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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215

## **ADEQ Awards Water Quality Improvement Grant of \$12,850 to Town of Gila Bend to Preserve Soil at Hohokam Village Site**

PHOENIX (June 16, 2009) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has announced a \$12,850 Water Quality Improvement Grant to the Town of Gila Bend to protect the ruins of a thousand-year-old Hohokam village from erosion and runoff from storm water.

The ancient Hohokam village, known as the Gatlin Site, has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the State Historic Preservation Office. The site is located 2 miles north of downtown Gila Bend in southern Maricopa County.

Five to eight acres of the archaeological site are threatened by storm runoff and eroding soil, which during severe thunderstorms enters neighboring irrigation fields and sometimes the Gila River.

The ADEQ grant funds two projects to stabilize the soil and reduce erosion and runoff. Volunteers will fill in soil and reshape the landscape at two sites located in one of the drainage areas. Groups that have committed volunteers include the Arizona Archaeological Society and the Southwest Archaeological Team.

The grant also will fund public-education activities, including workshops, a brochure, and signs that explain the project for visitors.

“Erosion-control projects in 2004 and 2005 have improved conditions at this historic site, but more work needs to be done,” said ADEQ Acting Director Patrick J. Cunningham. “ADEQ is pleased to fund this project and help save an important historical site.”

ADEQ’s Water Quality Improvement Grant program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act.