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## **Executive Administrator Maurer, 21 other ADEQ Employees Honored for Stellar Work during Annual Awards Ceremony**

PHOENIX (Nov. 20, 2012) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Executive Administrator Kurt Maurer received the Director’s Excellence Award and 21 other agency employees were also honored for their outstanding job performances during 2012 at ADEQ’s annual awards event at its Phoenix headquarters.

Maurer was cited for being the “thoughtful, calming voice” of ADEQ during a time of great transformation at the agency and making the agency a leader in state government in areas like continuity of operations, emergency response and employee recognition.

“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.

Other award categories and winners were:

**Customer Service:** Esmeralda Martinez of Administrative Services Division for her warm demeanor and knowledge of the agency in providing assistance to the public and co-workers.

**Efficiency:** Latha Toopal of Air Quality Division for improving all aspects of the process by which air quality permits are issued by her drive and technical expertise.

**Environmental Commitment:** Mark Shaffer of the Director’s Office for his leadership and volunteering time to the agency for ADEQ’s 72 electronic waste recycling events in the state since 2009.

**Innovation and Creativity:** Ryan Richards of Water Quality Division for analyzing use of ADEQ’s database and finding and promoting efficient means for improving internal processes and producing reports.

**Mentorship:** Ray Morgan of ADEQ’s Southern Regional Office in Tucson for mentoring all levels of employees, which has improved the technical expertise of the agency and made ADEQ employees better people.

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**Perseverance:** Dennis Turner of Water Quality Division for his work in leading the renewal of the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Construction Stormwater General Permit through a lengthy stakeholder review process.

**Positive Attitude:** Meghan Smart of Water Quality Division for her contagious, optimistic attitude, creativity and leadership.

**Productivity:** Tom Adams of the Director's Office for his many technical talents in supporting the top priority projects of the agency.

**Professional, Technical or Scientific Expertise:** Brad Busby of Air Quality Division and Chuck Graf of Water Quality Division. Busby won for his groundbreaking work in developing a model to determine why dust storms truly are "exceptional events" and should not be counted against Arizona while being reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Graf won for continued use on numerous fronts of his nationally and internationally recognized talents as an expert in hydrology, engineering and water management.

**Team:** Members of the State Lead Unit of Waste Programs Division: Andrea Baca, Samar Bhuyan, Rick Brunton, Debi Goodwin, Jason Kocer, Mike Latin, Brent Mitchell, Laura Morales, David Pettigrew, Mark Rhoades and John Robertson. The team won for the tremendous strides it made in improving efficiency and productivity throughout the year, including reducing the time in half needed to hire consultants for corrective action work.

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