

Media Contact: Mary Massad: mmassad@swwater.com

SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY WINS WATER FLUORIDATION QUALITY AWARD

The North Dakota Department of Health announced that the Southwest Water Authority (SWA), headquartered in Dickinson, North Dakota, has been awarded a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in the water to a level that is optimal for preventing tooth decay. The award recognizes those communities that maintained a consistent level of optimally fluoridated water throughout 2011.

For the year, a total of 2,500 water systems in 33 states received these awards, a significant increase in the number of participating states and water systems that received awards in previous years.

“We are pleased that more states and communities than ever achieved this measure of excellence in their water fluoridation programs,” stated Dr. William Bailey, DDS, MPH, acting director of the CDC Division of Oral Health. “Community water fluoridation is one of the most effective means available for avoiding tooth decay, preventing at least 25% of tooth decay in children and adults.”

Manager/CEO of SWA, Mary Massad said, “Our number one priority has always been and will always be quality water for our customers, so we are delighted for people to know we are working as quickly as possible in developing additional service areas to meet growth and demand needs.” She added, “More than 300 additional miles of pipeline for two new service areas will soon deliver our quality water to more than 400 new customers in the coming months and, by the end of next summer (August, 2013), we project to have a 300,000 gallon reservoir in place.” Said Massad, “I am very pleased to accept this honor on behalf of our 15-member board of directors and staff who all work very hard to ensure consistent performance of our water quality includes healthy levels of fluoridation for good oral health to our customers. The CDC recommends water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and inexpensive method of preventing tooth decay. In fact, every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves at least \$38 in costs for dental treatment. For more information: www.SWwater.com.

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NOTES: The Southwest Water Authority (SWA) was established (by the North Dakota State Legislature) in 1991. The SWPP transports raw water from Lake Sakakawea to water treatment plants in Mercer County, the OMND WTP, and in Dickinson where it is treated and delivered to more than 48,000 people in 31 communities covering 4,400 rural service locations. To date, more than 4,000 miles of pipeline has been constructed with additional build contracts in the works for 2013. For more information: www.SWwater.com.