



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATES IN CITY OF KEMP GROUNDBREAKING EVENT

KEMP, TEXAS, February 27, 2006-- USDA Rural Development Area Director, Allen Lambright, today participated in a groundbreaking event and ceremonial check presentation with the City of Kemp, selected to receive \$1,547,500 through the agency's Community Program's Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. The funding will be used to upgrade the City's wastewater treatment plant. Presently, the city has 439 customers and is quickly approaching violations of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality capacity requirements.

"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 this one in Kemp 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 Canton Local Office at (903) 567-6051, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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