

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 08, 2008

Contact: Delacey Skinner
Phone: (804) 225-4806
Cell Phone: (804) 380-3487
Internet: www.governor.virginia.gov

Hollie S. Cammarasana/DHCD
(804) 371-7006
(804) 382-2075
www.dhcd.virginia.gov

**GOVERNOR KAINE ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$1.5 MILLION IN
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS**

*~ Funding from the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program to target
Virginia's non-Chesapeake Bay watersheds ~*

RICHMOND— Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced grants totaling \$1,440,261 to projects throughout Virginia to improve water quality and benefit community development efforts. The grants are funded through the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program (SRWEP), administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

“These projects bring us closer toward our goal of ensuring access to clean and safe water sources for all Virginians,” Governor Kaine said. “Through the Southern Rivers program, approximately \$17 million has been allocated to bring water quality improvements throughout the Commonwealth.”

These awards, the last allocation of funds through the Southern Rivers Watershed Program, will fund projects in the counties of Charlotte, Lee and Tazwell, the City of Roanoke, and the Town of Appalachia. The Town of Vinton will also receive a planning grant for future projects.

The five funded projects are expected to connect more than 200 homes to public wastewater systems, install more than 33,000 linear feet of sewer line, expand or construct wastewater treatment facilities, and reduce the amount of sewage flowing into several waterways, all of which have been deemed impaired by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

“These funds will bring significant water quality improvements to the residents of these localities,” said DHCD Director Bill Shelton. “Access to clean and safe water will alleviate many severe health issues that are caused by failing, deficient wastewater systems and straight-piping of household waste.”

The SRWEP is administered in accordance with guidelines and procedures developed with the Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality, Health, and Conservation and Recreation. The program is designed to improve the water quality of Virginia's non-Chesapeake Bay watersheds, and is funded through Virginia's Water Quality Improvement Fund

Details of the grant award projects and amounts are listed below:

Wastewater Treatment System Construction Grants			
Project Title	Locality	Funding Sources	Funds Total
Upper Exeter Watershed Project	Appalachia, Town of	SRWEP Local TOTAL	\$613,701 200,000 \$813,701
Project Description: The county will provide public wastewater service to 125 households that are currently using individual septic systems, many of which are failing and are discharging grey water into Pigeon Creek. As a result of this project, 9,500 linear feet of four-inch sewer line will be installed and a wastewater collection and treatment system with re-circulating media filter and ultraviolet disinfection will be constructed.			
Charlotte Court House Emergency Sewer Project	Charlotte, County of	SRWEP CDBG Tobacco Comm. Local TOTAL	\$200,000 500,000 820,905 46,245 \$1,567,150
Project Description: The county will remediate an urgent health hazard through the construction of a force main and pump station that will carry sewage to a treatment facility instead of relying on existing drainfields. Presently, one drainfield has failed and another drainfield failure is imminent, and sewage must now be pumped and hauled until a permanent solution is in place. The temporary disposal method is very costly and cannot be sustained. This project will provide a lasting, safe solution for current drainfield users, including the public schools, jail, municipal buildings, and several commercial operations. Through this project, 1,000 linear feet of eight-inch gravity sewer, 2 manholes, one pump station, and 23,000 linear feet of six-inch force main will be installed.			
Ewing Decentralized Wastewater Project	Lee, County of	SRWEP Canaan Valley Institute Local TOTAL	\$353,620 25,000 12,500 \$391,120
Project Description: The Ewing community has approximately 23 homes that directly discharge household waste into Indian Creek. To alleviate this severe health hazard, a decentralized wastewater treatment system will be installed, providing a safe and reliable disposal system for the community. As a result of this project, a Septic Tank Effluent Pump system and AdvanTex AX100 Treatment system will be installed.			
Fairhope Road Sewer Extension Project	Roanoke, City of	SRWEP TOTAL	\$172,940 \$172,940
Project Description: The city, as part of a larger community project, will connect households that currently rely on aging and failing onsite septic systems that are typically 50-60 years old. The system will transport the wastewater flow to the Regional Water Pollution Control Plant, preventing the untreated wastewater from entering the Roanoke River. Following completion of the project, 29 homes will be connected to a safe and reliable public sewer system.			
Route 102/Falls Mills Road Water and Sewer Project	Tazewell, County of	SRWEP TOTAL	\$100,000 \$100,000
Project Description: As part of a larger effort, the County will extend public water and sewer to a community where residents rely on individual private water systems which are generally poor in quality and do not provide an adequate quantity to meet their daily needs. Additionally, due to the lack of adequate wastewater systems, many homes are straight-piping raw sewage into the Bluestone River. Once all communities are connected, a total of 14 homes will use the public sewer system and 16 use the public water system.			