Public Works Brings Home National Awards

The LA County Public Works Department has once again earned national accolades for outstanding and innovative programs and projects. The National Association of Counties recently recognized the Department with six prestigious NACo Awards. The annual awards honor outstanding excellence and achievement in a number of categories, including information technology, parks and recreation, and environmental protection and energy.

This year’s award-winning Department honorees are:

- **iPhone App**
  - **Information Technology Division**
  - Public Works’ free iPhone app, “The Works ™,” provides the public a convenient way to request services or report issues related to wind damage, graffiti, potholes, illegal dumping, building code violations, or street sweeping.

- **Traffic Signal Mast Arm Street Name Sign Upgrade**
  - **Operational Services Division**
  - Public Works upgraded traffic signal mast arm street name signs using highly reflective non-illuminated technology that does not require lamps or electricity. This technology replaced energy consuming lamps in over 1,200 traffic signal mast arm mounted street name signs at over 400 intersections owned, operated, and maintained by Public Works in County unincorporated areas.

- **Lake Alameda Greenway**
  - **Watershed Management Division**
  - In partnership with the City of Burbank, the LA County Flood Control District initiated the Lake Alameda Greenway project, which enhances a "park poor" community by adding passive recreational trails, aesthetic appeal, and public enjoyment to the Burbank Western Channel.

- **MyWAM**
  - **Information Technology Division and Waterworks Division**
  - My Waterworks Account Manager (MyWAM) is a new online account management tool that enables water customers to directly access their account information and pay their bills via credit card or eCheck, saving customers time and money through reduced phone calls and in-person visits.

- **Lake Alameda Greenway Watershed Management Division**
  - **Public Works**
  - Enhancements include native plant landscaping, decorative fencing, and a meandering pathway along the east side of the Channel. Other amenities include the installation of lighting, decorative hardscape pavement at the intersecting cul-de-sacs, doggy stations, and trash receptacles. The greenway improves pedestrian access and provides air and water quality benefits as well as opportunities for bird watching, walking, jogging, and educational activities. The Lake-Alameda Greenway project amenities are designed to bring the public in closer contact with natural habitat.

- **Watershed Management Modeling System for Urban Runoff and Stormwater Quality**
  - **Watershed Management Division**
  - In order to address the challenge of managing urban stormwater and runoff in a complex environment, the LA County Flood Control District developed a computer-based management tool, the "Watershed Management Modeling System (WMMS)."

- **SWIMS**
  - **Environmental Programs Division**
  - The Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS) is a web-based application that collects and manages information regarding nearly 30,000 tons of trash generated throughout LA County each day. Stakeholders, such as waste haulers and landfill operators, input trash data, including the volume of recyclable materials captured, trash disposed at landfills, and materials exported outside of the County. Reports can then be conveniently downloaded online by government entities, private industries, or the general public, thus making solid waste management data readily accessible.