



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
San Juan, PR

NEWS RELEASE

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION REAPPOINTS JOSE OTERO-GARCIA STATE DIRECTOR FOR PUERTO RICO

WASHINGTON, October 9, 2009 – The Obama Administration reappointed José Otero-García, State Director for USDA Rural Development Puerto Rico.

“Mr. Otero is an important advocate of the rural community in Puerto Rico and will help administer the valuable programs and services provided by USDA to enhance the economic success of these communities” said USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Otero-García, who was originally appointed by the Clinton Administration in August 1999, was reappointed by the Bush Administration in November 2001 and more recently by the Obama Administration on August 23, 2009. He is the only federal political appointee in Puerto Rico to be appointed by three different presidents.

José Otero-García, has served as the USDA Rural Development State Director for Puerto Rico, since August of 1999. Prior to becoming State Director, he served as Puerto Rico’s Commissioner for Municipal Affairs from 1996 to 1999 and as its Deputy Commissioner from 1995 to 1996.

In addition to overseeing the day to day operations of Puerto Rico’s municipal affairs, Otero-García developed a uniform accounting computer system and improved the overall disbursement of Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) that benefited the island’s 78 municipalities.

Otero-García has served as a member of the Governor’s Council on Economic Development and Committee for the Development of Main Street. He has received the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Best Practice Blue Ribbon Award for the development of new strategies on citizen participation in the CDBG program.

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USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.

Additional information on the Rural Program can be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> or by calling Miguel A. Ramírez at X 232. USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.