



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
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## News from: Oakland Public Works Agency

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### Recognizing Excellence in the Oakland Public Works Agency

**Oakland, CA** – The City of Oakland Public Works Agency took home several top honors from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Northern California Chapter at its annual award ceremony on March 6, 2013. The Agency was honored with eight of the twenty awards given annually to Association members from more than 70 agencies throughout Northern California. Oakland's awards are the result of many individual as well as collaborative efforts, attesting to excellence throughout the Agency, a goal all of our 700 colleagues contribute to daily.

**Oakland's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Program** was named **Project of the Year** in the \$5M-25M category. In 2012, the City of Oakland's ITS Program completed several major milestones following years of planning and development. State-of-the-art fiber communication lines now connect traffic signals along several key transportation corridors and are tied to the newly-completed Traffic Management Center in the Traffic Engineering offices. The installations also paved the way for remote traffic signal management and maintenance which allows staff to monitor and control traffic in the event of disasters or special events. Oakland's police and fire departments have access to live video feeds, facilitating response in the event of emergencies. The ITS Program is one more way the City of Oakland is embracing technology to better manage its assets.

**Brian Kimball**, in the Engineering Department, was presented with the **Professional Staff of the Year Award for Engineering & Technology**. The award recognizes his outstanding contributions to the development and promotion of digital maps and associated data in the area of public asset planning, improvements and fiscal management. Brian's efforts have opened stakeholder access to a broader range of data. He has been an active participant with the community through Code for America, which is creating public-private partnerships to provide timely and accurate spatial enabled data to all users.

**Professional Staff of the Year Award for the Public Right of Way** was bestowed upon **Kent Mo** in the Department of Infrastructure & Operations. He was honored for his technical prowess and expertise that led him to create, on his own time, a GIS layer for parking meters. This new data layer has greatly improved the City's efficiency in responding to and repairing meters by tracking nearly 4,800 meters to their exact location allowing for more timely and efficient repair and maintenance. His efforts have resulted in an increased number of functional meters, reduced constituent complaints regarding inoperable or defective meters and greater revenue for the City's parking meter program.

**James Garcia** was named **Professional Manager of the Year Award for Fleet.**

Necessitated by budget reductions, James responded positively to a wide variety of client needs when called upon to lead two maintenance shops. Through initiative and leadership, he greatly improved preventive maintenance by establishing predictive replacement of components to reduce the chance for expensive and time consuming repairs. The effectiveness of his efforts was evidenced by compliments, including those from the Oakland Fire Department and other City agencies. His leadership in supporting an alternative fuel fleet and implementing sustainable practices was also a key reason Oakland was named one of the 40 greenest government fleets in North America by the 100 Best Fleets organization.

**Joseph Tanios** was honored with a **Professional Manager of the Year Award** for his strong leadership skills and technical proficiency as a Construction Inspection Supervisor. Joseph manages the Testing Laboratory and works rigorously to ensure its annual accreditation by the California Department of Transportation. Also important, he advances Public Works' goal to be a leader in the community by mentoring and developing staff and interns for advancement in technical fields. He outreaches to high school and college students to provide them with real world experience in the fields of engineering and construction, encouraging future careers. Additionally, he prides himself on being extremely responsive and provides exceptional customer service.

Environmental Services Manager **Susan Kattchee** received the **Professional Manager of the Year Award for Solid Waste.** With over 30 years in the recycling and solid waste field, she has utilized her experience to make Oakland one of the top green cities in the nation. Susan has set – and met – aggressive goals in green house gas reduction and is leading the procurement of a Zero Waste system for 2015. She has served on the National Recycling Coalition Board of Directors and is currently President of the Board for Community Resources for Science. In addition to leading a dedicated and highly productive team, Susan will mentor public works professionals enrolled in the APWA Center for Leadership Excellence as an APWA National Public Works Leadership Fellow.

**Kristine Shaff** was honored with the **Professional Manager of the Year Award for Administration** in recognition of her relentless efforts in ensuring staff compliance with mandated safety expectations. As a result of her multi-tasking efforts, Public Works is successfully creating a safe environment for staff, with insurance claims and on-the-job incidents reduced nearly 45 percent over the past five years. In addition, Kristine was recognized for her lead role in implementing a new cloud-based hosting solution to improve the professional development program by monitoring compliance and promoting employee training. This database is an innovative and critical component to Public Works' continued success and a source of pride.

**About Public Works**

The City of Oakland's Public Works Agency is only the second Californian city and the 35<sup>th</sup> in North America to have achieved the highly regarded APWA Accreditation, which formally recognizes public works organizations for compliance with recommended practices established within the industry. For more information about Public Works, its employees and Oakland infrastructure projects, please visit [oaklandpw.com](http://oaklandpw.com).