
On September 13, 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Countywide Strategic Plan including the County's Mission Statement, Values, and Guiding Principles. These statements are reproduced here to reaffirm the importance of these principles in guiding the planning and defining the purpose of the County's budget process.



~MISSION~

To provide superior public service and support so that all residents have the opportunity to improve their quality of life while enjoying the benefits of a safe, healthy, and vibrant community.

~VALUES~

Build and foster public trust through:

- ❖ Ethical Behavior*
- ❖ Transparency and Accountability*
- ❖ Equitable treatment and respect of all constituents*
- ❖ Excellence in service delivery*

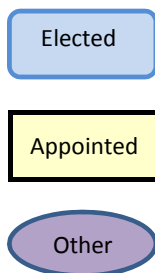
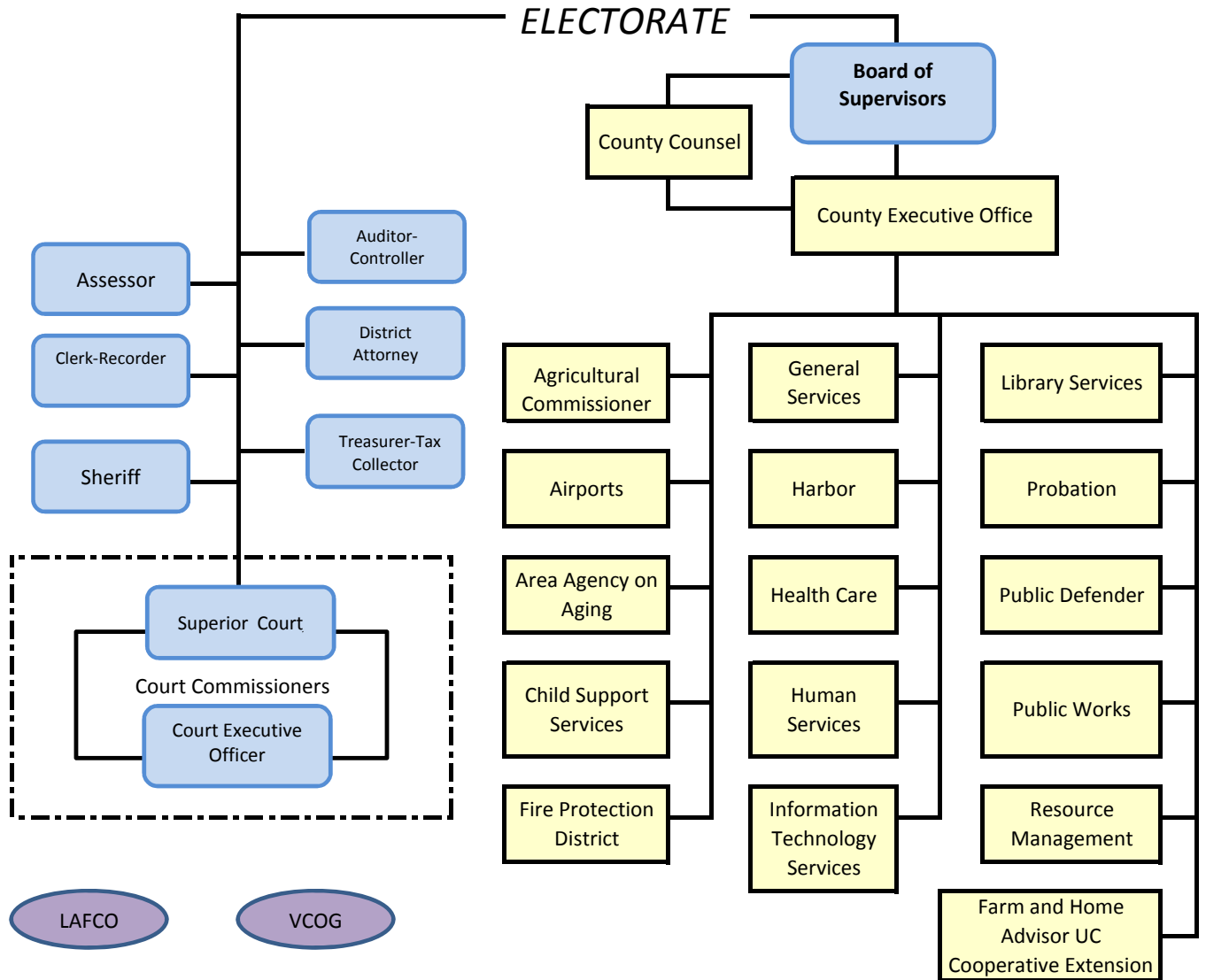
~GUIDING PRINCIPLES~

We focus on serving our residents and business communities by:

- ❖ Adopting carefully considered policies*
- ❖ Staying competitive through the implementation of proven practices and the effective use of technology*
- ❖ Delivering services in a business and constituent friendly, customer-service driven, cost effective manner*
 - ❖ Utilizing strategic thinking and action*
- ❖ Promoting an action-oriented, empowered, and accountable workforce*
 - ❖ Planning for and developing programs to meet future needs*
 - ❖ Operating in a fiscally responsible manner*



County of Ventura, California



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Wednesday, November 18, 2015

TO: THE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 29000 through 29144 of the California Government Code, the County of Ventura presents the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 Adopted Budget, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 15, 2015 and balanced based on financial information available at that time.

