



geela

2016 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards



Celebrating the 2016
Governor's Environmental and
Economic Leadership Awards



The 2016 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards is California's most prestigious environmental honor, given only to California organizations that exemplify exceptional leadership for protecting and enhancing the environment while at the same time promoting economic growth in the following categories:

- **Climate Change**
Automobile Dealer Zero Emission Vehicle Promotion
- **Environmental Education**
- **Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities**
- **Waste Reduction**



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 19, 2017

Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards

It is a pleasure to welcome you as we honor the recipients of the 2016 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards.

The individuals, organizations, and businesses gathered here today have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable contributions in conserving California's precious resources, protecting and enhancing our environment, while simultaneously strengthening the state's economy.



With all that California has to offer, we've seen how vital our environment is to the success of our economy. Through your hard work, you have demonstrated that environmental protection and economic growth can and should go hand in hand, and I commend your dedication.

On behalf of the state of California, I extend my congratulations and best wishes for every future success.

Sincerely,

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.



"The entire team at Atlas is thrilled to be honored with the receipt of California's most prestigious environmental award. We are happy to be working together with our partners to continue to pave the road to cleaner air and help the Greater Sacramento Region to breathe a little easier."

– Dave Sikich
President & CEO

GEELA Category: Climate Change

Atlas Disposal Industries

Renewable Natural Gas Fueling Station

Converting Organic Waste to a Sustainable, Reliable and Natural Option for Commercial Fleets

Converting food into fuel, Atlas Disposal Industries, a Sacramento-based waste management and recycling hauling company, partnered with the city and county of Sacramento and CleanWorld to develop the nation's first commercial scale anaerobically derived renewable natural gas (RNG) fueling facility: Atlas ReFuel Renewable Natural Gas Fueling Station. The project repurposed the South Area Transfer Station – a waste transfer facility that had been closed to the public for years in Sacramento County. The facility has helped reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 13,000 metric tons of CO₂ a year, which is equivalent of taking 2,600 cars off the road annually. Best of all, commercial fleets can easily make the switch from compressed natural gas (CNG) to RNG without purchasing any new equipment.



"We are proud to provide a great selection and other resources for our valued electric vehicle customers. In recent years, electric vehicles have matured to become very reliable, cost-effective, and enjoyable. So we look forward to working with other stakeholders to make it easy as possible for Californians to adopt this proven technology and combine it with other promising technologies including solar."

– Heath Carney
Electric Vehicle/Sustainability Manager

GEELA Category: Climate Change – Automobile Dealer Zero Emission Vehicle Promotion

John L. Sullivan Chevrolet

John L. Sullivan Chevrolet Dealership EV Program

Promoting the Sale and Adoption of Zero Emission Vehicles in California

Since Heath Carney became John L. Sullivan Chevrolet's Electric Vehicle (EV) manager in 2011, the dealership has seen a significant interest in EVs, which has led to greater sales and adoption of alternatively fueled vehicles. In fact, the dealership has gone beyond just sales of EVs, they have added enough solar panels to generate 120 kWh per day. They also have more 11772 electric vehicle charging connectors than any other dealership in the Greater Sacramento Region. Heath Carney's passion for EVs begins with his personal 2011 Chevrolet Volt and ends with a commitment to spreading the word to the general public on the benefits of owning or leasing an EV in California.



Mount Madonna school's 5th grade environmental project was created with the intent to integrate curriculum and inspire children to become active local and global citizens. We are honored to have our evolving project be recognized with the GEELA and to know that our work for the environment and future generations is valued by the state of California."

– Jessica Cambell
Teacher

GEELA Category: Environmental Education

Mount Madonna School

5th Grade Integrated Curriculum Environmental Project

Creating the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards, One Child at a Time

For the past nine years, Mount Madonna School in Watsonville has operated a curriculum based around education, citizenship and service for fifth grade students. The 2015 project, named "Shore Wars: The Shore Awakens" and led by educator Jessica Cambell, focused on ocean conservation and the Western Snowy Plover. Students created an educational film, wrote letters to elected representatives, cleaned trash off local beaches, replanted damaged habitat, prepared nesting habitat and worked with state parks to create informational signs to protect wintering flocks. This comprehensive program teaches the students about environmental issues that can have a local, state, national and even global impact and paves the way for the next generation of environmental stewards.



