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ADEQ Awards \$550,000 Water Quality Improvement Grant to Lake Havasu City to Continue Replacing Septic Tanks

PHOENIX (July 20, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$550,000 grant has been awarded to the Lake Havasu City Public Works Department to allow the city to continue to replace septic tanks with new connections to the city’s wastewater system.

The grant will be used to offset the cost of closing 3,100 residential septic tanks, which are being connected to the wastewater system in the ninth year of Lake Havasu City’s sewer expansion. The homes are located in the Chemehuevi, Mockingbird and Trotwood neighborhoods in the southeast part of the city.

Funding from the grant will be used to pump out and crush the septic tanks.

The city’s wastewater pipes and treatment plant will help to protect the waters of Lake Havasu, which have been polluted by nitrates and other contaminants that leach from septic tanks to groundwater to the lake itself.

“This important funding means cleaner water for Lake Havasu, getting us one step closer to completing the historic conversion to a modern sewer system,” said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. “By working together we can upgrade leaky infrastructure and improve environmental health upstream and down and that’s why a regional collaboration will be a priority for ADEQ to ensure further progress.”

Lake Havasu City had been one of the largest cities in the United States to use septic tanks, with 28,000 residential tanks in place by 1996, when ADEQ banned tanks within a mile of four monitoring wells. Since then, the city has closed 15,000 of the septic tanks.

ADEQ's program is funded through a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act.

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