The FY 2015-16 Adopted Budget is the plan of financial operations for departments, agencies and special districts governed by the Board of Supervisors. The budget contains estimated expenditures for the fiscal year and the proposed means of financing those expenditures. The budget document is available at the Auditor-Controller's website noted below. Following is a summary of the budget document.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Total budgeted appropriations increased to \$2.04 billion, representing an increase of 8.7% over the prior year. The majority of the increase is attributed to social, health and safety services, which are mostly funded by additional Federal and State revenues. The FY 2014-15 total actual expenditures of \$1.73 billion were 18.1% lower than the FY 2015-16 budgeted appropriations.

In the General Fund, appropriations of \$1.01 billion has increased by \$59.64 million, or 6.3% over the prior year adopted budget. The increase in appropriations is primarily due to increases in salaries and employee benefits, including increased retirement rates, negotiated and market based adjustments for employee salaries. Additionally, there are increases in salaries and benefits associated with increased eligibility staffing in the Human Services Agency and Health Care Agency as the number of MediCal enrollees has increased continuously during the past three years. There is also a significant workforce expansion in Adult Services, Children and Family Services and Foster Care Mental Health Services. These increases are primarily an offset of increases in direct department revenues supporting the program expansion and additional General Purpose Revenues.

Total County's net budgeted revenues of \$1.90 billion increased \$128.26 million, or 7.2% over the prior year adopted budget. The net increase in General Fund Revenue is \$59.64 million, consisting of Property Taxes, Charges for Services and Intergovernmental Revenue. Intergovernmental Revenues are primarily related to the increases in the level of Behavioral Health services such as increases to SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area), Drug Medicaid, State Realignment increase, Katie A. settlement agreement (Mental Health site assessment and services for foster children) and other service expansions within Behavioral Health. The FY 2014-15 total actual revenue of \$1.81 billion was lower than the FY 2015-16 budgeted revenues by 4.9%.

The County's budget is based on several significant principles and guidelines established by the Board of Supervisors, including:

- A structurally balanced budget where ongoing requirements are financed with ongoing revenues.
- Year-end fund balance or carryover for the General Fund is not considered an ongoing available financing source but should be used to maintain policy-set fund balance levels and finance one-time expenditures.
- Budget adjustments will occur as the fiscal year progresses to reflect reasonable and conservative fluctuations in revenue and expenditures.
- Recommendations comply with the Public Safety Ordinance 4088 settlement agreement.
- New programs or expanded service levels are generally offset by new revenue or net cost reductions in other existing programs.
- Continued efforts by every department to reduce overhead and administrative costs while maintaining priority services.
- Focus on ensuring sufficient resources to meet core County service needs by defining department budget priorities and implementing Performance Measurement to establish and monitor efficiency.
- State or federal funding reductions for specific programs and services offset by corresponding cuts in the same department budgets and programs, or offset by alternative revenue or net cost decreases in other department programs.
- Continuous monitoring of the County's financial condition with focus on long term financial viability and integration of the use of multi-year forecast as a guide to maintain structural balance.
- Reduced overhead and enhanced cost effectiveness in addition to the various initiatives launched by the Service Excellence Program through Lean 6 Sigma projects and alignment to the County's Five Year Strategic Plan.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- The adopted budget includes appropriations for negotiated salary increases and modest market based salary adjustments. It also includes full year funding for operational and debt amortization costs for the new Financial Management System.
- The actuarially determined composite employer contribution rate remained the same as the prior fiscal year at 26.8% of covered payroll. Estimated increase in total County employer contributions of approximately \$10.00 million.
- Unfunded and unrecorded Actuarial Accrued Liabilities for the Management Retiree Health Plan and the Subsidized Medical Program are \$13.40 million and \$16.20 million, respectively.
- The Behavioral Health Department (BHD) net County cost of \$11.90 million is primarily dedicated to offset the operating costs of the inpatient psychiatric unit. In addition, the Mental Health Services Act revenue forecast for FY 2015-16 reflects a \$1.00 million decrease with a corresponding decrease in budgeted expenses to reflect a leveling off of expense growth aimed at bringing expenditures in line with revenues over the next five years.

