



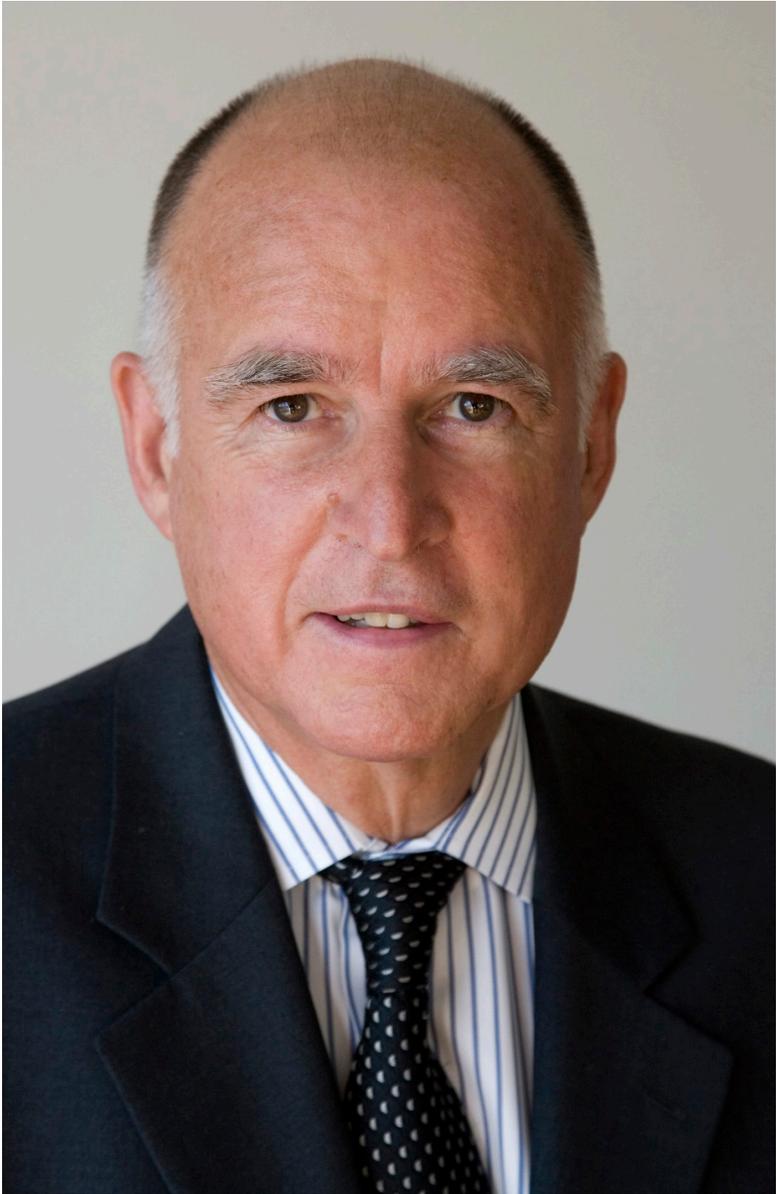
2015 GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards (GEELA) program is the State of California's highest and most prestigious environmental honor. The award program recognizes individuals, organizations, and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership for voluntary achievements in conserving California's resources, protecting and enhancing the environment, building public-private partnerships, and improving the economy.

This year, twelve entities representing the diversity and leadership of California will be recognized as the 2015 GEELA winners:

1. Stanford University
2. Prather Ranch
3. Sacramento Water Forum
4. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
5. Orange County Department of Education's *Inside the Outdoors* and Orange County Waste & Recycling
6. REV
7. City of Anaheim
8. South San Francisco Scavenger Company and Blue Line Transfer, Inc.
9. Sonoma County Winegrape Commission
10. Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund
11. San Diego County Regional Airport Authority
12. Solana Center for Environmental Innovation

The GEELA program was established in 1993 and is administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with the Natural Resources Agency; the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency; the Department of Food and Agriculture; the State Transportation Agency; the Government Operations Agency; the Labor and Workforce Development Agency; and the Health and Human Services Agency.





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 19, 2016

Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards

It is a pleasure to welcome you as we honor the recipients of the 2015 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 and 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.



