

GENERAL INFORMATION
County of Ventura – State of California

Ventura County Mission, Values and Goals

On February 14, 1995, the Board of Supervisors adopted the County's Mission Statement, identified a set of values by which to guide their conduct and established a number of important goals to better serve the residents of Ventura County. This statement is 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 public infrastructure, services and support so that all residents have the opportunity to achieve a high quality of life and enjoy the benefits of a healthy economy.

Values

We will honor the public trust through:

- Open and honest communication with the public.
- Meaningful public participation in the decision-making process.
- Critical evaluation of mandates.
- Setting budget-driven policy.
- Empowering our employees to act.
- Advocating for appropriate legislation.
- Operating in a fiscally responsible and effective manner, within budgetary limits.

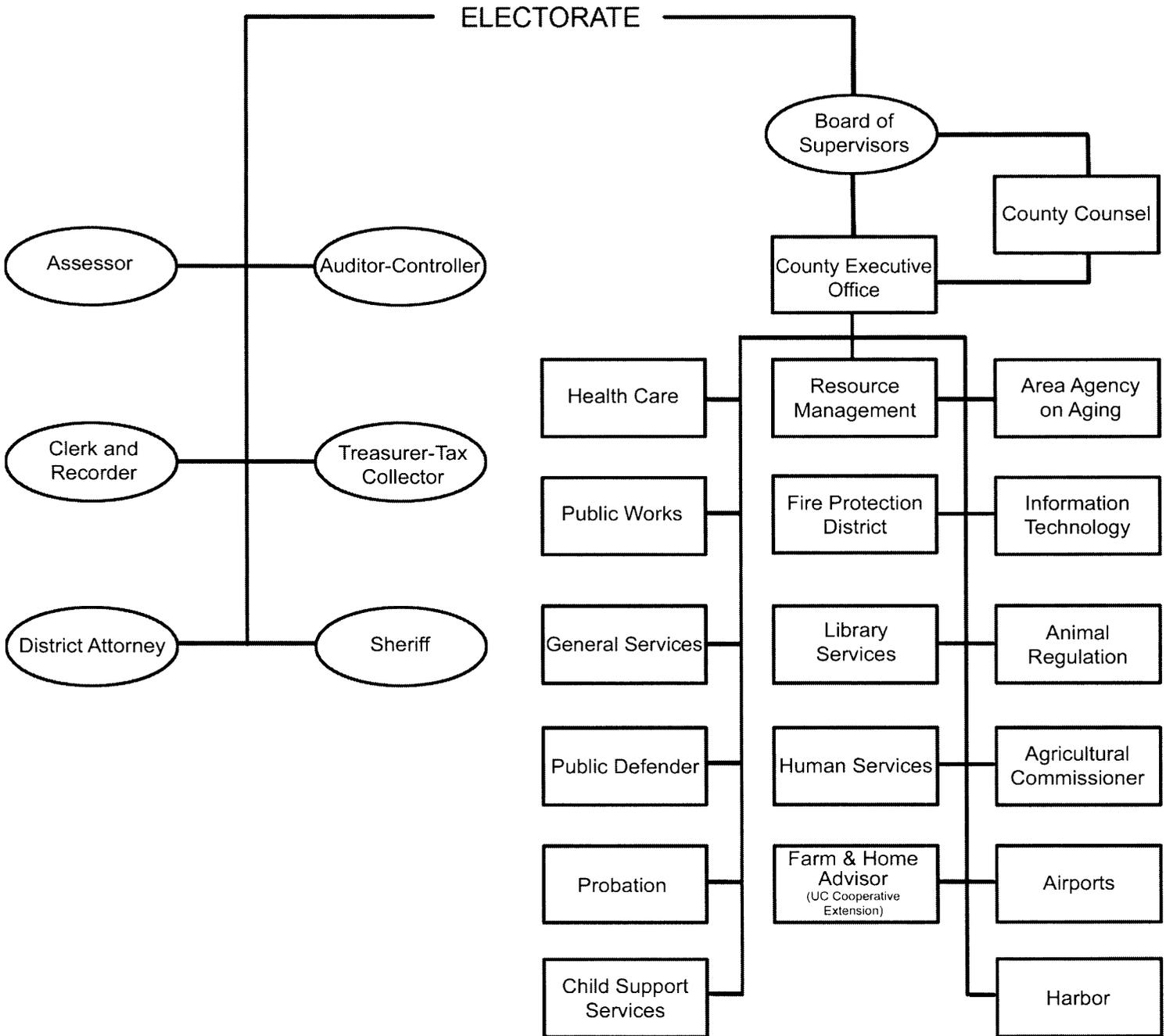
Goals

We will focus on serving our taxpayers and customers by:

- Being timely and responsive.
- Effectively using technology.
- Maintaining a bias for action.
- Focusing on outcomes.
- Taking a systems approach to problem resolution.
- Insuring active involvement of stakeholders.
- Supporting an environment of continuous improvement with defined quality, results, cost and performance.
- Benchmarking our performance.

COUNTY OF VENTURA

ORGANIZATION CHART



Elected

Appointed



TO: THE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 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

The Board of Supervisors adopted the budget for FY 2010-11 on June 21, 2010. The budget was balanced based on financial information available at the time.

