



## NEWS RELEASE

### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

*Arizona's water and wastewater funding source*

1110 W. Washington St., Suite 290, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 | [azwifa.gov](http://azwifa.gov) | (602) 364-1310

**Date:** August 14, 2015

**Contact:** Susan Craig, Communications Director, (602) 364-1236

## WIFA Announces \$550,000 Loan Closing for City of Somerton

PHOENIX (August 14, 2015) – Soon, residents of the Orange Grove and Rancho Mesa Verde communities will have a more reliable water supply and a more sustainable water system. The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona announced today that it has closed a \$550,000 loan for the City of Somerton to acquire the water system of Orange Grove Water Company, a water utility located in an unincorporated area of Yuma County, east of Somerton's municipal water service area. With the acquisition, the City of Somerton will manage operations of the water system, improve existing facilities, and invest in new infrastructure to ensure safe drinking water for years to come.

“By providing funding for acquisitions like this one, WIFA is able to help ensure that drinking water utilities can meet the long-term needs of their customers,” said WIFA Board Chairman Henry Darwin, who is also Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

“Consolidation of water service operations makes sense and can be an effective management option for water providers,” said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton. “A larger customer base results in cost savings and increased revenues to maintain system infrastructure and ensure good water quality.”

In a separate project that will be completed in 2016, Somerton will use \$1.86 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Colonia funds to construct a pipeline to connect the Orange Grove residents and to install a new storage tank, booster station, generator and fire hydrants in the Orange Grove and Rancho Mesa Verde communities.

WIFA is a state agency dedicated to protecting public health and promoting environmental quality through financial assistance for water and wastewater infrastructure. WIFA offers funding for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects designed to ensure safe, reliable drinking water and proper wastewater treatment. Over the last 25 years, WIFA has invested over \$2 billion in Arizona's communities.

For more information on WIFA's programs, please visit [www.azwifa.gov](http://www.azwifa.gov).

###