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Over \$700 Million Provided for Arkansas Water and Wastewater Projects

LITTLE ROCK, AR— On June 22, 2023, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) approved \$702,318,258 in funding for 122 water and wastewater projects serving more than 1,253,000 Arkansans. This is the largest allocation of funds awarded for water and wastewater in the state of Arkansas to date.

“Water and wastewater infrastructure systems are critically important to the everyday lives of every Arkansan. The Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Commission are pleased to have approved a record level of funding for 122 water and wastewater projects that will serve over one-third of our state’s population,” said Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture.

The ANRC approves and provides financial assistance to eligible Arkansas entities from five different programs through loans, loans with principal forgiveness, and grants. A total of \$633,138,145 was provided in loans, \$68,957,100 in loans with principal forgiveness, and \$223,013 in grants.

A complete list of the projects funded can be found at agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/news/announcements/.

In addition to project funding, the ANRC approved two grants to the Arkansas Rural Water Association, totaling \$190,000, to provide technical assistance to communities for water and wastewater infrastructure across the state. The Commission also approved a \$43 million General Obligation Bond Series Resolution, conservation district board appointments, and \$1.2 million in funding to conservation districts.

More information about the Natural Resource Division’s water and wastewater programs can be found at agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/divisions/water-development/water-and-wastewater-funding/ or by contacting Debby Dickson at debra.dickson@agriculture.arkansas.gov or 501-682-0548.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while conserving natural resources and ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov/. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.