



2019 COUNTY OF VENTURA  
STATE OF THE COUNTY

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

*This year is one that has been marked by remarkable achievements and resilience for the County and our residents. The County saw its work in the community, serving our residents, recognized again and again for exceptional outreach and quality programs that are improving the lives of all those who live within our County borders.*

**WHILE WE ONCE AGAIN** experienced wildfires in our county, the response by the Fire Protection District to the Easy and Maria Fires was swift and measured, resulting in minimal damage. Our Fire Protection District continues to provide exceptional protection and service to our County as newly remodeled Firehawks will soon be added to our arsenal of firefighting tools. As well, the Agricultural Commissioner has joined the effort to provide increased wildfire protection to residents, receiving a CalFIRE grant to remove hazardous trees that present wildfire risk.

## **OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS, WHICH YOU WILL READ ABOUT ARE:**

- The Family Medicine Residency Program at Ventura County Medical Center was ranked the first in the nation.
- The Ventura County WIC program was awarded the “Gold Level, Loving Support Award of Excellence” by the USDA.
- The Clerk-Recorder successfully implemented a new voting system that will be used in the upcoming elections in 2020.
- The General Services Agency and Emergency Medical Services teamed up to purchase a former inmate transport bus and convert it into a multipurpose emergency services unit, which can be used for mass casualty incidents, mass evacuations, emergency preparedness activities and special events.

Aside from these significant achievements, the County continues to prosper financially, passing a structurally balanced budget of \$2.3 billion that maintains the levels of services, while also including services that have been increased over the past five years. As well, the County continues to support its more than 9,000 employees, who serve in 25 different agencies, with opportunities for growth through programs such as L.E.A.P and the Mentor Program, whose goal is to promote employee growth and increase diversity in leadership. Our County continually looks ahead to the future, preparing for the needs of an aging population and adults with disabilities, and joining the conversation that is happening statewide about preparedness.

The health and well-being of the County is thanks to the leadership of the Board of Supervisors and the commitment of the County managers and employees investing in strong programs and initiative that improve the quality of life in the region for all residents.

**MIKE POWERS**, County of Ventura • County Executive Officer

## COUNTY OF VENTURA *CEO & Board of Supervisors*



**COUNTY  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER**  
MIKE POWERS

Hall of Administration  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009 • 805-654-2613  
Email: CountyExecutiveOfficer@ventura.org  
Responsible for overseeing almost 9,000 employees in 25 agencies and departments and overseeing or supporting all major County functions including budget, finance, legislation, human resources, labor relations, economic development and information technology.



**DISTRICT 1  
SUPERVISOR**  
STEVE BENNETT

800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
805-654-2703 • Fax: 805-654-2226  
Email: Steve.Bennett@ventura.org  
Serving: San Buenaventura, Montalvo, Saticoy, Ojai Valley, City of Ojai, Upper Ojai Valley, Riverpark, Northwest Oxnard, and North Coast.



**DISTRICT 2  
SUPERVISOR**  
LINDA PARKS

625 West Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
805-214-2510 • Toll Free: 800-660-5474  
Email: Linda.Parks@ventura.org  
Serving: Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Westlake Village, Oak Park, Bell Canyon, Hidden Valley, Lake Sherwood, Somis, Las Posas Valley, California State University Channel Islands, Portions of the Oxnard Plain, Santa Rosa Valley, Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, California Air National Guard, and South Coast.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION



## HEALTH CARE AGENCY

The Family Medicine Residency Program at Ventura County Medical Center was ranked first in the nation by Doximity, the professional medical network, and U.S. News & World Report. There are 674 Family Medicine Residency Programs in the United States accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.



## HARBOR DEPARTMENT

The California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) awarded the Ventura County Harbor Department with its Excellence in Public Information and Communications (EPIC) Award in the “Digital Communications: Website/App” category. The Harbor Department received the award for its revamped tourism website, [www.channelislandsharbor.org](http://www.channelislandsharbor.org). The new website design helped the Harbor Department reach its goal of positioning the Channel Islands Harbor online as a top regional destination to visit.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For the fifth year in a row, the County was named a Top Digital County for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties. The organization ranked the County of Ventura the **2nd best** Digital County in the nation.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

The Ventura County Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program was presented with the nationally recognized, “Gold Level, Loving Support Award of Excellence” by the United States Department of Agriculture. Ventura County WIC received this award in recognition for providing exemplary breastfeeding programs and support services to clients. The Loving Support Award of Excellence was developed by the USDA to recognize and celebrate local WIC agencies that provide exemplary breastfeeding programs and support services.



