



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
www.ci.chico.ca.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 17, 2023

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

CITY OF CHICO HONORED AS BUILDING DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR
California Association of Building Official's Only Recognition of a City
North of Sacramento in 23 years

(Chico, CA – March 17, 2023) In a press conference today at City Hall, Mayor Andrew Coolidge announced the City's Building Division was awarded the *2022 Building Department of the Year* from the California Association of Building Officials (CALBO).

Chico is the only city north of Sacramento to ever receive the recognition. 2022 marks the 23rd year CALBO has been recognizing outstanding Building Departments throughout the State of California.

CALBO is a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting public health and safety in building construction through responsible legislation, education and building code development. In its announcement of the winners, CALBO included the following about Chico. "The City of Chico is the 2022-2023 Building Department of the Year due to its commitment to not only serve its community but the neighboring communities that have been devastated by natural disasters over the last couple of years. Additionally, the department, with a staff of 18 people, has continuously evolved its customer service capabilities through the establishment of a completely new permitting database, allowing the department to average an impressive 300 building inspections per week."

In his opening remarks, Mayor Coolidge stated, "It is thanks to our local design professionals and builders who work with our Building Division to articulate the need for process improvements and efficiencies, that ultimately lead us to do better for both the City and the development community."

Dale Fletcher, Building Official for the City of Chico, thanked his team for their hard work and service to the Chico community. Fletcher stated, "The way our region has come together in the wake of disasters has been inspiring. Our collaboration with neighboring cities and Butte County is a big part of what set us apart for this award." The County of Butte received recognition as Building Department of the Year by CALBO in 2012.

"Chico is open for business. The City of Chico is a development-friendly community, we want to make sure businesses know that," said Fletcher.

In 2022, the City of Chico processed 6,526 building permits. That number is set to increase again 2023. This is the highest volume of development in the past 25 years. The City of Chico is ready to address this volume with a team of professionals that continues to strive for efficiencies and improvements.

“The acknowledgement that now Chico is recognized on the state level as the Building Department of the Year is a testament for where the City is headed,” said Mayor Coolidge.

“We are very honored to receive the CALBO award for the excellent work accomplished by our Building Department”, said City Manager Mark Sorensen. “This honor comes as we work on efforts to greatly improve the customer experience and improve service quality and speed.”

The full list of CALBO 2022-2023 award recipients is available at <https://www.calbo.org/e-mail-blast/congratulations-2022-2023-calbo-award-recipients-0>.

Past CALBO Building Department of the year winners including Butte County are listed at <https://www.calbo.org/post/building-department-year>.

For more information about the City of Chico’s Building Division, contact: Dale Fletcher, Building Official, dale.fletcher@chicoca.gov or 530-879-6700.

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit www.chico.ca.us.

###