

PRESS RELEASE

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Clarkdale Receives Award of Merit from Arizona Forward for Broadway Water Reclamation Facility

Clarkdale, AZ (September 14, 2015) – The 35th Annual Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards Gala was held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 and hosted by Arizona Forward and Salt River Project (SRP). Known as the “Academy Awards” of the environmental community, the event is Arizona’s oldest and most prominent competition of its kind. The event spotlights distinguished projects throughout the state of Arizona that demonstrate a high level of environmental commitment and contribute to the region’s overall sustainability.

This year, after expanding the program statewide, Arizona Forward received more than 125 award nominations. Nominees vie to be selected as finalists for Awards of Merit or the Crescordia Award in each category. During Saturday night’s gala, the Town of Clarkdale received an Award of Merit for their Broadway Water Reclamation Facility. Clarkdale was nominated for the award by Arizona’s Water Infrastructure Finance Authority.



After years of struggling to find ways to finance a new water reclamation plant, Clarkdale finally put the package together through a combination of developer contributions, low-interest financing (with a 2.19% interest rate for 20 years through the State’s Water Infrastructure Finance Authority-WIFA), customer rate increases, and an inventive approach to design. Clarkdale actually purchased and refurbished the Desert Oasis Wastewater Treatment Plant after it was decommissioned in another community. The plant had been operating in the City of Surprise as a temporary plant until the City’s new regional wastewater treatment facility came on-line. According to Clarkdale

Utilities/Public Works Director Wayne Debrosky, “Because it was a “used” wastewater treatment plant, the cost of the plant itself was greatly reduced and more than 85% of Clarkdale’s project costs were the result of permitting, engineering, site development and the decommissioning of Clarkdale’s existing wastewater treatment plant. The total cost of the plant was \$5,156,677 or \$14.73 per gallon. Because smaller plants like ours lose the economy of scale compared to plants that treat millions of gallons per day, this is a very competitive price.”

The new plant has a 350,000 gpd capacity and uses a mLE process – modified Ludzak – Ettinger. It provides biological stabilization of the wastewater and biological removal of nitrogen without using any external chemicals, and produces Class A+ effluent. The plant replaces the Town’s former lagoon treatment system which had a 250,000 gpd capacity, produced a Class B effluent and did not remove nitrogen. The plant began start-up operations in the spring of 2013 and was dedicated in October, 2013.

Clarkdale Utilities/Public Works Director Wayne Debrosky attended the Awards Gala and accepted the award on behalf of the Town of Clarkdale. In addition to the staff from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority, others in attendance on behalf of Clarkdale included Fred E. Goldman, P.E. and Krishan Ginghe (Clarkdale’s project engineers) and David Giannetto from Felix Construction (the project contractor).

