

City of Vacaville

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THREE CITY OF VACAVILLE EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED BY STATE WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

Tim Erskine, Senior Wastewater Plant Operator for the City of Vacaville, has been named State Operator of the Year by the California Water Environment Association.

Other Vacaville employees honored include Dave Psaila, Senior Utility Plant Mechanic, who was named First Runner Up – Mechanic of the Year; and Warren Banzet, Senior Utility Plant Mechanic, was named Second Runner Up - Gimmicks and Gadgets.

The awards will be presented at the CWEA Annual Conference scheduled for April 20-23 in Sacramento. It's the first time since 1990 a Vacaville employee has won the Operator of the Year award

Erskine is a Certified Grade 5 Operator and has worked for the City for over 16 years. He was nominated by his fellow operators based on their recognition of his devotion to his job and his tireless efforts to make the operations team more effective. Erskine is known for initiating, developing, and implementing new ideas that result in efficient plant operation.

“Tim is recognized by his coworkers as a ‘Can Do-No Problem’ staff member, and has received many employee recognition awards over the years,” said Jeff Cooley, Utilities Operations Manager for the City of Vacaville. “He also provided technical support and developed a plan to start a new volunteer operator training program. He is a leader, an asset to the City, and to his fellow staff members.”

(More)

Psaila, who has worked for the City of Vacaville for over 31 years, was instrumental in the demo work of an old Primary Plant at Easterly WWTP.

“It was a dirty job, but he jumped right in and volunteered for the dirty work and led by example,” Cooley said. “Dave is counted on to be the go-to-guy on any major project that needs a keen eye for detail and a sense of safety.”

Banzet, a “Gimmicks and Gadgets” whiz, has worked for the City for over 19 years. He was honored regionally for his creation of his Aeration Diffuser Clamp Fastening Tool. The pneumatic clamp removes the human inconsistencies of force applied to the crimps enhances safety by removing the chance of a repetitive motion injury.

“Warren’s technical ability and innovation is an asset of which he should be proud to possess,” Cooley said. “Difficult or challenging work requests do not deter Warren.”

Banzet was the state Gimmicks and Gadgets winner in 2009.

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