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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 07/27/21

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Four Arkansas Counties Receive Water and Wastewater Project Funding

LITTLE ROCK, AR – The Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Commission approved \$7,303,479 for water and wastewater projects serving more than 2,307 people in four Arkansas counties on June 21, 2021. The projects are as follows:

- **Central Arkansas Water (CAW)** in Pulaski County, received a \$2,118,000 loan from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to enable CAW to assume ownership and operation of the Ridgefield Estates Public Water System. These funds will be used to upgrade the system to CAW standards, including replacing 15,100 feet of waterline due to a high failure rate. The residential water customer base will be 102.
- **Central Arkansas Water (CAW)** in Pulaski County, received a \$1,383,953 loan from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to assume ownership of the Wye Mountain Water System and provide all necessary operations and maintenance. This regionalization project will help ensure properly treated potable water for the 600 customers formerly served by the Wye Mountain Water System.
- **Oak Grove Water Users Association (WUA)** in Crawford County received a \$3,195,060 loan from the Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities General Obligation Bond Fund. These funds will be used to replace inadequate storage tanks to allow the WUA to meet the required 24-hour water demand, increase the overall system pressure, and increase available fire protection flow throughout the system. The customer base for this project is 1,134.
- The **City of Strong** in Union County received a \$346,826 loan and a \$148,640 loan with principal forgiveness from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. The project includes drilling a new well and installation of a new chlorination system to provide sufficient water to meet daily demands and address reliability issues. This project will benefit approximately 461 customers.
- The **City of Texarkana** in Miller County received a grant up to \$111,000 from the Arkansas Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grant Program to extend its water system to unserved area that is experiencing high levels of iron in private wells. The project will benefit approximately 10 customers.

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission also approved a grant of \$65,000 to the Arkansas Rural Water Association for training, technical assistance, and on-site reviews for water and wastewater system in Arkansas’s persistent poverty counties as identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a grant of \$125,000 to hire a Circuit Rider to assist small water systems with operation, maintenance, management, or infrastructure problems.

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission also approved a grant not to exceed \$286,650 from the Water Development Fund to match a \$637,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. These grants will be used to fund the **Arkansas Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grant Program** that will provide studies to assist small and disadvantaged communities in determining the feasibility of possible regionalization or consolidation of drinking water systems.

More information about the Natural Resource Division's water and wastewater programs can be found at <https://www.anrc.arkansas.gov/divisions/water-resources-development/> or by contacting Debby Dickson at debra.dickson@arkansas.gov or 501-682-0548.

Learn more about the Arkansas Department of Agriculture at <https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/>.