



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

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WIFA Awards Planning and Design Grants

PHOENIX (May 2, 2013) – Residents of Queen Valley, a small rural community in Pinal County will have a new source of water soon.

The community's Domestic Water Improvement District received a grant from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona last month. The awarded funds will go toward the planning and design portion of a project to connect a new well to their water system, which serves approximately 1,500 people.

WIFA's planning and design grants are directed to communities with limited resources that need assistance in completing the planning and/or design phase of an infrastructure project. WIFA's Board of Directors recently approved \$165,000 in planning and design grants to seven water providers around the state.

Vail Water Company, another small water provider in southern Arizona, will complete an energy audit and pump efficiency study. Results of the energy audit will include low-cost process improvement recommendations and suggestions for operating more efficiently. Since Vail's project qualifies as "green," the 40% local match requirement was waived. A waiver for the match is provided as an incentive to encourage green projects such as green stormwater infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements, and other environmentally innovative activities.

The full list of grant awards is:

- Harrisburg Utility Company, Inc. - awarded \$12,000 to help with planning and design for replacement of a failing water storage tank.
- Brooke Water LLC - awarded \$34,500 to investigate water loss from their Moovalya Keys and Lakeside Water Systems.

- City of Benson - awarded \$35,000 to develop and design a SCADA system. SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems are computer systems that gather and analyze real time data and alert the water provider to water system status and potential problems, such as water leaks.
- Black Rock Water Treatment System - awarded \$34,200 to plan for needed water treatment plant improvements aimed at decreasing total trihalomethanes (TTHMs), a disinfection byproduct of the water treatment process.
- Tonto Village Water Company - awarded \$10,500 to have a preliminary engineering report completed to assist with making improvements to water lines and storage tanks.
- Queen Valley Domestic Water Improvement District - awarded \$4,650 to engineer and design a new well.
- Vail Water Company - awarded \$35,000 to complete an energy audit and pump efficiency study.

WIFA funds roughly \$450,000 per year in infrastructure planning and design projects. Funding comes from Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Revolving Funds, which WIFA manages for the state of Arizona. The purpose of WIFA's Planning and Design Grant Program is to help prepare water and wastewater facilities for future construction of capital improvements. The grant program is designed to complement WIFA's low-interest loan program.

"These grant funds help move a community through the planning and design phase toward construction. When a community is ready for construction, WIFA has affordable financing available," said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton. Grants up to \$35,000 are awarded twice a year, while WIFA's low-interest financing is available year-round and in any amount.

WIFA is a state agency dedicated to protecting public health and promoting environmental quality through funding and technical assistance programs. For more information, please visit WIFA's website at www.azwifa.gov.