“The Solano Resource Conservation District is dedicated to partnering with stakeholders across the community to deliver high quality, experiential environmental education to diverse audiences, to help build ground-up incentives and knowledge to sustainably manage and conserve our natural resources and ecosystems. We are honored by the GEELA Program’s recognition of this work.”

– Marianne Butler
Environmental Education Director

GEELA Category: Environmental Education

Solano Resource Conservation District

Solano County Watershed Education Program

Teaching Environmental Concepts that Go Beyond the Classroom

The Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD) originally developed an environmental education program for third grade students with the hopes of filling the long-standing gap in science and outdoor education funding faced by local schools. The program eventually evolved to address three distinct audiences with three programs: a K-12th field trip program, a visitor education and boat screening program at Lake Berryessa, and a program hosting annual volunteer cleanup events. With these diverse programs, the RCD is now educating many people of various ages and backgrounds resulting in greater local awareness and knowledge of environmental issues. The overall program can serve as a model for other RCDs and similar groups. The RCD had documented its strategies for engaging diverse stakeholders and its analysis of success and failures over the programs first 10-years in existence. These documents could help others tailor similar types of programs to their own community’s needs.



"The success of StopWaste's environmental education program depends on the support, cooperation and combined efforts of students, teachers, school districts and multiple partners from around Alameda County and the Bay Area. We very much appreciate the recognition from the Governor's Office and hope that this collaborative effort will inspire the work of others around the state."

