



KERN COUNCIL *of* GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL *Awards*

Call for Nominations



Kern Council of Governments is pleased to present its **2025 Annual Regional Awards Program**. This special event provides Kern County residents the opportunity to thank and honor citizens, community-based organizations and public officials who have made, and are still making, significant contributions to this region's quality of life. Those who will be recognized are the impetus behind valuable programs and projects and have dedicated themselves to this area's success.

You are cordially invited to submit your nominations celebrating both the pacesetters and visionary projects that have contributed significantly to our region in 2025.

Thank you for your support.



Bob Smith | 2025 Chair
Kern Council of Governments

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

● Ronald E. Brummett Regional Award of Merit for Lifetime Achievement

...offers three opportunities for recognition of those individuals who have shown extensive dedication and leadership in the course of their career, or in service to the public good in the following categories:

- Lifetime Achievement Award to an Elected Official
- Lifetime Achievement Award to a Public Official *
- Lifetime Achievement Award to a Private Citizen

● Darrel Hildebrand Regional Award of Merit for Distinguished Leadership

...offers three opportunities for recognition of individuals or groups demonstrating excellence in leadership by promoting strong, representative local or regional government in the following categories:

- Distinguished Leadership Award to an Elected Official
- Distinguished Leadership Award to a Public Official *
- Distinguished Leadership Award to a Private Group or Individual

● Regional Award of Merit for Community Development

...is presented to an individual or organization for contributions to improving a community within the region.

- Community Development Award for Excellence in Planning
- Community Development Award for Transformative Development

● Regional Award of Merit for Transportation

...is presented to an individual or organization for contributions to improving transportation within the region.

- Transportation Award for Public Group or Individual
- Transportation Achievements

● Regional Award of Merit for Community Involvement

...honors the efforts of citizens taking a leadership role in improving or enhancing the visual quality of our community, the availability of services, or the public's understanding of regional issues.

● Regional Award of Merit for Local Government

...recognizes excellence of individuals or organizations at the local government level for cooperative service, delivery, productivity improvements or public-private partnerships.

● Regional Award of Merit for Innovation

...recognizes those individuals, products, programs or services that demonstrate groundbreaking thought in introducing a new idea or method.

● Richard A. Maxwell Regional Award of Merit for Public Safety

...is presented to an individual or an organization for contributions to improving public safety within the region.

**Public officials are defined as planning commissioners and public agency staff*

Nomination Guide



Eligibility

Individuals, public and private entities, educational institutions, and service organizations in Kern County that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in any of the categories are eligible nominees. Past Regional Awards individuals are not eligible. Past organization recipients are only eligible under new projects.



Judging

Nominations may be submitted by any individual, organization or agency in Kern County. Nominees will be judged by a peer committee appointed by Kern Council of Governments Board of Directors.

Completed nomination forms and accompanying support documents are the only materials that will be used to judge each entry.



Deadline

All nominations for the 2025 Regional Awards of Merit program must be received by Kern Council of Governments, 1401 19th Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, California, 93301 by 5pm, Monday, December 1, 2025.



Notification of Winners

Winners will be notified by mail and awards will be presented at a date to be determined.



More Information

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Victoria RomeroValdivia at Kern Council of Governments (661) 635-2903, or email: vromerovalldivia@kerncog.org



Preparing Your Entry

To prepare your entry, attach the official entry form (or a copy) to a typewritten submission of not more than two pages, describing why you think the individual or organization deserves a Regional Award of Merit. Applications may be submitted by email, fax, or mail to Kern Council of Governments' office. Once a nominee is notified of receiving an award, Kern COG needs at least 20 photo-quality electronic images or video footage at least 2 minutes long that present a comprehensive mosaic of the nominee's accomplishments. All images should be taken with a minimum of a 4 mega pixel camera with at least 300 pixels per inch resolution.

At least one image must be of the individual nominee or program itself. This image may consist of a sign or logo, if that is the only available resource to visually distinguish the nominee from other programs or projects. All materials must be received by Kern COG by Friday, January 16, 2026, and become the property of Kern Council of Governments and will not be returned.

The following points must be addressed when preparing your entry:



Originality

Is this an innovative concept or a refinement of existing techniques and procedures?



Transferability

Can this concept or approach be sustained in a different environment?



Quality

Does this concept/person display excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics and character or presentation?



Importance

Is this concept/person recognized as significant to the study area or field of planning?



Implementation

Is the work effective? Has it been carried out to completion? Does it show promise of being implemented?



Comprehensiveness

Have planning principles been observed, especially in considering the effects of the project on other public objectives?



Community Improvement

Has the project/principle provided lasting results and improved the local quality of life?



Regionalism

How does the project contribute to a better regional community or foster a regional identity?

Please mail, email or deliver the complete submission with all supporting documentation and images to:

Victoria RomeroValdivia
Kern Council of Governments
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301
vromerovalldivia@kerncog.org

2025 REGIONAL AWARDS OF MERIT PROGRAM
KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 635-2903
(661) 324-8215 Fax





Regional Awards of Merit Program Nominations

Entry deadline: by 5pm, Monday, December 1, 2025

All fields below must be completed in order to be considered.

Category: _____

(Please submit separate nominations for each category being included.)

Person(s) or Organization(s) Nominated: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Person(s) or Organization(s) Submitting Nomination

Name & Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make copies of this form for each entry.