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Engineering Excellence Once Again Takes Center Stage in State Capitol

SACRAMENTO, February 3, 2010 – Twenty-four panels reflecting many of the state's highest private engineering and land surveying achievements within the last year are now on display in the Capitol through February 12.

The panels, which adorn the walls of the first floor hallway of the Capitol building between the offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor, are once again being displayed with the permission of the Office of the First Lady by the American Council of Engineering Companies of California (ACEC California) to recognize this year's honorees for its Engineering Excellence Awards.

The panels consist of many different award categories. The top honorees (firm and project) are:

HDR received the highest honor, the Golden State Award, for their Gills Onions Advanced Energy Recovery System Project. The 2010 Engineering Excellence Golden State Award goes to HDR Engineering, Inc., for the Gills Onions Advanced Energy Recovery System. HDR was selected by Gills Onions, the largest fresh-cut onion processor in the nation, as the lead engineering firm on this breakthrough project – a facility that converts onion waste to power. Juice is extracted from onion peels and treated in a high-rate anaerobic reactor to produce methane-rich biogas. The biogas is then treated and used to power two fuel cells that provide electricity for the processing plant. As a result of this project, the owner has achieved increased energy independence, elimination of a waste stream, reduced operational cost, and a smaller carbon footprint. The combination of the energy produced, cost savings generated, and grant funding achieved by the project will result in a full payback in less than six years. The project was delivered on time for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 17, 2009.

AECOM Technology (Honor Award): Port of Long Beach Pier T Berth T-121 BP Cold Ironing Project

AECOM USA Inc. (Honor Award): City of Fillmore Water Recycling Program (WRP) Project

Applied Technology Council (Honor Award): FEMA P695 Quantification of Building Seismic Performance Factors Project

Association of AGS and Gannett Fleming, Inc. (Honor Award): Muni Metro East Light Rail Maintenance and Operations Facility Project

CDM (Honor Award): Sand City Brackish Water Treatment Facility Project

CH2M Hill, Inc./URS (Honor Award): Folsom Lake Crossing Project

David Evans and Associates, Inc. (Honor Award): South Line Mobile Laser Scanning Project

Hatch Mott MacDonald (Honor Award): Inland Feeder – Arrowhead Tunnels Project

RBF Consulting (Honor Award): P-971 A&C Combined Arms Military Operations on Urban Terrain (CAMOUT) Phases I and II Project

T.Y. Lin International (Honor Award): David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge Project

“The projects receiving awards this year highlight some of the innovative and experienced approaches taken by private sector companies to solve engineering challenges in both the private and public sectors in California. We are delighted to honor them and extremely grateful to the Office of the First Lady for allowing us to display their achievements in the Capitol,” said Paul Meyer, executive director of ACEC-California

The ACEC California award winners were honored during the Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet that was held on Tuesday, January 19 at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento. The top honor award winners will be honored during the national organization’s awards banquet in Washington D.C. at the end of April.

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About ACEC California: ACEC California is a statewide association representing more than 1,000 private consulting engineering and land-surveying firms that average 20 employees each. ACEC California is dedicated to enhancing the consulting engineering and land surveying professions, protecting the general public and promoting the use of the private sector in the growth and development of our state. Our members provide services for all phases of planning, designing and constructing projects. For more information, visit www.acec-ca.org.