



Nathan Deal
Governor

GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

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Executive Director

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GEFA Approves Infrastructure Loans Totaling \$3.1 Million for Four Georgia Communities *Approved Loans Include Water Efficiency Projects*

ATLANTA – Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Executive Director Kevin Clark announced today the approval of financing for environmental infrastructure projects in four Georgia communities totaling \$3,075,939. The GEFA executive committee approved the commitments to help finance water infrastructure improvements for the towns of Lyerly and Waverly Hall, the city of Meigs and Upson County.

“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. Low-interest loans from this program are available up to \$25 million.

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The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a federal loan program administered by GEFA for drinking water infrastructure projects. Eligible projects include a wide variety of public health or compliance related water supply projects. Low-interest loans from this program are available up to \$25 million.

The Georgia Fund is a state-funded program administered by GEFA for water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure projects. Eligible projects include 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.

Below are details of the loans approved today:

Town of Lyerly

The town of Lyerly was approved for a DWSRF green-project loan of \$894,400 to finance replacing existing water line and water meters with radio read meters to reduce unaccounted water in the town's water system and to encourage water conservation. Lyerly will pay 1.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$894,400, which includes principal forgiveness of up to \$249,291 if all loan funds are drawn. The total project cost is \$1,394,400, with the town receiving a Community Development Block Grant for \$500,000 to complete the project. The town received a 1 percent interest rate reduction because the project will help conserve water.

City of Meigs

The city of Meigs was approved for a Georgia Fund Environmental Emergency loan of \$21,539 to finance repairs to a broken well that leaves the city vulnerable to a severe water outage. Meigs will pay 1.13 percent interest on the 10-year loan of \$21,539. The city received an interest rate reduction because Georgia Fund policies contain an Environmental Emergency Loan provision to assist communities in financing improvements that are necessary to eliminate actual or potential public hazards or environmental regulation violations. The total project cost is \$43,078 with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) providing an Immediate Threat and Danger Grant of \$21,539.

Town of Waverly Hall

The town of Waverly Hall was approved for a DWSRF loan of \$360,000 to finance rehabilitating two existing wells, replacing water line, connecting to the Harris County water system, cleaning and repairing storage tanks and installing telemetry for well pump control. Waverly Hall will pay 2.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$360,000.

Upson County

Upson County was approved for a DWSRF green-project loan of \$1,800,000 to finance replacing old water main, conducting leak detection and repair, and replacing existing water meters with an Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) system. Upson County will pay 1.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$1,800,000, which includes principal forgiveness of up to \$500,000 if all loan funds are drawn. The county also received a 1 percent interest rate reduction because the project will help conserve water.

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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