

2012 AEP AWARDS PROGRAM

Nominations are being accepted until **January 31, 2012**, for the 2012 AEP Awards Program, which will be presented May 6 - 9, 2012, at the AEP State Conference in **Sacramento**.

AEP issues the following awards:

- Outstanding Environmental Analysis Document
- Outstanding Environmental Resource Document
- Outstanding Planning Document
- Outstanding Climate Change Document
- Outstanding Public Involvement/Education Program
- Outstanding Media Coverage of an Environmental Topic
- Outstanding Chapter Activity
- Environmental Humor
- Al Reynolds Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Appreciation

All documents will be evaluated based on their merits using the rating criteria established for each respective category.

AEP continues with the Emerging Issue Category. All nominations must be submitted in CD or DVD format. The AEP Awards Committee may also solicit nominations and suggest additional or special awards from AEP Chapters and the State Board. The Awards Committee Co-chairs shall make all final decisions regarding the AEP Awards Program in consultation with the Awards Jury.

Interested in serving on the 2012 AEP Awards Jury
Please contact Dev Vrat
2012 AEP Awards Program Co-Chair at Devvrat@aol.com



MANDATORY SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

All of the following documentation must be provided in full. Due to time and cost factors, incomplete nominations cannot be considered. The Nominator will be considered the primary contact for the nomination. Each nomination shall consist of the following:

- 1) Printed copy of the completed AEP Award Nomination Submittal Form (see page 24 of the *Environmental Monitor* or visit www.califaep.org). (six hard copies)
- 2) CDs or DVDs (six) containing the following (paper materials are not accepted by the AEP Awards Program):
 - Completed *AEP Award Nomination Submittal Form* (see page 24 of the *Environmental Monitor* or visit www.califaep.org).
 - Two-page (maximum) *Summary Description* of the Submittal, explaining (1) its best features, (2) unique or innovative approaches or benefits, and (3) how the nominated document has achieved the specific award criteria.
 - Supplemental supporting materials, such as audio, video, or electronic presentations are encouraged. These materials should be succinct, given the limited time available for Jury deliberations.
- 3) Copy of the *entire document on CD-ROM*, as appropriate, for which the Nomination is submitted (6 CDs).

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Awards Ceremony will include a video presentation of the achievements of Outstanding and Merit Award winners. Certificate winners will also be recognized. If your nomination is selected to receive an Outstanding or Merit Award, you will be invited to submit concise video footage describing your work achievement. The AEP Awards Program videographer will contact award recipients concerning the format and length of your video submittal. Award recipients will be required to sign a release allowing AEP to publicize and/or publish the nomination package to promote the outstanding work of California environmental professionals.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS & INFORMATION

Nominations may only be made by AEP members. Documents must have been published or presented during the previous five years. Nominations and appropriate supporting materials must be received by the AEP Awards Chair, at the address provided, by January 31, 2012. An entry fee of \$50 must be included with all nominations except those for Certificates of Achievement or Appreciation, and Outstanding Chapter Activity. If an award nomination involves a public agency the public agency must also sign the nomination form before submittal to the Awards Committee. If the general submittal requirements are not met, the nomination will be rejected. Awards will be issued unless nominations for a given category do not meet the criteria of an "outstanding" or "exceptional" example of its type. In this case no award will be issued for that category.

AEP Mountain plaques will be given for Outstanding and Merit awards for each winning document, program, or person. If a combination of agencies and/or firms were involved in the preparation of the document, please specify the one agency or firm who will be accepting the award. AEP will provide the opportunity for award winners to order additional award plaques, at cost.

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OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DOCUMENT

This award is given to the agency or firm publishing an outstanding environmental analysis or assessment document including, but not limited to:

- Environmental Impact Reports;
- Environmental Impact Statements;
- Environmental Assessments; and
- Initial Studies

Draft, Final, Supplemental, Subsequent, Addendum, and Program versions of such documents may be considered appropriate for this award category. The Awards Jury will consider other types of documents suitable for this award, if judged to be appropriate. The documents will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

- Completeness — adequate, reliable, and thorough presentation of documentation and data;
- Clarity of Organization — clear structure, tracks State CEQA or NEPA format;
- Clarity of Writing and Presentation — readable by laypersons, decision-makers and professionals alike, minimal use of acronyms;
- Economy of Language — concise, direct, and to the point; technical information technical information is provided in appendices;
- Adequacy of Summary — concise and salient, tells the full story;
- Unique Methodology, original approach to analysis and data presentation; and
- Public Involvement — extent of public outreach and involvement in document preparation.

OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE DOCUMENT

This award is given to an individual agency or firm publishing an outstanding environmental resource document. The award is for environmental documents which have a broader application, or can serve as a resource for a wide range of environmental professionals, as distinguished from an impact analysis or assessment document which addresses specific projects or programs. Appropriate documents for consideration in this award category may include, but are not limited to:

- Manuals for preparing Environment Impact Reports;
- Significance Threshold Guidelines;
- Mitigation Monitoring Programs; and
- Other Non-Impact Analysis/Assessment Studies and Reports.

At a minimum, such documents should have usefulness to other environmental professionals and have applications for a wide range of geographical areas or conditions. 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;
- Transferability — ability to adapt methodology or apply information to different situations;
- Methodology — sound and well-substantiated approach and/or analysis to presentation of data and conclusions; and
- Clarity — “user friendly” presentation of technical information, with direct and concise language and/or graphics appropriate for audience.

OUTSTANDING PLANNING DOCUMENT

This award is given to the agency or firm publishing a land use, transportation or other plan that best accommodates projected population growth in a compact form to protect California’s environmental resources, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and provide urban recreation and natural open space. These include but are not limited to:

- General Plan Elements;
- Specific Plans;
- Housing Elements;
- Transportation Plans; and
- Neo-Traditional or New Urbanist Plans.

The plans will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

- Protection of sensitive environmental resources and agriculture;
- Accommodation of HCD and COG population growth projections;
- Regional jobs/housing balance to reduce commuting;
- Provision of housing affordable to a range of household incomes; and
- Provision of public transit, bikeways, and pedestrian paths.

OUTSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE DOCUMENT

Emerging Issue Category: In response to the extensive professional interest in global climate and Greenhouse Gas issues AEP has introduced a special award category:

This category includes Climate Action Plans, CEQA Documents, significance thresholds, implementation guidelines, technical assistance documents, AB32 scoping plans, public information documents, and research documents. For plans or projects that are intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions the criteria includes:

- Methodology – How to determine targets and assess progress (ref.: SB 375, models vs. BMPs)
- Performance Monitoring - Does the plan identify a defensible and replicable means for measuring actual GHG emission reductions?
- Backstop - Does the plan include backstop measures in case the primary strategies fall short of expectations.
- Metrics - Does the plan/project rely on metrics that result in a fair measurement of GHG reductions? (ref.: SB 375: % GHG reduction per capita, vs. GHG reduction compared to base year vs % GHG reduction per service population; etc.).

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OUTSTANDING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/ EDUCATION PROGRAM

This award is given to individual agencies, firms, or organizations who have conducted an outstanding public involvement or educational program. This category serves the AEP awards program criteria of promoting the diversity of entrants and achievements among environmental professionals. To be considered for this award, the nominated public involvement or education program should meet and exceed the following criteria:

- Increase the public's awareness of environmental issues and facilitate their role in the environmental planning, analysis, and review process;
- Provide a clear message consistent with AEP's objectives: enhance, protect and maintain the natural and human environments,
- Emphasize creative use of media;
- Use methodology or paradigm which has broad applicability and is replicable by other agencies, firms, or organizations; and
- Includes measures to demonstrate its effectiveness — e.g., level of participation, adoption of model ordinances, or descriptions of other changes in behavior or benefits resulting from the program.

OUTSTANDING MEDIA COVERAGE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL TOPIC

This award is given to an individual writer, editor, or publication for an outstanding article or series of articles or for the demonstration of unbiased, factual coverage of environmental issues. Similarly, writers, producers, or individual radio or television shows or web sites responsible for outstanding coverage of an environmental topic are also eligible for this award.

The AEP Awards Jury will evaluate nominations under this category using the following criteria:

- Relevance to the public at large;
- Demonstrated depth of research of the topic at hand;
- Clarity and quality of the presentation; and
- Usefulness of the coverage in empowering the reader, listener, or viewer toward positive environmental action (e.g., article includes references to volunteer organizations, provides practical tips for use at home or work, provides maps and directions to areas of interest, etc.)

