

PRESS RELEASE

JCUA FORMALLY COMPLETES KATRINA PROJECTS

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality recently received and accepted grant closeout documents for the Jackson County Utility Authority Gulf Region Disaster Recovery Community Block Grant Program.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina the Jackson County Utility Authority (formerly the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Wastewater Authority) received \$96,503,137.09 in grant funds to complete the projects assigned them by the Mississippi Development Authority and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality under the Department of Housing and Urban Development Programs.

Executive Director Gary Rikard congratulated the JCUA on their successful completion of these Disaster Recovery Projects that will provide needed water and wastewater facilities to Jackson County's existing customers and accommodate growth in our service area. He was joined in these congratulations by Project Manager Mark Smith of the MDEQ.

The citizens of Jackson County and its four municipalities will be tremendous beneficiaries of these grant funds which do not have to be repaid and which did not require matching amounts.

"The JCUA and its present and past Board members, along with its staff, thank the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and all others who participated in providing these funds to Jackson County to repair, expand and extend much needed infrastructure for our citizens. These projects were necessary and needed, and without these grants the entire cost would have to be paid by our citizens who are our rate payers. We are grateful to all of our public officials from Gov. Haley Barbour in 2007 through Gov. Bryant and the staff at the MDEQ today for their continuous interest and service in providing these grants to us."

"The JCUA completed these projects at or under the initial budget costs, and we give additional thanks to Gouras & Associates, our grant administrator, and the many engineers and vendors who worked with us to complete these projects," said Tommy Fairfield, Executive Director of the JCUA.