2019 FMA Annual Conference
Awards Luncheon September 4, 2019

Coastal Zone Management and Stewardship Award

Recipients of this award are recognized for their outstanding coastal project, program, or policy, encouraging resilient solutions that reduce coastal flood risks, increase stewardship of coastal resources, or educate coastal communities about coastal hazards. Awardee may include municipalities, state and Federal agencies, professionals, academia, or special districts.

San Mateo Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency and Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

An advisory team of San Mateo County and city government representatives worked collaboratively with ESA to form the San Mateo Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency to address the challenges of sea level rise, flooding, coastal erosion, and stormwater infrastructure. Over an intensive 6-month period, ESA and the advisory team developed the agency's governance structure, identified funding mechanisms, and selected critical first actions. This process required extensive outreach and coordination with stakeholders from all 20 cities and internal County departments, and achieved a ground-breaking consensus to implement an integrated regional approach to planning, project implementation, and long-term infrastructure maintenance. The unanimous adoption of the new agency by the County Board of Supervisors and City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) and the pledged financial commitment of all 20 cities and the County demonstrate the buy-in and support that the collaborative communications process generated. The new agency will expand the Flood Control District to include the work of individual cities, the County's Flood Resiliency Program, and other County efforts, and will eliminate barriers to meeting the long-term, large-scale challenges of sea level rise, flooding, coastal erosion, and stormwater infrastructure.

California Coastal Analysis and Mapping Project, FEMA Coastal Study Management Team, FEMA Region IX

FEMA Region IX's California Coastal Analysis and Mapping Project encompassed two major coastal flood hazard restudies: the San Francisco Bay Area Coastal Study and Open Pacific Coast Study. Both studies were part of a national effort by FEMA to update the flood hazard data for 100 percent of populated U.S. coastal areas.

The goal of the studies was to determine revised Base Flood Elevations and boundaries for coastal high hazard areas, update the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and assist coastal communities with incorporating the information into their risk assessment and hazard mitigation planning. Both studies benefited from new FEMA Pacific coast analysis and mapping guidelines; advanced computing capabilities; multi-decade wind, wave, and tidal records; and improved topographic and bathymetric data – compared to the tools from the early 1980s when FEMA originally mapped California's coastlines.

The Bay Area Coastal Study was initiated in 2003 under the FEMA Map Modernization Program, the predecessor to the FEMA Risk MAP Program. It covered 458 miles along the coast of the nine counties that ring San Francisco Bay. Several engineering firms were contracted by FEMA at various stages of the project to perform detailed wind, wave, and tidal analyses of San Francisco Bay. The results were translated into a continuous digital representation of the 1 percent annual chance flood hazard, resulting in updates to 315 coastal FIRM panels.

The Open Pacific Coast Study was initiated in 2010. It stretched 1,487 miles along the California coastline, from the state's northern border with Oregon to its southern border with Mexico. BakerAECOM (Michael Baker International and AECOM joint venture) performed the bulk of the flood hazard analysis and mapping work, with STARR II (Atkins, Stantec, and Dewberry joint venture) supporting finalization of the FIRM panels for the 15 California Pacific coast counties.

In all, 610 FIRM panels were updated with new or modernized coastal flood hazard data along the entire open coast, as well as the shorelines of Humboldt Bay, Newport Bay, San Diego Bay, and other inland bays affected by coastal processes. The Open Pacific Coast Study also piloted innovative technologies for analyzing and mapping sea level rise and tsunami inundation limits at the 1 percent and 0.2 percent annual chance occurrence intervals.

Communications and Outreach Award

This award was established to acknowledge exemplary efforts in communications and outreach on the part of communications media (written and/or visual), the incorporation of new technologies, or the novel use of existing technologies to increase information and/or awareness of flood issues with the general public.

Virtual Reality Project for Flash Flooding, Erin Neff and Jessi Acuna, Clark County Regional Flood Control District

Erin Neff and Jessi Acuna are part of the Public Information Team at the Clark County Regional Flood Control District that surveys residents about flooding to shape outreach. Their latest survey found that while 7 in 10 adults turned around when they encountered a flooded street; 60 percent of teens drove right into danger.

