NEWS RELEASE

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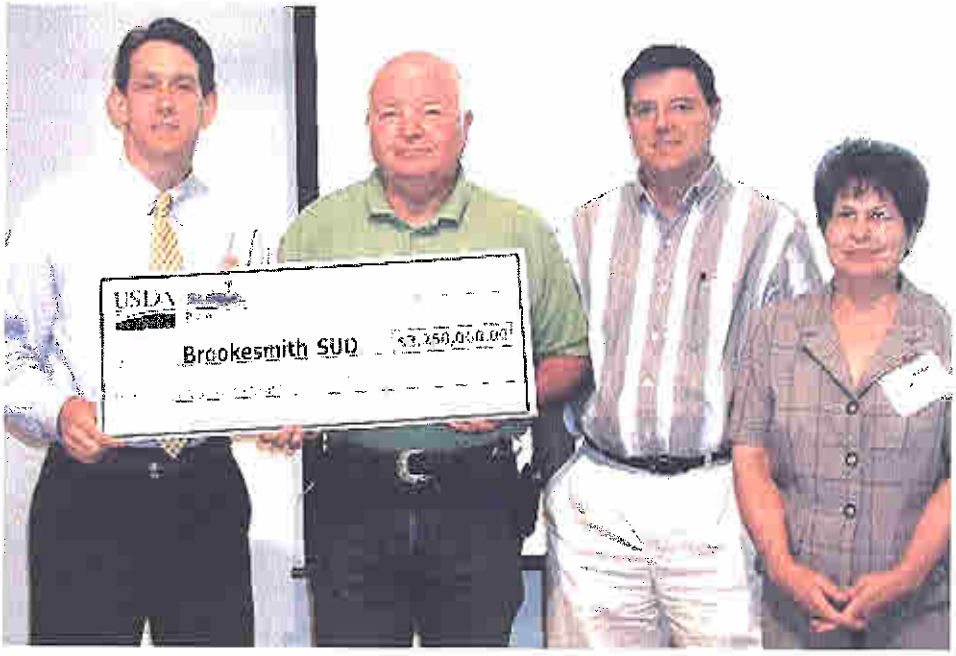
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR BROOKESMITH SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Brown County, Texas, July 12, 2004— Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announces today that Brookesmith Special Utility District received a $2,250,000 loan and a $1,000,000 grant through the agency's Community Programs Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant fund. 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 provide a safe and adequate water supply to the City of Santa Anna, Coleman County Water Supply Corporation, and will expand the existing service area. Water storage standpipe, approximately 35 miles of distribution line, and a Supervisor Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) monitoring system will be added. Population served by this project is approximately 2,730.



In Fiscal Year 2003, $64.4 million of loan and grant assistance was infused into 71 projects and assisted 137,451 rural Texans. 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 Brownwood Local Office at (325) 643-1585 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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USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Utilities Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's rural residents.

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