



Nathan Deal
Governor

GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

Kevin Clark
Executive Director

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GEFA Approves Infrastructure Loans Totaling \$64 Million for Eight Georgia Communities *Approved Loans Include Water and Energy Efficiency Projects*

ATLANTA – Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Executive Director Kevin Clark announced today the approval of financing for environmental infrastructure projects in eight Georgia communities totaling \$64,048,339. The GEFA board of directors approved the commitments to help finance water and sewer infrastructure improvements for the cities of Jesup, Moultrie, Oglethorpe, Royston and Thomasville; Cobb County; Eatonton-Putnam County Water and Sewer Authority; and the Haralson County Water Authority.

“The water, sewer and solid waste programs administered by GEFA assist local governments with improving their environmental infrastructure,” said Clark. “Financing water, sewer and solid waste projects encourages economic growth and the stewardship of our environment.”

Clark expressed appreciation to Gov. Deal and to the members of the General Assembly for their support. He credited the state’s commitment to helping cities and counties finance infrastructure development as one of the main contributors to GEFA’s success.

“GEFA financing for water, sewer and solid waste infrastructure helps communities in all areas of the state,” said Grady Thompson, chairman of the GEFA board of directors and chairman of the Tift County board of commissioners. “The projects that we agreed to finance today demonstrate that GEFA is investing in communities that are willing to invest in themselves.”

GEFA helps communities prepare for economic growth and development through the provision of low-interest loans.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a federal loan program administered by GEFA for wastewater infrastructure and water pollution reduction projects. Eligible projects include a wide variety of storm water and wastewater collection and treatment projects.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a federal loan program administered by GEFA for drinking water infrastructure projects.

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The Georgia Fund is a state-funded program administered by GEFA for water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure projects. The program is flexible and accessible, and offers fast loan approvals. The Georgia Fund provides loans to local governments for projects such as water and sewer lines, treatment plants, pumping stations, wells, water storage tanks and water meters. Low-interest loans from this program are available up to \$10 million.

The Georgia Reservoir and Water Supply Fund provides low-interest loans for water supply projects, including reservoir construction and expansion.

The GEFA board of directors also approved reduced interest rates for the federal CWSRF and DWSRF programs. The new rates will be 1 percent below the interest rate of the Georgia Fund program or 3 percent, whichever is lower. The interest rate for the state-funded Georgia Fund is indexed to the most recent 20-year, competitively-bid, state general obligation bond issue. With the current Georgia Fund rate at 3.13 percent, the CWSRF and DWSRF rates are now 2.13 percent. Projects that conserve water are eligible for an interest rate reduction of 1 percent.

Below are details of the loans approved today:

City of Jesup

The city of Jesup was approved for a CWSRF loan of \$7,500,000 to finance phase one of replacing its existing wastewater treatment plant. Phase two will begin in fall 2012. Jesup will pay 2.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$7,500,000.

City of Moultrie

The city of Moultrie was approved for a CWSRF green-project loan of \$2,750,000 to replace aging water meters with remote-read water meters, and the installation of energy-efficient wastewater pumps at the treatment plant. Moultrie will pay 1.23 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$2,750,000. As a green project, up to \$500,000 of the loan principal will be forgiven if all loan funds are drawn. The loan qualifies for a reduced interest rate because some portions of the project conserve water.

The city of Moultrie was also approved for a CWSRF loan of \$6,100,000 to finance phase two of improvements to the city's wastewater treatment plant. GEFA previously approved \$3,384,500 for the first phase of the project in July 2009. Moultrie will pay 2.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$6,100,000, which includes principal forgiveness of up to \$500,000 if all loan funds are drawn.

City of Oglethorpe

The city of Oglethorpe was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$491,354 to finance improvements at the city's water and wastewater treatment plants. Oglethorpe will pay 3.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan.

City of Royston

The city of Royston was approved for a DWSRF loan of \$461,985 to finance replacing old water meters with updated meters that will improve system efficiency and reduce gas usage and maintenance costs. Royston will pay 1.13 percent interest on the 10-year loan for \$461,985, which includes principal forgiveness of up to \$138,596 if all loan funds are drawn. The loan qualifies for a reduced interest rate because it is a water conservation project.

City of Thomasville

The city of Thomasville was approved for a CWSRF green-project loan of \$2,800,000 to finance replacing aging sludge digesters at the wastewater treatment plant with energy-efficient digesters. Thomasville will pay 2.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$2,800,000, which includes principal forgiveness of up to \$500,000 if all the loan funds are drawn.

The city of Thomasville was also approved for a DWSRF green-project loan of \$1,200,000 to finance replacing old water meters with updated meters, purchasing leak detection equipment, and installing new energy-efficient water pumps at three high-service pump stations. Thomasville will pay 1.38 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$1,200,000. The loan qualifies for a reduced interest rate because some portions of the project conserve water.

Cobb County

Cobb County was approved for a CWSRF loan of \$35,000,000 to finance phase six of a project to upgrade the South Cobb Water Reclamation Facility. GEFA previously approved \$165 million for the first five phases of the project. Cobb County will pay 2.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$35,000,000.

Eatonton-Putnam County WSA

The Eatonton-Putnam County Water and Sewer Authority (EPWSA) was approved for a DWSRF loan of \$1,745,000 to finance replacing old water main, valves, hydrants, service lines and meters. Approximately 3.5 miles of new water line will correct leaks in the system. EPWSA will pay 1.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$1,745,000, which includes principal forgiveness of up to \$500,000 if all the loan funds are drawn. The loan qualifies for a reduced interest rate because some portions of the project conserve water.

Haralson County Water Authority

The Haralson County Water Authority (HCWA) was approved for a Georgia Reservoir and Water Supply loan of \$3,000,000 to finance the necessary environmental engineering surveys and studies required to obtain a 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers for constructing Beach Creek Reservoir. The total cost is \$5,600,000, with the HCWA providing \$2,600,000 in SPLOST funds. HCWA will pay 3.13 percent interest on the 10-year loan of \$3,000,000.

About the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (www.gefa.org)

The [Georgia Environmental Finance Authority](http://www.gefa.org) (GEFA) provides energy, land and water resources resulting in an improved quality of life for today and future generations. GEFA is the lead agency for state energy programs and is home to the Center of Innovation for Energy; directs the Georgia Land Conservation Program and maintains state-owned fuel storage tanks; and offers financing for reservoir and water supply, water quality, storm water and solid waste infrastructure. Since 1985, GEFA has approved financial commitments totaling more than \$3 billion to local governments, businesses and nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit www.gefa.org, [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#).

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