



### NEWS RELEASE

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### City Recognizes Employees for “Going the Extra Mile”

The City of Santa Maria is pleased to recognize Doug Shearer and Richard Dupuis as the newest recipients of its Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Award. Shearer, a Landfill Heavy Equipment Lead Operator in the Utilities Department, and Dupuis, the Streets & Facilities Supervisor in the Department of Public Works, received certificates and recognition at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Without hesitation, Doug Shearer responded to the Fire Department’s request for his assistance on the night of September 24, 2013, to help control and extinguish a large outside fire involving stacks of burning pallets and several vehicles. Firefighters were unable to acquire water from the single fire hydrant at the property. At 11:30 p.m. Doug received the call, drove from his home to the City Landfill where he is a Landfill Heavy Equipment Lead Operator, and drove the Utility Department’s water truck to the scene. When responders next needed a machine to move the piles of burned material, the Incident Commander asked Doug if he would be willing to go back to the Landfill and respond with a front loader, which he did. The Fire Department estimated 12 personnel would have taken an additional six hours to overtake and extinguish the fire without the aid of heavy equipment. By operating the front loader, Doug created a safer work environment and enabled the task to be done within one hour. This is only the most recent example of Doug’s can-do attitude.



Richard Dupuis conceived, developed, negotiated and implemented the Streetlight Retrofit Project that transformed the community’s nighttime illumination from 1970s-era Low-Pressure Sodium fixtures that cast yellow light, to state-of-the-art LED white lights, significantly improving visibility and safety. Richard developed and analyzed numerous strategies, doggedly held to his principles to maximize efficiency at the lowest cost, and “sharpened the pencils” on PG&E’s proposals. He negotiated a new inventory of nearly 5,700 street lights with LED fixtures at a cost that will be paid off with energy savings within eight years. He also negotiated the construction and material procurement provisions, performed construction management duties, as well as negotiated disposal and salvage provisions of the program.

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He ensured that the new lights satisfy law enforcement's concerns, and required the contractor to reinstall over 2,000 fixtures that did not meet standards. Richard's initiative is estimated to have saved the City \$240,000 per year; and these cost savings can be applied to more preventive maintenance and upkeep of the City's street system.

Criteria for the GEM Award are: Exhibiting effective leadership on specific assignments; demonstrating positive service to a customer or co-worker; going "above and beyond" the call of duty; showing special initiative, creativity, teamwork, cost containment efforts and entrepreneurial spirit in providing a high level of customer service; and consistently embracing the City's service standards.

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