



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: August 7, 2006
Release Number TX 276.06

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR SHEFFIELD WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

SHEFFIELD, TEXAS, August 7, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today Sheffield Water Supply Corporation (WSC) has been selected to receive a 306C Colonia Grant in the amount of \$1,037,000 and a Water and Waste Disposal Loan in the amount of \$553,000. The funds will be used to complete Phase I of a three phase project, including 15 acres and site preparation for a wastewater treatment plant and the purchase of 45 acres for a land application system. The proposed water improvements will allow Sheffield WSC to provide the designated colonia of Sheffield with a safe and sanitary means for disposal of wastewater while maintaining compliance with TCEQ system requirements.

“One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems,” said Daniel. “We are proud to be part of a project that will ensure this community remains a safe and healthy place to live.”

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.

For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Fort Stockton Local Office at (432) 336-7585, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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