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ADEQ Director Owens Announces \$50,000 Grant to City of Willcox for Airport Environmental Site Assessment

PHOENIX (March 4, 2008) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that the City of Willcox is being awarded a \$50,000 Brownfields grant to perform an environmental site assessment of the Cochise County Airport.

The city requested the grant in anticipation of purchasing the 960-acre airport, located at 780 S. Vista Ave. in Willcox, from Cochise County. The city plans to continue to use it as an airport and will improve runways and buildings and access to the site.

The grant money will be used for a Phase I and, if necessary, a Phase II environmental site assessment (ESA) to determine if the site has been contaminated by hazardous substances or petroleum products from prior activities.

“We are pleased to work closely with the City of Willcox to address any possible environmental problems with this site, so the city can complete its negotiations to purchase the airport as quickly as possible,” Director Owens said. “Our Brownfields program helps identify and reduce environmental risks with properties like this and makes it possible to put them back into productive use. This airport site in particular is an integral part of Willcox’s redevelopment plans.”

The ADEQ Brownfields Program will serve as project manager of the ESA on behalf of the City of Willcox.

A Brownfields site is an abandoned or under-used property that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination.