



NEWS RELEASE

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City of Stockton Municipal Utilities Collection System Award *Second Place in California for Large Systems*

(Stockton, CA) - The California Water Environment Association (CWEA) selected the City of Stockton Municipal Utilities Department to receive second-place in the state as the "Collection System of the Year Large." The award was presented at the CWEA 2017 Annual Awards in Palm Springs last week.

The CWEA award honors exceptional California wastewater professionals, facilities, and agencies. The program seeks to recognize outstanding achievements within the wastewater field, improve the professional status of all personnel working in the wastewater industry and related fields, and stimulate public awareness of the importance of wastewater collection and treatment to public health and the water environment.

"I am so proud of our team," shared Deputy Director Ba Than. "We were honored regionally in December 2016. This award is for the entire state, recognizing our team as compared to significantly larger agencies. The Municipal Utilities Department crew works tirelessly to provide service that is so reliable our customers can take it for granted. But we should not forget, there is a team that works 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, in all weather and work conditions, to keep systems operating at optimum levels. This award is a tremendous recognition of the team's work and effort."

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The crew annually inspects and maintains 878 miles of gravity sewer lines; 30 miles of force main lines; 563 miles of lower sewer laterals; and 628 miles of storm drain lines, with a crew of 72 professionals. This award is for significantly reducing the total number of annual incidents of sanitary sewer overflows by 62 percent within the past ten years. To accomplish this record-setting objective, the Collections Division studied inspection and maintenance practices and expanded standard operating procedures. Some of the innovative elements of these changes include:

- chemical dosing of sodium hydroxide in gravity lines;
- using bioxide (calcium nitrate) in force mains that experienced recurrent clogging;
- use of pipe penetrating radar to inspect conditions of pipes;
- implementation of a program that extends manhole lifespans;
- implementation of a root control program;
- pipeline condition assessment using closed-caption television equipment; and
- reducing sanitary sewer overflows across the City.

According to a 2013 Water Education Foundation Report, California is served by 100,000 miles of sanitary sewers and more than 900 wastewater treatment plants manage approximately 4 billion gallons of wastewater generated every day by the state's citizens, businesses and visitors. Systems designated as "Large," are those that maintain over 500 miles of pipeline infrastructure. The City of Stockton operates and maintains over 2,000

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miles of sewer and stormwater lines and was second only to the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, the first-place recipient.

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