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Longoria Wins Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award at Texas Water 2009 Conference

For More Information

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Josephine "Josie" Longoria, regional laboratory director at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), was honored with the 2008 Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award by the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT).

The WEAT Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award recognizes an individual for outstanding performance, professionalism, and contributions to the water quality analysis profession. Longoria earned recognition because of her extensive involvement in the education of her peers in the science and water resources community while taking on leadership roles with enthusiasm and dedication. Formal recognition for WEAT awards occurred at Texas Water 2009.

"WEAT is pleased to recognize Ms. Longoria for her accomplishments and service to the water utility laboratory profession," said Carol Batterton, WEAT's executive director. "Our organization is fortunate to have such a dedicated professional in this important area."

Longoria began her career after graduating from West Texas A&M University with a degree in Biology and Chemistry. Her 16 years in the lab have included working for the Texas A&M Extension Lab, the A&L Agricultural Lab, as well as the South East Water Reclamation Plant Laboratory in Lubbock, Texas. After joining the GBRA in 2002 as a laboratory analyst, Longoria eventually was promoted to regional laboratory director in 2003. She was instrumental in organizing the GBRA Regional Lab's first attempt in acquiring its NELAC accreditation for both drinking water and wastewater. Longoria described the task as a monumental undertaking, requiring her to act as a quality assurance officer and lab director.

"Ms. Longoria is a dedicated professional working every day to protect the natural resources of our basin and promote the laboratory analyst profession," said Debbie Magin, GBRA director of water quality.

Longoria has also assisted with addressing the TNI (The NELAC Institute) requirements in Texas. She has been involved in the Texas Water Operations Challenge, a team style competition that addresses challenges requiring immediate action in water resources. She serves as chair of Texas Water's Operations Challenge and recently became this year's chair elect for the Lab Analyst Section (LAS).

Longoria is an active member in the water resources community as a member of the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT), Water Environment Federation (WEF), American Water Works Association (AWWA), Texas American Water Works Association (TAWWA) The NELAC Institute (TNI), and as President of the LAS Alamo chapter of Texas Water Utilities Association (TWUA).

The Water Environment Association of Texas is a member association of the Water Environment Federation (WEF). Formerly known as the Texas Water Pollution Control Association (TWPCA), WEAT was founded in 1928 by professionals in the field of water quality as a non-profit, educational organization. Association members have helped lead the way toward existing state and federal clean water programs. Today the association has more than 1,500 members representing diverse backgrounds and specialties, but all of which are involved in protecting and enhancing Texas' precious water resources through sound science and good stewardship.

WEAT members include civil, design, and environmental engineers, biologists, chemists, local and state government officials, treatment plant managers and operators, laboratory technicians, students, professors, lawyers, environmental scientists, and equipment manufacturers and distributors.

Texas Water 2009™ is the largest regional water conference in the United States. It is jointly sponsored by the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association.

The GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.