



a community development partner of United Bank

January 15, 2021

For Immediate Release

UB Community Development Announces \$10 Million in New Markets Tax Credit Funds to \$87 Million Coastal Growers Peanut Shelling Plant in Atmore

Atmore, AL - UB Community Development, LLC (UBCD), a community development partner of United Bank, announced today the placement of \$10 million of their New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) allocation into Coastal Growers. UBCD, jointly with Baker Tilly, assisted in sourcing an additional \$50 million in New Markets Tax Credit allocations from partner Community Development Entities including MuniStrategies, allocating \$5 million, Rural Development Partners \$15 million, Waveland \$15 million and National Impact Fund \$15 million. Additionally, United Bank applied for and received a \$40 million Business and Industry Loan Guarantee from USDA Rural Development to support the project financing.

Alex Jones, President of UB Community Development, stated “It is not often that you get to support a project that will have such extensive impact. UBCD and United Bank are honored that Coastal Growers and over 100 farm families trusted us to guide them through the process of sourcing and structuring a project of this scope. This was a team effort at the City, State and Federal levels to pull such a complex project together.”

The new 475,000-square-foot facility will source peanuts within a 200 mile radius from farms in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. The project will create 130 permanent jobs with training and career advancement opportunities in addition to 95 construction jobs. The project anticipates shelling 140,000 tons of peanuts annually, which will be sold domestically and internationally.

Coastal Growers currently works with 100 regional farms with over 200 employees and \$4.8 million in total wages. Upon completion they anticipate working with 130 regional farms supporting almost \$8 million of wages.

“Without the continuing support of Alex Jones and the team at UB Community Development, Coastal Growers would still merely be a dream,” said Brad Smith, President of Coastal Growers. “Their dedication to the project during times of uncertainty with COVID-19 and political upheaval show their commitment to customers and the community. Simply put, without UBCD, Coastal Growers would not exist nor would the jobs it has created and the ones it will create in the near future.”

Several significant environmental benefits are recognized through the vision of this project including decreased transportation emissions due to the proximity of the project to the growers and buying points. This results in 250,000 fewer gallons of fuel burned annually and sustainable farming practices used by growers results in a reduction of water use by 90,000 gallons annually.

A number of partnerships made this project possible. The City of Atmore, through its Industrial Development Board, has extended an abatement of non-educational ad-valorem taxes for 10 years, as well as an initial abatement on construction-related non-educational sales and use taxes on construction materials and equipment. The city also offered to purchase 15 acres of property and construct a rail spur

to service the facility as well as other projects in the area for a total cost of \$2.5 million. Finally, the city will also donate 60 acres of land for construction of the facility which saves the project \$240,000.

Additional support includes a new rail transload facility which will service several nearby businesses in addition to Coastal Growers, and the potential future expansion of a blancher at the project site. The project received a \$2,000,000 loan from the Alabama Farmers Association (ALFA) as well as \$937,000 of contributed value for workforce training from the AIDT (Alabama's Workforce Training Program). Coastal Growers also received \$8.2 million in Alabama Investment Tax Credits over a 10-year period.

For more information about UB Community Development, or for help planning your next funding project, contact Alex Jones, President, UB Community Development at 251.446.6017 or email Alex.Jones@unitedbank.com. For more information about United Bank, please contact Tonya Lambert, SVP, Chief Marketing and Public Relations Officer, at (251) 446-6004 or email Tonya.Lambert@unitedbank.com

###

About United Bank

United Bank is an \$890,000,000 financial institution that has enjoyed 117 years of continuous service to Atmore, Alabama and surrounding communities. United Bank has offices in Atmore, Brewton, East Brewton, Flomaton, Monroeville, Frisco City, Bay Minette, Foley, Lillian, Loxley, Magnolia Springs, Silverhill, Spanish Fort, Daphne, Summerdale and Semmes in Alabama. United Bank serves Santa Rosa County, Florida in Jay, Milton, and Pace. For more information about United Bank, please visit our website at www.UnitedBank.com. Member FDIC.

About UB Community Development

UB Community Development's strong history and experience in New Markets Tax Credit transactions, coupled with our passion for improving the communities around us, make UBCD Alabama's premier financial partner for economic and community development. Through our NMTC projects, Community Facilities Lending Program and Community Housing Capital Fund, UBCD is working with community development partners in the fields of healthcare, education, manufacturing, public works, affordable housing and more. For more information about UB Community Development, visit our website at www.UBCCommunityDevelopment.com.