



**For Immediate Release:**  
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### **Forest High School receives LDEQ funding for wastewater treatment upgrades**

**BATON ROUGE** – Forest High School in West Carroll Parish has its own wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), but it is in bad shape and needs a lot of work, expensive work. Thanks to a \$237,240 State Revolving Fund Loan from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the WWTP will be getting an overhaul.

As a result of a major component failure, the treatment plant is nearly unusable. It operates under a permit from LDEQ, but due to the deterioration of the WWTP, it is not meeting its permit discharge limits. The body of water to which it discharges is impaired and, without intervention, the plant – and most likely the school as well -- would have to close.

According to the loan application that the West Carroll Parish School Board submitted to LDEQ's Water Planning and Assessment Division, the funds will pay for a new 20,000 gallons per day (GPD) extended aeration plant with clarifier and tablet chlorine contact chamber. New fencing, site work and electrical upgrades will be part of the project as well.

“We never want to see a public school close because of an environmental concern,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. “This is just the kind of urgent need our State Revolving Fund Loan program is meant to meet.”

“We knew the water treatment plant had to be upgraded, and we were expecting it to be an extremely costly project. The process was well coordinated, and all of the agencies involved (McManus Engineers, LDEQ, Boles & Shafto) have been exceptionally helpful. It has been a blessing to Forest High School, our students and staff, and our school district,” West Carroll Parish Schools Interim Superintendent Christy Boyte said.

LDEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) eligible projects include construction or repair of publicly owned treatment works (POTW) as well as implementation of nonpoint source pollution control and estuary management programs. The CWSRF program provides financial assistance to any political subdivision, public trust, agency or commission of the state in the form of below market interest loans.