



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: Sandy Sutton, Executive Director, (602) 364-1310

WIFA Awards Water Infrastructure Projects of the Year

PHOENIX (February 26, 2014) – The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) announced today that the Town of Clarkdale was selected to receive both of WIFA's Project of the Year awards. This is the first time in WIFA's history that both the Clean Water (for wastewater infrastructure) and Drinking Water Project of the Year awards went to the same entity. A special awards presentation will take place at the Town of Clarkdale Council Meeting on March 25th.

The 2013 Clean Water Project of the Year was for Clarkdale's Broadway Reclamation Facility, a \$5.5 million infrastructure project to replace an outdated lagoon treatment system with a recycled and refurbished mechanical wastewater treatment facility. After it was determined that their original plans to construct a new plant were cost-prohibitive, Clarkdale officials decided to purchase and refurbish a decommissioned wastewater treatment plant from a subdivision in Surprise.

"What an incredibly innovative and sustainable solution to improve water infrastructure and protect water quality," said WIFA Board Chairman Henry Darwin, who is also Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. "Clarkdale staff really thought outside the box on this one and deserve this award."

The outdated lagoon system posed significant water quality threats to the adjacent Verde River, designated by Congress as a Wild and Scenic River. The new wastewater treatment plant is enclosed and eliminates any potential discharge to the Verde River. The project was selected based on the significant improvements made to protect water quality, the highly innovative practices employed and excellent project management.

The 2013 Drinking Water Project of the Year award was for Clarkdale's Twin 5s Water Main Replacement project. Clarkdale borrowed \$1.6 million from WIFA, which included \$800,000 in forgivable principal, to replace and relocate two above-ground 5-inch steel water mains.

The 90-year old exposed water mains were vulnerable to natural disasters and introduction of chemical or biological agents. By implementing these improvements, the Town of Clarkdale has eliminated the security risk and resolved operation and maintenance issues. The project was selected for the award based on Clarkdale's exceptional dedication to the project and the significant improvements made to protect public health.

"Because of WIFA's low interest rates and the forgivable principal awarded to Clarkdale, they were able to implement this project in a cost effective manner to benefit their residents," said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton. "WIFA has saved Arizona's communities millions of dollars over the terms of their loans and these savings benefit the utility ratepayers."

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. 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.

For more information, please visit WIFA's website at azwifa.gov.

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