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## News Release

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### **Ground Breaking Ceremony Planned for Water Supply System in Goliad County**

**GOLIAD** -- The community of La Bahia, approximately 1 ¼ miles south of Goliad, has long depended on unreliable water wells as the primary source of drinking water. Soon this will change. On Tuesday, May 25 at 2:00 p.m. the Goliad County Water Supply Corporation (GWSC) and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) will hold a ground breaking ceremony celebrating the beginning of construction on a water supply system that will expand GWSC's services to the community of La Bahia. The project will include the construction of water pipelines and a water plant consisting of a 208,100 gallon ground storage tank, chlorination building and booster station. Southwest Engineers of Gonzalez will be overseeing the contractors and SARA will be completing the construction inspection.

"After 261 years, La Bahia will finally be getting clean, reliable water", said William Zermeno, Vice President of the Goliad Water Supply Corporation and resident of La Bahia. "This is a historic accomplishment for our community and I am proud to be a part of it."

The water system is being funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with seed money and grant writing assistance provided by SARA. The total cost of this project is approximately \$1.7 million and will have the capacity to serve approximately 125 residences and businesses on a first come first served basis. If area residents have not submitted an application for service, it is strongly recommended that they do so as soon as possible in order to qualify for service under the grant.

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“SARA is pleased to play a role in this project that will bring safe and clean water to the community of La Bahia”, said Terry Baiamonte, SARA Director representing Goliad County.

Because the community of La Bahia is situated near several sites of historical significance, such as the Presidio La Bahia, Birthplace of General Zaragoza and the Mission Espiritu Santo, special care has been taken to ensure that historical artifacts remain safe. An archeological study has been conducted and an archeologist will be on site during construction to perform analysis prior to digging in areas that have been deemed potentially sensitive. If the archeologist discovers artifacts on private property, the property owners will be encouraged to donate artifacts to one of the local museums.

The ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the plant site on the southwest corner of Al Calde de La Bahia and Highway 183. Comments by local dignitaries will be followed by the official ground breaking and refreshments. The event is open to the public. For more information on this project contact Melissa Bryant at (866) 345-7272

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*The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Basin. The State of Texas empowered SARA to preserve, protect and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. To learn more about the SARA visit our website at [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org).*