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May 1, 2017

SEC Environmental Recognition Awards

The Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC) gave recognition to exceptional citizens, businesses and organizations based in Sacramento County that have demonstrated outstanding efforts to improve the environment.

Four trophies were presented to the winners of this year's SEC Environmental Awards:

- The **City of Elk Grove Integrated Waste Department, and Toby Johnson Middle School**, for an on-campus school recycling and education program at the Middle School. The City of Elk Grove was contacted by one of the school's teachers, Kathleen Albiani to assist in the implementation of a school recycling program. Elk Grove staff worked to train and educate a core group of students and teachers about the logistics of recycling and correct sorting, using signage and colorful, printed materials that clearly showed which waste streams get sorted into the various bins provided by the City of Elk Grove. The on-campus recycling program also addresses the new requirements for organics recycling and the City provided food waste bins and educational signage. Each week students collect and audit recyclables in classrooms to give to the custodians. This type of on-campus recycling program serves as a model for other schools in the Elk Grove School District that would like to incorporate on-campus recycling programs at their school.
- The **Carmichael Water District** for their extensive natural habitat restoration along the American River, including removal of exposed, abandoned river infrastructure, as part of their American River Pipeline Conveyance project. Existing abandoned water

diversion assets at the project site along the American River were removed, and the riverbank was restored to a natural setting. This environmental restoration included the removal of 400 feet of 33-inch diameter exposed steel pipe dating back to the 1950s that had long posed a boating hazard in the river channel. In addition, three concrete intake and pump station structures, a failing riveted steel culvert, and large buried valves were demolished and removed. The restoration culminated with the reconnection of an upstream riparian habitat that had long been separated from the primary American River channel by freefall discharge from a 65- year old culvert.

- **Sacramento County's Department of Water Resources** for their management of the collaborative Cordova Creek Naturalization Project. The purpose of the project was to replace a deteriorating concrete-lined channelized portion of Cordova Creek (formerly referred to as Clifton Drain) with a new meandering stream channel. The project was designed to create a naturalized channel intended to restore ecological function to the stream, and also included measures to eradicate and prevent re-establishment of invasive species, installation of an interpretive walkway for public recreation and environmental education programs implemented by Soil Born Farms, and establishment of over 19 acres of new native riparian, wetland, and upland habitat.

The project was completed in the fall of 2016. The new stream channel has a natural stream substrate, a wide meandering design, and banks consistent with natural vegetation assemblages and historical drainage patterns. The project installed a total of approximately 4.3 acres of new riparian habitat, 4.8 acres of wetland habitat, and 10.1 acres of native upland plantings. Special provisions were taken all throughout the design and construction process to protect sensitive wildlife, plants, and other natural resources at the site, with the intention of establishing a more productive and natural environment where these resources can thrive in perpetuity.

The Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC) was created by the County Board of Supervisors and City Councils in 1988 with a broad charter to provide information, analysis and advice to the elected officials on environmental issues, and to provide assistance and advice to the Environmental Management Department on environmental programs. The appointed members come from diverse backgrounds, frequently representing environmental law, community advocacy, environmental regulation, industry, and land use planning among their areas of expertise and interest. For additional information visit: <https://emd.saccounty.net/sec/default.html>