

Kake water system selected as project of the year

An innovative water system for the City of Kake has been selected as the national project of the year by the American Public Works Association (APWA), the trade organization of 25,000 public works agencies, contractors and consultants throughout the United States and Canada.

The Kake selection was made from more than 70 entries for projects costing less than \$2 million. Kake is a predominantly Tlingit community of about 800 on Kupreanof Island about 100 miles south of Juneau. The water project was completed in June 1995 for \$924,000 – about \$121,000 less than its budget estimate of \$1,045,400. Design work was initiated in

February 1994.

The new facilities represented a joint effort by the City, the federal Public Health Service's Indian Health Service (IHS) and the State of Alaska. The project consisted of a 710,000-gallon steel water tank – to replace an aging 350,000-gallon wooden tank leaking about 60,000 gallons a day – as well as major renovations to the existing water treatment system, and water and sewer lines to some homes that did not have central station service.

Funding included \$550,000 from IHS, \$45,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and \$500,000 from the State. The City contributed administrative assistance,

provided a local work force and made available raw materials such as rock. Virtually all the construction was carried with local labor.

Innovative design of the tank and water treatment system by IHS, use of local labor and close control of project costs were cited by APWA in its selection of the Kake project for the top award. APWA noted that the relative remoteness of the community and a fluctuating water source represented special obstacles that were overcome by the collaborative effort, which was overseen by IHS specialists from its Alaska Area Native Health Service in Anchorage. Included in the

project was a large concrete ring-wall foundation to resist seismic forces. The completed system produces potable water which substantially exceeds State water quality standards.

The Kake award will be presented August 26 at the 1996 International Public Works Congress and Exposition in Washington, D.C.