



COUNTY OF YOLO

County Administrative Office

Phil Batchelor

County Administrative Officer

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September 2, 2005

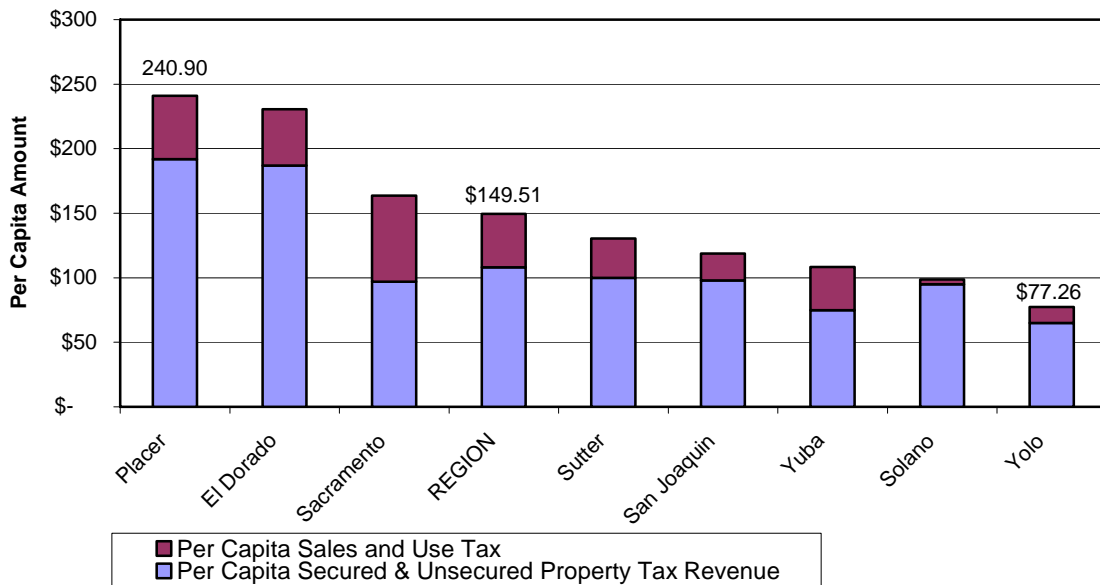
The Board of Supervisors
625 Court Street
Woodland CA, 95695

Dear Members of the Board:

Yolo County has accomplished something unique in this era of growth and unbridled development. It has been able to preserve the prime agricultural lands, the natural treasures that benefit the residents of this and many other counties. However, pursuing this worthwhile goal has come at a cost. Where other counties have attracted or even invited economic development to their detriment, Yolo County has strongly resisted development in the unincorporated area; most of the growth that has come to this County has occurred within city limits.

This has had a deleterious impact on the County's ability to raise revenues to finance the services needed by its residents. When a comparison was made of the amount of revenue generated by Yolo County versus seven nearby counties, the results were revealing. The average annual amount of sales and property taxes generated per resident by the eight counties in this region range from a high in Placer County of \$240.90 to a low in Yolo County of \$77.26. The stark reality is that Placer County receives three times the amount of these general purpose revenues per resident as Yolo County. Even the average proceeds of the eight counties of \$149.51 is approximately twice the amount per resident realized by this County. This translates into the fact that Yolo County has fewer dollars to provide for the needs of its residents.

Comparison of Property & Sales Tax Revenue 2000-2001



Source: Community Services Planning Council, Inc., *A Regional View of Social Disparities: A Visual Examination of Socio-Economic Status of the Greater Sacramento Region* (p. 30)

More Mandates Than Money

Counties are political subdivisions of the state and as such are required to administer programs for the state. The vast majority (90+%) of the services that are provided by counties are mandated by the state. The County not only administers these programs that serve all residents of the County, but it also provides municipal services, such as police, public works, planning, services to the individuals that live in the unincorporated areas and library services through the County. If the County has any funds available after providing these services, it can finance discretionary services that deal with the specific needs of the local community.

