



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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*****MEDIA ALERT*****

CITY OF CHICO AMMONIA METERING PROJECT RECOGNIZED AS TOP 2020 PROJECT BY INDUSTRY MAGAZINE

(Chico, CA – February 25, 2021–) The City of Chico is pleased to announce it has been awarded a 2020 Top Project Award by *Waste and Water Digest* for its energy-saving ammonia control project implemented at the City’s Water Pollution Control Plant.

The Public Works Department’s ammonia control project originally started in 2018 and continues to be fine tuned in further phases achieving significant results. The system monitors ammonia levels in the Water Pollution Control Plant’s aeration basins and only uses dissolved oxygen when needed. Original projections showed an annual utility savings of \$130,000, but recent analysis due to continued fine tuning and increased electric rates, savings are nearing \$200,000 annually. It will also play an integral role in the City’s PG&E SST Phase-1 project to upgrade aeration blowers. The ammonia monitoring – in combination with new blowers – could further increase utility savings.

The ammonia metering project also reduces greenhouse emissions by the amount equal to annual emissions from more than 170 vehicles. This project is an industry first that continues to be fine-tuned by City Water Pollution Control Plant staff and Esker and Associates, a Fremont-based company that specializes in optimization software and services for wastewater treatment plants.

The *Waste and Water Digest* Top Project Award is given annually to the ten best projects in the water and waste management industry. According to *Water and Waste Digest*, this year's winning projects "have a sense of purpose for their communities and customers. They are intricate and detailed, but ultimately serve the municipality's end-users in the best way with trusted technology."

“Aeration is one of the costliest components in the treatment process, so energy reduction measures are always desired,” said Erik Gustafson, City of Chico Public Works Department – Operations & Maintenance Division Director. “I would like to thank City of Chico Water Pollution Control Plant staff, Ekster and Associates, and Carollo Engineering for their continued efforts to make this project even more successful than originally anticipated.”

For media inquiries, please contact Erik Gustafson, Public Works Department – Operations & Maintenance Division Director, at (530) 894-4202; or Lynda Gizzi, Public Information Officer, at (530) 896-7204.

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