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For Immediate Release:
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Janet Napolitano,
Governor
Herb Guenther,
Director

NEWS RELEASE

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ADWR Wins \$190,000 Federal Grant Under "Water 2025"

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced Arizona is one of six Western states awarded "Water 2025" grants to find innovative ways to plan for better use of scarce water supplies.

Norton said the grants will "make more efficient use of existing water supplies through cooperative partnerships with the Bureau of Reclamation."

Gov. Janet Napolitano hailed the \$190,000 award and said it would be used to help improve community water planning and implement the provisions of House Bill 2277, which she signed into law in the last legislative session.

"For more than 20 years, Arizona has collected water information and monitored water use in the rapidly urbanizing areas of the State, in order to develop water management programs successful in reducing the dependency on groundwater supplies," the Governor said Thursday.

"However, outside the urban areas, water use information has not been collected and therefore our ability to provide useful information to assist growing rural economies has been limited," she added.

The legislation requires the Arizona Department of Water Resources to assist community water providers, both urban and rural, in developing water supply, drought, and conservation plans. ADWR will serve as a clearinghouse for the local plans and make this valuable information available to community planners as well as cities, towns, and counties.

The grant funds will be used by ADWR to "develop a web-based analytical tool that will allow the agency to enhance monitoring of water resources throughout Arizona," the Governor said.

"This will provide a mechanism to promote regional cooperation and reduce conflicts over water in rapidly growing areas of Arizona," she added.

The others receiving Water 2025 State Challenge Grants are:

- Idaho - \$250,000
- Texas - \$158,250
- Montana - \$81,286 and
- New Mexico - \$59,480.

"Water 2025" is an Interior Department initiative that recognizes the explosive population growth in the West and the accompanying need for additional water supplies in a historically dry region. The program recognizes that state, local, and tribal governments should play the leading role in resolving these challenges.

Celebrating 25 Years