

SUSAN BITTER SMITH ELECTED WESTERN CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONERS PRESIDENT LAST WEEK

The 2015 Conference will be held at the Arizona Biltmore, May 30th to June 3rd.

PHOENIX – Arizona Corporation Commission member Susan Bitter Smith was elected President of the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners at their convention in Seattle last week. More than 350 members attended this year's Convention. The Western Conference is comprised of all of the Public Service Commissioners from all 13 Western States: Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The Conference meets on a quarterly basis and annually hosts an educational meeting for Commissioners, Commission staff, and leaders in the energy, water, and telecommunications industry.

"I am very proud to have been elected President by my peers from throughout the Western States," Ms. Bitter Smith stated. "As President, one of my tasks will be to organize the annual convention next year which will be held at the Arizona Biltmore, May 30th to June 3rd, 2015. I'm glad to be able to do my part to bring a convention to Phoenix."

It has been more than a dozen years since someone from Arizona was elected President of this organization. A few of the other accolades which Ms. Bitter Smith has received include:

1987: Susan received her Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation in 1987 and is a Past President of the Arizona Society of Association Executives.

2001: In 2001, the American Society of Association Executives bestowed its highest honor, the Key Award, on Susan.

2010: "Women in Water" honored Susan in December 2010 for her leadership.

2013: Susan Bitter Smith was elected to a four year term on the Arizona Corporation Commission starting in January 2013.

Susan Bitter Smith has served as Executive Director of the Southwest Cable Communications Association since 1980. She earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Business Administration from Arizona State University and is a Past Chairman of the ASU Alumni Association. In addition, she serves as the Honorary Chair of the ASU MBA Alumni Association, is a Past Chairman of the Walter Cronkite Foundation, Past Chairman of the Arizona First Amendment Coalition, and is the Chairman of the Arizona Competitive Telecommunications Coalition.

A native of Arizona, she has served as a member of the Scottsdale City Council and was Vice Mayor. She completed two six year terms as an elected member of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors, the last four as President of the Board (the first woman to hold this position). As a member of the CAWCD Board, Susan was instrumental in working with Arizona's Congressional Delegation in the

successful settlement of the CAWCD Repayment Settlement dispute with the United States Department of the Interior and the federal finalization of the Gila Indian Water Rights dispute. As President of the Board, Susan has led the effort to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant with a consortium of both Federal and local players. In addition, she has led the fight to mitigate the EPA's efforts to close the Navajo Generating Station, the primary power source that operates the Central Arizona Project. She is a founding member of "Women in Water", a local group of women involved in water policy. "Women in Water" honored Susan in December 2010 for her leadership.

Susan is married with two children. She is a frequent guest of local radio and television hosts providing commentary on local and national political issues. She is a contributing columnist to the "Arizona Republic" and has served as the co-host of the "Arizona Almanac" Radio Show.