



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

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ORANGE COVE BUSINESSES RECEIVE FACE LIFT, ECONOMY STIMULATED

USDA Rural Development grant will help city invest in local businesses.

ORANGE COVE, Calif., July 25, 2007 – The City of Orange Cove plans to create jobs and stimulate the local economy with help from a \$76,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) from USDA Rural Development. The funds will assist the city in upgrading façades to downtown businesses, and providing technical and financial assistance to small and emerging businesses. USDA Rural Development State Director Ben Higgins presented Orange Cove Mayor Victor Lopez with a check for the grant funds at a ceremony today held outside Central Valley Biofuels.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our rural economy. Their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to their community is helping to create jobs and bring economic stability to rural communities across the Golden State,” said Higgins. “Today’s funds will help ensure that those who are working hard to help themselves will have the tools they need to succeed.”

USDA Rural Development’s RBEG funds are available to rural communities, non-profit corporations and tribes for projects that strengthen the economic conditions of rural areas through business and job development and training as well as project planning. Orange Cove will use funds to help new and emerging businesses with training financial assistance, as well as upgrade façades to downtown businesses.

“This grant is a critical component to Orange Cove’s revitalization plan that will bring additional jobs and revenue to the city,” said Lopez. “Through partnerships with USDA Rural Development and other agencies we not only are able to assist our current business owners, but also attract new businesses to the area, such as Central Valley Biofuels.”

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. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, over 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at one of California’s 25 local USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>.

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