



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR THE CITY OF MERKEL

MERKEL, TEXAS, January 26, 2006 – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today at a ceremonial check presentation that the City of Merkel was selected to receive a \$2,250,000 loan through the agency's Community Facilities program. The funds will be used to replace damaged streets within the city. The streets are decades old, in desperate need of restoration and many will be damaged in the process of improving the water and sewer system.

"USDA Rural Development is committed to ensuring that rural Texas communities can meet the needs of their residents," said Daniel. "A population of 1,021 citizens, serviced by this project, will benefit from the improvements and the replacement of the streets offers a safer community environment for all."

USDA Rural Development's Community Programs are designed to provide funding for construction, improvement, or expansion of water and waste disposal systems, telecommunication and education resources, and necessary community facilities.

USDA Rural Development's Community Programs are designed to enhance the growth and economic opportunities 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. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development's Community Programs have awarded \$868 million for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 840,000 rural residents in the process.

USDA Rural Development works to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global marketplace, by providing programs that assist rural Americans in building strong economies and to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Abilene local office at (325)690-6162, Ext. 4 or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.



Pictured (L to R): Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director; Donnie Riggan, City Counselor; Steve Campbell, Acting City Manager; Kirt Harle, Engineer of Jacob & Martin Engineers.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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

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