

PRESS RELEASE

**JACKSON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY
AWARDED DESIGN ASSISTANCE GRANT**

The Jackson County Utility Authority is pleased to announce an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for \$3 million in design assistance for a new Water Reclamation Facility in east Jackson County.

Due to the confidence of the Corps of Engineers in the JCUA's outstanding past performance in delivering value for grant projects completed on time and within budget the project will develop the preliminary design for a Water Reclamation System to collect, treat and reuse wastewater presently discharged from the JCUA's Escatawpa Plant into the Escatawpa River and from the Pascagoula-Moss Point Plant into the Pascagoula River. The reclaimed effluent will supplement industrial water requirements for the Jackson County Industrial Complex, will reduce the amount of water presently being drawn from the Pascagoula River to supply the industrial complex, will provide a reliable source of industrial water, and will reduce the amount of treated effluent discharged into the Pascagoula River and will eliminate any effluent discharge into the Escatawpa River.

The grant will be a 75%/25% funding match project with the \$1 million contribution from the Jackson County Utility Authority contributed from its 2016 capital improvement bond, only the second bond issue for the Jackson County Utility Authority or its predecessor, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Wastewater Authority since it was established in 1981.

While the project is a long term one which will require substantial additional funding, property acquisition and construction time, the Jackson County Utility Authority is proud the project is moving forward to continue to provide outstanding wastewater treatment services not only to the citizens of Pascagoula and Moss Point, but to all the citizens of Jackson County.

The Board expresses its thanks to JCUA Executive Director Tommy Fairfield for his hard work in securing this grant and to the staff at the Mobile office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as Mississippi's Congressional Delegation.