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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS AND THE NATIONAL UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION MEET WITH CONGRESS TO ENSURE WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ARE INCLUDED IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND INVESTMENT ACT**

*HD Supply Waterworks was one of the few wholesale distributors in the water and wastewater industry invited to participate in the special session.*

**THOMASVILLE, GA – March 12, 2009** - Jerry Webb, President of HD Supply Waterworks, and Eben Wyman, Chief Lobbyist for the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), recently met with members of the House and Senate in Washington D.C. to highlight the need for significant improvement in the nation's water and wastewater infrastructure and to ensure provisions for rehabilitation and repair of the systems were included in the recently enacted American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009.

"We were honored to be invited, along with NUCA, to meet with members of Congress and assist in the efforts to advance investment in water and wastewater infrastructure. Our focus was to emphasize the critical need to improve the nation's aging underground infrastructure and highlight how these projects create jobs for the underground contractor community," said Webb. "An investment in this vital component to our national infrastructure is financially and environmentally beneficial while having a genuine stimulative effect. As the nation's leading distributor of water, wastewater and fire protection products, HD Supply Waterworks has an obligation to our municipal and contractor customers to supply high quality products and services that improve the nation's underground systems."

The U.S. Conference of Mayors recently reported there are 2,536 water and wastewater projects ready to go to construction within 90 days that are valued at \$15.4 billion and will create 133,193 jobs. Rehabilitation and repair of existing infrastructure projects is expected to begin immediately and be completed in 2010. The Conference of Mayors' report also estimates that every job created in rebuilding the nation's water systems creates more than 3.6 jobs elsewhere in the economy, and that each dollar invested in America's water infrastructure adds \$6.35 to the national economy.

"The tens of billions of dollars in water and wastewater systems, as well as other environmental, energy and communications infrastructure projects included in the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009, will provide much-needed resources to

address the severe financial challenges and job losses facing our industry right now,” said, Terry Dillon, President of NUCA. “The first wave of projects has already begun.”

Federal investment in water and wastewater programs included in the final package includes:

### **Clean Water**

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund: \$4 billion to help communities upgrade wastewater treatment systems.
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$2 billion for drinking water infrastructure.
- Rural Water and Waste Disposal: \$1.4 billion to support \$3.8 billion in grants and loans to help communities fund drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.

### **Water Resources**

- Corps of Engineers: \$4.6 billion for environmental restoration, flood protection, hydropower and navigation infrastructure critical to the economy.
- Bureau of Reclamation: \$1 billion to provide clean, safe and reliable drinking water to rural areas and to ensure adequate water supply to western localities impacted by drought.
- Watershed Infrastructure: \$340 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service watershed improvement programs to design and build flood protection and water quality projects, repair aging dams and purchase and restore conservation easements in river flood zones.
- International Boundary and Water Commission: \$220 million to repair flood control systems along the international segment of the Rio Grande damaged by hurricane Katrina and other major storms.

### **About HD Supply Waterworks**

HD Supply Waterworks is the nation’s leader in the water, wastewater, storm and fire protection industries. The business distributes a complete line of water, sewer, fire protection and storm drain products, integral to building, repairing and maintaining water and wastewater systems that are part of the basic municipal infrastructure required to support population and economic growth and residential and commercial construction. It currently operates more than 260 branches in 41 states.

### **About HD Supply**

HD Supply ([www.hdsupply.com](http://www.hdsupply.com)) is a leading wholesale distribution company, providing a broad range of products and services to professional customers in the infrastructure & energy, maintenance, repair & improvement and specialty construction markets. With a diverse portfolio of market-leading businesses, HD Supply is one of the largest diversified wholesale distributors in North America, with approximately 900 locations.

### **About National Utility Contractors Association**

The oldest and largest national trade association working solely for the utility construction industry, the Arlington, Va.-based National Utility Contractors Association has a nationwide network of chapters and represents more than 1,700 company members that provide the workforce and materials to advance the water, sewer, gas, electric, telecommunications and construction site development industries across the

country. Founded in 1964, NUCA continues to be the driving force for improving conditions in the industry by advancing and protecting the profession in the legislative and regulatory arenas and delivering the latest in safety and professional education.

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