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ADEQ Director Owens Awards \$103,240 Grant to Improve Water Quality in Tucson

PHOENIX (June 30, 2008) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that ADEQ is awarding \$103,240 to improve water quality in Tucson through public education.

“One of the most effective ways to protect and improve water quality is to help people understand the things they can do to prevent pollution and conserve water resources in the first place,” Director Owens said. “We are pleased to support this important local effort to provide public education about our precious water resources.”

The grant is being awarded to Watershed Management Group, a Tucson-based non-profit organization. The project will focus on the Rincon Heights neighborhood, located along High School Wash near Sixth Street and Broadway Boulevard in Tucson.

The program will help prevent urban stormwater pollution through outreach efforts to local residents, including a series of presentations, lectures and workshops. The project also will include wash clean-up efforts, outreach workshops to highlight project success, and the publication of a guide to assist in reducing water pollution.

In addition, the grant will be used to teach community leaders about “best management practices” to reduce pollution to the wash, including bioretention basins, berms, vegetated buffer strips and mulching.

The grant is funded with federal dollars provided to ADEQ under the Clean Water Act.