In response, the District Public Information Team created the "Water Always Wins" Virtual Reality (VR) Experience to replicate the look and feel of a flash flood from the driver's perspective to help change that behavior. The film has the look of a video game and is 360 degrees of what happens when water takes the wheel. The target audience is 16- to 24-year-olds.

The VR experience has been shared with driving schools, the National Weather Service, Nevada Highway Patrol and the Clark County School District achieving desired outcomes from many teens that have enjoyed and learned from the experience.

Water Always Wins can be viewed on Oculus, on your phone with Google Cardboard, and on YouTube and Facebook. The Regional Flood Control District is launching the microsite https://WaterAlwaysWins.com to broadly share the experience and is available to FMA attendees. Because of their continued efforts to improve public safety through effective and innovative Communications and Outreach, the Clark County Regional Flood Control District is richly deserving of the FMA Communications and Outreach Award.

Watershed University 2017 – 2019, David Pesavento and Nikki Blomquist, CA Department of Water Resources

David Pesavento is a Senior Engineer and Nikki Blomquist is a Research Writer with the California Department of Water Resources. As part of the Communications and Outreach team these two individuals have been part of a bigger group helping to create a forum, Watershed University, for experts to share information about topics of interest to the floodplain management, water management and emergency response fields.

A California Silver Jackets project, Watershed University is a free online webinar that provides education and networking opportunities for California professionals in floodplain, water and emergency management, and other related fields. Since 2017, speakers at Watershed University webinars have shared their expertise on such topics as: Atmospheric rivers, Post-Lilac Fires, Hydrologic Warning Systems, California's Epic Winter Water (2017), and The National Flood Insurance Program Overview. Monthly webinars are held from April through November each year. With online traction and interest growing each year, Watershed University has been able to reach and educate flood management professionals. In 2018, eight webinars were hosted, with an average of 61 viewers per meeting and a total of 485 people in attendance. The event's YouTube channel has also seen an increased following as more content is produced, with 4,536 minutes of total watch time. Watershed University would not be as successful without the dedicated efforts of David and Nikki. Watershed University led by David Pesavento and Nikki Blomquist are well deserving of an FMA 2019 Communications and Outreach Award.

Hogg-Owen Award for Meritorious Achievement in the Floodplain Management Association

Mark Seits, HDR Engineers, 16 Years of Service to FMA

Mark Seits has been a member of the Floodplain Management Association since 2000. Prior to 2000, he was involved with the Texas FMA. He has held leadership positions continuously since 2004, serving as a "Director at Large" in 2004 through 2009, FMA Treasurer in 2009 through 2011, FMA Secretary from 2011 to 2013, FMA Vice Chair from 2013 through 2015, FMA Chair 2015 through 2017, and FMA Immediate Past Chair and Elections Committee Chair 20117 through the present.

Through Mark Seits' actions and wise counsel as an FMA leader for 15 years, Mark has helped guide FMA through its growth in membership, growth in executive leadership, growth in providing training classes, and growth as a prestige organization advocating wise floodplain and flood risk management. In his role as an FMA leader, Mark has emphasized professionalism, collaborative problem solving and achieving strategic goals. Mark is a role model and mentor to FMA members and up-and-coming FMA leaders. Mark Seits is a deserving recipient of the Hogg-Owen Award for Meritorious Achievement in the Floodplain Management Association.

Karl Mohr Distinguished Service Award for National Activities

Cindy Matthews, NOAA- National Weather Service, 25 Years of Service

Cindy Matthews is a hydrologist with the Sacramento office of the National Weather Service (NWS). With a degree in physical sciences, Cindy joined the4 federal service initially working for the US Forest Service as a watershed hydrologist and then in 1989 joined the NWS as a hydrologic forecaster at the California-Nevada River Forecast Center. There she learned to forecast river stages, snowmelt runoff, reservoir inflows, and to calibrate river models. In the mid 90's, Cindy became the Service Hydrologist with the NWS Sacramento Weather Forecast Office. As the only hydrologist on a staff of 14 meteorologists, she continues to share her passion, knowledge, and expertise, since flooding can happen anywhere, at any time.

