



NEWS RELEASE

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Arizona's water and wastewater funding source

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WIFA Announces \$3 Million Loan Closing for Pinewood Sanitary District

PHOENIX (July 22, 2013) – The Pinewood Sanitary District will soon extend sewer service to unsewered areas of Munds Park. The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona announced today that they have closed a \$3 million loan with the Pinewood Sanitary District to connect the unsewered areas of the east and west commercial areas, North Lodge Subdivision, and Northern-Aire Subdivision of Munds Park to the Blackman Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Pinewood Sanitary District has plans to eventually service all areas of Munds Park not already serviced by centralized sewer. The \$3 million WIFA loan gets the District one step closer to making their plan a reality.

Experts agree that sewerage of the area will provide watershed protection and water quality improvements to Oak Creek, which is impaired due to exceedances of Escherichia coliform (E.coli). The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) completed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in 2010 for Oak Creek and identified septic systems in the watershed as one of the potential sources of contamination to the creek.

Connecting homes and businesses currently served by septic systems in Munds Park will further the implementation of the TMDL and protect Oak Creek," said WIFA Board Chairman Henry Darwin, who is also Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

"This project is a good demonstration of how WIFA's programs work to address water quality problems identified by our regulatory sister agency, ADEQ. Our agencies share similar missions - protect public health and the environment, however, we have different mechanisms to achieve them," said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton.

In the case of this project, both agencies are looking to protect Oak Creek. ADEQ identified the source of pollution to the creek (septic systems), and WIFA is providing funds to connect homes and businesses to centralized sewer to help resolve the water quality issues.

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.

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