

Monthly Updates



YP Event-Strike and Sip Bowling, Main Event, Tempe, AZ

APWA Young Professionals participated in a bowling and networking event at Main Event Tempe. There were certainly a lot of strikes, only a few gutter balls, great conversations, and friendly competition. Main Event Tempe was a great host and we will absolutely back for future events.

-Keeping our Chapter Members informed and connected with the latest APWA National and AZ Chapter news-

Who are we?

APWA Arizona Chapter:

Arizona APWA, founded in 1954, is a State Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA); a non-profit 501(c)3 educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy, knowledge, and much more! There are 62 APWA chapters and APWA's headquarters is located in Kansas City, MO as well as an office in Washington, D.C. Membership. APWA is open to public, private sector individuals, agencies, and companies interested and involved in the delivery of public works goods and services.



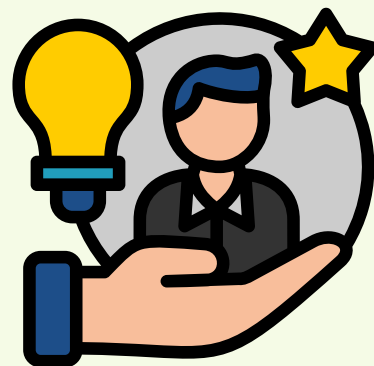
APWA Arizona Chapter Mission

The Arizona Chapter's mission is to support those who operate, improve and maintain public works and infrastructure through advocacy, education & member engagement.

AZ Chapter/National Membership Development

What is New for Members?

- Are You a Young Professional (YP)?
 - Our Chapter YP Committee wants to hear from you.
 - Events offered nearly every month of the year focused on networking, education and mentoring opportunities for you.
- APWA YP Committee
 - Chair Selina Brandon, PE will be joining us at our AZ Chapter Statewide Conference next month. Please be sure to introduce yourself.



Membership Matters: July

APWA – 30,437

AZ Chapter – 739

Newly Certified Members:

- Brian Nelson, CPWP-S, Streets Technician, City of Flagstaff
- Sumeet Mohan, CPWP-M, Director of Public Works, City of Goodyear, Arizona

Know your National Integrated Strategies Committees?

- Asset Management Committee
- Leadership and Management Committee
- Sustainability and Resiliency Committee
- Technology Committee
- Workforce Development Committee

Integrated Strategy Committees provide expertise in areas that cross all public works disciplines. They act in a collaborative and advisory capacity to ensure a common framework and language are used as best practices in support of APWA's Strategic Plan.

