



ASSOCIATION OF  
METROPOLITAN  
WATER AGENCIES

# How to Get Recognized: A Guide to AMWA's Awards Program

*April 29, 2025*

[www.amwa.net/awards](http://www.amwa.net/awards)



# REMINDERS



01

Today's presentation is being recorded.

02

Recording and slides will be available at [www.amwa.net](http://www.amwa.net).

03

Put questions or comments in the chat or raise your hand.

04

Please mute all lines unless you are asking a question.

# AGENDA



**01** Welcome & Housekeeping

**02** Overview of AMWA's Awards Program

**03** Application Process

**04** Example of Successful Applications

**05** Submission & Review Process

**06** Q&A

# WELCOME REMARKS



**TOM DOBBINS**

Chief Executive Officer,  
AMWA

# SPEAKER



**ROBERT CHENG**

Awards Subcommittee Chair  
Assistant General Manager,  
Coachella Valley Water District

# EFFECTIVE UTILITY MANAGEMENT WHEEL



# AMWA'S TRADITIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

**GOLD  
AWARD**

**PLATINUM  
AWARD**

**SUSTAINABILITY  
AWARD**

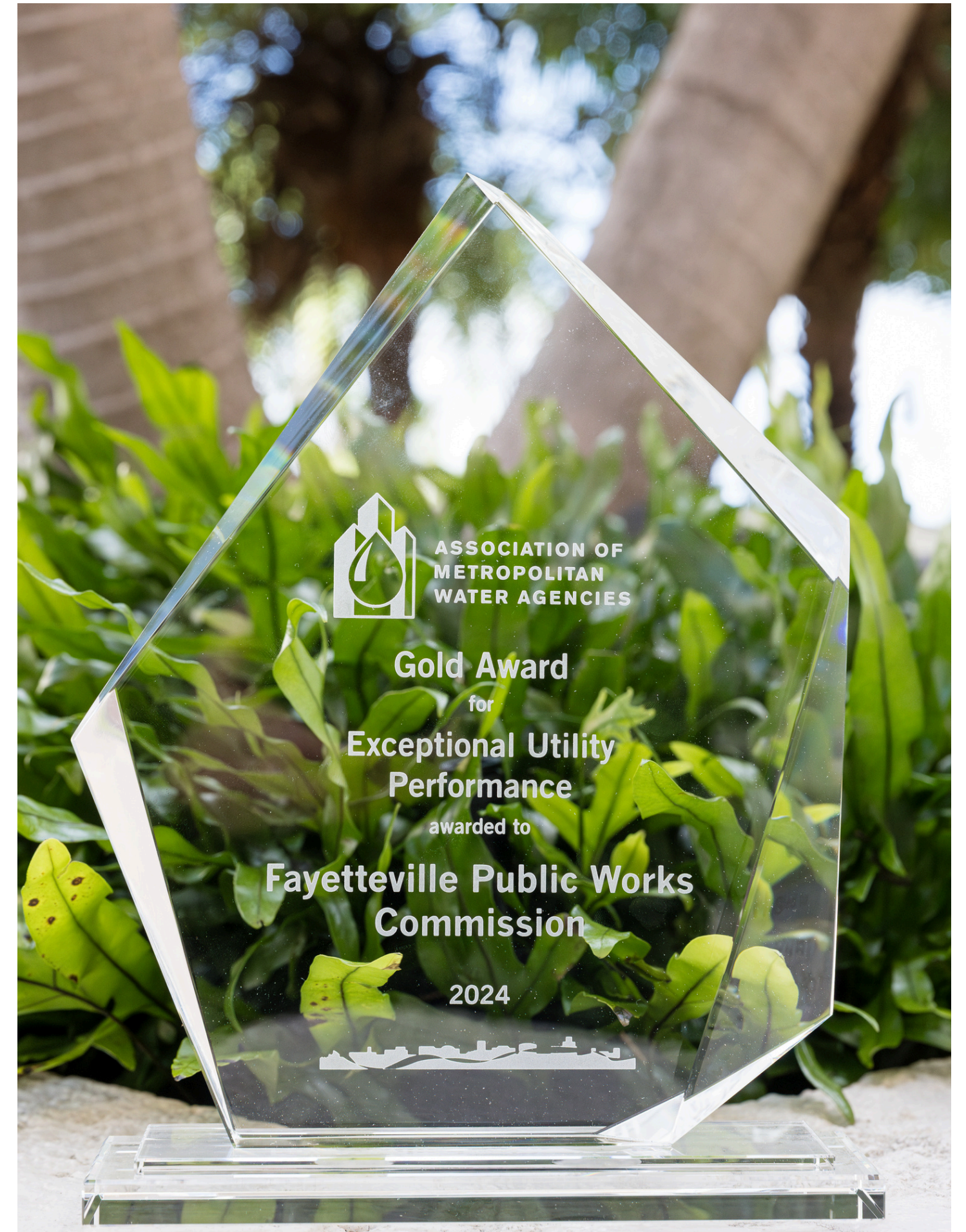


# STEP 1: GOLD AWARD

The Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance recognizes member water systems that exhibit high levels of performance in the ten Attributes of Effectively Managed Utilities:

- Community sustainability;
- Customer experience and satisfaction;
- Enterprise resiliency;
- Financial viability;
- Infrastructure strategy and performance;
- Operational optimization;
- Regulatory and reliability performance;
- Stakeholder understanding and support;
- Water resource sustainability; and
- Workforce development.

***Any AMWA member utility that has never won a Gold Award is eligible to apply for the Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance.***





## STEP 2: PLATINUM AWARD

Like the Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance, the criteria for the Platinum Award for Utility Excellence are based on the Ten Attributes of Effective Utility Management and the Keys to Management Success. Applicants are expected to show progress in implementing the attributes and keys, as well as a distinctive level of management expertise and expanded utility achievement.

***Three years after winning a Gold Award, member utilities are eligible to apply for the Platinum Award for Utility Excellence.***





## STEP 3: SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

AMWA's Sustainable Water Utility Management Award, introduced in 2014, recognizes member utilities that have made a commitment to sustainable management. There are many opportunities available to water utilities to manage sustainably; each water system has its own water resource needs, infrastructure issues, financial position, political issues, energy costs, and other challenges.

