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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BARR LAKE/MILTON RESERVOIR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN WINS GOLD AWARD FROM THE DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS *Selected in the 2008 Local Government Innovations Awards Program category of Planning with Vision*

Denver, Colorado – May 1, 2008 – The Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed (BMW) Association was honored with a first place award from the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) at the agency's annual *Local Government Innovations Awards Program* dinner on April 30. The award won in the category of *Planning with Vision*; recognizing the collaborative and innovative efforts of the parties involved in developing the *Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Management Plan (Plan)*. More than 350 people attended the ceremony to celebrate regional accomplishments and hear from local elected officials and government entities.

BMW Association participants include representatives of cities and towns, major wastewater treatment facilities, drinking water providers, agricultural water users, and recreational groups. Plaques and certificates were presented to the following active participants of the BMW Association: City of Aurora, Barr Lake State Park, City and County of Denver, East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District, City of Englewood, Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company, Integral Consulting Inc., City of Littleton, Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, Pelican Lake Ranch, South Adams County Water and Sanitation District, South Platte Coalition of Urban River Evaluation, City of Thornton, and United Water and Sanitation District.

The Barr/Milton watershed stretches north and east over 850 square miles, beginning at Chatfield Reservoir and covering most of the Denver metropolitan area and portions of six counties. Denver-area organizations joined forces in 2006 to create the first edition of this collaborative watershed management plan which lays the groundwork for reducing pollution to Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir north of Denver. The *Plan* is a major first step in a 10-year process to reduce nutrient pollution to these lakes, which are popular spots for outdoor recreation, bird-watching, and fishing, provide habitat to nesting bald eagles, and store water used for both agricultural and drinking water supplies. The *Plan* is intended to be a living and dynamic document that will serve as a reference guide and incorporate new information as it is available. This progressive effort sets a precedent for dozens of watersheds across the State with similar nutrient pollution issues. The *Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Management Plan* and more information about the group can be found at www.barr-milton.org.