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SMUD CEO & general manager receives American Public Power Association's exceptional leadership award

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 9, 2020 — Arlen Orchard, CEO & general manager of SMUD in Sacramento, California, received the Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award during the American Public Power Association's Public Power Connect: Virtual Summit & Business Meeting. The award is the highest award granted by the American Public Power Association. It recognizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public power.

With over three decades of experience in the public power industry, Arlen has dedicated his career to being a huge proponent of not only public power, but also finding innovative energy solutions to help SMUD's customers and community thrive. Considered a visionary in the utility industry, Orchard embraces the speed of change that's occurring. He pushed SMUD to rethink its business model to ensure the community-owned electric company meets customers' expectations and delivers value to the community while ensuring financial viability in the long run.

Environmental leadership around climate change has been a high priority for Arlen. This included SMUD's \$7 billion investment in its integrated resources plan that lays out a path to dramatically reduce the region's carbon footprint over the next 20 years, nearly \$2 billion of local investments in transportation and building electrification, and almost \$3 billion of local investments in renewable energy and battery storage. While serving as SMUD CEO, Orchard also serves as the California Municipal Utilities Association board president, on the board of directors of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy, and on the Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council. He has also served on the APPA board since 2015. Arlen has kept SMUD's customers and community at the heart of all he does, and continues to work diligently to move the community forward.

Arlen is retiring in 2020.

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The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.

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