

WILL S. GREEN AWARD

2023

Tom Ellis

The 2023 recipient of the Will S. Green Award is Tom Ellis. Like Will S. Green, Tom's passion, dedication and insight to Sacramento Valley flood protection and water management has made a lasting impact on the region that will be realized for decades to come.

Tom has been tireless in his dedication to agriculture and the communities in the Sacramento Valley. His connection to the region runs deep and spans generations, with his grandfather owning and operating dredges that constructed many of the original irrigation, drainage and flood control systems throughout the Sacramento Valley.

During his lifetime, Tom has been an active participant and a visible leader in various efforts for flood protection within the Sacramento Valley. Tom served on the Board of Commissioners of Sacramento River West Side Levee District from 2001 through 2019, including 14 years as president. He represented the district on the Central Valley Flood Control Association Board of Directors. He was an instrumental member of the Sacramento Valley Flood Control Action Work Group, which identified a set of guiding goals that the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan should address for rural areas and resulted in an Agricultural Floodplain Task Force which is influencing the reauthorization bill for the National Flood Insurance Program.

Through these various organizations, he has been a relentless advocate for flood protection in the region by engaging on numerous broad policy efforts, including the development of the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, where he was instrumental in bringing in local participation and the development of the regional flood management plan teams, which provided close local coordination in future flood plans. He also worked on specific projects, including persuading state flood officials to remove almost two million cubic yards of sediment in the Tisdale Bypass and working to inform state and federal officials of the impact the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge's management practices were having in reducing flood protection in the region.

As a tribute to Tom's dedication to flood protection throughout the Sacramento Valley, we are pleased to honor him with the 2023 Will S. Green Award.



Previous Recipients



2022
Stuart Somach



2021
Mary Wells



2020
Charlie Hoppin



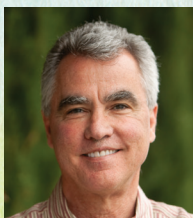
2019
Homer
Lundberg



2018
Sandy Willard
Denn



2017
Tim Belza



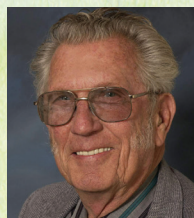
2016
Tim O'Halloran



2015
Richard
Rominger



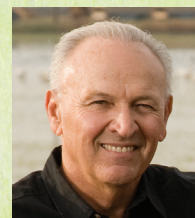
2014
Fran Silva



2013
Gene Harris



2012
George Basye



Recipient of the
Founders Award
Al Montna

THE WILL S. GREEN AWARD is presented annually by the Northern California Water Association Board of Directors to an individual who has devoted their life to the promotion and advancement of irrigation and regional sustainability in the Sacramento Valley.