



## **2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRIORITIES**

***1: Infrastructure Financing & Funding***

***2: Provide for Transportation Infrastructure***

***3: Support Water Resiliency***

***4: Recognize & Support Emergency Management & Response***

### **PRIORITY 1: INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING & FUNDING**

The Public Works sector is involved in nearly every aspect of everyday life in rural, suburban, and urban communities. All of these communities require financing and funding mechanisms in order to build, operate, maintain, and renew their infrastructure. APWA's support for Infrastructure Financing and Funding can be summarized in the following priority areas:

#### For All Public Works Interests:

- Maintain tax-exempt municipal bonds
- Enable and encourage innovative financing
- Streamline project delivery

#### Transportation-Specific:

- Continue the indexing of the State motor fuel excise tax.
- Support new, innovative methods of collecting transportation revenues based on usage of the road system.
- Expand access to innovative financing tools, such as loan guarantees, public-private partnerships and local tax-free municipal infrastructure bonds.
- Enhance flexibility in the use of transportation funds and invest in the use of new technology to maximize the effectiveness of each transportation dollar spent.

#### Water-Specific:

- Continue GEFA funding programs to include State Revolving Fund.
- Provide access to grant funding programs (as opposed to loans) and the continuation of existing programs such as CDBG.

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### Emergency Management & Response-Specific:

- Fully fund the Pre-disaster Hazard Mitigation program to address the preventative measures necessary for protecting critical infrastructure and saving lives.
- Support participation of all local governments in Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement program.

### **PRIORITY 2: PROVIDE FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

Our aging infrastructure is deteriorating and traffic is growing. Our nation cannot remain economically competitive if our transportation network is not improved and maintained. Data indicates that current federal regulations add 20% to 30% to the cost of surface transportation projects. Reducing those costs would significantly increase the number of projects that could be completed without any increase in funding. APWA applauds and urges continuation of FHWA's "Every Day Counts" initiative, but more changes are needed to reduce project delays and escalating costs.

APWA is committed to improving the safety of users on the nation's roadways. Data indicates that roadway fatalities experienced the largest percent increase in fifty years.

APWA's support for Transportation can be summarized in the following priority areas:

- Funding
- Streamlining
- Safety

### **PRIORITY 3: SUPPORT WATER RESILIENCY**

All forms of water – drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and urban, suburban and agricultural runoff, along with the infrastructure to collect treat, store and convey water – must be considered as an asset to be preserved and protected. All water on earth follows a natural water cycle and is continuously used and reused in different forms.

Flooding, drought and severe weather impact people and their property, as well as the environment. Policies, programs, infrastructure, and projects to mitigate the impacts of these events are critical and necessary to develop water resilient communities.

Infrastructure assets are critical to everyday lives, and public works professionals face challenges daily with maintaining existing infrastructure. Adequate funding is required to replace aging infrastructure, maintain newer infrastructure, expand existing capacities, and implement technologies to provide people and businesses with needed water services now and into the future.

New and revised regulations must be cost-effective, science-based, affordable and prioritized according to environmental and human risks, addressing the highest risk first. A science-based

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approach to regulation, using integrated planning should form the basis to establish which programs are the highest priority and affordable for communities.

APWA's support of Water Resiliency can be summarized in the following priority areas:

- Protect and Enhance Water Assets
- Protect People, Property, and the Environment
- Preserve and Enhance Water Infrastructure
- Develop Cost-Effective, Science-Based Regulations
- Streamlining Local, State, and Federal Governance

#### **PRIORITY 4:**

#### **RECOGNIZE & SUPPORT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & RESPONSE**

The Public Works sector is included with law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services and emergency management in the Emergency Service Sector of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP).

APWA is active in increasing awareness and acknowledgment of the role of Public Works agencies in emergencies and disasters of many types and magnitude. It is critical to the safety of all citizens and the sustainability of our communities that the public, government agencies, and other professional and technical organizations recognize and support the contributions of Public Works professionals in all-hazards emergency management.

The increase in human-caused and natural disaster frequency and the role of Public Works in responding requires the continued recognition and integration of Public Works teams into emergency response operations, as well as recognition and integration into all-hazards incident management teams. Inter-agency coordination, communication and collaboration are vital to achieve the most effective, efficient response possible. Emergencies are dynamic, and every disaster brings forth new challenges and provides valuable lessons that, if implemented, can greatly improve community preparedness and response capabilities.

APWA's support for Emergency Management can be summarized in the following priority areas:

- Planning and Mitigation
- Communication
- Coordination

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