

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2006 OCT -17 PM 2:38

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Public Works Agency
DATE: October 17, 2006

RE: **Ceremonial Presentation To The Public Works Agency For Achieving National Accreditation By The American Public Works Association on August 15, 2006**

SUMMARY

On July 16 – 19, 2006, the American Public Works Association (APWA) reviewed the Public Works Agency (PWA) for national accreditation. After a tour of the City of Oakland and PWA facilities, as well as a full review of its adherence to and compliance with best practices in the realm of public works organizations, Oakland's PWA was awarded full accreditation status on August 15, 2006 by the APWA. PWA became the 35th organization in the United States, the second municipality, and the third government organization in the state of California to receive this honor.

The APWA Accreditation Program formally verifies and recognizes public works organizations throughout the nation for compliance with recommended practices established within the public works industry as set forth in the *Public Works Management Practices Manual*. The objectives of the program include:

- creating impetus for organization self improvement and stimulating the general raising of standards;
- offering a voluntary evaluation and education program rather than government regulated activity;
- recognizing good performance and providing motivation to maintain and improve performance;
- improving public works performance and the provision of services;
- increasing professionalism; and
- instilling pride among agency staff, elected officials and the local community.

The accreditation achievement acknowledges PWA's compliance with an internationally recognized body of management practices, and its commitment to making continuous improvement.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report and does not include any fiscal impacts.

Item: _____
Public Works Committee
October 17, 2006

BACKGROUND

APWA is an international, professional, and educational organization of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services. Headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, APWA provides a forum where public works professionals can improve professional competency, increase and improve performance, and bring important public works-related topics to public attention in local, state, and federal arenas.

APWA developed an accreditation program in 1996 to enhance the effectiveness of public works organizations and competencies in the public works realm. Through its *Public Works Management Practices Manual*, the procedures covered were organized into 33 chapters, of which PWA was responsible for completing 29. The other four chapters pertained to practices that are not applicable to Oakland PWA such as snow removal and ice control.

PWA was required to comply with three hundred ninety-five (395) procedures as core competencies in order to demonstrate itself as an effective public works organization. These competencies were ranked as follows: Fully Compliant (FC), Substantially Compliant (SC), Partial Compliant (PC), Non Compliant (NC), or Waived (W) [only FC, SC, and W ratings are considered passing]. PWA passed its accreditation review with an overall ranking of 97% Fully Compliant, and no Partial or Non Compliant items.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The APWA accreditation process is voluntary. No local, state, or federal mandates require PWA (or any other public works organization) to seek accreditation. Agencies that seek accreditation are only required to comply with organizational practices that specifically apply to their service area and needs. Waivers are granted for practices that cannot be met due to legislation, labor agreements, court orders, and/or case law.

APWA accreditation provides a systematic approach for objective assessment of PWA by an independent entity. Accreditation also provides a visible indication that the agency complies with the recommended practices established by the APWA, as published in its *Public Works Management Practices Manual*.

The benefits of conducting this self-assessment and achieving accreditation include:

- Formal recognition of being a well run agency;
- Mechanism to evaluate the organization;
- Target for improving operations;
- Public recognition of public works function;
- Instilling pride in personnel;
- Reducing liability;

- Lowering insurance premiums;
- Raising Oakland's public works profile nationally;
- Enhancing personnel recruitment;
- Encouraging documentation of policies;
- Encouraging improvement of procedures;
- Raising competencies in public works;
- Establishing consistent, comprehensive practices;
- Fostering interaction among personnel; and
- Encouraging employee involvement.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PWA conducted a self-assessment based on 29 chapters from the APWA *Public Works Management Practices Manual* as it applies to services provided in the City of Oakland. In doing so, PWA conducted a full internal evaluation of its policies, practices, and procedures for areas of strength and areas needing improvement. Utilizing the guidelines and forms as provided by the APWA, PWA has fully documented the services it provides to both internal and external customers in Oakland.

APWA came to Oakland to conduct a full review of the services and procedures as identified by PWA, and to ensure that PWA's self-assessment is unbiased and that PWA is in compliance with the recommended practices. This review took place beginning Sunday, July 16 and concluded Wednesday, July 19, 2006. PWA achieved full APWA accreditation upon conclusion of the review process effective August 15, 2006.

The City of Oakland, Public Works Agency is the second city and third government entity to be granted accreditation in the State of California, and the 35th throughout the United States.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

This report does not directly impact economic, environmental or equity issues.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

This report does not directly impact disability or senior citizen access.

RECOMMENDATION AND ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that the City Council accept this report.

Respectfully submitted,



RAUL GODINEZ II

Director, Public Works Agency

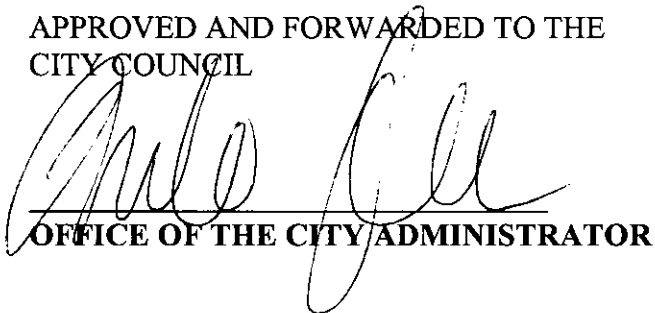
Reviewed by:

Stephanie Hom, Agency Administrator

Prepared by:

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Department of Facilities and Environment

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR