

## SR3b water, sanitation projects signed

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RIYADH: The Ministry of Water and Electricity has announced that it has signed projects worth SR3.36 billion in the first quarter of this year.

This includes water and sanitation projects in addition to support services and maintenance in various parts of the Kingdom.

These initiatives have been ordered by King Abdullah, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to ensure essential services for the country's urban expansion and growing population.

Meanwhile, the Higher Commission for the Development of Riyadh, chaired by Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, Emir of Riyadh, is constructing a 288-kilometer underground water network. The network is meant to handle high water levels in various districts. It has also constructed 1,895 flood traps.

A source at the commission said work on this network is about to finish in Al-Sahafa, Al-Falah, Al-Nafil, Al-Waha, Al-Ghadier, Al-Rabea, Al-Mgarzat and Badar districts. He said the commission is currently working on a comprehensive plan to monitor and regulate underground water due to the tremendous urban expansion in the capital city, particularly in east Riyadh. The plan is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

The plan also outlines the updating of the hydraulic, geo-technical and natural geological environmental maps. He said the commission is keeping a close watch on levels of underground water in east Riyadh where the soil is highly sensitivity to humidity. The commission is also coordinating with Riyadh Mayoralty and the National Water Company to handle the problem of the high water table in these districts.