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News Release

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Trump Administration Invests More Than \$10.6 Million to Modernize Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in Rural Florida

Funding will Improve Rural Water Infrastructure for Over 6,700 Rural Floridians

GAINESVILLE, Aug. 3, 2020 – <u>The Trump Administration today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$462 million to modernize critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure across rural America.</u>

"Increasing the availability of safe drinking water and modern wastewater management facilities is vital for driving economic development and ensuring a positive quality of life for our rural communities," Florida/USVI Rural Development State Director Phil Leary said. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, Rural Development is able to provide much needed assistance to our rural areas, because we know that when rural America thrives, all of America thrives."

Background:

USDA is funding 161 projects through the <u>Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program</u>. These investments will benefit 467,000 residents. The following is an example of a project being funded in Florida under today's announcement:

• Charlotte Harbor Water Association will use a \$6.1 million loan and a \$4.5 million grant to make improvements and increase capacity to its water treatment facility. These improvements will provide quality drinking water and increase fire flow to the citizens served by the system. The project will rehabilitate and expand the treatment plant.

The investments that USDA announced today are being made in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

To learn more about investment resources for rural areas, interested parties should contact their <u>USDA Rural Development state office</u>.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

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