– Mark Spencer, Angelina Vergara & Roberta Miller
Managers of Schools Program

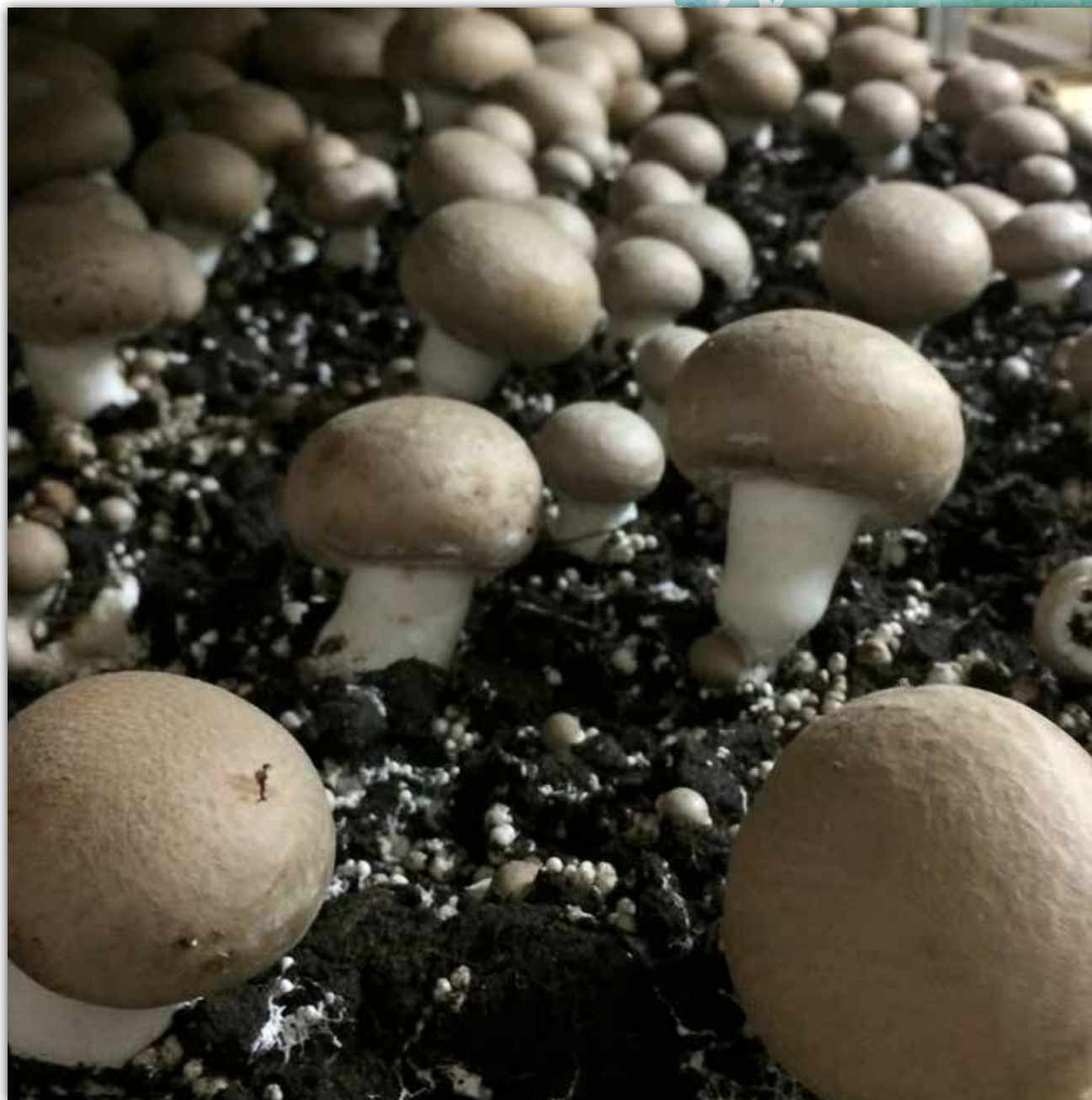
GEELA Category: Environmental Education

Alameda County Waste Management Authority

StopWaste Progressive Environmental Education Program

Helping to Reduce Waste through Education

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority's StopWaste Education Program is a government funded initiative that has been providing environmental education for K- 12th students throughout Alameda County's 17 school districts for the past 15 years. StopWaste trains teachers and students on concepts including, but not limited to, waste reduction, organics diversion, recycling, drought tolerant landscapes and food waste reduction. The educational programs have had significant measurable results having engaged 90,000 students and their families to divert 2,500 tons of food scraps and over 7,500 tons of recyclables from the waste stream in the past 5 years alone. All of this translates into an estimated savings of more than \$1 million for Alameda County. More importantly, the program can be easily replicated by other schools and districts throughout the state for an even bigger impact.



“Premier Mushrooms is excited and humbled to be the recipient of California’s highest environmental honor. We’re proud of what we’ve accomplished so far, but realize that sustainability is a journey without an end-point. We look forward to continue building our progress in the years to follow.”

– Kevin Foley
Sustainability Program Manager

GEELA Category: Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities

Premier Mushrooms Inc.

Sustainable Mushroom Farming

Finding Alternative Solutions for an Energy Intensive Process

Mushroom farming is an entire indoor process requiring a climate controlled environment, which can result in a utility bill of nearly \$1 million annually. Premier Mushrooms Inc., in the city of Colusa, recognized its need for a more sustainable solution and came across one in 2014. Biomass gasification (also known as waste-to-energy) was used to divert a local waste stream (walnut shells), which was then burned (biochar) to create energy. The energy in turn was used to power the indoor facility where the mushrooms are grown. This method has not only reduced the farm’s carbon footprint, but has also off-set 15 percent of its electricity consumption from a local, renewable source, and is bringing Premier Mushrooms closer to their goal of securing 100 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020.



“The Downtown Plan has established development and design standards that promote sustainability, energy efficiency, and a vibrant urban core. Since its adoption, several major development projects demonstrate how economic growth and environmental consciousness can work hand-in-hand. We are honored to be recognized and awarded California’s highest environmental honor.”

