ADEQ Awards $37,453 Water Quality Improvement Grant for Erosion Management Near Arcosanti in Yavapai County

PHOENIX (June 17, 2009) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has awarded a $37,453 Water Quality Improvement Grant to the Cosanti Foundation for a project to control bank erosion and sediment runoff into the Agua Fria River.

The Cosanti Foundation owns and operates Arcosanti, an experimental town centered around sustainable living near Cordes Junction, about 65 miles north of Phoenix. Arcosanti owns 860 acres of land that it wants to restore and preserve.

However, land along about 2.5 miles of the river has been identified as at risk for erosion, which threatens the stability of the banks of the Agua Fria and nearby roads.

The grant will be used to assess the site and draw up a plan to prevent the erosion. Arcosanti is providing matching funds of $25,010, which will fund the planting of erosion-preventing vegetation and earthen bank support by staff and volunteers.

The project is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009 and to be finished by the spring of 2010. A series of workshops is scheduled during that time to keep staff and volunteers up to date on progress and to continue work on the erosion control structures.

 "For decades Arcosanti has pioneered new ideas about sustainable living in the arid Southwest," said ADEQ Acting Director Patrick J. Cunningham. "ADEQ is pleased to fund this worthwhile and far-sighted project."

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

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