



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

CLINT, TEXAS, June 14, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced Lower Valley Water District has been selected to receive \$1,996,000 through the agency's Community Program Water and Waste Disposal Loan Program and a \$1,766,500 306C Colonia Grant in from the agency's Water and Waste Disposal Program. The funds will be used to provide 188 residents in Ascension Park, Dairyland, Darington Park, College Park, Colonias Del Paso, and Vista Larga with access to a public water system for the first time.

"USDA Rural Development is delighted to assist Lower Valley Water District in providing safe and dependable drinking water for their residents," said Daniel.

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$10.7 million of grant assistance was infused into the Texas USDA Rural Development Colonia Grant Program. The purpose of this grant program is to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to colonias' throughout Texas. The state currently hosts 2,294 colonias, primarily along the 1,248 mile border with Mexico, in which approximately 400,000 Texans live. USDA Rural Development defines a colonia eligible for funding as a state or county identified community, with a population of 10,000 inhabitants or less, that is lacking basic living necessities and located within 150 miles of the Texas/Mexico border.

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$48.9 million of Water and Waste Disposal Loan assistance was distributed throughout rural Texas. The USDA Rural Development 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 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 more information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the El Paso Local Office at (915) 855-1229, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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