

DATE: Aug. 6, 2010

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ADEQ Awards \$265,551 to San Pedro Watershed Group to Address *E. coli* problems in Area of River near St. David

PHOENIX (Aug. 6, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$265,551 grant has been awarded to Coronado Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. to form a watershed improvement council and rectify *E. coli* problems in the San Pedro River near the community of St. David in Cochise County.

The project will identify sources of *E. coli* along a 17-mile stretch of the river from the mouth of Babocomari Creek, a tributary of the San Pedro, to Dragoon Wash and develop a comprehensive plan to address the problems.

In addition to forming the local oversight watershed council and developing a water quality improvement plan, the grant money will be used to develop a long-term monitoring and implementation strategy and assess water quality in the designated part of the San Pedro.

That section of the Upper San Pedro River is listed as an impaired waterway by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of *E. coli* exceedances in past years. The source of the pollution is believed to be from both septic tanks and cattle grazing operations in the area.

“Environmental stewardship and education about pollution go hand-in-hand. ADEQ is pleased to provide this money to the Coronado Resource group to increase awareness and prevent bacterial pollution in one of the most vital and ecologically significant waterways in the nation,” ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said.

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

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