– Dr. Robert Garcia
Mayor, City of Long Beach

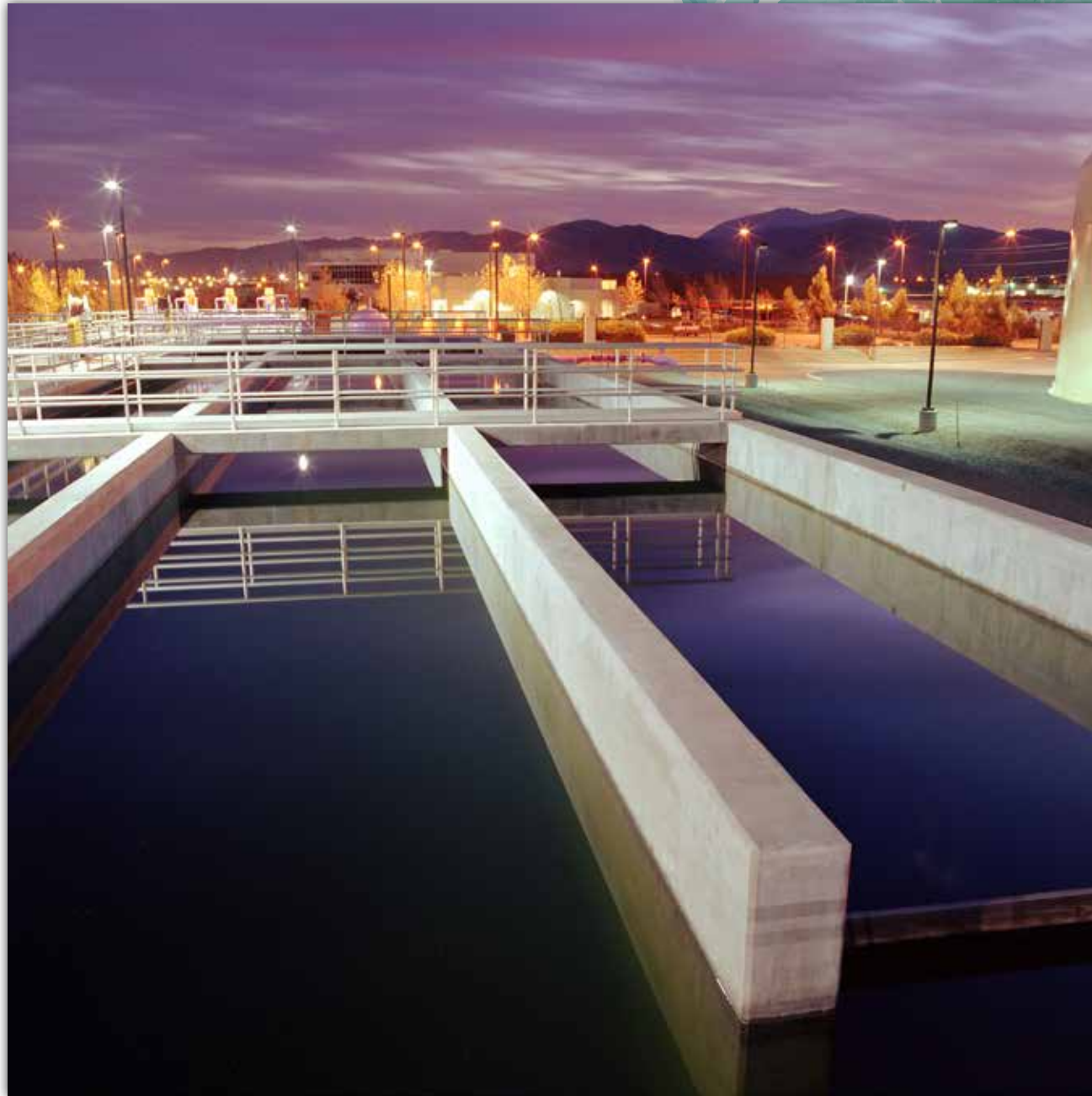
GEELA Category: Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities

City of Long Beach

Downtown Long Beach Plan & Revitalization

Revamping Downtown to Meet Local and State Climate Goals

The City of Long Beach Downtown Plan has proven to be a key catalyst in the development and revitalization of downtown Long Beach (DTLB) and connecting neighborhoods. The Plan includes a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), reducing costs and time associated with entitling a development project, while ensuring environmental benefits. Since adoption in 2012, the number of DTLB businesses has more than doubled, and many mixed-use projects are underway, including the remodeling of an award-winning new Civic Center. The Plan has further set the city’s visioning process into motion by establishing an exceptional downtown masterplan for green, equitable transit-oriented development, with a series of highly successful on-the-ground models of advancing multiple state land use and climate policies.



“At Delta Diablo, sustainability is not just one project or program, but a mindset expressed throughout the organization. The projects we implement, the innovative technologies we pilot, the partnerships we cultivate, the process improvements and exemplary compliance record we achieve, and the coalitions we lead demonstrate our commitment to advance the industry and help create a sustainable California.”

– Michael Bakaldin
Acting General Manager

GEELA Category: Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities

Delta Diablo

Water Resource Recovery Leader for a Sustainable California

Maximizing Water Recovery in a Drought Intolerant Era

Delta Diablo provides wastewater treatment services for the city of Antioch, the city of Pittsburg, and the unincorporated community of Bay Point. The water resource recovery services also include recycled water production and distribution, pollution prevention, energy recovery, beneficial reuse of biosolids, street sweeping, and household hazardous waste collection. This array of services, combined with multiple partnerships from academia, governments, non-profits, industry, associations and local residents, has allowed Delta Diablo to implement water resource recovery solutions to maximize renewable energy and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.



