

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Media Contact: Elizabeth Allan, Executive Director (510) 382-7800, x101

eallan@cwea.org

May 15, 2006

CWEA's FIRST FEMALE OPERATOR PRESIDENT TAKES OFFICE
Second of three women from the water quality industry to take leadership position

Oakland, CA — After 78 years, a female senior plant operator has stepped into the top leadership position of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA). On April 6, 2006, Paula Zeller, Senior Plant Operator at the Orange County Sanitation District, became the second female President of CWEA in the association's history. Kathy Suter, Laboratory Director at South Bayside System Authority (SBSA) in Redwood City, CA, was the first of three women elected to lead CWEA's Board of Directors from 2005 to 2008. Following Ms. Zeller, Maura Bonnarens, Senior Civil Engineer at East Bay Municipal Utility District, becomes CWEA President in 2007.

Paula Zeller has been an active CWEA volunteer since 1991. Elected to the CWEA Board of Directors in 2005, Ms. Zeller has been involved the strategic plan for CWEA that emphasizes educating the public about wastewater issues. Public education has always been close to her heart, whether she is providing tours of her treatment plant or promoting the wastewater industry as a career.

Ms. Zeller has worked for the Orange County Sanitation District (OSCD) for 17 years, primarily at Reclamation Plant No. 1 located in Fountain Valley, CA. She currently oversees training and documentation for the Operations staff at OCSD's Reclamation Plant as well as its Treatment Plant in Huntington Beach, CA.

The gavel officially passed to Ms. Zeller at CWEA's officer installation banquet, April 7, at the association's annual conference in Sacramento. She facilitated her first CWEA board meeting Saturday, April 8, 2006 and her term will finish at the annual conference in Ontario, April 17-20, 2007.

The California Water Environment Association (CWEA) is a not-for-profit association of 7,700 professionals in the water quality industry committed to keeping California's water clean. CWEA trains and certifies wastewater professionals, shares technical knowledge, and promotes sound policies to benefit society through protection and enhancement of the water environment. CWEA is the largest member association of the international Water Environment Federation. www.cwea.org

###