



For Immediate Release

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Snohomish County and Washington State Department of Transportation
Honored with Special American Public Works Association Award
for State Route 530 Landslide Reconstruction Efforts

Recipients of 2015 Project of the Year Award and the President's Special Recognition Award

EVERETT, Wash., April 9, 2015 – In recognition of the work on the State Route 530 (SR 530) landslide reconstruction, the national American Public Works Association (APWA) awarded a newly created President's Special Recognition Award to Snohomish County Public Works and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The two agencies also received the 2015 Project of the Year Award from the Washington State Chapter of the APWA for the Disaster/Emergency Construction Repair category.

This is the first time in the history of the Washington chapter that a national APWA special recognition honor has been awarded. National APWA president Larry Stevens presented the special award. Both awards were given at the APWA Washington Chapter's annual conference in Tacoma on April 2, 2015.

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“These awards are truly symbolic and acknowledges the commitment and effort that our Public Works team and those who supported us faced as they worked on the recovery and reconstruction,” said Steve Thomsen, Snohomish County Public Works Director. “I’m eternally grateful for the regional support we received when we requested assistance. People showed up offering help and at times there were more than 1,000 onsite from various agencies across the state. We were all drawn to a common goal - to help those in need.”

“Our collaboration with WSDOT brought together considerable resources to begin rebuilding and reconnecting SR 530,” added Janice Fahning, Snohomish County Engineering Services Director. “I couldn’t emphasis enough how everyone pulled together as a team and worked side by side with local communities, volunteers, contractors/consultants, staff from local, state and federal jurisdictions, and the Native American tribes.”

Snohomish County Public Works and WSDOT oversaw six major construction projects that totaled more than \$40 million. The APWA award submittal illustrates the coordination and management that went into those efforts as well as the use of innovative engineering solutions. It also shared that workers supported each other as they faced their tasks while dealing with the heavy emotional toll. The rebuilding effort was completed in a compressed timeframe of 6 months. This work involved many of the same agencies, contractors, and local community members that worked together toward the common goal of recovering landslide victims, and restoring access between Arlington and Darrington.

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Snohomish County and WSDOT oversaw the recovery and reconstruction work of eight primary contractors/consultants:

- AECOM
- Guy F. Atkinson Construction
- BCI Contracting
- Environmental Science Associates (ESA)
- Granite Construction
- IMCO General Construction
- Jacobs Engineering
- URS

The massive mudslide occurred on March 22, 2014 at 10:37 a.m., between the towns of Arlington and Darrington near the community of Oso in Snohomish County. Mud and debris slid down into the North Fork Stillaguamish River valley, covering an area of approximately one square mile in less than one minute. The slide material, estimated at approximately 8 million cubic meters, inundated SR 530.

About the American Public Works Association

The American Public Works Association (APWA) is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services. Originally chartered in 1937, APWA is the largest and oldest organization of its kind in the world, with headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, an office in Washington, D.C., and 67 chapters throughout North America. APWA provides a forum in which public works professionals can exchange ideas, improve professional competency, increase the performance of their agencies and

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companies, and bring important public works-related topics to public attention in local, state and federal arenas.

APWA Project of the Year Award

The APWA Public Works Project of the Year Award promotes excellence in the management and administration of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer and the contractor working together to complete public works projects.

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