



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Shah Nawaz, Deputy Water/Wastewater Director
Art Vela, Director of Public Works

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Recognition of Small Wastewater Collection System of the Year Award for 2025 by California Water Environment Association (CWEA), Colorado River Basin Section.

RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation by City Staff for the Small Wastewater Collection System of the Year - 2025 Award by California Water Environment Association (CWEA), Colorado River Basin Section.

BACKGROUND:

The California Water Environment Association (CWEA), Colorado River Basin Section, annually recognizes agencies that demonstrate excellence in the operation, maintenance, and management of wastewater collection systems. For 2025, the City of Banning's Public Works Water/Wastewater Division was selected as the recipient of the Small Wastewater Collection System of the Year Award.

The City's wastewater collection system serves a population of approximately 32,000 residents and includes:

- Approximately 130 miles of gravity sewer mains collecting and conveying ~2.3 million gallons per day to its Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Approximately 1.5 miles of force mains and five (5) lift stations
- Pipe diameters ranging from 6 inches to 30 inches

JUSTIFICATION:

The City's recognition is the result of a strong and proactive operations and maintenance program, coupled with a continued emphasis on regulatory compliance and workforce development. In 2025, the Division demonstrated its commitment to system reliability through the following efforts:

- Cleaning approximately 81 miles of sewer mains
- Performing CCTV inspections on approximately 32 miles of sewer mains
- Maintaining zero sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) during the reporting period

In addition, the Division prioritizes safety and training, with staff receiving regular instruction from certified safety compliance professionals. Operators and maintenance personnel maintain multiple water and wastewater certifications, ensuring a high level of technical expertise and adherence to industry standards.

This award reflects the commitment of our staff who continuously strive for excellence in operations and maintenance, and underscores the City's dedication to protecting public health, safeguarding the environment, and delivering reliable wastewater services to the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [CWEA Award - 2025 Small Wastewater Collection System of the Year.pdf](#)
2. [Fact sheet_FINAL_Crop.pdf](#)