



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: Oakland Public Works Agency

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Award-Winning Oakland Public Works! *American Public Works Association Honors Oakland*

Oakland, CA – The Northern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association is celebrating the achievements of employees and projects from public works agencies throughout the Bay Area in its annual event. Awardees in 21 categories chosen by a panel of past presidents and industry leaders are being acknowledged at a luncheon today. Oakland Public Works Agency employees and projects are honored with five awards.

The Oakland Fire Station No.18 was awarded **Project of the Year – Structures \$5-25M** for its excellent collaborative effort between the City, the design consultant and the contractor in a fast-track construction of a new life-safety facility. The reconstruction of Fire Station No.18 provides the community with a new two-story, 9,800 square foot, up-to-date facility that accommodates modern fire safety equipment. The new station is designed to be a community anchor with an accessible and warming presence for the surrounding neighborhood. This fast-track project was implemented using the Construction Manager at-Risk method which involves an extensive collaborative effort between the City, the consultant design team and the contractor. Pending final documentation, the project is also on schedule to achieve LEED Gold certification, which demonstrates its environmental sustainability.

The City of Oakland and the Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District recently completed the **Lion Creek Restoration Project** in Lion Creek Crossings Park near the Oakland Coliseum and honored to receive recognition as the **Project of the Year – Environment \$5M**. Chosen due to its unique design, environmental importance and the successful collaboration of partners, the project created 1.5 acres of new creek and tidal wetland habitat by using innovative design retaining an existing flood control channel for storm flows and diverting everyday flows into the restoration area. The \$3.75 million project improves flood control and water quality, establishes recreation and educational opportunities, creates diverse habitat and has beautified Lion Creek Crossings Park for enjoyment by all.

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The **2011 Award of Merit – Management** is awarded to **Tamala Barnes** in recognition of her high level of customer service. Ms. Barnes is the first face the public sees when they walk into Oakland’s Transportation Services offices and the first voice they hear as the primary public information source for traffic safety complaints, helping to achieve the City’s goal of serving its citizens, businesses and customers. Ms. Barnes was recognized for her special ability to address the issues of customers who are sometimes agitated, upset and very passionate about their particular traffic safety or parking problems. She also serves as the primary administrative support staff for five supervisors, which is normally completed by two full-time staff, and greets and serves dozens of customers daily, graciously, professionally and leaves a positive impression of customer service on the public she assists.

German Gella is recipient of the **Award of Merit – Engineering & Technology**. Mr. Gella has demonstrated outstanding leadership and vision by employing progressive and innovative training techniques to assist staff with their computer skills, increasing their use of the Agency’s computerized work-management system. This enhanced staff performance allows the division to meet its performance goals.

Cookie Robles-Wong is the **Public Works Employee of the Year – Local Chapter** due to her ongoing commitment to engaging the community in the cleanup and beautification of Oakland. Among other events, Cookie plans and coordinates Oakland Earth Day (the City’s largest volunteer event). Her efforts have also resulted in two national awards from Keep America Beautiful – the President’s Circle Award and Best Documented Event for the Great American Cleanup for which 33,000 communities competed – supporting her valued achievements for the greater community.

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