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10th Annual Sustainable Business Awards



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The Sacramento County Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) will hold the 10th Annual Sustainable Business of the Year Awards on Wednesday, September 21st from 8-11 a.m. at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria in Downtown Sacramento. BERC administers the Sacramento Area Sustainable Business Program, a certification program for businesses within the Sacramento region for their voluntary sustainable business efforts. As an extension of the program, the annual award honors the top performers in the program who have implemented outstanding achievements in Energy Conservation, Water Conservation, Pollution Prevention, Solid Waste Reduction, Green Building, and Transportation & Air Quality.

The 2016 Sacramento Area Sustainable Business of the Year Awards will recognize six certified sustainable businesses for their exemplary sustainable practices, projects, programs and services in the Sacramento Region:

- ◆ **Paladin Private Security**, recipient of the Transportation and Air Quality Award for their compressed natural gas, low emission fleet.
- ◆ **California Public Employees' Retirement System**, recipient of the Water Conservation Award for their water conserving irrigation, and cooling tower water recapture project.
- ◆ **Datacate, Inc. – Sacramento**, recipient of the Energy Conservation Award for their recent data center retrofit with modern equipment, and efficient systems creating a 30-50% reduction of energy for cooling systems.
- ◆ **Sun & Soil Juice Company**, recipient of the Solid Waste Reduction Award for their accomplishments of 75,000 pounds of food waste diversion annually.
- ◆ **Nugget Market, Inc.**, recipient of the Green Building Award for their commitment to sustainability programs with reduction of landfill waste, alternative transportation, energy efficient equipment, and a 31% water reduction with new equipment installed.
- ◆ **Cal-Waste Recovery System**, recipient of the Pollution Prevention Award for upgrading to fuel efficient machinery and implementing fuel efficient processes.

Implementing sustainable measures into your organization and becoming a sustainable business is free and easy. For more information about the Sacramento Area Sustainable Business Program, including the 2016 award ceremony, visit www.SacBerc.org.

This article was provided by BERC.

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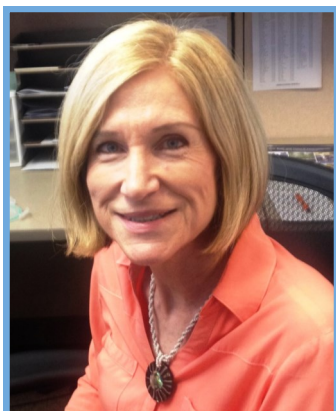
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Meet the Newest Air District Planner

The Air District would like to introduce Ms. Teri Duarte as its newest air quality planner in the Land Use and Transportation section. With a Master of Public Health degree, Ms. Duarte managed the County of Sacramento's Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) for over 20 years. In 2004, Ms. Duarte became interested in community walkability and improving public health through changes in the built environment. Most recently Ms. Duarte held the executive director position at WALKSacramento, a local non-profit organization seeking to improving walkability in the Sacramento region. Her successes while at WALKSacramento included a 17% increase in the number of West Sacramento children walking to school, and the installation of a traffic signal to allow safe crossings by pedestrians on Fruitridge Road in South Sacramento.



Ms. Duarte worked part time for the Air District in 2009-2010 in an effort to integrate health information into the Air District's comment letters on proposed land development projects. She is delighted to be working again in the Land Use and Transportation section and has a strong sense of goals she will be working towards. One goal includes shaping the Sacramento region, as it grows and develops, towards more compact, walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly communities. She also would like to advocate for increasing the tree canopy for the multiple air quality, climate, health, and social benefits that tree canopy brings as the region becomes increasingly hot and dry. With her health background, she will continue to expand the Air District's ability to bring about improvements in public health as co-benefits to air quality improvement strategies.

On a more personal note, Ms. Duarte loves to travel, dance, cook and bicycle to work. She has taken numerous trips to Latin America, which inspired her to change her professional focus from health programs such as WIC to improving health through the built environment. She also enjoys reading for pleasure.

Ms. Duarte is currently assisting with the review of development projects in the City of Sacramento and preparing training for Land Use and Transportation staff on the health aspects of the built environment. She can be reached at tduarte@airquality.org or 916-874-4816.

