PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2019

San Diego Area Engineering Firms, Projects Honored with
ACEC California 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards

Today the American Council of Engineering Companies of California (ACEC California) announced the 2019 recipients of its annual Engineering Excellence Awards. Projects were recognized for demonstrating an exceptional degree of innovation, complexity, achievement and value. In the San Diego area, three firms and four projects were recognized with prestigious Honor Awards, and one San Diego firm and two San Diego area projects were recognized with Merit Awards.

“Engineering and land surveying provide the innovative backbone of many critical infrastructure projects in California,” said Brad Diede, Executive Director of ACEC California. “This year’s recipients represent outstanding achievement in seismic safety projects, sustainable transportation projects and water programs, among many others. Our engineering and land surveying firms and their local agency and private sector partners continue to harness cutting-edge technologies so that projects are more sustainable and more effective at serving the people of California.”

The winner of the Golden State Award, an honor bestowed on the best overall project, will be announced at the Engineering Excellence Awards dinner in February 2019. The awards dinner is also a fundraiser for the ACEC California Scholarship Foundation 501(c)3, which provides scholarship awards to graduate and undergraduate students that are recognized for their notable and outstanding academic achievements. Honor Award winners also are eligible to enter the national level Engineering Excellence Awards competition and will have photographic panels on display at the Capitol, outside of the Governor’s office, in early 2019.

About ACEC California’s Engineering Excellence Awards:

ACEC California’s annual Engineering Excellence Awards competition recognizes outstanding achievements in engineering and land surveying projects completed by California firms. Entries are accepted into one of 12 project categories: studies, research and consulting engineering services; building/technology systems; structural systems; surveying and mapping technology; environmental; waste and storm water; water resources; transportation; special projects; small projects; energy; and industrial and manufacturing processes and facilities.

Photographs of award-winning projects can be found here.

Honor Awards recipients in the San Diego area include:

Kleinfeld in San Diego, CA, for its work on the Georgia Street Bridge Over University Avenue Rehabilitation and Seismic Retrofit in San Diego, CA. This historic structure has been an iconic gateway to San Diego’s North Park neighborhood for 100 years. Deterioration, weakened concrete and severe seismic weaknesses threatened the future of this handsome spandrel arch bridge. This project provided an innovative design that balanced safety, historic preservation, cost, and seismic performance to revitalize an aging arch bridge located in a vibrant community of San Diego.

Michael Baker International, Inc. in San Diego, CA, for its work on the San Diego County Regional Airport Terminal 2 Parking Plaza in San Diego, CA. The three-story parking plaza can accommodate 2,900 vehicles, including contemporary parking technologies and all code-required handicapped, electric and alternative fuel vehicle spaces as well as an added 1,800 spaces to the airport’s parking capacity. In addition to the added parking...
capacity, Michael Baker’s design also included an innovative, below-ground rainwater storage system with a capacity of almost 100,000 gallons.

**NVS, Inc. and San Diego Gas & Electric** in San Diego, CA, for its work on the Sycamore to Peñasquitos 230kV Transmission Line in San Diego, CA. The Sycamore to Peñasquitos 230kV Transmission Line Project (SX-PQ) extends 15 miles of new 230 kV electric transmission line in San Diego County, CA. The new electric transmission line improves the reliability of the transmission grid in Southern California and enables delivery of renewable energy generated in the desert areas east of San Diego to the load centers in the coastal regions where the power is in demand. The project, which traversed congested city of San Diego streets and crossed the 8-lane Interstate 15 freeway (I-15), used innovative approaches to solve obstacles encountered during the design and construction of the project.

**Syska Hennessy Group** in Culver City, CA, for its work on the Palomar Community College, Maintenance & Operations Complex in San Marcos, CA. Syska Hennessy Group led the design of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, information and communication technology (ICT), architectural lighting design, and sustainable engineering for a new $15.5-million maintenance and operations (M&O) complex on the San Marcos campus. The new facility will be the first community college building in the world to earn Living Building Petal certification, which is harder to achieve than LEED Platinum certification (which this facility also achieves). The team undertook several strategies to reduce energy and water consumption, making it easier to incorporate on-site renewable generation capable to provide 105 percent of the facilities annual energy demand.

**Merit Award recipients in the San Diego area include:**

**Michael Baker International, Inc.** in San Diego, CA, for its work on the Eastern Service Area Secondary Connection Project (ESA SCP) in San Diego County, CA. The project will provide redundant and reliable sustained access to water for nearly 30,000 citizens, even in cases of natural disasters or other emergencies. The firm’s design includes a supply and discharge pipeline, forebay reservoir, pump station, flow control facility, standby generator, and instrumentation and control systems.

**Syska Hennessy Group** in Culver City, CA, for its work on the San Diego International Airport, New Federal Inspection Station in San Diego, CA. Syska Hennessy Group was part of the design-build team for the new $229.4-million international arrivals facility at San Diego airport. Completed in June 2018, the 130,000-square-foot “bags first” facility is among the first in the nation to implement 100 percent biometric or facial recognition technology for international passengers.

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**ACEC California is a statewide association representing over 1,000 private consulting engineering and land-surveying firms that average 20 employees each. ACEC California is dedicated to enhancing the consulting engineering and land surveying professions, protecting the general public and promoting the use of the private sector in the growth and development of our state. Our members provide services for all phases of planning, designing and constructing projects. For more information, visit [www.acec-ca.org](http://www.acec-ca.org).**