



CITY *of* CALABASAS

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Carl Gibbs Environmental Award Presented to Local Advocates

On January 5, 2010, the Calabasas Environmental Commission presented the 2009 Carl Gibbs Environmental Excellence Award to three individuals in three different categories:

- *Water Conservation Category* to Mr. Charles Caspary, President of the Board of Directors of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD)
- *Education and Recycling Category* to Ms. Marilyn Fine, Art Teacher at Lindero Canyon Middle School
- *Environmental Health Category* to Ms. Robina Suwol, Founder and Executive Director of California Safe Schools

Recipient Profiles

During his tenure at the Water District, Charles Caspary has demonstrated a high level of commitment to customers within LVMWD's service area. His leadership regarding water supplies, local, state, and national water issues, water conservation, and water policies has been a strong force in determining LVMWD's course during the past nine years. During the current water shortage, Mr. Caspary has actively participated at community workshops and public outreach events, speaking with customers about the difficult decisions necessary to address the water shortage. He has shared his environmental commitment not only with residents and community leaders but with students participating in LVMWD's Environmental Water Science Workshops, for local high school participants, sharing his philosophies on conservation and demonstrating environmental practices. His presence at these sessions has been a highlight for the students and his enthusiasm is contagious. As president of LVMWD's board during the District's celebration year of 50 years of service to the community, Mr. Caspary recognized many outstanding citizens and businesses for their commitment to water conservation and leadership.

As an art teacher, Marilyn Fine is committed to not only sharing her love of art with her students but also encouraging them to use their creativity in order to make a difference in the community and their own future. Throughout her years at Lindero Canyon Middle

School, she has presented her young artists with projects that teach them about the environment and convey a message to those that view the art. She has used clay to design ceramic pots on which the students sculpted and carved images about water conservation, protecting our oceans, saving electricity, protecting animal life, and the issue of global warming. When the pots were completed they planted seeds and watched their efforts blossom. The Calabasas Recycling Calendar is another way to demonstrate the importance of recycling and to encourage others to participate throughout the year. Her students have entered the past two years, and she's convinced that creating visual interpretations of the theme is a valuable lesson for them and anyone who uses the calendar. Whether it was paper recycling in 2009 and food waste recycling for the 2010 calendar, her middle school students realized their art can make a difference. Yet in doing art they go through a lot of paper, and so they are continually recycling paper at school.

Robina Suwol is the Founder and Executive Director of California Safe Schools (CSS), a celebrated children's environmental health and environmental justice non-profit coalition of over fifty organizations located in Southern California committed to the health and safety of children, staff and community members who reside near school sites. CSS is internationally recognized for spearheading the most stringent pesticide policy in the nation at Los Angeles Unified School District (2nd largest in the nation). This policy called *Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM)*, uses low risk methods to eliminate pest and weeds. The policy was the first in the United States to embrace the Precautionary Principle and Parents Right to Know about pesticides used on school campuses. Today it has become the model for school districts and communities internationally. October 6, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 405 (Montanez) sponsored by California Safe Schools. This law closes a loophole protecting more than 6 million California K-12 public school students, and hundreds of thousands of teachers and school employees from exposure to experimental pesticides whose health effects are unknown. Ms. Suwol gives frequent presentations on safety to parents, students, school officials & legislators.

The Carl Gibbs Environmental Excellence Award is a symbol of commitment to California's environment. It was established in memory of former Environmental Commissioner, Carl Gibbs. Gibbs was one of the founders of Calabasas and served on the Environmental Committee and then on the Environmental Commission for 15 years. He was an advocate for protecting the environment and preserving Calabasas' open space. This award is a symbol of commitment for environmental stewardship and honors those who work to benefit our environment. The award honors a wide array of individuals, businesses, municipalities, government agencies, organizations, institutions, all working to benefit our environment. The Award recognizes voluntary activities by companies and organizations, big or small, private or non-profit, in or work done in the City of Calabasas and in California, that result in cleaner air or water, less waste, less traffic, conservation of energy and natural resources, efficient and water conserving landscaping, and reduced use of hazardous materials.

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