

## PRESS RELEASE

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## California Lottery Wins Prestigious Finance Award

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Lottery is thrilled to announce it has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), a group promoting excellence in public finance.

The California Lottery is currently the only lottery to receive this prestigious award, which honors a commitment to the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

"I'm proud of our incredible finance team and their dedication to excellence in the budgeting process and to transparency in all that we do," said California Lottery Director Harjinder K. Shergill Chima. "This award further demonstrates the thoughtful approach our entire staff takes when fulfilling our mission to raise additional funding for public education."

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is given to government organizations which satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation, and which have pioneered efforts to improve quality budgeting.

The California Lottery has been previously honored by the GFOA with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting.

All fully audited California Lottery financial reports are available to the public at <a href="http://www.calottery.com/en/about-us">http://www.calottery.com/en/about-us</a>.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving more than 22,000 government finance professionals.

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The mission of the California Lottery is to raise additional funding for public education, helping to supplement school budgets for K-12 as well as colleges and universities. **The California Lottery has raised more than \$46 billion for public schools** through the responsible sale of its games since 1985. Lottery funding for schools is largely discretionary, so administrators and educators can use Lottery money for instructional programs and services they may not otherwise afford. The California Lottery features eight <u>draw games</u> and dozens of new instant <u>Scratchers</u> games each year. More than 95% of California Lottery sales revenue goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, <u>retailer commissions and bonuses</u>, and contributions to education. More information about who benefits can be found <u>here</u>. California Lottery is also committed to promoting <u>responsible gaming</u>. Anyone who shows signs of a gambling problem, or knows someone who does, can get free, confidential help by calling the CA Problem Gambling Hotline at 1-800-GAMBLER.

