

FIRST IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - CITY OF ENCINITAS PUBLIC WORKS/ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

On June 24, 2010, the City of Encinitas Public Works and Engineering Services Departments received accreditation following a comprehensive evaluation by the [American Public Works Association \(APWA\)](#), an international educational and professional association of public agencies. The accreditation program's purpose is to objectively evaluate, verify and recognize compliance with the recommended management practices. A four-member APWA peer evaluation team spent three days reviewing the Departments' policies and procedures before recommending full accreditation.

The City is the 59th agency in the country and the first in Southern California to receive this prestigious recognition. Obtaining accreditation strengthens the agency while recognizing its dedication to the continuous improvement of management practices. The City must continue to be evaluated every four years to maintain accredited status.

The City began the APWA accreditation process in 2008 with full support from City Council. "This exercise was very comprehensive and required us to conduct a detailed self assessment. We compared our practices and procedures for everything we do against nationally developed best practices," said Public Works Director Larry Watt. "Going through this process proved very valuable. We identified numerous ways to streamline our operations and improve our service delivery to our residents."

"This is an outstanding achievement and demonstrates to our residents that we are committed to the process of improvement to better serve our community," said Mayor Dan Dalager. "The design, operation and maintenance of our infrastructure is one of the Council's highest priorities."