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## ***Rehabilitation of sewage system helps develop economic benefits in the province***

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**MAYSAN, Iraq**—To improve essential services and decrease the incidence of disease, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is modernizing 25 pump stations and upgrading 41 submersible sewage pumps in the southeastern Iraq Province of Maysan.

The project seeks to improve the sewage management systems in Maysan. Proper management of sewage helps avoid public health problems such as cholera outbreaks.

Stephen Herda, Maysan resident engineer, Basrah Area Office, said the rehabilitation project is one of the first Economic Support Fund (ESF) projects awarded in Maysan. These projects are directed toward developing economic benefits in the province and are reviewed and submitted by Maysan's Provincial Council.

The projects were developed by provincial officials who see directly what the people need, Herda said, and the Corps of Engineers can play a partnership role with the Provincial Council and the U.S. Department of State, which administers the ESF program.

Herda said the \$629,000 project consists of replacing submersible sewage pumps and the electrical control stations for those pumps. These pumps are located in communities throughout Maysan Province.



The new pumps for more efficient handling and management of sewage, and should reduce the likelihood of contamination of water sources from sewage discharges throughout Maysan Province. (USACE photo)

"While, this is not the first project of this kind in Maysan, the installation of new pumps and controls will allow for more efficient handling and management of sewage, and should reduce the likelihood of contamination of water sources from sewage discharges," Herda said.

The project was awarded on April 26, 2007, said Herda, whose activities are part of the operations of the Corps' Gulf Region South district, which covers the nine southern provinces of Iraq. "This is a project that was requested by the Maysan Provincial Council on behalf of the people of Maysan," the major said.

He said the Corps is eager to provide projects such as this that reflect the needs of the people as recognized and pursued by local leaders, and added that the project also provides the Corps with an opportunity to train local authorities on how to properly operate and maintain the system.

"It creates a system that is sustainable because it will have long lasting impact on the people by creating a better place to live," he said. "The people will be able to see their living conditions improve."

Herda said the Corps of Engineers attempts to achieve nine things with each project: Ownership, capacity building, sustainability, selectivity, assessment, results, partnership, flexibility and accountability.

Many of the 25 pumping stations that will receive upgraded submersible pumps are located in Al Amarah city, but there are others in Qalat Saleh, Sayyid Hashim, Majjar al Kabir, Maymona and other locations, according to the Iraqi resident engineer at the Basrah Area Office.

"The contractor will also provide operator training to DG (Director General) personnel and provide 200 sets of protective clothing for operators," the Iraqi engineer added.

According to Natalie Sudman, project manager for the Water Sector with GRS, these sewage projects are important because they help the average person in Iraq in a very immediate way. "I hope that the Iraqi people will have a little bit better quality of life from our building of these projects," she said, relating her experience elsewhere in Iraqi of being thanked by villagers for public works projects.

Herda said the upgrade of a sewage



Old pumps and pipe lines, which failed to properly handle the sewage. (USACE photo)



The new pump control panels with sunshade and trench for cables at one of the 25 pumping stations projects to improve the sewage management systems in Maysan. Proper management of sewage leads to decreased incidents of disease and illness, such as cholera. (USACE photo)

system will bring many benefits to the people of Maysan. By increasing the efficiency of sewage management, he said, Maysanis will be less exposed to odors, vectors (such as flies and other insects) and diseases.

He said this should decrease the chances of people contracting diseases such as cholera from drinking contaminated water. It should also reduce the number of flies in areas where standing

sewage occurs because proper pumping of sewage will no longer allow sewage to stand and form pools, he said.

Herda said the 41 pumps range in sizes from 300 cubic meters per hour to 1,000 cm/h. He said the pumps will be able to force liquid sewage away from populated areas, and reported that the pumps “were assessed and selected based upon input from the DG in Maysan.”

Herda said a “very competent team” of two engineers will be working with the DG in Maysan to ensure that this project is a success. “By teaming with our local national Iraqi associates, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers not only provides the project to the people of Maysan but we also build the relationship between our locally employed nationals, the people of Maysan and the governance of Maysan,” he said.

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