



DATE: June 6, 2012

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ADEQ Officials Announce \$60,000 Brownfields Grant to Assess Land Where Avondale Wants to Build Transit Center

PHOENIX (June 6, 2012) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$60,000 brownfields grant has been awarded to the City of Avondale to conduct an environmental site assessment on land where the city wants to build a transit center and develop the surrounding area near city hall.

The site assessment area is currently a farm field and was used as a landing strip for crop-dusting planes in the past. The assessment process is expected to take about one year to complete after the city hires a contractor.

A brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with an active redevelopment potential that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination.

“Our state response grants are all about partnering with cities like Avondale to identify brownfields and reduce environmental hazards in order to put these properties to better use,” said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. “We’re pleased that the City of Avondale is looking at this site as a key future redevelopment area and taking appropriate action to redevelop in an environmentally friendly manner.”

ADEQ provided Avondale with \$68,700 in funding to perform environmental site assessments on an adjoining piece of property in 2007 and 2008.

The two pieces of property, located on the east side of Avondale Boulevard near the intersection with Interstate 10, total 43.3 acres and are expected to be the centerpiece of a development that will total more than one million square feet of retail and office space and support 4,000 residential units.