



### **CWEA Awards Program Overview**

The California Water Environment Association (CWEA) announced the winners of its 2010 awards program at its Annual Conference in Ontario on April 15. Congratulations to these agencies and individuals leading the way in the water environment field.

Established in 1929, CWEA's awards program has grown to acknowledge outstanding achievement in more than 20 categories honoring exceptional California water environment professionals, collection systems and treatment plants. Categories include Plant of the Year, Collection System of the Year, Public Education Program of the Year as well as awards of individual professionals in various vocations. The program seeks to recognize outstanding achievements within the water environment field, improve the professional status of all personnel working in the field, and stimulate public awareness of the importance of wastewater treatment to public health and the water environment.

Nominations that advance through CWEA's 17 local sections' awards programs are eligible to compete statewide. Congratulations to the more than 150 nominees in the 2010 awards program for their diligent work to keep California's water clean and workforce strong. Application materials for the 2011 awards cycle will be posted on [www.cwea.org/awards](http://www.cwea.org/awards) in July.



### **Value of Participation**

Applying for an award takes time, which is becoming increasingly scarce as resources decline. However, participating in the CWEA awards program should be a priority for all water environment professionals. Participation is valuable because it:

- Acknowledges team and individual excellence. Boosts employee morale and agency pride. Celebrates and recognizes good work.
- Benchmarks accomplishments in the field.
- Analyzes and evaluates annual progress.
- Raises organizational profile in the community – and with ratepayers, public officials and board members.
- Gives the media something constructive to report. Free positive publicity.
- Increases results and productivity through friendly competition.
- Attracts and retains talent. Adds a vote of confidence for new hires. Helps identify best candidates.
- Reinforces agency and industry direction. Adds credibility to claims of excellence in regards to environmental record, public health or employee safety, among many others.

CWEA officers are available to make a presentation to CWEA award recipients at agency board or City Council meetings. Please contact Lola Dvorak, Communication and Membership Manager, at [ldvorak@cwea.org](mailto:ldvorak@cwea.org) or (510) 382-7800 x 114.