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ADEQ Director Owens Awards \$5,000 to City of Peoria for K-8th Grade Program on Water Pollution Prevention

PHOENIX (July 1, 2008) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that the City of Peoria will receive a \$5,000 grant to teach children in kindergarten through eighth grades about how to prevent stormwater pollution in their neighborhoods.

“Children are very concerned about protecting the environment, and they really want to know what they can do to help,” Director Owens said. “These funds will help teach kids what they can do themselves to protect water resources in the Peoria area, and we also hope they will get their parents involved in the effort too. This is a great project.”

The grant will fund a program to reach an estimated 2,000 students in local public and charter schools, as well as the City of Peoria Recreation Department’s before- and after-school program and summer recreation program. Students will be taught the importance of identifying potential pollutants, the harm pollutants do to the environment, and alternatives to protect the environment. The City hopes that students will take what they learn home to their families.

The program will include a hands-on, interactive model that Peoria’s Stormwater Operation Section staff will use to demonstrate what stormwater is and how pollutants get into the water.

The program also will include an activity book about local parks, retention basins, and watercourses, including the Arizona Canal Diversion Channel/Skunk Creek, New River, the Agua Fria River, and Lake Pleasant.

The city will develop one presentation for grades K-3 and another for grades 4-8.

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