



SANDS POINT
COSTA RICA

September 19, 2008

Author: Elise Sonray

Puntarenas gets \$20 million Infrastructure Investment

Puntarenas is getting a \$20 million birthday present from the central government and the government of Spain. Three other communities also will get water systems as part of the same group of projects.

The announcement came Thursday from the head of the Instituto Costarricense de Acueductos y Alcantrillados, the national water and sewer company.

The official, Ricardo Sancho Chavarría, said that the total amount from the Spanish government was \$35 million and that the financing was the result of negotiations by President Óscar Arias Sánchez during his recent European trip.

In addition to the central canton of Puntarenas, the southern Limón region around Sixaola, communities in Golfito and towns around Boca de Arenal de San Carlos also would see projects. Work is expected to start sometime next year in all four areas.

In Puntarenas, Sancho said the money will go to install sanitary sewers in 80 percent of the area between Puntarenas and el Cocal, to install sewers in some 80 percent of the area in the settlements of Juanito Mora, Manuel Mora and Gloria Bejarano and sections of Chacarita Norte and Sur, and to purchase the land for a sewage treatment plant and two small tracts for fire stations.

Sancho said the project would benefit about 110,000 persons.

In another project, Conte de Pavón in Golfito will get a new water system. This will benefit about 3,000 persons in Escuadra, Conte, Unión Sur, Camote, Pueblo Nuevo Barrido, Langostino, La Virgen, Jardín, Fortuna, Pílon and Gorrión, said Sancho. The design of this \$5 million project will be ready by the end of the year, he said. Residents have been having trouble with contaminated wells, according to the water company.

The third project is to provide clean water and storage for the San Carlos communities of Boca de Arenal, Pueblo Nuevo, Betania, Los Almendros, Santa Teresa, Bella Vista, San Pedro, Corazón de Jesús, San Marcos and Santa Teresa, said Sancho. This, too, is a \$5 million project for about 5,400 residents.

The project in Limón is near the border with Panamá and will benefit the communities of Olivia, Margarita, Celia, Catarina and Sixaola, said Sancho. This is a \$7 million job to solve the continual problems of water storage and quality in that area, he said. Sancho said that the local wells produce water high in iron and manganese and are not consistent during the dry season.