

Abbie Completes Her Public Works

■ **Abbie Garcia-Hidalgo retires after 27 years of City service.**

Story and photos by Liz Montes, Club Counselor

PUBLIC WORKS — Abbie Garcia-Hidalgo retired with a grand luncheon June 23 at the Kyoto restaurant at the Wilshire Grand Hotel downtown.

Abbie started her career with the County and soon she realized the pasture was greener on the City side. In March 1987, she joined the City as a Clerk Typist through the CETA pilot program. She worked with Public Works' Bureau of Accounting between 1978 to 1987, and she was promoted to Senior Clerk Typist during this period.

Abbie continued her City career with Bureau of Engineering from 1987 to 1996. She worked for the Wastewater Program Management Division. The division oversaw the compliance of the Consent Decree for the Wastewater Program. She was one of the original team members.

In 1996, the responsibility of financial management of the Wastewater Program was transferred to Bureau of Sanitation, and so was Abbie. She retired from Sanitation.

Abbie was a loyal employee of Public Works for 27 years.

Congratulations, Abbie, and enjoy your retirement!



From left: Frank Hidalgo and Abbie Garcia-Hidalgo receive a farewell gift.

Newsbriefs

LIGHTING THE CITY



Public Works has embarked upon an aggressive project to convert roughly 40,000 high-voltage streetlights throughout the City to low voltage circuits. "The units are being systematically converted through our Bureau of Street Lighting's five-year program," Board of Public Works President Valerie Lynn Shaw said. About 10,000 of these streetlights, installed in the early 1900s, are in a state of deterioration and have been deemed "high maintenance circuits."

"They require more maintenance, have parts difficult to attain, cost more in energy, and effectively decrease our service to the public because of multiple light outages," said Ed Ebrahimian, Bureau of Street Lighting Interim Director. "When converted, these units will provide better service in affected areas and relieve crews to increase our service in other parts of the City."

For more information about Public Works, call the Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333, or send an email message to the following address: pao@bpw.lacity.org.

Public Works is responsible for the construction, renovation and operation of public facilities and infrastructures, ranging from refuse collection and graffiti removal to maintenance of sidewalks, bridges, sewers and streetlights; and management of wastewater treatment plants and building design.

PORT SECURITY



July 14, City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo proposed phasing out private contract security personnel at the City's vital water and power facilities, replacing them with highly trained officers of the LAPD.

"Over the past months, my office has been researching various options for strengthening the security of our City's water and power supply," Delgadillo said. "In the course of our research, we identified what we believe are flaws in the hiring and training of many of the security officers charged with protecting this City's most valuable resources."

The initial phase of Delgadillo's proposal would have the LAPD train the more than 200 full-time DWP security personnel, bringing their skills in line with the latest in security preparation. At the same time, Delgadillo proposed that the DWP terminate the contracts it has with private security firms and replace those security officers, many of whom have only the most basic training and often leave after a brief time on the job, with LAPD officers.

The Los Angeles water supply system provides approximately 200 billion gallons of water to more than 3.9 million residents and millions of visitors each year, and the DWP is charged with protecting and operating a system of reservoirs, 8,000 miles of aqueducts and pipes and more than 120 water and power processing facilities. Delgadillo, the chief law enforcement official in the City, called for the stepped-up measures to assure the continued security of this vital infrastructure.



From left: Phil Tran, Civil Engineer, 19 years; Rod Davis, Civil Engineer, 15 years; Maryan Azareayann, Civil Engineer, 3.5 years; Joan Huang, ACHU, 14 years; and Rose Karagezyan, MA, 2 years.



From left: Ted Allen, Civil Engineer, 12 years; Natalia Kaminski, Civil Engineer, 25 years; and Alfred Lopez, MA II, 6 years.



From left: Ligia Baylon, Abbie Garcia-Hidalgo, Christy Hernandez, Chuck Brogau and Frank Teate.



From left: Abbie Garcia-Hidalgo and Rene Teate.



From left: Natalia Kaminski, Abbie Garcia-Hidalgo and Alfred Lopez.



From left: Arnel Aguilar, Sr. MA I, 15 years; Sharon Redditt, Executive Administrative Assistant, 33 years; Diane Medina, Executive Administrative Assistant, 32 years; and Ninfa Malabuyoz, Assistant Director, 27 years.



From left: Rhonda Smith-Gardner, FMD; Yolanda Hill, Sanitation; Chuck Brogau; and Kim Huynh, Sanitation.



From left: Frank Hidalgo, Abbie's husband; Abbie Garcia-Hidalgo; Margaret Hidalgo; and Fran Shapiro, Abbie's sister-in-law.



From left: Terrence McGrath; Benjamin Noviea, Engineer, 12 years; Nady Maechling, Engineer Associate, 15 years; Rene Spencer, Environmentalist Specialist, 3 months; and standing in back row, Tommy Hom, Sr. Drafting Technician, 39 years.



Front row, from left: Didar Khandker, Augustine Nnuo, Jeannie Kepler and Steve Fortune. Back row: Maurilia Aviles, Rosemary Caraveo, Alex Vazquez, Abbie Garcia-Hidalgo, David Cheung and Robert Tamowitz.