



**Cris Vela**  
Vice President

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#### **Area of Focus**

Specializes in public finance

#### **Profile**

- Joined FirstSouthwest in 1996
- Serves as financial advisor to various cities, school districts, municipal water districts, and water supply corporations in South Texas
- Has served as investment banker in tax exempt municipal bonds issuances in the Rio Grande Valley since 1982
- Former assistant city manager with deep understanding of the diverse needs of the Rio Grande Valley
- Has extensive experience in water and sewer project financing
- Designed an innovative sanitary sewer services pilot program that later became the basis for state legislation

#### **Education**

- Bachelor of Arts, Pan American University
- Master of Public Administration, North Texas State University

#### **Licenses Held**

- Registered Representative of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)
  - Municipal Securities Representative, Series 52
  - Uniform Securities Agent, Series 63