



# Costa Mesa Sanitary District

...an Independent Special District

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COSTA MESA SANITARY DISTRICT AWARDED BEST WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM IN THE REGION**

(Costa Mesa, CA) – On Saturday, March 5, 2016, the Santa Ana River Basin Section (SARBS) of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) named the Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) as the recipient of the 2015 Collection System of the Year award. SARBS, which boundaries include Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, is one of 17 geographical local sections of CWEA that trains and certifies wastewater professionals and promotes sound policies to benefit society through protection and enhancement of statewide water environment. The designation of ‘Collection System of the Year’ is one of the most prestigious SARBS/CWEA awards, which recognizes an agency’s significant accomplishments, safety record, training program, regulatory compliance, maintenance program along with documented administrative and emergency procedures. This is the second time in five years CMSD has won Collection System of the Year from SARBS. CMSD won the award in 2013.

SARBS recognized CMSD for its innovative use of wireless tablets to download GIS maps and electronic work orders in the field, as well as installing and procuring



*Protecting our community's health and the environment by providing solid waste and sewer collection services.*

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emergency generators for backup power at all twenty lift stations, and using key performance indicators to help evaluate the productivity of the Wastewater Division.

In addition, CMSD demonstrated to SARBS officials the organization's commitment to preventing sanitary sewer overflows by purchasing new wastewater cleaning vehicles and hiring additional employees that are dedicated to protecting the environment. CMSD also has an excellent safety record and created a comic book hero called, The Sewer Slayer that was made into a children coloring book. The book describes how wastewater workers are every day heroes for preventing sanitary sewer overflows from occurring. CMSD will now compete statewide against the 16 other local sections of CWEA for Collection System of the Year. The award will be announced on Friday, April 29, 2016 during CWEA's annual conference in Santa Clara, California. Should CMSD win on the state level, the agency will then compete for the award nationally at the Water Environment Federation.

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