



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** April 6, 2021

**TO:** Jim Throop, City Manager

**FROM:** Charles J. Berry, Utility Director  
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**SUBJECT:** Recognize the Electric Division and Supporting Staff for Earning the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP<sub>3</sub>)<sup>®</sup> Diamond Designation

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council:

- 1) Receive this report for informational purposes only.
- 2) Recognize the Electric Division and supporting Staff for Earning the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP<sub>3</sub>)<sup>®</sup> Diamond Designation. (See attached certificate.)

### **Background:**

The City of Lompoc Electric Division (Lompoc Electric) has earned a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP<sub>3</sub>)<sup>®</sup> Diamond designation, the highest RP<sub>3</sub><sup>®</sup> award possible from the American Public Power Association (APPA). APPA is a service organization for the nation's more than 2,000 community owned electric utilities that combined, serve more than 49 million Americans.

The City was recognized on March 23, 2021, at the APPA Annual Engineering & Operations Virtual Conference for demonstrating high proficiency in reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. Lompoc Electric was first recognized in 2014 with a Diamond Designation and then in 2017 with a Platinum Designation (the second highest award). The RP<sub>3</sub> designation lasts for three years.

Out of the 108 utilities that received the RP<sub>3</sub><sup>®</sup> distinction in 2020, the City, with its score of 99, was one of 47 utilities nationwide that received the coveted Diamond Designation for scoring a 98 or higher. A score of 80 percent is required to become an award recipient.

**Discussion:**

APPA has offered the RP<sub>3</sub> designation for 15 years. APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 49 million people in 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. APPA advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations.

The RP<sub>3</sub> designation recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

Every municipal electric utility that wants to be considered for the award must submit an extensive application packet that shows the utility is committed to its employees, customers and community. The award signifies that the utility is focused on operating an efficient, safe and reliable power distribution system.

Each application received is thoroughly reviewed by an expert panel of public power representatives. In the review process, each discipline – reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement – is weighted equally with specific criteria that are based on sound business practices and a commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. Applicants earn points for their practices and accomplishments in each of the four disciplines.

The City participates in the program because it provides criteria with specific benchmarks that can be used to create a structured framework for improving and/or sustaining a reliable electric system through ongoing operational self-checks. Additionally, the City participates to ensure that it continually focuses on its mission to give its customers exceptional service with reliable, competitively-priced electricity, while acting as a responsible and caring community partner.

**Conclusion:**

Staff requests that the City Council recognize the Electric Division and supporting staff for receiving the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP<sub>3</sub>)<sup>®</sup> Diamond designation and operating an efficient, safe and reliable power distribution system.

Respectfully submitted,

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Charles J. Berry, Utility Director

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

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Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachment: Award Certificate