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KQED Public Television's QUEST wins 1st place Society of Environmental Journalist Award for Outstanding Television Story

October 17, 2008, San Francisco, CA – QUEST (www.kqed.org/quest), KQED's local science and nature program, has won top honors in the seventh annual Awards for Reporting on the Environment sponsored by the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ). The segment "Condors vs. Lead Bullets" was the winning story. Second and third places went to NBC News and NDTV (New Delhi, India), respectively.

The segment was produced by Chris Bauer, Sheraz Sadiq, Josh Rosen, Paul Rogers and Shirley Gutierrez, under executive producer Sue Ellen McCann. The story covers the once nearly extinct California condors, now making a steady recovery. A new threat – lead poisoning from old bullets – is slowing progress, leaving scientists between wildlife preservation and the politics of hunting. Since the piece broadcast in 2007, California lawmakers passed legislation to ban the use of lead bullets in Condor Country that generally extends from the San Francisco Bay Area to Los Angeles.

The SEJ awards website declares, "Judges found the QUEST piece on the condors to be mesmerizing and haunting with amazing storytelling and excellent use of video."

Out of 234 entries, thirty-three were chosen in 11 categories as finalists in the SEJ Awards for Reporting on the Environment, the world's largest and most comprehensive awards for journalism on environmental topics. Reporters, editors and journalism educators who served as contest judges chose the finalists representing the best environmental reporting in print and on television, radio, the Internet and in student publications.

For more details on the awards, visit: www.sej.org/contest/index4.htm.

To watch or embed the QUEST video on "Condors vs. Lead Bullets," visit: www.kqed.org/quest/television/view/93.

Launched in February 2007, *QUEST* is KQED's largest multimedia project. Going beyond its weekly television broadcast, *QUEST* features weekly **radio reports**, free **educator resources** and a dynamic website that includes: exclusive **web extras**, **flickr photos**, local science-based hikes called **Explorations**, and a daily **science blog** written by Northern California scientists. *QUEST* also works with **16 community partners**, including the California Academy of Sciences, the Chabot Space and Science Center, the Exploratorium, the Lawrence Hall of Science and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, to bring audiences closer to the Bay Area's world-class science centers, museums and the natural beauty of its open spaces. For more information about the series visit: www.kqed.org/quest.

KQED (www.kqed.org) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB). KQED Public Television 9, the nation's most-watched public television station, is the producer of local and national series such as *QUEST*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *Jacques Pepin: Fast Food My Way*; and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include KQED HD, KQED Life, KQED World, KQED Kids and KQED V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio, home of *Forum with Michael Krasny* and *The California Report*, is the most-listened-to public radio station in the nation with an award-winning news and



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public affairs program service (88.5 FM in San Francisco and 89.3 FM in Sacramento). KQED Education Network brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings and multimedia resources. KQED Interactive offers video and audio podcasts and live radio stream at www.kqed.org, featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.