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## **ADEQ Announces \$74,795 Water Quality Improvement Grant to Install Solar-Powered Well Pumps near Clifton**

PHOENIX (Jan. 30, 2014) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality announced today that a \$74,795 grant has been awarded to the Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona for installation of solar-powered well pumps on the Menges Ranch south of the Town of Clifton in Greenlee County.

Money from the grant will be used to replace five existing diesel-powered pumps for livestock watering in remote areas of the ranch. The diesel systems have a history of failures, resulting in cattle breaking down fences to find water sources in Bonita Creek, which drains to the San Francisco River and Gila River.

Along with replacement of the pumps, the grant will fund additional telecommunications equipment being installed to inform the rancher whenever any issues may arise with the water well system.

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. Both the San Francisco River and Gila River are impaired for *E. coli*, a bacterium that is an indicator of fecal pollution.

"This project is a win-win environmentally in that it will provide a more dependable water source and help keep the cattle out of the riparian area and use solar rather than diesel as a power source," ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.