ANCIENT OPLONE VILLAGES

This site was originally established by the Paleo-Indians of the Oplonti. These were some of the earliest people to settle in the region, and their presence is evidenced by the archaeological remains of their dwellings. The site is located on the edge of the Oplonti, and is one of the many sites that have been identified in the area. The site is located on the edge of the Oplonti, and is one of the many sites that have been identified in the area.

Stanford University

Stanford Energy System Innovations (SESI)

Raising the Bar on Efficiency to Develop Global Solutions

GEELA Category | Climate Change

Stanford is addressing climate change, the greatest environmental and socioeconomic challenge of our time, by elevating efficiency and ingenuity to develop global solutions across its 1.4-million-square meter campus. The Stanford Energy System Innovations (SESI) project is a new district heating, cooling, and electricity system designed to meet the current and future energy needs of Stanford University in a sustainable and economic way. SESI incorporates a 65 percent renewable energy portfolio and will save the university an estimated \$420 million over the next 35 years.

“Stanford University is proud to have developed an energy solution that is reducing our emissions by 68% and conserving 15% of our water. It is our hope that the Stanford Energy System Innovations project will serve not only sustainability at Stanford, but also as a model for adept solutions, and inspire others to action. Finding better ways to construct and operate buildings and energy systems is key in preserving our natural resources and minimizing the effects of climate change.”

- Joseph Stagner, Executive Director Sustainability & Energy Management

Prather Ranch

Vertically Integrated Cow/Calf Beef Business & Branded Beef Product

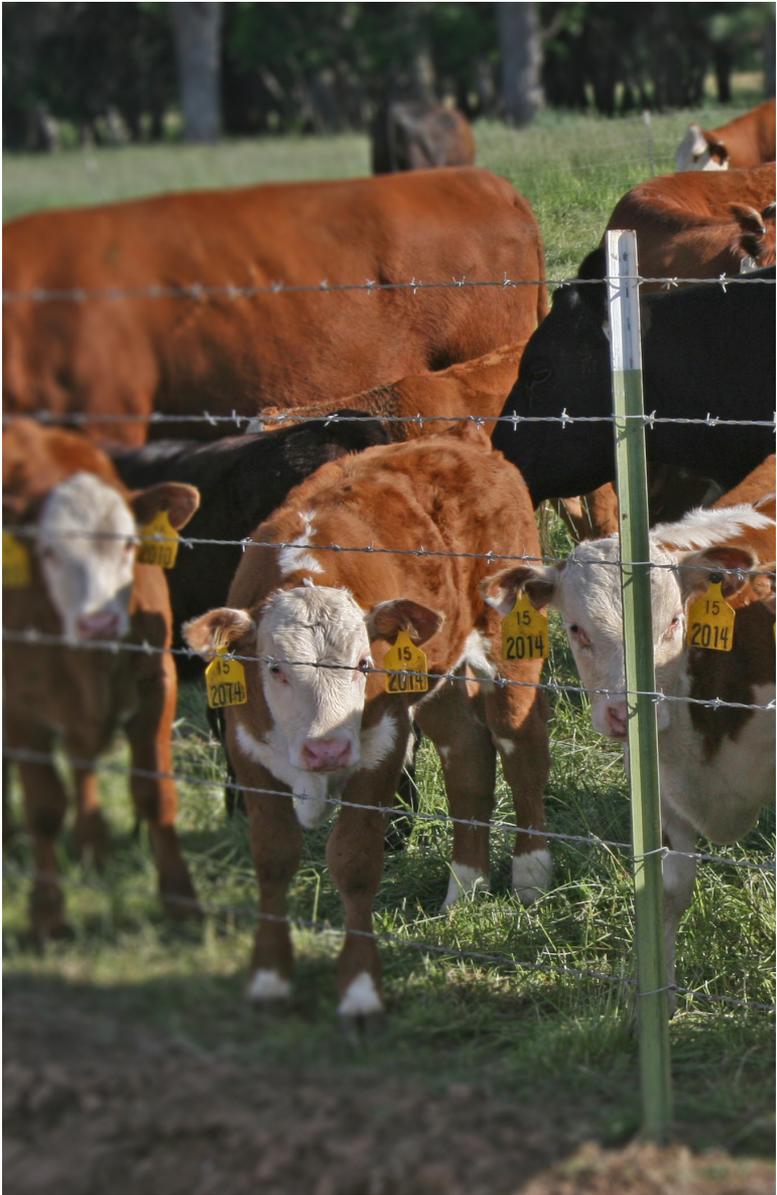
Minimizing Waste from Animal Products while Protecting the Environment