As the designated NWS Liaison to the State-Federal Flood Operations Center since 1995, Cindy works daily throughout flood season with DWR's Division of Flood Management and hydrologic partners throughout the State. During Cindy's 30-year career, several hydrologic extremes have impacted California, including the record flooding of 1997, record snowmelt season of 2017, the Oroville Spillway incident, and the severe drought of 2012-2016. Sharing her passion for hydrology is one of the joys of her job, so Cindy takes every opportunity to learn from those who know and to educate those who need to know. She is a regular on TV news and radio broadcasts as a representative of the National Weather Service. Cindy's Matthews long term, high-energy 30-year dedication to hydrology, river forecasting and educating the public regarding flood risks make her a deserving recipient of the Karl Mohr Distinguished Service Award for National Service.

Andy Lee Award for Extraordinary Public Service for State Activities

This award is given to individuals who have made extraordinary proactive flood management contributions benefiting the public, especially in the area of encouraging multi-benefit projects and/or flood education. The award is given to honor public sector recipients. This award honors Andy Lee who retired from state service after 41 years and initiated and strengthened many California floodplain management programs, including the mapping and outreach programs.

Maria Lorenzo-Lee, California Department of Water Resources, 25 Years of Distinguished Service,

Maria Lorenzo-Lee is a Certified Floodplain Manager and has over 25 years of experience in Floodplain Management. Until recently, Maria served as the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Flood Management's Policy Advisor on Floodplain Management. She worked closely with state, federal and local agencies to develop tools to reduce flood risk and coordinate outreach and engagement. She also served as the Deputy to California's Silver Jackets Lead and led the Watershed University and California Flood Preparedness Week efforts. Recently, Maria moved to DWR's Division of Integrated Regional Water Management to assist with flood & water supply coordination and grants.

Since 1998, Maria has been actively involved in the California/Nevada/Hawaii Floodplain Management Association in various lead roles, including Conference co-chair, DWR's Ex-Officio Board Member, Conference Technical Program Lead and Emerging Professionals Advisor. In 2015 and 2018, she was elected to serve on FMA's Executive Board. Though her past accomplishments are too many to list, they include: The Agricultural Floodplain Ordinance Task Force as part of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan; Implementing California Flood Legislation into Local Land Use Planning handbook; National Flood Insurance Program; Incorporating Sea Level Rise into Coastal and Floodplain Planning; Alluvial Fan Task Force; Building Code Update team; and the CA Floodplain Management Task Force.

Maria's dedication to flood management continues to benefit the public, especially in the area of encouraging multi-benefit projects and flood education and outreach. Maria Lorenzo-Lee is well deserving of the Andy Lee Award for Extraordinary Public Service for State Activities.

Integrated Flood Management Award

This award is given to individuals or project teams who have prepared and/or implemented a locally-approved, state-approved, or federally-approved multi-objective flood management plan. Candidate projects should demonstrate innovative advancements in water management as well as collaborative partnerships with community groups and the general public. Project outcomes should benefit many stakeholder interests such as environmental, flood control, recreational, and emergency planning and responsiveness.

Gilbert Cosio, MBK Engineers, 35 years of protecting Delta Islands and Delta infrastructure

Gilbert (Gib) Cosio is a principal engineer at MBK Engineers and over his 35-year career with MBK, Gilbert has dedicated the majority of his professional practice protecting Delta Islands from flooding through proactive levee maintenance, levee repair projects, establishment of ecosystem habitat projects and technical consultation to federal, state, and local agencies. As a result of career-long dedication to Delta flood protection, Gib and his team, working with Reclamation Districts, Levee Districts and farmers, have protected California's water supply, critical infrastructure, valuable farmland and Delta communities.

Over the years, Gib and his team have represented 46 Delta levee and reclamation districts. Gilbert has provided public comments and invited testimony before the state legislature, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Delta Stewardship Council, and the Delta Protection Commission. He has served on the Delta Vision Stakeholders Coordination Group, the Delta Risk Management Strategy Steering and Technical Committees, the Delta Levee Habitat Advisory Committee, CALFED Delta Levees Subcommittee, CALFED Delta Levees Seismic team, Delta In-Channel Islands Committee, and CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Team.

