



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

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WIFA Announces 2012 Drinking Water Project of Year Award

PHOENIX (February 28, 2013) – The governing board of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) announced last week that the Mt. Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District was selected to receive the 2012 Drinking Water Project of the Year Award for their Middle Sabino 6 project.

Mt. Lemmon's \$1.2 million construction loan provided financing to replace a 1-inch water main with a 6-inch water main line to resolve water pressure problems. The community suffered major fire damage in the 2003 Aspen fire and subsequent flood events and lost 75% of its rate base. After putting FEMA funds to use in recovering from these catastrophes, the District persisted in making improvements to the system.

“Despite the natural disasters and loss of rate base, the District has demonstrated resilience and persistence in successfully completing its capital improvement projects and continuing to maintain a high quality of service to customers and excellent management of the water system,” said Sandy Sutton, WIFA Executive Director.

Michael Stanley, Mount Lemmon Water District Manager added, “Working with WIFA was an exceptional experience every step of the way. They demonstrated great compassion for our difficult situation after the Aspen Fire and supported our efforts to restore and improve the newly evolving community. Every improvement that has been made since the fire was only possible with WIFA's funding.”

This project was selected for award based on the excellent system and project management demonstrated by the DWID staff. The award will be presented at the annual Home Owners Association dinner on April 16th.

Awards are presented in recognition of exemplary project management and commitment to public health protection through the improvement of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. The Clean Water Project of Year award went to the City of Casa Grande for their water reclamation facility expansion.

WIFA maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. For more information, please visit WIFA's website at www.azwifa.gov.