



For Immediate Release

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Santa Fe Irrigation District Residents Recognized in California Friendly Landscape Contest

The fourth annual San Diego County California Friendly Landscape Contest winners were announced at the Spring Garden Festival at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Santa Fe Irrigation District customer Helen Dizio, a resident of Rancho Santa Fe, was selected as the Regional Do-It-Yourself winner. Solana Beach resident Julia Fox won the Best-in-District category for the Santa Fe Irrigation District.

This contest is held each year to showcase the beautiful, water-efficient landscapes around the County and to recognize the residents and professionals who have incorporated California Friendly (water wise) plants in their gardens. The Otay Water District started the contest in 2004, and each year, more and more water agencies have participated. This year, ten agencies joined the effort by providing customers with contest information, entering participants' applications, and supplying a \$250 gift certificate to their best-in-district winner. Sponsors of this year's contest included the San Diego County Water Authority and RainBird.

Entries in the contest were judged on the following elements of water-wise landscaping: overall attractiveness, appropriate plant selection, design, appropriate maintenance and efficient methods of irrigation. There are three regional winners chosen each year among the participating water agencies: the Do-It-Yourself Homeowner, the Best Professionally Designed and Installed Landscape, and the Best Native Landscape. Each participating water agency also recognizes one Best-in-District winner from its service area.

"The Santa Fe Irrigation District is extremely proud that one of three Regional winners is from our service area," commented District Board President Bud Irvin. "Congratulations to Helen Dizio, and also to our Best-in-District winner, Julia Fox."

Ms. Dizio's award-winning landscape features an attractive mix of flowering and evergreen plants with some transplanted, old olive trees, creating an almost Mediterranean look that complements her restored adobe home. The one-acre plot of land incorporates a lovely blend of low water use plants with environmentally friendly elements of recycled adobe and porous surfaces. The contest sponsors presented her with a \$500 gift certificate to a local nursery.

Julia Fox distinguished her landscape design from other District entries with beautiful shrubs and trees, vines cascading over the entryway to her home, and bursts of color with lavender and California fuchsia. Ms. Fox's use of feather grass and her placement of boulders and rock that mimics a creek bed make for a lush yet drought-resistant combination. Ms. Fox received a \$250 gift certificate to a local nursery from the Santa Fe Irrigation District.

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Background: The Santa Fe Irrigation District was formed in 1923 under the California Irrigation District Act. The District provides water and related services to residential, commercial and agricultural customers in the San Diego County communities of Rancho Santa Fe, Solana Beach and Fairbanks Ranch. The District provides service to about 22,000 customers in a 16-square-mile area. The District supplies over 4.5 billion gallons (or 14,000 acre feet) of water per year to its customers, utilizing a blend of local water from Lake Hodges and imported water purchased through the San Diego County Water Authority. The District administers and operates the jointly owned R.E. Badger Filtration Plant, a 40 million gallon per day water treatment plant. The District has historical rights to local water supplies from Lake Hodges and the San Dieguito Reservoir.

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Pictures attached



Julia Fox of Solana Beach and her two daughters. Julia won the Best-in-District award for her California Friendly landscape.

Helen and Steven Dizio of Rancho Santa Fe shown with their \$500 gift certificate. Helen won the Regional Do-it-Yourself Award