**DISTRICT 3**  
SUPERVISOR  
KELLY LONG

1203 Flynn Road, Ste. 220  
Camarillo, CA 93012  
805-654-2276 • Fax: 805-654-2226  
Email: [Kelly.Long@ventura.org](mailto:Kelly.Long@ventura.org)  
Serving: Camarillo, Port Hueneme, Southeast Oxnard, East Oxnard Plain, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru, East Lockwood Valley, and Eastern Portion of Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme.



**DISTRICT 4**  
SUPERVISOR  
BOB HUBER

980 Enchanted Way #203  
Simi Valley, CA 93065  
805-955-2300  
Email: [Bob.Huber@ventura.org](mailto:Bob.Huber@ventura.org)  
[www.Ventura.org/Huber](http://www.Ventura.org/Huber)  
Serving: Simi Valley, Moorpark, Santa Susana Knolls, Box Canyon, Chatsworth Peak, Home Acres, Sinaloa Lake, and Tierra Rejada Valley.



**DISTRICT 5**  
SUPERVISOR  
JOHN ZARAGOZA

800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009 • 805-654-2613  
Email: [John.Zaragoza@ventura.org](mailto:John.Zaragoza@ventura.org)  
Serving: Oxnard, Oxnard Shores, Mandalay Bay, Silver Strand, Hollywood Beach, Hollywood By-the-Sea, Channel Islands Harbor, El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Del Norte Area, Oxnard College, Oxnard Plain, Strickland and portion of Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION *continued*

## VENTURA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

VCAAA received two National Mature Media Awards for their video production – *Remembering Ventura County’s Veterans* and *Ventura County Elder Abuse Call to Action*. The videos were recognized as being among the nation’s best marketing, communications, educational materials, and programs produced for older adults. *Remembering Ventura County’s Veterans* won a bronze award and was produced in partnership with the Ventura County Veterans Services Offices. *Ventura County Elder Abuse Call to Action* received a merit award.

## AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

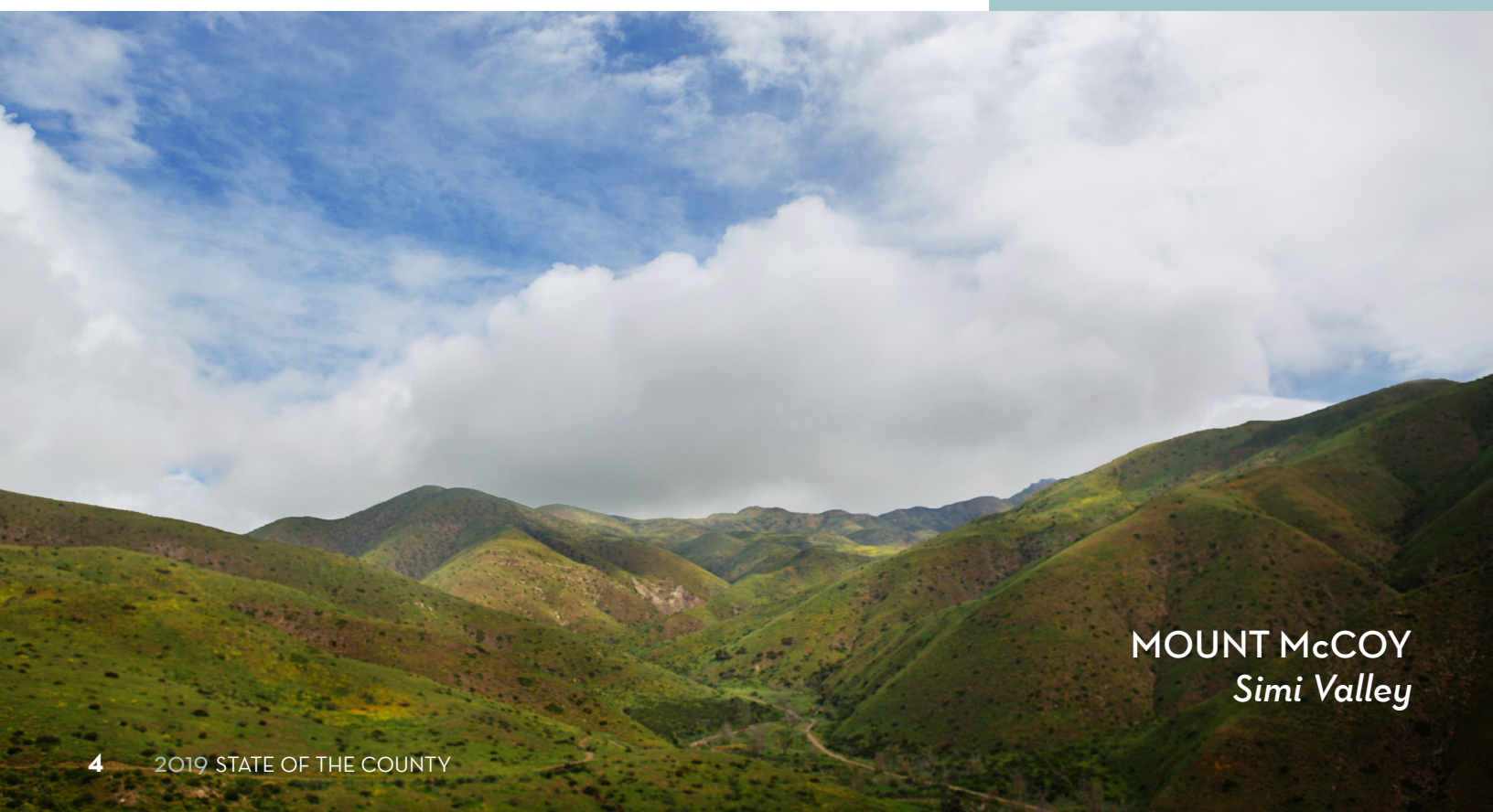
The County of Ventura Auditor-Controller’s Internal Audit Division (IAD) received the highest possible opinion from a recent peer review conducted for the five-year period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2019. Specifically, the peer reviewers found that the IAD’s internal quality control system was suitably designed and operating effectively to provide reasonable assurance of conformance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards)* issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors for the period under review.

## HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

In response to recent disasters, the agency increased **by tenfold** the number of individuals trained to deliver Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) services to members of the public with disabilities who seek assistance in disaster shelters after being displaced from their homes. This program facilitates the process of getting essential resources needed. Locally, FAST workers were called upon during recent disasters incidents including the Easy and Maria Fires.

## COUNTY OF VENTURA Quick Facts

- The county has a land area of **1,893 square miles**.
- Los Padres National Forest account for **46 percent** of the landmass in the northern portion of the county.
- Farmland and the Los Padres National Forest occupy **half of the county’s 1.2 million acres**.



MOUNT McCOY  
Simi Valley



WILDWOOD PARK  
Thousand Oaks



# COUNTY WORKFORCE

AGRICULTURE  
*Santa Clara Valley*

## **COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

### **Mentor Program**

Developed by the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force to as a best practice for inclusion and leadership development, organizations with successful mentor programs do see more diversity in leadership. Since launching the mentor program in 2018, more than **83 employees** have completed the program.

### **Service Excellence**

The County's Service Excellence Program continued to bring cost-savings to the County and helped streamline county services. A cumulative total of **1,230 improvements** have been recorded since the program was launched, resulting in a cost-savings to the County of **\$37.6 million**.

