



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive
Public Works Resource

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February 03, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

The more than 30,000 members of the American Public Works Association (APWA) offer our sincere congratulations to you as the new Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. The commitment you have made to serve our nation as part of President Biden's administration is greatly appreciated.

APWA has 63 active chapters throughout North America and is the only association to collectively serve and represent all areas of public works responsibilities. Our members work in both the public and private sectors, providing expertise at the local, state, and federal levels. Working in the public interest, public works professionals are responsible for planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining all facets of America's vast infrastructure network so fundamental to our nation's economy, environment, public health, and safety.

Each session of Congress, APWA's Board of Directors approves policy priorities offering sound legislative and regulatory solutions to best meet the demands of our infrastructure and support the essential services our communities deserve and expect. For the 117th Congress, APWA's public policy priorities are *Surface Transportation Reauthorization*, *Water Resiliency*, and *Emergency Management*. APWA's policy priorities offer detailed and nonpartisan legislative and regulatory solutions.

Of interest specifically to your role as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, APWA's policy priorities for *Emergency Management* are:

- **PLANNING:** Provide for training & planning for disaster response;
- **MITIGATION:** Enable measures to minimize or eliminate the impact of disasters;
- **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION:** Support communication across sectors & platforms for effective mitigation & response;
- **CYBER THREATS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:** Defend public infrastructure against cyber threats; and
- **STREAMLINING:** Streamline funding, management & response mechanisms.

PRESIDENT
Mary Joyce Ivers, CFPF, PWLF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Scott D. Grayson, CAE



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For your reference, the APWA *Emergency Management* policy is attached.

Additionally, it is important to note that APWA and our members are working diligently to advance legislation and federal regulations prioritizing federal investment and support for professional development initiatives. This includes investing in apprenticeships, grants, and career and technical education programs to assist with the growth and utilization of innovative activities to support a diverse, high-quality public works workforce.

APWA stands ready to work with you and serve as a resource to your department in our joint goals of improving our nation's infrastructure. APWA's Director of Government and Public Affairs Andrea Eales, may be contacted at aeales@apwa.net or 202-218-6730. Andrea will be reaching out to your office to seek a virtual meeting so that we can soon begin our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Joyce Ivers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Joyce Ivers
President

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott D. Grayson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott D. Grayson, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

PRESIDENT
Mary Joyce Ivers, CFPF, PWLF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Scott D. Grayson, CAE