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ALAMEDA COUNTY RECEIVES TOP AWARDS IN STATEWIDE COMPETITION

Alameda County was presented with four top awards on Tuesday from an annual statewide awards competition for innovations the County has adopted to better serve the community.

The four awards presented by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) represented the largest haul of any of California's 58 counties, which together provided more than 200 entries in CSAC's Challenge Awards program for 2014.

"These awards represent some of the most innovative approaches our county governments are taking as they meet a growing list of challenges in an increasingly complex world," said Matt Cate, Executive Director of CSAC.

Cate presented the awards Tuesday morning at the weekly meeting of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in Oakland.

Awards received by Alameda County included the top award given in CSAC's 2014 Challenge Awards competition, the **California Counties Innovation Award**. That award went to "Dig Deep Farms & Produce," a community driven venture launched by the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL) that employs local residents to grow fresh, organic produce to meet the needs of the community. The program, which cultivates organic produce on an 8-acre plot of County-owned land in unincorporated San Leandro, aims to prevent violence and crime through the creation of jobs, access to healthy food and community revitalization.

Other awards received by Alameda County were:

- A **CSAC Challenge Award** to the Alameda County General Service Agency's Sustainability Team for leading efforts to implement the County's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and otherwise lessen the environmental impacts of County operations. These efforts include creation of executive teams across the organization to spearhead engagement of the County's 9,500 employees about programs to reduce waste, promote clean commuting and adopt other earth-friendly practices on the job.
- A **CSAC Merit Award** to the Alameda County Assessor's Office and Information Technology Department for developing a "Canvassing App," a new mobile technology tool for County staff that has reduced by 50 percent the total effort involved in the annual canvassing of business properties.
- A **CSAC Merit Award** to The Alameda County District Attorney's office for Human Exploitation & Trafficking Watch Community Initiatives, which engage and educate the community about the problem of human trafficking, support the recovery of victims and hold offenders accountable.

Scott Haggerty, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, said the awards show that Alameda County is meeting the difficult demands being placed on local governments in the 21st century. "Our department heads and employees are being challenged every day to think outside the box and to find creative new ways to deliver core services," Haggerty said. "These awards prove that our work force is delivering on these demands."