



Nathan Deal  
Governor

## GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

Kevin Clark  
Executive Director

For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Media Contact: [Shane Hix](#), GEFA  
404-584-1043 / 404-769-6949

### **GEFA Approves Environmental Infrastructure Projects Totaling \$9.3 Million for Six Georgia Communities**

ATLANTA – Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Executive Director Kevin Clark announced today the approval of financing for environmental infrastructure projects in six Georgia communities totaling \$9,258,520. The GEFA executive committee approved the commitments to help finance water and sewer infrastructure improvements for Jones County and the Clayton-Rabun County Water & Sewer Authority (WSA); and the cities of Bainbridge, Forsyth, Millen and Sylvester.

“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 water infrastructure projects. Eligible projects include public health-related water supply construction.

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 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 \$3 million.

Below are details of the loans approved today:

#### City of Bainbridge

The city of Bainbridge was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$3,000,000 that will provide phase two financing for constructing sewer extensions and pump stations, upgrading the aeration system at the city's wastewater treatment plant, and converting 5,000 residential water meters to an automated meter reading system. GEFA previously approved \$8,302,836 for the first phase of the project. Bainbridge will pay 3.31 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$3,000,000. Georgia Fund policy reduces the current interest rate of 3.81 by .50 percent to communities that have earned the Community of Opportunity designation from the Department of Community Affairs.

#### Clayton-Rabun Water Sewer Authority (WSA)

The Clayton-Rabun Water Sewer Authority (WSA) was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$1,000,000 to finance sewer system improvements along State Road 441 between Dillard and Mountain City. Clayton-Rabun County WSA will pay 3.81 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$1,000,000. The total project cost is \$1,620,000 with the balance provided by a \$300,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, a \$300,000 grant from the OneGeorgia Authority, and \$20,000 from the Clayton-Rabun WSA.

#### City of Forsyth

The city of Forsyth was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$2,310,000 to finance rehabilitating and upgrading the city's Box Ankle Water Treatment Plant. Forsyth will pay 3.81 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$2,310,000.

#### Jones County

Jones County was approved for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan of \$1,499,520 to finance a new ground storage tank, booster pump station and SCADA equipment. Jones County will pay 3 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$1,499,520, receiving up to \$449,856 in principal forgiveness if all loan funds are drawn.

#### City of Millen

The city of Millen was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$900,000 to finance installing water and sewer lines and constructing a well, a 500,000 gallon water storage tank and a pump station. Millen will pay 3.31 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$900,000. Georgia Fund policy reduces the current interest

rate of 3.81 by .50 percent to communities that have earned the Community of Opportunity designation from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The total project cost is \$2,025,231 with the balance provided by a \$335,250 grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Community Development Block Employment Incentive Program, a \$300,000 grant from the OneGeorgia Authority, \$96,271 from the Jenkins County Development Authority, and the city providing \$393,260 in SPLOST funds.

#### City of Sylvester

The city of Sylvester was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$549,000 to finance water and sewer system improvements and installing fire hydrants. Sylvester will pay 3.81 percent interest on the 20-year loan for \$549,000. The total project cost is \$1,049,000 with the balance provided by a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

#### ***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), [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#).

###