

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**Media Contact:** Luc Hatlestad

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Centennial, CO – April 7, 2022 – Arapahoe County Public Works and Development has recently received full accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the second time. This accreditation formally verifies and recognizes the agency is in full compliance with the recommended management practices set forth in APWA's *Public Works Management Practices Manual*.

Open to all governmental agencies with responsibilities for public works functions, initial accreditation from APWA is for a four-year period, during which time semi-annual updates are required to demonstrate continuing compliance. After that time, there is a re-accreditation process, which builds on the original accreditation. This encourages continuous improvement and compliance with newly identified practices.

The purpose of accreditation is to promote excellence in the operation and management of a public works agency, its programs and employees. Accreditation is designed to assist the agency in continuous improvement of operations and management, and in providing a valid and objective evaluation of agency programs as a service to the public and the profession.

"The awarding of the APWA accreditation reflects the dedication and commitment from all the staff towards continued improvement and excellence," said Public Works and Development Director Bryan Weimer. "We are extremely proud to receive this honor. The heroes of this prestigious APWA award are the public works and development staff whose mission is to provide services and programs that contribute to the quality of life that makes Arapahoe County a great place to live and work. All staff are recognized with this designation, as it acknowledges the great services each and every one of them perform on a daily basis for our residents, businesses and customers."

APWA's accreditation process includes five major steps:

- **Self-Assessment:** Using the Public Works Management Practices Manual, an internal review of an agency's practices combined with a comparison of the recommended practices contained in the manual;
- **Application:** Once the decision has been made to commit to the Accreditation Program, the agency submits a formal application;
- **Improvement:** After the agency has completed the self-assessment and identified areas needing improvement, the agency will work to bring all practices into an acceptable level of compliance with the recommended practices;



- **Evaluation:** Following the completion of the improvement phase, the agency will request a site visit. The site visit will consist of a review and evaluation of the agency to determine the level of compliance with all applicable practices.
- **Accreditation:** The Accreditation Council will review the site visit results and recommendation from the team, voting to award or deny accreditation.

Formally awarded the prestigious accreditation by APWA's Accreditation Council for a second time, Arapahoe County Public Works and Development was awarded its first designation in 2018. There are currently 172 agencies accredited across North America and Canada. In Colorado, there are ten accredited agencies including Arapahoe County. These agencies are Arvada (Public Works and Utilities), Aurora, Castle Rock, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Greeley, Golden and Lafayette.

For more information about APWA Accreditation, please contact APWA Accreditation Manager, Tracy Holland - tholland@apwa.net - or 816-595-5294.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 30,000 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, Mo., has an office in Washington, D.C., and 63 chapters in North America.