

U.S. Adds \$85,276 to Fight Pollution Along South River

The federal government has chipped in an additional \$85,276 to help improve the Intramural Creek Sewage Treatment Plant and combat pollution of the South River, City Construction Department officials said Friday.

That raises to \$205,996 the total federal grant received by the city for enlarging the Intramural Creek facility, said M. B. Nixon, assistant construction chief.

A grant of \$120,720 was approved in July 1962 by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

"Due to our limited funds at the time," Nixon said, "this

was all we were eligible for."

After the joint city-county bond issue was approved last May, Nixon said the city was able to let a \$692,000 contract for work which is now under way.

"So we requested that the grant be increased \$85,276 on the basis of 30 per cent (in federal funds) of the cost of the work," Nixon said.

The Intramural Creek plant, located on Key Road, SE, in DeKalb County, serves a large part of Atlanta's southeast section. The facility was built in 1914 and enlarged in 1939.

When \$750,000 in bond funds were sought for the plant last

May, officials said growth of the contributing area and development of areas downstream had made it necessary to enlarge the plant and provide for a higher degree of treatment to eliminate nuisance conditions in the streams below the plant.

A \$2.9 million expansion project was launched in 1957 to enlarge the facility from a capacity of 14 million to 21 million gallons per day.

City Construction Chief Ray Nixon estimated the project would be completed "sometime next year."

"And when it is," he said, "it

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will clear up South River as far as the city's concerned."

A recent series of water pollution articles by state editor Bill Shipp in The Constitution spotlighted the South River pollution problem.

Shipp's series pointed out that below the Intrenchment Creek plant, South River is polluted daily with 25.5 million gallons of sewage while its normal natural flow at this point was estimated at only 31 million gallons.

An official of the State Health Department's Water Resources Services was quoted in the series as describing South River as presently "one grade above being an open sewer."