



THE IRONHOUSE INSIDER

www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com

Emergency line: 925-625-2279

Spring 2018

BEST IN THE STATE

ISD GARNERS 10 AWARDS, AND ITS WATER RECYCLING FACILITY IS 'PLANT OF THE YEAR'

Striving to be the best at your profession takes a never-ending combination of hard work, dedication and prudent planning. To be recognized for that effort by peers in your industry is an affirmation that you are on the right track.

Ironhouse Sanitary District continues to garner major awards, and for the first time in its history has been named small district Plant of the Year for the entire state by the California Water Environment Association, or CWEA.

The prestigious title is one of several ISD and its employees took home in CWEA's

recent regional and statewide competitions, a complete list of which appears at right.

"This is a great honor for us," said Chad Davisson, general manager. "We're working hard to ensure that Ironhouse delivers the highest quality clean, sustainable recycled water, and to be recognized by our peers as the best in the state is incredibly gratifying."

Davisson also acknowledged a proactive Board of Directors and an innovative team of professionals as keys to ISD positioning itself not only as a leader in the recycled water industry, but also as a role model that other

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THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE... HERE ARE THE WINNERS

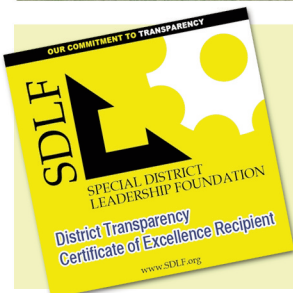
CWEA STATE LEVEL

- 🏆 **FIRST PLACE:** Plant of the Year, Small — Water Recycling Facility
- 🏆 **FIRST PLACE:** Community Engagement and Outreach, Person of the Year — Roni Gehlke, R&G Promotions, ISD Public Outreach Consultant
- 🏆 **FIRST PLACE:** Community Engagement and Outreach, Newsletter of the Year — Ironhouse Insider newsletter
- 🏆 **SECOND PLACE:** Supervisor of the Year — Louis Solana, ISD Collections Superintendent
- 🏆 **SECOND PLACE:** Community Engagement and Outreach, Project of the Year, Small Budget — Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Recycling Station

CWEA SAN FRANCISCO BAY SECTION

- 🏆 **FIRST PLACE:** Plant of the Year, Small
- 🏆 **FIRST PLACE:** Collection System of the Year, Small
- 🏆 **FIRST PLACE:** Community Engagement and Outreach, Person of the Year
- 🏆 **FIRST PLACE:** Community Engagement and Outreach, Project of the Year
- 🏆 **FIRST PLACE:** Supervisor of the Year

ISD's Water Recycling Facility, opened in 2011, is a CWEA award winner.



Transparency certification a commitment to open government

ISD recently received the Special Districts Leadership Foundation's (SDLF) District of Transparency Certificate of Excellence, once again showing its commitment to

open government.

To be eligible for the award, a district must satisfy a list of guidelines that show it is on a path of overall transparency, openness

and accountability.

"Sharing information with our community is an obligation we take very seriously at Ironhouse,"

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CONSERVATION A 'WAY OF LIFE'

STATE'S PROPOSED RATIONING RESTRICTIONS ILLUSTRATE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLED WATER

This spring Californians will be hearing about several water conservation efforts whose aim is to make the state's water system more resilient to extreme weather cycles that lawmakers say is our new reality.

Using the catch phrase that water conservation is "a California way of life," the legislation comes on the heels of five years of drought followed by a year of torrential rains and devastating flooding. To that end, residents, businesses and agriculture operations all may be required to save water regardless if there is an immediate threat of another drought.

NEW RULES ON TAP

In mid-April the State Water Resources Control Board is expected to impose permanent conservation rules that would prohibit hosing down driveways, watering lawns less than two days after rainfall and washing a car without attaching a shut-off nozzle to the hose.

At the same time, two bills headed to the Legislature – AB 1668 and SB 606 – would establish overall standards for indoor and outdoor water conservation and mandate hefty fines to water agencies where target restrictions are not met.

State officials believe that, for the most part, Californians understand the need for conservation and want to help. A recent study found that water consumption remains down 13 percent from pre-drought levels of 2013.

Ironhouse Sanitary District remains committed



ted to helping customers save water. Beginning May 12, it plans to reopen its Residential Recycled Water Fill Station for the summer season, providing local residents and businesses with free recycled water that can be used for irrigation purposes. Up to 300 gallons can be collected per visit.

When it opened in 2015, more than 800 people signed up to use the fill station. It has remained popular since then, with many returning regularly for water to irrigate lawns, trees and gardens. Recycled water can also be used to wash cars and clean off driveways and decks.

FREE RECYCLED WATER FOR ISD RESIDENTS

Anyone from Oakley or Bethel Island can sign up for free. Residents from outside ISD's service area can obtain the recycled water for a small fee. For more information on the program see <http://ironhousesanitarydistrict.com/236/Recycled-Water-Fill-Stations>. For more on state bills AB 1668 or SB 606, enter them on the Legislature's search page at <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>. □

TRANSPARENCY

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ISD General Manager Chad Davisson said. "It is important to our Board of Directors and staff that we work to empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight."

Qualifications for the award include completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including ethics training for all Board members, properly conducting open and public meetings and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

A great amount of effort goes into making sure everything on the SDLF's checklist appears on ISD's website. District staff has even gone a step beyond the basic requirements by providing a special "Transparency Page" on our website that allows the public easy access to all the required information.

The Transparency Page can be found at www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com/184/District-Transparency.

SDLF is an independent, nonprofit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs.

