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Naco Second Sanitary District in State to Complete Work on ADEQ's Small Communities Compliance Assistance Plan

PHOENIX (Aug. 14, 2014) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that Naco Sanitary District in Cochise County has become the second wastewater district in the state to complete a Small Communities Environmental Protection Plan (SCEPP) to help communities and special water and wastewater districts comply with state and federal environmental regulations.

With a plan in place, Naco Sanitary District is now positioned to identify potential environmental concerns or issues, disclose identified violations and request compliance assistance if needed. The district is eligible for up to a 100 percent penalty reduction if it has future environmental violations. The district serves about 880 customers in the unincorporated Naco community on Arizona's border with Mexico.

ADEQ's Small Communities Environmental Compliance Assistance project assists small towns and special water and wastewater districts in compliance with state and federal environmental laws and reducing the number of violations and enforcement actions.

"We congratulate the Naco Sanitary District for being among the leaders in the state on environmental cooperation and sustainability," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. "Small communities in the state have limited financial resources and we are committed to helping them comply with environmental laws and be good green stewards."

ADEQ will present the sanitary district with a certificate of achievement at its next board meeting Oct. 7. The Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District and Town of Eagar are the only two other governmental entities to complete the SCEPP process.

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>