GEELA Category | Ecosystem and Land Use Stewardship

Prather Ranch has grown to a 35,000-acre operation spanning five northeastern California counties since its establishment in 1964. The Prather Ranch beef production system is the result of 35 years of practices designed to create a local, sustainable and economically viable beef production system. Prather Ranch has placed conservation easements on 16,410 acres with agreements to protect vernal pools, riparian areas, deer, elk, endangered bank swallows, wild turkeys, waterfowl and antelope. Prather Ranch reaches new levels of sustainability by utilizing as many parts of the animal as possible for food, and raw materials to manufacture medical devices.

"We are grateful and humbled to be included with this year's recipients of the GEELA. It has been our passion and life's work to encourage and implement sustainable agricultural practices."

- Jim & Mary Rickert, Majority Owners





Sacramento Water Forum

Lower American River Restoration and Protection

Bringing a Collaborative Approach to Water Management

GEELA Category | Ecosystem and Land Use Stewardship

The Sacramento Water Forum is a diverse group of businesses and agricultural leaders, citizen groups, environmentalists, water managers, and local governments working together to provide a reliable and safe water supply for the Sacramento region's long-term growth and economic health, while preserving fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the Lower American River. This spring, the Water Forum partnered with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in an unprecedented attempt to manage water temperature in real-time to protect incubating steelhead. Results indicate that 95 percent of the 2015 brood survived. Additionally, the Water Forum helped the Sacramento region achieve a 42 percent reduction in water use between January and October of 2015.

"The Water Forum was a crazy experiment: get people together with VERY different views on water, business, and the environment and see if they could accomplish something. Through hard work, commitment, and collaboration our signatories have shown that river protection and water supply reliability aren't just compatible, they're symbiotic."

- Tom Gohring, Executive Director

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Education Programs

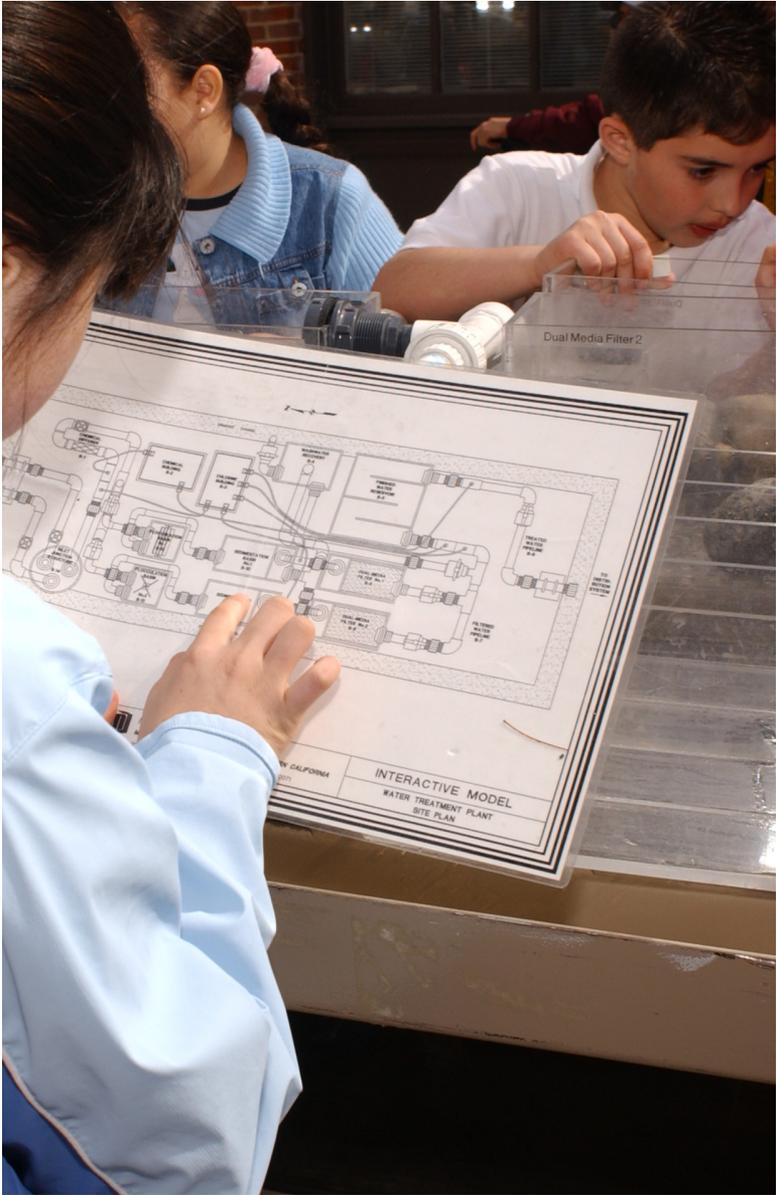
Educating the Next Generation of Water-Savvy Leaders

