



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Thursday, December 15, 2016

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## **City of Stockton Municipal Utilities Collection Crew Honored**

(Stockton, CA) - The City of Stockton's Municipal Utilities Department Collections Division was recognized by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Northern San Joaquin Local Section as the large "Collection System of the Year," at its 2016 Annual Awards in Manteca on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. The team worked diligently to improve the Stockton collection system, which has more than 2,000 miles of sewer lines to maintain.

The CWEA award honors exceptional California wastewater professionals, facilities, and agencies. The program seeks to recognize outstanding achievements within the wastewater field, improve the professional status of all personnel working in the wastewater industry and related fields, and stimulate public awareness of the importance of wastewater collection and treatment to public health and the water environment.

"I am so proud of our team," shared Deputy Director Ba Than. "The Municipal Utility Department crew works tirelessly to provide service that is so reliable the people of Stockton can take it for granted. But we should not forget, there is a team that works 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, in all weather and work conditions, to prevent street flooding and to keep systems cleared. This award is a tremendous recognition of the team's work and effort."

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The crew annually inspects and maintains 878 miles of gravity sewer lines; 30 miles of force main lines; 563 miles of lower sewer laterals; and 628 miles of storm drain lines, with a crew of 72 professionals. This award is for significantly reducing the total number of annual incidents of sanitary sewer overflows by 62 percent within the past ten years. To accomplish this record-setting objective, the Collections Division studied inspection and maintenance practices and expanded standard operating procedures. Some of the innovative elements of these changes include:

- chemical dosing of sodium hydroxide in gravity lines;
- using bioxide (calcium nitrate) in force mains that experienced recurrent clogging;
- use of pipe penetrating radar to inspect conditions of pipes;
- implementation of a program that extends manhole lifespans;
- implementation of a root control program;
- pipeline condition assessment using closed-caption television equipment; and
- reducing sanitary sewer overflows across the City.

As an award winner, the Collections Division will automatically be considered for Large Collection System of the Year for the State of California, with a winner to be recognized at CWEA's Annual Conference to be held in Palm Springs, in April 2017. The Large Collection Systems category is for those systems containing over 500 miles of pipe.

For more information about wastewater or stormwater services, please visit us at [www.stocktonca.gov/mud](http://www.stocktonca.gov/mud) or call (209) 937-8700.

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