Funding for these mandated programs is largely financed from an infusion of state and federal revenues. However, when sufficient revenues are not forthcoming from the state or federal governments, the County is required to backfill the funding gaps with scarce locally generated revenues. The greater the funding gap, the less discretionary revenue is available at the local level to provide municipal and discretionary services.

The State Seizes Local Generated Revenues

During the early 1990's the State of California began a process that would result in billions of dollars of locally generated property tax revenues being seized from counties and used to cover the state's budget shortfalls. This was done without consideration of the impact it would have on counties' ability to continue to provide the mandated services

required by the state, let alone concern for how the counties were to provide municipal services to the residents of the unincorporated areas. Although the state seizure of locally generated taxes began over a decade ago the process continues.

Yolo County has lost \$157.7 million of locally generated property taxes to the state from the 1993-94 fiscal year to the 2004-05 fiscal year. These funds could have been used to provide local law enforcement, health care, child protection services, or to pave the roads in the County. During the 2005-06 fiscal year, the County will be required to shift locally generated property taxes to the state yet again -- approximately \$23.8 million, making the twelve-year total more than \$181.5 million.

When you combine the modest amounts of general purpose revenues realized by this County with the major state seizures of property taxes, it explains why Yolo County has experienced such severe budget challenges in the past. This is evident in two ways. First, during a period of increasing workload, the number of full-time-equivalent positions (FTEs) declined from 1,453 positions in fiscal year 2001-02 to 1,353 in 2005-06. Second, the vacancy rate has been running above 20% during much of this period. This means that the number of authorized positions has declined by 6.9% *and* departments have not been filling one out of every five of the authorized positions that were approved.

Even with this reduction in the number of filled positions, there has been a structural imbalance in the County budget that has necessitated the use of one-time revenues to balance the budget. This was made possible by the fact that the Board of Supervisors was diligent in setting aside one-time sources of revenues as reserves to assist the County in managing during these austere fiscal periods.

IMPROVEMENTS ON THE HORIZON

General Purpose Revenue Generation Improves

In spite of the difficulty that the County has had in trying to balance the budget with inadequate revenue sources in the past, the revenue picture in the 2005-06 fiscal year is better than any in recent memory. General purpose revenues have increased by \$5.5 million as compared to fiscal year 2004-05. The tremendous escalation in property values combined with the increase in development (primarily within the incorporated cities) has resulted in unprecedented increases in the amount of property taxes that will be realized in the 2005-06 fiscal year. The Assessor's Office has prepared the 2005 roll that reflects an increase of \$1.8 billion in value over the 2004 valuations. This translates into a \$2.9 million increase in base property taxes alone in the 2005-06 budget. The impact this revenue infusion has on 2005-06 Recommended Budget expenditures is discussed in greater detail in the budget overview section.

The components of the \$5.5 million increase in general purpose revenues primarily consist of the aforementioned \$2,937,508 in higher base property tax receipts (secured

property taxes plus the VLF tax swap), \$811,870 in ongoing redevelopment pass-through funds, \$1,314,275 in other property taxes (Teeter, which represents collection of penalties and interest on delinquent taxes; supplemental roll; and document transfer tax), and \$310,100 in Sales Taxes.

Voters Come to the Rescue of Local Government

On November 2, 2004, the voters passed a measure, Proposition 1A, that provided for the backfill of Vehicle License Fees taken from local government and holds the promise of greater stability in revenues in the future for local government. However, this proposition did not reverse the state's ongoing seizure of locally generated revenues. The major improvement Proposition 1A has incorporated into the state Constitution is stricter limits on the ability of the state to raid local coffers in the future.

The State Budget Provides Modest Revenue Enhancements to the County

The passage of the State's fiscal year 2005-06 budget includes the following impacts on the Yolo County Recommended Budget:

Property Tax Administration Program: Suspended for two years, resulting in an annual loss to the Assessor's Office of \$278,000. The Recommended Budget includes a backfill of this revenue source by utilizing fund balance amounts to avoid the layoff of three employees in the Assessor's Office in 2005-06.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): State participation "cap" for worker wage reimbursement is increased from \$9.50 to \$10.50 per hour.

