



MEDIA ADVISORY

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USDA Rural Development Participates in Open House at Central Iowa Water Association's New Water Treatment Facility Near Waverly

Rural Development Providing \$7.4 Million in Loans and \$2 Million Grant for Project

WAVERLY, Iowa – August 31, 2009 – Bill Menner, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa, today participated in open house ceremonies for Central Iowa Water Association's new water treatment plant near Waverly. The plant will utilize reverse-osmosis technology to purify drinking water for its customers.

“We are excited to partner with Central Iowa Water Association to support construction of this system that will improve the quality of life for residents,” Menner said. “Ensuring that rural Iowans have quality drinking water and sanitary wastewater systems have been top priorities at Rural Development for many years.”

The 3-million-gallon-per-day facility will provide water to new customers in north central and northeast Iowa, as well as provide service to around 1,000 current Central Iowa Water Association customers.

USDA Rural Development provided Central Iowa Water Association with loans totaling \$7.4 million, as well as a \$2 million grant to assist with the project.

During the past year USDA Rural Development helped a record number of Iowans receive funding for economic development projects and quality of life improvements. The agency's investment in Iowa helped create or retain 10,000 jobs, aided 1,600 families in buying their own homes and assisted more than 120 communities in improving community facilities and upgrading local infrastructure.

Along with USDA Rural Development's regular funding programs for rural water and wastewater projects, it was recently announced that \$2.2 billion is still available nationwide through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), along with regular 2009 budget funding and disaster funds that were approved by Congress.

Funds from the 2009 budget are available through September 30, 2009. ARRA funds are available through September 30, 2010. Disaster assistance will be available until funds are depleted.

– More –

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“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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Of the \$2.2 billion available through ARRA, \$27 million, or slightly more than Iowa's typical yearly allocation, is available for Iowa projects. As a result of ARRA and disaster assistance more than \$50 million is immediately available to assist rural water districts in the state.

"USDA Rural Development has been a key player in bringing safe and reliable drinking water to rural Iowans since 1965," Menner said. "In the past 43 years, more than 2,400 loans and grants have been awarded totaling \$1.1 billion for water and sewer projects in the state."

Iowa has a strong network of regional water systems that provide water to rural areas in need of quality water. There are currently 19 rural water systems throughout the state serving more than 270 communities and nearly 320,000 residents, according to the Iowa Rural Water Association. Rural water systems in Iowa also serve communities in South Dakota, Minnesota and Missouri.

"A community with a good, reliable source of water has a quality life advantage," Menner said. "When a community makes water quality a priority and invests in their water system, the community's residents benefit in a number of ways including better health, more confidence in their water supply, and a better chance to maintain and grow their population."

Menner also added that having a good source of reliable water helps attract businesses to a community, in turn retaining or bringing new jobs.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender with a variety of direct and guaranteed rural credit programs involving single and multi-family housing, community facilities, water and sewer development and business and industry programs.

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa that serve the 1.9 million Iowans living in rural communities. For more information about the agency's programs contact USDA Rural Development's Waverly office at (319) 352-1715 ext. 4, or visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.