

MEDIA ADVISORY

USDA Satellite Features Feed

November 12, 2009

Contact: USDA-TV (202) 720-6445 or (202) 720-3319

FEATURE – FLOOD CONTROL AND JOBS FROM RECOVERY ACT

INTRO: Recovery Act funds are behind a US Dept of Agriculture flood control project that is bringing jobs and other benefits to the city of San Jose, California. The USDA's Susan Carter was at the groundbreaking ceremony. (1:55)

IN SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, A CELEBRATION FOR A NEW PROJECT. WITH EIGHTEEN MILLION DOLLARS IN RECOVERY ACT FUNDS, THROUGH A U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAM, THE CITY IS REBUILDING A FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE, THAT WILL PROTECT HOMES AND BUSINESSES FROM THE THREAT OF DISASTER, AND STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK SAYS THIS STIMULUS PROJECT IS RIGHT ON TARGET.

Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture: To do the work that Americans want done. This project has languished since 2007. Without the 18 million dollars, this project and this day would not happen.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-CA: In the near term, tomorrow, there are going to be people out here working, people who might otherwise be unemployed. This project creates over 700 jobs for a city that has over 12 percent unemployment.

THE CONCRETE CANAL IS BEING RE-DESIGNED TO MIMIC A NATURAL WATER WAY, BY USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE AND PARTNERS.

Gayle Norman, USDA NRCS State Conservationist: We're just so excited about how this is going to end up. You know, when you look at the stream bank now you see dirt and rocks and sometimes it's hard to envision how beautiful it will be with the trees and walkways and wildlife and the meanders back in the stream, letting nature take its course.

OCALA MIDDLE SCHOOL BORDERS THE WATER WAY. THE STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM BOTH THE BEAUTY AND THE SCIENCE OF THE NEW STRUCTURE.

Oscar Leon, Principal, Ocala Middle School: In their science curriculum they are going to learn about environment, conservation of energy, reuse, recycle, so this is basically perfect timing to work closely together with the water district.

ANOTHER BENEFIT WILL BE THE REDUCTION IN FLOOD INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR THOUSANDS OF HOMEOWNERS ALONG THE CREEK CORRIDOR.

Katherine Oven, Water District Official: Over 3,000 parcels will be protected from what we call a one percent flood. And thereby their flood insurance premiums will be significantly reduced. That again frees up money that is going to insurance premiums to help stimulate the economy.

IN SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M SUSAN CARTER.