# GOOD GOVERNMENT, FINANCIAL



## AGRICULTURE

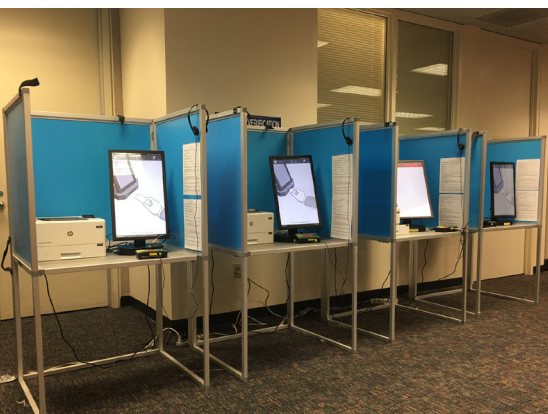
The Agricultural Commissioner's Office implemented **Bee Safe/BeeWhere**, a program that allows staff to track and register beehives that are both kept locally and brought into the county from all over the USA. Over **33,000 bee hives** were registered across **245 locations**. The Agricultural Commissioner's office works with beekeepers to properly label their boxes to help prevent theft and the registration allows pesticide companies to provide advanced notification to beekeepers when they intend to spray certain materials to give them a chance to safeguard their hives.

## ASSESSOR

The office of the Assessor completed the \$141.1 billion tax roll for the 2019/20 tax year on time in June. The agency's dedicated staff worked diligently to process **36,272 deeds**, assess **12,877 transfers**, enroll more than **10,700 new construction events**, review over **23,400 properties** for a decline in value, answer **28,423 taxpayer phone inquiries** and resolve over **1,600 assessment appeal cases**.

## COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

The Clerk-Recorder, Registrar of Voters purchased a new, Federally- and State-certified, **ADA-compliant voting equipment system** that provides touchscreen ballot marking, paper ballot printing, scanning for ballot tabulation, ballot adjudication, and options for military and overseas voting. The new system, purchased using State and federal grants with no cost to taxpayers, was deployed during the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election.



## GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY - PARKS

After the Board approved Parks' reservations-only policy last year, GSA Parks Department is setting new records for camping and attendance. Camping and attendance was up by **7.94%** and **3.63%** respectively over the previous record year and set new a record for overnight camping reservations with a milestone of **83,501 bookings**. The change to reservations has only improved access for everyone to all of the County's camping parks. As an added benefit, cash handling has been removed from the tasks that the Parks Rangers have to perform.



## HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

In a partnership between the Human Services Agency's Veterans Services Office and the Public Defender's Office, the agency launched the "**Veterans Phoenix Program**". The program connects court-involved veterans to mental health and substance abuse treatment in order to find them the services that they need to rehabilitate out of the legal system.



## FIRE DISTRICT

Over **60,000 toy donations** were collected in November and December from local businesses, community members and drop-off sites at local fire stations throughout the County of Ventura during Ventura County Fire Department's (VCFD) annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. The toy drive benefitted over **30 non-profits** and more than **6,000 local children**, making it VCFD's most successful holiday-giving campaign in 27 years.

# STABILITY

# APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS



## PROBATION

The Probation Agency, in collaboration with agencies across the County, began the planning process to provide a **graffiti abatement program** to the areas of El Rio, Saticoy, and Nyland Acres that as of March were no longer serviced by the City of Oxnard. The Agency's Work Release Program will utilize a paid work crew to remove graffiti, using a biodegradable chemical with water and/or paint and a service utility truck provided by the County Executive Office, a 200-gallon pressure washer, trailer and supplies. The goal is to expand the County Graffiti program county wide for all unincorporated areas.

## TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

The Treasurer-Tax Collector increased the percentage of on-line taxpayers from 14% to 16%. With this increase, more than **5,400 tax payers** could use the service and pay their taxes from the comfort of their homes. This equates to over **\$39 million in tax payments** made through a more efficient and cost-effective manner for county residents.

## CEO/HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

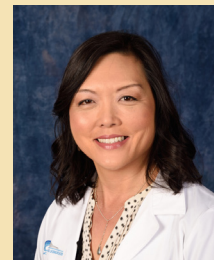
Launched in July, the County of Ventura Human Services Agency's **Farmworker Resource Program** is the first of its kind in California. Since its inception, this program has assisted more than **180 community members** with workplace concerns such as payroll, working conditions and labor laws, navigating services available from different state and county agencies, leveraging resources, and improving work relationships. The program's non-regulatory approach to resolving concerns, as well as the dedication of its diverse staff of program coordinators, which include Spanish and Mixteco speakers, continue to foster trust and provide a friendly gateway for farmworkers to seek helpful resources and address concerns. Successful outcomes are aiding in the promotion of the agriculture industry and highlighting Ventura County as a first-choice destination for agricultural work.



