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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215 (o);  
(480) 433-9551 (cell)

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## **Administrative Counsel Parke, 11 other ADEQ Employees Honored for Stellar Work during Annual Awards Ceremony**

PHOENIX (Dec. 19, 2011) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Administrative Counsel Bret Parke received the Director’s Excellence Award and a number of other agency employees were also honored for their outstanding job performances during 2011 at ADEQ’s annual awards event at its Phoenix headquarters.

Parke received the award for his work chairing a number of internal committees at ADEQ along with representing the agency on numerous important panels including the Arizona Power Plant & Transmission Line Siting Committee and the Western States Project.

“ADEQ places a high value on the importance of recognizing our employees for their commitment to protecting public health and the environment of Arizona and for the exceptional service they provide to all Arizonans,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

Largely supported by employee donations and state authorized fund-raising activities, the department’s recognition program is good for employee morale, Darwin said, adding that it is designed to encourage many of the qualities and characteristics ADEQ seeks to reinforce among its employees.

Other award categories and winners were:

**Cost efficiency:** Daniel Borns of Administrative Services Division for cost-saving measures relating to the move of ADEQ’s Waste Programs Division during the year.

**Creativity:** Edna Mendoza of ADEQ’s Southern Regional Office in Tucson for visionary air quality projects in the Arizona-Sonora border region and maintaining working relationships that have sustained environmental projects on both sides of the border.

**Customer Service:** Tom Adams of the Director’s Office for producing detailed, program-specific reports and assisting agency employees with data requirements.

**Environmental Commitment:** Hans Huth of ADEQ’s Southern Regional Office for his work on sustainability projects and biofuel development in Southern Arizona.

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**Mentorship:** Linda Taunt of Water Quality Division for her work in advancing professional development of her co-workers and providing leadership in troubleshooting problems.

**Perseverance:** Tara Rosie of Waste Programs Division for “staying the course” in the face of challenge and adversity while maintaining ADEQ’s underground storage tank records.

**Positive Attitude:** Randy Matas of Waste Programs Division for his can-do spirit, easy-going manner and encouragement of co-workers.

**Productivity:** Sunitha Atluri of Administrative Services Division for working long hours and producing exemplary results in delivering Information Technology services.

**Team:** Joseph Paul and Christopher Reith of Air Quality Division for accuracy in their air-quality forecasts overall and their work on the dust action forecast in the metropolitan Phoenix area.

**Technical Prowess:** David Crowfoot of Administrative Services Division for researching and analyzing the wide breadth of technology currently on the market and sharing the knowledge with his co-workers.

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