



DATE: Nov. 30, 2010

CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215 (o);
(480) 433-9551 (cell)

ADEQ Officials Announce \$7,500 Brownfields Grant to Town of Somerton to Survey Downtown Property for Redevelopment

PHOENIX (Nov. 30, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$7,500 grant has been awarded to the Town of Somerton for a Phase I environmental site assessment of a tire repair shop that the town wants to acquire and redevelop as part of a downtown beautification project.

The town's plans are to build a plaza at the site of Somerton Tire Service, 153 W. Main Street, as part of the downtown redevelopment plan to make Somerton more competitive with nearby Yuma and San Luis for retail business and provide a better quality of life. The plan includes a new and larger grocery store, coffee shops and a new town hall.

The tire repair shop was once a former gas station that ADEQ's Underground Storage Tank program cleaned up, concluding the work in 2007.

"We're pleased that the Town of Somerton is looking toward the future to beautify the town and taking appropriate action to redevelop safely and environmentally," ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said. "Our state response grants are all about partnering with towns like Somerton to identify Brownfields and reduce environmental hazards in order to put these properties to better use."