



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR MILITARY HIGHWAY WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

PROGRESO, Texas, September 2, 2004— Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announces today that Military Highway Water Supply Corporation received a \$1,250,000 grant through the agency's Community Programs Water and Waste Disposal 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 improve the water quality for the colonia residents in the City of Progreso. The proposed improvements will provide additional treatment units at the existing booster station for removing iron, manganese, and reducing total dissolved solids from the ground water supply. Approximately 7,964 users will be served by this project.

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 Edinburg Local Office at (956) 383-4928, Ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Community 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/>.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

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