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## **SACRAMENTO IS THE FIRST CITY IN CALIFORNIA TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GOLD SHOVEL STANDARD**

*City of Sacramento Joins Gold Shovel Standard To Increase Public and Workplace Safety and Advance Standardized Metrics for Damage Prevention Performance*

JULY 20, 2017, Santa Ana, CA – Gold Shovel Standard (GSS), a nonprofit advocacy group led by key stakeholders dedicated to public and workforce safety at excavation sites by certifying safe work practices and providing metrics for damage prevention performance, today announced that the City of Sacramento has joined the organization. Sacramento is the first city in California to join Gold Shovel Standard.

GSS is a nonprofit organization that fills an industry gap by providing third-party confirmation of baseline Damage Prevention-Safety Management Systems for the protection of buried assets, and fair and transparent metrics for damage prevention. GSS-certified excavators have a demonstrated commitment to high safety standards, and ongoing engagement with continued training and education in industry best practices.

“We are delighted that the City of Sacramento has led the way in California on behalf of excavation safety, and we will work to ensure that the program achieves the maximum positive impact in protecting buried infrastructure,” said Dave Mauerman, from Gold Shovel Standard. “The City of Sacramento’s participation will go far in helping GSS continue to develop standardized damage prevention metrics that increase public and workforce safety.”

There are more than 100 billion feet of buried assets in the US (or, the equivalent of one football field for every person in the country), and they are damaged at the rate of one-per-minute. Buried asset damages can injure or kill the workforce or public, harm the environment, or disable power, gas, telecom and other services for an entire neighborhood. The estimated cost of damages to buried infrastructure in the US is \$1.5 trillion annually.

Gold Shovel Standard has already become a permanent fixture in much of North America as industry has rapidly embraced this ambitious program. The rate of adoption has dramatically increased since its implementation, and numbers of new members and participants are expanding at a healthy rate. Notably, GSS has been embraced by some of the largest telecom companies, gas and electric utilities, pipeline operators and a variety of municipalities.

### **About Gold Shovel Standard**

Gold Shovel Standard (GSS) is a nonprofit organization committed to improving workforce and public safety and the integrity of vital buried infrastructure. GSS believes that greater transparency in all aspects of damage prevention among buried-asset operators, locators and contractors is essential to drive

continuous improvement, and vital to ensure increasingly safe working conditions and communities. The Web site is [www.GoldShovelStandard.org](http://www.GoldShovelStandard.org)

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