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MEDIA RELEASE

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BARSTOW WASTEWATER & AV RANCHOS AWARDED AIR DISTRICT'S HIGHEST HONOR

Victorville – A High Desert wastewater treatment facility and an investor-owned water utility were recognized today by the Governing Board of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, as the local regulatory agency presented its 2012/2013 Exemplar Awards to the Barstow Wastewater Treatment Plant and to Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company for implementing innovative, resource-efficient projects which have helped reduce air pollution emissions within local communities.

The City of Barstow's Wastewater Treatment Plant was recognized for replacing three 1971 natural gas-powered engines used in providing air to aeration basins, with three new, high efficiency, electric-powered turbo blowers. Not only have the new blowers helped to significantly curtail emissions of carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and other pollutants from the facility, but they have also increased the quality of the plant's effluent flow. Unlike the old blowers, the new equipment can be turned down during low-flow periods, which saves energy while further reducing emissions. Future plans call for replacement of the facility's 1971 gas generator with a new, lower-emitting four-tier model, and exploring the use of alternative energy in the plant's operations. The Barstow Wastewater Treatment Plant's award was accepted by Kody Tomkins, Chief Plant Operator.

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Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company was awarded the Exemplar for promoting emissions reductions through the implementation of new technologies, consumer incentive programs and educational outreach. In July, 2012, AVRWC installed remote monitoring equipment at its 39 well sites, thus eliminating two system operator trips per week to each well, reservoir and booster station. As a result, 8,600 travel miles per year have been eliminated, along with the associated vehicle emissions. In addition to reducing outdoor water consumption, the "Cash for Grass" program - which AVRWC helps its customers navigate - has been recently expanded to include an air quality component. As a result of this new partnership with the MDAQMD, any resident who retires their gas-powered mower after removing their lawn through the program is eligible to receive a \$50 gift card. While the lawnmower scrapping program is still in its infancy, significant lawnmower emissions reductions are anticipated. An emphasis on reducing water usage and pollution also serves as a focal point of AVRWC's educational outreach efforts, which are carried out in local classrooms, conservation fairs and through the company's participation in the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium. Tony Penna, Assistant General Manager, accepted the Exemplar on behalf of AVRWC.

The Exemplar Awards recognize High Desert entities that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary activities/projects that reduce or prevent air pollution within the MDAQMD's jurisdiction, which encompasses San Bernardino County's High Desert and Riverside County's Palo Verde Valley. The Exemplar Awards are presented annually in association with National Pollution Prevention Week.

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