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**PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE WATER RECOGNIZES THE ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY (OWASA) FOR ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PLANT PERFORMANCE**

DENVER, CO - Orange Water and Sewer Authority's (OWASA) Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant has received the rarely achieved Phase IV "Excellence in Water Treatment" award from the [\*Partnership for Safe Water\*](#).

OWASA, which serves the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is only the ninth utility in the U.S. to receive this award.

This *Partnership for Safe Water* is a national volunteer initiative developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other water organizations representing water suppliers striving to provide their communities with drinking water quality that surpasses federal standards. The Excellence in Water Treatment Award is the highest level of performance that can be achieved in the *Partnership* program, and it signifies optimized plant performance.

"This award is a very significant achievement in OWASA's ongoing work to meet stringent performance goals," said Robert Cheng, Partnership for Safe Water Steering Committee Chair.

Ken Loflin, OWASA's Water Supply and Treatment Manager, said "We have significantly improved the quality of drinking water provided to our customers through a philosophy of 'continuous improvement' that has been nurtured and fine-tuned at the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant with nine years of diligent work. Through this effort, the water treatment plant team has demonstrated a commitment to improving water quality beyond the current regulatory requirements."

The *Partnership for Safe Water* is sponsored by the American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Association of Water Companies, and the Water Research Foundation.

The *Partnership* includes more than 200 water utilities, which serve more than 85 million people, or over 60% of the U.S. population served by surface water sources such as reservoirs. Each utility in the *Partnership* has committed to enhancing drinking water quality and operational excellence in water treatment.

As members of the *Partnership*, utilities make a pledge to their communities to improve their treatment operations to reduce the risk of exposure to microbial contaminants, namely *Cryptosporidium*, a parasite that can cause illness. After making this commitment, the member utilities' treatment practices undergo a rigorous review developed by national experts, which includes a four-phased self-assessment and peer review process.

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