

APWA is honored to recognize the outstanding individuals, teams and projects representing the best in the public works profession.

The following are Award categories that the Northern California Chapter is recognizing in the 2027 Chapter Project Awards Program. To be considered for Award in any of the categories and divisions noted in #1 through #4 below and on the following pages, a nomination form and substantiating information as described on each nomination form must be turned in by the nomination deadline of **11pm PST on December 31, 2026**. The subject nomination must meet criteria and eligibility requirements per nomination category and be located within the geographic footprint of the APWA NorCal Chapter (Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, and San Francisco counties).

The Project of the Year Award at the end of this overview is selected by the Evaluation Committee based on the top scoring evaluation within the nominations for 2027 Public Works Project Awards and 2024 Project Awards for Small Cities/Rural Communities. There is no nomination form for the Project of the Year Award.

1 | 2027 Public Works Project Awards

Purpose

The purpose of this Award is to promote in the management, administration, and implementation of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor who work together to complete public works projects.

Eligibility*

Public works projects must be developed, owned, and maintained by public agencies.

To be eligible for nomination, a project must have been “substantially completed” and available for public and/or agency use within two calendar years prior to Dec. 31, 2026 (*between 12/31/2024 to 12/31/2026*). If a project has multiple phases or segments, then “substantially completed” will be construed as that point when the final phase or segment is 90% completed and available for public and/or agency use.

The nominated project must not have won in any category in the previous year(s) NorCal Project Awards’ competition. *Simultaneous nomination of the same project in more than one category in the current year’s competition is not permitted.* Only ONE project may be submitted per form.

Four Cost Divisions

1. Projects less than \$5 million
2. Projects of \$5 million, but less than \$25 million
3. Projects of \$25 million, but less than \$75 million
4. Projects more than \$75 million

Five Categories

1. **Structures** to include new public structures or the preservation or rehabilitation of existing public structures, including municipal buildings and parks. Other structures as defined in the Historic Restoration/Preservation and Transportation categories shall not be considered in the Structures category.
2. **Transportation** to include roads, bridges, mass transit that serve any or all modes of travel, including bicycles and foot traffic. Other transportation projects as defined in the Historical Restoration/Preservation and Structures categories shall not be considered in the Transportation category.
3. **Environment** to include treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation projects, and sewer projects.
4. **Historical Restoration/Preservation** to include historical restoration, preservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings and structures and facilities that are 75 years or older.
5. **Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair** to include the techniques and timing for safety, community relations, environmental protection, adverse conditions, and additional considerations.

2 | Project Awards for Small Cities/Rural Communities

Purpose

The purpose of this Award is to promote excellence in demonstrating creativity, ingenuity, and efficiency in the delivery of public works projects that have a profound impact on the community recognizing that smaller agencies face a set of unique challenges.

Eligibility*

The Awards are given to applaud positive impacts in the community as compared to dollar amount, thus there are no \$ divisions to the Project Awards for Small Cities/Rural Communities category. The Awards were established to promote excellence for Cities or Counties that have a population of 75,000 or less. In addition, the respective Agency has demonstrated creativity, ingenuity, and efficiency in the delivery of public works projects that have a profound impact on the community. Public works projects must be developed, owned, and maintained by public agencies. A project must have been “substantially completed” and available for public and/or agency use *within two calendar years prior to Dec. 31, 2026*. If a project has multiple phases or segments, then “substantially completed” will be construed as that point when the final phase or segment is 90% completed and available for public and/or agency use. A project may be nominated a maximum of one time in any category. Only ONE project may be submitted per form.

Five Categories:

1. **Structures** to include new public structures or the preservation/or rehabilitation of existing public structures including municipal buildings and parks. Other structures as defined in the

Historic Restoration/Preservation and Transportation categories shall not be considered in the structures category.

2. **Transportation** to include roads, bridges, mass transit that serve any or all modes of travel including bicycles and foot traffic. Other transportation projects as defined in the Historical Restoration/Preservation and Structures categories shall not be considered in the Transportation category.
3. **Environment** to include treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation projects, and sewer projects.
4. **Historical Restoration/Preservation** to include historical restoration, preservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings, structures, and facilities that are 75 years or older.
5. **Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair** to include the techniques and timing for safety, community relations, environmental protection, adverse conditions, and additional considerations.

3 | Contractor of the Year Award

Purpose

The purpose of this Award is to promote excellence in the construction of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency and the contractor who, working together, complete public works projects. The contractors nominated for this Award must show the firm's connection to public works projects.

Eligibility*

Previous recipients of this Award are not eligible for future consideration for three years after receipt of the Award. Only ONE contractor may be submitted per form.

