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Morales, Birks-Mitchell Selected as Leaders of Arizona Recycling Advisory Committee as Group Reconstitutes

PHOENIX (May 14, 2014) – Lucy Morales of Flagstaff was selected chairwoman and Elaine Birks-Mitchell of Phoenix vice chairwoman of the Arizona Recycling Advisory Committee during the reconstituted group’s first meeting last Thursday.

In addition to Morales, who formerly was recycling director of the City of Tempe, and Birks-Mitchell, CEO of The Bra Recyclers, the nine-person group features numerous people influential in recycling and solid waste disposal issues throughout the state.

Other members of the committee are Solid Waste Manager John Minear, Buckeye; Project Manager Nicole Bisacchi of Waste Management, Phoenix; Regional Manager Dawn Helms of CRM of America, LLC, Mesa; Owner David Hertzberg of Sonoran Waste Disposal, Phoenix; Treatment Plant Operator Melissa Kenchiova of Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District, Pinetop-Lakeside; Utilities Director Elizardo “Lee” Jacobs, Nogales; and City Environmental Manager Fran LaSala, Tucson.

The recycling advisory committee was last active in 2009, the last year that the Arizona State Legislature appropriated recycling funding for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Part of the group’s activities this year will be geared toward developing support mechanisms for bringing about ADEQ’s recycling grant program again.

At last week’s meeting, in which all committee members took the oath of office, ADEQ Director Henry Darwin thanked each of them for volunteering their time to protect Arizona’s public health and environment.

“It’s of utmost importance that we lay the groundwork for re-establishing ADEQ’s recycling grant program and this is a big step in that direction,” Darwin said. “Members of this committee have decades of recycling experience in Arizona and are very motivated to see the grant program back in action.”

The committee’s activities during its first year will be oriented toward building support for restoring grant funding and advising the director on potential recycling opportunities and enhancements that may be accomplished with limited program resources.

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