

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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Board of Supervisors approves 2013-14 County Budget

SAN BERNARDINO – The Board of Supervisors today approved a budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

The \$4.4 billion budget is built to fulfill the goals of the Countywide Vision - a “complete county” that capitalizes on its many assets to collaboratively establish a sustainable system of economic opportunity, education, well-being and amenities. The budget is available for public view at www.sbcounty.gov.

The budget reflects the County’s efforts to cope with the ongoing impact of the downturn in the economy. It also addresses future needs in infrastructure by investing in the repair and maintenance of roads, buildings and essential systems to avoid higher costs in the future.

“The County is committed to making the most of its funding to provide necessary public services in an effective and efficient manner and fulfilling its role in the achievement of the Countywide Vision,” said the County’s Chief Executive Officer, Gregory C. Devereaux.

“Despite the ongoing effects of the economic downturn, the County budget is balanced and incorporates major investments in key priorities, including road maintenance, public safety, and efforts to streamline the County’s land use approval processes,” Board of Supervisors Chair Janice Rutherford said.

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Highlights of the 2013-14 budget include:

- A \$155.1 million increase in the 2013-14 budget's General Fund will go toward operational groups such as Human Services and Law and Justice to address state-funded needs in welfare, employment services, foster care, and state prison realignment. A portion of the increase is to cover rising retirement costs in Law and Justice groups. Staffing is up by 366 positions in those departments as caseloads continue to grow along with the demands of implementing the Affordable Care Act and 2011 Realignment.
- The County is planning to revitalize the County Government Center campus and County office buildings and will allocate \$4.5 million to acquire existing office space near the Victorville Courthouse.
- \$700,000 for a one-time purchase of new permitting software for Land Use Services allowing interfacing with Public Works and County Fire.
- \$360,000 is allocated for medical marijuana enforcement in the County.
- \$7 million for road and drainage improvements.
- Continued funding for the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator's aviation operations move from Rialto Airport to San Bernardino International Airport (SBIA) and the Sheriff's Crime Lab expansion.
- Cost-savings resulting from agreements with the unions that represent various groups of County employees are projected to continue.

Of the \$4.4 billion total budget, the County has discretion over the distribution of \$499 million. The rest of the money is mandated and controlled by state and federal law.

The budget supports the Countywide Vision; measures progress on attainment of the Board's goals and objectives, allocates resources to core responsibilities, and invests in infrastructure, facilities and basic operating systems.

The County's budgets have been honored by the Government Finance Officers Association for seven years in a row as among the best in North America in terms of their clarity and completeness. The County of San Bernardino's award-winning budgets can be viewed at the County website, www.sbcounty.gov/cao/. The site includes recommended and final budgets dating back to 2001-02, as well as archived news releases, goals and objectives established by the Board of Supervisors, and the County Organizational Chart.