Small Water Systems Fund: Enhancements to Help Rural Arizona (HB2094)

IBWC SE AZ Citizens Forum
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Arizona Small Water Systems

- 1,515 total active public water systems
- 1,448 (95%) are small water systems, each serving less than 10,000 people
- 52% are non-Arizona Corporation Commission regulated

- More than 100,000 persons (10)
- 10,001 - 100,000 persons (57)
- 3,301 - 10,000 persons (83)
- 501 - 3,300 persons (244)
- 15 - 500 persons (1,121)

- Political subdivisions (cities, towns, DWIDs, CFDs, CID) - ADEQ regulated (210)
- Active ACC regulated systems (333)
- Other (non-ACC regulated, non-political subdivision) - regulated by ADEQ (784)
- Fed & state facilities, public schools - regulated by ADEQ (188)
What was the problem in early 2017?

- 72 of the small drinking water systems were delivering water above a Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) or Action Level Exceedance (ALE) for the Lead and Copper Rule
- Only 2 were eligible for the Small Water Systems Fund (SWSF) grants
- Arsenic and Nitrate - new and expensive infrastructure
- Small systems lack customer base to finance upgrades: Tacna Water, Tombstone, Cochise College Water Park, etc.
Legislative opportunity! HB2094

- Expanded use - repair, replace, or upgrade water infrastructure
- ADEQ ➔ WIFA
- Emergency and non-emergency grants
- Expands eligibility to include owners of small drinking water systems
- Enhanced checks and balances to ensure public benefit
Next Steps...

- ACC/ADEQ/WIFA developing tools:
  - Financial needs assessment
  - Risk assessment/risk ranking
  - Procurement pool – simplified for small systems
  - Operation & Maintenance requirements
- Distribute remaining ~$300K in SWSF
- Pursue additional funding for FY19
Current State –

- 35 Public Water Systems are delivering water above a MCL or ALE
- 22 systems now eligible for SWSF grants
- SWSF Grant Pilot – systems that will be the first group to go through the new process and will receive the remaining resources this FY:
  - Tacna Water Management Company, Yuma County
  - Sun Leisure Estates Utilities Company, Yuma County
  - Bouse Worley Water System, La Paz County
  - Orange Grove Elementary School (no MCL exceedance - corrosion control), Yuma County
286 Small Water Systems in Border Region

9 that are currently serving water above the MCL:

- Antelope Union High School
- Citrus Park Water Co.
- Jones Coop Water Association
- Mohawk Valley School District
- Sun Leisure Estates Utility Co.
- Tacna Water Management Co.
- Town of Wellton
- Why DWID
- Yuma Lakes Resort
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