



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Charlene Njoroge 404.463.3259 or
Grace Trimble 404.463.3192

Chapel Hill Middle School Student Represents Douglas County in Water Essay Contest

Carlos Alcala, a eighth student at Chapel Hill Middle School, is the Douglas County winner in the seventh annual water conservation and water quality essay contest, sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District). The Metro Water District is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive watershed, wastewater and water supply and conservation plans to be implemented by local governments in the 15-county metro Atlanta region. The Clean Water Campaign and Water Use It Wisely are public education campaigns designed to educate and promote behavior changes in water conservation and water quality.

Douglas County Commissioner Mike Mulcare will present Carlos Alcala with the County Award at Chapel Hill Middle School on Thursday, November 20, 2008. Commissioner Mulcare said, "Douglas County is one of the 61 counties included in this history making drought. In the last two years, Douglas County has made great strides in conserving water and water usage has decreased within Douglas County, but more can be done by both policy makers and the residents of Douglas County." Carlos' essay outlines the importance of water to our community. In his essay, Carlos says, "Without water a civilization cannot flourish, so it is important to have water that is one hundred percent pure and have it in abundance."

The two campaigns, Clean Water Campaign and Water Use It Wisely, teamed up to encourage children and parents to address the growing need to improve water quality and conservation efforts in Georgia. Students researched and shared their thoughts on why conserving water and preventing water pollution are important for the future of their river, lakes and streams. The main goal of this program is to encourage students to create inventive solutions to water conservation and water quality in metro North Georgia.

The contest was open to sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale

-more-

and Walton Counties. Each participating school submitted its winning essay for the county competition, and one overall winner was selected from among the county winners. The District Winner will receive a \$100 check and the County winners receive a \$25 check along with a certificate presented by county representative.

To view the names of the winners and read the winning essays, visit the Clean Water Campaign's Web site (www.cleanwatercampaign.com).

About the Campaigns

The **Clean Water Campaign** (www.cleanwatercampaign.com) is a cooperative, multi-agency education initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta, supported by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the 15-county District.

Water- Use It Wisely (www.wateruseitwisely.com) is a program that educates consumers about simple water conservation measures. It is a multi-state program that is being sponsored in the metro Atlanta area by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

Chapel Hill Middle School is located at 3989 Chapel Hill Road, Douglasville, GA 30135. For more information about the school or student, please call 770-651-5000.

###