



NEWS RELEASE

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Arizona's water and wastewater funding source

1110 W. Washington St., Suite 290, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 | azwifa.gov | (602) 364-1310

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Contact: Susan Craig, Communications Director, (602) 364-1236

WIFA Awards Water Infrastructure Projects of the Year

PHOENIX (March 6, 2016) – The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) announced today that the Apache Junction Water Utilities Community Facilities District and the Town of Springerville were selected to receive WIFA's Project of the Year awards. WIFA's Project of the Year 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 2016 Drinking Water Project of the Year was the Apache Junction Water Utilities Community Facilities District's Superstition Area Water Plant, a \$9 million state-of-the-art water treatment facility. The City of Apache Junction worked with policy makers and stakeholders for over a decade to form the Apache Junction Water Utilities Community Facilities District and begin the planning process that led up to the construction of this plant.

With the completion of this project, the District designed and built a 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd) water treatment facility and is able to more fully utilize their primary source of water, the Central Arizona Project. As a result, they were able to reduce their reliance on groundwater supplies and the cost of water deliveries. When the District started providing water service to its customers, over 90 percent of its supply came from groundwater. Today, over 90 percent of the District's supply comes from surface water.

The District's employees and consultants demonstrated exemplary teamwork and organization in the construction of the facility. In recognition of their commitment to protecting public health through the investment in a state-of-the-art water treatment facility, the award was presented at the WIFA Advisory Board meeting on February 15th and the Apache Junction Water Board meeting on February 21st.



Award presentation at WIFA Advisory Board meeting 2-15-2017



Award presentation at Apache Junction Water Board meeting 2-21-2017

WIFA's Clean Water Project of the Year award went to the Town of Springerville for their Sewer Rehabilitation Project. The \$696,000 construction project allowed Springerville to replace a lift station, rehabilitate wastewater collection lines, and repair two backup generators. Overall functioning and cost-effectiveness of the sewer system has improved as a result of the project. According to the Town's Public Works Director, Tim Rasmussen, customer sewer problem complaints have dropped by 85 percent.

"The Town's Public Works Director, Tim Rasmussen, is to be commended on his management of the project," said Andrew Smith, WIFA Project Manager. "Mr. Rasmussen communicated project updates to WIFA staff at regular intervals and ensured that the project was in compliance with loan terms."

In addition to excellent project management, the project was selected based on advances made to ensure system reliability and commitment to protecting public health through investments in water infrastructure. The award presentation took place last Wednesday night at the Town Council meeting.



Andrew Smith, WIFA Project Manager, presenting award at Town Council meeting 3-1-17



Award presentation at Town Council meeting 3-1-2017

About WIFA

WIFA is a state agency 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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