

2015 AEP Awards Program

Nomination Submittal Deadline: November 3, 2014

*Call for
Nominations*



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 Public Involvement/Education Program
- Outstanding Media Coverage of an Environmental Topic
- Outstanding Chapter Activity
- Certificate of Achievement
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Al Reynolds Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award

**Interested in
serving on the 2014
AEP Awards Jury?**

Please contact:

Dev Vrat, AICP
2015 AEP
Awards Jury Chair
devvrat@aol.com

Nominations are being accepted until November 3, 2014, for the 2015 AEP Awards Program, which will occur at the AEP State Conference at the Fess Parker Waterfront Hotel in Santa Barbara. Award recipients will be invited to present their work in a special program session at the conference.

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

All nominations must be submitted in digital format via Dropbox. 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.

MANDATORY SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

All of the following documentation must be provided in full in digital format via Dropbox (except the Entry Fee). Due to AEP Jury time constraints and cost factors, incomplete nominations will not be considered. The Nominator (AEP member) will be considered the primary contact for the nomination. Each nomination shall consist of the following:

1. AEP Awards Program Nomination Submittal Form: (see last page), or visit www.CalifAEP.org.
2. Summary Description of Nomination: (two pages maximum) (1) Introduce and describe the achievement, Explain its (2) best features, (3) unique or innovative aspects, (4) briefly explain how the effort has achieved the applicable AEP award criteria.
3. Entire Document: Please submit the entire document in digital format or provide an Internet link to the document (Any link must be remain active until July 1, 2015).
4. Supplemental Supporting Materials: Examples include visual presentations (PDF and native format), and videos
5. Letters of Support: (if required for the category, optional otherwise), Quotes from other professionals will also be considered.
6. Dropbox: (please contact Dev Vrat, AEP Jury Chair via e-mail <devvrat@aol.com> for a Dropbox link no later than Oct 15, 2014). If you have questions about the nomination submittal process, please e-mail Dev.
7. Entry Fee: \$50 fee required except for Certificates of Appreciation or Achievement, and Outstanding Chapter Activity. Please make check payable to: Association of Environmental Professionals. Submit (1) check and (2) one copy of Nomination Form via US Certified Mail or express mail to: Association of Environmental Professionals; c/o Lynne Bynder, AEP Executive Director, 40747 Baranda Court, Palm Desert, CA 92260. e-mail: lbynder@califaep.org; Phone: (760) 799-2740.

AEP will confirm receipt of your submittal via e-mail shortly after you upload your nomination package to Dropbox. If you have not heard back from AEP by November 15, 2014, please contact Dev Vrat, right.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Awards Ceremony will include a video presentation of the achievements for the 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 AND 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 November 1, 2013. 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 or include a separate letter authorizing the nomination before submittal to the Awards Committee. If the AEP 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 was 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.

Questions? Please contact **Dev Vrat**, AEP Awards Chair, e-mail: devvrat@aol.com. **Phone:** (626) 840-1580.

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 – 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.).

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,
- Demonstrate social equity and address environmental justice,
- 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.

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 achievements of excellence in the environmental 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 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 substantive supporting material to allow the awards committee to make an evaluation without seeking further information or performing 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;
- Substantive 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.

**NOMINATION SUBMITTAL DEADLINE:
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**



2015 AEP Awards Program

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Submittal Form

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Analysis Document | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Resource Document | <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Achievement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Document | <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Appreciation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Document | <input type="checkbox"/> Al Reynolds Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Involvement/Education Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you would like to present your project in a conference session. Please complete session proposal separately. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Coverage of an Environmental Topic | |

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 _____

Nominator Name (must be AEP member) _____

Firm or jurisdiction _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Please see complete Submittal Requirements on first page.

ENTRY FEE:

Please check with \$50 Entry fee and printed copy of Nomination Form via certified mail or carrier to AEP (see Number 7 in Submittal Requirements on first page).

MANDATORY DROPBOX SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

All nomination materials must be submitted in digital format over the Internet via Dropbox. Please refer to Submittal Requirements on first page.

AEP will confirm receipt of your submittal via e-mail shortly after you upload your nomination package to Dropbox. If you have not heard back from AEP by November 15, 2014, please contact Dev Vrat.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact **Dev Vrat**, AEP Awards Jury Chair, e-mail: devvrat@aol.com. Phone: (626) 840-1580.