



## GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

Nathan Deal  
Governor

Kevin Clark  
Executive Director

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### **GEFA Approves Environmental Infrastructure Projects Totaling \$4.3 Million for Five Georgia Communities**

ATLANTA – Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Executive Director Kevin Clark announced today the approval of financing for five environmental infrastructure projects totaling \$4,362,567. The GEFA board of directors approved the commitments to help finance water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure improvements for the cities of St. Marys and Pine Lake and the counties of Franklin, Twiggs and Warren.

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

Clark expressed appreciation to Governor 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 water infrastructure projects. Eligible projects include public health-related water supply construction.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a federal loan program administered by GEFA for wastewater infrastructure and water pollution abatement projects. Eligible projects include a wide variety of storm water and wastewater collection and treatment 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 has maximum flexibility and accessibility, and offers fast loan and grant approvals. The Georgia Fund provides loans and grants 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 \$3 million.

Below are details of the loans approved today:

City of Pine Lake

The city of Pine Lake was approved for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) green project loan of \$1,625,000 to finance storm water capture and treatment infrastructure and stream bank restoration to reduce the amount of pollutants in Snapfinger Creek and the Ocmulgee Watershed Basin in DeKalb County. The city of Pine Lake will pay three percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$1,625,000. As a green project, 50 percent of the principal amount drawn will be forgiven. The 2010 CWSRF program guidelines direct the states to reserve 20 percent of the CWSRF funding for projects that address water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally-innovative activities.

City of St. Marys

The city of St. Marys was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$1,215,000 to finance wastewater treatment plant infrastructure improvements. The city of St. Marys will pay 3.81 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$1,215,000.

Franklin County

Franklin County was approved for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan of \$582,290 and a \$500,000 subsidy to finance water main installation. The project will help remove residents from wells that are contaminated with high levels of iron and manganese. Franklin County will pay zero percent interest on a 20-year loan for \$582,290 and receive \$500,000 in a Disadvantaged Community Program subsidy.

Twiggs County

Twiggs County was approved for a Georgia Fund Loan of \$241,977 to finance the construction of a water storage tank and other water system infrastructure improvements. Twiggs County will pay 3.81 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$241,977. The total project cost is \$2,126,977, with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs providing \$500,000 in a Community Development Block Grant, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development providing a loan of \$900,000 and the county providing \$485,000 in SPLOST funds in addition to the GEFA loan.

Warren County

Warren County was approved for a Georgia Fund Loan of \$198,300 to finance the construction of a central solid waste recycling center. Warren County will pay 3.81 percent interest on the 10-year loan for \$198,300.

Cities and counties interested in more information regarding GEFA loans should visit [www.gefa.org](http://www.gefa.org) or call (404) 584-1000.

***About the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority ([www.gefa.org](http://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](http://www.gefa.org).