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GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

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Record Low Interest Rates Available for Financing Infrastructure Projects *Interest Rate Reductions to Save Local Governments and Taxpayers*

ATLANTA – Georgia communities can now take advantage of record low interest rates for new water and wastewater infrastructure, which includes water supply and water conservation projects. Based on the rates for general obligation bonds sold by the state last week, the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) reduced the interest rates for its loan programs. Effective immediately, the Georgia Fund and the Reservoir and Water Supply Fund (Governor’s Water Supply Program) interest rates are 2.82 percent. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Drinking Water SRF interest rates are 1.82 percent. Projects that conserve water receive an additional 1 percent reduction, which means rates for water conservation projects may be as low as 0.82 percent. The interest rate for land conservation projects is 1.32 percent.

“Local governments seeking to complete water or sewer infrastructure projects will save money by financing with these record low rates,” said GEFA Executive Director Kevin Clark. “For example, if a community finances a \$3,000,000 loan for 20 years, they will save more than \$100,000 over the life of the loan. This is a significant savings for many small communities throughout our state.”

GEFA loan programs can be used by local governments to finance drinking water, reservoir and water supply, wastewater, water conservation, land conservation, storm water and solid waste infrastructure.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a federal loan program administered by GEFA for drinking water infrastructure projects. Eligible projects include a wide variety of public health or compliance-related water supply projects. The DWSRF guidelines also allow funding for “green” projects such as energy efficiency at water facilities, and water efficiency projects.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a federal loan program administered by GEFA for wastewater infrastructure and water pollution reduction 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 loan program administered by GEFA for water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure projects. Eligible projects include water and sewer lines, treatment plants, pumping stations, wells, water storage tanks and water meters.

The Reservoir and Water Supply Fund is a state-funded loan program administered by GEFA for water supply projects. Eligible projects include system interconnections, new and rehabilitated wells, reservoir modifications for water supply purposes, and the construction of new water supply reservoirs.

On June 21, the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) sold 20-year competitively-bid general obligation bonds at a true interest cost rate of 2.82 percent. GEFA's interest rate reductions are in keeping with the program policy of indexing interest rates to the true interest cost of the most recent 20-year competitively-bid general obligation bond issue.

The previous interest rates were 3.13 percent.

About the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (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; 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, [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#).

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