

# Some Sectors Sparkle for Environmental Consultants

## New Projects, Regs, Boost Some; Locals Flat Overall

By PAUL HUGHES

Environmental consulting firms locally were flat to minimally higher on OC billings and workers for the year ended Dec. 31, with some companies reporting robust work levels because of new regulations or projects—or both.

The Business Journal list ranks firms based on the first metric—money for work completed through the OC office. The 15 companies on this list saw a cumulative \$409.7 million in local billings, flat year-over-year.

Most firms represented work well beyond Orange County borders—several are global operators with 10-figure topline. But they find a steady source of income from local offices, with most of the larger company locations centered around Irvine, coastal areas, or state and county agencies in central OC.

The Business Journal raised the bar to qualify for the list this year, tightening billing qualifications to focus on these larger firms.

### Familiar Faces

Several of these are recognizable to OCers, not least because their names—**Tetra Tech** and **Aecom** for instance—grace buildings facing local roads, freeways and construction which, in a nice twist, might involve projects the firms are involved with.



HQ of perennial No.1

Pasadena-based Tetra Tech is No. 1 again this year, with OC billings of about \$71 million, up 10% year-over-year. Its local base is at the corner of Von Karman Avenue and Main Street, not far from John Wayne Airport.

L.A.-based Aecom is No. 4, with just more than \$35 million in local billings, down 22%.

Its local offices are in Orange.

Aecom rounds out a quartet that didn't change their rankings since last year. The top 10 environmental consulting firms locally are largely unchanged, in fact, with some jockeying and one newcomer.

Global giant **Stantec**—\$1.3 billion in companywide billings, up 19% year-over-year—jumped eight slots to No. 10, with \$16.5 million in local dollars, up 51%.

Irvine-based Stantec's name often comes up in discussions of the local freeway system. It's done extensive work on the 405 Freeway. A spokesman said it has a "robust transportation practice [in] planning, design and engineering."

The company notes "strong working relationships" with **Orange County Transportation Authority**, as well as state and federal transportation agencies and it has seen "significant growth in OC wastewater treatment, water resources management [and] development planning and entitlement services."

Another recognizable name: No. 8 **Tait**, in Santa Ana. Its CEO, **Tom Tait**, is the former mayor of Anaheim.

### Tait Up

Chief Operating Officer **Jim Streitz** said the company does a lot of work for utilities and municipal agencies. One big area in the last year involved work driven by new EPA regulations on underground storage tanks for diesel and gasoline. The fuel powers backup generators that kick-in during emergencies.

"The power has many purposes," Streitz said. "For the phone company, it keeps the dial tone up; for a large building, it might keep the elevators running. The power goes down, the generators go up."

Tanks can range from 500 to 20,000 gallons. Clients this year had to replace them, perform new tests on them, and upgrade systems to include elements that protect against leaks, test for pressure, prevent fuel from moving if a tank is too full, and so on.

Tait's job here is "to keep groundwater clean by ensuring ... proper installation, testing and routine inspection."

Billings were also up on "a good economy, lots of construction, as well as increased need for backup power."

Tait's client list includes **PG&E** and the **Federal Aviation Administration**; Ontario Airport saw Tait workers this past year, Streitz

said. Looking ahead, "based on current backlog, we see pretty good growth this year."

California is reliably regulatory and work "is pretty constant, and there are regulations increasing nationwide," Streitz said.

An affiliate headed by Tom Tait last year was approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors to develop the 375-acre Coyote Canyon former landfill property in Newport Coast.

The property, near **Sage Hill School**, is expected to see a golf course built, alongside trails for the public. A hotel and spa are also being considered for the site. ■

### Coronavirus Update

**Tait Environmental Services Inc.** COO **Jim Streitz** said the coronavirus has put some of the company's clients in a wait-and-see mode with, for instance, a state water board.

The issue involves regular required inspections and Tait is waiting to hear if the state will allow delays in completing such tests.

Typically, "only one person is going out to do these" inspections so they might not fall under new temporary rules related to the virus, but "our clients are asking those questions."

He said the clients ideally would want the inspections so they can stay on schedule.

The **FAA**, another Tait client, is also in a holding pattern, with projects "put on hold if they're not critical," meaning if they're "not subject to a regulatory deadline."

