

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 4, 2011

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APWA Awards Accreditation to Palmdale’s Public Works Department

KANSAS CITY, MO. – This week on Thursday, January 7, 2011, the City of Palmdale’s Department of Public Works will be awarded a prestigious American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation. The City of Palmdale agency becomes the seventh to achieve this award in California, along with the cities of Berkeley, Encinitas, Oakland, Thousand Oaks, and the City and County of San Francisco, as well as Contra Costa County. Palmdale is the first city in Los Angeles County to be awarded Accreditation.

“The City of Palmdale is to be congratulated on earning this APWA Accreditation,” said Ann Daniels, Director of Credentialing for APWA. “The staff is to be congratulated as well for their perseverance and dedication to improving their organization. They proved that an agency with the desire can expend the effort to attain the highest level of achievement,” she said.

The APWA Accreditation program recognizes public works agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry. On a daily basis, accredited agencies meet or exceed standards of performance in areas such as solid waste management, street/sewer repair and maintenance, engineering, building maintenance, storm water drainage, traffic safety, environmental services, and vehicle maintenance. “Accredited public works agencies meet objectives that create impetus for organizational self-improvement, offer a voluntary evaluation and educational program, provide motivation to maintain and improve performance, and increase professionalism,” Daniels said.

For Palmdale’s Accreditation award, a team of public works professionals from Arizona, Washington and British Columbia completed a thorough evaluation of operations during their December 6-8, 2010 site visit. “It’s exciting to complete the detailed review of an agency’s policies and procedures, and then recommend them for accreditation,” said Ann Daniels, APWA accreditation director. “The City of Palmdale’s Public Works Department is to be highly commended for their excellent commitment to improving operations to enhance their internal performance, and for assuring their community they meet or exceed national standards.”

“I am very proud of the Public Works staff for their persistence and drive in achieving this APWA Accreditation,” said Palmdale Public Works Director Michael J. Mischel. “All of the public works departmental staff and other city staff helped achieve this important and prestigious award,” he said.

(MORE)

For more information and photos, contact Public Works Accreditation Manager Benjamin Lucha with the City of Palmdale, California at 661-267-5308. For more information about APWA Accreditation, please contact APWA Director of Credentialing, Ann Daniels at adaniels@apwa.net. For APWA media queries, please contact Laura Bynum, APWA Media Relations/Communications Manager at lbynum@apwa.net.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 29,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 64 chapters in North America.

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