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Updated: Thu, Dec 31, 2015, 7:53 am

Uploaded: Mon, Dec 28, 2015, 8:21 am

Hacienda receives Gold award for commuting benefits

Offering commuter benefits is a win-win situation, transit organization manager says

by Jeb Bing

Pleasanton's Hacienda, one of the West's largest mixed use residential and business parks, has received the Gold Award in competition for "Best Workplaces for Commuters," a program sponsored by the National Center for Transit Research (NCTR).

The program is designed to encourage sustainable transportation innovation and was established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The NCTR singled out 29 employers nationwide during its annual "Race to Excellence" virtual awards ceremony and gave Hacienda a Gold Award as a Best Workplaces for Commuters Site.

The awards recognize organizations that have taken exemplary steps to offer transportation options such as vanpool and transit benefits or telework and compressed workweek programs for their employees. To qualify, applicants must meet a "Standard of Excellence" established by the EPA and NCTR.

"The annual Race to Excellence provides national recognition for employers who offer high level commuter benefits," said Julie Bond, NCTR's national manager for the program.

"Offering commuter benefits is a win-win situation for employees who change their commuting habits to save time, money, and stress and employers who gain a competitive edge in employee recruitment and retention, " she added. "This year we recognized 29 Race to Excellence winners who have exceptional commute programs."

Participants were awarded in four categories: Site, Employer, Supporting Agency and University.

Hacienda was given a Gold Award in the Best Workplaces for Commuters Site category.

"We are extremely proud to have received this national recognition again," said James Paxson, Hacienda's general manager. "Hacienda has won this award several times because we have a great program which we continually strive to expand and improve."

"We believe that Hacienda is fundamentally a better place to work and live because of the commuting programs we have instituted," he added.