

News Briefs

WACA Announces 2018 Construction Excellence Award Winners

The Wall And Ceiling Alliance (WACA) held its 7th Annual Construction Excellence Awards (CEA) ceremony on June 14

in San Jose, CA, where distinguished signatory wall and ceiling contractors were honored for their exceptional wall and ceiling projects. Excellence in Safety awards were also given to four contractor companies. With over 300 guests in attendance, the CEA is one of the largest wall and ceiling awards programs in the western region.

Winners included:

California Drywall Co.

Category: Residential / Lodging Exterior
Project: Russell & Quimby

RFJ Meiswinkel Company

Category: Residential / Lodging Interior
Project: San Francisco Proper Hotel

O'Donnell Plastering, Inc.

Category: Retail Exterior
Project: Sun Garden Shopping Center

Swinerton Builders

Category: Retail Interior
Project: SFO Polaris Club

Anning-Johnson Company

Category: Commercial Exterior
Project: Central & Wolfe Campus

California Drywall Co.

Category: Commercial Interior
Project: Airbnb San Francisco

O'Donnell Plastering, Inc.

Category: Institutional Exterior
Project: SCU Charney Hall

California Drywall Co.

Category: Institutional Interior
Project: Stanford University Hoover Institution

O'Donnell Plastering, Inc.

Category: Historical Restoration Exterior
Project: Peninsula Golf & Country Club

Patrick J. Ruane, Inc.

Category: Historical Restoration Interior
Project: 350 Bush

Daley's Drywall & Taping, Inc.

Category: EIFS
Project: Emeryville Marketplace Block B

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Metropolitan Board Agrees to Fund Two-Tunnel California WaterFix

The board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California voted July 10 to provide the additional financing needed for the full construction of the California WaterFix project to modernize the state's "badly outdated and increasingly vulnerable water delivery system."

The board authorized \$10.8 billion for the project to build two tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The vote makes Metropolitan the primary investor in the project, which has a total estimated cost of \$16.7 billion.

Metropolitan's board took a similar vote in April. However following that action, two organizations sent a notice alleging violations of the Brown Act in connection with that meeting. Metropolitan responded to the notice disagreeing with its legal conclusion and provided documents in response to a related California Public Records Act request. But to ensure there is no question concerning the validity of the board's consideration of, and its vote on, whether to authorize increased funding of California WaterFix, the board voted on the matter again today.

Metropolitan Board Chairman Randy Record says the action was taken in an abundance of caution to ensure full public transparency. "California's water delivery system is broken. After years of study, planning and environmental review, we finally have the solution. I am thrilled this project continues to move forward," he says.

The vote more than doubles Metropolitan's initially planned WaterFix investment in WaterFix. In October 2017, Metropolitan's board initially voted to participate in WaterFix and contribute up to 26 percent of its \$17 billion cost, or about \$4.3 billion. But the majority of federal agricultural contractors who also import supplies via the Delta have yet to commit to investing in the project, leaving part of the project's costs unfunded. In today's action, Metropolitan's board chose to help finance the full 9,000 cubic feet per second project, with the plan of



recouping a portion of that investment from agricultural interests and possibly others once the project is completed.

California WaterFix will be paid for by the people and businesses that use the water it helps deliver via the retail water agencies and cities that serve those customers. Metropolitan's financing of the full project is expected to cost Southland households on average up to \$4.80 a month, though that average cost would be reduced to the extent that Metropolitan recoups some of that investment. Metropolitan will be selling or leasing capacity in the tunnels to allow water deliveries, transfers or exchanges for other parties.

About 30 % of the water that flows out of taps in Southern California comes from Northern California via the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. But the Delta's delivery system is outdated, its ecosystem is in decline, and its 1,100-mile levee system is increasingly vulnerable to earthquakes, flooding, saltwater intrusion, sea level rise and environmental degradation.

Attempts to help the Delta have led to regulatory restrictions that have reduced water exports from the region while the ecosystem continues to decline. California WaterFix will modernize the state's water delivery system by building three new water intakes in the northern Delta and two tunnels that

will provide high quality water and reduce impacts to fish. It also will contribute to the restoration and protection of up to 15,600 acres of critical Delta habitat as mitigation for ongoing construction and operational impacts.

Investing in WaterFix is consistent with Metropolitan's strong commitment to local supply development and conservation, say officials. Imported water from the State Water Project helps replenish local groundwater basins, meet water quality standards and facilitate water recycling projects.

On June 9, Metropolitan launched a new Landscape Transformation Program through which residents and businesses can get cash rebates for replacing their thirsty grass with more water-efficient plants. Metropolitan also kicked off a multi-million dollar advertising and outreach campaign urging Southern Californians to conserve water 365 days a year.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving nearly 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.

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California Drywall Co.

Category: Green Building
Project: University of California, Berkeley Chou Hall

J&J Acoustics, Inc.

Category: Ceilings
Project: NVIDIA

Giampolini Contractors

Category: Project of the Year – Interior Under 500K
Project: SF Games

Patrick J. Ruane, Inc.

Category: Project of the Year – Interior Over 500K
Project: 350 Bush

O'Donnell Plastering, Inc.

Category: Project of the Year – Exterior Under 500K
Project: Peninsula Golf & Country Club

Anning-Johnson Company

Category: Project of the Year – Exterior Over 500K
Project: Central & Wolfe Campus

2018 Excellence in Safety
Award winners

**Raymond-Northern
California, Inc.**

125K-250K Annual Hours

**Brady Company/Central
California, Inc.**

250K-500K Annual Hours

**Performance Contracting,
Inc. (PCI)**

500K-1 Million Annual
Hours

California Drywall Co.

Over 1 Million Annual
Hours

For more information,
visit www.wallandceilingalliance.org