“Earth Friendly Products is honored to receive the 2016 GEELA award. For nearly 50 years, we’ve made environmentally friendly cleaners that are safer for people, pets and the planet, and we hope to serve as an example of how sustainable manufacturing in California can help protect environmental resources while strengthening the economy.”

– Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks
President & CEO

GEELA Category: Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities

Earth Friendly Products

Zero Emission, Zero Waste, Our Passion for the Earth

Making Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products

Earth Friendly Products is a family-owned and operated business in Orange County that was founded in 1967. It makes ECOS® laundry detergents and more than 200 other environmentally friendly cleaning products. Since winning a GEELA in 2010, Earth Friendly Products has continued its tradition of leadership in making safe and environmentally friendly cleaning products. Its four U.S. facilities are carbon neutral, water neutral and Zero Waste Platinum certified, which has enabled the company to divert more than 95 percent of all waste from landfills since 2010, all while increasing employment by 41 percent since 2011. Many of the products are certified Safer Choice by the U.S. EPA, which indicates that every ingredient in each certified product is among the safest available for both human health and the environment. They were even awarded the Safer Choice Partner of the Year award in 2015 for leadership in innovating safer products and having more Safer Choice-certified products than any other company.



"It's an unrealistic expectation to place the burden for addressing large environmental problems exclusively on the strained resources of local municipalities and agencies. What this project has taught us is that if citizens are provided the opportunity to help, they will respond."

– Steve Holmes
Executive Director

GEELA Category: Waste Reduction

South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition

Restoration of Santa Clara County Waterways and Riparian Zones

Eliminating Waste, One Reusable Food Container at a Time

The South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition (SBCCC) is a volunteer-staffed non-profit that launched an effort in 2013 to reclaim 12 miles of Los Gatos Creek in San Jose. Since launch, SBCCC's efforts have resulted in 126 cleanups in which 163 tons of trash and several illegal encampments were removed. Volunteers logged nearly 3,100 hours during the 12 months ending in July 2016. During seven of those months, volunteers invested 1,000 hours to remove nearly 15 tons of trash. These cleanups have had positive impacts as native steelhead and Chinook salmon have returned to the creek. There are also new programs in place focused on water testing, youth stewardship, invasive plant removal and corporate engagement.



"St. Joseph's Medical Center is committed to providing high quality affordable, and easily accessible care to our community. We serve the powerless and are stewards with the resources entrusted to us. We are thrilled to be recognized for our commitment and work, as it is a great reminder of the positive impact we are making in our community and the world – one patient at a time."

– John Kendle
Senior Area Director

GEELA Category: Waste Reduction

Dignity Health

St. Joseph's Medical Center Ecology Program

Proving that the Medical Industry Can be Lead Sustainability

St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton, one of 42 hospitals in the Dignity Health network, is the only hospital in California that is a certified Green Business. As the largest employer in the area, St. Joseph's ecology program focuses on waste reduction, which has had a significant impact over the past few years. The hospital's on-site laundry for reusable medical garments has diverted more than 7 million pounds of landfill waste leading to an overall diversion rate of 84 percent. The hospital also has a 33,000 square-foot garden that contributes an average of 200 pounds of produce per week that is donated to local shelters. That's the equivalent of distributing 377,000 meals per year. St. Joseph's Medical Center has provided a template for other hospitals within the Dignity Health network and beyond to incorporate sustainable practices into their day-to-day activities.



"We are thrilled to be recognized for our Waste Not program. We're eliminating plastic and food waste, reducing vehicle miles and using food that is healthy and produced in the least environmentally damaging manner. Epicurean Group has been an environmentally sustainable company since day one. We live our principles each and every day by 'changing one environment at a time.'"

– Mary Clark Bartlett
CEO and Founder

GEELA Category: Waste Reduction

Epicurean Group

Waste Not: Waste Reduction in Food Service Management

Eating healthy can be delicious and can help the environment too!

