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CONTACT: Roberta Bonaski, 602-686-8743, Public Affairs Department

GLENDALE WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT TAKES TOP STATE HONORS FOR SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE

GLENDALE, Ariz. –AZ Water Association has once again recognized the city of Glendale as the recipient of its Large Water System of the Year award during its 90th Annual 2017 AZ Water Conference and Exhibition award ceremony held May 4. Glendale took this same top statewide award previously in 2011.

The city of Glendale Large Water Distribution System is responsible for conveying clean water in an environmentally-safe manner from water treatment facilities to residences and businesses. The system is operated and maintained by a team of 48 highly-trained skilled workers, electricians, maintenance mechanics and technology professionals. Delivering service to 62,000 homes and businesses, the citywide system consists of 25,000 valves, 8,500 hydrants and nearly 1,000 miles of distribution line.

Award nominees were required to meet all regulatory requirements regarding water quality and evaluated for overall system performance, operation, system reliability, upgrades and safety practices and procedures.

“Our team is very forward thinking,” said Tom Gill, operations and maintenance superintendent. “We share ideas, and collectively create new and improved ways to operate and maintain the system.”

Glendale’s wastewater collection system also took top state honors previously in 2012, 2013 and 2016.

Safety Awards of Honor

Glendale also held the spotlight by receiving seven distinct AZ Water Association honors for continued safety performance and safe operating practices employed in its water treatment plants, water reclamation plants, water distribution systems and wastewater collection systems.

This year’s seven honorees are the Arrowhead Ranch Reclamation Facility, West Area Wastewater Reclamation Facility, Oasis Water Treatment Campus, Pyramid Peak Water Treatment Plant, Cholla Water Treatment Plant and the city’s 60 sq.-miles of Wastewater Collection and clean Water Distribution systems. Glendale Water Services Department previously received six AZ Water Association Safety Awards of Honor in 2016.

“These awards are a direct reflection of the safety efforts diligently put forth every day by Glendale Water Services employees,” said Sam Garza, Safety Program Manager. “Our safety culture has evolved over many years and will continue to advance due to their conscientiousness and teamwork.”

Electrician of the Year Award

Glendale Water Services Sr. Instrumentation Technician Lee Potacki was recognized as AZ Water Association Electrician of the Year. Potacki has worked for the city’s Water Services Department for 10 years, including the last three years at Glendale’s West Area Water Reclamation Facility. He holds two water distribution certifications.

“Lee has a true passion for his work and his contributions to the city of Glendale are many,” said Louie Gomez, Wastewater Operations Supervisor. “His dedication, experience and knowledge helps to ensure that all water reclamation instrumentation and equipment are operating properly.”

“These awards show the high standards we set in our department and the level of responsibility we take to provide service to the residents and businesses of Glendale,” said Water Services Department Director Craig Johnson. For more information about Glendale Water Services Department, please visit www.glendaleaz.com/waterservices.

AZ Water Association is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1928 with a membership of 2,100 water/wastewater professionals dedicated to preserving and enhancing Arizona's water environment. The organization serves as the Arizona section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Arizona member association of the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

*AZ Water administers the safety awards under eligibility criteria based on both AWA and WEF and recognizes members for their excellence and efforts in the water and wastewater industry. Award categories include operators, supervisors, projects, engineers, and construction professionals. Nominations are open to project and system owners, designers, operators and contractors. **Visit** www.azwater.org/ for more information.*

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Photos attached:

- 1. Glendale Water Services Wins AZ Water Association Large Water System of the Year Award**
Mary Pearthree of AZ Water Association (center), (left to right) Glendale Water Services employees Colby Payne, Salvador Cunningham, Tom Gill and Gary Williams.
- 2. Glendale Water Services Sr. Instrumentation Technician Lee Potacki recognized as AZ Water Association Electrician of the Year.**