

ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS - SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
2024 AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

AWARD NOMINATION CRITERIA

Outstanding Contribution to the Environmental Profession

This award is given to an AEP member for unique, lifetime achievements and contributions in the environmental profession. The award can recognize lifetime achievements of excellence in the environmental profession and individual accomplishments in a specific environmental field or on an issue or topic. A letter of nomination explaining the individual's contribution to both the environmental field and AEP shall be submitted for consideration of this award. The San Diego Chapter Board will decide the recipient of this award.

Outstanding Public Involvement Award

This award is given to an agency and/or firm that displayed outstanding achievement in community outreach and engagement over the past three years (2021-2024). This award recognizes the firm or agency that effectively engaged the public in the environmental planning process and created a greater awareness among the public. All documents submitted must be accompanied by a letter from the regulatory agency providing concurrence for the category nomination. Emphasis will be placed on the success of the outreach and the level of public participation during the process.

Effectiveness in engaging the public – was there a high level of public participation during the environmental planning process?

Inclusiveness of public participation – was there a practice of providing equal access to opportunities and resources to participate for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as those that have physical or mental disabilities or belonging to other minority groups?

Success of the outreach – was a greater awareness created among members of the public regarding the project, project components and environmental planning process?

Success of diversity inclusion practices – was there greater participation among members of the public who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, regarding the project, project components and environmental planning process?

Outstanding Technical Report

This award is given to an agency and/or firm that published an outstanding technical report, or utilized a unique technical approach in 2023 or 2024. Submitted reports may focus on the following issues, but are not limited to, Agriculture, Air Quality, Biology, Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Cultural Resources, Geology, Drainage and Hydrology, Hazardous Materials (PEA or Phase I/II), Noise, Storm Water, Historical Resources Reports, Vehicle Miles Traveled Assessments, Visual Impact Analysis, Wildfire, etc. Reports must be in a “Final” version to be considered for this award. Projects shall be located within San Diego or Imperial counties. All documents submitted must be accompanied by a letter from the regulatory agency providing concurrence for the category nomination. The AEP Awards Jury will evaluate these types of documents on the basis of the following criteria:

Clarity of Organization and Writing - Logical and comprehensive; readable by the public, decision-makers, and professionals alike; concise, direct, and to the point.

Technical Difficulty – Analysis of complex issues and the ability to synthesize the information into the report or survey;

Originality - Unique approach to analysis and data presentation and/or unique solution;

Regulatory Adequacy - Comprehensive identification of and response to applicable regulations; and

Ease of Use – Electronic document that is easy to navigate and accessible to the public.

Outstanding Planning Document – Plan, Policy or Ordinance

This award is given to an agency and/or firm that published an outstanding planning document that addresses environmental issues or gives special consideration to the environment in 2023 or 2024. Sample documents include but are not limited to General Plans, Development Plans, Resource Management Plans, Policies, Ordinances, etc. Projects shall be located within San Diego or Imperial counties. All documents submitted must be accompanied by a letter from the regulatory agency providing concurrence for the category nomination. The AEP Awards Jury will evaluate these types of documents based on the basis of the following criteria:

Clarity of Organization and Writing – Logical and comprehensive; readable by the public, decision-makers, and professionals alike; concise, direct, and to the point;

Completeness – Adequate, reliable, and thorough presentation of documentation and regulations;

Public Outreach – Efforts made to engage public in the creation of the document;

Environmental Design – Design elements were included to avoid environmental impacts or enhance the environment; and

Ease of Use – Electronic document that is easy to navigate and accessible to the public.

Outstanding Environmental Analysis Document – EIR or EIS

This award is given to the agency and/or firm that published an outstanding environmental analysis or assessment document in 2023 or 2024 including Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs), Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), and joint CEQA/NEPA documents involving an EIR and/or EIS. Supplemental, Subsequent, Addendum, and Program versions of such documents may be considered appropriate for this award category. Projects shall be located within San Diego or Imperial counties. All documents submitted must be accompanied by a letter from the lead agency providing concurrence for the category nomination. Draft or Final documents will be accepted, as long as they have completed public review. The AEP Awards Jury will evaluate these types of documents on the basis of the following criteria:

Clarity of Organization and Writing – Logical and comprehensive; readable by the public, decision-makers, and professionals alike; concise, direct, and to the point;

Completeness – Adequate, reliable, and thorough presentation of documentation and data;

Adequacy of Summary – Concise, complete and salient;

Originality – Unique approach to analysis and data presentation and/or unique solution to environmental issues; and

Ease of Use – Electronic document that is easy to navigate and accessible to the public

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Outstanding Environmental Analysis Document – MND or EA

