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For more information, contact: Trilby Barton, Marketing Coordinator, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, (559) 636-1166 or tbarton@ppeng.com

Provost & Pritchard honored with two 2011 Engineering Excellence Awards from California ACEC

FRESNO, CA: Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group has been selected to receive two merit awards in the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) California's 2011 Engineering Excellence Award competition. Projects selected were Oakdale Irrigation District's (OID) North Side Regulating Reservoir project, and Fresno Irrigation District's (FID) Enterprise Canal at Big Dry Creek Improvement project. The awards will be presented to the firm at the Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet, Feb. 1, 2011.

According to ACEC California, the Engineering Excellence Awards competition has become an effective tool for engineering and surveying recognition for projects that benefit local communities and California as a whole.

"We are honored to be recognized by ACEC California with an Engineering Excellence Award for the fifth year in a row," said Dale Melville, president of Provost & Pritchard. "Our staff work diligently to provide our clients with innovative projects that meet their specific needs, and we are proud of how the two ACEC California Merit Award projects recognized this year demonstrate that innovation."

North Side Regulating Reservoir Project

The OID North Side Regulating Reservoir project, entered in the Water Resources category, was a progressive water conservation project that added vital flow control and regulation capabilities at a strategic location on OID's North Main Canal. The project provides 360 acre-feet of storage to balance surpluses and shortages in irrigation water demand, and provides measurement capability and controlled flow rates three OID laterals, servicing approximately 40 percent of the district's service area.

"The project is helping set the standard for the future of agricultural water infrastructure in California," explained Kevin Johansen, principal engineer for the project. "In addition to water conservation, the project implemented sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions including solar-powered gates and recycled railcars for canal bridge crossings."

The project design features provide an efficient and flexible operational component to OID's distribution system, said Steve Knell, general manager of the irrigation district.

"Provost & Pritchard provided assistance from a challenging land acquisition process, through design development and construction management, all while keeping the project on schedule and within budget," he said. "They were able to develop an economical, yet functional project design that merged seamlessly with our operations."

Enterprise Canal at Big Dry Creek Improvement Project

The Enterprise Canal at Big Dry Creek Improvement project, entered in the Small Projects category, consisted of removing a 100-year-old concrete canal siphon structure and replacing it with a new concrete flume structure to convey the canal water over the creek and to the City of Fresno's surface water treatment plant. The new flume was equipped with various water control gates including overshot weir gates to regulate flow downstream to the treatment plant and undershot sluice gates to control operational diversions into the creek.

"One of the most unique aspects of the project is that the structure sits at the convergence of two waterway-side trails built by the City of Clovis, so a concrete deck was integrated into the flume structure to allow pedestrian and bicycle traffic to cross the canal and creek," said Ronald Samuelian, vice president at Provost & Pritchard and principal engineer on the project.

The project was jointly funded through a cost share with Fresno Irrigation District, City of Clovis, City of Fresno, and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. The project improvements benefited each project partner, and by combining the various components each party required into a single structure, the project construction costs were significantly reduced.

"Getting four agencies to agree to a contribution cost share is difficult, but Provost & Pritchard played a critical role in identifying agency benefits, developing cost share alternatives, and helping determine final contributions to the project," said Bill Stretch, FID Chief Engineer. "In the end, this project was a big success."

About the Firm

Established in 1968, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group has a strong tradition of engineering and consulting excellence in the San Joaquin Valley. With office locations in Fresno, Clovis, Visalia, Bakersfield, and Oakdale, the firm features a mix of seasoned engineering, planning, surveying, and environmental professionals, complimented by younger staff with fresh ideas and the most up-to-date technical skills.

Provost & Pritchard specializes in civil and agricultural engineering, environmental and land use planning, hydrogeology and geology, and surveying services in the areas of water resources, municipal infrastructure, agriculture, site development, and environmental compliance. For more information, visit www.ppeng.com or email info@ppeng.com.

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