



City of Golden Council Memorandum

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Dan Hartman, Public Works Director

Through: Michael C. Bestor, City Manager

Date: June 4, 2012

Subject: Second Re-accreditation of Golden Public Works Department by the American Public Works Association

Background

The City's Public Works Department is a member of the American Public Works Association (APWA), a 29,000-member international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services. Originally chartered in 1937, the APWA embarked on a voluntary accreditation program in 1997 to foster continuous improvement in the public works profession.

As of this writing, there are 82 accredited Public Works agencies in the U.S. and Canada, and only three in Colorado—the cities of Golden, Greeley and Aurora. The accredited agencies range in size from a few cities about the size of Golden, to the City of San Francisco, City of Tucson, and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Discussion

Golden's Public Works Department was **first accredited in March 2004**, and was the 13th Public Works agency in North America to achieve this distinction. This accreditation involved an on-site review of the Department's management practices against 462 public works management practices established by APWA. The on-site audit was conducted over a four-day period by four public works professionals from across the nation (Iowa, Colorado, Florida, and California).

The APWA accreditation program includes a re-accreditation process every four years. Golden Public Works was **re-accredited in May 2008**, after another multi-day on-site audit by public works professionals from Virginia, Washington, and Oregon. As part of the re-accreditation, the auditors determined that Golden's Public Works Department was in compliance with all of the applicable management practices established by APWA.

Four more years have gone by, and your Public Works Department stands ready to be re-accredited once again. The auditors will be in town in mid-July, to review our management practices against those in the 7th edition of APWA's Management Practices Manual. Out of the total of 593 management practices in the 7th edition, 489 practices are applicable to us.

The Bottom Line

Staff has reviewed all of our management practices and has determined that the Public Works Department is fully compliant with all 489 applicable practices established by APWA. We are confident that Public Works will be re-accredited shortly after the on-site review.

What does APWA accreditation mean to City Council and to residents of the City of Golden?

- Accreditation means your Public Works Department is one of the premier, best-managed, professional Public Works Departments in North America.
- Accreditation means your Public Works Department's management practices and policies have been tested against nationally-established practices through an independent review by public works professionals from across the nation.
- Accreditation means you and the residents of Golden can feel confident that your Public Works Department is committed to continuous improvement in providing responsible stewardship of the City's infrastructure.
- Accreditation means Golden's Public Works Department is providing services in the most efficient manner possible, ensuring its citizens good value for their dollar.
- Accreditation means that complying with the best available, nationally-recognized management practices provides protection against spurious law suits by unscrupulous attorneys.
- Finally, accreditation means that compliance with the established management practices ensures that Public Works is adhering to the most sustainable methods of conducting its business.

We will provide Council the results of the on-site visit once they become available.