



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NHA Recognizes Five Hydropower Projects for Extraordinary Achievement

WASHINGTON, DC (Apr. 14, 2008) – The National Hydropower Association today recognized the outstanding practices of five organizations with the hydropower industry's Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters (OSAW) Award. The organizations – Brookfield Power, Chelan County PUD, San Diego County Water Authority, Seattle City Light and Yuba County Water Agency – all developed projects and programs that exemplify industry-leading best practices in producing climate-friendly, affordable and renewable energy.

“The Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters program demonstrates the true innovation taking place in the hydropower industry today,” said Linda Church Ciocci, NHA executive director. “These projects highlight, in the clearest terms, how power production and environmental protection can work hand-in-hand.”

The following three organizations received the 2008 OSAW Award in Recreational and Environmental Enhancement, which honors projects that provide enhanced recreational opportunities for the general public, institute measurable benefits to mitigate, conserve, preserve, or enhance the natural resources, and/or conserve historical aspects of hydropower facilities integrating them with the surrounding community. The 2008 winners are:

- **Brookfield Power** for work at its School Street facility in Cohoes, NY to enhance aesthetics at this popular scenic destination. Site enhancements included: reconstruction of Overlook Park, a popular recreational destination; exterior building improvements that preserve the facility's look, feel, and historic integrity; and grounds maintenance and access road improvements.
- **Seattle City Light** for its multi-faceted collaborative effort with the Skagit Watershed Council, three Skagit tribes, the Nature Conservancy, and other stakeholders to develop and implement fish recovery plans, complete research to guide recovery actions, acquire and restore critical freshwater and estuarine habitats, and build support for multi-species fish recovery in the Skagit River watershed.

- **Yuba County Water Agency** for the retrofit of a bypass to its existing dam and powerhouse at the Narrows 2 facility. The project maintains optimum flow and water temperature to sustain valuable fisheries in the Yuba River, protecting threatened spring-run Chinook salmon and helping to preserve the last self-sustaining wild steelhead population in California's Central Valley.

Two organizations received the 2008 OSAW Award for Operational Excellence, which honors projects that demonstrate significant technical contributions improving efficiency, safety, security, and/or overall operational effectiveness of hydroelectric assets. The 2008 winners are:

- **Chelan County PUD** for the extensive program of upgrades to improve safety and security at its facilities throughout its system. The effort includes a \$3.8 million network that protects dams, transmission lines, distribution infrastructure, water/wastewater systems, fiber-optic lines, buildings, computers, and, most important, people.
- **San Diego County Water Authority** for the construction of the 4.5 megawatt Rancho Penasquitos Pressure Control Hydroelectric Facility. The project improves the flexibility of pipeline operations, eliminating the limitation of unidirectional water flow and increasing the ability to keep water moving to member agencies. The project generates enough clean, renewable energy to power 5,000 homes.

NHA's selection panel, including representatives from industry, environmental, and recreational interests, determined the OSAW Award winners based on their project or program's challenge, innovation, collaboration with stakeholders, and results.

NHA presented the awards today at the association's annual conference in Washington, DC.

For more details on the 2008 OSAW winners, see www.outstandingwaters.org.

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NHA is a non-profit national association dedicated exclusively to advancing the interests of the U.S. hydropower industry, including the new waterpower technologies – ocean, tidal and instream hydrokinetic technologies. The association represents 61 percent of domestic, non-federal conventional hydroelectric capacity in the U.S. Its membership consists of more than 150 organizations including public utilities, investor-owned utilities, independent power producers, developers, equipment manufacturers, environmental and engineering consultants, and attorneys.