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\$78,876 Brownfields Grant Awarded to Casa Grande for Key Projects as Part of City's Renovation Effort in Downtown

PHOENIX (April 30, 2014) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$78,876 Brownfields grant has been awarded to the City of Casa Grande for asbestos and lead paint abatement in two projects, including one that will help restore a historic caboose and make it the centerpiece of the city's downtown renovation plan.

Union Pacific Railroad gave the caboose to the city in 2007. Once the asbestos and lead paint are removed, it will be renovated and relocated to a city park, where a children's play area is located.

The second project involves the same abatement work on the former Raggedy Ann Day Care Center, 419 W. 2nd Street, which is at the confluence of three major roads in the city's redevelopment district.

The vacant structure, built in 1935, must be demolished for road construction that will reroute and improve traffic flow in the area. The new design also will reduce congestion and encourage commercial development. The 6,416-square-foot former day care center is required to have the environmental remediation completed before it can be demolished.

"This is an excellent example of how our Brownfield money makes Arizona's cities better," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. "In this case, the funding will expedite work on two important projects in the downtown area of Casa Grande."

A Brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with an active redevelopment potential that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination. More information on Brownfields is available at:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/cleanup/success.html>

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