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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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MEDIA CONTACT: MATT GRESS (602) 542-3625

ADEQ Director Misael Cabrera

Unanimously Selected to Lead Water Emergency Team

(PHOENIX) – At its most recent meeting, the Water Emergency Team (WET) selected Misael Cabrera, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), to serve as Chairman of the newly formed group.

WET consists of representatives from state government and the water industry and is designed to facilitate immediate relief to water providers and their customers in cases where a water emergency (e.g., a water outage or contamination of water in excess of environmental standards) poses an imminent threat to public health and safety.

Corporation Commissioner Andy Tobin nominated Director Cabrera as Chairman of WET to help improve the state’s response to water emergencies and also develop preventative measures to mitigate the risk of future water crises in Arizona.

“Director Cabrera has played a critical role in fixing water quality and reliability issues long before WET was established,” said Commissioner Tobin. “His leadership on other water crises, such as uranium contamination in Sanders, Arizona, adds significant credibility and promise to the efforts of WET. Without ADEQ and Director Cabrera’s year-long commitment to Sanders, I’m not certain the Commission would have been able to take action on transferring that system to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority as quickly as we did. This same, dogged sense of urgency will be important to WET as we continue to develop appropriate protocols that best respond to water emergencies.”

WET has met four times since its inception in April of this year. In that time, the team has developed a water emergency form that will be shared with all members of WET; more clearly defined the application process for the Small Water Systems Fund; and promoted greater collaboration among regulatory agencies to streamline review processes that overlap.

“I thank Commissioner Tobin for starting WET and look forward to working with the other team members who have also stepped up to address a real need in Arizona: namely, a coordinated approach to solving water problems before they become water catastrophes,” said Director Cabrera. “There is much work to do in this area, and I am optimistic that WET will find practicable solutions that can put

troubled water systems on firmer ground and ultimately provide drinking water to Arizona citizens that meet federal standards.”

The Water Emergency Team is comprised of a comprehensive set of knowledgeable organizations:

- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Arizona Department of Water Resources
- Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority;
- Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs;
- Arizona Commerce Authority;
- County Supervisors Association;
- League of Cities and Towns;
- Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs;
- Professional Fire Fighters Association of Arizona;
- Water Utilities Association of Arizona; and
- Rural Water Association of Arizona.

The Corporation Commission will discuss and may vote on whether to formally join the Water Emergency Team at a Special Open Meeting scheduled for June 24th.

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