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ADEQ Director Owens Announces Scottsdale Is First City to Join Arizona Performance Track Program

PHOENIX – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Steve Owens today announced that the City of Scottsdale has joined the Arizona Performance Track program, a voluntary partnership between ADEQ, businesses and other regulated entities that recognizes and rewards environmental leadership for going above and beyond the minimum requirements of the law.

Scottsdale is being recognized for committing to add 1,200 acres of land and habitat to the McDowell-Sonoran Preserve, an increase of more than 10 percent to the 11,000 acres the city has previously purchased or preserved, and for reducing non-transportation energy use by installing more efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment.

Scottsdale also committed to use biodiesel in the city's fleet of diesel vehicles, which will help reduce particulate matter air pollution; to replenish the underground aquifer with treated effluent; and to construct future buildings to conform to the energy-efficient Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standard.

“We are delighted to have Scottsdale join our Arizona Performance Track Program,” Owens said. “Scottsdale deserves recognition for its commitment to the environment.”

The Arizona Performance Track is modeled after a national EPA program. Benefits of participating in the Arizona Performance Track include reduced inspection frequency, flexibility of permit conditions and consolidation of reporting requirements. In order to be eligible for the program, a regulated entity must demonstrate a history of compliance, a comprehensive environmental management system and a pollution prevention program in addition to performing two past and four future projects with quantifiable environmental benefits.

Scottsdale is the first municipality to join the Arizona Performance Track and is also the only municipality that is a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Performance Track.

“Scottsdale is a real leader in environmental protection,” Owens added. “We look forward to other Arizona communities joining the Arizona Performance Track Program in the future.”

More information about Arizona Performance Track is available on ADEQ's Web site at <http://www.azdeq.gov/function/about/track.html>.