GEELA Category | Environmental Education

Amid historic drought and the Governor's call for statewide conservation actions, Metropolitan Water District's education programs provide a systematic, comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to promote water conservation, awareness and innovative solutions. Water-based education programs serve pre-K through college students and educators with a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) curriculum aligned to Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Curriculum materials are distributed at no cost. With more than 300 schools participating in 2014, Metropolitan's education programs have generated student interest in engineering, environmental science and related careers in the water industry, promoting economic and workforce development in Southern California and the rest of the state.

"The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is honored to receive the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award for our commitment to serve the region's culturally, economically and geographically diverse student population with unique educational programs that promote water conservation and stewardship, critical thinking and innovative solutions to the challenges we face today and in the future."

- Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager





Orange County Department of Education's *Inside the Outdoors* and Orange County Waste & Recycling

Project Zero Waste

Teaching Children about the Impact of Solid Waste on Our Environment

GEELA Category | Environmental Education

In 2010, a collaborative effort between Orange County Waste & Recycling (OCWR) and the Orange County Department of Education's *Inside the Outdoors* resulted in the creation of Project Zero Waste. Since then, over 180,000 K-12 students have engaged in waste reduction practices at 200 Orange County schools. Project Zero Waste has used the existing hands-on environmental education model of the Department of Education's *Inside the Outdoors* program, OCWR's waste disposal expertise, and various funding sources to achieve measurable results in waste reduction on school campuses. Nearly 27,000 pounds of waste were recycled during the first year of the program and the current annual waste reduction is estimated to be 400,000 pounds.

"The lessons learned by students participating in Project Zero Waste extend beyond academics. In applying science lessons to develop solutions to real-world problems, students gain team-building, creativity and leadership skills."

- Dr. Al Mijares, Orange County Superintendent of Schools

REV

REV Sustainability Circles®

Helping Organizations Realize It Pays to be Green

GEELA Category | Environmental Education

Developed in 2011 by the training and education firm REV, Sustainability Circles® is a peer-based community learning program designed to help organizations embed sustainable practices for improved performance in energy efficiency, resource productivity and greenhouse gas reduction. The Sustainability Circle Program ensures long-term impact through behavior and mindset change, with an emphasis on employee engagement. Additional benefits include new products, services, market innovation, higher productivity, and a multiplier effect for homes and communities. The 5-year "Sustainability Action Plan" for each participating organization has created an average annual savings of over \$300,000.

"The entire REV team is honored to receive the 2015 GEELA award. It is a testament to the businesses, organizations and communities in California that recognize the great challenges and opportunities facing us all in this era of transformations. It is vital that we all provide leadership for our nation and world in designing and implementing sustainability and climate solutions that result in action that truly makes a positive difference for our future, our children and all life."

- Elliot Hoffman, CEO & Founder





City of Anaheim

Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC)

Changing How People Think About Public Transportation

GEELA Category | Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities

In December 2014, the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) opened to serve more than 3 million Orange County residents and more than 40 million visitors annually. ARTIC is a partnership between the City of Anaheim and the Orange County Transportation Authority to promote sustainable transportation by connecting people from all income levels to employment opportunities, housing, education, tourism, entertainment and services. It is the first LEED Platinum designed transit station in the world that will produce savings of up to 50 percent in energy consumption. In addition, the project created 5,000 new jobs, 25 percent of which came from the local and regional workforce. ARTIC was completed on time and under budget and will serve as a hub for the forthcoming high-speed rail.

