



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – April 15, 2026

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** PHOTOS AVAILABLE AS JPG FILES **

Hebert Water System Receives DWRLF Loan to Improve Local Drinking Water

Hebert, La. – The Hebert Water System, which serves more than 1,000 customers in Caldwell and Richland parishes, is investing nearly \$4 million from the state's Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRLF) program into needed infrastructure improvements to improve water quality.

The rural water system recently received a DWRLF loan for \$3,985,715 to construct two new pump stations, two new ground storage tanks, and a new 150,000-gallon elevated storage tank, as well as to paint and restore the exterior of an existing elevated storage tank.

"This much-needed project is allowing us to replace old infrastructure and install new infrastructure, creating greater capacity for our water system and giving our customers more reliable, quality drinking water," said Hebert Water System Manager Randy Mills.

Mills said construction is underway on the new pump stations and ground storage tanks. One pump station and ground storage tank will be located next to the system office building, at 6252 Highway 561, in Caldwell Parish, while the second pump station and ground storage tank will be built in Richland Parish, at 2550 Highway 576. Mills said that the elevated storage tank next to the system office has been repainted, while testing is underway for the location of a new water tower.

"We are currently looking at buying land north of Hebert to locate the new water tower. Customers who live north of Hebert currently experience low pressure, but our improved facilities and the new elevated tank will allow us to improve water pressure to these customers and be available to more residents living in this area," Mills said.

Hebert Water System Board President Gary LaMartinere thanked the state for the BIL-GS (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law General Supplemental) funding, which is both low-interest and partially forgivable to eligible water systems. The program makes 49% of the principal loan forgivable, meaning that \$1,953,000 of the Hebert Water System loan does not have to be repaid; while the remaining 51% is paid back with low interest.

“This program allows our system to make these needed improvements without creating a financial hardship on our customers,” LaMartinere said.

The state’s DWRLF program assists public water systems in financing needed drinking water infrastructure improvements. The DWRLF provides low-interest loans for construction of eligible water system projects, such as treatment plants, distribution main replacements, and storage facilities. The program is administered by the Louisiana Department of Health's Office of Public Health (LDH-OPH) and operates under state law.

“The DWRLF program aims to improve drinking water quality by assisting systems in providing water that meets established standards and achieves the goals of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996,” said LDH’s Office of Public Health Deputy Chief Engineer of Infrastructure and Finance Scott Templet, P.E. “Safe drinking water is fundamental to community health.”

“This program helps communities throughout Louisiana keep their water as safe as possible without placing an undue burden in the form of expensive financing,” Templet said, noting that the DWRLF program is funded through federal capitalization grants matched with state monies, ensuring that the funds are used to support public health and safe drinking water delivery in Louisiana.

Photos Available as JPG Files –

#9174 – The Hebert Water System is constructing new pump stations and ground storage tanks thanks to a loan from the state’s Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRLF) program. The new systems will improve the quality of drinking water service for its customers in Caldwell and Richland parishes.

#9176 – The Hebert Water System recently repainted and restored the exterior of its elevated storage tank that is located near the system office on Highway 576 thanks to a loan from the state’s Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRLF) program.

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