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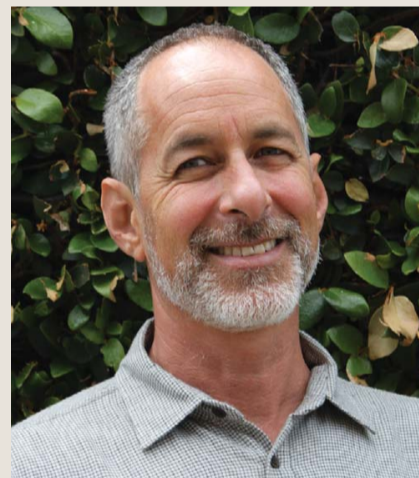
## THE LIST ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



**EDWARD BATLLE**  
VP  
Jacob & Hefner Associates Inc.



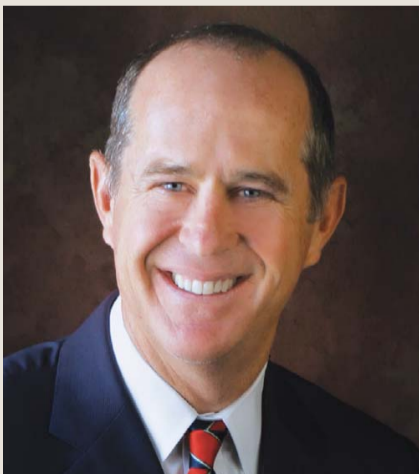
**JOHN BOLLIER**  
Senior Principal, Environmental Services  
Stantec



