



# Delta Regional Authority

## DRA Announces \$4.6 Million Investment into Louisiana Communities

September 17, 2020

*DRA's investment will improve basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, healthcare access, and job training to support economic development in communities across Louisiana.*

**CLARKSDALE, MS** – Today, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) announced a \$4,674,091 investment that will boost economic development and improve the quality of life for Louisiana communities and residents. The 19 new investment projects will improve water and sewer systems, update transportation infrastructure, support entrepreneurship, and better healthcare access in communities across Louisiana. The investment will be matched by \$2.7 million and is projected to create or retain 690 jobs, train 602 individuals, and affect over 15,000 families.

“The Delta Regional Authority’s \$4.6 million investment into 19 critical projects will strengthen economic success in Louisiana by improving vital infrastructure and creating opportunities to foster workforce development,” said **DRA Federal Co-Chairman Chris Caldwell**. “These investments highlight the importance of local and regional public-private partnerships in realizing the long-term success of infrastructure, business, and workforce projects to spur job growth and ultimately improve business competitiveness in the region. I would like to thank Governor Edwards, Senator Cassidy, Senator Kennedy, and the entire Louisiana Congressional delegation for their continued support and commitment to the Delta Regional Authority and our work to create jobs, build communities, and improve the lives of those residing in our region.”

Funding for these projects is provided by the **States’ Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)**, which provides direct investment into community-based and regional projects to support basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, workforce training and education, and small businesses development with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, and the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF), which targets physical infrastructure projects that help build safer, more resilient communities in the Delta region. DRA coordinates directly with the Office of the Governor for the State of Louisiana and seven local development districts in the state for program funding implementation.

### Louisiana: 2020 Investment Snapshot

Number of Projects	DRA Investment	Total Project Investment	Jobs Created	Jobs Retained	Individuals Trained	Families Affected
19	\$4,674,091	\$7,451,921	102	588	602	15,072

“As we recover from Hurricane Laura and continue to fight COVID-19, it’s important to focus on Louisiana’s resilient future,” said **Governor John Bel Edwards (D-LA)**. “The DRA’s funding flexibility to match federal

and state funds allows our rural communities the ability to access federal dollars that otherwise would be unobtainable. These investments from the DRA will provide much needed and timely assistance for healthcare, water and sewer improvements, drainage and workforce training to meet the vital needs of Louisiana's distressed communities. I want to thank DRA Co-Chairman Chris Caldwell and our congressional delegation for their assistance in securing this funding for these essential projects."

"These federal funds invest in clean drinking water in small towns and in workforce development. Both are important for Louisiana to have a successful future," said **Dr. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)**.

"Louisianians are still working to recover from Hurricane Laura, and this \$4.6 million will contribute to critical infrastructure, health services, and workforce training. These investments will support nearly 700 jobs, helping job creators in Monroe, West Monroe, Gramercy, Napoleonville, and around the state. I'm thankful the Delta Regional Authority heard me out and is delivering key resources to Louisiana's communities," said **U.S. Senator John Kennedy (R-LA)**.

The following projects were funded by SEDAP:

**18. Town of Washington Gas Line Replacement | Washington, LA:** The Town of Washington will use DRA funds to replace the Town's natural gas line which crosses Bayou Courtableau.

**DRA Investment: \$135,300**

**Total Investment: \$135,300**