



California Stormwater Quality Association
www.casqa.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASQA Recognizes the Santa Rosa High School Macroinvertebrate Bioassessment Program for Educating Students *City of Santa Rosa wins Award for High School Education Program*

November 3, 2009 — At its Fifth Annual Stormwater Conference, the California Stormwater Quality Association will present an award to the City of Santa Rosa – Storms and Creeks Program for its Macroinvertebrate Bioassessment Program. The award will be presented at the conference awards luncheon on November 3, 2009 at the Hilton San Diego at Mission Bay.

“We are honored to be awarded a CASQA Outstanding Stormwater Outreach Award for the Santa Rosa High Schools Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Bioassessment Program. Thousands of students have measurably increased their knowledge of and awareness about storm water and creeks in Santa Rosa over the last eleven years during this intensive, hands-on program,” said Steve Brady, award recipient and program manager.

The City of Santa Rosa will receive the **Outstanding Stormwater News, Information and Outreach Award** for its project which educates students about stormwater pollution prevention, water quality, watersheds, physical stream habitat, sample and data collection, and data analysis. This two-week curriculum provides opportunities for outdoor, hands on assessments of local creeks. The Program originated in 1998 and since the program’s creation the City of Santa Rosa’s Storm Water and Creeks Team has delivered this innovative program to a total of 2,112 students from local public high schools.

“The design of our communities and the way we live within our communities have a tremendous influence on the quality of urban runoff – runoff that flows into storm drains and then ultimately into receiving waters such as creeks, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Unfortunately, pollutants that become entrained in urban runoff have contributed to the degradation of some receiving waters. The California Stormwater Quality Association is proud to honor these projects and those responsible for them because their innovation, contributions, and dedication lead to the improvement of urban runoff quality, and in turn the quality of receiving waters, in California,” said Kerry Schmitz, CASQA Director and Awards Committee Chairman.

Three other CASQA Stormwater Excellence award recipients include:

- **The Outstanding Stormwater BMP Award – Programmatic Category** will be presented to the San Diego County Office of Education for their Municipal Stormwater Management Consortium that assists school districts in developing and implementing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for school bus maintenance facilities.



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- **The Outstanding Structural Stormwater BMP Award** will be presented to the City of Santee for the Forester Creek Improvement Project, which is a restoration project that resulted in improved water quality, increased flood control capacity and restored beneficial uses for the creek.
- **The Outstanding Sustainable Stormwater Project Award** will be presented to Mercy Housing for the Colonia San Martin Project. Colonia San Martin is a recently completed 60-unit transit-oriented infill development in Sacramento County with a density of 20 units per acre and a wide array of other sustainable features such as vegetated stormwater quality bioswales, extensive use of drought-tolerant water efficient landscaping, community gathering areas, and a community garden.

CASQA awards are available to both public and private projects and individuals from public agencies and private businesses. Award candidates must be nominated by a CASQA member and are evaluated on demonstrated excellence, ingenuity, creativity, professionalism and documented results. Awards may be made at local, regional and statewide levels.

About CASQA

The California Stormwater Quality Association, founded in 1989, helps develop stormwater management programs and regulations that are technically and economically feasible, provide significant environmental benefits and effect compliance with State and Federal laws. Through its efforts to improve stormwater management practices, CASQA is on its way to creating cleaner waterways and beaches throughout California.

The association collaborates with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the California State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards, municipalities, special districts and businesses to achieve effective stormwater quality management programs in California. Membership consists of individuals and groups from government agencies, businesses, science organizations, development groups and construction groups. For more information about CASQA or to become a member, please visit www.casqa.org.

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