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WIFA Announces Stimulus Funds Part of \$8.5 Million Loan to Peoria for Drinking Water System Improvements

PHOENIX (April 15, 2009) – The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona announced approval today of its first round of loans from federal stimulus money, as part of a \$8.5 loan to the City of Peoria for 3 miles of pipeline to deliver drinking water more efficiently to neighborhoods where water pressure has been unreliable.

The funding will be used to build three miles of 24-inch pipeline to residents near Beardsley Road and Union Hills Drive. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

"This loan will ensure that the people of one of the fastest growing cities in the United States will continue to have access to drinking water," said acting WIFA Chairman Patrick J. Cunningham. "We are pleased to make this loan and to work with the City of Peoria, to help make the most of Arizona's precious water resources."

WIFA is receiving "stimulus" funding from the U.S Environmental 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>.