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Georgia—Rural Utilities Service

Regional Collaboration

Twiggs County to Improve Water System

Outline of Need

Twiggs County, population 10,590, is considered as a most distressed county by the State of Georgia. The current water system is in fair condition, at best. The Kaolin Heights Subdivision is under an EPD Consent Order.

The water mains continually leaked and needed replacing. Residents in the Black Bottom area are served by a hydro-pneumatic tank and deep well; fire protection is limited to the capacity of the well. The small diameter mains (2" or less) provide no fire protection.

Residents in Kaolin Heights are provided with potable water only. The well is not adequate and it has no chemical feed building. Improvements to the Dry Branch and Soda Roads Area are also needed.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development obligated a loan of \$1,225,600 for new wells, tanks and water lines in the populated area of the county. Interest only payments will be due for the first two years after closing, with monthly payments to follow.

The county qualifies for the poverty rate based on their MHI (\$31,608) and the fact the water system is currently under EPD Consent Order, which will be removed with the planned improvements. The applicant is contributing \$485,000 and the State of Georgia is providing \$500,000 through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Fast Facts

Program: Rural Utilities Service Water System Improvement

Congressional District: GA-8th

Impact:

- Remove contaminants to ground water
- Increase fire protection and pressure
- Provide service to new areas.



The Results

When the project is complete, the County will eliminate hazards associated with septic tanks and individual wells, will provide safe and reliable drinking water and will provide adequate fire protection. The new system will also provide adequate capacity for future extensions in the service area.

Photos: Top, Roosevelt McWilliams, Twiggs County Extension Coordinator, planting a dogwood tree on site for Earth Day 2011. Below, Ft. Valley Area Director Nigel Parish visits with Mary Alice Applegate of Georgia's Department of Community Affairs.

