



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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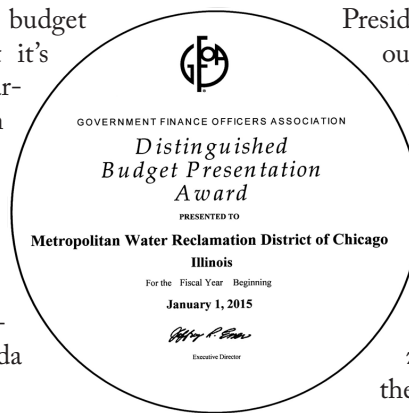
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## GFOA award affirms MWRD's resolve to present a transparent budget

It is one challenge to create and meet a budget for a major governmental agency, but it's another task to accurately and transparently convey a report that breaks down the complex figures and makes sense to the public. This detailed financial reporting is what sets the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) apart, according to the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).



President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "I commend our staff who put our annual budget book together, making it a reliable source of information for the District and ensuring that the District's financial conditions and operations are fairly and fully presented to the public and our Board as well as investors, regulators and rating agencies. Providing an open and transparent budget system proves our organizational strengths and willingness to serve the public."

The GFOA recently announced that the MWRD received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2015 budget based on a panel of independent reviews. This will be the 31st consecutive year the MWRD has received the honor.

In order to receive the budget award, the MWRD must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide and as a communications device. The GFOA states to receive an award the budget documents must be rated proficient in all four categories and 14 mandatory criteria within those categories. Every year, the MWRD publishes a budget book and budget summary. The book not only provides financial statements and details funds line by line for the MWRD's \$1.2 billion budget, but it also breaks down each MWRD department 2015 budget and other funds, making the publication a valuable resource beyond merely crunching numbers.

"The award represents the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's commitment to meet the highest principles of government budgeting," said MWRD

In addition to receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the MWRD's budget presentation was bestowed with the special recognition "Outstanding as a Communications Device." The GFOA has also awarded the MWRD with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 39 consecutive years and the same certificate to the MWRD Retirement Fund for 21 consecutive years and the MWRD Retiree Health Care Trust for seven consecutive years.

The GFOA is a major professional association servicing the needs of more than 18,000 appointed and elected local, state and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management.

An award presentation at the MWRD is scheduled for early 2016. The budget book and "Budget in Brief" summary can be found at [www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org) by clicking on the General Administration under the Departments tab.

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**Recovering Resources, Transforming Water**

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org)) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*