Total budgeted appropriations decreased by \$15.4 million or -0.9% over the prior year's adopted budget. In the General Fund, appropriations increased by \$19.7 million or 2.3% over the prior year's adopted budget. The total actual expenditures for FY 2009-10 were 15.6% lower than the FY2010-11 Budgeted Appropriations. The increase in General Fund appropriations can be attributed to higher retirement costs, increases in direct aid payments, and contributions to other funds for the homeless program matching funds. However, exclusive of retirement costs, increases in appropriations are mostly offset through additional revenues attributed to federal and state grants.

Total budgeted revenues increased \$11 million or 0.7% over the prior year's adopted budget. Total tax revenues remained relatively flat, reflecting a \$2.4 million increase of 0.6% over prior year budget amounts, while over the same period, current secured property tax revenue increased slightly by \$4.9 million or 1.8%. The total actual revenues for FY 2009-10 were 6% lower than the FY2010-11 budgeted revenues. In general, the total increase in budget revenue this year can be attributed to nominal net increases in property taxes, increased Federal and State aid and grants, including American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, and increased charges for services.

The County's budget is based on several significant principles and guidelines, 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 replenish reserves and designations and finance one-time expenditures including capital improvement projects.
- State or federal funding reductions for specific programs and services are offset by corresponding cuts in the same department budgets and programs or offset by alternative revenue or net cost decreases in other department programs.
- All new programs or expanded services are offset by new revenue or net cost reductions in existing programs.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Effective Fiscal Year 2010, the Adopted Budget was updated to conform to revised California State Controller reporting formats, incorporating current budgetary standards and practices.
- The composite employer contribution rate for Retirement Contributions increased from 16.03% to 19.19% of covered payroll resulting in an estimated increase in total County employer contributions of approximately \$25 million.
- The Budget includes funding for negotiated salary and benefit increases, but also assumes a 3% employee retirement contribution pickup, pending the results of contract negotiations.
- Total General Fund Reserves and Designations are \$118 million, a decrease of \$8 million compared to the prior year's adopted budget, bringing the balance to approximately 13.4% of the overall General Fund revenues. The Designation for Subsequent Year Financing in the General Fund is \$81 million, a decrease of \$8 million, or -8.9% over the prior years adopted budget.
- General Fund secured property taxes are budgeted at \$163 million, an increase of \$2.5 million or 1.6% over prior year. Countywide, the secured property assessed valuation of \$100.2 billion nominally decreased by \$50 million, or -.01% compared to the prior year.
- A total increase in full-time equivalent positions (FTE) of 15, or .2%, over prior year adopted budget with a decrease of 47 FTEs (1.0%) in the General Fund.

Although the budget is balanced, there are a number of issues that may impact future budgets including a continued statewide economic recession affecting most revenues, increases in medical and retirement costs, replacement/upgrade for infrastructure costs, increased costs for uninsured Health Care services, seismic retrofitting of the hospital, future State audits, and State and Federal budget reductions.

The State enacted the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget on October 8, 2010. The County will review the State budget to ensure that corresponding adjustments are made in the County's budget for possible State funding reductions, 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,



CHRISTINE L. COHEN
Auditor-Controller

COUNTY OF VENTURA

FY 2010-2011 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 detail for 'County (Governmental) Funds' as defined by the State Controller. Schedules 10 and 11 present detail 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. Independent special districts are excluded from this schedule. The specific funds included under "Governmental Funds" are found in Schedule 2; "Other Funds" are represented in Schedule 10 (ISF), Schedule 11 (Enterprise) and Schedule 12 (Special District 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. Detail for "Decreases/Increases to Reserves and Designations" (columns 3 and 7) is found in Schedule 4. Detail for column 4, "Additional Financing Sources" can be found in Schedules 5 and 6. Detail for column 6, "Financing Uses" is found in Schedules 7, 8, and 9.

Schedule 3, Fund Balance - Governmental Funds: summarizes fund balance, encumbrances, reserves and designation information by fund, for County Governmental funds displayed in Schedule 1. Encumbrances, reserves and designations are subtracted from actual total fund balance to determine the amount of fund balance that is unreserved and undesignated as of June 30 of the preceding budget year.

Schedule 4, Reserves/Designations – By Governmental Funds: displays detail, by fund, for "Decreases/Increase to Reserves and Designations" (columns 3 and 7) for Governmental Funds presented in Schedule 1.

FINANCING SOURCES INFORMATION

Schedule 5, Summary of Additional Financing Sources by Source and Fund: 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 are shown.

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

FINANCING USES INFORMATION

Schedule 7, Summary of County 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 and lists contingencies, reserves and designations by fund. The second part displays the same information 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' ('Financing Uses' [column 6 of Schedule 1] less 'Appropriation for Contingencies' [column 5 of Schedule 7, section 2]) 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: 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 Reserves and Designations" (columns 3 and 7) is found in Schedule 14. Detail for column 4, "Additional Financing Sources" and column 6, "Financing Uses," can be found in Schedule 15.

Schedule 13, Special Districts and Other Agencies – Fund Balance: summarizes fund balance, encumbrances, and reserves and designation information, by fund, for the Special District funds displayed in Schedule 12.

Schedule 14, Special Districts and Other Agencies Reserves/Designations: displays detail, by fund, for "Decreases/Increase to Reserves and Designations" (columns 3 and 7) for "Special Districts and Other Agencies" funds presented in Schedules 1 and 12.

Schedule 15, Special Districts and Other Agencies Financing Sources and Uses by Budget Unit by Object: 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.

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.

Appendix C: GASB Statement No. 54 Fund Balance Presentment: to be determined.