



- Action
- Information
- Discussion

DATE: January 16, 2020

TO: Environmental Services Commission

FROM: Linda De Boldt, Engineering Division, Assistant Director

SUBJECT: American Public Works Association Accreditation

Action Required at this Time:

No action is required; this is an informational briefing on the Utilities and Transportation Departments' industry accreditation from the American Public Works Association (APWA).

Fiscal Impact:

The direct cost of the Accreditation process with APWA was \$8,750.

Background:

In 2019, the Utilities Department, in concert with Transportation Department, completed a major initiative - preparing for and stepping through an accreditation process with the American Public Works Association (APWA). The APWA Accreditation process occurs every four years and receiving accreditation recognizes our agency for leadership in public works, compliance with industry standard policies, procedures and practices, and dedication to continuous improvement.

Benefits of the APWA Accreditation process include:

- Provides an independent peer review of our departmental practices from a national public works organization
- Provides an opportunity to learn about best practices from other agencies and to implement improvements in our practices for greater efficiency and effectiveness
- Provides the ability to communicate to our customers about receiving national accreditation



MEMORANDUM

We are pleased to report that the Utilities and Transportation Departments were found to be 100% “fully compliant” with the 141 public works practices that APWA evaluated. Additionally, four of the City's practices were recommended as model practices for other APWA members across the country to use. These are:

1. Bellevue's Citywide Annual Report
2. Universal Design Handbook & Translation at Public Meetings.
3. Utilities Emergency Management Plan
4. Transportation Residential Traffic Guidebook.

Bellevue Utilities was the first agency accredited in Washington State; this marks the fifth accreditation for our Department; this will take us through 20-years of being an APWA accredited program.