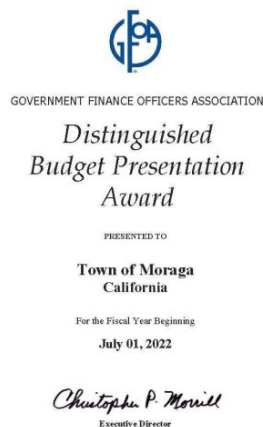




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Moraga racks up another finance-related award

By Vera Kochan



The actual award (wooden plaque with gold lettering) will arrive in a few months Photo courtesy Administrative Services Department

The town of Moraga has another reason to be proud - it just received its first ever Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget.

"You have to apply for the award by answering a set of questions and go through several reviews by experts in budgeting who are the judges," explained Administrative Services Director Annie To. It was while going through her emails one day that she discovered a message from GFOA. "When I read it, I jumped up out of my chair! We submitted [the entry] more to get feedback on our methods, but then we found out that Moraga actually won!"

According to GFOA, over 1,700 participants entered the Budget Awards Program and had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation pertaining to four major categories: a policy document; a financial plan; an operations guide; and a communications device. Within those categories 14 mandatory criteria had to be met.

To was quick to credit the team effort of Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, the Town Council and the entire Administrative Services staff for their part in putting together the submission packet.

Along with the email To received announcing the town's award, GFOA Executive Director Chris Morrill included a video commentary, "It is my honor to recognize you for receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

"The purpose of this award program is to encourage and assist governments to prepare comprehensive and understandable budget documents that we believe will both improve transparency and trust in government. To earn the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, you met demanding program criteria. Such a record reflects professionalism, commitment and dedication of your organization's leaders and finance team. We hope that this award will serve as an example and encourage others to strive for the same high standards in their own budget documents."

Morrill's video concluded, "Therefore, it is my privilege on behalf of the Government Finance Officers Association to present to you this Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. Congratulations!"

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