



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: February 23, 2006
Release Number TX 150.06

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATES IN SHELBYVILLE WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION GROUNDBREAKING

SHELBYVILLE, TEXAS, February 23, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for Shelbyville Water Supply Corporation, who was selected to receive \$1,125,000 through the agency's Community Program's Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. The funding will be used to make improvements to the existing water system, which was built in 1964 for 72 customers, to enable them to meet the demands of over 300 current customers.

"The USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Programs target public health benefits and economic opportunities in America's rural communities," said Daniel. "Projects such as this one in Shelbyville 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 Lufkin Local Office at (936) 634-9900, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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