



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SAWPA'S BUDGET RECOGNIZED WITH DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION  
AWARD BY GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

RIVERSIDE, CA – The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's (SAWPA) biennial budget has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 16<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

To receive the award, SAWPA's budget had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation that include ranking "proficient" in all four categories and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award. Those recognized with the award exemplify exceptional budgets that serve as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

"Finance receives the award, but it's an agencywide effort," said SAWPA's Deputy General Manager and Chief Financial Officer Karen Williams. "Everyone touches the budget in some way, and we couldn't complete it without the continued support of our Project Managers, Administration Department, General Manager, and Board of Commissioners."

Under William's direction, SAWPA first applied for and received the award in 2007. Though applying requires additional time and effort, she believes this recognition showcases the important work done by the Finance Department and SAWPA's projects throughout the Santa Ana Watershed.

There are over 1,700 participants in the Budget Awards Program, and the most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website.

*The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), a joint power authority located in Riverside, California, focuses on a broad range of water resource issues including water supply reliability, water quality improvement, recycled water, wastewater treatment, groundwater management, brine disposal, and integrated regional planning. SAWPA's mission is to develop and maintain regional plans, programs, and projects that will protect the Santa Ana River basin water resources to maximize beneficial uses within the watershed in an economically and environmentally responsible manner. To learn more, please visit [www.SAWPA.org](http://www.SAWPA.org) and follow*

SAWPA\_OWOW on Twitter and Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority on LinkedIn.



**The Government Finance Officers Association  
of the United States and Canada**

*presents this*

**CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR BUDGET PREPARATION**  
*to*

**Finance Department  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, California**



*The Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association to those individuals who have been instrumental in their government unit achieving a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which is the highest award in governmental budgeting, is presented to those government units whose budgets are judged to adhere to program standards.*

Executive Director

*Christopher P. Morrell*

Date: **April 19, 2022**

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