

---

# CA-NV AWWA Recognizes South Mesa Water Company for Small Utility Excellence

South Mesa Water Company was honored with the Small Utility Excellence award by the California-Nevada section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) at their spring conference on April 4. The CA-NV AWWA is a national association that advocates for water agencies and their communities on a national and local scale.

South Mesa Water Company's general manager Dave Armstrong accepted the award, stating, "it is truly an honor to receive recognition from one of the most respected advocacy agencies in the water world. Our system as well as other small systems like us face many challenges and work through them on our own, until now, with little recognition or support."

South Mesa has been recognized for their technical, managerial, and financial accomplishments. This award is granted just as South Mesa announces two bids for projects in the Calimesa and Yucaipa communities related to laying down hundreds of feet of new pipeline on County Line Road and consolidation of Hillcrest Mobile Home Park to provide residents with safe and affordable water.

As a board member for the California Mutual Association of Water Companies as well as the vice president of the local Yucaipa Groundwater Sustain-

ability Agency, Armstrong has set a high standard for mutual water companies' involvement in statewide efforts for conservation and policy advocacy. While some parts of California are struggling with chronically failing systems, Armstrong has been proactive to maintain the agency's infrastructure and ensure everyone in his service territory has access to clean and affordable water.

"We are so grateful to the AWWA for giving a small system like us an award of this magnitude. Our main focus continues to be on providing our shareholders and community with great service, quality water and reliable water supply for years to come and to be a champion for small systems across the state," stated Board President, Dave Dutchover.

SMWC is a not-for-profit water company founded in 1912 that serves about 3,000 households in portions of Yucaipa and Calimesa. Currently, all of South Mesa Water Company water comes from eight groundwater wells and is stored in five reservoirs with a total storage capacity of 7.0 million gallons. South Mesa Water Company also has an agreement to purchase water that is imported from northern California from the State Water Project through Valley District and SGPWA.