

Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Veronica Rivera, Communications Director: (602) 364-1236 WIFA Announces Stimulus Funds Part of \$650,000 Loan to Prescott-Area Community for Drinking Water System Improvements

PHOENIX (April 15, 2009) – The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona announced today approval of its first round of loans from federal stimulus money, including part of a \$650,000 loan to the Highland Pines Domestic Water Improvement District (DWID) near Prescott to replace almost 10,000 feet of aging pipeline.

The district serves drinking water to 900 customers in the Highland Pines area 6 miles west of Prescott. It is now losing an average of more than 130,000 gallons of water per month due to leaks in pipelines installed more than 50 years ago. The replacement pipeline is scheduled to be in place by 2010.

"This loan will ensure that the customers of Highland Pines will be served clean drinking water much more efficiently," said Patrick J. Cunningham, acting chairman of WIFA's board. "We are pleased to make this loan and to work with Prescott area residents, to help make the most of Arizona's precious water resources."

WIFA is receiving "stimulus" funding from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The ARRA funding is providing significant savings on clean and drinking water infrastructure projects for many municipalities and private drinking water companies in Arizona that are able to start construction by June 17, 2009 or have signed contracts for construction by Feb. 17, 2010.

WIFA maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. For more information, please visit WIFA's Web site at <u>www.azwifa.gov</u>.