



Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
State of California

John C. Zaragoza
5th District

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**SUPERVISOR ZARAGOZA ANNOUNCES \$8 MILLION IN
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDING
FOR EL RIO SEWER PROJECT**

The State Water Resources Control Board has conditionally approved an \$8 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant for the El Rio Sewer Project. In addition, the County has been approved for an extended 30-year term and a reduced interest rate of 1% for additional financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program, also approved as part of ARRA funding.

The total cost for the El Rio Sewer Project is approximately \$35 million. To date, the County has secured approximately \$26 million in federal, state, and local grants for the project. With long-term, low-interest financing approved for the balance, all needed funding is now in place for the project.

With this funding, the County will be able to complete the entire El Rio Sewer System Project by the end of 2011. El Rio property owners are connecting to the new sewer collection system and abandoning their septic tanks as the project is completed in phases.

Without the County's efforts to secure grants, ARRA funds, and the low-interest loan, single family residential property owners in El Rio would have paid approximately \$150 a month in sewer charges. With the ARRA funding and other grants in place, sewer charges will be less than \$65 a month per residential unit.

For this phase of the project, it is anticipated that the contractor will hire approximately 22 personnel from local labor halls, thereby also offering an opportunity to create jobs and strengthen our local economy.

The County is facilitating the construction of the El Rio Sewer System to assist the El Rio property owners to comply with the State's Septic System Prohibition. Non-compliance would subject the property owners to penalties of \$5,000 per day.

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