



News from: Oakland Public Works Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2014

Recognizing Excellence in the Oakland Public Works Agency

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland Public Works Agency brought home several top honors from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Northern California Chapter at its annual awards ceremony. Oakland Public Works was honored with five 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 our 750 colleagues contribute to daily. Awardees will also be eligible for consideration at the national level.

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The **12th Street Reconstruction Project at Lake Merritt** received the **Transportation Project of the Year Award** (\$25-\$75 million category). This transformative project on the south side of Lake Merritt included replacement of a dam, culverts and twelve-lane “mini-freeway,” with a new six-lane, tree-lined boulevard and free-span bridge that has opened up this area to park users, boaters, pedestrians, bicyclists and wildlife. The project re-opened a section of the Lake Merritt Channel which had been buried by man-made structures since 1869. Restoration of the 100-foot-wide tidal channel included creation of a new tidal marsh and wetland and construction of a new recreational trail. Removing these barriers has increased the tidal flow to and from the Lake by 50 percent, improving water quality in the Lake, the oldest wildlife refuge in the Western United States. Completed June 2013, the project has also won other awards. In January 2014, *Road & Bridges* magazine named the 12th Street Reconstruction as one of its 2013 “Top 10 Roads Award” recipients. It was also named “Environmental Project of the Year” by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Oakland’s **Adopt a Spot** was honored with the **Sustainability Practices Award**. This program supports sustainability through community and environmental stewardship. Volunteers as well as neighborhood groups, civic organizations and businesses “adopt” city locations to clean, green and beautify. Adopt a Spot provides volunteer education and outreach, tool loan, debris collection, technical assistance and project permitting. By supporting community engagement in neighborhood and environmental stewardship, Adopt a Spot builds capacity for a cleaner, healthier, more beautiful, livable and sustainable city – cared for by the collective vision, investment and effort of volunteers, businesses, community groups and government working together.

Yolanda Lopez, Agency Human Resources Manager, was presented with the **Manager of the Year for Administrative Management**. The award recognizes her outstanding personnel management skills. Ms. Lopez possesses the intelligence,

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expertise, knowledge and skills to successfully strategize all phases of her highly complex position. She provides the Agency's managers and supervisors with a solid internal and external structure and continuous support in handling all issues related to recruitments, discipline, payroll, grievances, appraisals and worker's compensation. She is always proactive, alert and dedicated in fulfilling personnel needs. She is unrelenting in her proactive stance to protect the interest of the City and the Agency through her problem solving and communication skills.

Joseph Williams was honored as **Manager of the Year in Public Fleet**. Mr. Williams is Acting Equipment Services Superintendent, responsible for managing all maintenance shops and parts rooms, 50 employees on multiple shifts and more than 1,300 vehicles and pieces of equipment – from fire engines and police cars, to aerial lifts and CNG sedans. He earned his APWA Certified Public Fleet Professional credential in 2013 and his many contributions have been a prime factor in Oakland being selected as one of the “100 Best Fleets in North America.” His leadership has driven the expansion of an alternative-fuel fleet and has increased sustainable shop practices which contributed significantly to the Oakland's Fleet being named one of the “50 Greenest Government Fleets in North America.” He has superb results in navigating his team past obstacles and making their wide array of customers happy – which include the Oakland Police Chief and Mayor!

Professional Staff of the Year in Administrative Management was bestowed upon **Carla Reed** in the Agency's Fiscal Administration Division, honored for her exceptional performance throughout her 27-year work history with the City. Responsible for processing contract payments for construction and professional services, assisting in preparation of grant billings and journal vouchers, she is always eager to share her knowledge and has garnered the highest number of glowing praises from within and from outside the department. Through her sincere dedication, positive attitude and enthusiasm for her work, Ms. Reed stands out as a model public service employee and heartily deserves this award of recognition.

About Public Works The City of Oakland's Public Works Agency is the second Californian city and the 35th 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.

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