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**Houston’s Department of Public Works and Engineering
Receives Prestigious APWA Accreditation**

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Houston’s Department of Public Works and Engineering was recently awarded the prestigious American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation. The APWA Accreditation program recognizes governmental agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry. Houston’s Department of Public Works and Engineering is the 84th agency in North America to achieve Accreditation. They will receive the Accreditation award at a presentation ceremony on Tuesday, July 30th at 1:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, 901 Bagby, Houston, TX.

On a daily basis, accredited agencies meet or exceed standards of performance in such areas as street and bridge repair and maintenance, traffic operations, engineering and construction services, utility operations, building code enforcement and vehicle and heavy equipment maintenance. Houston’s Accreditation award indicates that they are maintaining Accreditation documentation and practices, and that the Department of Public Works and Engineering and staff have dedicated themselves to concepts of continuous improvement and in-depth self-assessment of department policies, procedures and practices. “The public works staff of 3900 members has a high level of dedication and service to our mission, while providing many of the basic services that affect the daily lives of everyone who lives and works in Houston,” said Director of Public Works and Engineering, Daniel W. Krueger, P.E.

The City of Houston’s Department of Public Works and Engineering is responsible for many of the services that touch the lives of visitors and residents alike on a daily basis: water production and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, streets and bridges, storm water drainage, traffic controls, new and replacement infrastructure and development services. “We are proud of the level of services available,” Krueger said. “The Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for residents by being one of the national leaders of quality public works services,” he added.

In addition, Houston’s Department of Public Works and Engineering has responsibility for the production and distribution of over 146 billion gallons of water per year and the treatment of over 90 billion gallons per year of wastewater. It also includes the maintenance of approximately 16,000 lane miles of city streets, 60,000 stormwater manholes, 100,000 stormwater inlets, 900,000 street name and traffic control signs, 17,000 freeway and under bridge and light fixtures, 50,000 fire hydrants and traffic signals at 2,000 intersections.

For Houston’s Public Works and Engineering Accreditation review, a team of public works professionals from Bend, OR.; Prince William County, VA.; Peoria, AZ.; and Kansas City, MO., completed a thorough evaluation of operations during their June, 2013 site visit. “It’s great that Houston’s Department of Public Works and Engineering has completed their Accreditation assessment successfully, and I commend their service commitment to detailed review of policies and procedures to qualify,” said APWA Credentialing Director Ann Daniels.

For more information about Houston’s Department of Public Works and Engineering, contact Alvin Wright, Public Information Officer, at Alvin.Wright@houstontx.gov.

For more information about APWA Accreditation, please contact APWA Director of Credentialing, Ann Daniels at adaniels@apwa.net. For APWA media queries, please contact Laura Bynum, APWA Media Relations and Communications Manager, at lbynum@apwa.net.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 28,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.

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