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E. De la Garza

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FOR RELEASE: 13 October 1975

FROM: E. (Kika) de la Garza, M.C.

The Monitor, Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald

MILITARY HIGHWAY WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT

MERCEDOS - Ground breaking ceremonies were held Sunday for the newest rural water supply district in the Valley.

The extended ceremonies began at Mercedes with a breakfast briefing of the history of the new district. This was followed by a bus tour of the area to be served which extends from San Pedro, above Brownsville to the area south of McAllen. The ground breaking ceremonies were held at Relampago, south of Mercedes.

Representatives of the Farmers Home Administration, the Economic Development Administration, and the Campaign for Human Development participated and spoke briefly, as did representatives from the office of the Catholic Bishop of Brownsville and Cononias del Valle.

Mr. Domingo Cano, President of the new district and the Board of Directors were present. Mr. Cano introduced US Representative Kika de la Garza who was given special recognition for his efforts in behalf of the project.

The tour ended with a lunch in McAllen where all the above were presented scrolls and plaques in recognition of their participation at all levels of development of the project.

Representing the Farmers Home Administration was Mr. Lynn Futch of Temple, Mr. Alfredo Garcia of Austin represented EDA and Mr. Tim Wiesecke of Washington, D.C. attended in behalf of the Campaign for Human Development.

The Board of Directors were presented with engraved pens at McAllen, scrolls went to the local directors of FmHA and the Engineer and Contractor for the project.

Mr. Futch and Rep. de la Garza spoke briefly. Rep. de la Garza expressed the sentiments of the day when he said, "this is a project of the people, initiated by their dreams and desires for a better life under our great country and system of Government." Rep. de la Garza added further, "the participation of the Federal Government, with your tax dollars came merely as an addition to your efforts, not to replace them, the whole project was realized by unity with dignity, led by responsible local people, who have assumed their responsibilities as citizens of this great country of ours, before asking for any of its benefits."