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# City of San Diego Honors Essential Workers During National Public Works Week

**‘READY AND RESILIENT’ THEME PAYS TRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES WHO WORK ON INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ACROSS SAN DIEGO**

SAN DIEGO – Today the San Diego City Council proclaimed May 15 to 21 as National Public Works Week in San Diego, joining cities across the country recognizing all essential public works employees who provide and maintain the infrastructure, systems and services that assure quality of life, public health and safety in all communities.

This year’s theme "Ready & Resilient" highlights the ability of these professionals to perform regular public works duties while also serving as first responders during natural disasters and overcoming challenges working in the field.

Mayor Todd Gloria [recently proposed](#) his “Ready to Rebuild” budget for fiscal year 2023, which includes a \$809 million budget for the City’s Capital Improvements Program (CIP), the largest investment in infrastructure in the City’s history.

**“We are committed to rebuilding San Diego by tackling long-delayed and critically needed infrastructure projects, and we can’t do it without the hard work of all our dedicated City public works professionals who are entrusted with the planning, design and construction of these projects,” said Mayor Todd Gloria. “Our amazing teams of City planners, engineers, inspectors, construction workers and supporting staff of professionals proudly work around the clock to help create a better future for all of us.”**

Mayor Gloria’s proposed CIP budget aims to fund two new fire stations, improvements to neighborhood parks, Phase 1 of [Pure Water](#), water and sewer infrastructure projects and help complete the construction of the new West Mission Bay Drive Bridge. This is one of the largest federally funded bridge projects in California and the largest ever undertaken by the City of San Diego. Once completed, two separate three-lane bridge structures will replace the existing four-lane West Mission Bay Drive Bridge, built in the early 1950s.

National Public Works Week was instituted as a public education campaign by the [American Public Works Association](#) (APWA) in 1960 to bring awareness of the importance of public works in community life. It takes place annually during the third week of May.

**“National Public Works Week helps us showcase the essential work of our dedicated City staff,” said City Engineer Rania Amen, Director of the Engineering and Capital Projects Department. “Each year, staff rise to the challenge of the growing size and scope of the CIP, often outside of the public eye, continuously making our communities great for all San Diegans.”**

This past year, several City CIP projects were recognized with industry or professional awards at national, state and local levels, including:

- The California Tower Seismic Retrofit Project received the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Region 9 Historical Renovation Award. The project is the first phase of a multi-phase seismic retrofit of the 1915 California Tower in Balboa Park.
- The I-5/Genesee Avenue Interchange Project received the Caltrans 2021 Excellence in Transportation Award. The project widened Genesee Avenue to six lanes and added dual turn lanes with a 26-foot median on each side of the overcrossing.
- The Concrete Street Panel Replacement - Coast Boulevard Project received the APWA Green Category Project of the Year Award. This project replaced concrete panels on Coast Boulevard from Prospect Street to Girard Avenue and Cave Street. It also installed new curb ramps that facilitated access for persons with disabilities, driveways and parking spaces.
- The North Park Mini Park Project received an APWA Honor Award in the Small Parks category. This new 21,780-square-foot park and plaza transformed an underutilized parking lot behind the site of the former historic North Park Theatre.
- The Villa Monserate Neighborhood Park Project received the APWA Project of the Year - Parks Award. Numerous improvements were made to the existing neighborhood park built in 1975, including the installation of two new playground structures, new picnic tables and seating areas, a picnic shelter and landscaping and irrigation improvements.

**“The award-winning work of our dedicated professionals is undoubtedly inspiring,” said Strategic Capital Projects Department Director James Nagelvoort. “Delivering these complex and essential projects in the nation’s eighth largest city is only possible by working hand in hand with all of the other City departments and programs.”**

As one of the largest employers in the region, the City of San Diego employs hundreds of engineers and thousands of public works professionals. The City is currently [recruiting for engineering positions](#).

For more information on CIP projects visit the [CIP website](#) or search for projects throughout the City using the [CIP Project Map Viewer](#).

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