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Sustainable San Mateo County Announces 2020 Award Recipients

Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC) will honor San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine, the San Mateo County Office of Education's Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Initiative, the Campaign for Fossil Free Buildings in Silicon Valley and long-time SSMC volunteer Afsoon Shahrdar at its **21st Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, April 2**, for their contributions to sustainability in San Mateo County.

SSMC and the American Institute of Architects, San Mateo County Chapter, will present the Green Building Award to the Genentech Child Care Center in South San Francisco and give a Green Building Honorable Mention Award to the North Block Hillsdale Shopping Center in San Mateo. For the first time, SSMC will also issue awards in a "Reach Codes" category to recognize San Mateo County municipalities that have adopted local green building codes that will result in safer and more comfortable buildings, increase EV charging infrastructure and reduce carbon emissions. Winners for this category will be announced in February.

California State Senator Jerry Hill will emcee the evening program, which will begin on April 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Bayview Dining Room at the College of San Mateo, 1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo. **Tickets will be available until 5 p.m. March 23 at sustainablesanmateo.org**, with early bird pricing until **February 26**. Sponsorships also are available; see the website or contact tickets@sustainablesanmateo.org.

The party starts with a gala reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m., where attendees will mingle with local leaders and sustainability supporters, and includes a three-course dinner, auction, raffle and videos of each awardee.

The annual SSMC awards are designed to raise awareness of sustainability in the community and inspire others to take action. "Our Sustainability Awards program amplifies the voices of progressive, local leaders. Collectively, their stories and successes show our community how to boldly embrace sustainability tenets and best practices for a prosperous future," said Christine Kohl-Zaugg, executive director of SSMC.

Sustainability Awards will be awarded to these three recipients:

- **San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine**, who has been a consistent champion of local and regional sustainability since his election in 2011. He was instrumental in launching Peninsula Clean Energy, the county's clean energy provider, and the new Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District. He played a key role in the passage of Measure AA, a nine-county Bay Area parcel tax that funds shoreline restoration projects. He spearheaded the adoption of the County's zero net energy building policy and Climate Emergency



Declaration. He also provides leadership on regional environmental efforts as a member of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, which he chairs; the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission; and the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority.

- The **San Mateo County Office of Education's (SMCOE) Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Initiative (ELSI)**, launched in 2017 by former San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Anne E. Campbell and expanded in 2019 under Superintendent Nancy Magee, which has jump-started an array of environmental programs throughout the county and made SMCOE a state leader in environmental literacy education. The U.S. Department of Education has awarded SMCOE two Green Ribbon Awards for this initiative, and California county offices of education are beginning to ask for guidance on how to replicate it. ELSI offerings in San Mateo County include capacity building for students, teachers and administrators; networks for convening environmental champions and community partners; career education; recognition celebrations; a website with resources; and customized technical assistance.
- The **Campaign for Fossil Free Buildings in Silicon Valley**, which has contributed greatly to environmental and economic sustainability by dramatically cutting carbon emissions, improving health and safety, and saving money in initial construction and long-term building operation costs. Led by Diane Bailey of Menlo Spark, this coalition of more than 100 volunteers representing 30 nonprofit organizations in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties has persuaded 13 local cities to avoid natural gas (a fossil fuel) in new construction by pointing out the benefits (less indoor pollution, better health, fewer residential fires) and overcoming fears that all-electric homes are harder to build by providing evidence from builders that have been constructing them for years.
- The **Ruth Petersen Award**, established in the memory of SSMC's founder, will be presented to longtime SSMC volunteer **Afsoon Shahrdar**. A 31-year resident of San Mateo County, Afsoon has been involved with SSMC since 2011 as a key volunteer on the Awards Committee. She joined the Board of Directors in 2012 and subsequently served as Chair (2015-17) and Vice Chair (2017-2018). Originally from Iran, she earned a B.A. degree from U.C. Berkeley's School of Architecture. She became a U.S. citizen in 1995 and immediately became engaged in community issues. In addition to her contributions to SSMC, she has served on the board of the League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County and as the organization's Membership Chair and Nominating Chair. Afsoon has been an active member of the San Mateo County Association of Realtors (SAMCAR) since 1988 and has served in leadership roles on SAMCAR'S Global Real Estate, Grievance and Professional Standards Committees.

The **2020 Green Building Award**, cosponsored by Sustainable San Mateo County and the American Institute of Architects, San Mateo County Chapter, will be presented to the **Genentech Child Care Center**, which has earned LEED V4 Platinum Certification and has



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San Mateo County**
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demonstrated net zero energy via on-site metering. Opened in June of 2018 on Genentech's South San Francisco campus, the 56,000-square-foot Child Care Center used a holistic design approach, with emphasis on building performance, environmental protection, and human health and well-being. It was designed by Perkins & Will of San Francisco and constructed by Rudolph & Sletten of San Carlos. The single-story structure features a saw-tooth roof with clerestory, which maximizes diffused light, limits glare and reduces the need for electric lighting. Its prefabricated mass timber structural elements, which are relatively new to North America, are integral to the interior design and resulted in significant construction schedule savings.

The **North Block Hillsdale Shopping Center** in San Mateo was selected for a 2020 **Green Building Honorable Mention Award**. Opened prior to the 2019 holiday season, the North Block redevelopment creates an all new outdoor mixed-use dining and entertainment district, provides a community gathering place, and bridges the adjacent emerging transit-oriented district and the existing interior shopping mall. The 641,350 square-foot North Block is owned by Bohannon Development Co. It was designed by ELS Architecture and Urban Design of Berkeley and constructed by C.W. Driver of Pasadena.

About Sustainable San Mateo County

Founded in 1992, Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC) is a nonprofit dedicated to its vision of a sustainable future for everyone in the county. Its mission is to drive impactful action on economic, environmental and social equity issues that leads to sustainable practices and improves the long-term health of San Mateo County. For more information, visit sustainablesanmateo.org.