



San Luis Obispo County FC&WCD
John R. Hollenbeck, P.E.
Nacimiento Project Manager

Commissioners
Frank Mecham, SLO County FC&WCD
John Hamon, City of Paso Robles
Judith Dietch, Templeton CSD
Grigger Jones, Atascadero MWC
Andrew Carter, City of San Luis Obispo

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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Nacimiento Water Project - ASCE Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Nominee

San Luis Obispo County, CA – With its many innovative design, construction, and operational strategies, it makes perfect sense that the Nacimiento Water Project (Project) – the largest locally-funded project embarked upon by San Luis Obispo County (County) – is being recognized as one of five Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) finalists by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Each year, ASCE, an organization representing over 144,000 civil engineers worldwide, recognizes an exemplary civil engineering project with the OCEA award—“this prestigious award honors the project that best illustrates superior civil engineering skills and represents a significant contribution to civil engineering progress and society”—it's an engineer's equivalent to the Oscars!

The \$176.1-million Project is the single largest public works project ever managed, funded, and constructed by the County government (by a factor of six!) and serves as an icon of the collaborative strength that was built between local water agencies during the Project's planning, design, financing, construction, and initial operation. Black & Veatch Corporation, design engineer, and the County designed the Project to deliver up to 15,750 acre-feet of raw water annually from Lake Nacimiento to participating agencies via its multi-port intake, three pump stations, three storage tanks, 45 miles of pipe, SCADA system and appurtenances.

The Nacimiento Project Manager, John Hollenbeck, said *“When I was hired by the County, I set a goal for the Project to reach this level [OCEA nominee] because I believed it contained the various aspects to make it a world class engineering Project, and I'm very thrilled, and a bit shocked, that this goal has been achieved!”* He attributes the Project's success to many factors, not least of which is the capable County staff and “army of consultants”, responsible for the Project's design, environmental permitting, right-of-way acquisition, and construction management, that drove the Project forward from 2004 to its present operational state.

Nacimiento Project Commissioner Andrew Carter, representative of the participant agency City of San Luis Obispo, states *“The City of San Luis Obispo is very appreciative of the leadership that John Hollenbeck and so many other people at County Public Works have provided throughout this project...and equally appreciate the hard work and leadership provided by that ‘army of consultants’.”*

Even being considered for the ASCE OCEA award is an enormous honor for our region, and points to this community's caliber of regional awareness and proactive nature in solving local water resource concerns. ASCE will present the OCEA award recipient at its OPAL Gala in March 2012.

For more information or related photographs, please contact Carolyn Berg at (805) 781-5252 or visit the NWP website at: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/NacWP.htm>.

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