



ALL HANDS MEET
CAPIO2022

EPIC AWARDS

GALA

August 31, 2022
San Diego Mission Bay Resort
San Diego, CA



CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS

Yesterday we had the chance to recognize fantastic work from California agencies raising the bar in community engagement, creative outreach, and innovative messaging for stakeholders and internal audiences. This evening we continue that celebration as we honor the recipients of our newest category – our **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) Outreach / Campaign** category and the **Best in Show** winners.

We then round out the evening by honoring three colleagues who have demonstrated public information excellence through contributions to CAPIO and their positive impact on the communities they serve. The **Communicator of the Year Award** recognizes an individual who demonstrates exceptional abilities, skills, and talents in leading their organization to more successful communications and public engagement. The **Frank Potter Cowan Crisis Communications Leader Award** honors an individual who demonstrated extraordinary success in leading a team during a natural disaster, an act of terrorism, or a reputational crisis. Lastly, the prestigious **Paul B. Clark Award** exemplifies exceptional leadership, a career of milestone achievements, and CAPIO involvement.

I want to thank my awards committee for helping coordinate two outstanding award programs this year. Please join us after our dinner program to dance to the sounds of VOX DJ, be social, and capture 360° photos with colleagues. Enjoy the evening and this chance to raise a glass to our honorees.



Sincerely,

SYLVIA ORNELAS

Public Information Specialist II
Rancho California Water District | Temecula, CA
CAPIO Vice-President, Awards

Awards Planning Committee

STEVEN BAIRD Public Affairs Associate II, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	JILLIAN KELLER Sustainability Coordinator (External Affairs), Walnut Valley Water District
MICHELLE EKLUND Chief Communications Officer, Placer County Office of Education	SYLVIA ORNELAS Public Information Officer, Rancho Water Conference : VP Awards / Dinner Chair
NATALIE HERNANDEZ Public Information Officer, Ventura County Sheriff's Office	LAURA ROMANO Management Analyst, Goleta Sanitary District
ASHLEY HUMES Public Information Officer, Ventura County	CRYSTAL STRATTON Community Engagement Program Administrator, Ventura County Fire

2022 EPIC AWARDS GALA

Wednesday, August 31
San Diego Mission Bay Resort



MAURICE CHANEY

Public Information Officer
Environmental Utilities
City of Roseville
Immediate Past President, CAPIO



CARLOS ELIASON

Public Information Officer
City of Sacramento

*Plus – special guest appearances including representatives
from our Diamond Annual Partners*

5:30 pm

EPIC Awards Reception

6:30 pm

EPIC Awards Dinner

Honoring our 2022 Special Award Winners
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award Winners
and Best in Show Award Winners

8:30 pm

After Party

360° Photo Booth

Dancing to music by VOX DJs



COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR 2022



OLIVIA APPLGATE
**Director of Communications &
Stakeholder Relations**

*San Bernardino County Employees'
Retirement Association (SBCERA)*

Honored for her exceptional leadership and excellence in strategic communications, Olivia has raised the bar in public communications.

Most recently, Olivia has transformed the San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement Association's communications program that serves over 44,000 members and 16 employers throughout California.

With great drive and vision, Olivia led SBCERA through an organizational rebrand, website redesign, member engagement survey designed to help drive member experience efforts, and an employer survey designed to establish mutual priorities and help build consensus on strategic initiatives, electronic newsletter campaigns, and others. Olivia also led her team through an ambitious strategic communications plan, which has served as a guide to define, shape, and communicate SBCERA's mission, vision, and strategic priorities.

Her leadership, innovation, and forward-thinking have elevated SBCERA's communications efforts to be one of the most active in the pension industry, setting a new standard for excellence.

Olivia was promoted to Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations in July 2022 and in addition to communications and stakeholder relations, she will lead SBCERA's renewed focus on legislative affairs and advocacy.

Before joining SBCERA, Olivia served as the Public Information Officer for the City of Eastvale, where she led and elevated communications and community engagement efforts city-wide. Olivia has mentored other communications professionals throughout her career, who have shared statements that attribute to her leadership. One of her mentees said, "When I watched Olivia serve the community as the Public Information Officer, I learned what it looked like to lead with empathy. She placed the thoughts and voices of the community first in her decision-making while building relationships and establishing trust.

She is known for her leadership, optimism, and ability to bring people together for a common mission. Olivia is future-focused and inspires others to reach their full potential. Her people-focused nature has created successful teams, taking them to new heights.



FRANK POTTER COWAN CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS LEADER

2022



JENNIFER CAREY
Public Affairs Manager
City of Huntington Beach

Respected for her leadership, collaboration, and forward-thinking during the Huntington Beach oil spill, Jennifer Carey has established herself as a respected and trusted figure within the city of Huntington Beach. As the Public Information Officer for the Huntington Beach Police Department, and now Public Affairs Manager for the City of Huntington Beach, Jennifer is relied upon to relay timely and sensitive information to the City's nearly 200,000 residents.

