

For Immediate release – March 1, 2010  
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## **New Drinking Water Taste Test Award Announced**

New Mexico Rural Water Association announces the addition of a “People’s Choice” award to the 2010 Drinking Water Taste Contest. The annual competition recognizes excellence in drinking water system operation and maintenance by providing the opportunity for small systems to showcase their products.

“This year we are making a number of exciting changes to our Annual Conference and the Drinking Water Contest reflects these efforts,” said NMRWA Executive Director Matthew Holmes. The contest which is sponsored by engineering firm Bohannon Huston, Inc. will be held during the 2010 New Mexico Rural Water Association Annual Conference on April 5-7, at the Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town. The contest will continue its traditional preliminary and final judging of clarity, taste and bouquet with four finalists and a grand prize winner receiving awards on Wednesday, April 7, at the Annual Awards luncheon. In addition, there will be an opportunity for conference goers to vote for the best tasting tap water in New Mexico. The winner of this vote will receive the new People’s Choice award.

Utilities who anticipate participation in the competition can pick up a sample container for their tap water entry at the Association office on Carlisle in Albuquerque. Or they can contact the office and one of the field staff will deliver it to their system. Of course, entries will also be accepted until 12 noon on Monday, April 5 at the conference. This year entries MUST be submitted in quart glass canning jars to qualify for the contest.

The Grand Prize Winner will receive \$1,500 towards airfare and hotel accommodations, courtesy of Bohannon-Huston and NMRWA, to travel to Washington, DC to participate in the National Rural Water Association’s Great American Water Taste Test. During the Rural Water Rally, the winner will meet with New Mexico’s Congressional Delegation and have an opportunity to tour our nation’s beautiful capitol city.

For further information and details about the Drinking Water Contest, contact Dominick Donnarumma or Susan Maupin at 505-884-1031.

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