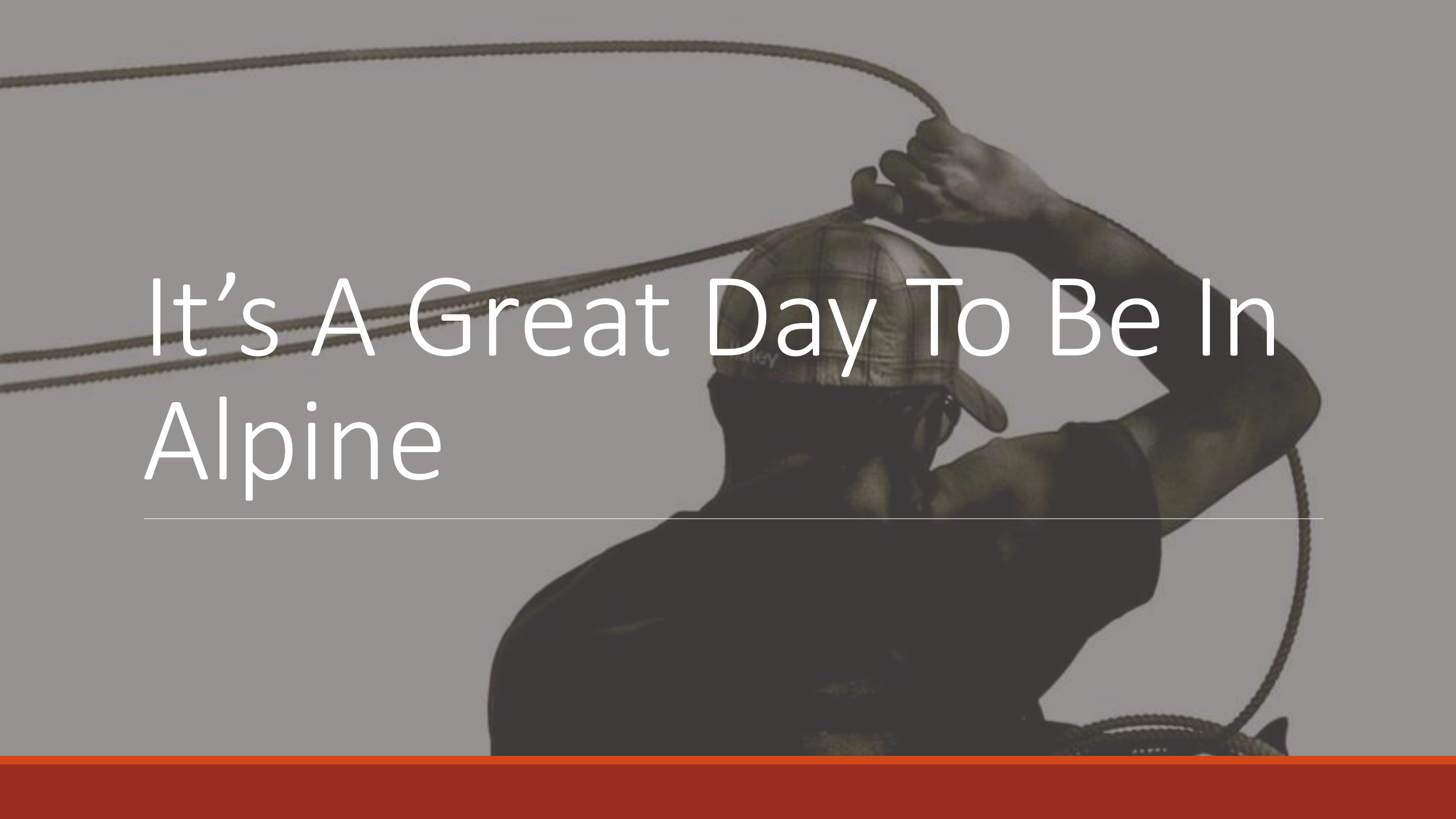
- Opportunities to utilize SEP (Supplemental Environmental Projects) to pay for fines. This allows us to put the money back into the City of Alpine Infrastructure
- We currently have multiple projects (mostly related to Kokernot Park and Lodge program with SRSU) that are eligible for the SEP work

Emergency Operations Winter Storm / Power Outage

City of Alpine Water & Wastewater Utilities departments were able to maintain above minimum acceptable water pressure to the entire community, as well as normal wastewater treatment operations

In the months prior to the storm & power outage, the water utilities department had already composed an Emergency Operations draft that included provisions & contact information for equipment and vendors to utilize during these types of events, and already had infrastructure in place to “Quick Connect” city owned & rental generators to most of our (Well & Pump) locations where required for operation

I am very proud of the Utilities Division’s performance during the weather event and would encourage you to wave at our staff when you see them out & about keeping your communities water flowing and toilets flushing!



It's A Great Day To Be In Alpine