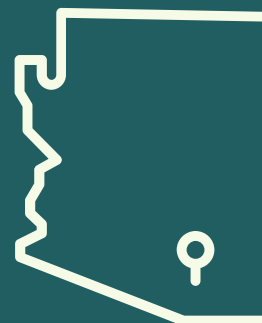
AZ Chapter Public Works Advocacy

Community Outreach

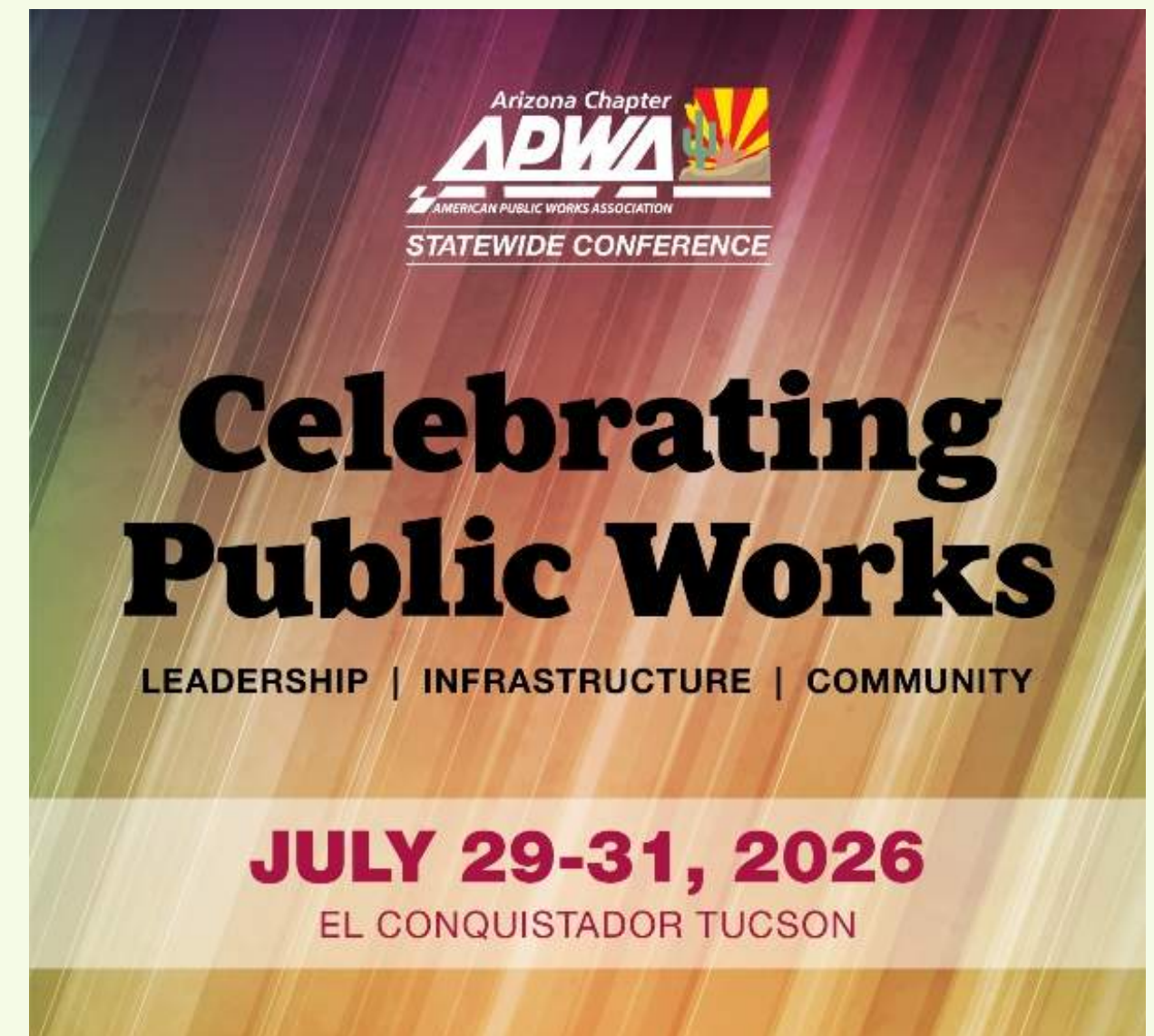
- No new events this month.

Awards Program

- Two Professional Managers of the Year and 18 Projects of the Year have been selected.
- Winners will be announced later this month.
- Three Projects of the Year from Arizona were awarded National Awards by APWA
- Please celebrate our winners at the AZ Chapter Statewide Conference this month in Oro Valley.



Chapter Events



AZ Chapter Public Works Advocacy—Our National Project of the Year Award Winners

Awards Program

- APWA recognized 24 nationwide projects as APWA Projects of the Year.
- Of those 24, Arizona received three awards.
- Please celebrate our winners at the AZ Chapter Statewide Conference this month in Oro Valley.



RAWHIDE WASH FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION CMAR



Managing Agency: Flood Control District of Maricopa County
Primary Contractor: Rummel Construction, Inc.
Primary Consultant: JE Fuller
Nominated By: APWA Arizona Chapter

The Rawhide Wash Flood Hazard Mitigation CMAR (construction manager at risk) project delivered permanent, FEMA-compliant flood protection for the community while construction occurred directly adjacent to homes, roadways, and critical infrastructure. The project removed 1,800+ acres and more than 850 properties from the floodplain through phased construction, flood barrier systems, and rapid adaptation to unforeseen subsurface conditions.

