



## NEWS RELEASE

### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

*Arizona's water and wastewater funding source*

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## WIFA Announces \$1 Million Loan Closing for Town of Wickenburg

PHOENIX (August 31, 2016) – The Town of Wickenburg is taking steps necessary to prevent flooding and its devastating effects, as well as reduce stormwater pollution to the nearby Hassayampa River. The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) announced today that it has closed a \$1 million loan with the Town of Wickenburg for two projects that will address flooding and stormwater management issues that have caused one school to flood and destroyed roadway embankments and culverts in town.

One of the projects will address the repeated flooding at Wickenburg's Hassayampa Elementary School by rerouting stormwater flows around the school site into a constructed vegetated swale. The vegetated swale serves a dual purpose, preventing flooding and trapping pollutants that may otherwise make their way into the Hassayampa River.

To encourage stormwater management and green projects, WIFA can offer incentives, including forgivable principal for eligible project costs. In Wickenburg's case, WIFA was able to provide \$200,000 in forgivable principal to offset the cost of the loan.

"This project is a great example of how communities can address flooding and water quality issues at the same time," said WIFA's Environmental Program Supervisor, Melanie Ford.

Wickenburg will also use the loan to repair damage from last summer's flooding event, which caused storm flows to overtop the road and severely damage the headwalls, roadway embankments and culverts along Mariposa Road. To prevent erosion and sediment transport to the nearby washes, Wickenburg will rebuild and enhance two roadway crossings.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director and Chairman of WIFA's Advisory Board, Misael Cabrera, said, "Funding these critical projects demonstrates the many benefits of leveraging EPA's capitalization grants to protect and improve surface water quality in Arizona's communities statewide, both large and small."

### **About WIFA**

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, please visit WIFA's website at [azwifa.gov](http://azwifa.gov).

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