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Florida Communities, Leaders Recognized at National Community Water Fluoridation Awards

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 3, 2014) – The Florida Dental Association (FDA) is proud to share that seven Florida communities and organizations were recognized at the 2014 Community Water Fluoridation Awards at the National Oral Health Conference in Fort Worth, Texas for their efforts to support community water fluoridation. Presented by American Dental Association, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the following are the Florida award winners:

- The Pinellas County Dental Association, Upper Pinellas County Dental Association and Pinellas County Oral Health Coalition were recognized as a 2014 Fluoridation Merit Award winner for their efforts to support reinstating fluoridation to Pinellas County’s community water following a 2011 Pinellas County Commission vote to discontinue water fluoridation. The united efforts of these three organizations were fundamental in changing the political landscape and reversing the Commission’s decision.
- The Tampa Bay Times was also recognized as a 2014 Fluoridation Merit Award winner for its continuous, fact-driven editorial writing in support of water fluoridation in Pinellas County.
- The city of Brooksville received a Community Fluoridation Reaffirmation Award in recognition of the Brooksville City Council’s vote to reverse a 2011 decision to end the city’s 25-year water fluoridation program.
- The Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and Fort Pierce Utilities Authority were recognized for 50 years of public service in providing community water fluoridation.

Community water fluoridation is the adjustment of the level of naturally occurring fluoride in water to optimal levels to protect teeth and is effective in reducing dental decay by as much as 20 to 40 percent. The American Dental Association reports that fluoridation of community water supplies is the single most effective public health measure to prevent dental decay.

“We applaud the passionate efforts of these organizations and individuals to support community water fluoridation in Florida,” said Dr. Terry Buckenheimer, president of the Florida Dental Association. “Fluoridation is the most successful tool we have to provide widespread

preventative dental care, and the Florida Dental Association supports water fluoridation in all Florida communities.”

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About the Florida Dental Association

The FDA is a statewide, professional association representing the dental profession in Florida. A constituent society of the ADA, the FDA’s mission is to improve the oral health of Florida residents, promote ethical practice standards, and direct the evolution of the practice environment through continuous education and advocacy for the profession and the public. For more information about the FDA, visit www.floridadental.org.