- Public Safety Realignment revenue from the State to support the fourth year implementation of the comprehensive shift of criminal justice responsibilities to the County is \$16.71 million. However, the base realignment funding from the State continues to decline, which resulted in \$0.92 million reduction in agencies' Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget as compared to prior year, for a total of \$19.33 million in appropriations. The operating deficit of \$2.62 million is covered by restricted program reserves.
- Fire Protection District allocated \$12.70 million in FY 2015-16 budget for construction of three replacement fire stations, \$6.00 million for land acquisition for the Regional Training Center and approximately \$1.20 million for remodeling and upgrades to existing stations.
- General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance is \$129.73 million, an increase of \$15.81 million or 13.9% over the prior year adopted budget. It includes one-time funding from the State for the repayment of pre-2004 SB90 claims of \$18.00 million.
- General Fund secured property taxes are budgeted at \$189.10 million, an increase of \$9.40 million or 5.2% over the prior year. Countywide, the secured property assessed valuation of \$115.20 billion has increased by \$4.70 billion, or 4.2% compared to the prior year.
- Total increase in full-time equivalent (FTE) positions is 268 or 3.1% over the prior year adopted budget. The FTE increase in General Fund is 97 or 1.9% over the prior year. The key component of the FTE increase is in the area of Health and Human Services and Public Safety.

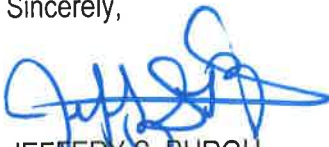
Although the budget is balanced, significant challenges still exist that could negatively affect the County's current and future financial position. Key areas of concern include the impact of State funding issues on Health and Welfare Realignment and Public Safety; Federal actions such as Health Care Reform; as well as revenue stability and cost increases.

Governor Brown signed the Budget Act of 2015 on June 24, 2015. The budget plan highlights investing in the State's future with increased funding for education and health care while setting aside significant amount of funds in reserve as well as paying down \$2.6 billion in past debts.

Although exhibiting a recovering economy, the County will continue to monitor the State Budget to ensure that corresponding adjustments are made in the County's budget for possible State funding adjustments, program shifts, or other factors that may cause negative impact to County programs.

Let us know if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions concerning the budget or regarding the finances of the County of Ventura. Contact information is noted at the bottom of the preceding page.

Sincerely,



JEFFERY S. BURGH
Auditor-Controller

COUNTY OF VENTURA

FY 2015-2016 ADOPTED BUDGET USER'S GUIDE

The Adopted Budget has been prepared in compliance with State Controller and Code of Regulations guidelines. Schedules 1 through 9 present details for 'County (Governmental) Funds' as defined by the State Controller. Schedules 10 and 11 present details of the Internal Service Funds and Enterprise Funds, respectively. Schedules 12 through 15 pertain to Special District Funds whose affairs and finances are under the supervision and control of the Board of Supervisors. A brief description of the type of information contained in each of the schedules is included below:

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Schedule 1, All Funds Summary: represents the County's total budget, and summarizes 'Total Financing Sources' and 'Total Financing Uses' of County funds, that are under the direct control of the Board of Supervisors, including governmental-type funds (general, special revenue, debt service and capital projects funds) as well as enterprise, internal service, special districts and other agencies and the Independent special districts (Special District Enterprise funds). The specific funds included under "Governmental Funds" are found in Schedule 2; "Other Funds" are represented in Schedule 10 (ISF), Schedule 11 (Enterprise), Schedule 12 (Special Districts and Other Agencies).

Schedule 2, Governmental Funds Summary: displays 'Total Financing Sources' and 'Total Financing Uses' for County Governmental funds consisting of general, special revenue, debt service, capital projects and permanent funds. Details for "Decreases/Increases to Fund Balances" (columns 3 and 7) are found in Schedule 4. Details for column 4, "Additional Financing Sources" are found in Schedules 5 and 6. Details for column 6, "Financing Uses" are found in Schedules 7, 8, and 9.

Schedule 3, Fund Balance - Government Funds: summarizes total fund balance, encumbrances, non-spendable/restricted/committed, and assigned obligated fund balance information, by fund, for Governmental Funds displayed in Schedule 2 (column 2). Encumbrances and obligated fund balances are subtracted from the total fund balance to determine the amount of available fund balance that is unobligated as of June 30 of the preceding budget year.

Schedule 4, Obligated Fund Balances – By Governmental Funds: A detailed presentation of "Decreases/Cancellations (columns 3 and 4) and Increases/New (columns 4 and 5) to obligated fund balances" for Governmental Funds presented in Schedule 1 (columns 4 and 6).

