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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority  
Executive Director Wins National Award**

Sarasota, Fla. – December 9, 2003 – Patrick J. Lehman, P.E., executive director of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) was recently presented with the American Water Works Association’s (AWWA) prestigious George Warren Fuller award. This national award is presented to individuals for “distinguished service in the water supply field, and in commemoration of the sound professional skill...the brilliant diplomatic talent...and the constructive leadership of men in this association which characterized the life of George Warren Fuller.” George Warren Fuller, a past president of AWWA, was instrumental in the development of the science of public health and advancement of professional organizations, such as AWWA.

Lehman has served in many leadership positions with the Florida section of the American Water Works Association (FS/AWWA) including as its past public affairs chair and treasurer. He is currently treasurer of the Florida Water Resources Journal and also chairs the Florida section’s Utility Council.

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“Pat Lehman is a man the section could always depend on,” said Ray Miller, AWWA treasurer, as he announced the award recipient at the annual state conference in Orlando. “He is a quiet worker who stays in the background and gets things accomplished,” announced Miller.

Glen Yaney, chair of the FS/AWWA, said that Lehman’s longevity of service for the FS/AWWA made him an outstanding recipient for this award.

“Pat’s service in the Florida Section has made a tremendous impact,” said Yaney. “His significant effort into the structure of the organization has made positive advancements, and he was instrumental in connecting the local sections of the FS/AWWA to make it a stronger state-wide organization.”

Lehman has served as the Director of the Authority since November of 1997. He has also served as deputy director of the City of Tampa Water Department and vice president of the Florida Cities Water Company in Sarasota.

“It is an honor to be recognized with this award,” said Lehman. “I am just one of the many individuals who have dedicated time and effort to the advancement of the water industry.”

AWWA is an international, nonprofit, scientific, and educational association dedicated to improving drinking water for people everywhere. The Florida section is the fifth largest and fastest growing section in the AWWA family, with 2,558 members in 12 regions.

The Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority works endlessly to fulfill its mission of providing its members with reliable supplies of high-quality water in a way that both protects and preserves the environment. Each day the Authority provides 16 million gallons of water to the people in our region. More information is available at [www.regionalwater.org](http://www.regionalwater.org).

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