“ARTIC is a model of sustainable design and transit operation that has brought tangible benefits to our community. The facility’s function is environmentally friendly by providing transit options to commuters. On any given workday ARTIC cuts vehicle-miles traveled by nearly 80,000 and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 31.8 metric tons – the equivalent of taking 1,063 vehicles off the road.”

- Natalie Meeks, Director of Public Works

South San Francisco Scavenger Company and Blue Line Transfer, Inc.

Anaerobic Digestion and CNG Fueling Facility

Showcasing the Return on Investment of New Technology

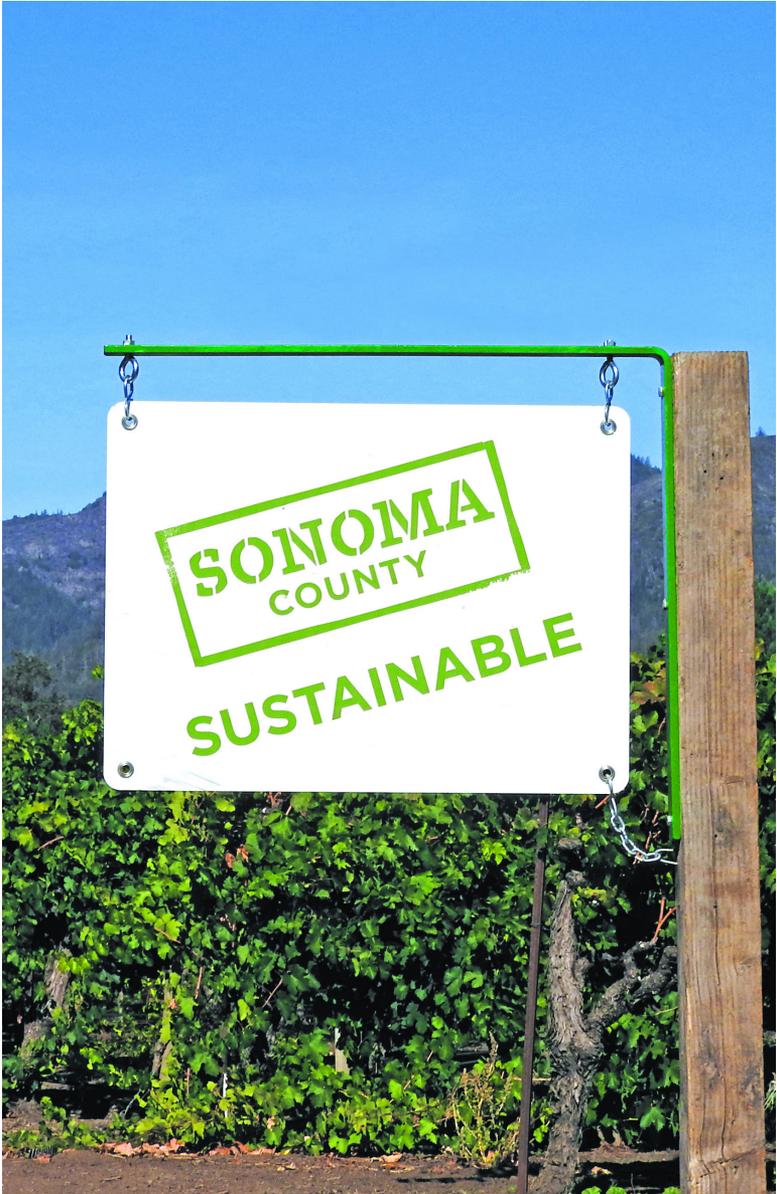
GEELA Category | Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities

The dry fermentation anaerobic digestion facility at the South San Francisco Scavenger Company is the first in the nation to create a closed loop renewable fueling station from the processing of organics. The system anaerobically digests organics on-site to produce renewable compressed natural gas for the company's fleet of vehicles, while also utilizing the processed organics as compost. The volume of waste generated is cut in half, reducing transport energy use and air emissions. At maximum capacity the facility will divert 11,200 tons of organics from landfills and will produce 5,600 tons of compost product and over 91,000 diesel gallon equivalents of natural gas. Additionally, more than 61 million gallons of water per year will be saved, and 1,300 tons of CO₂ will be avoided.