**KIP TURNER**  
Airports  
Director

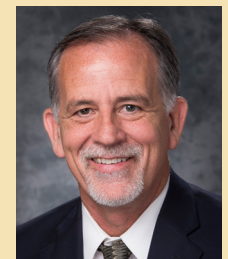


**JACKIE ROSE**  
Animal Services Director



**THERESA CHO**  
Ambulatory  
Care CEO

**JOHN FRANKHAUSER**  
VCMC &  
Santa Paula  
Hospital CEO



**KIM PRILLHART**  
Resource  
Management  
Agency  
Director

**CHARLES GENKEL**  
Resource  
Management  
Agency  
Deputy  
Director



# COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

## AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The VCAAA helped lead a conversation on the **Ventura County Master Plan on Aging** at the Spanish Hills Country Club in October. The event welcomed nearly **200 representatives** from a variety of partnering organizations, as well as Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Kim McCoy Wade, Director of the California Department on Aging. The Master Plan on Aging, which focuses primarily on the growing needs of older adults and adults with disabilities, is both a local and statewide effort.

## HEALTH CARE AGENCY - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Santa Paula Youth and Family and Adult Outpatient clinics launched a **pilot project** to impact access to mental health services. In the spirit of “the right to services at the right time” and being responsive to community requests for increased access to mental health services, clinics began taking walk-in requests for services. The dedicated team of front office staff, mental health associates, behavioral health clinicians, Logrando Bienestar, RISE staff and STAR staff worked together to implement a responsive and attentive system, increasing access, partnerships within the community and overall numbers of community members receiving mental health services.

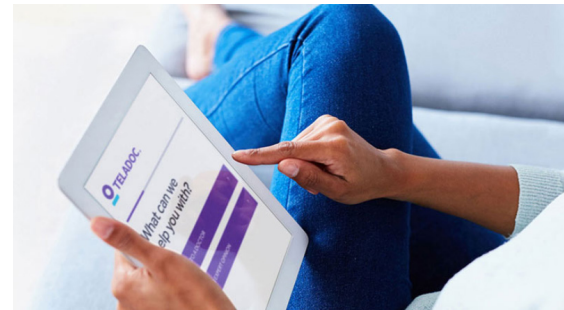
## HEALTH CARE AGENCY - PUBLIC HEALTH / EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Public Health’s Emergency Medical Services Agency in conjunction with the General Services Agency Fleet Services Division, converted a former surplus inmate transport bus, acquired from the Sheriff’s Office, into a **multipurpose emergency services unit**. The unit which can be used for mass casualty incidents, mass evacuations, emergency preparedness activities and special events, was completed at a fraction of the cost of a new vehicle. The new emergency response vehicle was placed into service mid-year and is expected to serve Ventura County for years to come.



## HEALTH CARE AGENCY - VC HEALTH CARE PLAN

The VCHCP went live with Teledoc telemedicine. All VCHCP members can now be connected to a physician within **15 minutes** of their request via their computers or phones. Members now have access to a physician **24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year**.



## LIBRARY

The **Ventura County Mobile Library** hit the road in May, more than 20 years after the last bookmobile in the county ceased to operate. This modern-day, high-tech library on wheels visits underserved areas throughout the county and offers a full range of library services including: free Wi-Fi, wireless printing, laptop lending, 3D printing, STEAM & Makerspaces activities, storytimes, and class visits. The new Mobile Library was completely funded through grant and donated funds, including a generous donation from the Ventura County Library Foundation and a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded through the California State Library.



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Environmental Health Division continued mosquito borne disease (West Nile and Encephalitis Virus) and invasive Aedes mosquito species surveillance efforts, part of its Mosquito Surveillance (Vector Control Program), to protect the public from illnesses propagated by mosquitos.. During the past year, the team inspected **15,964 mosquito breeding sources**, resulting in **6,816 treatments**.







