



CITY OF COSTA MESA

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Costa Mesa wins top award from Orange County Taxpayers Assn.

COSTA MESA, CALIF.—The City of Costa Mesa received the top honor Thursday at the Orange County Taxpayers Assn.'s inaugural "Roses, Radishes and the Royalty Awards" dinner that attracted 300 people to Disney's Grand Californian Hotel.

In giving Costa Mesa the first Rose Award, the Orange County Taxpayers Assn., also known as OCTax, stated, "By assessing its financial situation, and more importantly, by taking courageous action based on its assessment, the Costa Mesa City Council unwillingly has become a national bellwether in the metastasizing issue of the escalating cost of public employee pensions and other benefits.

"... OCTax regrets the threat of layoffs of any workers, public or private. But we are pleased that Costa Mesa (and some other cities) now recognize the unsustainability of public employee pensions and other benefits, and have found the courage to take action on it."

Other "Rose" awards finalists were Orange County Supervisor John Moorlach; Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens; Anaheim Enterprise Zone legislative sponsors state Sen. Bob Huff and Sen. Lou Correa and Assemblyman Jose Solorio; Assn. of California Cities-Orange County; Jack Dean, founder of "Pension Tsunami" blog; Orange County Transportation Authority; Michelle Steel, vice chair of the Board of Equalization; and the Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

The Orange County Taxpayers Assn., founded in 1986, describes itself as a "taxpayers' advocate on many public policy issues in Orange County."