



DATE: February 3, 2020

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

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Transportation Department

Nav Otal, Director, 452-2041
Utilities Department

SUBJECT: American Public Works Association (APWA) Re-Accreditation

Staff will update Council on the results of the self-assessment of current business and operational practices in the Transportation and Utilities Departments as part of the American Public Works Association (APWA) Re-Accreditation process. APWA requires organizations seeking re-accreditation to share the results with their elected governing body.

Background

The APWA Accreditation Program is a voluntary program designed to formally verify and recognize public works agencies for compliance with internationally recognized best practices. The Transportation Department was accredited in 2007 and re-accredited in 2011 and 2015. The Utilities Department was first accredited in 2004 and re-accredited in 2007 as well as 2011 and 2015. Both departments were found to be 100 percent fully compliant with all 419 applicable best practices in 2015. Once an agency becomes accredited, it must go through a re-accreditation process every four years to maintain accredited status.

Current Efforts

Pursuing APWA Re-Accreditation requires demonstrating compliance with every applicable practice across each business line. Both Transportation and Utilities are required to proceed through several phases to maintain accredited status:

- Self-Assessment Phase – Extensive self-audit of 398 business and operational practices (February 2019 - August 2019)
- Improvement Phase – Refinement and improvements to policies, practices, and procedures identified during assessment (September 2019 – October 2019)
- Evaluation Phase – Peer review by a team of evaluators from APWA of Transportation and Utilities' practices (November 6-8, 2019)
- Accreditation Phase – Approval for Re-Accreditation by APWA's governing Board of Directors (November 28, 2019)

The Self-Assessment, Improvement, and Evaluation phases have been completed. The results of this extensive self-audit of our business and operational practices, summarized in the attached report, are extremely positive. Overall, both departments remain 100 percent fully compliant with national "best practices" for public works agencies, four of which were identified as model practices. Model practices are practices that will be used as examples for other public works agencies seeking [re-]accreditation.

Attachments:

- 1) 2019 Site Visit Evaluation Results