Bay Area Projects Honored With ACEC California Engineering Excellence Awards

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. — The American Council of Engineering Companies, California (ACEC California) unveiled the 2017 recipients of its prestigious Engineering Excellence Awards. In all, 21 California firms representing 38 projects were named winners. Seven Bay Area projects were recognized for outstanding achievement: Converting Waste to Vehicle Fuel at the City of San Mateo Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Mateo; the Interstate 80 SMART Corridor Project - Integrated Corridor Mobility (ICM) in San Francisco; the Healdsburg Avenue Bridge over the Russian River; the Central Marin Ferry Connection in Larkspur; the Sylvester Greenwood Academy + Leadership Public Schools in Richmond; the New Irvington Tunnel in Sunol; and the Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant in San Bruno.

“Engineering and land surveying firms excel at serving California communities through extraordinary and innovative design in order to solve real-world problems,” said Brad Diede, Executive Director of ACEC California. “This year’s award winners were no exception – from providing critical clean water infrastructure to more efficient transportation improvement projects and world-class facilities – ACEC members are moving California forward.”

ACEC California’s annual Engineering Excellence Awards competition recognizes outstanding achievements in engineering and land surveying projects completed by California firms. This year, 18 Honor Awards were granted to 12 firms and 20 Merit Awards were granted to 11 firms. An awards dinner, which is a fundraiser for the ACEC California Scholarship Foundation 501(c)3, will be held in San Francisco, February 2, 2017, and Honor Award winning projects will have photographic panels on display at the Capitol, outside of the Governor’s office, in early 2017.

The winner of the Golden State award, signifying the best overall project, will be announced at the awards dinner. Honor Award winners also are eligible to enter the national level Engineering Excellence Awards competition. Photographs of award winning projects can be found here.

Additional Background on Honor Award Winning Projects in the Bay Area:

Converting Waste to Vehicle Fuel at the City of San Mateo Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Mateo, CA, by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants of San Francisco, CA. The City of San Mateo fleet vehicles are using clean burning gas produced at the City’s wastewater treatment plant. Advanced, state of the art technology converts a wastewater treatment byproduct, biogas from the plant’s digesters, into clean burning compressed natural gas. The City fueled its first clean natural gas vehicle on August 19, 2016, and intends to purchase several new clean natural gas vehicles for use in the City’s Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments. When operating at full capacity, the project will reduce carbon emissions by approximately 45,400 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent over a 25-year period.

Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant (HTWTP) Long Term Improvements Project (LTIP) - 11MG Treated Water Reservoir in San Bruno, CA, by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants of San Francisco, CA. The Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant (HTWTP), capable of supplying 180 million gallons per day (mgd),
is a critical component of the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System that serves 2.6 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2002, recognizing the need for major upgrades to the aging water system, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) launched the $4.8 billion Water System Improvement Program to provide improvements necessary to meet level of service goals established for seismic and delivery reliability, water quality and water supply. As part of this project’s progress, the SFPUC retained Kennedy/Jenks Consultants to design a new replacement 11-million-gallon treated water reservoir, which was designed to withstand a major earthquake in order to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water to over a million Bay Area residents.

Interstate 80 SMART Corridor Project - Integrated Corridor Mobility (ICM) in San Francisco - Oakland, CA, by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. of Oakland, CA, and Mott MacDonald of Pleasanton, CA. ICM implements the latest technology on freeways, ramps, and arterials with lane-use signs, variable advisory speed signs, variable message signs, highway advisory radio, ramp meters, transit priority, trailblazer signs, and traffic signal coordination—all of which can be controlled in an integrated fashion from a single user. Furthermore, ICM integrates all of these systems into a single interface that brings together nine cities; two counties; two transit agencies; the regional metropolitan planning organization; and Caltrans into a single, cohesive system.

Healdsburg Avenue Bridge over the Russian River in Healdsburg, CA, by Cornerstone Structural Engineering Group, Inc. of Fresno, CA. Cornerstone and Prime Consultant Omni- Means were contracted by the City of Healdsburg to perform scoping, environmental clearance, permitting, and final design on this project. Originally constructed in 1921, the Healdsburg Avenue Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and required state of the art rehabilitation and seismic retrofit techniques in order to preserve the historic fabric of one of the few steel Pratt Truss bridges located in the western United States. Through collaboration with local community members, Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration, the State Historic Preservation Office, the City and their design team successfully delivered this project on schedule and within budget.

Central Marin Ferry Connection (CMFC) Multi-Use Pathway in Larkspur, CA, by Biggs Cardosa Associates, Inc. of San Jose, CA. Opened in April of 2016, this elevated pathway gives pedestrians and cyclists a safe, direct way to cross Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, a busy major arterial, by connecting a popular existing pedestrian and cyclist path to the north of Sir Francis Drake with the Larkspur Ferry Terminal to the south. A major component of the project is an iconic 291-foot long bridge that spans over Sir Francis Drake Blvd and leads into an elevated ramp structure. The CMFC will also link to a new train station to be built as the southern terminus of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit passenger rail line. By the year 2025, the CMFC pathway is expected to provide access for 767,000 bicycle trips and 143,000 pedestrian trips annually.

Additional Background on Merit Award Winning Projects in the Bay Area:

Sylvester Greenwood Academy + Leadership Public Schools in Richmond, CA by Cornerstone Structural Engineering Group, Inc. of San Francisco, CA. Cornerstone Structural Engineering Group, Inc. became involved in this $57.6M project after being retained by HMC Architects to provide structural engineering services for a new combined high school project in Richmond, California. A key challenge for this project was to combine two separate schools, Sylvester Greenwood Academy (SGA) a West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) continuation school, and Leadership
Public School (LPS) a charter school, onto a dense urban 2.65 acre site. Both facilities had previously been housed in portable structures or temporary facilities.

*New Irvington Tunnel in Sunol, CA by Mott MacDonald of Pleasanton, CA.* The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission announced in March 2015 that after more than four years of construction, a new 3.5 mile long seismically-improved tunnel is now delivering water to 2.6 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area. The New Irvington Tunnel Project completes the last of three new tunnels creating a water lifeline able to withstand earthquakes on the Hayward, Calaveras, and San Andreas faults. Located between the Sunol Valley and Fremont, the Project is part of the agency’s $4.8 billion Water System Improvement Program. The New Irvington Tunnel was constructed alongside the existing Irvington Tunnel. The old Irvington Tunnel was built between 1928 and 1932 and is an important component of the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System.

###

ACEC California is a statewide association representing over 950 private consulting engineering and land-surveying firms that average 20 employees each. ACEC California is dedicated to enhancing the consulting engineering and land surveying professions, protecting the general public and promoting the use of the private sector in the growth and development of our state. Our members provide services for all phases of planning, designing and constructing projects. For more information, visit [www.acec-ca.org](http://www.acec-ca.org).