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news release

DE LA GARZA ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR SOUTH TEXAS IN FISCAL 1996 USDA FUNDING BILL

For immediate release, Wednesday, June 28, 1995

WASHINGTON -- Rep. de la Garza announced funding for several South Texas projects included in a bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee. The bill now goes to the full House for approval.

"Given the increasingly tight budget constraints our government faces, I am pleased the members were able to provide funding for these projects that are of direct benefit to the people and the agricultural economy of South Texas. I appreciate the actions taken by the committee members," said Rep. de la Garza.

South Texas-related projects that are included in the bill are:

Colonia Water Projects -- The bill sets aside \$18,700,000 in USDA's water and wastewater program for grant funding of projects to serve colonias along the U.S.-Mexico border. Rep. de la Garza won inclusion of the authorization for this set-aside in the 1990 Farm Bill.

Weslaco Subtropical Agriculture Research Lab -- The bill contains \$1,000,000 for the construction and improvement of the USDA/Agricultural Research Service facility in Weslaco.

Alternative Crops for Arid Lands -- The bill includes \$85,000 for continued research on potential commercial uses of prickly pear and mesquite at Texas A&M at Kingsville. The research project was authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill at Rep. de la Garza's urging.