



DATE: July 1, 2008

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

ADEQ Director Owens Announces \$200,000 in Funding for Water Supply Pipeline in Nogales

Amount Brings ADEQ Commitment to \$1 Million to Fix Valle Verde System

PHOENIX (July 1, 2008) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Steve Owens announced today that ADEQ will provide \$200,000 to fund a new water pipeline between the City of Nogales water system and an adjacent water system belonging to the Valle Verde Water Company.

The City of Nogales has been providing drinking water to Valle Verde through a temporary connection since early 2007 when elevated levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) were found in several Valle Verde wells. PCE is an industrial solvent commonly used in the dry cleaning industry.

The temporary connection was needed because the contaminated Valle Verde wells were shut down due to the contamination and the remaining wells in the Valle Verde system were not able to provide sufficient supplies of water to the system's customers.

Under a separate agreement between the City and Valle Verde, the new connection will be activated only during emergencies and Valle Verde will pay for the water supplied.

“We are absolutely committed to making sure that everyone has access to sufficient supplies of clean drinking water,” Director Owens said. “We are adding to our substantial commitment of resources to protect the water users in Nogales while we continue work to identify and address the source of this contamination. This new commitment means that we will be providing \$1 million to address this problem and help the citizens of Nogales.”

Earlier this year, Director Owens announced that ADEQ was committing \$800,000 in funding for the construction of a groundwater treatment system for the contaminated Valle Verde wells. Construction of that system will take about one year. The pipeline being constructed under the agreement announced today will ensure that high quality drinking water is supplied to Valle Verde during the construction period.

Funding for the pipeline is being provided through ADEQ's Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund, the state's Superfund program.