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The Bay Institute Announces 26th Annual Environmental Awards

The Bay Institute, a research and advocacy organization of the **Bay Ecotarium**, announced Whitney Dotson, Chris Austin and Jeffrey Michael as the recipients of the 26th Annual Environmental Awards. George Jacob, President and CEO of the Bay Ecotarium states "We are proud to recognize their contributions and dedication to improving and protecting the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed. Their actions inspire all of us" said George Jacob, President & CEO.

Gary Bobker, Program Director of **The Bay Institute** commented "Each of these individuals is exemplary in his or her own way: a leader in the fight for environmental justice and the protection of our wetlands; an economist who has debunked myths about the conflict between the economy and the environment; a blogger who has demystified the confusing and complex world of California water."

The Bay Institute has annually recognized individuals for their outstanding contributions in three categories: Education, Reporting, and Extraordinary Accomplishments. The 26th Annual Environmental Award recipients are:

Whitney Dotson, East Bay citizen activist, East Bay Regional Park District board member is the recipient of the 2018 Bay Hero Award. Awarded for long record of activism at the intersection of conservation, environmental justice, and water, and for protecting the wetlands of the East Bay shoreline. Created in 2011, the Bay Hero Award honors those whose significant efforts have led to increased protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

Chris Austin will receive The Harold Gilliam Award for Excellence in Environmental Reporting. Ms. Austin is a blogger who has created and operates an award winning website that provides comprehensive coverage of California water issues. Harold Gilliam, for whom the award is named in 1999, is a former columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle and the author of numerous books who has encouraged generations to think more deeply about our natural heritage.

Jeffrey Michael, Ph.D., Director, Center for Business and Policy Research, University of the Pacific, Stockton will be presented the Carla Bay Education Award. The Carla



Aquarium
of the Bay



Bay Model
Alliance



EcoCenter at
Heron's Head Park



Sea Lion
Center



The Bay Institute



Bay Academy

Bay Education award was created in 1992 to honor those who have significantly increased the public's understanding of, and concern for, the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. A former member of The Bay Institutes Board of Directors, Bard was a champion of clean water, wetlands preservation, wild rivers, and was considered a state-wide leader on water issues.

Commencement of the awards ceremony starts at 5:30pm on June 28 at the Bay Model Visitor Center, 2100 Bridgeway in Sausalito. Cynthia Koehler, Executive Director of the Water Now Alliance, member of the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors, and recipient of the 2013 Bay Hero Award will deliver the Key Note address.

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*The Bay Institute is a research, education, and advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the ecosystem of the San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the estuary's tributary rivers, streams, and watersheds. Established in 1981, its scientists and environmental policy experts have worked nearly four decades to secure stronger protections for endangered species and their habitats; improve water quality; reform how California manages its water resources; and promote comprehensive ecological restoration from the **Sierra to the Sea™**.*

*The Bay Institute is one of the six branches of Bay Ecotarium-Northern California's largest non-profit watershed conservation group whose mission is to protect, restore, and inspire conservation of San Francisco Bay and its watershed, from the **Sierra to the Sea™**. More information can be found on the website at www.bayecotarium.org.*