



News Release

For immediate release
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TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPROVES A
\$7,150,000 GRANT TO THE HARRIS COUNTY WATER
CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 36 TO
FINANCE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

AUSTIN – (November 19, 2009) – The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) today approved by resolution a grant in the amount of \$7,150,000 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund-Disadvantaged Communities Program, to the Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 36 (Harris County) to finance water system improvements.

With these funds, the Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 36 (District) proposes to make improvements in continuation of the District's ongoing efforts to replace aging and deteriorated water system infrastructure, which is over 60 years old. The improvements will eventually reduce the number of service interruptions and the potential for contamination during line breaks.

The District is located approximately 12 miles east of downtown Houston at the intersection of Interstate Highway 10 and the Sam Houston Tollway. The District serves a population of approximately 9,427, providing water service to approximately 3,258 water connections and 2,623 wastewater connections.

The TWDB is the state agency charged with collecting and disseminating water-related data, assisting with regional planning and preparing the State Water Plan for the development of the state's water resources. TWDB administers cost-effective financial programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects.

On February 17, 2009 President Obama signed the ARRA, which included funds for water and wastewater infrastructure financing to be administered through existing

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Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF). The intent of the ARRA is to provide funds to projects that are ready to proceed by Feb. 17, 2010.

Some of the key requirements of ARRA are:

- At least 50 percent of the funds must be used to provide additional subsidies to eligible recipients in the form of grants, loan forgiveness, or negative interest rates
- At least 20 percent of the funds must be used to fund Green Reserve projects
- Land purchase is not eligible
- Davis-Bacon wage rate requirements prevail
- Any funds used for construction, alteration, maintenance or repair of a public work must use American made iron, steel and manufactured goods
- Reporting on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis about the number of jobs created

For ARRA, projects submitted for consideration on the CWSRF and DWSRF Intended Use Plans (IUP) were prioritized based on their readiness to proceed to construction with additional emphasis on disadvantaged communities and Green Reserve projects. The Board approved the IUPs for CWSRF on June 18, 2009 and for DWSRF on July 16, 2009.

All funded projects must have executed construction contracts or be under construction by Feb. 17, 2010.