



NEWS *from the APWA Southern California Chapter*

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CITIES ACROSS SOUTHLAND TO OBSERVE PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

LOS ANGELES (May 11, 2006) – The Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association encourages all Southland residents to contact their local municipality’s Public Works Department and support National Public Works Week, NPWW, this year observed May 21-27. “It is a celebration of the people throughout North America who provide and maintain infrastructure services in our cities,” said Harvey Gobas, president of the Chapter, which covers Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernadino Counties with branches in the Inland Empire, Coachella Valley and the High Desert.

“Public Works: The Heart of Every Community,” is the 2006 theme. Now in its 46th year, NPWW celebrates the hard work and dedication of public works professionals and calls attention to the importance of public works in local community life. “It seeks to enhance the prestige of the often–unsung heroes of society–professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication,” observes Gobas. “It also aims to raise the public’s awareness of public works issues and to increase confidence in public works employees who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for present and future generations.”

Public Works professionals build streets, install sewers, and construct storm drains, public buildings and service facilities, and provide many other vital services from which the public benefits each day. “They design and execute public projects from sidewalks and bridges to wastewater treatment plants and libraries and administer contracts and permits for construction and public improvement projects,” observes Gobas. “They also collect refuse and green waste, oversee recycling programs, maintain and repair sewers and storm drains and operate wastewater collection and treatment facilities.”

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“They also are responsible for streetlight repairs, roadway maintenance, repair and improvement of public streets and alleys, public street cleaning, public tree trimming, planting, maintenance and landscaping of median islands,” Gobas added.

Usually observed each year during the third full week of May, NPWW is marked with resolutions and proclamations from mayors and governors, as well. Special highlights have included a United States Senate resolution affirming the first National Public Works Week in 1960, letters of acknowledgment from Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson, and a Presidential Proclamation signed by John F. Kennedy in 1962.

Throughout the week, Public Works agencies and professionals will conduct special outreach projects in Southland communities, notes Gobas. “Over the years the observances have taken many forms, including parades, displays of public works equipment, high school essay contests, open houses, programs for civic organizations and media events,” he said. “These activities are designed to stress the importance of public works in our communities, the efforts that public works professionals place in our communities for a better quality of life, and benefits they provide to each citizen.”

For more information about National Public Works Week and local observances, contact Harvey Gobas, (714) 481-7992, Maureen J. Lull, APWA Southern California Chapter Administrator, at (310) 545-9179, or Richard E. Lee, Chapter Public Relations Chair, at (213) 978-0324. Visit the APWA Southern California Chapter website at: <http://southernca.apwa.net/>. Send email inquiries to: socalapwa@verizon.net.

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