"The South San Francisco Scavenger Company and Blue Line Transfer, Inc. are excited and honored to be a recipient of the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award. We believe sustainability is a progressive practice involving environmental stewardship, high level customer service and the use of cutting edge technology like our dry anaerobic digestion facility. We continue to reduce our carbon footprint one step at a time."

- Doug Button, President, South San Francisco Scavenger Company





**SONOMA
COUNTY**

SUSTAINABLE

Sonoma County Winegrape Commission

Sonoma County Winegrowers Commitment to 100% Sustainability

Proving that Complete Sustainability is Achievable

GEELA Category | Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities

By codifying sustainable practices into a checklist that results in a certification, the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission has applied the same principles that made LEED a success in the building industry to the winegrape growing industry. The commission has a goal of 100 percent of all winegrape acreage achieving certification by 2019, which would make Sonoma County the first fully sustainable wine region in the country. With the number of self-assessments and certifications increasing since January 2015, the commission is well on their way to meeting their target.

"In January of 2014, the Sonoma County Winegrowers made a bold commitment to become the nation's first 100% sustainable wine growing region. Over the past two years, our local grape growers have become global leaders in sustainable farming practices and to date almost half of the county's vineyard acreage has been certified sustainable by a third party auditor. I am proud of the commitment Sonoma County grape growers have made to the environment, to their employees and the contributions they deliver to the local economy."

- Karissa Kruse, President

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund

ReThink Disposable – Stop Waste Before it Starts

Eliminating Waste, One Reusable Food Container at a Time

GEELA Category | Waste Reduction

In 2010, Clean Water Fund created “ReThink Disposable,” an innovative non-governmental organization and local government partnership program aimed at reducing use of single-use food and beverage packaging. Thus far, businesses that have participated have been able to reduce disposable plates by as much as 81 percent, eliminating 3,400 pounds of waste and savings annually. There are plans to expand the program and partner with national chains such as McDonald’s and Starbucks, making the environmental and economic impacts even more significant.

“Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund are thrilled to receive recognition for ReThink Disposable, a program that stops waste before it starts. To date, 100 Bay Area food businesses have worked with us and our local government partners on rethinking disposable food and beverage packaging products. Collectively, businesses reduced 2,816,792 disposable items from their annual operations.”

- Miriam Gordon, Executive Director





San Diego County Regional Airport Authority

Waste Reduction

Building on a Decade of Waste Reduction Practices

GEELA Category | Waste Reduction

The San Diego International Airport's waste diversion practices have been in place for more than a decade with enhancements and additions made to the program annually. The single-stream recycling program implemented in 2002 resulted in a ten-fold increase in recycled waste by fiscal year 2015. Other enhancements to the waste reduction program include an expanded food composting program to include every food and beverage concession area in the airport and the recovery and recycling of air conditioner condensate water. All of these initiatives have resulted in the City of San Diego awarding the airport as "Recycler of the Year" eleven out of the past thirteen years.

"As one of the first major airports in the United States to adopt a sustainability policy, we are honored to receive this distinguished award recognizing San Diego International Airport's waste reduction efforts. We challenge ourselves to continually operate the airport in a manner that promotes the region's prosperity and protects its quality of life through new and better sustainability initiatives that also serve as models for other airports."

- Robert H. Gleason, Board Chair

Solana Center for Environmental Innovation

Organics Marketplace

Connecting Producers and Consumers to Divert Organic Waste

GEELA Category | Waste Reduction

Today, more waste is recycled than landfilled in San Diego County because of Solana Center's efforts in curbside recycling. Of the trash that ends up in landfills, more than 40 percent is compostable organic material. The Solana Center's Organics Marketplace initiative connects producers and consumers of this organic waste using market and technology mechanisms. To date, Solana Center programs implemented all over the region have diverted more than 16,000 tons of organic waste from regional landfills.

"This year our staff and volunteers have worked hard to design and implement replicable programs that keep food scrap out of our landfills. This award is recognition that our efforts show true innovation and have great impact in demonstrating the future potential for food scrap diversions. It means a great deal to everyone who has contributed to this vision."

- Jessica Toth, Executive Director



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A special thank you to the following entities and individuals who helped make this year's awards program a success:

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

California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Office of Communications

California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery, Office of
Public Affairs

California State Parks Foundation

GEELA Award Evaluators



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

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

