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***Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments Receives
National Association of Development Organizations 2023 Impact Award***

Washington, DC, November 20, 2023 – Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments based in McKinley County, NM has received a 2023 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Water Regionalization and Water Commons Program project.

The project aimed at assisting small rural systems starting in McKinley County and thence for the whole region of Northwest New Mexico to provide a sustainable framework for meeting them where they are, customizing an action improvement plan, and providing a full circle of partners for technical assistance and a full cycle of funders with flexible investments. Through this program and its partners, the COG has developed the equivalent of Regional Water Planning Organization (RWPO) model after RTPOs or the transportation version, a Small System Leadership Institute, annual Rural Water Summits, and a local-level technical assistance approach that has proven effective.

“Creating positive change in communities starts with relationships and common ground. Creating programs that stick and are effective is about having a passionate change-maker and creating programs that last is about partnerships”, said Evan Williams, Executive Director. “This award is about building all three together and all the credit goes to Angelina Grey, our Water & Environment Program Manager, for her vision and leadership.”

NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation’s regions and local communities.

Award-winning projects were recognized during NADO’s 2023 Annual Training Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio on November 7-10. The 2023 class of award recipients consists of 107 projects from 71 organizations spanning 28 states. These projects are presented in an interactive story map developed by NADO that includes project summaries, partners, and images. The map is available online at nado.org/2023-impact-award-recipient.

“NADO’s Impact Awards program provides a yearly opportunity for us to publicly commend the indispensable services delivered by our members to their local communities,” said 2022-2023 NADO President Chris Fetzer, executive director of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, located in Flagstaff, AZ. “These projects not only made positive impacts in their respective regions, but also underscore the incredible diversity of programs and resources offered by regional development organizations that promote vibrant, resilient, and thriving communities.”

The NADO Impact Awards are presented in honor of the late Aliceann Wohlbruck who served as NADO's first executive director for 24 years as a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities.

For more information about this award-winning project, contact Evan Williams at (505) 722-4327 or ewilliams@nwnmcog.org.

About NADO

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) promotes public policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts, and program expertise of the nation's regional development organizations. Learn more about NADO at www.nado.org.

About Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG) is a 51-year-old regional development organization (RDO) recognized and empowered by the State of New Mexico and the US Economic Development Administration. We serve the entire three-county region of Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan counties and the communities therewithin to improve community and economy for the region and its people. The NWNMCOG is association of nine local governments governed by a Board of Directors unified by the belief that we are stronger together and only united can we advance regional opportunities and tackle regional challenges from sustainable water supply to strategic infrastructure and to economic development. The NWNMCOG facilitates the Northwest Regional Water Planning Organization (RTPO) with funding support from its members and the New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration's State Grant in Aid program.

For more information about NWNMCOG, visit www.nwnmcog.org

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