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## Association of California Healthcare Districts Announces 2013 Annual Award Winners

*Top Healthcare District, Legislative Advocate and Trustee Honored At 2013 Annual Meeting*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (May 30, 2013) – The Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) is pleased to announce the 2013 winners of its annual award program, which honors the top Healthcare District, Legislative Advocate and Trustee of the Year. These awards – presented last week at the 2013 ACHD Annual Meeting in San Diego, Calif. – recognize efforts that advance ACHD’s mission of meeting the diverse needs of California Healthcare Districts through advocacy and education.

“California’s Healthcare Districts are committed to providing quality services and programs that serve more than two million patients statewide,” said David McGhee, CEO of ACHD. “The Association of California Healthcare Districts is proud to recognize three winners that share a distinguishing level of commitment to health and wellness in their communities.”

### **Healthcare District of the Year**

Beach Cities Health District, led by board chair Joanne Edgerton, was honored for its efforts to decrease hospitalization and improve its residents’ overall health through the development of preventive healthcare and wellness information programs. Additionally, ACHD recognized the District’s effective partnerships with public and private organizations to promote the resulting age-specific programs: “GrowWell, LiveWell Kids,” “Live Well Adults” and “Age Well.”

Notably, within a two year period (2010-2012), the District witnessed a:

- 37% reduction in childhood obesity;
- 14% reduction in adult obesity;
- 30% reduction in tobacco use;
- 10% increase in exercise rates of more than three times a week of 30 minutes.



### **Legislative Advocate of the Year**

Susan Burden, CEO of Beach Cities Health District, was recognized for her efforts to oppose recent California legislation (AB 2418) that would dictate how districts can spend revenue. She vigorously worked to secure support from the District's Assemblymember and organized a coalition of business and community leaders within the Beach Cities Health District to speak against and write opposition letters to key legislators. Additionally, Burden personally traveled to Sacramento to lobby state Assemblymembers and presented letters of opposition from the District's mayors and chambers of commerce. She also prepared a contingency "Oppose 2418 Campaign," had the bill passed out of the Assembly.

### **Trustee of the Year**

Berna Lee Mayer of Antelope Valley Healthcare District was honored for her passion for improving community healthcare and championing underserved communities. She serves on the boards of six organizations, in addition to ACHD, including the American Cancer Association, Current United Way Campaign, Partners for Health, Local Children's Center, Mental Health of America and YWCA. On a more local level, she was instrumental in implementing an internal medicine hospitalist program at the District hospital, Antelope Valley Hospital, in addition to advocating for the addition of a state-of-the-art cancer treatment center that will open this fall.

### **Association of California Healthcare Districts**

The Association of California Healthcare Districts is the industry association for Healthcare Districts providing hospital care, skilled nursing care, clinics, and diverse health and wellness services in their communities. ACHD provides legislative advocacy, leadership education, operations and communication support to District Members.