



## **Ironhouse wins two statewide industry Awards of Excellence**

Last week Ironhouse Sanitary District was presented with two top awards at the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) annual conference in Monterey. The first of the two awards received was for Organizational Excellence Award acknowledging the District's efforts in fiscal management and the second for Outstanding Capital Project.

"At our core is our commitment to public transparency and fiscal management," said Chad Davisson, Ironhouse's general manager. "To that end we work really hard to make sure we are using ratepayer's money in the most responsible manner possible. It is an honor to be recognized for these efforts by one of the top agencies in our industry."

CASA's Organizational Award of Excellence recognizes achievements in managing the agency, focusing on strategies that promote organizational sustainability, organizational development and effective financial management. Ironhouse demonstrated its organizational excellence to the awards committee of their peers by:

- Not increased annual sewer service fees in four years, including FY 18/19, resulting in the longest duration without the need for an increase since 1992
- Reducing operating expenses each year since 2015
- Developed a risk model for the sewer collection system to determine the highest priority investment
- Completed a Water Recycling Facility reliability study
- Developed a capital improvement program for the entire District
- Developed the District's first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that concisely communicates the overall fiscal strength of the District

CASA's Outstanding Capital Project award recognizes an exemplary public wastewater capital project, emphasizing unique or innovative design for a difficult and challenging issue. Ironhouse received this award for its aluminum sulfite (alum) feed station. In the winter of 2016, the

District's collection system and Water Recycling Facility received a significant increase in storm flows and illegal surface water drainage. These increased flows resulted in the need to add alum to increase ultraviolet light (UV) transmittance and reduce suspended solids.

"Through direction from the Board of Directors, the District has pre-purchased a bulk storage tank to achieve cost savings and safety improvements prior to the project completion," said Tyson Zimmerman, Ironhouse's assistant general manager.

To deal with issue the District worked to provide a temporary system to reduce the cost of alum including building a secondary containment for alum storage, which resulted in significantly reducing the cost the District spent alum.

The temporary solution was implemented to take advantage of bulk chemical deliveries until the final permanent design is constructed.