



Sonoma County ANNUAL REPORT 2015

2015

INVESTING

in beautiful, thriving & sustainable communities



LETTERS FROM:

Chair Gorin



It has been my sincere pleasure to serve as Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 2015. Every year is filled to the brim with activity and passes more quickly than the last. This year was no exception.

One proud accomplishment is our recent financial commitment of \$13.5 million to building approximately 100 miles of new roads by 2017. These new dollars bring the total general fund roads contribution to a record \$25 million annual investment.

The Board has devoted an unprecedented level of resources to mitigate the social and economic impacts associated with homelessness and a tight housing market. Utilizing the "Housing First" model to guide investment, *Building HOMES: A Policymaker's Toolbox for Ending Homelessness* outlines our goal to create 2,000 housing units through a coordinated countywide effort.

"As 2015 saw advances in local economic recovery, the County of Sonoma seized new opportunities to invest in the community, while saving for the future and paying down debt."

Borne out of the County's commitment to Upstream Investments, the Board has embraced the health and economic benefits of universal preschool for all children under 5, investing \$655,000 to leverage \$2.4 million to secure 312 preschool slots.

We became the seventh county in California to pass a Living Wage Ordinance this year, an accomplishment which represents our commitment to reducing poverty and paying fair and sustainable wages to our employees and organizations we contract with.

Finally, 2015 saw the establishment of a new citizens committee to advise the Board on pension related matters aimed at ensuring a fair, equitable, sustainable, and transparent County pension system.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Board, County employees, and our community partners for a successful and memorable 2015. I look forward to continuing our work on behalf of the residents of Sonoma County.

Susan Gorin
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

County Administrator Ferguson

Serving as the County Administrator is both inspiring and humbling. Inspiring because I see staff take on the daily charge to realize our mission of enriching the quality of life in Sonoma County through superior public service. Humbling because assuring financial stewardship while balancing competing priorities is a big job.



In 2015, we were fortunate to celebrate the continued improvement of our local economy and took strides to finance our strategic priorities. This Annual Report highlights some of our proudest accomplishments in 2015 in key priority areas including services for our youth and seniors, outdoor recreation and sustainability, and housing and transportation.

Throughout, you see evidence of our collaboration with local partners, who are essential to our success.

In order to reach these achievements, every additional dollar of revenue we receive is considered through the lens of how to best serve Sonoma County citizens. Maximizing the County's limited resources is a trademark of our past, current and future success.

"With guidance from our Strategic Plan, we invest wisely."

Anticipated revenue growth, leveraging of state and federal funding, and continuous cost containment efforts undertaken by the Board have established a solid foundation for the County's finances – one that is sustainable going forward.

As we move into 2016, I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our employees as they strive to provide the best possible service to our community, and humbled by the selfless contributions of our many valued partners. I look forward to working together to make Sonoma County a beautiful, thriving, and sustainable community for all.

Veronica Ferguson
County Administrator



A RECORD BREAKING

THE MICROLOAN CONNECT
PILOT PROGRAM PROVIDED OVER
**\$600,000 IN LOANS TO
26 LOCAL BUSINESSES**

260,000 PASSENGERS TRAVELED THROUGH THE
SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT

RESTAURANT WEEK
SERVED 69,000 MEALS AND BROUGHT IN
\$3.5M TO LOCAL RESTAURANTS

REGIONAL PARKS
HOSTED NEARLY
**5.1 MILLION
VISITORS**

FLEET OPERATIONS WAS AWARDED THE
#1 GOVERNMENT GREEN FLEET IN NORTH AMERICA
BY THE INTERNATIONAL 100 BEST FLEETS IN NORTH AMERICA AWARDS PROGRAM

AWARD WINNING YEAR!

