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Alabama Leads in Effort to Create Jobs Through ARRA Funds

MONTGOMERY –Alabama has become the first southeastern state, and the second state in the nation, to obligate 100 percent of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding it received to improve drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure systems in Alabama. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has overseen the commitment of over \$60 million in ARRA funding through its Clean Water State Revolving Fund and its Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

The Clean Water SRF and the Drinking Water SRF are low interest loan programs intended to pay for projects that produce clean, safe, and reliable drinking water for Alabama citizens and also ensure the proper collection and treatment of wastewater that is discharged into Alabama’s waterways. The Clean Water SRF benefited from an infusion of over \$40 million dollars in ARRA funding while the Drinking Water SRF was enhanced by almost \$20 million in ARRA funding, which will allow local municipalities to accomplish upgrades and expansions of the aging infrastructure that exists in many cities across Alabama.

In addition to providing environmental benefits, the ARRA funding was intended to provide jobs and enhance employment opportunities during the current economic downturn. The expeditious disbursement of these ARRA funds by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management will support this goal of stimulating the economy.

“The work of the ADEM staff over the past months to get this money out of our office and on the ground where it will support infrastructure and economic development has been truly remarkable,” said ADEM Director John Hagood. “I am proud that Alabama is once again leading the nation in supporting sound, clean development that will help the effort to get folks back to work. I am extremely proud of the staff members that contributed to this success.”

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An added benefit of the ARRA funding is the fact that at least 20 percent of the funds must be utilized to support green infrastructure. While the law requires projects utilizing ARRA funding to include a minimum of 20 percent of green infrastructure, the projects funded in Alabama include over 30 percent of green infrastructure, which will increase the sustainability of Alabama's natural resources and ensure future generations are able to enjoy Alabama's vast natural treasures.

Outlined below is a listing of the municipalities that have received ARRA funding from the Clean Water SRF, the Drinking Water SRF, or both.

DRINKING WATER SRF

- Weaver \$1.2 million
- Dothan \$3.0 million
- Decatur \$6.6 million
- Walter \$469,000
- Troy \$327,000
- Dauphin Island \$6.8 million

CLEAN WATER SRF

- Jackson \$661,000
- Pell City \$11.8 million
- Childersburg \$6.8 million
- Red Bay \$474,000
- Decatur \$10.0 million
- Montevallo \$5.3 million
- Moundville \$209,000
- Troy \$2.2 million
- Dothan \$4.4 million

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