



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
209 East Mulberry, Suite 500, Angleton, Texas 77515

Phone: (979) 849-5251, Ext. 4 • Fax: (979) 849-5251 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

---

Date: February 1, 2006  
Release Number TX117.06

Contact Name: Deborah Wright  
Telephone Number: (979) 849-5251, Ext. 4  
Email: [Deborah.Wright@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Deborah.Wright@tx.usda.gov)

## ***USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATES IN GROUNDBREAKING EVENT***

**SURFSIDE BEACH, TEXAS, February 1, 2006**—USDA Rural Development State Loan Specialist, Connie Petru, today participated in a groundbreaking event in Surfside Beach, Texas. The Village of Surfside Beach waste disposal project was funded in 2002 with a USDA Rural Development \$881,000 loan and \$700,000 grant. Construction of sewer collection system for the residents will eliminate the continued use of individual septic systems which are inadequate to treat the sewage during frequent high groundwater events.

“The USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Programs target public health benefits and economic opportunities in America’s rural communities,” said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director. “Projects such as the one in Surfside Beach will help make the environment cleaner and protect the public health for local residents.”

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$80.7 million of loan and grant assistance was distributed throughout rural Texas to 315,249 households. USDA Rural Development’s Water and Waste Disposal 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 operating on a non-profit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to serve Texas’ more than 3.6 million rural residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Angleton Local Office at (979) 849-5251, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

#

---

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).