



NEWS RELEASE

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

MENARD, TEXAS, February 24, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced the City of Menard has been selected to receive \$1,960,000 through the agency's Community Program's Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. The funding will be used for water distribution and storage improvements to the City's existing water system, to comply with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulations. This project is Phase I of three phases. Phase II will include wastewater improvements and Phase III will include both water and wastewater improvements.

"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 Menard 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 Fredericksburg Local Office at (830) 997-8902, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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