2027 Conference Call for Nominations

AEP 2027 AWARDS PROGRAM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Key Dates & Award Presentation

The awards process includes submittal of nominations, review and selection of nominations by the awards jury, and notification to award recipients. Below are some preliminary key dates that outline the awards process.

- **Call for Award Nominations:** May 2026
- **Award Nominations Due:** October 6, 2026
- **Review for Award Nomination:** October to December 2026
- **Award Recipients:** Notified January 2027
- **Awards Presentation:** April 26, 2027

If your nomination is selected to receive an Outstanding or Merit Award you will be presented with an award onstage to be recognized during the **2027 AEP State Conference Awards Presentation at the Hyatt Sonoma Wine Country, Santa Rosa.** The Awards Ceremony will include a visual presentation of the achievements for the Outstanding and Merit Award winners, a brief overview to highlight the level of award, location of the project, clients, and/or firm involved in the project. Certificate winners will also be recognized. 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.

Mandatory Submittal Requirements

All of the following documentation must be provided in digital format. Incomplete nominations will not be considered. **The Award Nominator (AEP member) shall serve as the primary point of contact for the award submittal and its content.** To submit an award online follow these two easy steps:

STEP 1: Navigate to the Online Award Nomination Portal

AEP only accepts online award nominations via our website. Please note that a $50 nomination fee is required for most but not all award categories. The following award categories do not require a nomination fee: Certificates of Appreciation, Certificates of Achievement, Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, or Outstanding Chapter Activity. Non-profit organizations and agencies may request a fee waiver for an award nomination. To initiate the process please navigate to the online award nomination portal by selecting one of the following hyperlinks. AEP accepts credit card payments only.

- For nominations that require a $50 fee **click here.**
- For nominations that do not require a fee **click here.**

Questions? Feel free to contact Lynne Bynder at **lbynder@califaep.org** or (760) 799-2740.

STEP 2: Document Submittal

Please navigate to the appropriate link and provide the following required information.

1. Provide a brief project description (50 words maximum)
2. Upload a compiled PDF that includes the following documents:
   - **a)** Summary Description of Nomination (3-page limit). (1) Summarize the project (1.e., location, key features, purpose, etc.); and (2) Describe how the document meets the award category requirements.
   - **b)** Document Submittal: A PDF of the document you wish to nominate.
   - **c)** Supporting Materials: Include PDFs of any supporting materials as required by the award category (e.g., letters of support and/or statements of endorsement).

Please upload all required materials via the link provided on the website. If the compiled PDF exceeds 4000MB, please include a link to a file sharing site (e.g., Dropbox, Google drive, SharePoint) in the summary description and upload document.

Questions?

Feel free to contact Pat Angell, AEP Awards Chair, at **pat.angell@ascent.inc** or (916) 764-0108.

» 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
- Mitigated Negative Declarations

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

- **Completeness** — adequate, reliable, and thorough presentation of substantive documentation and data;
- **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 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;
- Sustainable Communities Strategy Plans;
- 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 complete streets (public transit, bikeways, and pedestrian paths).

» OUTSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE DOCUMENT

This category includes Climate Action Plans, Adaptation Plans, Resiliency 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:** Identify impacts of concern, and assess the scale, scope, and context of climate disruption. Are impacts to vulnerable communities clearly identified? Were vulnerable communities provided with the opportunity to participate in this process?
- **Performance Monitoring:** Include metrics to track and monitor progress.
- **Backstop:** Integrate adaptability and flexibility into implementation plans to adjust in the face of new information and changing conditions.
- **Metrics:** Rely on metrics that clearly characterize climate risk (i.e., scale and scope of risk, vulnerability and adaptive capacity, economic impacts).
- **Vulnerable Communities:** Clearly identify impacts to vulnerable communities (if any) and includes mitigating factors. Describes outreach efforts to vulnerable communities.

» ADVANCING PEOPLE AND CULTURE

AEP is committed to fostering a strong community and culture focus across the planning and environmental fields. This award recognizes individuals, organizations, and programs that champion people and communities, whether through internal workplace initiatives, programs, and policies, or through outward engagement with the community and the profession at large. One award is presented to an individual and one to an agency or firm that meet or exceed the following criteria:

- Show a genuine commitment to people and culture through dedicated resources and measurable outcomes;
- Champion innovative, forward-thinking practices that build awareness and accessibility; and/or
- Advocate for and implement policies that drive meaningful change in communities and accessibility at the local or regional level;
- Educate the public about the contributions of current and historic figures from underserved communities who have helped advance the planning and environmental professions.

Note: No registration fee is required for this award nomination.

» 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 public involvement and social equity. 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,
- Engage community-based organizations, advocacy groups, and trusted leaders to develop an outreach strategy focused on increasing public participation in disadvantaged communities.
- Demonstrate social equity and address environmental justice, by promoting accessibility, collaboration, information sharing, and empowerment.
- Emphasize creative use of media (e.g: Social 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 and environmental justice;
- 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, use of social media, 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.

Note: No registration fee is required for this award nomination.

» CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

This award is given to an individual, firm, agency, or organization for unique achievements in an environmental field or activity. **This nomination is open to emerging professionals or student AEP members;** however, nominees need not be members of AEP. AEP has recognized achievements of excellence in the envi-ronmental profession, and 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 newspa-per 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 substantive supporting material to allow the awards committee to make an evaluation without seeking further information or performing research.

Note: No registration fee is required for this award nomination.

» 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;
- Substantive Reasons for recognition; and
- Statements of endorsement from knowledgeable persons.

Note: No registration fee is required for this award nomination.

» 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 have at least 30 years of planning experience. Posthumous awards will also be given; and
- Nomination must be supported with letters from least two AEP members.

NOMINATION SUBMITTAL DEADLINE:

OCTOBER 6, 2026

Awards Program Nomination Submittal Form

Nomination Submittal Deadline: October 6, 2026

Submittal Form

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- ☐ Environmental Analysis Document
- ☐ Environmental Resource Document
- ☐ Planning Document
- ☐ Climate Change Document
- ☐ Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- ☐ Public Involvement/Education Program
- ☐ Media Coverage of an Environmental Topic
- ☐ Chapter Activity
- ☐ Certificate of Achievement
- ☐ Certificate of Appreciation
- ☐ Al Reynolds Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award
- ☐ Check here if you would like to present your project in a conference session. Please complete session proposal separately.

Nominator Name (must be AEP member) _____

Firm or jurisdiction _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

*The award nominator will serve as the primary contact, please be sure to alert your project team.

Name of document, person or group nominated for award _____

_____

_____

Prepared for (public agency) _____

_____

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. Specify which names, if any, should be included on the award plaque.

_____

_____

Firm Contact Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Date of publication/presentation _____

*Please see **Mandatory Submittal Requirements** on first page.*

Interested in Serving on the 2027 AEP Awards Jury?!

Please contact Pat Angell, by October 6, 2026 at **pat.angell@ascent.inc**

Please include "2027 Awards Juror" in the subject line, and provide your name, contact information, and a brief statement describing why you are interested in serving as an award juror. All award jurors have the opportunity to participate in the awards presentation!