

Ventura Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Contest Announces Winners



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Ventura Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Contest Announces Winners -- Community attends free Awards Ceremony in honor of World Water Day

In celebration of World Water Day, Ventura Water announced the winners of its 3rd Annual Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Contest at a free community event held March 19th at the Century 10 Downtown movie theatre. The top 9 water-focused finalist films were presented, followed by the winners of the Audience Choice Award, the Award for Best Student Film, the Grand Jury Prize and the Ventura Vision Award.

Selected from among the 51 films entered from around the globe, the winners are:

The Audience Choice Award, selected online by the public, was given to Jake Raimer, from New Jersey, for his film *Protecting our Water: Stormwater Management*. Curtis Hopkins, President of Hopkins Groundwater, who co-sponsors this award with Brown and Caldwell, presented the prize, an iPad 2.

The Award for Best Student Short Film, chosen by our jury of entertainment and water industry experts, was given to Sean Cruse, from Indiana, for his film *Refresh*. Sean wins a GoPro camera and was awarded the prize by Lydia Holmes of Carollo Engineers.

The Jury awarded Grand Prize was given to Ben Mills, of the UK, for his film *Blue Sky, Inc.* This award - \$1500 - is presented by Ventura Water.

The Ventura Vision Award, was given in person to Randy Smith, from Culver City California, for his film *Submerged Forest*. Akemi Shapiro, Director of Sales and Marketing for the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach, who sponsors this award, was the presenter. This award recognizes films shot in and around the city of Ventura and the winner will be showcased on an upcoming segment of the CAPS TV show "Sustainable Ventura."

"California is in a drought and Ventura currently relies on all local water sources," said Ventura Mayor Cheryl Heitmann. "We must conserve and preserve our resources. This contest focuses attention not only to the current water crisis, but how we have to change our thinking about water in order for our community to continue to be sustainable and thrive."

Heading into its fourth year, the Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Contest aims to elevate the value of water by inviting filmmakers from across the globe to submit short films less than five minutes, in any genre (animation, comedy, documentary, drama, experimental, or sci-fi) that address the topic of water. The next contest will kick off this fall. All film entries are available for viewing at www.watertake1.com.

Visit www.facebook.com/watertake1 or www.cityofventura.net/watertake1 for more information.

This release can be found on the City of Ventura's website at www.cityofventura.net. ###