Weekly coordination meetings with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCDMC), City of Scottsdale (COS), City of Phoenix (COP), JE Fuller, Rummel Construction, Inc., and subcontractors ensured alignment on scope, schedule, and evolving field conditions.

The project encountered unforeseen challenges, including unidentified existing utilities, variable subsurface

conditions, shallow and hollow existing wall foundations, and design refinements required to meet FEMA standards. Rather than allowing these issues to stall progress, the team advanced early exploratory potholing, evaluated alternatives, and implemented field-driven solutions such as modified anchoring systems, adjusting mattress elevations, and revised wall specifications.

Community relations were essential since construction occurred adjacent to occupied homes and local roadways. Residents were provided advance notice of upcoming work, schedule changes, and access restrictions through direct communication and coordinated agency messaging. By maintaining open lines of communication, the project team delivered critical flood protection while preserving positive relationships with the surrounding community and project stakeholders.

Work was executed with a strong safety record, extensive public outreach, and strict environmental controls despite adverse weather, limited access, and complex utility conflicts. The completed system now provides long-term protection for lives, property, and the surrounding environment. 



AZ Chapter Public Works Advocacy—Our National Project of the Year Award Winners

Awards Program

- Projects completed up to two years ago can be submitted for nomination.
- All projects submitted to the AZ Chapter are nominated by the Chapter for national awards.
- The Awards Committee is hosting a session on the awards process and how to win awards at our statewide conference this month.





ENVIRONMENT
LESS THAN \$5 MILLION



the established wildlife crossing standards and a focus group of state and federal agencies, the design was modified to fit the unique conditions of the Santa Cruz River Corridor. This detail-driven approach led to the development of the first-of-its-kind wildlife ramp and a model for future levee modifications.

SANTA CRUZ RIVER WILDLIFE RAMP

The Santa Cruz River Wildlife Ramp Project is a pioneering concept reaffirming a multi-benefit approach to public safety and environmental health. In a region defined by rapid growth and flash flooding, Pima County transformed a steep soil-cement levee and open irrigation canal into a strategic wildlife corridor. This critical link reconnects fragmented habitats, providing a lifeline for the Sonoran Desert's vulnerable species. Delivered on schedule and under budget, the project is a template for multi-benefit infrastructure, integrating the rigorous demands of public safety with a commitment to environmental stewardship.

Transforming a monolithic flood barrier into the nation's first wildlife-friendly corridor required more than engineering; it required innovation. The project team expertly navigated the constraints of the existing irrigation canal and soil-cement levee banks to integrate a custom-designed wildlife ramp and wildlife culvert crossing while considering maintenance and long-term success. Starting with

Managing Agency: Pima County Regional Flood Control District (PCRFCD)
Primary Contractor: Borderland Construction Company, Inc.
Primary Consultant: Solis Engineering Co.
Nominated by: APWA Arizona Chapter



Maintaining the integrity and function of the existing levee system remained a non-negotiable priority throughout the design and construction of the wildlife ramp. By using a backwater basin design with riprap



the success of the project is best seen in the return of native life to the riverbank. By eradicating invasive species and reintroducing local flora, the project jump-started a thriving ecological corridor. The use of a specialized native hydroseed mix ensures the site will remain a lush, stable environment for generations to come. 

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AZ Chapter Public Works Advocacy—Our National Project of the Year Award Winners

Awards Program

- Do you want to participate on the Awards Committee? Please let us know by contacting either Juan or Nicole Moon.
- Thank you to the 2026 Awards Committee for all their hardwork on reviewing and scoring awards nominations!



TRANSPORTATION
\$5 TO \$25 MILLION

PROJECTS OF THE YEAR
Public Works
AWARD WINNER
2026





firms, a general contractor, and a construction manager. To manage the project, the team coordinated bi-weekly, used a proactive schedule, and engaged in pre-activity planning, thereby minimizing disruptions. Thanks to this, some tasks were able to be completed ahead of schedule.

The team developed strong community relations, using ongoing outreach and coordinating business access, as well as having community forums where upcoming phases were communicated, and residents had a chance to express concerns.