This is the third time ISD has been awarded transparency certification through SDLF. □

ISD RESIDENTIAL RECYCLED WATER FILL STATION RETURNS FOR 2018

Opening Day Celebration

Saturday, May 12, 10:30am-1pm

Have a hot dog on us & bring home some recycled water!

450 Walnut Meadows Drive, Oakley



New sewer cleaner a mighty rig for big jobs

To process as much as 4.3 million gallons of recycled water each day takes a lot of infrastructure, and it is the task of ISD's collection staff to maintain a 119-mile network of gravity-fed sewer pipes, most of which are hidden underground.

To access these pipes requires expertise and the right tools, the most indispensable of which is a combo truck built by Vac-Con.

Last year ISD's Board of Directors approved the purchase of a new Vac-Con after the previous model, which was purchased in 2002, began showing its age and staff operators and mechanics deemed it was no longer up to handling the needs of the District.



ISD's new Vac-Con sewer-cleaning truck has been on the job since winter. It is larger and more powerful than the vehicle it replaces.

The new model, which was delivered in time to handle the winter rains, boasts more capacity and new high-powered features to get the job done.

The new Vac-Con offers the flexibility of a two-engine design for cleaner emissions and fuel savings. Its powerful vacuum is perfect for debris removal and hydro excavation. An 800-foot high-pressure

water hose, when fitted with the right nozzles, can remove roots, grease and construction debris from pipes ranging between six and 30 inches in diameter.

The Vac-Con is on call for emergencies, but it is most often used for ongoing general maintenance to make sure that emergencies are prevented before they occur. □

AWARDS

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similar-sized agencies throughout California can aspire to.

Opened in 2011, the Water Recycling Facility can produce 4.3 million gallons of exceptionally high quality recycled water per day without the use of chemicals. It uses an innovative membrane bioreactor treatment system and ultraviolet light, which enable the plant to produce recycled water that exceeds strict state standards for water cleanliness.

The Plant of the Year award was among three statewide top honors ISD received during the annual CWEA spring conference in Sacramento. Ironhouse public outreach consultant Roni Gehlke won for Community Engagement and Outreach Person of the Year, while the District's *Ironhouse Insider* newsletter was named Newsletter of the Year. The District also received two second place awards: Supervisor of the Year for collections

supervisor Louis Solana, and Community Engagement Project of the Year for the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) recycling station.

To qualify for the state awards, entries must first win at CWEA regional competition. ISD is a member of the CWEA San Francisco Bay Section, which held its awards banquet at the Concord Hilton in January.

Founded in 1927, CWEA is a nonprofit public benefit association of more than 9,300 water quality professionals who are responsible for cleaning California's water and returning it safely to the environment.

"We will continue to do our best for our customers," Davisson said. "This is just the beginning of what we want to achieve and where we want to go. We hold keeping the environment healthy and safe for our communities in the highest regard and intend to continue to be among the best in the state." □

MEN AT WORK: UNDERSTANDING ISD'S SEWER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN



RUSTY RENOVATION

When you've got hundreds of miles of sewer pipes to maintain, a little rust is to be expected. Ian Robertson and other ISD collections operators spent the winter rebuilding the Bridgehead Road lift station. Over the past year collections staff had visited the site often to extract wipes and debris stuck in the pumps. The renovation project included replacing worn piping, installing two new grinder pumps and updating controls with the latest technology. The modifications will help increase reliability and reduce time and labor spent on future repairs.



**TAG US ONLINE:
#MENATWORK**



ADMINISTRATION

Chad Davisson/G.M.
Tyson Zimmerman/Assistant G.M.
Chris Christean/Plant Manager
Louis Solana/Collections Supt.
David Dal Porto/Ranches & Levees

450 Walnut Meadows Drive, Oakley, CA 94561

Phone: 925-625-2279 • Fax: 925-625-0169

e-mail: ironhousesd@isd.us.com

www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Public meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. and the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Chris Lauritzen/President
Peter Zirkle/Vice President
Doug Scheer/Director
Susan Morgan/Director
Dawn Morrow/Director

**SDLF certified 'District of Distinction' and
'Transparency Certificate of Excellence'**





Ironhouse Sanitary District
450 Walnut Meadows Drive
Oakley, CA 94561

**Emergency 24/7 contact
number: 925-625-2279**

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- 🔵 **April 17:** ISD Board meeting canceled.
- 🔵 **May 1:** ISD Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.
- 🔵 **May 15:** ISD Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.
- 🔵 **June 5:** ISD Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.



This newsletter is printed using recycled paper. Every ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.

ISD helps develop county disaster plan

Natural disasters are an unavoidable part of life in California, whether from earthquake, flooding or fire. That is why ISD has been partnering with Contra Costa County, its cities and other special districts to complete a hazard mitigation plan aimed at identifying resources, information and strategies for hazard risk reduction.

The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving federal disaster grant assistance.

To prepare the countywide plan, ISD, along with the plan partners, organized resources, assessed risks from natural hazards within the county, developed planning goals and objectives, reviewed mitigation alternatives, and developed an action plan to address probable impacts from natural hazards.

In early March, the ISD Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 18-05, participating as a planning partner with the county on its Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan update. □

LIVE RAPTOR SHOW

Take a hayride tour and learn how ISD turns dirty water into sustainable, clean recycled water ready for reuse.

Red-Shouldered
Hawk



Saturday, April 14
10 AM - 1 PM

FREE EVENT

**Live Bird Show
Arts & Crafts**

Located at:
Ironhouse Sanitary District
450 Walnut Meadows Dr. • Oakley

For details on this event go to:
www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com

For Oakley Science Week go to:
www.ci.oakley.ca.us

An Oakley Science Week Event at ISD.