

February 19, 2014

Winners of Red Tape to Red Carpet Awards

(Business Community of the Inland Empire Honors Cities and County Agencies who are Jobs Friendly)

**The Inland Empire Economic Partnership's
Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Awards
Presented by Chase**

Co-Hosted by Western Riverside Council of Governments/Coachella Valley Association of Governments/San Bernardino Associated Governments

February 19, 2014 at the Redlands Country Club 5:30PM

(Redlands, CA) The Inland Empire Economic Partnership is pleased to announce the winners of the Inaugural Inland Empire Turning Red Tape to Red Carpet Awards. They are:

Business Retention and Expansion

WINNERS

City of Ontario

Business Retention Program:

The city established a Business Retention Committee to create a line of communication and a relationship with businesses within the City as well as a way to identify business needs, make recommendations, and resolve city concerns.

City of Murrieta

Murrieta's Comprehensive Approach to Economic Development: Creating a Prosperous Murrieta Valley Region:

The city, under the Economic Development Program, has established a "business concierge" program and a Priority Projects Program that help to fast-track permit processing, among other programs.

RUNNER(S) UP

City of Temecula

Business Retention from the Streets!:

The city has created a "new age" Business Retention and Expansion Program that focuses on reaching out to local business through proactive and friendly site visits.

Responding to Globalization

WINNER

Riverside County Economic Development Agency

Riverside County Office of Foreign Trade:

The County of Riverside partners with regional agencies and was the first county to: have a foreign trade office; to welcome international visitors with a state level style reception; seek trade agreements with foreign countries; publish its own Export monthly magazine; create its own college of foreign trade to educate businesses; and many other firsts for a county.

RUNNER(S) UP

City of Murrieta

Murrieta's Comprehensive Approach to Economic Development: Promoting an Internationally Competitive City and Region:

The city has developed an Economic Development Program to create a global perspective and presence for Murrieta as a community that welcomes foreign direct investment and promotes international business growth to spur job growth locally.

Sustainable and Green Development

WINNER

City of Rancho Cucamonga

Solar RC:

The city is removing barriers related to residential solar installation (e.g. lengthy permitting requirements and excessive solar permit fees) in efforts to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to stimulate the local solar job market.

RUNNER(S) UP

City of Fontana

“Green Fontana” Energy Star Rebate Program:

The city is providing a rebate of \$2,000 for each home that fulfills the requirements of the “Green Fontana” program with support from the Building Industry Association (BIA) to pass on savings to home owners and to offer ways for other entities to comply with the State Greenhouse Gas emission reduction plan.

City of Riverside Public Utilities

Small Business Direct Installation Program (SBDI program)

This program was created in effort to help small business customers reduce energy and water consumption while also reducing utility cost. In addition, this program has assisted in the creation of local jobs and has helped small businesses avoid some upfront costs associated with the installation of energy and water efficiency measures.

Real Estate Redevelopment and Reuse

WINNER

City of Yucaipa

Historic Uptown Street Scape Project:

The city revitalized the ‘Heart of Yucaipa’ to represent the community-based business interests with nearly unanimous support making it a pedestrian, shopper and business-friendly destination.

RUNNER(S) UP

City of Menifee

City of Menifee Business Incentive Program:

The city implemented this program to incentivize investment in amenities that residents of Menifee have been requesting, to provide jobs, to generate long term revenues to support City essential services and to spur economic activity.

Public-Private Partnership

WINNER

City of Rialto

Rialto Water Public-Private Partnership:

The city utilized an innovative financing model called a public- private concession, assembling stakeholders from business and labor to partner with the city in order to save the municipality's finances and ensure the future of its water system.

RUNNER(S) UP

City of Fontana

Westech College:

The city brought in partners such as Dix Development, Westech College, Enterprise Funding, and the Small Business Administration to implement the "long-range" strategy for economic development and College expansion.

Leadership in Public Service

WINNER

Duane Baker, Director of Management Services, SANBAG

Duane Baker is being nominated for championing the Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO) program. This project continues to thrive resulting in more jobs in the construction industry, greater economic stimulus, and better quality of life for the residents of the County of San Bernardino. Mr. Baker also oversees many other quality of life functions that require coordinating regional efforts for the 24 incorporated cities within the county and five supervisorial districts that the county is comprised of.

RUNNER(S) UP

Mayor Deborah Robertson, City of Rialto

Mayor Robertson has positioned Rialto as a regional and national innovator, fortifying its financial future in the face of overwhelming challenges. Also, Mayor Robertson has been nominated for driving regional collaboration, including the Agua Mansa Corridor Policy Group.

The mission of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership is to better the business climate and quality of life of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.