

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS FUNDS PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING FOR A NEW JCUA SEWER TREATMENT FACILITY

The Jackson County Utility Authority is pleased United States Senator Thad Cochran has announced the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 will provide \$3 million in funding to the Jackson County Utility Authority to support the design of a treated wastewater affluent plant for Jackson County. This initial funding assists the JCUA's plans to build a new water reclamation facility in East Jackson County that when completed will replace its existing Pascagoula, Moss Point and Escatawpa wastewater treatment plants.

This long term project will have great benefits for Jackson County, Pascagoula and Moss Point by consolidating the sewer treatment facilities in one location, providing a reliable source of industrial water for industries in East Jackson County, and reducing the dependency of industries on water drawn from the Pascagoula River for industrial purposes.

The initial funding will involve engineering for site selection and location, extensive environmental permitting and is a substantial investment in the engineering required for the new facility. The \$3 million funding, which requires a 25% match, is for conceptual engineering and planning.

Senator Cochran stated, "I am pleased the Army Corp will direct significant resources to Mississippi to improve the management and operations of wastewaters, levies and public works."

JCUA Executive Director Tommy Fairfield said:

"We are pleased with the confidence that Senator Cochran and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers have shown in the JCUA to include our request for funding. This will assist the JCUA in preliminary construction plans for a new facility and we have been working diligently with the Corp of Engineers on this project. We have requested cooperation from our local governing authorities on this project, including the County and the municipalities which the JCUA serves.

This is a long term project that will benefit our citizens and industries while reducing the dependency of our industries on water from the Pascagoula River. When completed it will provide long term wastewater treatment while at the same time protecting our natural resources while aiding our citizens and industries. We ask for cooperation from our cities and county as we move forward to see this project completed.

We look forward to working with newly elected Mayor Dane Maxwell of Pascagoula, who has already been engaged with Mississippi's Legislative Delegation to assist the JCUA on this project and with the City Councils of Pascagoula and Moss Point to move this project forward."