



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### Leo Bankston Award to be presented to the city of Baker

BATON ROUGE – Baker Mayor Harold Rideau will accept the Leo Bankston Award tonight at the Baker City Council meeting, which is set for 6 p.m. The Leo Bankston award is given annually by the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission District and recognizes good stewardship of our ground water resources. Any ground water user in the CAGWCC District that has implemented significant reductions in ground water use or has helped protect the Baton Rouge aquifer system eligible.

For 2012, the award will be presented to the city of Baker for their installation of an automated water meter system for the 86 percent of the total users who do not have meters and to replace old meters with new ones. Users without meters have been paying a flat rate to the city of Baker so there was no incentive to conserve water. This project called for a water meter at every residence and will allow residents to monitor their water use and conserve water where they can. It is estimated that installing the meters will help save 21 million gallons of ground water a month.

This was a Green Project, partially funded by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch and DEQ Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning will be in attendance for the award presentation.

“Projects like the water meter project in Baker encourage people to be aware of their water usage and DEQ was pleased to play a part in this success story,” Hatch said. “Prudent use of water and the conservation of this valuable natural resource need to be rewarded. The more aware people are of their environment, the better the environment will become.”

The presentation will be made by Commission Chairman, Jake Causey. The council meeting will be at Baker City Hall, located at 3325 Groom Rd., Baker.