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**Contact:
Mark Kieren
(520) 836-8785**

Arizona Water Company Acquires Two Small Water Systems in Casa Grande Area, Bringing Safer, More Reliable, and More Efficient Water Service

Arizona Water Company, the largest private water utility in Pinal County, has acquired two small troubled water utilities, Casa Grande West (CGW) and Casa Grande South (CGS), and over the next few months will be integrating the operations of the two organizations with its own.

On August 23, 2021, Arizona Water will officially take over the day-to-day operations. Together, the CGW and CGS have approximately 360 customers. Arizona Water has approximately 34,000 customers in the Pinal Valley.

“This acquisition is a logical fit for Arizona Water, our community, and for our newest customers,” said Fred Schneider, President of Arizona Water. “The economies of scale that we

bring to the table will make for more efficient, reliable, and safe operation. Beyond that, Arizona Water prides itself on providing the highest levels of customer service.”

The Arizona Corporation Commission gave its final approval to the acquisition on June 8, 2021. Both of the smaller utilities were having difficulty managing their operations, which lead to water outages on a couple of occasions at CGW. Previously, the Commission has endorsed a policy encouraging the consolidation of small, non-viable water utilities. CGS and CGW both fit within the Commission’s definition of a non-viable water utility.

Managing a water utility is a complex and expensive proposition. Infrastructure replacement costs continue to rise and water quality regulations often require the addition of expensive new technologies. It was becoming increasingly difficult for Casa Grande West and Casa Grande South to meet those obligations.

For Arizona Water, the transition should be seamless. The company already has the technical, managerial, and financial capabilities needed to operate the CGS and CGW systems as needed to ensure safe, reliable, and high-quality service for the long run. Also, Arizona Water maintains more than 20 water sources in its Pinal Valley system, making it extremely reliable.

For the customers of CGW and CGS, the transition should be as simple as filling out a form and sending it back to Arizona Water. Customers will be receiving notification about this process in the mail starting at the end of this week. The notification will include a list of questions and answers about how the transition will work.

One of the most important questions is likely to be about the cost of their water service.

There will be no increase in rates because of the acquisition. In fact, the former customers of CGW will see a \$3 per month reduction per customer due to the elimination of a Water Infrastructure Financing Authority loan surcharge. The next rate increase is three to five years away.

In addition, there will be no deposits or establishment fees required to switch companies. Any deposits held by CGW or CGS will be returned by them, not by Arizona Water.

Arizona Water has served growing Arizona communities for over 65 years. In 1955, Arizona Water purchased ten water systems from Arizona Public Service Company. Today, we operate 22 water systems in more than 30 communities throughout Arizona serving more than 260,000 people. Our corporate office is located in Phoenix and we have 12 local offices in the communities we serve, including one right in Casa Grande. Our employees are your family, friends, and neighbors and we are proud to provide clean and reliable drinking water through our award-winning production and distribution systems on demand, every day.

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