

2026 Project of the Year and Individual Awards Program

PROJECT OF THE YEAR Nomination Checklist

(please gather the following info before using the Google Form)

- » Project name and completion date (completion between February 1, 2024 and March 13, 2026)
- » Project Category:
 - Structures
 - Transportation
 - Environment
 - Utilities
 - Parks
 - Sustainable/Green
 - Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair
 - Historical Restoration/Preservation
- » Project Division:
 - Less than \$2M
 - \$2-5M
 - \$6-25M
 - \$26-\$75M
 - More than \$75M
- » Managing Agency Contact Information (agency name, contact name/title, address, email)
- » Nominator Contact Information (agency/firm name, contact name/title, email)
- » Contact Information (agency/firm name, contact name/title, address, email) for the consultant/contractor team:
 - Primary Design Consultant
 - Primary Contractor
 - Civil Engineer
 - Construction Manager
 - Architect
 - Landscape Architect
 - Structural Engineer
 - Electrical/Mechanical Engineer
 - Geotechnical Engineer
 - Additional Consultants
- » Supporting Documentation
- » Project Images - 5 high resolution jpgs

QUESTIONS

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APWA San Diego and Imperial Counties is pleased to announce that nominations will be accepted until **Friday, March 13, 2026 at 5:00 pm** for the annual **Project of the Year** and **Individual Awards**.

Nominations and supporting documentation will be submitted using Google Forms. Project images to be emailed to the awards committee.

Project of the Year Nomination Form [HERE](#)

Individual Award Nomination Form [HERE](#)

The **Public Works Project of the Year Award** was established to promote excellence in Public Works Projects by recognizing the partnership between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer team, and the contractor, who all work together to successfully complete Public Works Projects.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION | Project of the Year Nominations

Address each of the following areas in your supporting documentation submitted via Google Forms. **Please limit the response to each criterion to 100 words or less - failure to comply with the word count could cause disqualification of the nomination.**

1. Use of good construction management techniques and completion of the project on schedule.
2. Safety performance and demonstrated awareness of the need for a good overall safety program for workers and the public during and after construction, where applicable.
3. Community relations as evidenced by efforts to minimize public inconvenience due to construction, safety precautions to protect public lives and property, provision of observation areas, guided tours, or other means of improving relations between agency and the public.
4. Demonstrated awareness for the need to protect the environment. This includes any special considerations given to particular environmental concerns raised during the course of the project, as well as climate change and/or resiliency components for long-term community benefit.
5. Unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions including, but not limited to age or condition of the facility, adverse weather, soil or other site conditions over which there is no control.
6. Additional conditions deemed of importance to the public works agency, such as exceptional efforts to maintain quality control and, if value engineering is used, construction innovations as evidenced by time and/or money saving techniques developed and/or successfully utilized.
7. Use of alternative materials, practices or funding that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability, climate change resiliency, and/or use of sustainable infrastructure rating system or the equivalent.
8. Provide a separate award citation for the Awards Programs (maximum 50 words).

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE

Friday, March 13, 2026 | 5:00 PM

- You do not need a Google (Gmail) account to complete the nomination form and supporting documentation online
- Email the individual project images (JPG) to awards@apwa-sd.net

2026 Individual Awards Program | Nomination Criteria

INDIVIDUAL AWARD Nomination Checklist

(please gather the following info before using the Google Form)

- » One form per nomination. Self nominations only accept for the Communicator Award.
- » Nominee Contact Information (contact name/title, agency/firm name, address, email)
- » Nomination Category
- » Nominator Contact Information (agency/firm name, contact name/ title, email)
- » Supporting Documentation
 - Summary of why the nominee is deserving of the award (400 words or less)
 - Separate Award Citation for the Awards Program (maximum of 50 words)
- » Image of the Nominee - one high resolution jpg

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE

Friday, March 13, 2026 | 5:00 PM

GOOGLE FORM LINK [HERE](#)

IMAGES (JPG)

Email to: awards@apwa-sd.net

OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN A PUBLIC AGENCY

- Public agency individual who inspires excellence and dedication in public service through outstanding career service achievements;
- Focus of award is on career service to the public works profession rather than on any event or project; and
- Nominee must be a Chapter member.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- Private sector individual who inspires excellence and dedication in public service through outstanding career service achievements;
- Focus of award is on career service to the public works profession rather than on any event or project; and
- Nominee must be a Chapter member.

CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

- Use of good construction management techniques and timely completion of project;
- Demonstrated awareness of safety throughout the construction of the project;
- Community relations as evidenced by efforts to minimize public inconvenience during construction, safety precautions to protect the public, provision of observation areas, guided tours, etc.;
- Environmental protection during the project;
- Unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions such as age or condition of the facility, adverse weather, soil, etc.;
- Exceptional efforts to maintain quality control, value engineering, cost control, etc; and
- Nominee does not have to be a Chapter member.

YOUNG LEADER AWARD

- Candidates must be active members of APWA and not exceed 35 years of age as of the award nomination deadline;
- Contributed in some significant manner to his/her agency or company by implementing new ideas, overcoming problems, controlling costs, etc.;
- Helped advance the cause of the public works profession either with leadership commitments to significant community project or as an advocate for public works issues at the legislative level in local, state, or federal governments; and
- Demonstrated an ongoing commitment to continuing education in the public works field, i.e. related educational degrees, attendance at workshops, etc.

AWARD/CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

- An individual who provided outstanding service in a clerical, entry level, operational or a supervisory position;
- One recipient per public agency/company; and
- Nominee does not have to be a Chapter member.

COMMUNICATOR AWARD

- An individual or team who fosters and supports the development of innovative, effective and equitable public outreach, media and marketing strategies, and communication plans and programs for integrating public affairs and community engagement strategies into public works projects;
- Exceptional efforts demonstrating skills and commitment to overcome challenges and integrate communications and public affairs as a core element of public works strategies;
- Documentation of efforts to assess best practices for outreach, plan outreach activities, and evaluate program effectiveness (discuss budgets, dates, partners, etc.);
- Demonstrated commitment to incorporating communication strategies in daily management and operations, including skills transfer and mentorship; and
- Nominee does not have to be a Chapter member.
- In addition to an individual or team photo, submit up to 5 images of effective communication tools/strategies.

STUDENT AWARD

- Candidates must be a current student at a local university or community college;
- Contributed as a team member to a local public works project within the past year;
- Demonstrated an understanding of public works; and
- Nominee does not have to be a Chapter member.

OUTSTANDING OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL AWARD

- An individual or group of operations and or maintenance staff who have developed or implemented an exemplary process or system improvement that greatly enhanced the safety of the process, the cost effectiveness of services, or public interactions.
- Innovation of new procedures or tools that have improved performance and safety of personnel.
- Protection of the public, exemplary service during emergency responses, or challenging situations can also be considered.
- Nominee's agency needs to have at least one Chapter member, but the nominee does not need to be a Chapter member.

PUBLIC WORKS ADVOCATE

- An individual who celebrated or promoted an understanding and appreciation for public works;
- Individual cannot promote a manufacturer, product, or person;
- Nominee does not have to be a Chapter member.