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South Metro Water Supply Authority Localizes World Water Day Issues *Free Water-Wise Workshops for Douglas County Residents*

Greenwood Village, Colo. – March 18, 2009 – South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) is urging residents to be water stewards on World Water Day March 22 by taking an active role in conservation efforts and advocating for the sustainable use of our water supply at the utility and state levels. Established by the United Nations in 1993, World Water Day is an annual, international day to recognize the world's most precious resource.

“This year's World Water Day theme, *Shared Water - Shared Opportunities*, strikes close to home because Colorado water providers recognize the need for daily cooperation in water management issues,” said Rod Kuharich, executive director for SMWSA, a public entity that plans, develops and sources renewable water for Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. “Our arid climate coupled with complex water law policies makes regional cooperation of water administration critical. Consumers can also help shoulder the responsibility of preserving water supplies by proactively implementing water-conservation methods.”

SMWSA is active in water conservation and education through its sister organization, the Douglas County Water Resource Authority (DCWRA), an Authority that promotes water education and resources to residents and schools within Douglas County.

DCWRA President, Larry Moore, says the majority of homeowners' water consumption is from outdoor use so Xeriscaping is an easy and cost-effective way to conserve water. The DCWRA offers a free Xeriscaping video on its Web site and homeowners can attend free Principles of Xeriscape classes through September at Tagawa Gardens in Centennial, Colo.

Other water-saving tips and information about upcoming water conservation workshops and seminars can be found at www.dewater.org.

World Water Day Issues in South Metro Denver

Water providers in the south-metro area rely primarily on bedrock groundwater to meet municipal and industrial needs. However, these aquifers, underground reservoirs of water that lie beneath more than 10,000 square miles of Colorado, do not have a significant source of natural replenishment.

“To meet future demands, water utilities must transition to a more sustainable supply portfolio. One way to accomplish this is to update infrastructure so facilities are capable of ‘recycling’ water and reusing 100 percent of that supply,” Kuharich said. “Another way we are taking an active role in reducing the area's dependency on groundwater is through the implementation of our 2007 Regional Water Master Plan.”

The plan calls for providers to cut usage of groundwater in half by 2030, while more than doubling its recycled water usage. The entity is also in negotiations with East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District to purchase additional capacity in the Northern Project. The pipeline will connect SMWSA members so they are capable of sharing clean, quality water.

This spring, SMWSA is beginning a regional aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) study that looks at optimizing aquifer use. SMWSA hopes to expand Centennial Water and Sanitation District's ASR program. Centennial Water and Sanitation District, a SMWSA member, has a 15-year track record of successfully injecting potable water into the Denver Basin aquifers to extend its useful lifetimes.

In addition, SMWSA is in ongoing discussions with Denver Water and Aurora Water to identify and evaluate opportunities to address long-term water supply needs for all Denver-metro communities in the most environmentally friendly, efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

About South Metro Water Supply Authority

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 water 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 Water and Sanitation District, Stonegate Village Metropolitan District, Town of Castle Rock and the Castle Pines Metropolitan District. For more information visit www.SouthMetroWater.org.

About Douglas County Water Resource Authority

Founded in 1992, the Douglas County Water Resource Authority's mission is water-resource conservation. The Authority shares and communicates information on best practices for water-conservation programs and processes. The Authority offers input on water-related legislation, policy and guidelines, and conducts seminars and focus groups to obtain feedback and present water-related issues to the community. Visit www.dewater.org for more information.

About World Water Day

International World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. For more information visit www.unwater.org/worldwaterday.