

## Another Grant Awarded to Expand Water Service in Perry County

The Perry County Commission in conjunction with the Perry County Water Authority has received yet another grant. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) announced a \$350,000.00 grant to expand water service.

The project will extend public water services south of Marion, Alabama in unincorporated Perry County. The project area includes 145 beneficiaries of which 93% or 135 are low

to moderate income persons. This area is located on State Highway 5 between the Healing Springs Church and County

Road 38. It also includes Smith Road and Preacher Bell Road. Residents in this area rely on old shallow private wells that

are failing and causing public health concerns and other problems. Recent drinking water samples taken by the Perry

County Health Department show the presence of bacteria. During rain events these residents are without potable water for

extended periods of time and during droughts their wells go dry. There is an existing 6-inch water line along a densely

populated stretch of Preacher Bell Road, but there are not any fire hydrants. Customers in the area frequently request fire

protection in this area. This project will provide new water to 17 households and provide fire protection for 23 households.

These improvements will be operated and maintained by the Perry County Water Authority, who has committed \$48,200 of

matching funds.

Commissioner Albert Turner, Jr.(D1) the former Assistant Director of ADECA, said " Until every household that wants water receive it, our job is not finished. This grant brings the total grant and loan funds to the County to a record high of four Million (\$4,000,000,00) dollars this year. The next couple of months a lot of construction work will be going on to provide a basic service to citizens of Perry County. It is my goal along with the new majority to provide 100% coverage of water service over the entire County. I want to thank the Perry County Water Authority for its willingness to do the job it was appointed to do, work with us to provide water for our citizens."

The County hired Cara Stallman and her firm, Grants Management of Baldwin County to write the grant and Cedric Campbell of Goodwin Mills and Cawood as its engineer. This combination has secured over 6

million dollars in grant and low interest loans funding for the Commission this year. The funding has covered various projects from roads, bridges, storm shelters, water expansion, to the census.