To protect the environment, downstream environmental impacts were carefully

considered throughout design and construction to reduce the risk of erosion and washout during major storm events. Coordination with local utilities was used to prevent service interruptions and avoid unnecessary excavation or rework that could increase environmental impacts. Noise control, access management, and night-work scheduling were also managed to minimize disruption to residents.

Overall, the project successfully delivered a safer, more resilient, and higher-capacity transportation corridor, demonstrating strong coordination, innovation, and long-term community benefit despite complex constraints. 

COMBS ROAD AND KENWORTHY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The Combs Road and Kenworthy Road Improvements project in Pinal County, Arizona, was a \$21M transportation initiative designed to address rapid population growth in Queen Creek and San Tan Valley by expanding and modernizing key roadway infrastructure.

Combs Road was widened 1.5 miles, transforming a deteriorating two-lane roadway into a five-lane corridor with new traffic signals. In addition, a new north-south Kenworthy Road arterial was added, which included a multi-use path and a major drainage crossing at Queen Creek Wash. The path provides safe, continuous access for pedestrians and cyclists, improving mobility and

connectivity. Drainage improvements and the new wash crossing reduced flood risks for nearby properties, enhancing public safety and giving residents greater confidence during monsoon seasons.

Construction occurred between late 2023 and mid-2025, with a team consisting of Pinal County, two design

Managing Agency: Pinal County Development Services
Primary Contractor: Sunland Asphalt & Construction, LLC
Primary Consultant: TRACE
Nominated By: APWA Arizona Chapter



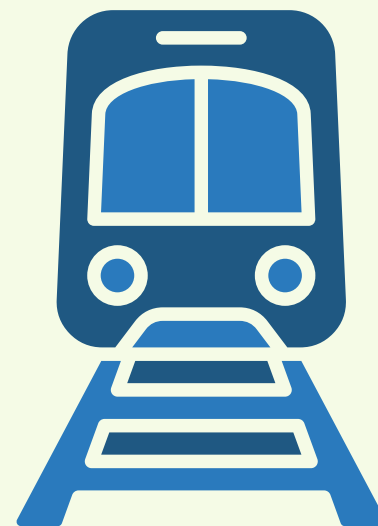
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National Public Works Advocacy

Watch the Latest Roving Reporter:

- In the latest episode of Roving Reporter, “How Public Works Is Transforming Austin,” we take a closer look at the major projects reshaping downtown Austin, Texas, including the redevelopment of the Austin Convention Center, the reconstruction and lowering of I-35, and Austin’s future lightrail system through Project Connect.



APWA Reporter Honored:

- The APWA Reporter received an Award of Excellence in Magazines, Journals, & Tabloids, Print (long) category from the 2026 Apex Awards for Publication Excellence.
- Apex awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content, and the success of the entry—in the opinion of the judges—in achieving overall communications effectiveness and excellence.

