



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHLAND DRINKING WATER TAKES FIRST PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL WATER-TASTING COMPETITION Metropolitan Water District captures second gold medal

The drinking water for millions of Southern Californians has won its version of an Academy Award, as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's entry tied for first place in the International Water Tasting event.

"This is wonderful news," said Timothy F. Brick, chairman of Metropolitan's Board of Directors. "It's a great honor to be selected over such strong competition from throughout the world, and confirms that we are providing high-quality water to our customers."

Metropolitan's entry tied for first place with water from Clearbrook, British Columbia, to win the gold medal in the annual water-tasting competition held this past weekend at the historic spa town of Berkeley Springs, W. Va.

Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan's general manager, said, "I think our first-, second- and third-place medals in this competition over the past decade are a tribute to the commitment of our board and employees to producing the safest and best-tasting water that we can."

A water sample from Metropolitan's Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant in the Granada Hills community of northwest Los Angeles was co-winner of the municipal water category in a "blind" taste-testing by a panel of 10 journalists and food critics this past weekend.

Metropolitan's entry was selected for the competition by a panel of employees trained in the quality-control methods of the food and beverage industry. Metropolitan's Flavor Analysis Panel meets several times weekly at MWD's Water Quality Laboratory at La Verne to evaluate samples from throughout the district's regional treatment and distribution system to maintain quality.

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The gold-medal water originated in Northern California's Sierra Nevada, was imported through the State Water Project, treated at the Jensen plant with state-of-the-art ozone gas and, as it leaves the plant, receives a bit of chlorine as a preservative.

Water from the Jensen plant is piped to Metropolitan's customer water agencies in Los Angeles, Ventura and Orange counties and is usually blended with local well water before reaching homes and businesses. In other areas of Metropolitan's six-county service region, in addition to well water, it may also be blended with Colorado River water, or water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct from the Owens Valley.

Metropolitan's entries in the annual, international competition have won first place in 1998; second-place in 2000 and 2003; and third place in 2005. Clearbrook's entry was the silver-medal winner in 2007, according to Jill Klein Rone, producer of the 18th annual event.

This year's competition included 21 municipal entries from 10 states and the District of Columbia, as well as eight Canadian cities and Putaruru, New Zealand. This year's second-place silver medal is shared by Desert Hot Springs, Calif., and the Village of Montrose, British Columbia.

In addition, there were 18 entries in the purified drinking water category; 15 entries in the sparkling water contest; 34 waters from around the world in the non-carbonated bottled water judging; and 12 contestants for package-design awards.

Information on Metropolitan's water treatment processes and water-quality programs is available on the district's Web site, mwdh2o.com.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.