



**For Immediate Release
Feb. 28, 2008**

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Water CASA Awards \$500 Gift to CAGR D Member for Completing Survey

Sahuarita family wins gift certificate from Water Conservation Alliance for answering 10 questions about Groundwater Replenishment District

TUCSON (Feb. 28, 2008) – The Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona (Water CASA) has awarded Karen and Melvin Barber of Sahuarita a \$500 Gift Certificate for completing Water CASA’s survey of homeowners living in the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, or CAGR D.

The gift certificate, purchased by Water CASA from Target stores, was awarded on February 26th to Karen Barber after her completed written survey was randomly selected from over 200 surveys that were answered and returned. Surveys were given to homeowners living in the CAGR D in Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties.

“I just thought it seemed important,” Ms. Barber said of her decision to complete and return the survey. The survey consisted of ten multiple-choice questions measuring homeowners’ knowledge regarding their membership in the CAGR D. Questions included if and how respondents knew they were members of CAGR D, whether or not CAGR D assessments were flat fees and questions about their water usage and conservation in general.

The CAGR D is operated by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. In the CAGR D’s three counties, members pay to replenish the groundwater they use after their usage is assessed at the end of each year. CAGR D assessments are not flat fees; rather, homeowners’ fees increase as they use more water. The CAGR D assessment shows up as a line item on each homeowner’s property tax statement from the county treasurer.

“We now know there is a general lack of understanding among affected homeowners,” Water CASA Executive Director Val Little said of the CAGR D survey results. “Our next goal is to raise public awareness and understanding.”

Water CASA’s study showed that 72% of respondents either did not know their homes were in of the CAGR D or believed they were not members. Less than 50% of respondents were aware that the water use assessments on their property tax bills increase as they use more water.

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