

# WATEREUSE CALIFORNIA AWARDS

## WATEREUSE CALIFORNIA 2021 AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2021 WaterReuse California Award Winners. Use the Award Winners icon on the Conference Mobile App to view the full award description as well as informational videos.

### BAHMAN SHEIKH AWARD FOR VISION IN WATER REUSE

#### **FELICIA MARCUS**

William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow, Stanford University Water in the West Program

In forty years of public, private, and non-profit service, Felicia Marcus has advocated, educated, demonstrated, litigated, and regulated for water reuse. She has shared her powerful ideal of integrated water management in which all utilities find common purpose in making the most of our limited water supplies so that California communities prosper without impairing the rich environment which draws so many to our state.

As counsel for Heal The Bay she argued that “used water” had a higher purpose than disposal. As President of the LA Board of Public Works she worked to achieve that purpose through the first Office of Water Recycling. As EPA Region 9 Administrator she continued to encourage utilities to reuse water as an alternative to discharge. More recently, as chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board, Felicia revealed her dedication to water recycling by ensuring that the series of regulations developed under her authority would gain the support of environmental advocates and others who might challenge their adoption.

### RECYCLED WATER ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

#### **JESUS GONZALEZ**

Manager of Water Recycling Policy, Water Resources Division, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Jesus Gonzalez helped develop, oversee and fund (through LADWP) a 30-second and 2-minute “video brochure” for WaterReuse California and Southern California Water Committee. Starting June 4 this will be used to ask the California Legislature and with Legislative staff to provide \$750 million for Recycled Water funding state-wide in the Drought Package (2021/22 budget). The video will be embedded in the WRCA advocacy letters and used in legislative meetings. It will also be sent out to all WRCA members so that they can send it out over their social media channels.

Jesus worked closely with WRCA and SCWC and an animation video company to help develop a short video to explain why California needs to make a major investment in recycled water during the current drought. With the Pandemic the California state capitol is largely closed to the public. At the same time major funding hangs in the balance for recycled water. This video allows WRCA to stand out in a crowd as many interest groups make pitches to include funding for various types of projects.

## RECYCLED WATER AGENCY OF THE YEAR – LARGE

### TERMINAL ISLAND WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

The Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant (TIWRP) is a dual wastewater treatment and water recycling plant with conventional wastewater treatment processes up to Tertiary treatment, and advanced treatment processes in its Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) consisting of Microfiltration (MF), Reverse Osmosis (RO), and an Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP). It is currently one of the only facilities in the United States to perform wastewater treatment and water recycling in the same facility and has produced and delivered MF and RO-treated water since 2006 for subsurface injection and seawater intrusion prevention at the Dominguez Gap Barrier (DGB). Therefore, TIWRP staff is experienced with the entire process of treating wastewater to recycled water standards.

Recently, TIWRP upgraded its AWPF capacity from 6 MGD to 12 MGD to be able to treat 100% of TIWRP's influent wastewater flow and replaced its chloramination disinfection with an advanced oxidation process.

## RECYCLED WATER AGENCY OF THE YEAR – MEDIUM

### CITY OF UKIAH

The City of Ukiah has recently completed the first three phases of a new water recycling facility, which provides an additional 1,000 acre-feet per year of water to the Ukiah Valley. The project addresses several local needs including meeting regulatory requirements that limit the city's wastewater discharge to the Russian River. It also creates a more diversified and drought resilient water supply and provides water for agricultural uses like irrigation and frost protection.

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Ukiah now has about 30 percent of its water portfolio coming from the recycled water facility. That has greatly increased the stability of its water supply, while reducing diversions from the Russian River which helps protect fisheries.

Due to the Drought Emergency in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties the State Water Resource Control Board sent out Notices of Water Unavailability to all post 1914 water rights holders, effectively curtailing all agricultural diversions in the Ukiah Valley. For many of the farmers connected to the City of Ukiah's Recycled Water Project, recycled water is the only source of water they have in 2021.

## RECYCLED WATER AGENCY OF THE YEAR - SMALL

### **CITY OF HEALDSBURG RECLAMATION FACILITY**

The City of Healdsburg produces Title 22 recycled water which is distributed for agricultural, industrial, and construction uses through a distribution system of 2 pump stations, approximately 47,000 linear feet of pipe, and 2 automated filling stations. Water is supplied to over 1,000 acres of vineyards and a local gravel processing facility for dust control and washing aggregate materials used for asphalt and concrete production. The City's trucked recycled water program benefits construction use (primarily soil compaction, dust control, and hydro-seeding), irrigation for remote properties, and residential landscape irrigation. Over 900 residents either self-haul or receive deliveries of recycled water to offset drinking water use for landscape irrigation, reducing diversions from the Russian River by over 40%. 133,000,000 gallons have been reused since January 2020.

## RECYCLED WATER CUSTOMER OF THE YEAR

### **FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL PARKS**

Beginning in 1989, Forest Lawn Memorial Park Association has diligently connected all five of their properties located in Los Angeles County (Long Beach, Covina Hills, Cypress, Hollywood Hills and Glendale) to recycled water and, in some cases, building or upgrading transmission lines, storage reservoirs and pump stations. To accomplish this, Forest Lawn has worked with multiple recycled water producers and purveyors. These five locations receive recycled water from four different water reclamation plants (operated by either the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts or the City of Los Angeles Sanitation Department)

and are served through five separate retail water purveyors. Forest Lawn's five sites use over 1,700 acre-feet per year on 623 acres of cemetery. Environmental stewardship is part of their mission to provide their "forever" business with a sustainable replacement for potable water in irrigating their extensive landscaping serving multiple communities in Los Angeles County.

## RECYCLED WATER OUTREACH/EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE YEAR PURE WATER OCEANSIDE

The City of Oceanside is committed to improving local supply reliability and communicating the importance of its indirect potable reuse project, Pure Water Oceanside. Complete in 2022, the project will be the first operating IPR project in San Diego County. Once finished, the project will provide more than 32% of the City of Oceanside's water supply. A combination of innovative communication methods and leadership have paved the way for the project. Outreach methods provide information about the project's purpose, need, benefits, technology and safety. The campaign includes educational videos, virtual and in person tour programs, educational materials, media relations and special events. Communication tactics have instilled confidence in the treatment process, highlighted the professionalism of the city's staff - all while building project support.

## RECYCLED WATER STAFF PERSON OF THE YEAR

### **BEN SMITH**

Senior Engineer, Orange County Water District

Ben Smith is a principal engineer at the Orange County Water District where he has worked for ten years supporting the District's recycled water program. OCWD operates the Green Acres Project (GAP), which treats secondary treated water to a tertiary level, then provides recycled water for landscape irrigation at parks, schools, and golf courses; industrial uses; toilet flushing; and power generation cooling. From operations, service and repairs, end-users, rules and regulations, accounting, and even writing his master's thesis on GAP operations and management, Ben is the "go to" person for all things related to GAP. Ben's tireless work also led to fundamental changes in GAP pricing and retail agency agreements to ensure the project's long-term viability, reflecting Ben's personal commitment to recycled water.