



Media Release

San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Alameda County and Thomas Barron Win 2012 "WuHoo" Pollution Prevention Awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland – The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board presented Alameda County and environmental engineer Thomas Barron with the Dr. Teng-Chung Wu Pollution Prevention Awards, affectionately known as "WuHoo Awards."

The WuHoo Award to Alameda County is for its adoption of a first-in-the-nation Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance in July 2012. The new ordinance requires drug makers that sell their products in the County to pay for programs to take back expired and unwanted drugs. The ordinance will keep drugs out of landfills and wastewater treatment plants. Drugs disposed of in toilets or sinks are of growing concern for San Francisco Bay water quality because treatment plants are not designed to remove them.

"I am grateful and honored to receive this award," said Nate Miley, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. "Our county is committed to protecting the environment and working to reduce the impact of drugs in our water systems."

The WuHoo award to Thomas Barron is in recognition of his lifetime achievements in pollution prevention. For nearly four decades, Barron has worked hand-in-hand with small businesses to develop new and practical ways to shift to less hazardous and less polluting products and practices. His work has resulted in sweeping reductions in discharges from metal finishing operations, janitorial and custodial activities, and dental offices. He plans to retire soon, having prevented the discharge of more than 400 tons of pollutants.

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board presents annual Pollution Prevention Awards in memory of former Board employee Dr. Teng-Chung Wu, an early advocate for pollution prevention. Dr. Wu believed the best way to keep San Francisco Bay clean was to keep pollutants from getting into wastewater, instead of constructing ever more expensive treatment works to remove them. The timing of these awards coincides with National Pollution Prevention Week, September 17-23.

For additional information, please visit

www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agenda.shtml



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