# ENVIRONMENT, LAND-USE, & INFRASTRUCTURE

BEACHES  
Ventura County

## COUNTY OF VENTURA Quick Facts

- *Elevation across the county ranges from **sea level to almost 9,000 ft.***
- *The County **boasts** 42 miles of spectacular coastline.*
- *Over **846,000** people **call Ventura County home.***

[www.ventura.org](http://www.ventura.org)

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Phase I of the **VC Resilient Coastal Adaptation Project** was completed by the Planning Division. It provided the County's first Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment, an Adaptation Strategies Report, and preliminary Local Coastal Program policies to address sea level rise on our coast.

### PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

Work continues with the City of Oxnard on the design (and construction) of the **Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project**. In the past year, County and City staff worked together to successfully redesign the project to reduce the project cost by **\$50 million** while also maintaining the initial scope of the project. Additionally, through extensive coordination with the County, City, Caltrans and VCTC, the team also obtained commitment from the California Transportation Commission to fully fund the project construction. The project team continues to make progress to meet the expected construction start date in 2022.

### FIRE DISTRICT

The **Ventura County Peer Support Coalition** has strengthened working relations with all County agencies in respect to mental health. Mental health of all VCFD employees is top on the priority list. Starting this year every new firefighter is given the baseline skill of ASSIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). Additionally, the Peer Support Cadre has grown to over **30 members** consisting of all levels within the Fire family.

# PUBLIC SAFETY



## AGRICULTURE

More than **\$750,000 in grant funding** from both CalFIRE and California Department of Food and Agriculture was granted to the Agricultural Commissioner to perform trapping, surveys and tree removals of the Invasive Shot Hole Borer. These tiny beetles bring their own lunch with them in the form of a fungal disease that infects over **60 types of trees** such as sycamore, maples, oaks, and willows. Once infected, trees will eventually succumb to the disease while the beetles continue to build high numbers which in turn leave the dying tree to infest other nearby trees. As the trees die, branches are susceptible to breaking and falling on homes, cars, and even people in urban areas, and can leave dead firewood in place in wildland settings that have provided ready fuel in several Southern California wildfires already.

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Sheriff's Office received a **\$800,000 grant** from the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs to form a human trafficking task force to combat human trafficking and assist the victims of human trafficking. The task force will include a leadership panel comprised of local law enforcement and advocacy groups who will work together to increase public awareness of the issue, as well as provide support for victims' services.



## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

In December, the District Attorney celebrated a soft opening of the **Ventura County Family Justice Center**. Following a **\$400,000 grant** from the California Legislature, the center became a reality. Designed to support victims impacted by family violence and trauma, the center helps advocates support victims and provide them access to services such as counseling, compensation and restraining orders, all in one place.



## FIRE DISTRICT

The three-year process continues to convert two Black Hawk Helicopters to Fire Hawk firefighting helicopters for fire suppression. A Fire Hawk can carry **13 personnel** and **1,000 gallons of water** and will come equipped with taller landing gear and belly tanks for fire suppression, as well as updated avionics and radios. The Fire Hawks are currently in Colorado undergoing conversion and expect to be in the County ready for fire season in late summer 2020.

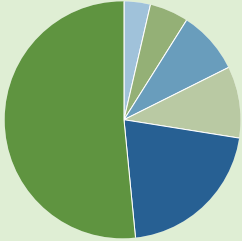
## PROBATION AGENCY

In January, Governor Gavin Newsom set aside **\$75 million dollars** to allow selected counties in the state to either create a **Pre-trial Pilot Program** or expand their existing program. The Ventura County Superior Court, with assistance from the Probation Agency, applied for and received this grant funding. In October, the Probation Agency began assigning Deputy Probation Officers to the County jail. Releasing lower level defendants on pre-trial monitoring allows jail space to be available for more serious, higher risk offenders. Defendants released from custody on pre-trial monitoring report to the Probation Agency for check-in appointments each week.