72% OF PERMITS
WERE ISSUED ON THE SAME DAY

150 SONOMA COUNTY EMPLOYEES
VOLUNTEERED **4,500 HOURS READING**
WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN
THROUGH SCHOOLS OF HOPE

THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT
RANKED 3RD IN THE NATION AS ONE OF THE
**MOST INNOVATIVE
DIGITAL COUNTIES**

REGIONAL PARKS PROVIDED
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TO MORE THAN
27,000 STUDENTS

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM (WIC) IS
ONE OF ONLY FIVE AGENCIES IN THE U.S.
TO RECEIVE THE **LOVING SUPPORT AWARD
OF EXCELLENCE FROM THE USDA**

VOLUNTEERS DONATED
44,000 HOURS TO MAINTAINING AND
IMPROVING THE REGIONAL PARKS



Supporting programs that serve the public

COMMUNITY SERVICES

THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS HELPED **19,549 VOTERS** GET REGISTERED TO VOTE

To date, **OVER 380 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS** have completed 32 hours of Crisis Intervention Training to improve response efforts to people experiencing mental health crises.

The Public Defender represented **10,000 MISDEMEANOR AND 2,000 FELONY CASES**, which is 80-85% of all criminal cases filed in Sonoma County each year.

The Community Development Commission completed necessary **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE ROSELAND VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER** property for community events and services including Cinco de Mayo, a Library branch, and local Boys & Girls Club activities on-site.

The Clerk-Recorder-Assessor Department performed **995 WEDDING CEREMONIES AND ISSUED 6,761 MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES**.

The Sheriff's Office successfully deployed **BODY WORN CAMERAS** to all deputy sheriffs.

The Department of Child Support Services engaged parents and managed 12,000 cases to **COLLECT AND DISBURSE OVER \$29M TO FAMILIES**.

Job Link, the Workforce Investment Board's one-stop career center, **ASSISTED MORE THAN 700 JOB SEEKERS** each month with resume writing, paid on-the-job training, and other job search opportunities.

The Public Defender added an **IMMIGRATION SPECIALIST** to address the complex legal ramifications of criminal case charges on non-citizen clients.

Behavioral Health **EXPANDED SHORT TERM CRISIS STABILIZATION** services at a new 30-bed facility.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTORS COMPLETED OVER **3,000 FOOD INSPECTIONS**

SHERIFF'S CRIME PREVENTION UNIT PARTICIPATED IN **OVER 300 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

THE VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE HELPED MORE THAN **5,400 VETERANS** OBTAIN BENEFITS OF MORE THAN **\$18.7M**

Sonoma County Transit launched its "Veterans and College Students Ride Free" Pilot program, providing **178,000 TRIPS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS AND 30,000 TRIPS TO VETERANS**.



THE PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ISSUED OVER **6,000 PERMITS**, PERFORMED OVER **39,000 INSPECTIONS**, RESPONDED TO **977 CODE COMPLAINTS**, AND SERVED OVER **30,000 CUSTOMERS**



Sonoma County Fair Foundation broke ground on the Saralee and Richard's Barn, a new **AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER**.

Behavioral Health's Crisis Assessment, Prevention, and Education (CAPE) Team implemented a **QUESTION, PERSUADE, AND REFER (QPR) TRAINING PROGRAM**, teaching 1,800 school personnel, students, and community members how to help save a life from suicide.

In collaboration with the Sonoma County Safe Streets Coalition, Health Services implemented the **STATE PEDESTRIAN INJURY PREVENTION GRANT CAMPAIGN** to increase awareness of pedestrian safety.

TECHNOLOGY

The County has **IMPROVED E-COMMERCE** by consolidating the ability to apply for a permit, buy a parks membership or transit pass, reserve a campsite, license your pet, and pay your property taxes or traffic citations in one location.

Information Systems **LAUNCHED AN OPEN DATA TOOL** where residents can access government data for research and analysis through an online portal called **SOCO DATA**. Data sets include information about Sheriff's incident reports, food inspections, baby names, births, and more.



Investing to help future generations reach their full potential

YOUTH

TEEN PARENT CONNECTIONS SERVED
250 PREGNANT AND PARENTING ADOLESCENTS, RESULTING IN A HIGHER GRADUATION RATE, REDUCED REPEAT BIRTH RATE, AND REDUCED ALCOHOL USE

COACHING BOYS INTO MEN, a program focused on creating a culture of respect by teaching young men about the consequences of abusive behavior, engaged over 300 male athletes in 9 schools.

Through the **PRO BONO UNACCOMPANIED MINORS PROGRAM**, County Counsel successfully secured the rights of four Salvadorian girls and boys fleeing gang violence and threats to permanently remain in the United States.

