



NEWS RELEASE

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Arizona's water and wastewater funding source

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WIFA Announces \$5 Million Loan Closing for Town of Oro Valley

PHOENIX (January 31, 2014) – The Town of Oro Valley will soon deploy advanced water metering infrastructure, designed to improve utility operations and customer service. The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona announced today that it has closed a \$5 million loan with the Town of Oro Valley to replace approximately 14,000 water meters that will be equipped with smartpoints to transmit readings directly to the utility's offices.

Advanced metering infrastructure is a system that measures, collects, and analyzes water, gas, and energy usage, and communicates with metering devices such as electricity meters, gas meters, heat meters, and water meters. In 2011, Oro Valley began its advanced water metering infrastructure and meter replacement program that included installation of electronic water meters that measure water flow, allow meters to be read from the water utility office, and detect leaks. Oro Valley's remaining 14,000 water meters will be replaced utilizing low-interest financing through WIFA.

With the installation of these new meters, Oro Valley will further conservation efforts, reduce vehicle use, improve field personnel safety, and eliminate labor-intensive manual meter reading, allowing staff to focus on preventative maintenance work. 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 deploying advanced metering infrastructure. "Replacing traditional meter reading with this type of advanced technology reduces motor vehicle emissions, which improves air quality."

Projects like this one that replace old and inaccurate water meters with advanced metering infrastructure are considered "green." "Green approaches to managing our state's drinking water help to conserve resources and make our communities more sustainable," said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton.

"Oro Valley is very appreciative of WIFA and the ability to acquire low interest loans for water projects that benefit the Town," added Philip Saletta, director of the Oro Valley Water Utility. "WIFA does a great job financing water and wastewater projects that provide local, regional and statewide benefits."

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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