

December 27, 2010

KERN COG ANNOUNCES 2010 REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organization: Kern Council of Governments
What: 19th annual Regional Awards of Merit ceremony
When: 6-9 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2011
Where: 1401 19th Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, California 93301

Kern Council of Governments will honor 18 individuals, organizations and programs for making major contributions to this area's quality of life through innovative, cooperative efforts during its 19th annual Regional Awards of Merit Program on March 3, 2011.

Regional Awards of Merit recipients, as decided by a Kern COG's Board subcommittee, are divided among nine broad categories and include:

Community Involvement:

- Kern County Department of Child Support Services' **"It Happened 2 Me"** program for educating teenagers and unwed adults about establishing paternity.
- Shafter Mennonite Brethren Church's **5th Quarter Program** for providing positive alternative activities for youth on Friday nights.
- **Wasco Sheriff's Activities League Program** for instilling the values of integrity, respect, and fairness in children to help enhance the quality of life in the community.
- **Community Action Partnership of Kern's Food Bank—Resource Fairs** for promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Shafter Police Department's **Police Athletic League** for providing positive mentoring and role models for the community's children.

Local Government:

- **City of Tehachapi & the Friends of Tehachapi Depot** for their work to enhance their community and restore the Tehachapi Depot.
- Kern County Department of Child Support Services' **"Ready-Set Back to School, Supporting Our Kids, Health and Wellness Fair"** for providing awareness to the importance of supporting children throughout their lives, especially in health, wellness and education.
- **Kern County Water Agency** for the development of the Treated Water Capacity Expansion Project which expands the delivery capacity of the Henry C. Garnett Water Purification Plant serving the metropolitan Bakersfield area.

- **City of Ridgecrest** for the Ridgecrest General Plan 2030.

Ken Volpe: Environmental Resources:

- **The City of Taft** for their sustainable program, “Vision for the Future”.

Transportation:

- **American Society of Civil Engineers Kern County Infrastructure Report Card Committee** for educating government officials and the community regarding the status of our local infrastructure.

Journalism:

- Editor of the Midway Driller, **Doug Keeler**, for his leadership in promoting endeavors designed to improve the community.

Darrel Hildebrand: Distinguished Leadership – Public Group or Individual:

- **Robert Boland** of Alta One Federal Credit Union for more than 30 years of dedicated service to the well-being of the Kern region and the financial security of its citizens.
- **Charlie Beard** of General Production Services for his contributions and efforts to the Oilworker Monument in Taft.

Richard A. Maxwell: Public Safety:

- **Lieutenant Joe Mullins** for his Bakersfield Safe Streets Partnership, which reduces the number of gang-related shootings on our streets.

Lifetime Achievement—Elected Official:

- Bakersfield City Councilmember **Irma Carson** for her dedication to public service and the community.

Lifetime Achievement – Private Citizen:

- **Cathy Hansen** of the Mojave Transportation Foundation for her commitment to Mojave’s rich transportation heritage.
- **Patricia Farris** of the Ridgecrest News Review for her commitment and willingness to meet the concerns and needs of her community.

Kern COG celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2010, and this is the 19th year the agency has recognized those programs and people in our region whose ideas and hard work have made life in Kern County better for us all.

The awards banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2011 at the Petroleum Club on the 12th floor of the Stockdale Towers, 5060 Stockdale Highway in Bakersfield. Cost is \$35 per person, which includes a dinner buffet. Reservations are due by noon Tuesday, March 1, 2011 by calling (661) 861-2191 or emailing lcollins@kerncog.org. No money will be accepted at the door.

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