THE GANG RESISTANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM (G.R.E.A.T.), coordinated by the District Attorney's Office in partnership with the Santa Rosa Police Department, helped educate hundreds of teens across the county about the dangers of gun violence and gang involvement.

The County provided \$100,000 in grants to twelve **SUMMER YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMS** to support art centers, schools, and community centers with a wide range of programs that included music, theater, visual arts, and poetry.



READY, a program within Human Services and funded by First 5 Sonoma County, worked with more than 60 early childhood educators and 12 elementary schools to **ASSESS MORE THAN 1,000 KINDERGARTENERS** for school readiness.

The Probation Department coordinated the **KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL GRANT**, which focused on reducing school truancy, suspensions, and expulsions of at risk youth.



SENIORS

Devoting resources to support our seniors

9,000 SENIORS, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND THEIR CAREGIVERS are served through programs funded by the Area Agency on Aging, such as adult day care, caregiver respite, case management, health education, congregate and home-delivered meals, legal services, and transportation.

To prevent elder abuse, Adult Protective Services has promoted community collaboration through the **OLDER ADULT COLLABORATIVE** and the **ELDER JUSTICE COALITION**.

THE **SHARE HOUSING PROJECT** HAS CREATED 50 HOME-SHARE PARTNERSHIPS THAT PROVIDE HOUSING TO 100 OLDER ADULTS

BY 2030 **SENIORS AGE 60 AND OLDER** WILL BE **25%** OF SONOMA COUNTY'S POPULATION

More than 100 seniors participated in Human Services **MATTER OF BALANCE: MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS** classes to increase strength and balance and help reduce fears of falling.



Human Services' Adult and Aging Division partnered with two experts on LGBT aging issues to provide the **AGING TOGETHER WITH PRIDE** workshop.





NEARLY **20,000** PEOPLE, INCLUDING 7,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN, LEARNED ABOUT SONOMA COUNTY'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY AT THE ANNUAL **TOLAY FALL FESTIVAL** AT TOLAY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

MORE THAN 22,000 PEOPLE SUPPORTED REGIONAL PARKS THROUGH ANNUAL PARK MEMBERSHIPS

OUTDOORS



SUSTAINABILITY

TOGETHER OUR COMMUNITY **REDUCED WATER USE BY 27%** COMPARED TO 2013

Investing to enhance quality of life now and for years to come

Regional Parks began collaborating with residents of Santa Rosa's **MOORLAND NEIGHBORHOOD** to design a 4-acre park, with construction expected in the summer of 2016.

Regional Parks created a **PARK PASS FOR SENIORS, FAMILIES, AND INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED INCOMES**, improving access to health and recreation opportunities.

Several hundred families and individuals participated in the **SONOMA COUNTY TRAILS CHALLENGE**, hiking thousands of miles in Regional Parks and sharing adventures on social media.

Regional Parks opened the 820-acre **NORTH SONOMA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK & OPEN SPACE PRESERVE**, providing access to outstanding views and a 4-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail that connects to Jack London State Park.

The Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District **PROTECTED 1,382 ACRES** including a dairy, coastal forest, pristine coastline, the Estero Americano, and space for public recreation.

RECYCLED OVER **18,000 LBS** OF PLASTIC AT AGRICULTURAL RECYCLING EVENTS

In response to historic state legislation, the County collaborated with the Water Agency, cities, and water districts to ensure that **GROUNDWATER IS MANAGED SUSTAINABLY AND FAIRLY**.

The Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District assisted in drawing over **\$4M IN OUTSIDE FUNDING TOWARD LOCAL LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS**.



The UC Cooperative Extension Sonoma Master Gardeners **GARDEN SENSE PROGRAM** met with over 500 homeowners to help them improve water conservation practices in their own backyards with an estimated savings of nearly 13 acre feet (4.2M gallons) of water in the first 18 months of the program.

