

Prefiled bill to tax municipalities real-estate

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"Does everyone want a tax increase, so a few individuals can own land," he said.

Jim East, assistant to the mayor of Tulsa, said he was not sure want Hutchison wanted to accomplish by the legislation. "We need to do more research on the issue. However, Tulsa has always acted as a good corporate citizen, ensuring high quality water," he said. "Southeastern Oklahoma also needs to ensure a high quality in water to attract economic development."

Seminole receives block grant award

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*Dr. Leo E. Presley,
executive director
Oklahoma Department
of Commerce*

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Gov. Frank Keating and Dr. Leo E. Presley, executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, announced Monday that the city of Seminole is the recipient of a Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development Infrastructure Financing (CDBG-EDIF) grant and loan award totaling \$972,022. \$486,011 will be in the form of a grant and \$486,011 will be in the form of a loan.

The award will be used to construct five water wells and necessary improvements to support the expansion of Wrangler, Inc., in Seminole. Wrangler will become a regional distribution facility for denim work and casual clothing. Presley said the combination grant/loan award will permit Wrangler, Inc. to expand their labor forces by approximately 150 positions over the next 24 months.

"This combination CDBG-EDIF grant and loan will help support Oklahoma's continuing commitment to manufacturers that produce value added products and enhance the state's economic climate," said Presley, whose commerce department manages the federally funded CDBG-EDIF program in the state. Additional funding for the project will be provided by Wrangler, Inc., and the city of Seminole.

The CDBG-EDIF program helps eligible cities, towns, and counties with the financing of infrastructure improvements that support business expansions and start-ups. The purpose of the program is to stimulate long-term job creation and investment that primarily benefits persons defined as low and moderate income.

To request information regarding the CDBG-EDIF program, write to Kirk Grau, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Community Affairs and Development Division, P.O. Box 26980, Oklahoma City, OK, 73126-0980, or call (405) 841-9357.

Johnson, Clowers and RGDC chosen for MAPS canal, river design

From CityNet

"We started working on the river in 1980 and have continued to work with city officials and the River Trust through that period of time and we look forward to the opportunity to see the river turned into something of which Oklahoma City can be proud and removing the back door image (the river) now portrays."

*Don Douglas,
president - RGDC*

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Three Oklahoma City companies have been recommended by city staff to design the \$15.4 million bricktown Canal and to perform a major drainage study is to prepare for the eventual dams that will retain water and create a riverwalk as part of the \$285 million Metropolitan Area Projects plan.

Clowers Engineering Co. and Johnson Associates of Oklahoma City were selected by a three-member panel of city staff to design the \$106 million north and \$3.5 million south sections of the canal, which will wind its way through the Bricktown entertainment district, past the Ballpark at Bricktown and down to the river itself.

RGDC Inc. of Oklahoma City was chosen to perform a major study of on the effects placing three to four dams on the river will have on Oklahoma City's drainage system. RGDC is more than familiar with the river, having performed other studies on it for the Oklahoma City Riverfront Development Authority.

"We started working on the river in 1980 and have continued to work with city officials and the River Trust through that period of time and we look forward to the opportunity to see the river turned into something of which Oklahoma City can be proud and removing the back door image (the river) now portrays," said Don Douglas, president of RGDC.

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