

# USDA/Rural Development

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## News Release

TX-035.03

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### **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE City of Keene, Johnson County, Texas**

**Keene, Texas, May 14, 2003**— Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today that the City of Keene has received a \$4,295,000 loan and \$3,530,000 grant through the agency's Rural Utilities Service Water and Waste Loan and Grant program. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems.

"One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America's rural communities," said Daniel. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance their quality of life."

The funds will be used to make improvements to the City's existing water supply system. The City's current source of water is through water wells, which are not adequate to supply the City's current needs and provide for future growth. To improve their current water supply the City has joined an agreement with the Surface Water Advanced Treatment System (SWATS) to be managed by the Brazos River Authority. Acton Municipal Utility District, the City of Granbury, Johnson County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1, Johnson County Rural Water Supply Corporation and the City of Keene are all a part of this SWATS Agreement. A portion of USDA Rural Development funds will be used to build a 10.5 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) expansion of the SWATS plant. Other funds will be for the transmission lines and other upgrades. The City of Keene provides water to approximately 5,003 people in and around its corporate limits in Johnson County.

In Fiscal Year 2002, \$91.7 million of loan and grant assistance was infused into 61 projects and 106,000 rural Texas households. USDA Rural Development's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operated on a nonprofit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Cleburne Local Service Center at (817) 641-4481 Ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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*The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.*

**For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.**

