



# City of Gilroy

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## For Immediate Release

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### **South County Regional Wastewater Authority (SCRWA) the Big Winner, Sweeps Six Top Awards**

#### **Facility serving Gilroy and Morgan Hill named plant of the year by environmental association**

The SCRWA facility that serves the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill has earned the 2014 “Plant of the Year Award” in Monterey Bay Region from the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), presented at the CWEA’s annual awards dinner February 6, 2015. The facility has won the Monterey Bay Section Award in the medium size plant category in 2005, 2007 and 2008.

Established in 1929, CWEA’s Awards Program acknowledges outstanding achievement in a number of categories honoring exceptional California treatment plants, water environment professionals and collection systems. Out of the nine awards given that night, the SCRWA facility received six.

The Award combines the results of a review of infrastructure, management practices, reporting and compliance records, cost-effectiveness, innovation, and other evidence of superior plant performance. Sectional winners are forwarded to the State level for further assessment. Winners at State level are announced at the Annual Conference in San Diego this April.

In addition to Plant of the Year, the facility and staff earned five other awards:

- “Safety Award”
- “Operator of the Year Award” for lead operator John Hernandez
- “Mechanical Technician of the Year Award” for mechanic specialist Dan Ames
- “Outstanding Young Professional” for plant operator Amanda Bird
- “Gimmicks and Gadgets Award” for plant operator Don Pride

SCRWA’s award-winning treatment plant uses state-of-the-art, fully automated, high-efficiency equipment to save costs and resources. It is a model of energy efficiency and cost effective operation, and uses an advanced treatment process. The facility was built

in 1994. It is designed to provide treatment for up to 8.5 million gallons per day during dry weather flows, and to provide wet weather treatment for up to 11 million gallons per day. Over the last two decades, the facility has gone through significant changes. The stabilized sludge is dewatered by belt filter presses and hauled off-site to a landfill to be further processed as compost. The bio-solid byproduct from the SCRWA facility is credited to the City of Gilroy's disposal and recycling values. The treated water that comes out of the system is recycled around the community to irrigate farms, golf courses, public parks, sports complexes, park strips and median islands, and is also provided to industrial users. The SCRWA reliably meets the steadily increasing demand for recycled water.

Due to exemplary work of the involved employees and the SCRWA Manager, and because of staff's commitment and dedication to the SCRWA, the facility is held in high regard by California's regulatory agencies. The facility is operated by CH2MHILL. A Denver based Company since 1984 which has a comprehensive safety and quality program in place.

These awards validate that the SCRWA facility is one of the top wastewater treatment and water reclamation facilities in California. Clean water is a vital natural resource for the Gilroy-Morgan Hill community and the SCRWA has demonstrated its support for protecting and enhancing the quality of our community's rivers, streams, lakes, and groundwater. The SCRWA team will use this honor as a catalyst in raising the bar to continue improving our systems and efforts, said Environmental Programs Manager for the City of Gilroy, Saeid Vaziry.

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