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Orinda Public Works staff honored at regional level

By Sora O'Doherty



Reuben Gerk

Two members of Orinda's staff were honored at the annual meeting of the American Public Works Association, Northern California Chapter. Reuben Gerk was the winner of the Staff of the Year/Public Rights-of-Way award. It was noted that, in addition to receiving numerous accolades from the residents that resulted in multiple customer service awards, Gerk also received the Mayor's Award of Excellence in recognition of his dedication and sacrifice during the Miner Road sinkhole emergency.

Jason Chen, senior civil engineer, was awarded Manager of the Year/Transportation. Chen was recognized as a "strong supporter of transportation improvements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from single occupancy vehicles," as well as being "a leading resource in the field of special districts and transportation funding."

Council Member Amy Worth said it is a huge honor to be recognized by their peers in Northern California, and Vice Mayor Darlene Gee exclaimed that she was thrilled to see the awards, and called them "fantastic!" Mayor Inga Miller said, "It is with great pride that I read about your accomplishments." She praised the staff members for their customer service emphasis and mentioned, in particular, Chen's efforts at greenhouse gas reduction.



Jason Chen Photos provided

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