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BIOLOGISTS SURVEYED OVER 25 STREAMS TO DOCUMENT COHO AND STEELHEAD DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE



The **ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION** has helped the community:

- Reduce greenhouse gases equal to taking 3,000 cars off the road
- Generate enough clean energy to power nearly 6,000 homes for a year
- Save 11M gallons of water





WORKING WITH THE SONOMA COUNTY TRAILS COUNCIL, THE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
ADDED 1.3 MILES OF TRAIL TO THE BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL

COLLABORATION

Capitalizing on partnerships to advance shared goals

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH'S MOBILE SUPPORT TEAM for crisis response expanded to work with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies in Rohnert Park, Cotati, and Petaluma.

Regional Parks joined Health Services, Kaiser Permanente and St. Joseph's Health to provide **PARK PROGRAMS FOR TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES** throughout Sonoma County.

Through the **PG&E LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENERGY WATCH PARTNERSHIP**, the County partnered with California Youth Energy Services to perform 258 "Green House Calls," which resulted in enough energy savings to power 7 homes for one year.

More than **70 REPRESENTATIVES OF FIRE AGENCIES, EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS** participated in the Fire Services Project, which recommended a Fire Advisory Committee with regional representation and additional funding to help create an efficient, effective, and sustainable fire services system.

The **SONOMA CARE COLLABORATIVE PROJECT** sought to decrease depression in older adults through the joint efforts of a clinic-based team and a home visiting social worker in a partnership with the Petaluma Health Center.

HUMAN SERVICES
RECEIVED \$1M
 FROM THE STATE TO HELP HOMELESS SONOMAWORKS FAMILIES TRANSITION INTO PERMANENT HOUSING

HOUSING

Funding efforts to address housing needs

The Community Development Commission provided \$743,300 to acquire property for a **13-BED TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM** giving preference to homeless veterans.

The Community Development Commission provided \$2.1M to enable the start of construction for a **60-UNIT AFFORDABLE, WORKFORCE RENTAL APARTMENT COMMUNITY** in the Boyes Hot Springs area of Sonoma Valley.

The Community Development Commission completed **BUILDING HOMES: A POLICY MAKER'S TOOLBOX FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS**, which details a range of tools and strategies that can be used to create the permanent housing and services needed by the County's homeless residents.



THE SONOMA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY PROVIDED
\$2.1M
 EVERY MONTH TO HELP
2,907
LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
 AFFORD RENTAL HOUSING ON THE PRIVATE MARKET

42% OF ASSISTED RESIDENTS WERE SENIORS

65% WERE DISABLED

24% WERE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

10% WERE HOMELESS



WORKING WITH A NETWORK OF 23 COMMUNITY PARTNERS,
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER SONOMA COUNTY
 SERVED OVER 1,400 VICTIMS OF CRIME THIS YEAR, ALLOWING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE EACH VICTIM RESIDES

The Board of Supervisors provided \$260,000 to convert an existing motel into a **SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY (SRO) SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT** to serve 104 of the County's most vulnerable homeless individuals.





INFRASTRUCTURE

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS IMPROVED OVER 21 MILES OF ROAD WITH THE CHIP SEAL PROGRAM

The Board of Supervisors approved funding to build approximately **100 MILES OF NEW ROADS**, adding \$13.5M of funding and bringing the total general fund contribution to roads to a record \$25M.

The **HIGHWAY 12 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BROKE GROUND**, enhancing the three lane highway while developing shoulders, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks and installing pedestrian lighting that will provide an aesthetically pleasing, safe, and walkable roadway.

SUPERVISORS



Supervisor Susan Gorin represents the First District, which includes Bennett Valley, Rincon Valley, Oakmont, City of Sonoma, and communities of Kenwood, Agua Caliente, Glen Ellen, El Verano, Boyes Hot Springs, Schellville, and Vineburg. In 2015 Supervisor Gorin served as Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Among other appointments, she served on the Board of Sonoma Clean Power, Sonoma County Water Advisory Committee, LAFCO, Sonoma County Transportation Authority / Regional Climate Protection Authority, the First 5 Commission, Bay Conservation Development Commission, and North Bay Water Reuse Authority.



Supervisor David Rabbitt represents the Second District, which includes all of Petaluma and Cotati and a portion of Rohnert Park, as well as the communities of Penngrove, Two Rock, and Bloomfield. Among other appointments, he served as a Director of the Golden Gate Bridge District, SMART, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, and the Sonoma County BEST (Building Economic Success Together). He was also a Trustee of the Sonoma County Employee Retirement Association, Chair of the North Bay Water Reuse Authority, Vice President of the Association of Bay Area Governments, and served on the California State Seismic Safety Commission.



