

## **2016 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE COORDINATING COUNCIL (IACC) CONFERENCE**

IACC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Washington communities identify and obtain resources they need to develop, improve, and maintain infrastructure. IACC consists of staff from state, federal, and tribal agencies, local government associations, and nonprofit technical assistance organizations. IACC is governed by four board officers and six board members. More information on IACC can be found at [www.infracfunding.wa.gov](http://www.infracfunding.wa.gov).

One of the ways that IACC works to improve the delivery of infrastructure financial and technical assistance is to hold an annual conference where people can network and learn about infrastructure programs and services. The 2016 IACC Conference was held October 18-20 at the Wenatchee Convention Center. The conference has been held annually since 2003, and before then it was held every other year since the early 1990s. Conference costs are paid with registration proceeds from previous conferences.

More than 320 people attended this year's conference, including elected officials and staff from tribal nations, cities and towns, special districts, water associations, consulting engineers, regulatory agency staff, state and federal funding program staff, nonprofit technical assistance providers, and product vendors.

### **EXHIBITORS**

Thirty-three exhibitors participated in this year's conference, including infrastructure equipment vendors, consulting firms, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations. An Exhibitor Reception was held on October 18, immediately following the final session of the day.

### **SESSIONS**

IACC offered 56 concurrent sessions (some repeated), including presentations on funding programs, regulatory issues, case studies, panels, and guidance on special topics, plus two field trips. PowerPoint presentations for most of the sessions will be posted at [www.infracfunding.wa.gov](http://www.infracfunding.wa.gov).

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

The keynote speaker this year was Sandi Doughton, author of *Full Rip 9.0: The Next Big Earthquake in the Pacific Northwest*, and Science Reporter for the Seattle Times.

### **TECH TEAMS AND ADVISORY SESSIONS**

Since 1999, IACC has offered pre-registered technical team ('tech team') meetings to communities to provide input on local priority infrastructure projects. This year, representatives from 15 different communities (tribal nations and local governments) met with regulatory, funding, and technical

assistance program staff. Many more held 'ad hoc' meetings with agency staff during the conference. Projects were at various stages of development. Tech team members assisted with framing infrastructure issues clearly, exploring possible solutions, identifying key regulatory, planning, and financing programs, and answering as many questions as possible.

Participating tribal nations and local governments this year included:

- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Makah Tribe
- Mason County Public Works and Utilities
- City of Brewster
- City of Ferndale
- City of Long Beach
- City of Othello
- City of Shelton
- City of Tonasket
- Town of Index
- Town of Skykomish
- Town of Twisp
- Town of Yacolt
- Freeland Water And Sewer District

## **IACC AWARDS**

2016 was the eighth year of the IACC Excellence in Infrastructure Award Program, the purpose of which is to acknowledge outstanding achievement by IACC members, local governments, and individuals whose efforts best showcase the mission of IACC.

This year's award recipients included:

- *Community Impact:* City of Pateros, Reflections on the Columbia Art Installation
- *Drinking Water:* Stevens County PUD, Mission Ridge Water System Arsenic Remediation Project
- *Wastewater:* Town of Rockford, Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
- *Creative Solutions:* City of Richland Fire Department #74
- *Capital Facilities:* City of West Richland, Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant
- *Joe Mitschelen Lifetime Achievement Award:* Steve Gorcester, Executive Director, Transportation Improvement Board
- *Heart and Soul of IACC Award:* Cathi Read, Department of Commerce