

Alamosa Citizens' Water Supply Better Protected Due to EPA Grant

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(Denver, Colo. – March 24, 2009) A grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will help Alamosa's low-income, rural populations secure cleaner water and learn about ways to protect their water supply. The grant was awarded today under EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants program.

"Colorado's minority and low-income communities need support as they develop the capacity to respond to human health and environmental issues," said Art Palomares, Director of EPA's Environmental Justice program in Denver. "Citizens of the San Luis Valley will better understand important water supply protection methods through this grant."

The organization *Citizens for San Luis Valley Water* in Alamosa, Colo. received \$20,000 from EPA for the LEAP HIGH program, a broad-based collaborative network formed to help low-income rural populations living in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado. The goal of this project is to provide testing of unregulated household drinking water wells and to educate participants about ways to protect their health by protecting their water supply. Test results will be a tool for health care providers, local governments, regulatory agencies, and decision makers. This proposal furthers the success of EPA Region's 8 2006 San Luis Valley Drinking Water Well Project.

EPA established the Environmental Justice Small Grants program in 1994 to support and empower communities that are working on local solutions to local environmental and/or public health issues. The grants are designed to assist recipients in building collaborative partnerships that will help them understand and address the environmental and/or public health issues in their communities.

Information on the environmental justice grants:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>

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