



NEWS RELEASE

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Arizona's water and wastewater funding source

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WIFA Announces \$3 Million Loan Closing for City of Douglas

PHOENIX (June 12, 2017) – Soon, residents in the Bay Acres Colonia, a residential area northeast of the Douglas city limits, will have City sewer service. The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) announced today that it has closed a \$3 million loan for the City of Douglas to expand its wastewater treatment plant for extended sewer services to the Bay Acres Colonia.

Bay Acres Colonia has been using onsite wastewater treatment systems, septic tanks and cesspools, some of which are failing. These failing systems have created a public health risk and other environmental threats.

To make this vitally important \$17 million project a reality, WIFA provided funding to supplement grant funds from the North American Development Bank's Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), provided by EPA, and USDA Rural Development (USDA RD).

"This is a perfect example of collaboration between federal, state and local entities, coming together and leveraging resources to help a community in need," said Trish Incognito, WIFA Executive Director.

The cost of the wastewater treatment plant expansion is estimated at over \$9.5 million, of which nearly \$7.5 million will be funded by the BEIF grant and the remaining (plus overages) through WIFA's low-cost financing. USDA RD's Colonia grant of almost \$7 million will be used for the design and installation of a sanitary sewer collection system to decommission 345 existing septic tanks in the Bay Acres Colonia.

WIFA was able to offset project costs even further by approving \$500,000 in forgivable principal to support the City of Douglas and its residents.

"It's our mission to provide resources to communities with the greatest need. This is one of those projects that we are able to assist financially, as well as it being critically important to protect public health and the safety of the community," said Incognito.

Since 2005, WIFA has provided the City of Douglas with over \$10 million in loans for wastewater system improvements and more than \$1.5 million for its drinking water system.

About WIFA

WIFA is a governmental organization 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.

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