

Public Works Honored for Six NACo Awards

The ongoing innovation and ingenuity of Public Works staff has once again earned the Department a slew of national honors.

This time it's the National Association of Counties (NACo), which recently recognized the Department with six coveted NACo awards.

The annual awards honor outstanding excellence and achievement in a number of categories, including resident

services and participation, program administration and cost-effectiveness, employee training, and the promotion of public policymaking and intergovernmental cooperation.

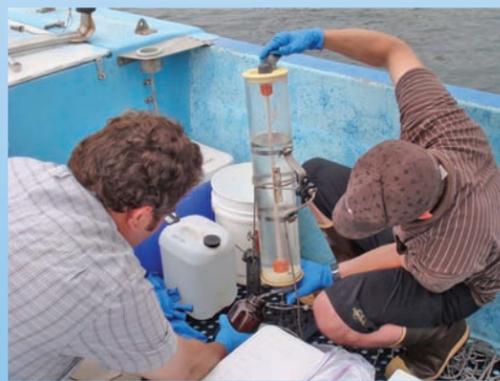
This year's award-winning Public Works honorees cover a range of programs and services. They are:

Marina del Rey Harbor Toxic Pollutants Monitoring Program

Developed by: Watershed Management Division

The Marina del Rey Harbor Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) identifies the County, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the Cities of Culver City and Los Angeles (Cities) as agencies each responsible for conducting a monitoring program in the harbor and meeting the water-quality objectives specified in the TMDL. To address the water-quality objectives specified in the TMDL, the Department, on behalf of the County, Caltrans, and the Cities, developed the Marina del Rey Harbor Toxic Pollutants Monitoring Program. The Program includes harbor dry-weather quality monitoring (water quality, sediment testing, bioaccumulation/fish

tissue testing) and stormwater quality monitoring of the storm drains. The program objectives are to establish the baseline conditions within the Marina del Rey Harbor and characterize the quality of stormwater carried within the storm drain system.



ShakeCast: Earthquake Monitoring and Damage Assessment System

Developed by: Design Division

The Department customized and implemented the U.S. Geological Survey's ShakeCast software to assess post earthquake damages after a seismic event. The ShakeCast system uses ShakeMaps created from sensor data distributed across California to determine ground movements within the seismically affected region. Post earthquake damage reports are sent via web interface, e-mail, SMS, or pager. The ShakeCast program allows the Department to improve efficiency by quickly determining the severity of the damage and providing quick response to the public. Using ShakeCast, inspection teams can quickly mobilize and concentrate on areas that need immediate attention.



The low implementation cost and benefits of this program make it a valuable tool to other counties and agencies.

EIR for Ordinances to Ban Plastic Bags

Developed by: Environmental Programs Division



Up for Grabs... Deputy Director Massood Eftekhari and Supervisor Gloria Molina shown passing out reusable bags at El Super.

Single-use plastic carryout bags have proven to have a significant and disproportionate negative impact on the environment; however, the plastics industry and bag manufacturers have effectively blocked Statewide legislation to address this issue, while systematically challenging local efforts to ban plastic bags under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), arguing that such bans may have unintended negative environmental impacts. In June 2009, the Department set out to overcome this challenge by completing a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to CEQA to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the County and all 88 cities within the County adopting an ordinance to ban plastic carryout bags at certain stores. This provided an opportunity for the cities in Los Angeles County to use this EIR to comply with CEQA, should they adopt an ordinance similar to the County's ordinance, without investing the time and expense of a separate EIR.

Annual Women's Leadership Conference Series

Developed by: Women's Leadership Council

The Annual Women's Leadership Conference Series was borne out of an annual retreat of the Department's Women's Leadership Council. It served as a primary objective of the Council to develop projects and promote leadership opportunities for women. The inaugural event was launched with the Leadership Legacy theme in November 2010 and featured inspirational women in leadership roles in



Full House... The first Annual Woman's Leadership Conference was sold out with over 300 attendees.

all aspects of life. The results were overwhelming and exceeded the conference committee's expectations. The all-day Conference reached a large number of people not only within Public Works but within other County departments. Funding was entirely based on sponsorship resulting in a nominal fee to attendees.

Report a Violation

Developed by: Building & Safety Division and Information Technology Division

The Report a Violation (RAV) is a web-based application (<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/bsd/rav/>) for constituents to report suspected property code violations. RAV uses Geographic Information System (GIS) data to determine whether the property with the suspected violations is within Public Works' jurisdiction or another city.

LACo Surveyor Program

Developed by: Land Development Division and Information Technology Division

The Los Angeles County Surveyor Program provides an innovative and timely delivery of survey and map information to the public. Immediate notification of Tract and Parcel Map Recordations is now available to constituents and land developers via Twitter. The centralized website aggregates data from various systems and utilizes .NET, GIS, ESRI, Google maps, and Document Management technologies.