

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 11, 2011



CONTACT: Laura Bynum
APWA Media Relations/Communications Manager
(202) 218-6736,
lbynum@apwa.net

Santa Ana's Raul Godinez Named National APWA Public Works Leadership Fellow

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The City of Santa Ana, California's Public Works Agency Executive Director, Raul Godinez, II, P.E., was recently designated a Public Works Leadership Fellow by the American Public Works Association (APWA). His role will be to mentor public works professionals enrolled in the APWA Donald C. Stone Center for Leadership Excellence (DCS Center) throughout the next year. Godinez is among 96 public works professionals from across North America who were recently inducted as Leadership Fellows (PWLF) at the APWA 2011 International Public Works Congress in Denver, Colorado in September. The APWA Donald C. Stone Center's Program Council determines the selection of recipients for the PWLF designation, and Godinez and the other 95 PW Leadership Fellows are in the inaugural group.

"The average age of APWA members in leadership positions is 51 years old, and as that group heads toward retirement, there is a critical need to bestow the senior public works leaders' accumulated wisdom on the next generation of leaders. The resulting knowledge transfer will help to position the next generation to better address the issues of the 21st Century," said APWA Executive Director Peter King. "The PWLFs have pledged to assist those who aspire to become leaders through a focused mentoring program. The PWLF is a senior executive service designation that recognizes commitment to the public works profession," King said.

As the Director of Santa Ana's Public Works Agency, Godinez's current job responsibilities include street maintenance, street lights, street sweeping, graffiti abatement, tree services, traffic and signal maintenance, storm drain and sewer maintenance, potable water utility engineering design & construction management, transportation, solid waste and recycling, and energy efficiency retrofitting & solar projects. Godinez is a registered professional engineer, and is responsible for overseeing a staff of 177, which maintains and delivers all the major capital projects for the city's infrastructure. Interim City Manager Paul Walters commented, "Raul Godinez's leadership in helping the next generation of leaders is critical for continued excellence, and is an important part of all leaders' responsibilities to give back to those that will follow. Raul's vast experience in the public works profession will undoubtedly make him a valuable role model in the American Public Works Association."

Previously, Director Godinez served as Director and Assistant Director of Public Works for the city of Oakland, California for nine years, and prior to that worked in the private sector and served the city of Los Angeles for over 12 years. He also served on the San Fernando City Council from April, 1994 through December, 1998 and was elected Mayor by the Council in March, 1997 where he served until 1998.

(more)

“I think we all have an obligation to give back to our community, which includes the public works profession,” Godinez said. “My career in public works has been very rewarding for me professionally and personally, and I think that I have acquired skills over time that can be very useful to other public works professionals that are coming up through the ranks. Just as I have benefitted from the wisdom and advice of more senior public works professionals in my career, the APWA Public Works Leadership Fellows can offer shared accomplishments, can bring issues up that people are dealing with, and enable younger professionals to seek the advice of colleagues that perhaps have faced similar challenges,” Godinez added.

Godinez’s educational and professional background includes a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the California State University in Northridge. He also is a registered Civil Engineer for the state of California, and he has received several awards including the APWA National Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year in 2009, as well as the Northern California Chapter’s 2009 Public Works Leader of the Year Award for outstanding career service achievements as public works professionals from both the public and the private sectors in 2009.

For more information about the Donald C. Stone Center’s Public Works Leadership Fellow program, or other APWA professional development opportunities, contact Director of Professional Development Mabel Tinjacá, Ph.D. , at email at mtinjaca@apwa.net. For APWA media queries, please contact APWA Media Relations 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, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.

###