Gilbert and his team have led the planning and implementation of nine Delta habitat restoration and multi-benefit projects including projects on Grand Island, Decker Island, McCormack-Williamson Tract, Canal Ranch, King Island and Medford island.

Gib and his team have also been working on preparing the Delta for Climate Change through continuous improvements to Delta levees and participation in the Delta Climate Change and Vulnerability Assessment and Adaption Strategy Technical Advisory Committee.

Gilbert has built relationships of respect and rapport with the farmers in the Delta over his many years, and mentors younger engineers who work with him to help them understand the dynamics of the Delta and the needs of the farmers and the state and federal agencies involved in the Delta.

Gilbert Cosio's 35-years of dedication and professional service to protect Delta Islands from flooding and improve Delta ecosystems and habitat make him a deserving recipient of the FMA Integrated Flood Management Award.

Christopher H. Neudeck, P.E., V.P. of Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck Inc., 37 years of Protecting Delta Islands and Delta Infrastructure

Christopher Neudeck has spent 37 years working on flood control and water resources projects in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta and California's Central Valley. As a principal with KSN Engineers, Chris and his team represent 42 Reclamation Districts and Special Flood Control Districts mostly in the Delta. Chris has served as the engineering lead on major Delta flood control projects, flood control studies, mapping projects, assessment district formations, complex water rights investigations and implementation of six Delta ecosystem habitat projects. Through these long-term efforts and commitment to his clients and local communities, Chris and his team, working with Reclamation Districts, Levee Districts and farmers, work to protect California's water supply, critical infrastructure, valuable farmland and Delta towns.

Based on his long career working in the Delta, Chris has provided technical consultation on Delta flood and water issues to federal, state, and local agencies. Chris has testified before local, state and federal courts, the state legislature, Congress, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.
Chris serves on the executive committee of the Central Valley Flood Control Association, Delta Habitat Advisory Committee, Delta Levee Subventions Program advisors, CALFED Levees and Channels Technical Advisory Committee, CALFED Levees and Channels Seismic Sub-Team and the California Delta Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Chris Neudeck's 37-years of dedication and committed service to protect Delta Islands from flooding and improve Delta ecosystems and habitat make him a deserving recipient of the FMA Integrated Flood Management Award.

Mentorship Award

This award recognizes individuals who have contributed to the emerging professional community and/or academia.

James Schaaf, Schaaf and Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers

While setting the standard for the practice of civil engineering focused on water resources in Santa Clara County for more than forty years, Dr. Jim Schaaf has mentored countless civil engineers and water resources professionals. Dr. Schaaf has a vast knowledge of hydrology and open channel hydraulics derived from his formal education and countless projects as a consulting engineer. Running a three-person firm, his team completed the Los Angeles River Flood Insurance Study for FEMA using DOS-based HEC-2 and a lot of engineering judgement. Today that might take an army of sophisticated modelers with computational power he could only dream of back then; but Jim would argue that his results are more defendable (and he is likely right). He is no technophobe or Luddite, though; in fact, he has always embraced new technology but knows good engineering makes for good projects. "It's not the hammer, but the carpenter that gets things built."

His ability to share his experiences with employees, clients and other consultants makes him the consummate mentor. To Jim these projects are important stories that need to be told. Court cases are not about winning or losing to him; they are about finding facts and explaining complex fluid dynamics to lawyers and lay-people. He could explain stochastic hydrology to a jury with a deck of playing cards. And he loved every minute of it.
As an employer, Jim maintained an open-door policy and was constantly engaging junior engineers. He fostered the talents of numerous engineers including the current ownership group at Schaaf & Wheeler, countless other consultants, and public employees. Beginning in the late 1970s, Dr. Schaaf, while a working professional served as an adjunct professor teaching water resources engineering courses at Stanford, Santa Clara University and San Jose State. He was beloved by his students for his theoretical and applied knowledge, his high energy delivery and his ability to motivate students to do their best. He did this to ensure our higher learning institutions continue to produce practical engineers ready for today's challenges. After witnessing the migration to software and computer engineering during the dot-com hey-day around the turn of the century, he was gratified to see a renewed interest in civil engineering and to see that women civil engineers were growing the ranks. When faced with a particularly challenging problem, his protégés often stop and ponder: "What would Jim do."