Supervisor Shirlee Zane represents the Third District, which includes central Santa Rosa, east Rohnert Park, and SSU. Among other appointments, she served on the Board of Directors for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, SMART, Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority. The Supervisor was also appointed to the National Association of Counties Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board and served as Vice Chair of Aging on the Human Services and Education Steering Committee; and served her 6th year on the CA State Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee.



Supervisor James Gore represents the Fourth District, which includes Northwest Santa Rosa, Fulton, Larkfield Wikiup, Windsor, Healdsburg, Geyserville, and Cloverdale. Among other appointments, Supervisor Gore served on LAFCO, North Coast Air Basin Control District, Remote Access Network Board, Sonoma County Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee, Eel Russian River Commission, North Bay Watershed Association, North Bay Water Reuse Authority, North Coast Resource Partnership, Northern California Counties Tribal Consortium, Public Policy Facilitating Committee, and the Russian River Watershed Association.



Supervisor Efren Carrillo represents the Fifth District, which encompasses the west county including the coast from Valley Ford to Sea Ranch, lower Russian River, Sebastopol, and west and southwest Santa Rosa extending to Highway 101. Among other appointments, Supervisor Carrillo served on the Sonoma County Water Advisory Committee, LAFCO, Sonoma Clean Power Board, Upstream Investments Policy Committee, North Bay Watershed Association, Russian River Watershed Association, and the California Association of Counties Board of Directors.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDED TO APPROXIMATELY 1,500 CALLS FOR SERVICE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In response to the Valley Fire, the County conducted an eleven day activation of the Sonoma County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and **PROVIDED MUTUAL AID** to Lake County throughout the incident.

The County participated in the **REGIONAL URBAN SHIELD EXERCISE** with nine counties, SMART, and the California Office of Emergency Services.

150 TSUNAMI HAZARD WARNING AND EVACUATION SIGNS WERE PLACED THROUGHOUT THE SONOMA COUNTY COASTLINE



FINANCES

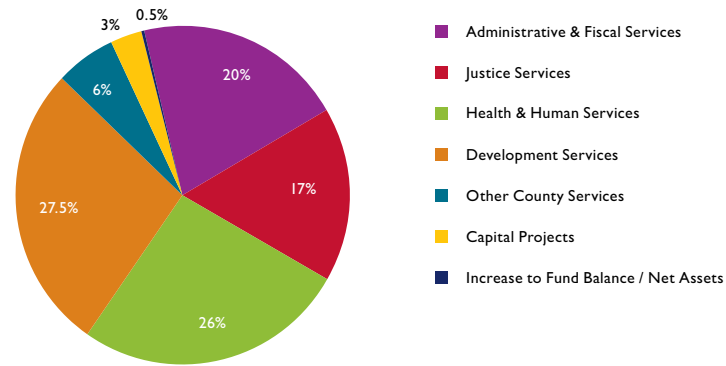
THE WATER AGENCY
ACHIEVED A **AA+**
CREDIT RATING

