

Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Reforestation for the Community of Los Rodriguez, Nicaragua

Organization: Agua Para La Vida

2311 Webster Street

Berkeley, CA 94705

Phone: 510-643-8003

www.aplv.org

Duration: 6 months

Start/End dates: August 2008 through January 2009

Amount Requested: \$ 12,000

Office Contact: Charlie Huizenga

Phone: 510-643-8003 Email: charlie@aplv.org

Project Director: Jim Stacey Email: jstacey@aplv.org

Nicaragua Program Officer: Gilles Burkhardt Email: gillesb@aplv.org

Phone: 011 505 250 3027 Cell: 011 505-646 1276

Executive Summary

This project will enable the village of Los Rodriguez, Nicaragua to build a community drinking water system, improve sanitation, educate community members about health and hygiene, and protect their community watershed from deforestation.

Los Rodriguez is located 45 kilometers down a gravel road from the town of Rio Blanco, Nicaragua, in the municipality of Paiwas, RAAS (South Atlantic Autonomous Region). Its 70 inhabitants are subsistence farmers who grow corn, beans, and raise livestock. They currently get their water from a combination of shallow, open wells and from the Tuma River that flows nearby. Both of these sources are highly contaminated. The village also lacks adequate latrines.

In 2007, the community sent a formal request for assistance to the Agua Para La Vida (APLV) office in Rio Blanco. Between September 2007 and April 2008, APLV staff made several visits and evaluated a spring 3.5km from the village that the members of the village had identified as a potential water source. The APLV team also evaluated the community's ability to organize themselves to carry out the project. The village has formed a Water Committee that will receive training throughout the project and will have long-term responsibility for the water system, and for collecting a small but important monthly fee from each household to cover the cost of maintaining the system over time.

The project consists of four elements: a gravity flow water system, latrines for each household, a community health education program, and a watershed conservation program. The integrated nature of the project will result in improved health (reduced diarrhea and dysentery and likely elimination of cholera) and an improved environment (reforestation). Students from our work-study technical training program will work on the project, gaining valuable experience in water projects.

The total cost of materials and transportation for the project is \$24,113. An additional \$9,072 of in-kind support (labor, accommodation, food and materials) will be provided by the community. We have a commitment for \$10,000 from Rural Water Ventures and are requesting \$12,000 from the Ann Campana Judge Foundation. The remaining \$2,113 will be provided by individual APLV donors.