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Media Contact:

Sandra Laws

Lawscomm

303-324-3732

Sandra@lawscomm.com

**South Metro Water Supply Authority Receives \$425,000 Grant
For Aquifer Recharge Pilot Study**

Study Will Evaluate Feasibility of Implementing an Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program in the South Metro Area to Help Meet Future Water Demands

Denver, Colo., February 3, 2010 – South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA), the region’s leader in the development of innovative water supply and infrastructure projects, has received a \$425,000 grant from the State of Colorado's Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) for its Aquifer Recharge Pilot Study. This is the second phase of SMWSA's study to determine the viability of implementing an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program in the South Metro area. ASR has been identified as a possible means to address anticipated water shortages in South Metro Denver within the next two decades.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery involves injecting water into an aquifer through wells or by surface spreading and infiltration and then pumping it out when needed. Essentially, the aquifer functions as a water bank. Deposits are made in times of surplus, and withdrawals occur when available water falls short of demand. ASR projects are underway in the South Metro area. Centennial Water and Sanitation District, a member of SMWSA, has utilized ASR for over a decade and continues to be an innovator in the industry. ASR is also utilized in many other states and countries, including California, Utah, Nevada, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Africa, England and Australia.

“The Statewide Water Supply Initiative estimates that by 2030, approximately 40,000 acre-feet per year of additional future water supply will be needed for Denver's South Metro area,” said Rod Kuharich, executive director of SMWSA. “For more than a decade, the south-metro area has been one of the fastest growing regions in Colorado and the nation. We want to make sure those residents continue to have an abundant water supply along with additional storage for years to come. This assessment will help us determine how to ensure that happens.”

(more)

SMWSA's objectives for the second phase of the study include:

- Identifying a source of renewable water to be used in a full-scale ASR program;
- Identifying a well that may be suitable for retrofitting to an ASR well and undertake the necessary evaluations, including engineering conceptual-level design for retrofit, and geochemical analyses on the well to identify infrastructure and pre-treatment requirements;
- Undertaking the design and construction needed to retrofit the well for ASR pilot testing and associated pretreatment;
- Conducting pilot-scale ASR testing and evaluate the feasibility of implementing long-term ASR operations;
- Providing recommendations for full-scale implementation of ASR in the South Metro area, including water pre-treatment needs, well preparation and retrofitting, and O&M; and
- Identifying existing ASR wells from which additional data can be gathered.

During the first phase of the study, also partially funded by the WSRA, SMWSA completed the following objectives:

- Developed a better understanding of aquifer characteristics relevant to well production, artificial recharge and conjunctive use within the South-metro area based on data from SMSWA members;
- Evaluated previous studies and gathered additional information from SMWSA members in order to complete a detailed assessment of aquifer drawdown and an aquifer's response to constant pumping; and
- Characterized the unit cost of producing potable groundwater, including the cost of pumping, water treatment, annual operations and maintenance, and evaluate if the unit costs vary over time throughout the year, or by geography.

About SMWSA

South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) is the south-metro region's leader in water development and distribution. Formed in August 2004, SMWSA is an experienced and knowledgeable regional entity that plans, develops and sources renewable water for Douglas and Arapahoe Counties in Colorado. SMWSA's mission is to foster long-term reliable and affordable water supplies in the south Denver-metro region, through water conservation, reuse, renewable source acquisitions, regional structural and non-structural projects, funding mechanisms and integrated use of resources. The municipal water providers in SMWSA include: Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority, Castle Pines North Metropolitan District, Centennial Water and Sanitation District, Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District, East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District, Inverness Water and Sanitation District, Meridian Metropolitan District, Parker Water and Sanitation District, Pinery Water and Wastewater District, Roxborough Park Metropolitan District, Stonegate Village Metropolitan District, Town of Castle Rock, Rangeview Metro District and the Castle Pines Metropolitan District. For more information, visit www.southmetrowater.org.