

# The TIPRO Telegram

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## **RICH VARELA SWITCHES GEARS AT TIPRO To SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

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(Austin, Texas – May 21, 2010) Rich Varela, former Executive Vice President of the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association has agreed to stay on at the Association as Senior Vice President and Director of Development. Due to health issues, Varela resigned last month, but in an effort to retain his expertise, TIPRO and Varela determined that a revised role would allow him to continue with a more flexible schedule and duties.

"We hated the thought of losing Rich's insight due to his retiring and now we don't have to," said TIPRO President Walter "Tad" Mayfield. "As a 40-year veteran in the oil and gas industry, Rich brings the background we need at TIPRO to deal with the pressing issues we independents are facing. His seasoned experience as a petroleum engineer, manager, corporate officer, and as executive director at the Railroad Commission is a perspective that's vital for us right now."

"We're fortunate to find a way we can keep Rich's knowledge and industry contacts," said Justin Furnace, TIPRO's current EVP. "Rich is uniquely qualified to help TIPRO expand its membership base and upgrade current members to higher levels. More robust numbers and commitment levels allow us to add bricks onto our already strong foundation. With the changing winds on the political and regulatory fronts, we need our fortification stronger than ever. Now that we're fully staffed with both Teddy Carter and Rich Varela we are firmly set to face any storms on the horizon."