Epicurean Group is a woman- and minority-owned sustainable food-service management company. While it is based in Los Altos in Santa Clara County, it has more than 50 facilities in California. The Waste Not program was launched in 2003 and includes waste management, recycling, food and materials composting and a company-wide goal of zero food waste. In 2010, CEO Mary Clark Bartlett established the GreenTown Co-op, which supplies compostable take-out containers to more than 60 restaurants, cafés and schools from Napa to Monterey. The program has resulted in more than 125,000 pounds of waste diverted from landfills annually. In addition, Epicurean Group purchases local, in-season fruit and vegetables and serves grass-fed beef all in an effort to reduce its carbon footprint and support local communities

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Special thanks to The Nature Conservancy for sponsoring this special event and helping to honor California's green businesses.

California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Environmental Protection Agency

California Health and Human Services Agency

California Labor and Workforce Development Agency

California Natural Resources Agency

California State Transportation Agency

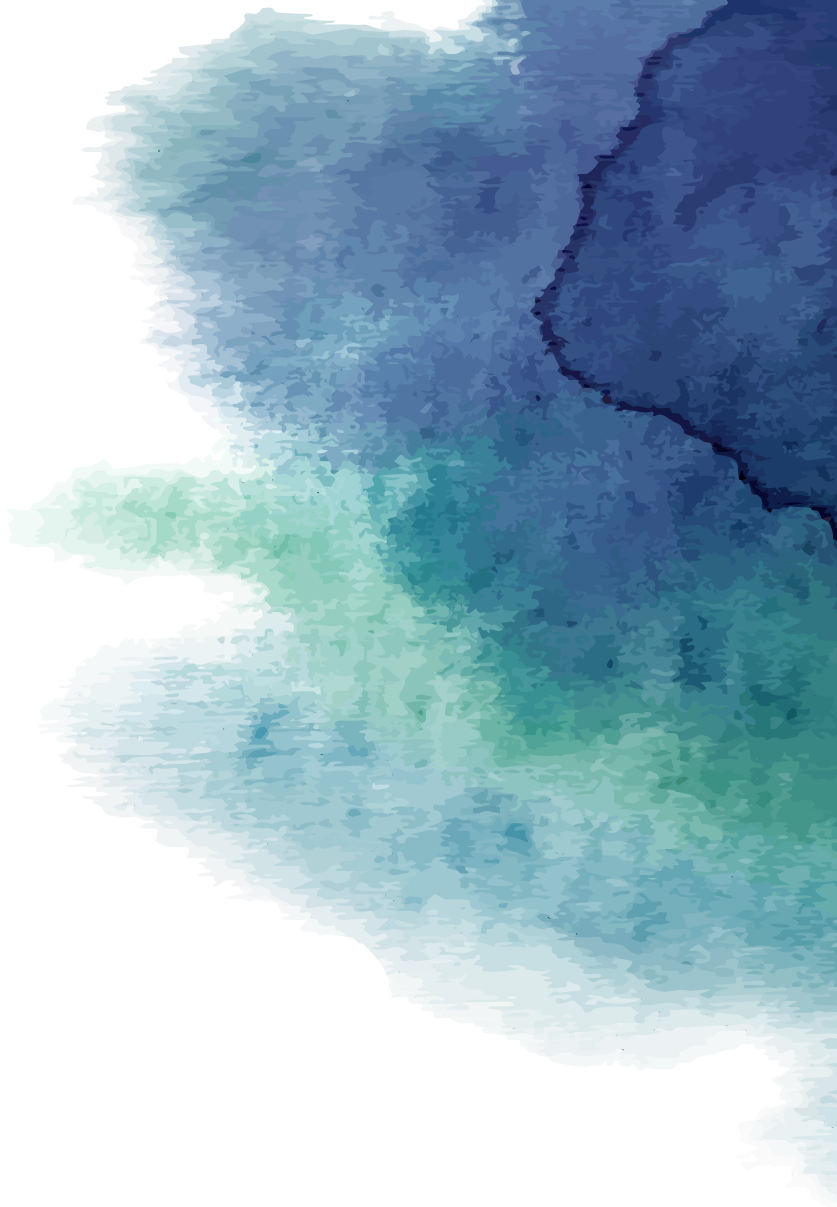
Department of Toxic Substances Control, Office of Communications

California Environmental Protection Agency, Communications and External Affairs

California State Parks Foundation

Award Evaluators

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