FINANCING SOURCES INFORMATION

Schedule 5, Summary of Additional Financing Sources by Source and Fund – Governmental Funds: displays 'Additional Financing Sources' detail by major revenue source and by fund for the 'Governmental' funds noted in Schedule 1. Adopted and Recommended amounts plus the actual revenues for the two previous years is shown.

Schedule 6, Detail of Additional Financing Sources by Fund and Account – Governmental Funds: displays detail by fund, revenue account and source for the 'Additional Financing Sources' (column 7) for 'Governmental' funds presented in Schedule 2 (column 4).

FINANCING USES INFORMATION

Schedule 7, Summary of Financing Uses by Function and Fund – Governmental Funds: the first part of the schedule, “Summarization by Function”, displays ‘Total Financing Uses’ detail for column 8 of Schedule 1 by state function, list of contingencies and provisions for obligated fund balance by fund. The second part displays the same information summarized by fund for ‘Governmental’ funds noted in Schedule 1. Adopted and Recommended amounts, as well as actual expenditures for two previous years are also shown.

Schedule 8, Detail of Financing Uses by Function, Activity and Budget Unit – Governmental Funds: presents detail of total ‘Financing Uses’ presented in Schedule 1 ‘Financing Uses’ (column 6) and Schedule 7 (column 5 ‘Total Financing Uses’ less ‘Total Obligated Fund Balances’), grouped by State Function, State Activity and budget unit.

DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL INFORMATION

Schedule 9, Financing Sources and Uses by Budget Unit by Object – Governmental Funds: an overview, by budget unit, of adopted revenues and appropriations, including the prior year final budget and actual for the Governmental Funds summarized in Schedule 2. Includes appropriations, revenue and summarized position information (FTEs are rounded to the nearest whole number), followed by a brief narrative describing the major activities of the budget unit and the fund in which the budget unit belongs. Corresponding pages depict the revenue and expenditure/appropriation detail by line item for the prior year final budget plus two years of prior year actual. In this schedule, the budget units are organized first by State function, then by State activity, and budget unit.

Schedule 10, Operation of Internal Service Funds: displays operating income (revenue) and expense detail for Internal Service Funds presented in fund and budget unit order.

Schedule 11, Operation of Enterprise Funds: displays operating income (revenue) and expense detail for Enterprise Funds presented in fund and budget unit order.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS INFORMATION

Schedule 12, Special Districts and Other Agencies Summary – Non-Enterprise: displays ‘Total Financing Sources’ and ‘Total Financing Uses’ for Special District funds whose affairs and finances are under the supervision and control of the Board of Supervisors. Detail for “Decreases/Increases to obligated fund balances” (columns 3 and 7) is found in Schedule 14. Detail for column 4, “Additional Financing Sources” and column 6, “Financing Uses,” is found in Schedule 15.

Schedule 13, Fund Balance - Special Districts and Other Agencies - Non-Enterprise: summarizes total fund balance, encumbrances, non-spendable/restricted/committed, and assigned obligated fund balance information, by fund, for the Special District funds displayed in Schedule 12 (column 2). Encumbrances and obligated fund balances are subtracted from the total fund balance to determine the amount of available fund balance that is unobligated as of June 30 of the preceding budget year.

Schedule 14, Special Districts and Other Agencies Obligated Fund Balance – Non-Enterprise: displays detail, by fund, “Decreases/Cancellations (columns 3 and 4) and Increases/New (columns 4 and 5) to obligated fund balances” for Special Districts and Other Agencies Funds – Non-Enterprise as presented in Schedule 1 (column 3 and 7).

Schedule 15, Special Districts and Other Agencies Financing Sources and Uses by Budget Unit by Object – Non-Enterprise: an overview, by budget unit, of adopted revenues and appropriations, including the prior year final budget and actual for the Special District Funds summarized in Schedule 12. Includes appropriations, revenue and summarized position information (FTEs are rounded to the nearest whole number), followed by a brief narrative describing the major activities of the budget unit and the fund in which the budget unit belongs. Corresponding pages depict the revenue and expenditure/appropriation detail by line item for the prior year final budget plus two years of prior year actual.

Special District Enterprise Fund Presentation: Per the State of California County Budget Guide, budget forms have not been prescribed for Enterprise Special Districts under the supervision and control of the board of supervisors. However, at individual County discretion, the format for County budget Schedules 10 and 11 may be used to present the managerial budget of "board governed" Enterprise Special Districts.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Summary of Permanent Positions: provides detail of positions included in the Adopted Budget. Information is organized by budget unit and includes position classification, biweekly salary range, number of Full Time Equivalent positions (FTE) and Count (authorized positions) for the prior year (adopted), current year requested and current year adopted budgets.

Appendix B: Property Taxes and Assessed Valuation Information: The top portion of this schedule shows property tax revenue budgeted for ‘County (Governmental) Funds.’ The bottom half of the schedule details the countywide assessed valuation.