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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES CALIFORNIA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE CONTEST WINNER**

*Customers recognized for their water-wise landscapes.*

Vista, CA—

The Vista Irrigation District has recognized two of its customers for their entries in the district's California-Friendly Landscape Contest. The District's Board of Directors presented these awards to the recipients at its May 11, 2016 Board meeting.

The contest recognizes outstanding water-wise residential landscapes based on the criteria of overall attractiveness, appropriate plant selection, design, appropriate maintenance, and efficient methods of irrigation.

John and Marcia Rea received the Best in District award. According to the Reas, they had three primary goals when they decided to remove their lawn and install a California-Friendly landscape: they wanted to lessen the worry and maintenance of a lawn, reduce their water use and have an aesthetically pleasing yard. Their new landscape accomplishes all of their objectives.

Last summer, the Reas removed the dying lawn in their front yard and replaced it with low maintenance, decomposed granite pathways that wind through colorful planting beds. Incorporated in their design are boulders and rocks that define and blend in with the pathways and plants, creating a natural looking landscape with great curb appeal. The Reas say the best part of the whole project was getting to know more of their neighbors who would see their yard and stop by to compliment them on their landscape transformation. Their new landscape has reduced their water use by 27 percent as compared to the same period last year.

Tamara Diaz was recognized with an honorable mention award. She wanted to remove 5,000 square feet of lawn in her front yard. Ms. Diaz researched and designed her landscape herself, carefully picking appropriate and colorful plants. Since replacing her lawn, Ms. Diaz's annual water use has dropped by 64 percent. She says her landscape transformation was a fun journey and now recommends to her neighbors with suffering lawns to take a drive by her home and see how a California-Friendly landscape can be beautiful and aesthetically pleasing.

With a majority of residential water use in San Diego County attributed to watering landscapes, regional water conservation efforts are focusing on outdoor water use. By showcasing their beautiful landscapes in the California-Friendly Landscape Contest, these customers provide other homeowners with ideas and incentives to reduce their own outdoor water use by installing attractive and efficient water wise landscaping.

“Customers who remove their lawn and replace it with California-Friendly landscaping are doing their part to fight the drought as well as saving money on their water bill,” said Brent Reyes, water conservation specialist for the district.

Thirteen local agencies held landscape contests this year, providing an opportunity for residential water wise landscapes to be showcased throughout the region. Participating agencies (besides the Vista Irrigation District) include the Helix Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Dieguito Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District, Sweetwater Authority, Vallecitos Water District, California American Water, and the cities of Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego.

For more information about the contest and to see more examples of water-wise landscaping, visit [www.landscapecontest.com](http://www.landscapecontest.com). Visit the district's web site ([www.vid-h2o.org](http://www.vid-h2o.org)) or call (760) 597-3160 to find out more ways to save water.

The Vista Irrigation District is a public agency governed by an elected five-member board. The district provides water service to more than 127,000 people in the city of Vista, and portions of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside, and unincorporated areas of San Diego County.

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Reporter/Editor Note:

For photographs of the participating landscapes, please call (760) 597-3107.