This award is given to the agency and/or firm that published an outstanding environmental analysis or assessment document in 2023 or 2024 including Negative Declarations (NDs), Mitigated Negative Declarations (MNDs), Environmental Assessments (EAs), and joint CEQA/NEPA documents involving an ND, MND and/or EA. Supplemental, Subsequent, Addendum, and Program versions of such documents may be considered appropriate for this award category. Projects shall be located within San Diego or Imperial counties. All documents submitted must be accompanied by a letter from the lead agency providing concurrence for the category nomination. Draft or Final documents will be accepted, as long as they have completed public review. The AEP Awards Jury will evaluate these types of documents on the basis of the following criteria:

Clarity of Organization and Writing – Logical and comprehensive; readable by the public, decision-makers, and professionals alike; concise, direct, and to the point;

Completeness – Adequate, reliable, and thorough presentation of documentation and data;

Originality – Unique approach to analysis and data presentation and/or unique solution to environmental issues; and

Ease of Use – Electronic document that is easy to navigate and accessible to the public.

Outstanding Innovation in Resilient or Sustainable Planning and Design Document

This award is given to an agency and/or firm that published an outstanding document related to innovation in sustainable planning and design in 2023 or 2024. Appropriate documents for consideration in this award category may include, but are not limited to: Climate Action Plans, Climate Adaptation Plans, Sustainability Plans, alternative energy programs, Resource Management Plans, environmentally-related Implementation Plans, Significance Thresholds Guidelines, and other non-impact analysis/assessment studies and reports. This award is for documents that have made an effort to create and implement sustainable planning and to improve the natural environment through green planning and design. This category does not include CEQA/NEPA documents or technical reports. Projects shall be located within San Diego or Imperial counties. All documents submitted must be accompanied by a letter from the lead agency providing concurrence for the category nomination. The AEP Awards Jury will evaluate these types of documents on the basis of the following criteria:

Creativity and Innovation – Originality of methodology, format, or approach to an issue;

Clarity – “User friendly” presentation of methodology and technical information, with direct and concise language appropriate for the audience;

Implementation – Useful and applicable methodology and components for effective implementation;

Integration – Comprehensive identification of and response to applicable regulations, zoning, plans, and other related policies; and

Ease of Use – Electronic document that is easy to navigate and accessible to the public.

Outstanding CEQA Streamlining

This award is given to an agency and/or firm that utilized a unique technical approach in 2023 or 2024 to streamline a project’s CEQA compliance. Submitted reports may focus on the following streamlining provisions, but are not limited to, Exemptions, Ministerial Exemptions, Program EIR Tiering, Specific Plan Tiering, and Addendums. The project must be approved with streamlined review to be considered for this award. Projects shall be located within San Diego or Imperial counties. All documents submitted must be accompanied by a letter from the lead agency providing concurrence for the category nomination. The AEP Awards Jury will evaluate these types of documents on the basis of the following criteria:

Clarity of Organization and Writing – Logical and comprehensive; readable by the public, decision-makers, and professionals alike; concise, direct, and to the point.

Technical Difficulty – Analysis of complex issues and the ability to synthesize the information into the report or survey.

Originality – Unique approach to analysis and data presentation and/or unique solution.

Regulatory Adequacy – Comprehensive identification of and response to applicable regulations.

Ease of Use – Electronic document that is easy to navigate and accessible to the public.

NOMINATIONS

Individuals, firms, or agencies can submit nominations for themselves or for others for projects located in San Diego or Imperial counties. Individuals and firms are limited to one nomination per category. The AEP Awards Jury will not be accepting self-nominations in the Outstanding Contribution to the Environmental Profession category. The AEP Awards Jury will review the nominations and announce up to three finalists for consideration to receive each award, except the *Outstanding Contribution to the Environmental Profession* award, in which only one recipient will be selected. All winners will be kept confidential until announced at the event. Finalists that are not selected as the winner may receive a Meritorious Award and be recognized for their achievement. AEP reserves the right to decline to give out an award in any category if a sufficient quantity or quality of submittals is not received. Final details regarding awards presentation and format will be provided to the finalists no later than two weeks prior to the awards event. The winners will be announced at the awards event.

Send nominations to: Avneet Sidhu, Awards Committee Member at avneet@gridlegal.com.

- Digital submittals in PDF or Word format are required and may be on downloadable from FTP or via email.
- Please ensure that Avneet confirms receipt.
- All submittals are required to include a qualification form for their appropriate awards category. Qualification forms are located on the San Diego AEP website: <https://sd.califaep.org/awards.php>
- Complete nominations must be received before the nomination period closes on **Friday, August 16, 2024**.
- Award nominations cost \$60, payment will be coordinated at time of submission.

Please direct any questions, concerns, or other inquiries regarding this process to Avneet Sidhu at avneet@gridlegal.com.