NAPA (CA) AND SANDY CITY (UT) LEAD THE NATION’S CITIES IN WATER CONSERVATION

Washington, D.C. – Napa (CA) and Sandy City (UT) received the 2011 U.S. Conference of Mayors Water Conservation Achievement Award today during the USCM 79th Winter Meeting. Led by USCM President Burnsville, MN, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, more than 230 of the nation’s mayors have convened at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C.

Mayor Kautz, who presided over the 2011 City Water Conservation Achievement Award Luncheon, stated that 54 Member Cities competed for the award. A panel of 3 independent judges, comprised of former EPA Assistant Administrator’s for the Office of Water, and a Chief Hydrologist currently with the U. S. Geologic Survey, reviewed the city water conservation programs on their merits- actual gallons conserved per capita, innovative practices, and identification of multiple benefits (e.g., cost-savings, energy use reduction, decreased greenhouse gas emissions, etc.). Previous research conducted by the Conference of Mayors indicates that as many as 35 percent of the nation’s principal cities will face water shortages in 2015 and 2025. Since 2005 the Conference of Mayors has actively promoted water conservation. Kautz stated that the City Water Conservation Achievement Award “…is intended to show our support for the wonderful efforts our Member Cities are undertaking to save water- one of our most precious resources.” To promote city water conservation the winning cities each received a $10,000 cash award.

Accepting the award on behalf of the City of Napa (CA) was Mayor Jill Techel. Napa’s water conservation program is based on the premise that no new water would be imported to augment their current water supply. The city implemented local policy to require new development to find water supply through water savings or conservation; and they adopted a system of incentives and disincentives to reach the goal. Napa achieved a 33 gallons per capita per day reduction in consumption.

Shane Pace, Public Utilities Director of Sandy City (UT) accepted the award in place of Mayor Tom Dolan. Sandy City adopted a multi-faceted program including establishing ‘true-cost-pricing’. The city consistently achieved conservation achievement over time, and sustained annual reductions in excess of the national average. They achieved a 35 gallons per capita per day reduction in consumption, with a 27% reduction in water consumption in one year.

The awards this year are sponsored by Siemens, the global powerhouse in electrical engineering and leading solutions and service provider for industry and infrastructure. Siemens Water Technologies is a leading provider of water and wastewater treatment systems and services for cities and industry worldwide.

According to Lukas Loeffler, CEO of Siemens Water Technologies, water availability and quality is critical to the health of our communities, their continued economic growth and the future of our cities. “In just two years (2013), the U.S. government estimates that 36 states will face water shortages,” emphasized Loeffler. “We wanted to sponsor these awards to encourage greater awareness of water challenges cities face today like aging infrastructure, which presents significant health risks and financial challenges for cities large and small. We are no longer able to defer these infrastructure problems to future generations.”

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. More information about the Conference is available at usmayors.org.

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