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Western States Petroleum Association Names New President

Current President to Serve as Executive Advisor to Board Chair; Assist in Transition

SACRAMENTO – The Board of Directors of the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) has announced that Catherine Reheis-Boyd will assume the role of President of the oil and natural gas industry trade association January 1, 2010. At the same time, the WSPA Board announced current President Joe Sparano will move to a newly created position of Executive Advisor to the Chairman of the Board.

The changes are part of a long-term transition plan that was set into motion in October of 2008 shortly after Mr. Sparano announced to the Board his plan to step down as WSPA's President in March of 2011. Ms. Reheis-Boyd has worked for WSPA since 1990 and currently serves as the Association's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

"WSPA has benefited immensely from the extraordinary leadership provided by both Joe and Cathy over the past seven years," said Gary Yesavage, President of Global Manufacturing for Chevron Corporation and Chairman of WSPA's Board of Directors. "This plan ensures an effective transition of that leadership as Joe prepares to retire while still taking full advantage of his lifetime of experience and knowledge in the petroleum industry," he said.

"No one is more capable, experienced and deserving of leading our Association into the future than Cathy Reheis-Boyd," Yesavage said. "Cathy is a great leader and the Board is 100 percent confident she will continue to be a forceful and successful advocate for our industry."

The Western States Petroleum Association is the leading petroleum industry trade association in six western states – California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Its twenty-seven members include major integrated oil and natural gas companies as well as independent refiners and marketers, and independent producers. Formed in 1906, it is the oldest petroleum industry trade association in the United States.

Reheis-Boyd, 52, has become the Association's primary expert and spokesperson on climate change issues and has played a key role regionally, nationally and internationally in public policy discussions on these issues.

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“Providing our region’s future energy supplies and meeting our climate change objectives are going to be major challenges for all of us, not just the petroleum industry,” said Reheis-Boyd. “WSPA members will be integral to solving those challenges and I am looking forward to helping craft those solutions.”

Sparano, 62, joined WSPA as President in 2003. He was previously President of Tesoro Petroleum’s West Coast Regional Business Unit and Vice President of the company’s Heavy Fuels Marketing segment. He also served as Chairman and CEO of Long Beach-based Pacific Refining Company and in executive positions with Exxon, Ultramar, Union Pacific Resources/Champlin and Mercury Air Group.

In his new role of Executive Advisor, Sparano will help complete a smooth transition to the new WSPA organization as well as continue to be a spokesperson for the Association and the petroleum industry.

“Cathy’s appointment as WSPA’s next President is a great decision and the timing is right,” Sparano said. “It’s very important there be a smooth and seamless transition in the leadership of WSPA during these critical times. Cathy is a smart, dynamic and extraordinarily dedicated person, and has already demonstrated she is an effective leader. I am looking forward to working with her in our new roles.”

For more information on WSPA, visit www.wspa.org.