

ARIZONA WATER COMPANY

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ARIZONA WATER COMPANY AWARDED \$9 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT TO REDUCE CONTAMINANTS IN ARIZONA COMMUNITY'S WATER SUPPLY

Project will also protect against severe drought conditions by increasing water supplies for Stanfield residents

PHOENIX – Arizona Water Company (AWC), Arizona's second largest private water company, has been selected for a \$9.1 million grant by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to improve and increase the water supply and drinking water quality for residents of Stanfield, Ariz.

Located in Pinal County, Stanfield is a small community of about 640 residents completely reliant on groundwater that is pumped from local wells contaminated with nitrate and arsenic. While current supplies from the wells are treated to meet federal and state drinking water requirements, the technology being used is older and in need of upgrades. As has happened in the past, if there is an issue with the wells or treatment facility and the water demands of the community can't be met, AWC must haul water to the community to meet that demand.

The federal grants received by AWC were delivered through the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Program, funded in part by the bipartisan infrastructure law led by Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema and shaped by fellow Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, as well as the historic climate and energy law Kelly and Sinema helped shape to address key Arizona priorities like water availability.

Working in partnership with San Francisco Bay Area based Microvi, AWC will use the federal funds to install state-of-the-art nitrate and arsenic treatment systems that can treat increased amounts of contaminated groundwater to levels that comply with the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act.

"Over the last five years, impacts of 'exceptional' drought conditions in Pinal County have increased, demonstrating the need for reliable treatment of groundwater supplies," said Fred Schneider, president of AWC. "By applying solutions using advanced treatment equipment and technology, we will not only improve the quality of water for the residents of Stanfield but increase water availability, by saving more water and having more of it available to the area."

“Nitrate pollution in water is linked to many major health problems,” said Ali Dorri, Microvi’s vice president of Business Development. “Our technology has been proven to eliminate these harmful contaminants in a manner that is low cost and environmentally friendly and we are excited to work with AWC to positively impact the Stanfield community.”

According to Schneider, there were more than 125 grant applications from 11 different states competing for the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Program funds. He credited AWC’s ten-year partnership with Microvi, as well as backing from several Arizona leaders for successfully landing the grant.

“This is a very big deal for a private water company to win a federal grant of this magnitude and it does not happen very often,” said Schneider. “Microvi’s demonstrated experience applying innovative solutions to difficult water quality circumstances was truly the key component of our success during this extremely competitive process.”

Schneider added, “the backing we received from Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Arizona state representative Theresa Martinez and Pinal County Supervisor Stephen Miller was also instrumental in helping the Bureau select AWC for this important grant.”

In a letter of support for AWC, Rep. Martinez, R-Ariz. said, “Federal funding such as that presented by WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Program represents an extremely important opportunity to provide Arizonans with much-needed resources. Without steps to safeguard access to reliable drinking water sources, small communities’ public health and economies will suffer, causing regional impacts as those areas are forced to import water or cease activities.”

In addition to improving water quality and storage capacity for the Stanfield community, the grant will fund efforts by AWC to provide electrical and mechanical upgrades to the system, improve connectivity, enhance fire protection and increase pumping ability.

While many federal grants of this magnitude require up to 50 percent in matching funds, this grant will only require a 5 percent match by AWC. As a result, AWC will provide Stanfield residents with significantly improved water quality and service with no increase in water rates for this project.

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Headquartered in Phoenix for almost 70 years, Arizona Water Company provides clean and reliable drinking water to 300,000 Arizonans in more than 18 communities across the state. For more information about AWC, visit www.azwater.com.

Microvi is transformative biology company based in the San Francisco Bay Area that delivers next generation biotechnologies for the water, wastewater, bio-based chemicals, biofuels and biopharma industries. Microvi offers commercial technologies around the world to reduce waste, increase productivity and provide disruptive economics across the value chain. Learn more at www.microvi.com.

Arizona Water Company Pinal County, Stanfield

