



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 1, 2017

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Commission Thanks Governor for Expansion of Small Drinking Water Fund

(Phoenix) The Arizona Corporation Commission thanks Governor Doug Ducey for signing House Bill 2094. The bill provides emergency grants to small water companies in order to ensure safe, reliable drinking water to their customers.

HB 2094 expands the Small Drinking Water Systems Fund which was established by the Arizona Legislature last year and is describe in ARS-49-355. The Fund allocated \$500,000 for grants for water companies that are struggling to maintain their infrastructure.

ADEQ will consult with the Corporation Commission for the disbursement of the funds. HB2094 expands the eligibility for companies to receive funds and allows grants to be issued directly to owners or interim managers. Before, allocations would only be made when an interim operator was put in place.

“I want to thank Governor Ducey for his foresight for paving the way to solve the water crises facing many small water company customers,” said Chairman Tom Forese. “There is a lot of work to be done.”

“We have an infrastructure crisis in Arizona, especially in rural areas,” said Commissioner Andy Tobin, who has been a champion in addressing water service emergencies and chairs the Commission’s Water Committee. “The customers can’t wait for long-term solutions to water problems. The signing of HB2094 is the next step in solving these problems and lets us, along with ADEQ and WIFA, act immediately.”

ADEQ Water Quality Division Director Trevor Baggio said, “ADEQ’s goal is to ensure that every water system in Arizona delivers healthy drinking water to its community. These changes to HB 2094 are an important step in meeting that goal and we look forward to putting them to effective use with the ACC and WIFA.”

In January, the Commission approved an allocation of \$202,914 to Acme Water Company whose lines were severely deteriorating putting customers’ water services at risk.

Over the past year, the Commission adopted policies to provide more efficient water rate cases for small water companies and created new resources such as the Small Water Ombudsman Office to proactively work with water company owners and customers.

Established by Article 15 of the state’s constitution, the Arizona Corporation Commission is responsible for the regulation of public utilities, overseeing the incorporation or registration of companies wishing to do business in Arizona. Additionally, the Corporation Commission registers and oversees securities offerings and dealers, and enforces railroad and pipeline safety. The five commissioners that make up the Commission are elected by the

people of Arizona for a four-year term, with the option of serving for two consecutive terms. To learn more about the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Commissioners, please check out <http://www.azcc.gov/Divisions/Administration/about.asp>