

Eric Dargan Wins APWA Top Ten Leader of the Year Award

One of the most coveted and prestigious public works awards is sponsored each year by APWA and is presented to 10 individual leaders whose excellence in public works earns them the distinction of the *Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year*. The honorees are awarded this recognition for their professionalism, expertise, and personal dedication to improving the quality of life in their communities through the advancement of public works services and technology.

This year, the Top Ten Review Committee consists of Committee Chair Peggy V. Allen, Deputy Director of Public Works, DeKalb County, Georgia; David H. Barber, retired, Lexington, Ohio; Kurt D. Blomquist, PE, Public Works Director, City of Keene, New Hampshire; David L. Derrick, PWLF, Public Works Director, City of Greenville, South Carolina; and Harry C. Lorick, PE, PTOE, PWLF, Principal/President, LA Consulting, Inc., Manhattan Beach, California.

Eric Dargan
Chief Operating Officer City of San Diego, California

Prior to joining the City of San Diego, Calif., as the Chief Operating Officer, Eric Dargan was the chief operating officer for the City of Houston's Public Works Department. He joined the City of Houston in 2002 as a deputy director, and in 2017 he was named the chief operating officer. His achievements include but are not limited to past president of the APWA Texas Chapter; past president of the Southeast Branch of the Texas Chapter; owner of a Bunch of Fun Inc.; adjunct professor at E.B. Cape Center Corporation University; officer in the US Army; and author of numerous papers and articles.

One of Dargan's most visible accomplishments while at the City of Houston was his leadership in the development and execution of the Houston Pothole Program. In January 2016, Mayor Sylvester

Turner challenged the Houston Public Works Department of Transportation and Drainage Operations to assess and repair all potholes reported by the next business day. Houston Public Works employees rose to the challenge and have been successful in filling 98% of the potholes reported by the next business day. Dargan provided appreciation lunches and recognition for employees going above and beyond within the program.

Dargan strives to create an environment that is more than a place to work but an environment where relationships are built. The Houston Police and Fire Departments have paid full-time chaplains. During Dargan's tenure with the City of Houston, the Public Works Department didn't have anything similar to this. To build teamwork and resilience, he created the Minister Team, a volunteer effort to provide an additional resource of spiritual counseling to more than 4,000 Public Works Department employees.



For more information on Texas Chapter of APWA awards (winners will be submitted for APWA awards), visit: <http://texas.apwa.net/PageDetails/6126>

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Membership

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