Lindsey Sheehan, ESA Associates

Lindsey Sheehan has dedicated her 13-year career to the advancement of Civil and Environmental Engineering, with a focus in Environmental Hydrology, through teaching and mentorship. Ms. Sheehan began her career with Teach for America in New Orleans, where she taught advanced math and physics to a diverse student population originating from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds. During her time with Teach for America (2007-2009), she went above and beyond by providing tutoring outside of class during the week and on weekends and raising $15,000 to take students to Disney World for Disney's Physics programs. She maintains contact and continues to mentor some of these students to this day.

After completing her time with Teach for America, Ms. Sheehan earned her M.S. degree in Environmental Fluid Mechanics and Hydrology at Stanford University, and then joined the Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to work as a Hydrologist in 2010. During her time at ESA, Ms. Sheehan created and has continued ESA's Southern California Environmental Hydrology Group's Internship program. This program has provided opportunity to students from local schools such as UC San Diego, and her own alma mater, MIT. She has also volunteered her time to guest lecture at UC San Diego on climate resiliency and in AP Environmental Science classes at a local high school, where she helped develop a class project on wetland restoration. Ms. Sheehan remains active in her MIT alumni association, the MIT Club, and Teach for America. For her dedication to the development of young scholars, her service as a teacher, her service as a mentor and her service as a role model, Lindsey Sheehan is a deserving recipient of an FMA Mentorship Award.

Floodplain Manger of the Year Award

This award seeks to recognize outstanding individual or team efforts and contributions to floodplain management. The Floodplain Manager of the Year is designed to honor an individual or team responsible for the development or implementation of a distinguished local program or activity. This award is given by the Association to individuals or teams who are highly instrumental in carrying forward the goals and objectives of floodplain management.

Brent Siemer PE, CFM, Deputy Public Works Director, Floodplain Manager/ NFIP-CRS Coordinator, City of Simi Valley

Brent Siemer is the Deputy Director of Public Works for the City of Simi Valley and the city's floodplain manager. Brent's focus is on providing residents with a clean and reliable water supply, stormwater drainage, and protection against floods. Brent has accomplished multiple structural and non-structural flood projects and activities during his tenure including: updating the city municipal code regarding flood damage prevention to conform with the NFIP; development of a Master Plan of Drainage resulting in the city achieving a Class 5 Community Rating System status; review of hydrologic and hydraulic engineering reports; review and coordination with FEMA of LOMC applications; review and approval of Flood Area Development Permits; enforcement of NFIP violations including illegal grading; coordination and collaboration on flood management activities with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District; partnering with FEMA Region IX on updating Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Studies; codification of city floodplain management policies; assisting owners of 2,900 properties affected by the NFIP; preparation of the city's Flood Risk Public Information Plan; development and implementation of the city's Flood Insurance Coverage Improvement and Implementation Plan; coordination and collaboration with three dam owners and work to improve dam EAPs and the city's role during the execution of an EAP; incorporation of dam hazard information into the city's Hazard Mitigation Plan; and management of the city's water supply and water quality.

Brent's tireless efforts to improve floodplain management in the City of Simi Valley results in a safer, flood resilient community where NFIP policy holders receive annual NFIP savings of $300,000. His dedication to clean water and food safety through proactive flood risk management makes Brent a public works and FPM superstar and an individual well deserving of the FMA 2019 Floodplain Manager of the year.

Award for Excellence

This award seeks to find and recognize outstanding floodplain management projects, programs and/or activities. Eligible entries include local, regional, and national government (such as cities, towns, counties, State, and Federal agencies), special districts, and private consulting engineers/firms. Eligible entries include either an overall program or a specific project or activity which epitomizes the best in floodplain management.

2018 Las Vegas Valley Flood Control Master Plan Update, Clark County Regional Flood Control District

Clark County Regional Flood Control District prepared the 2018 Las Vegas Valley Master Plan Update (MPU) to improve public safety, protect property, and alleviate flooding for residents in the Las Vegas Valley. The MPU adds new information, assesses progress towards fulfillment of the Plan, and recommends changes resulting from growth and development. The District directed nearly $2 million dollars and worked for more than a year collaborating with Atkins and the local entities (Clark County, Henderson, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas) to produce the final MPU document.

