For Immediate Release June 6, 2003 Contact: Shannon McMullan 601-359-3227

Governor Musgrove Announces Grants to Mississippi Communities

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today announced various grants made possible through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

"The investments we make in our environment are a major part of our economic growth as a state," Musgrove said. "These funds will enable communities in Prentiss County, as well as across the state, to have healthier and cleaner communities."

Musgrove announced the following Local Government Solid Waste Assistance Fund grants today:

- In Benton County, a \$8,300 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction;
- In Choctaw County, a \$9,300 grant for employment assistance of a local solid waste enforcement officer;
- In Clay County, a \$9,200 grant for a white goods/disposal program and for employment assistance for a local solid waste enforcement officer;
- In Forrest County, a \$13,700 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction;
- In George County, a \$11,500 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction;
- In Lamar County, a \$14,800 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction;
- In Lee County, a \$15,700 grant for assistance with continued employment of a local solid waste enforcement officer;
- In Montgomery County, a \$8,000 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction;
- In Oktibbeha County, a \$12,600 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites and for employment assistance for a local solid waste enforcement officer;

- In Panola County, a \$15,200 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites and for employment assistance for a local solid waste enforcement officer;
- In Prentiss County, a \$11,400 grant to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction for education and public notification regarding local solid waste management issues as well as for employment assistance for a local solid waste enforcement officer;
- In Quitman County, a \$8,900 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction;
- In Stone County, a \$9,200 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction;
- In Tippah County, a \$11,300 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction;
- In Union County, a \$11,700 grant for assistance to clean up unauthorized dump sites within its jurisdiction; and
- In Washington County, a \$12,100 grant for a local solid waste assistance program.

Cities and counties throughout Mississippi can compete for Solid Waste Assistance Grants through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. These grants may be utilized by local communities for programs to prevent and clean up unauthorized dumps; to aid in hiring local solid waste enforcement officers; for public education efforts on solid waste disposal and recycling; and to establish collection programs for the collection of white goods, bulky wastes and recyclables.

The competitive grant applications are accepted twice annually: On the <u>first</u> of April and October of <u>each</u> year. For more information and to receive a grant application, contact Luis Murillo or Denise Wilson, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 10385, Jackson, MS 39289 or (601) 961-5171.

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