



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 28, 2008

Contact: **Pam Hutchinson**
VP of Public Affairs
(225) 923-0020
hutchinson@lpfa.com

LPFA helps provide better drinking water to the Town of Vivian Zero-interest loan helps community with extensive water improvements

BATON ROUGE — The Town of Vivian is making extensive improvements to its water system that will bring better drinking water and a newly painted water tower to the area residents, due in part to a zero percent interest loan provided by the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority.

The Town borrowed \$3.44 million that will finance the replacing and re-laying of new water pipes and water lines, which will allow better drinking water to run more efficiently throughout the community. The project also involves repainting the inside and outside of the Town's water tower.

"This is a town-wide project that will help over 4,000 people," said Vivian Town Clerk Diann House. "These improvements will make cleaner drinking water more accessible to the community, and the repainting of the town's water tower will give the tower a more modern look."

First National Bankers Bank provided the bulk of the financing, while the LPFA provided \$516,000—20 percent of the total—at zero percent interest, as interim financing for the project.

The loan was provided under the LPFA's Rural Development Zero Interest Loan Program, which provides local governments with interim financing for capital and infrastructure projects until permanent financing is received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Through the program, governmental entities work with local banks to obtain the most favorable loan rates before going to the LPFA for further help in lowering rates. The LPFA typically provides up to 20 percent of the total borrowing, which creates substantial cost savings for borrowers.

“This is an excellent example of how our Rural Development program can help communities like Vivian,” said Martin Walke, Vice President of Economic Development for the LPFA. “The LPFA is proud to help make improvements to this town’s water system which will benefit its residents.”

The Louisiana Public Facilities Authority is a self-supporting public trust and public corporation that issues both taxable and tax-exempt bonds to finance public and private projects throughout the state. The LPFA finances industrial and economic development projects, provides low-cost funding for hospitals and hospital equipment, universities and other educational facilities, student loans and essential programs for state and local governmental units. The LPFA does not receive any funds from the state for its operations.

For more information about LPFA, call (800) 228-4755 or visit the LPFA Web site at www.lpfa.com.

-end-