

and e-mail messages were and are truly wonderful and have made my spirits soar. Dental public health is a

family of caring individuals of whom I am proud to be a part. Again, thank you for this award and we must continue to work to bring the benefits of

community water fluoridation to more Americans and to those in other countries, as well.

Tom Reeves, National Fluoridation Engineer, CDC, Atlanta, GA

As National Fluoridation Engineer at the CDC for the past 24 years, Mr. Tom Reeves has worked closely with states and federal agencies in developing community water fluoridation programs. Additionally, Mr. Reeves has assisted other countries and international agencies, such as Japan,

South Korea, South Africa, the World Health Organization, and the Pan-American Health Organization, in their fluoridation efforts. He developed and implemented national fluoridation training programs and has served as a national expert in the engineering aspects of fluoridation. In addition to his work at the CDC, Mr.

Reeves has been active in the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and currently serves as chair of the AWWA Fluoride Standards Committee. The Fluoridation Merit Award recognizes Mr. Reeves' expertise and untiring efforts in support of community water fluoridation.

Timothy Collins, DDS, MPH, and Glen Peterson

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) voted to fluoridate their five treatment plants in early 2003. The MET serves nearly 18 million customers in a six-county area of southern California. Many organizations were critical in assuring this success—including, but not limited to: the California Fluoridation Task Force, the Fluoridation 2010 Work Group, the California Fluoridation Project, and the Dental Health Foundation. Two individuals have been nominated for special recognition for their tireless efforts in this endeavor. They are Dr. Timothy Collins and Mr. Glen Peterson.

Timothy Collins, DDS, MPH, serves as dental director of Los Angeles

County and chair of the California Fluoridation Task Force. Dr. Collins has been at the forefront of fluoridation efforts for more than 10 years. By facilitating the fluoridation of the city of Los Angeles, Dr. Collins laid the groundwork for obtaining the MET vote. His vision, leadership, and strategic planning over the past decade have contributed greatly to this historic action.

Glen Peterson has served with Metropolitan for over a decade, and championed the case for fluoridation with the MET Board. Director Peterson's interest in public health and his belief that Metropolitan could play a central role in this highly researched public health remedy to California's "Ne-

glected Epidemic" served to galvanize the 37-member board toward this action. The clear mandate evidenced by the final vote of 64 percent in favor of fluoridation underscores the breadth of Mr. Peterson's accomplishment.

Due to the shared vision of Dr. Collins and Director Peterson, and the collective efforts of many public health activists and leaders, fluoridated drinking water will now be a reality for the residents of southern California. The 20 to 40 percent reduction in dental caries that will result from this action will become the largest fluoridation project in US history and will bring California very close to the Healthy People 2010 fluoride objective.