

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 25, 2006

Contact: Jennifer I. Curtin, MPA  
Director of Public Affairs

410.430.1785

[jcurtin@agacgfm.org](mailto:jcurtin@agacgfm.org)

**Improving Performance Reporting for Local Government**

**The City of Palo Alto, CA, Honored with Second National Accountability Award**

**Alexandria, VA** – Recognizing performance reporting excellence, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) has honored the City of Palo Alto, CA, with a Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Award. A distinguished panel of government financial managers chose to honor the City of Palo Alto for their exceptional Accountability Report. This is the second consecutive year that the City of Palo Alto has won this national award.

AGA established this award program in conjunction with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Foundation granted AGA funds to launch the Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting Program. The program offers in-depth evaluation of SEA reports (also called performance reports), recommendations for improvements and recognition of excellent reports with a Certificate of Excellence. The SEA Program encourages issuing regular high-quality service efforts and accomplishments reports and helps state and local governments effectively communicate performance to the public.

“This award for excellence should alert the tax-paying public, Congress, public interest groups and other financial management professionals that state and local government agencies are strenuously working to make the government more accountable,” stated AGA Executive Director, Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA. “Not only are they working hard, but they are also achieving these sought after goals,” he said.

The number of state and local governments issuing such performance reports is increasing substantially following the Governmental Accounting Standards Board’s release, in April 2003, of *Reporting Performance Information: Suggested Criteria for Effective Communication*. This book, which has come to be known as the Green Book, is a special report setting forth 16 non-authoritative suggested criteria and 11 good practices) to guide the preparation of such reports.

Van Daniker said that governments issuing performance reports would like these reports to be not only complete and comprehensive, but also interesting, informative, and inviting to read. They would appreciate knowing if the report is fulfilling its purpose of effectively informing readers of the government’s performance and if it is recognized as an “outstanding document.”

The purpose of the reviews is to evaluate how well the government or other organization informs the public about its performance. The review is not intended to evaluate the quality of the government or its performance. Rather, the focus is entirely on the report’s usefulness to the public and other decision-makers who have a stake in the effectiveness of the government’s services and programs.

AGA plans to honor the City of Palo Alto team at an awards ceremony on Oct. 31, 2006. The ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Second Annual Performance Reporting and Accountability Conference in Schaumburg, Ill.

The Association of Government Accountants is an 15,000-member professional Association devoted to meeting the continuing professional education needs of financial managers at all levels of government, the private sector and academia. For more information about the Association, or the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, call 800.AGA.7211, or visit AGA's website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

###