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USDA Invests in Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in 46 States

Arizona Project Awarded \$12,000,000 Loan and \$3,417,000 Grant for New Facility

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, 2018 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced that USDA is [investing \\$1.2 billion](#) to help rebuild and improve rural water infrastructure for 936,000 rural Americans living in 46 states.

“Access to water is a key driver for economic opportunity and quality of life in rural communities,” Hazlett said. “Under the leadership of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, USDA is committed to being a strong partner to rural communities in building prosperity through modern water infrastructure.”

USDA is providing financing for 234 water and environmental infrastructure projects through the [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant](#) program. The funding can be used for drinking water, storm water drainage and waste disposal systems for rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents.

Eligible communities and water districts can apply online on the interactive [RD Apply](#) tool, or they can apply through one of USDA Rural Development’s [state or field offices](#).

In Arizona, Rural Development provided funding to construct a wastewater collection and treatment facility for the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District in unincorporated areas of Gila County. The project is Phase one of a three-phase project.

Phase one consists of approximately 58,000 linear feet of gravity sewer lines, 7,500 linear feet of force main, approximately 145 new manholes, 856 new services connections, and a new 0.25-million-gallon-per-day membrane bioreactor water reclamation facility.

The collection and treatment system will serve the un-sewered developed portions within the district’s service area.

The existing wastewater treatment system of cesspools and septic systems are failing or near the end of their useful life. Nearly 90% are in violation of the Clean water Act. The project will eliminate health and sanitary problems for approximately 2,095 residents.

Additional funding for this project includes \$12.2 million in other federal assistance and a \$413,000 applicant contribution.

USDA is also making investments in rural communities in: Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force's findings to President Trump. These findings included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. Increasing investments in rural infrastructure is a key recommendation of the task force.

To view the report in its entirety, please view the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the [Rural Prosperity infographic](#) (PDF, 190 KB).

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

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