



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karen Pan, (904) 209-0549

St. Johns County Public Works Department Receives International Award

Department recognized out of 350,000 organizations

St. Augustine, FL – (August 18, 2010) – The St. Johns County Public Works Department received the Special Achievement in GIS Award at the 30th Annual Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International User Conference in San Diego, California last month, and was also recognized this morning by the Board of County Commissioners. The award was given for the Department's vision, leadership, hard work and innovative use of ESRI's Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. St. Johns County was selected from more than 350,000 organizations worldwide.

In 2005, the Public Works Department, led by staff member Rocky Agbunag, began implementing a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) to increase productivity and better manage the County's drainage and transportation assets. The Department's main goals were the ability to create and track service requests and work orders, effectively locate the assets associated with the activity and account for the costs by activity. The other goal was to use a single system for both financial management and asset management, which improves financial accountability and operational efficiency.

The new system currently lists the condition, age, exact location and real financial cost of close to 30,000 culverts and 40,000 signs throughout St. Johns County, information that was previously scattered and incomplete. The unprecedented ability to use a single system to coordinate all these components sets St. Johns County apart from other agencies and resulted in the special achievement award.

In the first full year of implementation (2006-07), the system helped increase productivity by more than 13.3 percent, saving St. Johns County over \$650,000. Savings in subsequent years are on track to reduce costs by more the \$1 million each year through improved efficiency.

Public Works Director Joe Stephenson says, "The system St. Johns County now has in place is a tremendous tool that allows us to locate, track and manage our assets within a performance based budgeting process. Our efficient system, created by Rocky Agbunag and the Public Works team, is now being modeled by other local governments in the United States and potentially throughout the world."

Out of over 350,000 organizations worldwide, only 1/10 of 1 percent receive an ESRI Special Achievement in GIS Award. St. Johns County was one of only three organizations recognized in the state of Florida and the only Public Works related recipient worldwide. In 2010, there were a total of 79 U.S. and 77 international ESRI award winners.

For more information about the award-winning St. Johns County Public Works system, contact GIS Asset Management Coordinator Rocky S. Agbunag at (904) 209-0273. For project information and photos, go to www.esri.com/sag.

###

ATTACHED: Photo of GIS Asset Management Coordinator Rocky S. Agbunag, Public Works Director Joe Stephenson and the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.