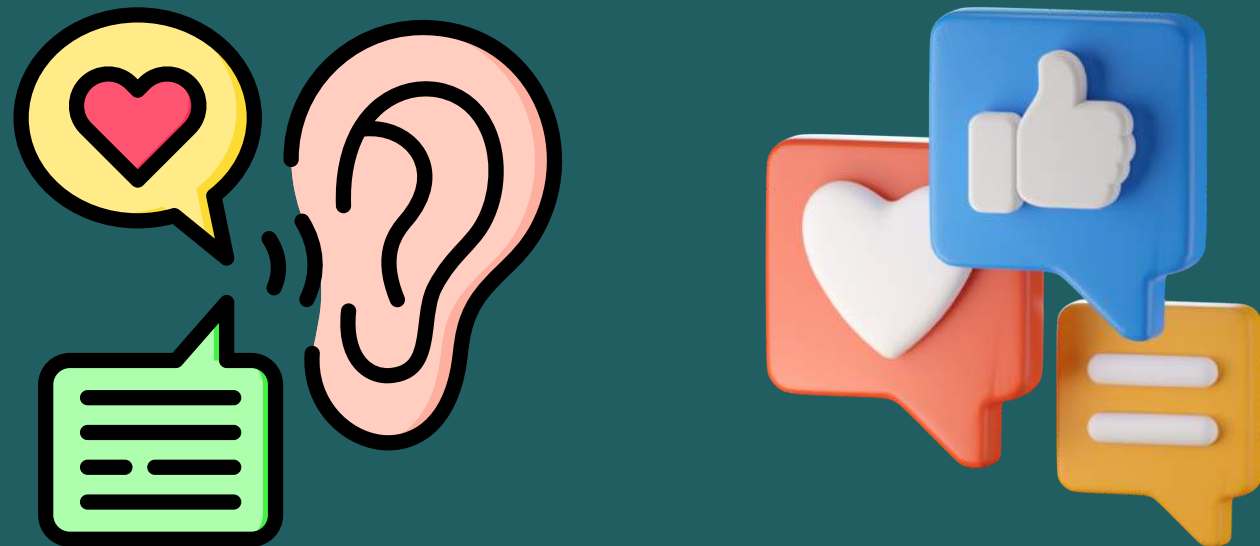


National Public Works Advocacy

Listen to the Bonus Episode of Public Works Radio

The second half of PWR's premiere season is right around the corner. Until then, they've released a special bonus episode with our best social media tips for public works professionals.

[Listen Here](#)



AZ Chapter Education Opportunities

Do you have an idea for a chapter education event?

- The Events Committee would like to hear from you!
- Please contact Sabrina Perez or Cory Steele to share your ideas.

AZ Chapter Statewide Conference Education Programming

- We have a great line-up again this year for education sessions at the conference on Wednesday, July 30.
- Please plan to attend.



AZ Chapter Statewide Conference Keynote Presentation

Thursday, July 30, 8:50 am - 9:50 am in the Presidio Ballroom

Keynote Presentation Title: **Workforce Development is YOUR Responsibility**

Keynote Presentation Speaker: Aaron Witt is the Founder of BuildWitt and one of the most influential voices in the global construction and mining industries. He started in the field as a laborer and later as an engineer, before casual storytelling led him to focus on media, software, and speaking.

His authentic approach celebrates the people and projects that keep our world moving, resulting in one of the largest media ecosystems in the industry: 3+ million followers and 1+ billion annual views.

On top of BuildWitt's brand, the company's main products are BuildWitt Improve, the only workforce development platform built exclusively for the industry, trusted by hundreds of American civil contractors, and the Dirt World Summit, the industry's top leadership event, with 1,500 industry leaders and 500 companies attending each year.

Keynote Presentation Description: The Dirt World has more critical infrastructure to build and maintain than ever, but is at a serious crossroads. The previous generation, who got us here, is leaving, while today's generation is... (kind of) arriving? As a result, industry leadership is nervous about execution, and rightly so. Who will save the day? What's the solution? After traveling to construction and mining operations across six continents, Aaron's found the answer—it's YOU. And you'll walk away from this session not only with the responsibility, but the tools to make it happen.



National Education Opportunities

APWA July Education Sessions:

July 23–Resilient by Design

Discover how public works professionals and engineers are adapting infrastructure to withstand unpredictable climate changes through innovative design, collaboration, and data-driven strategies. This live virtual program features real-world case studies and practical lessons to enhance resilience and long-term performance. [Register Here](#)

August 6–Subsurface Utility Engineering Essentials for Public Works: Smarter Utility Investigations

Learn how Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) can reduce project risks by mapping and analyzing existing utilities, following industry guidelines, and guiding strategic decisions in this live virtual session. [Register Here](#)



CERTIFICATION

APWA has kicked off the update to the Certified Public Fleet Professional (CPFP) Job Task Analysis (JTA) to align with the new credentialing strategy and transition to microcredentials. The JTA update will take place through June 2026 and will serve as the blueprint for developing education content and corresponding exams for the new microcredentials.

For more information, contact:
certification@apwa.org



ARE YOU AN EMERGING LEADER?

Applications are open for the 2026–2027 Emerging Leaders Program (ELA). The deadline to apply is July 6!



EMERGING LEADERS ACADEMY

<https://www.apwa.org/education-careers/emerging-leaders-academy/>