The project encompassed comprehensive analysis of a 1,637 square-mile watershed and the entire flood control system in the Las Vegas Valley (more than 793 miles of existing or proposed conveyance facilities and 110 detention basins). Hydrologic models were developed to establish peak flow rates/volumes throughout the valley. These flows were then used to analyze the flood control system to identify and mitigate deficiencies in the existing flood control plan.

Final deliverables included a superb report, hydrologic models, cost estimates for thousands of facilities, and watershed and facility maps. GIS technology was used throughout the project to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Custom GIS python tools were developed to automate tasks such as hydrologic parameterization, cost estimation, and hydraulic analysis, thereby allowing the District to analyze the entire system in a matter of seconds. The MPU serves as a key planning tool for implementation, prioritization, and funding of the flood control system in Las Vegas Valley and embodies excellence in Floodplain Management. The 2018 Las Vegas Valley Flood Control Master Plan Update and the Regional Flood Control District team are deserving recipients of an FMA Award for Excellence.

Richard L. Schafer, RL Shafer and Associates, 69 years of Engineering Service

Richard L. Schafer is the founder and owner of R.L. Schafer Consulting Engineers in Porterville and Visalia, California. Richard Schafer has been practicing water resource management and engineering in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Basin for 60 years.

Richard was born and raised on a farm in South Dakota. He enlisted in the Army in 1944 and received his basic training at Fort Hood Texas. During the US liberation of the Philippines in February 1945, he served in an Army intelligence unit as a scout/pathfinder with the 130th Regiment of the 33rd Infantry Division. After completion of the Philippines Campaign, he received advanced training for amphibious operations and was on a troop ship heading North for the invasion of Japan when the war ended. After the cessation of hostilities, he landed in Japan and served with the occupation forces in Nagasaki, Kobe and Osaka.

Richard was discharged from the Army in 1946, attended college on the GI Bill and graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1951, with a degree in civil engineering. After graduation, Richard was employed by DuPont De Nemours, Inc., supervising construction projects throughout the United States, moving his young family 13 times in 8 years. In 1959 he was hired by Althouse and Strauss Engineering in Porterville, CA, to design and construct water distribution systems in the Tulare Basin.

Richard has been the principal of R.L. Schafer and Associates since 1961.
His team has focused on the conservation and sustainability of water supply, distribution of irrigation water, water rights, and flood control in the South San Joaquin Valley and the Tulare Lake Basin. The firm has worked on projects in Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties. Richard believes his greatest accomplishment is the culmination of a 30-year effort leading the way to enlarge Success Dam, recently renamed the Richard L. Schafer Dam at Success Lake, signed by President Donald Trump August 9, 2019. The Success Dam Enlargement Project will raise the spillway by 10 feet adding 28,000 acre feet of new storage, doubling the level of flood protection and increasing the water supply for the City of Porterville and downstream farming operations. Richard serves as the Tule River Water Master and secretary to the Tule

River Association. To many, Richard is known as “Mr. Tule River.” Richard continues to assist 9 Boards and attend their meetings in the South San Joaquin Valley.

For his efforts to improve flood control and water supply in the Lower San Joaquin Valley and the Tulare Basin, Richard received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of California Water Agencies and the prestigious Commander’s Award from the US Army Corps of Engineers for Public Service.

Richard Schafer’s advice to young water professionals:
“Continue your education in all areas”, “Serve your community by becoming part of the solution to manage water resources for your region, benefiting its residents and the farmers who produce food and agricultural products,” “respect the opinion of others, even if you do not agree.”

During his long and successful career, Richard has always fostered collaboration between colleagues, Federal, State and Local government agencies, farmers, water districts and flood control districts. Words that others have used to describe Richard Schafer include: tireless work ethic, perseverance, focus of purpose, engineering knowledge, tough negotiator, positive attitude, and consummate gentleman.

For his 60 years of dedication and service to the water community in the South San Joaquin Valley and the Tulare Basin, Richard Schafer is the recipient of a 2019 FMA Award for Excellence.