SMUD Rebate Offer

The Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) is offering a \$300 rebate to customers who purchase or lease a plug-in electric vehicle beginning January 2016. The \$300 rebate covers the average cost to charge a plug-in electric vehicle for a year.

SMUD's efforts to encourage more electric vehicles assist in improving local air quality!

Visit SMUD's website to download the rebate application:

<https://www.smud.org/en/residential/environment/plug-in-electric-vehicles/>

Sustainable Business Spotlight: Cal-PERS

The Sacramento County Business Environmental Center (BERC) strives to acknowledge environmentally sustainable businesses by certifying them in the Sacramento Area Sustainable Business Program (SB). The “transportation and air quality” portion of the certification is important especially in California where improving air quality faces many challenges. In partnership with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), BERC ventures to improve air quality within the region by encouraging businesses and the community to take the initiative to reduce their air pollution contributions. Every September, BERC holds the SB awards ceremony recognizing a number of exceptional businesses for their commitment to environmentally sustainable business operations including an award for outstanding efforts in the area of transportation and air quality.

BERC and SMAQMD would like to recognize the California Public Employees’ Retirement System for taking steps to enhance sustainability in the Sacramento region by spotlighting its efforts:

The California Public Employees’ Retirement System (Cal-PERS) provides public employee retirement and health benefits while maintaining a highly sustainable building environment. In an effort to save energy, Cal-PERS has partnered with the SMUD Greenergy Program. The facility uses green e-certified wind and solar energy provided by SMUD, allowing for zero-emission from energy resources. To lower emissions, Cal-PERS has also put in place, electric vehicle charging stations and a bike share program. On top of energy conservation, Cal-PERS has diverted 18.49 tons of food waste into alternative fuel product through an organic waste program. Cal-PERS does not only strive

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Save the Dates

Consider saving the date on your calendar for the following opportunities in the planning and clean technology fields:

October 19-20, 2016

Northern California Clean Technology Forum and Technology Expo

Sacramento, CA

<http://www.cleancitiessacramento.org/events.html>

February 2-4, 2017

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

St. Louis, MO

Registration opens October 6, 2016

<https://www.newpartners.org/>



G1C Enhanced Transit Services

Three local agencies are working together to provide enhanced transit services for people planning to attend events at the Golden 1 Center (G1C), which opens in October 2016. The Air District and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) operate the Sacramento Emergency Clean Air and Transportation Program (SECAT) to fund cleaner vehicles and retrofit technology in public and private fleets and scrap the older, more polluting vehicles to improve air quality. Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) is a regular participant in the SECAT program and operates bus and light rail service in many parts of Sacramento County, including downtown near the G1C.

In the environmental impact report for the G1C, the City of Sacramento estimated 7 percent of event attendees would utilize transit. The Air District, SACOG and RT have a plan to utilize SECAT funding which would enable RT to add special event light rail trains before and after major events at G1C to accommodate the estimated 1,225 riders. The added capacity will provide shorter wait times and end to end travel times that would be an attractive alternative to driving into downtown to attend an event at G1C. Additionally, RT would provide funding to a transportation network company to transport customers to/from their homes and light rail stations, further reducing vehicle emissions.

The funding plan was approved by SACOG's Transportation Committee on August 4, 2016, and by the SACOG Board on August 18, 2016.

The City of Sacramento provides updates on improvements being made for G1C event attendees at its website: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Arena/Project-Process>.

Cal-PERS Spotlight, continued from page 3

for building sustainability, but also is committed to preserving natural resources. When everyone is working together to conserve, it allows for improved designs in the challenge of sustainability.

Among its many sustainable accomplishments, Cal-PERS is recognized for being a certified member of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. Going above and beyond, they decided to further improve water conservation by implementing water-saving measures. These measures were seen with the installation of low flow fixtures, drip-irrigation, and changes in physical landscape. By doing this, Cal-PERS is greatly contributing to the reduction of potable water use with the alternative of 1.76 million gallons of water collected annually in the cooling tower water. Cal-PERS' efforts to be more "green" are realized in the building and the efforts of the employees for greater sustainability.

The SB program is continuously looking for new businesses to certify and incorporate into the program. More information can be found at www.sacberc.org/SASB.

This article was provided by BEREC.