



(Photo: Courtesy of UTEP)

Velasco replaces outgoing seismologist Craig Pearson, who served as the commission's first-ever seismologist since 2014.

In his new role, Velasco will be charged with reviewing disposal well permit applications in areas of historic seismicity to ensure proper requirements are in place to prevent or minimize the potential for induced seismic activity. Velasco also will serve on the Governor's Technical Advisory Committee for the [TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program](#), which is run by the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin. Velasco also will be an adviser to the Railroad Commission on issues and policy related to seismic activity and energy production in Texas.

Velasco's salary was not available. His [predecessor's annual salary](#) was \$102,000.

"The Railroad Commission is considered a global leader in energy regulation, and I'm honored to serve my fellow Texans and this historic agency as seismologist," Velasco said in a statement. "I share the agency's mission to protect public safety and the environment. I will do that by putting my years of experience and research in seismology and understanding to work for Texas."

Railroad Commission Chairman Christi Craddick had high praise for Velasco.

"I congratulate Dr. Velasco on his selection as our new staff seismologist at the Railroad Commission of Texas," Craddick said in a statement. "His expertise in the study of seismology will be an asset to the agency and the state."

UTEP President Diana Natalicio echoed those sentiments, adding that Velasco's hiring boosts the school's profile.

"Dr. Velasco's expertise in seismology and geology will enable him to contribute unique and valuable perspectives to the work of the Railroad Commission of Texas," Natalicio said. "In addition to their teaching and research, UTEP faculty members like Dr. Velasco help inform public policy issues at local, state and national levels and validate UTEP's growing reputation as a public research university."

Read: [Miners trek to top of Mount Cristo Rey](#)

Velasco's career has spanned nearly 25 years. His research has comprised a slew of seismological subjects such as earthquake source modeling, seismotectonics,

TOP VIDEOS



Five things to do in El Paso for Sept. 15-21.
0:45



Rescued Houston pets arrive in El Paso for adoption
2:08



Chalk the Block
2:13



Prep Volleyball: El Paso vs Chapin
2:18



EPPD updates protesters on Duranguito
2:20

earthquake hazards and nuclear treaty monitoring research. Velasco earned his Bachelor of Science in applied geophysics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1988. He earned his doctoral degree in geophysics from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1993. He began working at UTEP as a faculty member in 2002.

The Railroad Commission is the state's oldest regulatory agency. Established in 1891, the commission regulates the state's oil and gas industry and has jurisdiction over alternative fuels safety, natural gas utilities, surface mining and intrastate pipelines.

Pablo Villa may be reached at 546-6345; pvilla@elpasotimes.com; @pvilla50 on Twitter.

 21
CONNECT


TWEET

 1
LINKEDIN


COMMENT


EMAIL


MORE

AD CONTENT

Sponsored Links by Taboola



Texas Drivers Uncover Brilliant Trick To Save
Quote Wizard Insurance



Now Dollar Shave Club Is Offering Any Razor for \$1: Try It
Dollar Shave Club



Your Language, Your App—Java, .net, node.js, And More
Microsoft



Say Goodbye To Debt: 0% APR Until 2019
Credit.com



Can Amazing Home Décor Be Affordable? Check This Out
Wayfair



You have potential. All you need is support.
Virginia College

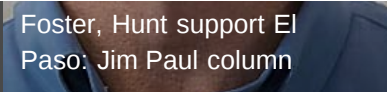
MORE STORIES





El Paso's Most Wanted August 6

NEWS | 38 days ago



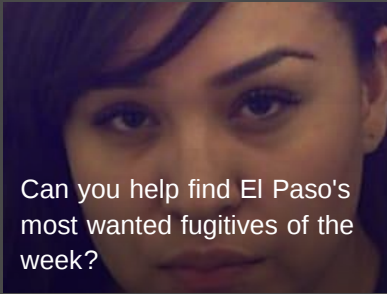
Foster, Hunt support El Paso: Jim Paul column

EL PASO TIMES | 18 hours ago



Romero named Bel Air head baseball coach for later

EL PASO TIMES | 5 days ago



Can you help find El Paso's most wanted fugitives of the week?

EL PASO TIMES | 3 days ago

A MULTIPURPOSE ARENA SHOULD BE USED FOR MULTI-PURPOSES.
Click here to learn more about the Downtown Arena.