Investing in beautiful,
thriving & sustainable
communities for all

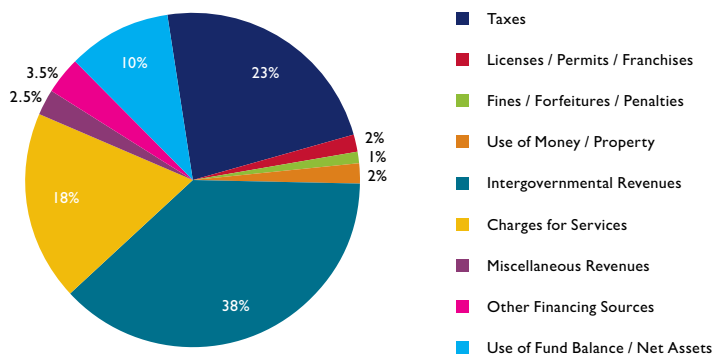
VISION



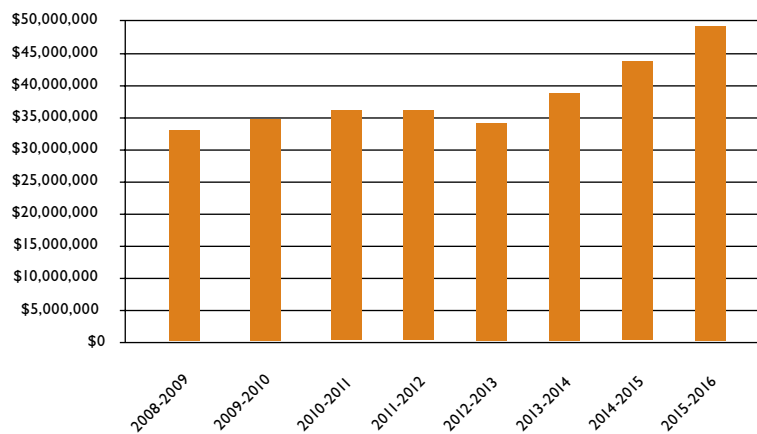
2015-16 Budget by Function: \$1.44 Billion



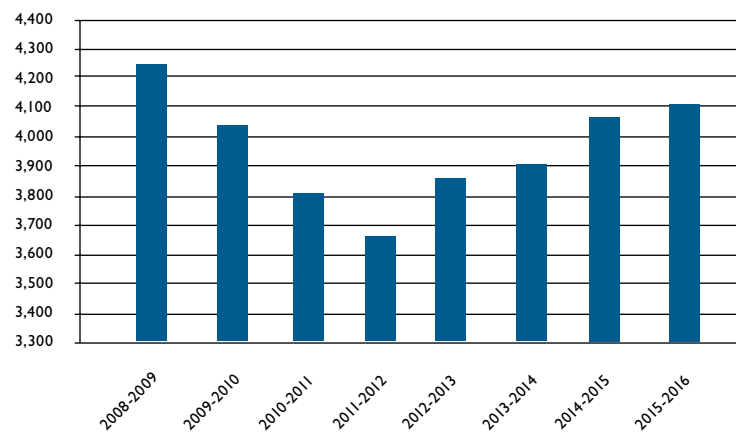
2015-16 County Budget Sources: \$1.44 Billion



General Fund Reserves 2008–2016



Number of Full Time County Employees 2008–2016



THE ANNUAL DIRECT, INDIRECT, AND
INDUCED NATIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT FROM
ALL SCERA BENEFIT RECIPIENTS IS
MORE THAN \$296M
PER YEAR

Internal audits performed during Fiscal Year 2014 15 covered **MORE THAN \$1.6B IN ASSETS** and resulted in 25 recommendations that could enhance County revenues by more than \$1.3M.

The Agricultural Preservation and Open Space
District refunded its Measure F Sales Tax Revenue
Bonds, generating a **NET PRESENT VALUE SAVINGS OF \$13.7M.**

FIRST 5 SONOMA AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
INVESTED \$655,000 IN A FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM
TO SECURE LONG TERM LEASES FOR PRESCHOOL
FACILITIES ACROSS THE COUNTY

STRATEGIC GOALS AND 2015 BOARD PRIORITIES

Safe, Healthy & Caring Communities

- Increase the affordable housing inventory in the County
- Coordinate with community partners to provide access to preschool for all Sonoma County children
- Address the safety, health, environmental, and economic impacts of marijuana

Invest in the Future

- Ensure the long-term fiscal health of the County
- Complete planning for the Chanate campus
- Create a Health Care Initiative Task Force

Economic & Environmental Stewardship

- Coordinate a sustainability initiative leveraging existing work conducted in County departments and agencies

Civic Services & Engagement

- Further outreach and engagement efforts
- Complete Fire Services Review and recommendations
- Advance Southwest Santa Rosa Annexation efforts

To enrich the
quality of life
in Sonoma
County through
superior public
service

MISSION





The County of Sonoma is comprised of 26 departments and agencies that provide a full range of services to the community. Sonoma County encompasses over 1,600 square miles and is home to almost 500,000 residents. Sonoma County government has a history of providing excellent and responsive public service while operating under sound fiscal principles. To learn more about your County government, please visit:

www.sonomacounty.ca.gov