

April 28, 2009

State Water Control Board approves clean water projects

On April 27, the State Water Control Board approved the final list of localities that will receive federal stimulus money from the ARRA through the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund for improving wastewater treatment plants and collection systems.

"These projects will get under way very quickly," Gov. Timothy M. Kaine said. "They will enable us to make significant improvements in water quality and to help localities with high unemployment rates put more people to work."

A total of \$76.9 million in grants is available from the federal government for these projects, going to 27 localities from across Virginia that will begin making the improvements by September 2009.

The projects include \$24.9 million for Lynchburg to continue its combined sewer overflow program, which will eliminate raw sewage overflows that enter the James River. Also included are 13 "green infrastructure" projects costing \$16 million that will make other environmental improvements, such as water reuse and alternative energy initiatives.

The Department of Environmental Quality evaluated 294 requests, worth more than \$1.3 billion, before submitting a recommendation to the water board. Specific criteria were used in DEQ's analysis, including anticipated environmental benefits, financial hardship and ability to begin the projects in the near future. A locality's unemployment rate also was a consideration.

The complete list of localities receiving federal stimulus money is available on the DEQ Web site at: www.deq.state.va.us