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From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Thur 10/8/2015 8:42:07 PM
Subject: U.S. EPA Press Release: U.S. EPA recognizes 2015 WaterSense Partners of the Year in California and Nevada

Dear Colleagues:

The following press release is being issued today by the EPA Region IX press office. If you have questions or need any additional information, please give me a call.

Regards,

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison
Telephone: 415.947.4256

EPA Environmental News

For Immediate Release: October 8, 2015

Media Contact: Soledad Calvino, 415-972-3512, calvino.maria@epa.gov

U.S. EPA recognizes 2015 WaterSense Partners of the Year in California and Nevada

SAN FRANCISCO— Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership, the Municipal Water District of Orange County, KB Home, Energy Inspectors Corporation, and 13 other winners as WaterSense Partners of the Year for creating, rebating, communicating and educating consumers about WaterSense labeled products, homes and programs.

EPA Region 9 is working with all levels of government, tribes, and NGOs to expand and scale-up improved and sustainable water management in response to the ongoing severe drought in the Pacific Southwest. This includes identifying tools to build long-term resiliency to future water supply shortfalls with key actions such as assisting water utilities identify and address losses from in their water distribution systems, advancing innovation in wastewater recycling, promoting stormwater capture for non-potable use and to replenish groundwater, and working with industry and consumers to conserve water through efficient fixtures and practices.

"EPA is proud to honor WaterSense partners for making a difference in drought-stricken communities," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "Our WaterSense partners are helping build stronger, more resilient water systems to meet the challenges ahead."

WaterSense announced the 2015 Sustained Excellence Award winners, Partners of the Year, and Excellence Award winners today at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas, Nevada. By working together, these water efficiency leaders and more than 1,700 other WaterSense partners have helped Americans save 1.1 trillion gallons of water and $21.7 billion in water and energy bills since 2006.

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2015 WaterSense Partners of the Year:

KB Home, headquartered in Los Angeles, Calif., was recognized with a WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award for its continued work building WaterSense labeled homes, for which it previously earned Builder Partner of the Year for four years. In addition to building nearly 100 WaterSense labeled homes in 2014, KB Home also constructed model homes in California featuring innovative water-efficient products, along with graywater recycling systems that provide water for toilet-flushing or landscape irrigation.

Energy Inspectors Corporation, located in Las Vegas, Nev., was recognized as the Licensed Certification Provider Partner of the Year for certifying 100 WaterSense labeled new homes in 2014 and its continued work with KB Home to build even more communities of WaterSense labeled homes. The company also kept its inspectors' knowledge current through creation of an online training video on the WaterSense indoor and outdoor criteria for homes.

The Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership was recognized as the Professional Certifying Organization Partner of the Year for its Qualified Water Efficient Landscape (QWEL) professional certification program. In 2014, four more organizations adopted the QWEL program and 200 new irrigation professionals were certified. The partnership also updated and promoted a graywater training module.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County, located in Fountain Valley, Calif., was recognized with an Excellence Award for its Sprinkler Spruce-Up campaign as a platform to promote and educate costumers about WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controllers and the importance of "sprucing up" irrigation systems.

EPA's WaterSense program protects the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water efficient products, new homes and services. In helping to preserve water resources, the important work of the WaterSense program supports the goals of EPA's Clean Water Rule. And, because saving water also saves energy, the program supports EPA's Clean Power Plan, which will help communities save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Learn more about the 2015 WaterSense award winners, including more information about the award winners in California and Nevada, at www.epa.gov/watersense.

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Brent Maier

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