***The Sustainability Award is the third step in AMWA's awards programs and is the only one of these awards that can be earned more than once. Member utilities can apply for their first Sustainability Award three years or more after winning a Platinum Award. After winning a Sustainability Award, they are eligible to apply for the award again when three years or more have elapsed.***





# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & EQUITY AWARD

AMWA's Environmental Justice and Equity Award, introduced in 2023, recognizes member utilities that have made a commitment to advancing environmental equity and justice in their communities. Environmental justice, as previously defined by EPA, is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

***The EJ award is an independent award in AMWA's Portfolio. As this award develops, past winners of the EJ Award will be eligible to apply to receive the award again, three years or more after receiving their previous Environmental Justice and Equity Award.***





**Spotlight your Team's Achievements**



**Gain Local and National Recognition**



**Inspire Others in the Sector**

**WHY APPLY?**

# APPLICATION PROCESS



# UTILITY BENEFITS

Team Build

01

Examine your Metrics

02

Develop Useful  
Communications Tools

03

Tell a Compelling Utility Story

04

Establish Strategies for Success

05



# EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS



**PITTSBURGH WATER (2024)**

# EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS



**FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (2024)**

# SUBMISSION PROCESS

Address each section as thoroughly as possible, being sure to include metrics

01

Use the checklist provided by AMWA to ensure a complete application

02

Submit to [info@amwa.net](mailto:info@amwa.net) or [barber@amwa.net](mailto:barber@amwa.net) by the July 11 deadline

03



# REVIEW PROCESS



01

Staff convenes review panel judges during the summer, according to the appropriate awards level.

02

Panels review each application separately and based on the awards criteria outlined in the application.

03

Reviewers judge applications, discuss questions among one another, and submit criteria sheets to AMWA.

04

AMWA notifies both winning and non-winning utilities of their awards status in early September.

The background of the image shows a city skyline with several tall buildings under a blue sky with light clouds. In the foreground, a large bridge spans across a body of water. Two rowing teams are visible on the water, leaving wakes behind them. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

**AWARDS CEREMONY:  
ALL 2025 WINNERS WILL BE HONORED AT  
THE 2025 EMC IN AUSTIN, TEXAS**

**QUESTIONS**



# THANK YOU! CONTACT US AT:



**ROBERT CHENG**

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**ANTOINETTE BARBER**

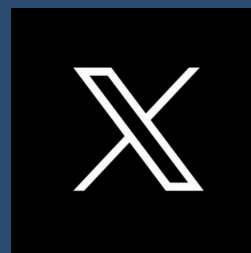
[barber@amwa.net](mailto:barber@amwa.net)



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