



Nathan Deal
Governor

GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

Kevin Clark
Executive Director

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Environmental Infrastructure Loans and Grants Totaling \$4 Million Approved for Three Georgia Communities *Projects 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 three Georgia communities totaling \$4,340,000. The GEFA executive committee approved the commitments to help finance water and sewer infrastructure improvements for the cities of Collins, Demorest and Rincon.

“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 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. The DWSRF guidelines also allow funding for “green” projects such as energy efficiency at water facilities, and water efficiency projects.

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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:

City of Collins

The city of Collins was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$940,000 to finance constructing an earth dyke in the existing wastewater treatment pond, and installing a new irrigation pump station, force main, distribution lines and sprinklers. Collins will pay 3.13 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$940,000. The total project cost is \$1,440,000, with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) providing \$500,000 in a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

City of Demorest

The city of Demorest was approved for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan of \$3,300,000 to finance replacing 30,500 linear feet of water line and installing 4,500 linear feet of new water line. The project also includes replacing 5,500 old water meters with radio read meters. Demorest will pay 1.63 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$3,300,000. This loan qualifies for a reduced interest rate because portions of the project will conserve water.

City of Rincon

The city of Rincon was approved for a Georgia Fund water reuse grant of \$100,000 to finance constructing a water reuse distribution and irrigation system. The GEFA executive committee previously approved a \$2,500,000 Georgia Fund loan for this project in June 2010. The Water Reuse Grant Program was funded by a \$500,000 appropriation from the General Assembly to provide incentive grants to communities in the five coastal Georgia counties experiencing problems with saltwater intrusion into the Floridan Aquifer. The eligible counties include Effingham, Chatham, Liberty, Bryan and Glynn.

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](#).