4 | Exceptional Performance Award / Sustainability Practices Award

This Award's intent is to recognize individuals, teams or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to promote sustainability in public works. Sustainability is accomplished by the efficient delivery of infrastructure in an environmentally and socially responsible way that ensures the best choices in the long term.

Eligibility*

Up to two Awards may be presented annually in the following categories (one possible from each category): 1) Individual or 2) Program/Organization or Agency.

Nominations may come from federal, state or local government; educational institutions; nonprofit institutions; and private sector organizations. Members of the APWA Board of Directors are not eligible during the time they serve on the Board. APWA members who serve on the Center for Sustainability are not eligible during the time they serve in this capacity.

Previous recipients of this Award are not eligible for future consideration for three years after the receipt of the Award. Only ONE individual, team or organization may be submitted per form.

***** 2027 PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD *****

Projects cannot be nominated directly for this Award. The APWA Public Works Project of the Year Award was established to promote excellence in the management, administration, and implementation of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor working together to complete public works projects.

Eligibility*

The chapter's Project Awards Evaluation Committee will make the determination of which project will receive this Award. The recipient will be chosen from one of the Award winners of the 2025 Public Works Project Awards or 2025 Project Awards for Small Cities/Rural Communities. Only one Project of the Year Award will be issued. The project must not have won in the previous year(s) APWA Chapter or National Project Awards' competition(s).

Nomination Deadline

The deadline for submitting nomination forms and supporting documentation is **11pm PST on December 31, 2026**.

Nomination Process:

Nominations of projects are to be put forth by the managing public agency or APWA chapter unless otherwise noted. Membership to APWA or the NorCal chapter is not required to participate in the competition. Where applicable, eligibility and criteria for the APWA NorCal chapter Project Awards competition are based on the APWA National Project Awards competition eligibility and criteria.

Simultaneous nomination of the same project for two or more awards is not permitted. Nominations not chosen in a specific year for the Public Works Project of the Year Award or the Public Works Project of the Year – Small Cities/Rural Communities Award cannot be resubmitted in a subsequent year in the same category nor be submitted in another category in the current year's competition. A project that won in a previous year cannot win again in the current year's competition regardless of category.

For additional information on project eligibility, criteria, etc., please refer to the 2026 Project Awards nomination documents found on the APWA NorCal website.

Nomination Submittal Instructions

1. Nominations for all Awards are accepted via electronic format only. Please be sure the completed nomination forms and supporting documentation are submitted in PDF format using the naming convention provided on each nomination form. The nomination forms are being distributed in Word format to make it easier for you to address the information requested, add graphics, etc. – please do not change, alter, nor modify the information that is being requested on the nomination forms. Failure to follow the format and directions may result in points being deducted during evaluation and scoring.

2. Forms and supporting documentation should be *completed in 10-point* or larger font per the instructions. Handwritten forms and handwritten documentation will not be considered.
3. Incomplete nomination forms, incomplete supporting documentation, and/or failure to follow directions may lose points during the evaluation process.
4. Please adhere to the page limits as noted within each nomination form. Submittals should include the nomination form and supporting documentation.
5. Please include two high resolution color photographs per entry for APWA promotional purposes. These must be submitted as a separate file but sent in the same email as your completed nomination form/supporting documentation submittal. Failure to provide photographs will not disqualify your entry into the competition.
6. Nominations must be saved in PDF format and uploaded to the Chapter Administrator at https://www.dropbox.com/2027_NorCal_Project_Nomination per the instructions contained within each nomination form.

The Agency putting forth the nomination does not have to be a member of APWA National nor the NorCal Chapter in order to nominate or win a local or national level award. National Award winners will be presented with an additional Award at the 2027 APWA PWX (Public Works Expo). The Contractor of the Year Award is the only exception because it is a local Chapter level Award.

For more information on APWA NorCal membership, please contact us at:
chapteradmin@northernca.apwa.org

Project Awards Luncheon

The APWA NorCal Project Awards luncheon is a celebration of all the nominations submitted for consideration of an Award. All award nominees and winners will be recognized at the February 2027 APWA NorCal Chapter Awards luncheon, date and location TBD. **Award winners will only be announced at the event and no earlier.** Winners may also be featured in APWA publications and on the Chapter / national web sites.

A designated representative of the award-winning nomination will be presented with one beautiful crystal trophy. Additional trophies will be available for purchase from the Chapter during a limited time period following the event.

If you have any questions prior to the submittal deadline, please contact the Chapter Administrator Nicole Witt at chapteradmin@northernca.apwa.org

Eligibility* Visit the NorCal Chapter website <http://northernca.apwa.org> for nomination forms which detail the criteria, eligibility, and supporting documentation requirements.