



NEWS RELEASE

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Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies Recognizes Tucson Water with Platinum Utility Management Awards

Tucson Water was recognized by the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) with a Platinum Award for Utility Excellence in ceremonies held October 20 at its 2014 Executive Management Conference in Newport Beach, California. This honor is bestowed upon utilities that have proven their exceptional performance through attainment of past AMWA awards and have implemented nationally-recognized Attributes of Effective Utility Management.

AMWA is an organization of the largest publicly-owned water utilities in the United States. It is the voice of metropolitan water systems on federal water policy issues, and its programs foster sustainable and innovative utility management.

Tucson Water's Water Reliability Program was cited for ensuring that customers and other stakeholders are aware of the efforts and investments needed to ensure a long-term, reliable water supply for the community. The program communicates the utility's focus on water supply, water quality, customer service, infrastructure and operations, and efficiency.

In accepting the award, Tucson Water Director Alan Forrest stated, "It is an honor to be recognized by our peers in the water utility industry as being one of the best in the nation. All of our employees work hard to ensure that we meet all of our customer's needs as well as the long-term needs of the community."

Elements that were highlighted include proactive investments in supply availability and infrastructure development as demonstrated in the Clearwater Program, an innovative recharge and recovery project that delivers the majority of Tucson's water supply. Also recognized were Tucson Water's recycled water master plan which provides direction for increasing the amount of water recycled in the future, the utility's reliability-centered maintenance which led to a high ratio of planned-versus-reactive infrastructure maintenance, and an acoustic fiber optic monitoring system that protects the system's largest pipelines. Community relations efforts were viewed as being transparent, as demonstrated by work with the Citizens Water Advisory Committee on financial and rate-setting decisions.

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