# BUDGET & FINANCE

## GENERAL FUND Appropriations

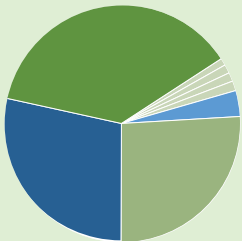
2019-2020



- 51% Health & Human Services
- 21% Public Safety
- 10% Environmental Balance/Land Use/Infrastructure
- 9% Fire Protection District
- 4% General Government
- 5% Other General Fund

## GENERAL FUND Revenues

2019-2020



- 38% Charges for Services
- 28% Intergovernmental Revenue
- 26% Taxes
- 4% Misc. Revenues & Use/Fines, Penalties/Licenses, Permits, etc.
- 4% Other General Fund



County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

## TOTAL BUDGET

2019-2020: **\$2,309,000,000**



## GENERAL FUND BUDGET

2019-2020: **\$1,143,000,000**



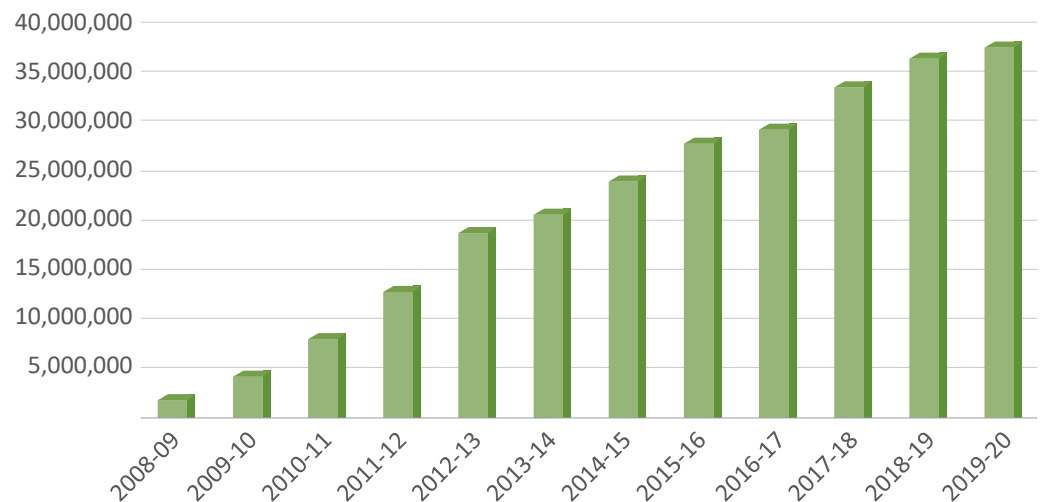
## MAINTAINED HIGHEST LONG-TERM CREDIT RATING

S&P: AAA

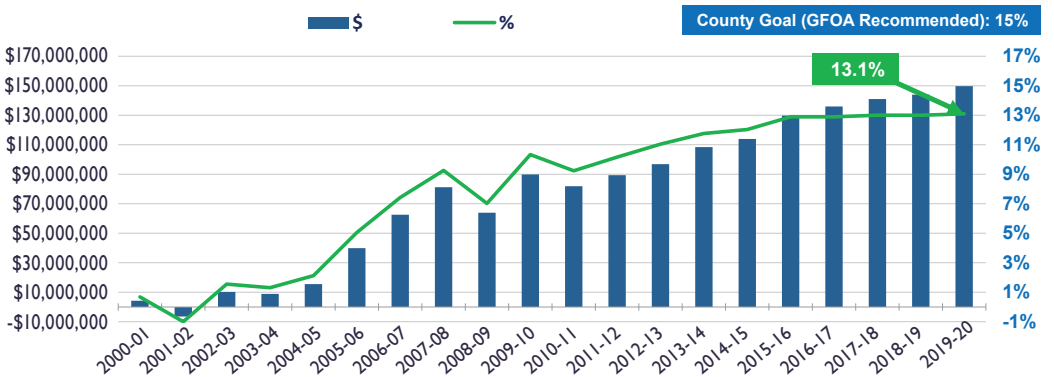
Moody's: Aaa

## PROCESS IMPROVEMENT SAVINGS

Cumulative Events Dollar Value



## UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO APPROPRIATIONS RATIO



	GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS	% OF APPROPRIATIONS	UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE @ 15% GOAL
FY 2019-20	\$1,143,126,096	13.1%	\$149,750,000	\$171,468,914



OJAI VALLEY  
*from Meditation Mount*