



## International Erosion Control Association

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### **California Contractor Honored for Excellence in Controlling Erosion at Construction Sites**

Steamboat Springs, Colo. – Al Nitta, president of Nitta Erosion Control, Loomis, Calif., has won the 2008 Contractor of the Year Award from the International Erosion Control Association.

The company, which Nitta started in 1971, has earned a reputation for the high quality of its work with both public agencies, such as the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, counties, cities and school districts. Services range from hydraulic seeding and mulching and pneumatic application of bark to installation of silt fence, straw wattles and erosion control blankets.

Nitta will receive the Contractor of the Year Award during formal ceremonies at the annual IECA conference, Environmental Connection, in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 19, 2008. The annual award recognizes demonstrated excellence in using effective erosion and sediment control practices on construction projects.

Nitta, 84, has been controlling erosion since the 1960s, when he was a commercial tree fruit grower. That's when he switched from conventional furrow irrigation, which left the soil between rows of trees bare and vulnerable to erosion, to an overhead sprinkler system. This type of irrigation helped protect the soil from erosion by supporting a permanent cover of soil-holding vegetation between the rows. That practice earned him a conservation award from his local Soil Conservation District in 1967.

Nitta, a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) remains active in the family-owned company's day-to-day operations. His mechanical skills and inventive thinking have contributed to Nitta's effectiveness as an erosion control contractor.

Three years ago, he developed the Dust Dog to minimize the amount of dust, dirt and very fine particles normally emitted into the air when applying straw mulch. This patent-pending dust-suppression system mounts on a straw blower to spray water into the straw as it is blown out of the machine. This system is now available for both manufactures to include on new straw blowers and also for anyone interested in retrofitting their straw blowers to be compliant with Federal law.

#### **About IECA**

The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) is the world's oldest and largest association devoted entirely to helping members solve the problems caused by erosion and its byproduct – sediment. Founded in 1972, IECA is a non-profit organization that serves as the premier global resource for the prevention and control of erosion.

This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year of the annual IECA *Awards of Environmental Excellence* program. The Contractor of the Year award is given to an outstanding contractor who has demonstrated excellence in using effective erosion and sediment control practices on construction projects.

For more information about state-of-the-art educational events and materials, please visit our web site at [www.ieca.org](http://www.ieca.org).