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## **EPA Recognizes Acequia and its Partners and Clients for Water Efficiency**

(Dallas, Texas – September 10, 2009) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today recognized Acequia, a business based in Athens, Texas, and its partners and clients for their leadership in water management. Acequia was one of six Water Efficiency Leader Award winners in 2008 and is being recognized for exceeding expectations in water management based on three criteria: leadership, innovation, and water saved. Acequia earned its place among the nation's most innovative water leaders by surpassing its own five-year goals of sustaining measured water reductions from 20 percent to 54 percent across nearly 70 commercial properties.

“These water efficiency leaders are excellent examples of cooperative conservation and innovative technology,” said Miguel Flores, EPA Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division Director. “EPA applauds Acequia and its partners and clients for their environmental stewardship in helping to save one of the nation's most valuable resources.”

“The positive change in attitude towards our environment over the last five years has truly been remarkable,” said Acequia's Managing Partner, Kenneth Cook. “Our clients' desire to be good corporate citizens in their conservation efforts sets the pace for all other commercial real estate owners. They are true pioneers of the triple bottom line approach to landscape water conservation.”

Acequia and its partners and clients together and as a whole have documented 899,335,330 gallons of water savings in Texas. Partners and clients being recognized today include:

- Security Service Federal Credit Union, San Antonio
- American Airlines, Dallas
- Colonial Properties Trust, Dallas
- Milestone Management, Dallas
- Chelsea Property Group (a Simon Company), Roseland, New Jersey
- CRES Management, Kansas City, Missouri
- Falcon Southwest, Austin
- Trinity Property Consultants, Dallas
- USAA Real Estate Company, San Antonio
- CWS Apartment Homes, Austin

The Water Efficiency Leader (WEL) Awards help foster a nationwide ethic of water efficiency, which is critical to the U.S. economy and quality of life. Due to demographic shifts, increased demand, and aging water infrastructure, there is a national need for more efficient use of our water resources. EPA recognizes this need and has developed the WEL Awards in addition to other initiatives such as product labeling under the WaterSense program and a national organization to foster water efficiency.

More information about Water Efficiency Leaders is available at <http://www.epa.gov/water/wel/>

More information about WaterSense is available at <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/index.htm>

To learn more about activities in EPA Region 6, visit <http://www.epa.gov/region6>

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