

WATER HEROES ... Cisco Systems, the Campbell Union School District and the City of Hayward all received awards this week for their water-conservation efforts from a coalition of Silicon Valley green and business groups. The three agencies were among the six winners of the second annual Silicon Valley Water Conservation Awards, which were handed out on World Water Day, March 22. Nurserymen's Exchange, the California Landscape Contractors Association and Humane Society Silicon Valley also received awards for drastically reducing water usage. "With water shortages in the news on a weekly basis, water conservation has become a critical issue facing Silicon Valley," said Mike Mielke, senior director of environmental programs and policy at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, one of the sponsors of the award. "To maintain our leading edge in the economy, Silicon Valley must also be a leader in the efficient use of water."