



DATE: Aug. 22, 2014

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## **ADEQ Announces \$67,000 Brownfields Grant to City of Somerton to Encapsulate Lead-Based Paint on Water Tower**

PHOENIX (Aug. 22, 2014) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$67,000 Brownfields grant has been awarded to the City of Somerton to encapsulate the lead-based paint on the community water tower and stabilize rusting so it will no longer be an environmental threat.

The 117-foot, 50,000-gallon water tower, built in the early 1920s, is located near the city center at 348 N. Somerton Ave. It is expected to be the centerpiece of the future Centennial Park and is next to a newly constructed 272 kW solar array that provides electricity for the city's water infrastructure.

The State Response Grant funding to mitigate the water tower's environmental dangers will allow the city to proceed with its plans for the park, which will expand public space offerings in Somerton. Besides its aesthetic appeal, the park will be a thoroughfare for children walking to and from the nearby Somerton Middle School. It will also offer public seating areas and other amenities for city residents.

"The water tower project is important in protecting public health in Somerton and supporting the city's beautification and redevelopment efforts," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. "This is another example of how our Brownfields program makes Arizona communities better."

A Brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with an active redevelopment potential that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination. Funding for Arizona's State Response Grants is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For more information on Brownfields: <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/cleanup/brownfields.html>