

## JCUA ANNOUNCEMENT

Properly maintaining extensive wastewater treatment systems and water delivery systems has allowed the JCUA to avoid expensive consent decrees and to continue providing the lowest cost to County residents while maintaining an exemplary record of environmental compliance.

The JCUA is pleased to announce that on January 27, 2016, it concluded an over two year effort and sold \$30,440,000 of Utility Revenue Bonds, which is the first public debt ever issued by the Jackson County Utility Authority, and the first bond debt effort since a refinancing over 15 years ago by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Wastewater Authority which was transformed to the Jackson County Utility Authority.

The bonds have a final maturity date of 2040 which should be well within the useful life of the improvements.

The bonds will allow for the funding of several necessary improvements to the wastewater treatment plants, it will upgrade technology and will acquire the acquisition of a private utility. In addition, the bonds will also fund projects for the water and the retail enterprises of the Authority.

Standard & Poor's (the world's foremost provider of independent credit ratings, indices, risk evaluation, investment research and data) rated the Jackson County Utility Authority bonds as "A", one of the strongest rating categories of investment grade municipal bonds. They cited the JCUA's strong financial risk profile and its fully compliant treatment systems. Municipal bond insurance was also added to increase the security for investors which was very important in obtaining the higher bond rating, thus lowering the interest costs to the JCUA and its rate payers.

The JCUA's effort was also advantageous since the JCUA entered the market at nearly the historical low point of the last 40 years, and the true interest cost of the bonds will be 3.56%, significantly below the originally forecasted level of 4% to 4.25%. These lower interest costs will benefit Jackson County and its rate payers by reducing the debt burden and allowing the Authority to modernize its facilities, gain efficiencies in its operations, and increase its resilience to weather events.

The JCUA Directors and staff are pleased to have accomplished this effort for the betterment of Jackson County.