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Contra Costa County’s Public Works Director Bueren Named to National APWA 2013 Top Ten Public Works Leader List

Kansas City, MO. – Contra Costa County’s Public Works Director, Julia R. Bueren, was recently named to the APWA National Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year list. Each Top Ten Leader will be honored during the Awards Ceremony of the APWA 2013 International Public Works Congress & Exposition taking place at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL during August 25-28, 2013. Bueren will also be presented the award locally on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Meeting in the Board Chambers, located at 651 Pine Street in Martinez, CA.

APWA annually recognizes ten of the most outstanding public works professionals from across the U.S. and Canada for their career-long dedication and service, professionalism and expertise in public works infrastructure. As one of the most coveted and prestigious awards presented by the association, the Top Ten Public Works Leader award is given to honor the public works professional’s career, in which he or she demonstrated excellence in public works, services and infrastructure in his community through advancement of public works services and technology.

Bueren has 31 years of public works experience focused on transportation. As the Public Works Director for Contra Costa County, she provides leadership for a department of 481 employees, with an annual operating budget of \$155 million. In this role, she is responsible for the management of a complex budget with dedicated tax revenues, special assessments, mitigation fee programs, grants, fees for service and enterprise funds to deliver projects and programs. Prior to her current position she served as Deputy Director, Assistant Public Works Director/Transportation Engineering, and Senior Civil Engineer for Contra Costa County.

When she was appointed the Public Works Director, Bueren initiated an update of the department’s Strategic Plan. This update involved input from Public Works staff at all levels and resulted in five strategic focus areas; Financial, Customer Services, Safety, Organization Health, and Environment. This approach was new compared with previous department strategic planning efforts in that it incorporated getting input from all corners of the department. As a result, this effort provides the information that is incorporated into the Balanced Scorecard to track their efforts and shape their priorities within the department.

The department relies on dedicated restricted funds, developer fees, fees for service, and grants for their programs and projects. The biggest challenge is protecting the funds for their specified use and continuing to provide quality service with increased costs not matched by increased revenues. Bueren’s participation at the regional and state levels has been instrumental in educating legislative decision makers and protecting these funding sources. As a member of the Executive Committee, and President (2011) of the County Engineers Association of California, Bueren has also been an active participant in the ongoing state budget process. She has advocated for the local share of the state budget, particularly for local transportation dollars.

“In addition under Julia’s leadership, the Contra Costa County Flood Control District has taken a lead role in developing regional relationships to address flood protection issues through the Association. In fact, Contra Costa County has played an essential role in the effectiveness of the Association over the last several years by providing staff support,” said Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association Chair, Carol Mahoney, of Livermore, CA.

For more information on APWA’s Top Ten Public Works Leaders, visit APWA National Awards Program web page at www.apwa.net/awards. For APWA media queries, contact APWA Media Relations/Communications Manager Laura Bynum, M.A., at lbynum@apwa.net.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 28,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, MO, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.

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