



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR CITY OF COTULLA

CITY OF COTULLA, TEXAS, February 23, 2009—Scooter Brockette, USDA Rural Development Acting State Director, today announced the City of Cotulla was selected to receive a \$587,000 loan and grant through the agency's Community Facilities Program. This effort is part of the USDA Rural Development mission to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Programs help rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Brockette. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The funds from USDA Rural Development will be combined with funds from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the County of La Salle to renovate the A.B. Alexander Convention Center. In addition, a new educational Nature Center will be attached to the Convention Center. Visitors will be able to enjoy and learn about the unique nature and wildlife resources that are abundant to the area.

In Fiscal Year 2008, \$20.2 million in Community Facility Direct and Guaranteed Loans and over \$491,000 in grants were obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Uvalde Sub-Area Office at (830) 278-9503, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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