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

ADEQ Announces \$199,245 Water Quality Improvement Grant to Build Restroom on San Francisco River near Clifton

PHOENIX (Jan. 22, 2014) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$199,245 grant has been awarded to the Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona for construction of restroom facilities at a heavily used recreation area on the San Francisco River north of the Town of Clifton in Greenlee County.

The grant is one of three awarded in Arizona this year administered by ADEQ's water quality improvement grant program to address polluted runoff from many different sources. The San Francisco River north of Clifton is impacted by *E. coli*, a bacterium that is an indicator of fecal pollution.

Construction of another restroom on the San Francisco River north of Clifton was funded by a separate ADEQ water quality improvement grant last year.

"These funds will help restore water quality and protect human health in a popular recreation area on the San Francisco River," ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said. "Our program has funded more than 100 projects throughout the state and has had a significant impact on improving the health of our waterways."

After construction, the prefabricated restroom will connect to a solar powered well and septic tank and Greenlee County will be responsible for long-term maintenance.

In addition, grant funding will be used to provide brochures to educate visitors about good recreation practices to help improve water quality and, in association with the Friends of the Frisco group, the brochures will be distributed to those recreating on the river.