



DATE: Dec. 4, 2013

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Huachuca City Joins ADEQ's Small Communities Environmental Compliance Assistance Program

PHOENIX (Dec. 4, 2013) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that the Town of Huachuca City in Cochise County is the seventh municipality to participate voluntarily in ADEQ's statewide program to help communities comply with state and federal environmental regulations.

Small towns and special water and wastewater districts often lack the resources and staff to sustain compliance with state and federal environmental laws, so ADEQ began a voluntary program in 2007 to help small, mostly rural communities affordably protect their public health and air, land and water resources.

In addition to Huachuca City, the municipalities of Taylor, Holbrook, Show Low, Springerville, Eagar and Winslow are in the Small Communities Environmental Compliance Assistance Program along with Naco Sanitary District and Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District.

As part of the program, Huachuca City, which has nearly 2,000 residents, agrees to disclose known environmental violations within town limits, request compliance assistance before enforcement actions begin, participate in compliance evaluation to identify violations and to promptly correct known violations. In so doing, the town will be eligible for up to a 100 percent penalty reduction if it has future environmental violations.

"We are committed to helping small communities in the state comply with environmental laws and be good green stewards," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. "We are happy that Huachuca City is among the leaders in the effort to build sustainability and environmental cooperation and hope other small towns and wastewater and water districts will join the program."

The program was funded by a \$12,000 grant from the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) for the communities to develop Small Community Environmental Protection Plans (SCEPP) to improve compliance. Guidance materials, including a comprehensive manual, have been prepared to train small communities and water and wastewater districts on environmental requirements and help with SCEPP development.

For more information about the program:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/function/compliance/smallcomm.html>

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