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METRO WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT WINS NATIONAL AWARD

DENVER, May 28 —The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) awarded the *2003 National Environmental Achievement Award* in the Public Information & Education — Education Program category to the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District at its 33rd Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

The award is for the Wastewater Worker Recognition Week campaign Metro produced in 2002.

Metro was instrumental in getting Colorado Governor Bill Owens to proclaim the third week of April 2002 as Wastewater Worker Recognition Week. The proclamation honors the work of about 4,000 certificated Colorado wastewater treatment plant operators and thousands of engineers, maintenance personnel, laboratory workers, scientists, biosolids workers, sewer maintenance workers, industrial waste pretreatment workers, administrative staff, and suppliers to the industry.

The proclamation noted that water is a “valuable economic, environmental and recreational resource that should be protected” and said that “Colorado’s streams, rivers and lakes are getting cleaner because of the job being done by Colorado’s wastewater treatment workers.”

Metro’s project also included statewide news releases and two radio ads Metro created and had aired on four Denver radio stations.

One ad humorously highlighted public health and environmental benefits that wastewater workers have helped society achieve. It appealed to people considering career changes, suggesting working in the wastewater field could help society and be rewarding.

The other ad publicly commended 15 industries that Metro regulates under its industrial waste pretreatment program. The industries all had achieved a year of perfect compliance with both pretreatment and other environmental regulations.

AMSA represents more than 250 wastewater treatment agencies across the US. The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District provides wastewater treatment services for about 1.5 million people in metropolitan Denver, including Denver, Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood, Thornton, part of Westminster, and more than 40 sanitation and water and sanitation districts.

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