

Will S. Green Award

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.

Background

Will S. Green is an icon in Northern California with respect to both water supply and flood protection. Mr. Green arrived in California in 1849 with many others in the Gold Rush. He found his way to the Sacramento Valley, where he floated the Sacramento River to the Colus Rancheria, which he later helped found as the community of Colusa. He purchased the Colusa Sun and used the newspaper to help promote his lifelong passions, which were primarily focused on making land productive. He was a champion for flood protection and he was committed to the cause of irrigation and was generally known in the Sacramento Valley as the "Prophet of Irrigation." He surveyed the Sacramento River and identified the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District diversion near Hamilton City. He was a leader in advancing the Wright Act, which created irrigation districts in 1872. For further information, see Cynthia Davis's book *Where Water is King*, Joseph McGie's *A History of Irrigation in Butte, Sutter, Glenn and Colusa Counties*, George Basye's *Battling the River: The History of Reclamation District 108*, and Robert Kelley's *Battling the Inland Sea*.

Criterion

The criterion for the award is intentionally broad: "An individual who has devoted their life to the promotion and advancement of irrigation and regional sustainability in the Sacramento Valley."

Nomination Process

A nomination should be submitted by **January 15, 2025** to dochoa@norcalwater.org. Please provide a simple narrative (approximately 1-2 pages) describing how the nominee has "devoted their life to the promotion and advancement of irrigation and regional sustainability in the Sacramento Valley." The NCWA Board of Directors will review all nominations and select the recipient, who will be recognized at the NCWA Annual Meeting on **March 7, 2025**.



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