**DAVID LEVINE**  
Owner, CEO and Principal  
Environmental Intelligence LLC



**BRIAN PETTY**  
Branch Manager  
Geosyntec Consultants Inc.



**THOMAS TAIT**  
CEO  
Tait



**STEVE TEDESCO**  
Senior VP  
Tetra Tech Inc.

# THE LIST ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

▶ NEXT WEEK'S LIST Advertising Agencies

RANKED BY OC ENVIRONMENTAL BILLINGS

Rank	Company	OC environmental billings for 12 months ended Dec. 31, 2019	Companywide environmental billings for 12 months ended Dec. 31, 2019	OC employees	Percentage breakdown of work:			Partial list of clients served by OC office(s)	Top local official(s)
Prev. Rank	•Address •Corporate headquarters	•yearly % change	•yearly % change	•yearly % change	•Public sector •Air/Water Quality •Regulatory Compliance	•Private sector •Waste/Pollution Management •Other		•Title •Phone/fax	
1	<b>Tetra Tech Inc.</b> 17885 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 500 Irvine 92614-5227 Pasadena Website: tetrattech.com Email: steve.tedesco@tetrattech.com	\$70.7 million 10%	\$3.1 billion 10%	230 10%	50% 80% 5%	50% 10% 0%	Orange County, Irvine Ranch Water District	Steve Tedesco senior VP (949) 809-5000/(949) 809-5010	
2	<b>Arcadis U.S. Inc.</b> 320 Commerce, Ste. 200 Irvine 92602-1363 Highlands Ranch, Colo. Website: arcadis.com/en/united-states Email: ausinternet@arcadis.com	\$52.4 million <sup>(1)</sup> NA	\$748.5 million <sup>(1)</sup> NA	134 <sup>(1)</sup> NA	wnd	wnd	would not disclose	Craig Halvorson senior VP, transportation (714) 730-9052/(714) 730-9345	
3	<b>Miller Environmental Inc.</b> 1130 W. Trenton Ave. Orange 92867-3536 Orange Website: millerenvironmental.com	\$47 million <sup>(1)</sup> NA	\$47 million <sup>(1)</sup> NA	100 <sup>(1)</sup> NA	50% 0% 0%	50% 70% 0%	Los Angeles Community College District, Kaiser Permanente, NBC Universal, Disneyland Resorts, Chevron Corp., L.A. Unified School District	Gregg Miller president (714) 385-0099/(714) 385-0011	
4	<b>Aecom</b> 999 Town and Country Road Orange 92868-4713 Los Angeles Website: aecom.com Email: askamericas@aecom.com	\$35.3 million <sup>(2)</sup> -22%	\$2.8 billion <sup>(2)</sup> 0%	503 -2%	40% 20% 20%	60% 60% 0%	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Dept. of the Air Force, Shell, Chevron, Orange County Sanitation District, Orange County Public Works	Rob Lowey senior VP, environment PMO (714) 567-2400/(714) 567-2594	
5	<b>Environmental Resources Management</b> 1920 Main St., Ste. 300 Irvine 92614-7279 London Website: erm.com Email: tony.parenteau@erm.com	\$26.8 million <sup>(1)</sup> NA	\$520.3 million <sup>(1)</sup> NA	85 <sup>(1)</sup> NA	10% 35% 15%	90% 40% 10%	would not disclose	Anthony Parenteau partner (949) 623-4700/(949) 623-4711	
6	<b>Ramboll US Corp.</b> 5 Park Plaza, Ste. 500 Irvine 92614-8525 Arlington, Va. Website: ramboll.com Email: apena@ramboll.com	\$24 million <sup>(1)</sup> NA	\$221.4 million -3%	89 5%	25% 25% 15%	75% 50% 10%	Real estate, manufacturing, petrochemicals	Eddie Arslanian managing principal (949) 261-5151/(949) 261-6202	
7	<b>TRC Cos.</b> 17911 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 400 Irvine 92614-6261 Lowell, Mass. Website: trccompanies.com Email: cobrien@trcsolutions.com	\$22.8 million <sup>(3)</sup> -42%	\$322.3 million <sup>(3)</sup> 5%	138 -5%	9% 9% 24%	91% 53% 14%	LA Metro, LADWP, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp., Pacific Gas & Electric, OCTA	David Zarider senior VP (949) 727-9336/(949) 727-7311	
8	<b>Tait</b> 701 N. Park Center Drive Santa Ana 92705-3541 Santa Ana Website: tait.com Email: info@tait.com	\$21.5 million 23%	\$40.3 million 18%	100 18%	15% 30% 30%	85% 10% 30%	would not disclose	Thomas Tait/Rich Tait CEO/president (714) 560-8200/(714) 560-8233	
9	<b>Patriot Environmental Laboratory Services Inc.</b> 1041 S. Placentia Ave. Fullerton 92831-5105 Fullerton Website: patriotlab.com Email: info@patriotlab.com	\$18.5 million 5%	\$23.1 million 5%	170 5%	30% 25% 0%	70% 25% 50%	would not disclose	James Thornbrugh president (714) 899-8900/(714) 899-7098	
10	<b>Stantec</b> 38 Technology Drive Irvine 92618-5310 Edmonton, Alberta Website: stantec.com Email: info@stantec.com	\$16.5 million 52%	\$1.3 billion 19%	171 -9%	64% 9% 19%	36% 56% 16%	Yorba Linda, Huntington Beach, Seal Beach, OCTA, Water Agencies, Chevron, Tesoro, Boeing; confidential clients include private developers, healthcare facilities, and commercial clients	John Bollier senior principal, environmental services (949) 923-6000/(949) 923-6121	
11	<b>Jacob &amp; Hefner Associates Inc.</b> 15375 Barranca Parkway, Ste. J-101 Irvine 92618-2210 Downers Grove, Ill. Website: jacobandhefner.com Email: ebattle@jacobandhefner.com	\$15.2 million 18%	\$19.1 million 11%	71 11%	25% 40% 20%	75% 15% 25%	Aerospace, Superfunds, industrial, federal	Edward Battle VP (949) 453-1045/(949) 453-1047	
12	<b>Environmental Intelligence LLC</b> 1590 South Coast Highway, Ste. 17 Laguna Beach 92651-3257 Laguna Beach Website: enviro-intel.com Email: davidlevine@enviro-intel.com	\$15 million 33%	\$16 million 33%	51 11%	10% 0% 25%	90% 0% 75%	Southern California Edison, Sentinel Peak Resources, Chevron Corp., Wilson Construction, County of Los Angeles	David Levine owner/principal/CEO (949) 497-0931	
12	<b>Geosyntec Consultants Inc.</b> 2100 Main St., Ste. 150 Huntington Beach 92648-2460 Boca Raton, Fla. Website: geosyntec.com Email: bpetty@geosyntec.com	\$15 million 25%	\$325 million 8%	55 -8%	40% 30% 10%	60% 30% 30%	Public agencies, solid waste companies, aerospace companies, oil and gas companies, attorneys	Brian Petty branch manager (714) 969-0800/(714) 969-0820	
14	<b>Wood Environment &amp; Infrastructure Solutions Inc.</b> 3560 Hyland Ave., Ste. 100 Costa Mesa 92626-1438 Aberdeen, U.K. Website: woodplc.com Email: jay.weaver@woodplc.com	\$14.9 million <sup>(1)</sup> NA	\$893.9 million <sup>(1)</sup> NA	70 <sup>(1)</sup> NA	35% 5% 15%	65% 45% 35%	would not disclose	Jay Weaver Los Angeles basin manager (949) 642-0245/(949) 642-4474	
15	<b>Noreas Inc.</b> 16361 Scientific Way Irvine 92618-4354 Irvine Website: noreasinc.com Email: rfi@noreasinc.com	\$14 million -7%	\$14 million -7%	57 4%	75% 0% 35%	25% 50% 15%	Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Air Force, NASA, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, private-sector clients	Leila Shaver contracts manager (949) 467-9100/(949) 398-8758	

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable; wnd: would not disclose

Note: To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of press time. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the list, omissions and typographical errors sometimes occur. Unless otherwise noted, the information on this list was provided by the companies themselves. List may not be reprinted without permission of the editor. Photos show the first top official listed.

<sup>(1)</sup> Business Journal estimate

<sup>(2)</sup> Billings for 12 months ended Sept. 30, 2019

<sup>(3)</sup> Billings for 12 months ended June 30, 2019

Researched by Meghan Kiewer