



## NEWS RELEASE

### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

*Arizona's water and wastewater funding source*

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## WIFA Announces \$912,000 Loan Closing for City of Somerton

PHOENIX (November 27, 2013) – The City of Somerton will soon be able to electronically read all of their customers water meters, eliminating potential read errors and increasing efficiency. The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona announced today that it has closed a \$912,000 loan with the City of Somerton to replace and equip 2,000 water meters with radio read transceivers.

Currently, the majority of Somerton's 3,000 water meters are read manually. The process includes a physical visit to each home, manual recording of the reading, and manual data entry. Nearly 25 percent of the utility's labor hours are consumed with the meter reading process. With the install of these new meters, Somerton will reduce reading errors, save staff time and improve customer service.

WIFA Board Chairman Henry Darwin, who is also Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, added that there are also public health benefits to installing automated meters. "Replacing traditional meter reading with automated meter reading technology reduces motor vehicle emissions, which improves air quality."

Over the last couple of years, Somerton has implemented multiple "green" projects and made huge improvements to their drinking water and wastewater systems. Recently financed with low-interest WIFA loans, Somerton installed solar panels to power their water and wastewater treatment facilities. In 2013, Somerton cut the utility's electric bills by more than 50% percent and is saving the community \$145,000 per year. Somerton has also worked to replace its first 1,000 water meters with automated meter reading technology and proved that these meters improve efficiency and costs. The newest loan will complete this project. Savings from these projects will ultimately benefit the rate payer, as well as the environment.

"The City of Somerton is a great customer to do business with," said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton. "We are happy to have the opportunity to partner with City of Somerton again on their water infrastructure improvements. The City's staff is responsive, dependable and well-managed, both technically and financially."

WIFA funds a wide variety of drinking water, wastewater and water reclamation projects. Green projects, or projects for sustainable construction efforts such as water efficiency, energy efficiency, green stormwater infrastructure or other environmentally innovative activities, are encouraged. WIFA also offers funding for projects like nonpoint source pollution control, watershed protection and restoration, and traditional stormwater management.

Through low-interest loans, subsidies and grants, WIFA is able to save its customers a significant amount of money. WIFA offers funding for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects designed to ensure safe, reliable drinking water and proper wastewater treatment. Since its inception in 1992, 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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