

ACWA's Excellence in Innovation Award showcases successful innovations by member agencies that continue to support and drive California toward long-term water resilience. The award recognizes groundbreaking and unique programs, projects, practices and/or technologies implemented by ACWA member agencies.

ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant(s) must be a public agency member of ACWA.
- Submissions that include multiple agencies or entities must identify at least one ACWA member agency in the lead role.
- Projects are not eligible if they have been completed for more than two years.
- Multi-year, multi-phase projects do not have to be completed at the time of entry, but must have quantifiable results to be considered.
- An agency may submit no more than one entry for this award per year and a winning submission is not eligible to win multiple ACWA awards.
- A member agency is not eligible to submit for this award for three years after winning.
- Entries must be submitted electronically by **Sept. 1** of each year. If Sept. 1 falls on a weekend or holiday, entries will be due the following business day.

JUDGING ENTRIES

- The selection committee will be comprised of at least two ACWA Committee Chairs and at least two Region Committee Chairs with a minimum of five judges.
- The selection committee will select one winner and up to four finalists.

EXAMPLES OF ENTRIES

A wide variety of projects, practices, programs and technologies are eligible, including but not limited to the following:

- Drought Resilience
- Water Use Efficiency
- Operational Efficiency
- Capital Improvements
- IT Improvements
- Customer Service Initiatives
- Water Quality Improvement
- Water Reliability/Sustainability
- Water Affordability
- Watershed / Ecosystem Protection
- Environmental Initiatives (Pollution Reduction/Prevention)
- Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy
- Governance / Administration
- Partnerships/Collaborations
- Leadership and Professional Development
- HR Innovations (e.g. Recruitment, Retention, Succession Planning)
- Public information / outreach / education programs and efforts are not eligible

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRIES

- Entries must be accompanied by a typewritten narrative that briefly explains the innovation and how it meets the below criteria for selection. Narratives must be 1,000 words or less to be considered.
- **Objective:** What were your agency's goals and objectives or desired outcome of the innovation?
- **Innovation:** How is the entry innovative – e.g. how is it better than the common practice? Is it unique and groundbreaking? How does it creatively address a water industry issue or priority?
- **Resources/Budget:** What resources did your agency use to meet the goals and objectives – e.g. funding, materials, partnerships, staff? Explain how your agency used these resources efficiently.
- **Results:** How did the innovation meet the goal and objectives? Show clear quantifiable evidence of successful adoption.
- **Replicable:** Can other water agencies replicate what has been done?
- Finalists will be asked to provide at least 5 photos, graphics, video clips or other visuals (high resolution electronic formats preferred) that represent their entry for purposes of the awards presentation.
- Finalists will be given the opportunity to share their innovation at the ACWA Fall Conference.



OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Deadline: Sept. 1 of each year
(or the following business day if the deadline
falls on a weekend or holiday)

Agency

Address, City, State, Zip

Phone

Fax

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING THE ENTRY:

Name

Title

E-mail Address

INFORMATION ABOUT THE INNOVATION:

Name of Innovation

Date Innovation Initiated (MM/YY)

Date Innovation Implemented/Operational (MM/YY)

Explain the innovation and how it meets the requirements for entry by including a separate, typed narrative addressing the requirements on the previous page. This includes describing the objective, innovation, resources/budget, results and replicability. The narrative must be typewritten, double-spaced and no more than 1,000 words.

Signature of Board President (or designee) or Manager (or designee)

Date

SUBMIT

Return completed form to:

Email: awards@acwa.com

Questions?

Call ACWA's Communication Department
at 916.441.4545

