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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications (602) 771-2215

ADEQ Now Accepting Applications for Water Quality Improvement Grants

PHOENIX (Oct. 29, 2007) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Steve Owens announced today that ADEQ is now accepting Water Quality Improvement Grant applications as the first step in a process to allocate \$1.8 million for projects to improve water quality throughout Arizona.

Each year, ADEQ allocates funding to public and private entities in Arizona through its Water Quality Improvement Grant Program to implement an "on-the-ground" project to improve and protect water quality in Arizona by addressing a nonpoint source of water pollution. Nonpoint source pollution is the nation's largest source of water quality problems and occurs when rainfall or runoff picks up pollutants and deposits them in rivers, lakes or other groundwater sources.

"The Water Quality Improvement Grants provide much-needed funding at the local level to implement creative approaches to protect and improve watersheds," Director Owens said. "These funds help us keep Arizona's precious water resources clean and safe."

The Water Quality Improvement Grants are provided by ADEQ using federal funds received by the department under the federal Clean Water Act.

ADEQ will hold six workshops around the state in late November and early December to discuss the Water Quality Improvement Grant Program and the process for applying for the grants:

- Phoenix: Nov. 27, 10 a.m.-noon, Burton Barr Public Library Lecture Room, 1221 N. Central Ave.
- Tucson: Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-noon, ADEQ Southern Regional Office South Building, Room 5, 400 W. Congress, Suite 433
- Flagstaff: Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-noon, ADEQ Northern Regional Office, 1801 W. Route 66, Suite 117
- Pinetop-Lakeside: Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-noon, Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall, Council Chambers, 1360 Niels Hansen Lane
- Yuma: Dec. 3, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Yuma City Hall, Conference Room 142, 1 City Plaza
- Kingman: Dec. 4, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Mohave County Administrative Office Building, Cholla Room, 700 W. Beale St.

Information about the Water Quality Improvement Grants program, including the grants manual and application forms are available on ADEQ's website at www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/watershed/fin.html, or by calling ADEQ at 602-771-4635 or 1-800-234-5677, Ext. 771-4635.