



# Outstanding Project Awards

## 2025-2026 Rules & Requirements

1. Only CalGeo members are eligible to submit Outstanding Project Award (OPA) entries. Non-member firms will not be recognized. Member firms with representatives on the judging committee may submit. However, those representatives may not judge in the category in which their firm submits.
2. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$150 for each individual entry. Please pay at the [online application form](#) or mail a check to the address on the invoice: CalGeo 1048 Irvine Ave #994, Newport Beach, CA 92660.
3. Only projects completed and constructed in California between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2025, are eligible for OPA consideration. For academic/research project entries to be eligible, the results of research must have been published between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025. Construction is not required if not part of the project.
4. Any project will be considered for the award. Some suggested projects include but are not limited to: Commercial, Residential, Industrial, Institutional, Infrastructure, Shoreline Protection, and Academic/Research.
5. More than one entry may be submitted per firm/individual in each category; however, awards will be limited to one per firm/individual in each category. A firm may win multiple awards across categories.
6. There are seven (7) project categories. The applicant shall indicate the category of their submittal based on their total professional fees billed for the project (including fees for construction inspection services). The categories are:
  - Private Small-Budget Category (under \$150K)
  - Private Medium-Budget Category (\$150-\$500K)
  - Private Large-Budget Category (over \$500K)
  - Public\* Small-Budget Category (under \$150K)
  - Public\* Medium-Budget Category (\$150-\$500K)
  - Public\* Large-Budget Category (over \$500K)
  - Geocontractor Category (Affiliate Members, no budget limit)

*\* Public projects are defined as projects where the owner of the project is a public entity (e.g., city, county, state, federal), regardless of who the consultant contracted with.*
7. Entries will be judged based on the following criteria:
  - 30% Quality of Geotechnical Report
  - 20% Innovation
  - 20% Difficulty of Investigation (Difficulty of Construction for design-build projects)
  - 15% Success of Interaction Between Parties (i.e., Design Team, Owner, and Contractor)
  - 15% Social Impact of the Project
8. Project Type Restrictions
  - Member Firms and Individuals: Any type of geotechnically oriented project is eligible for entry.
  - Affiliate Member Firms: Only geotechnically oriented design-build projects of any size will be eligible for entry.
9. The judging of entries will be conducted by the Awards Committee, comprised of at least five people, CalGeo board members and other CalGeo member representatives.
10. Submittal Requirements
  - Online Application ([Click Here](#))
  - One (1) copy of the complete entry, preferably bookmarked and in .pdf format, submitted electronically
    - Brief Synopsis (100-150 words): Attract the reader's interest. Include a photograph or diagram.
    - Companion Article (up to 2000 words): Include several photos and/or diagrams. Show off your work!
    - One copy of the project report(s)
    - Up to fifteen (15) color digital photos of the project
  - Please submit materials electronically via email or file share to [info@calgeo.org](mailto:info@calgeo.org).
11. OPA recipients will receive a trophy or plaque at our Annual Conference and, if invited to do so, are expected to present their project there. All winning firms/individuals will also receive recognition in CalGeo's *e.Geo* newsletter and on the CalGeo website.
12. CalGeo is not responsible for returning physically submitted entries or for loss or damage to entries. Members are urged to only submit digital versions of submission materials.
13. Entries must be digitally submitted to CalGeo no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025.