

**GCA AWARDED \$150,000 GRANT TO FUND REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER REUSE STUDY FOR MONT BELVIEU AREA**

HOUSTON, Sept. 21, 2015—The Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority (GCA) has been awarded a \$150,000 planning grant from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to fund a study to evaluate the feasibility for GCA to site a regional industrial wastewater treatment and water reuse facility in the Mont Belvieu, Texas, area.

Half of the \$150,000 grant will come from matching funds provided by GCA, the City of Mont Belvieu and a consortium of petrochemical companies: ExxonMobil, Targa Downstream, Enterprise Products and Oneok Hydrocarbons. The grant application was filed in response to a November 2014 request for proposals from the TWDB to alleviate anticipated water supply shortfalls due to recent drought conditions and economic and industrial growth in the area driven by energy development.

GCA has been providing regional wastewater treatment solutions to the State of Texas for more than 45 years and has extensive experience in the co-mingling of industrial and municipal wastewater streams for treatment. Businesses in the industrial consortium are experiencing tremendous growth in the area and will require additional sources of industrial water for use in their processes. This additional demand will further stress the region's water resources, which can limit the expansion of communities that ultimately will provide workers for these same industries.

The water reuse component of the feasibility study will evaluate and define the practicality and benefits of treated wastewater reuse as a viable water supply alternative, both locally and regionally.

GCA's mission of protecting the waters of the state of Texas is tailored to advance this type of project.