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CITY OF ATHENS APPROVED FOR \$2 MILLION LOAN FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Gov. Bill Lee and TDEC Commissioner David Salyers Announce Athens as 1 of 4 Cities Approved

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – November 10, 2021 – Today, Gov. Bill Lee and Commissioner David Salyers of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) announced a \$2 million loan for the City of Athens to improve water infrastructure. The City of Athens loan comes from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program. The loan will address improvements to the wastewater collection system and has a 20-year term at 0.57 percent interest.

The loan will fund a replacement of the existing pump station on Cedar Springs Road, one pump and instrumentation at the Sterling Road pump station, and installation of over 6,000 feet of new 14-inch diameter force main to the Oostanaula wastewater treatment plant by the Athens Utilities Board (AUB). The entire scope of the project cost is expected to be \$2.6mm and the loan will be repaid on a twenty-year term.

“This funding is a great opportunity for AUB to maintain low rates for customers while providing much needed upgrades to the wastewater infrastructure for our growing community,” says C. Seth Sumner, Athens City Manager. “The City of Athens is pleased to be able to provide the pathway for the funding of these projects as we work hand-in-hand with AUB.”

The \$630,000 cost over the loan amount is being paid through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The project and funding have been in the works by AUB since September of 2020. The improvements are likely to take place over the next year, pending availability of supplies.

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Manager at (423) 744-2700 Option 9.