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**Month Day, Year**

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**Transparency Certificate of Excellence Awarded to Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency**

Monterey, CA — The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

“This award is a testament to Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency’s commitment to open government,” said Paul Sciuto, General Manager. “The entire district staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight.”

In order to receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency also fulfilled fifteen website requirements, including providing readily available information to the public, such as board agendas, past minutes, current district budget, and the most recent financial audit.

Finally, the district must demonstrated outreach to its constituents that engages the public in its governance, through a special community engagement project and community transparency reviews.

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) was formed by Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Seaside Sanitation Districts in 1972. Over the years, many other northern Monterey County entities eventually became Joint Powers Authority (JPA) participants in the regional system as well. The MRWPCA currently serves a population of approximately 250,000 people and treats 18.5 million gallons each day.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as water, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters in order to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.

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The mission of Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency is to meet the wastewater and water recycling needs of member agencies while protecting the environment.