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER ACTIVITY

The Chapter Activity Award is given to a Chapter or Chapters for an activity, program, or workshop of unusually high merit.

The AEP Awards Jury will evaluate nominations under this category using the following criteria:

- Accessibility and relevance for AEP members;
- Outreach to others outside of the AEP;
- Provision of tools and information that can be used in practice by participants; and
- Transferability to other AEP chapters.

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMOR AWARD

A good sense of humor can provide a welcome respite during our current economic challenges in the environmental profession. This award is given to the person who submits the most humorous anecdotal story, news article, publication or other item relating to the environmental profession in California or in the enhancement, protection or maintenance of the California environment itself. Stories may include but are not limited to field experiences, document preparation, public meetings and hearings. This is intended to be a fun category, so let yourself go. The Awards Jury will read all the nominations and then decide which nomination makes them laugh the hardest.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

This award is given to an individual, firm, agency, or organization for unique achievements in an environmental field or activity. Nominees need not be members of AEP. AEP has recognized lifetime achievements of excellence in the environmental profession, and individual accomplishments in a specific environmental field or on an issue or topic. The award is also appropriate for any significant environment-related activity that has been highly successful and noteworthy, including newspaper or magazine reporting, development of key legislation, implementation of progressive program, etc.

In addition to the form, nominations must include:

- Resume of nominee;
- Reasons for recognition and statements of endorsement from knowledgeable persons; and
- Sufficient supporting material to allow the awards committee to make an evaluation without seeking further information or research.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

This award is given to AEP members who have made outstanding contributions (excluding monetary) to either the state AEP organization or a local chapter. The AEP Awards Committee encourages each chapter board to nominate at least one person within their chapter. In addition to the form, the nomination must include:

- Name, address, and phone number of the nominee;
- Reasons for recognition; and
- Statements of endorsement from knowledgeable persons.

AL REYNOLDS MEMORIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT (ARMLA) AWARD

Established in 2005, the ARMLA Award is the most prestigious of all awards presented by AEP. It acknowledges superior achievement throughout the recipient's entire career.

The Awards Jury will use the following criteria in considering this prestigious award:

- Nominee's body of work over entire career must have significantly contributed to the goals of AEP: Enhance maintain and protect the natural and human environment;
- Nominee must be at least sixty years old in the year of the award. Posthumous awards will also be given; and
- Nomination must be supported with letters from least two AEP members.



AEP 2012 Awards Nomination Submittal

Check One Please

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Environmental Analysis Document | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chapter Activity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental Resource Document | <input type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Humor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Planning Document | <input type="checkbox"/> | Al Reynolds Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Change Document | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certificate of Achievement | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public Involvement/Education Program | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certificate of Appreciation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Media Coverage of an Environmental Topic | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Name of document, person or group nominated for award: _____

Prepared for (public agency): _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Prepared by: (firm/agency names only) who contributed to the success of the project, in the opinion of the Nominator. Please specify which names, if any, should be included on the award plaque.

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date of publication/presentation: _____

Nominator Name (must be AEP member): _____

Firm or jurisdiction: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Entry Fee: \$50 Entry Fee except for Certificates of Appreciation or Achievement, and Outstanding Chapter Activity. Please make check payable to: AEP 2012 Awards Program.

Mandatory Shipping Requirement: You must ship nominations through any vendor that documents and guarantees receipt, such as UPS, Federal Express, personal delivery, etc. Submit Nomination Package (1 envelope, nomination form (6 copies), CD-ROM(s) or DVD(s) (6 copies), and \$50 entry fee to:

Roger Turner and Dev Vrat, AEP Awards Program Co-Chairs, Association of Environmental Professionals
www.califaep.org

c/o Lynne C. Bynder, Meetings Xceptional, 40747 Baranda Court Palm Desert, CA 92260

email: lbynder@meetingsxceptional.com Phone: (760) 799-2740

Submittal Receipt Deadline: January 31, 2012

AEP will confirm receipt of your submittal through e-mail or fax. If you have not heard from AEP by February 10, 2012, and your shipper has confirmed delivery of your package, please contact Lynne Bynder at lbynder@meetingsxceptional.com. In your message, please indicate who signed for your package, according to your shipper.