While over a million beachgoers were enjoying the sights and sounds of jets flying overhead as part of the Pacific Airshow in October 2021, Jennifer was working alongside Huntington

Beach public safety staff to assess the magnitude of a potential oil spill happening just miles off the Huntington Beach coast. Jennifer took control of the situation and quickly asserted herself as a leader and initiated a game plan for communicating with residents and stakeholders. Utilizing her regional and national contacts, Jennifer swiftly pulled together information and resources to quickly and proactively communicate details on the evolving situation.

Jennifer quickly became the go-to for oil spill information not only for the press and Huntington Beach residents, but for other cities and agencies across the nation. Making use of the City's website, email newsletter, social media, emergency alerts, press conferences, and her relationships with the press, she was able to efficiently relay ongoing information and ensure a consistent message was being communicated.

Joining the City of Huntington Beach in May 2021, Jennifer has led the City's communication efforts during numerous critical incidents. Before joining the City of Huntington Beach, she spent five years as the Community Relations Officer for Long Beach Public Works. In March 2020, Jennifer was reassigned as a Lead in Long Beach's Joint Information Center to assist in the development and distribution of messaging for COVID-19 and various civil unrest incidents.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Outreach/Campaign Award Winners

Long Beach Technology & Innovation	Placer County Health and Human Services	San José Clean Energy City of San José
<i>Digital Inclusion Roadmap Development Community Engagement Process</i>	<i>Mask Up Placer/Mask Up Para Tu Gente</i>	<i>Solar Access: Power of Partnering with Community-Based Organizations</i>

Best in Show Award Winners

2021 Projects

California High-Speed Rail Authority	City of Folsom	City of Agoura Hills	City of Pico Rivera
<i>California High-Speed Rail: 2021 Year in Review</i>	<i>"We Support Folsom"</i>	<i>Brand Refresh</i>	<i>Community Bike Ride</i>
<i>LARGE POPULATION Video Production – Promotional – In House</i>	<i>MEDIUM POPULATION Communications or Marketing Plans/ Campaigns – In-House</i>	<i>SMALL POPULATION Branding</i>	<i>SMALL POPULATION Graphic Design – Online</i>

Best in Show Award Winners

2020 Projects

Modesto Irrigation District	City of Livermore	San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement Association (SBCERA)
<i>Until the Last Drop Documentary</i>	<i>Livermore Asset Geocache</i>	<i>SBCERA Website Redesign</i>
<i>LARGE POPULATION Video Production – Promotional – Consultant Supported</i>	<i>MEDIUM POPULATION Most Innovative Communications</i>	<i>SMALL POPULATION Website</i>



PAUL B. CLARK RECIPIENT 2022



JENNIFER M. CABRAL, MPA
Administration Manager
*Orange County
Sanitation District (OC SAN)*

Jennifer M. Cabral has been the voice of the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) for over 20 years. She oversees the Public Affairs Office and Board Services, a joint staff of 15 people, managing marketing communications, community relations, public affairs, legislative and government affairs, branding, stakeholder relationships, event planning, media relations, and board relations for the third largest wastewater treatment facility west of the Mississippi River.

Jennifer has become the sounding board for OC San's executive management team and has gained a seat at the decision-makers table. Her value to the agency is demonstrated by the trust, confidence, and respect she has earned from her staff, peers, management, and Board of Directors.

Jennifer was instrumental in developing the Construction Outreach Program to support OC San's \$3 billion Capital Improvement Program to inform and connect with over 2.6 million residents. She was also key in getting Assembly Bill 2022 signed into law which allowed for the bottling of the Groundwater Replenishment System water for education purposes.

Most recently, Jennifer spearheaded the agency's rebranding transitioning from OCSD to OC San and updating the 20-year logo. CAPIO recognized the effort with the 2021 Dollar Stretcher award for a program/tool developed and implemented in-house.

Mentoring is a priority for Jennifer. She values the importance of sharing knowledge and experience to further career opportunities. Jennifer was a founding member of OC San's BLAST Program is an employee-led program to enhance personal, professional, and organizational skills through dynamic and wide-ranging opportunities, including mentorship. As a manager, she supports and encourages her staff to further advance their career by participating in conferences, trainings, speaking engagements, and networking. As a true leader, she has given up her membership opportunities to staff yearly as has been the case with CAPIO. She constantly reinforces the importance of engaging with our industry to learn and continue to grow.

Jennifer is a dedicated public servant that believes in excellent customer service and accountability to our ratepayers. She is committed to exceptional leadership, dedication to mentorship, and believes in always leaving something better than she found it.



DIAMOND



PLATINUM



GOLD



EXHIBITORS



capio.org