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Senator César J. Blanco Announces \$28 Million Award for Water Infrastructure in El Paso County

Austin, Texas – Today, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) approved an application from El Paso County for \$28 million for the planning, acquisition, design, and construction of water and wastewater system projects in Montana Vista. The approved \$28 million in financial assistance consists of \$8 million in financing and a \$20 million dollar grant from the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP). Senator Blanco proudly submitted a letter of support for the project's application.

"For decades, the Montana Vista community has lacked access to wastewater service due to aging sewer facilities that are in disrepair, contributing to excessive costs, odor, and environmental harm," said Senator César J. Blanco. "This funding will help protect the residents in the Montana Vista area to improve public health and ensure families have access to a clean, centralized wastewater collection."

The Montana Vista community is located in the eastern portion of the County with approximately 2,396 households with 8,132 residents. These residents have received water service through either El Paso Water or the El Paso County East Montana Water System since 1996, but no wastewater service. Currently, the residents rely on on-site sewage facilities, cesspools, or discharge wastewater directly onto the surface.

Based on a 20-year maturity schedule and current interest rates, El Paso Water could save approximately \$129,976 over the life of the financing. El Paso Water is also saving \$20,250,096 in grant funding.

Senator Blanco also added, "I'd like to express my deepest appreciation to the TWDB members for recognizing El Paso County's need for funding to complete these projects. I look forward to continuing to work with the Board on ensuring our community gets its fair share of funding for wastewater projects."

For further information, please contact Taylor Sanchez at 915-276-3872 or Taylor.Sanchez@senate.texas.gov.