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PRESIDENTS' PROCLAMATION BRINGS FEDERAL DOLLARS AND CLEANER WATER TO TISBURY

TISBURY, MA – In honor of the Presidents proclamation deeming 2002-2003 as the “Year of Clean Water,” USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle arrived at the construction site of Tisbury’s new wastewater treatment facility today with a ceremonial “big check” in the amount of \$1,240,370. The federal grant, which was presented to Mr. Raymond LaPorte, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, will be used to fund Tisbury’s new waste water treatment facility.

Due to the detrimental impact on water quality in the Vineyard Haven Harbor as a result of failing private septic systems and effluent run-off, town operated septage disposal lagoons were closed and an investigation of wastewater treatment alternatives began in 1996. At a 1999 Town Meeting approval was received for construction of a new waste water collection and treatment facility. After receiving an initial grant of \$540,370 from USDA Rural Development and a nearly \$6 million State Revolving Fund Loan construction began in 2002. A second USDA Rural Development grant, in the amount of \$700,000, was subsequently awarded to Tisbury for the installation of collection pipes in order to connect properties located within Tisbury’s waterfront area to the new treatment facility.

“This funding comes as a result of the combined efforts of all levels of government - local, state and federal,” said State Director Tuttle. “It is because of cooperation, team work, and respect for public health and a clean environment that communities throughout this state and this country have access to the most modern sewage treatment systems and the cleanest drinking water.”

“The Town of Tisbury is very appreciative of the assistance extended to the Town to address and resolve the long standing environmental problem facing the water quality of our town’s waters from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development division” Said Mr. Raymond LaPorte, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. “The large price tag associated with these types of projects would have been onerous to the

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taxpayers of Tisbury if they had to carry the financial burden of the project alone. However, all the governmental entities worked closely together as a team to address the problem. The Town's people, locally elected leaders and their staff, the Commonwealth through the no interest long term loan and of course the grant from the USDA's Rural Development all share in the cost of the project. This project is an example the success that may be achieved by such a team approach."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development is Rural America's Venture Capitalist. Providing equity, liquidity, and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on these and other rural programs is available at USDA's web site: www.rurdev.usda.gov/.

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