



DATE: June 19, 2009

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Hayes Selected ADEQ's New Acting Community Liaison for Southwest Arizona in Yuma and La Paz Counties

PHOENIX (June 19, 2009) – A long-time community involvement coordinator for the state Superfund program has been selected Acting Southwest Arizona Community Liaison for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Melissa Hayes begins her new job immediately providing services for ADEQ in Yuma and La Paz counties. Hayes can be contacted at (520)770-3309 or 1-888-271-9302 or by e-mail at hayes.melissa@azdeq.gov.

In addition to Southwest Arizona, ADEQ has community liaisons located in St. Johns, to serve Northeast Arizona, and Safford, to serve the Southeast part of the state. The purpose of the community liaison program is to place knowledgeable and helpful staff where they can be closer to the communities they serve and have more frequent contacts with customers in rural Arizona. They assist those living outside metropolitan areas on a wide array of environmental issues concerning air and water quality problems, waste disposal and storage tanks.

Hayes has been community involvement coordinator for nine years for the state Superfund program, known as the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF), based out of Tucson. Hayes is a 1998 graduate of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff with a B.S. in environmental science and a B.A. in Spanish.

“Melissa has done excellent work in all of her outreach programs for ADEQ, which involve many community advisory boards,” said Patrick J. Cunningham, ADEQ’s acting director. “We know that people living in Yuma and the border areas of Yuma County along with towns like Parker and Quartzsite in La Paz County will find Melissa to be helpful, knowledgeable about ADEQ’s environmental programs and a pleasure to work with.”