Small and Rural Sheriff's Grant Program: The State continued this program, providing sheriff's departments in 37 counties, including Yolo County, with grants of \$500,000. This funding provides flexibility at the local level to allow county sheriffs to improve public safety in their jurisdictions. These grant funds are available for capital purchases in the Sheriff-Coroner Department, such as automobiles and computers.

Vehicle License Fee Gap Loan Repayment: Local jurisdictions will receive the full amount of the vehicle license fee "gap" loan in fiscal year 2005-06. This action will not directly benefit Yolo County as this revenue source has already been realized through the securitization of these revenues in March 2005.

Proposition 42: This statewide revenue source will yield \$921,394 to Yolo County, which can be utilized for road maintenance and improvements. The County road system has a \$30 million road maintenance backlog and a \$93 million road improvement project backlog.

Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS)/Juvenile Justice Grants: The 2005-06 State budget provides approximately \$101,000 in COPS funding and \$508,000 in juvenile justice funds. The COPS funding is intended for front-line law enforcement, county jail operations and district attorneys while juvenile justice funds are intended for the prevention and intervention of juvenile delinquency. This revenue source will be utilized to continue funding these law enforcement activities in Yolo County in 2005-06.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Award: State grant funds in the amount of \$452,375 have been approved for wastewater treatment improvements in the town of Madison.

State Mandate Reimbursements (Non-Proposition 98): Annual funding of approximately \$1.1 million is restored to reimburse counties for various state-mandated programs (aka, "SB 90" programs), including AB 3632 (mental health services for special education students). The state budget unfortunately extends the repayment schedule for prior year SB 90 costs, which the County has had to backfill, from 5 to 15 years.

Undesignated Fee Revenue: Eliminates (phased in over time) the obligation of counties to transfer undesignated fee revenue to the state to support trial court operations. This will eventually provide approximately \$410,000 to the County in local general purpose revenue (over 5 years) that otherwise would have gone to the state.

CalWORKS: CSAC reports that the state budget may include unrealistic cost savings estimates regarding the CalWORKS program; if the state estimates are low it could result in additional cuts to County administration of the CalWORKS and food stamp programs later in the 2005-06 fiscal year.

In general, the 2005-06 state budget provides for a much brighter revenue picture for local government than in prior years.

OVERVIEW OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2005-06 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The County General Fund

It is important to first focus on the General Fund, as that is where the County has the most discretion. The fiscal year 2005-06 General Fund expenditure budget of \$55.2 million represents an increase of \$4.9 million from the 2004-05 budget of \$50.3 million, or about 9.8%.

Most of the increase is due to higher contractually obligated employee costs. The remaining increase includes such items as expanded juvenile hall obligations and higher indigent defense costs. In fact, this year's increase should really be spread over both fiscal year 2004-05 and fiscal year 2005-06 since last year's budget included no-cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), no equity increases, and a countywide furlough of 60 hours for each employee – all of which have to be funded in the 2005-06 fiscal year.

Although these revenue augmentations are greatly needed to make up for many years of very modest growth, it is unwise to anticipate that this level of increase will continue in the future. More than 80% of the General Fund revenue increase can be attributed to the tremendous augmentation in property taxes resulting from the rise in real estate values and low interest rates that stimulate home sales.

Other Funds

The total budget for fiscal year 2005-06 includes not only the General Fund, but many other funds:

• Employment and Social Services Fund	\$67,850,325
• Public Safety Fund	\$42,692,355
• Medical Services and YCHIP Funds	\$19,727,806
• Mental Health Fund	\$16,771,525
• Road Fund	\$13,671,760
• Library Fund	\$ 4,072,338

Internal service and enterprise funds, debt service, and capital projects are also a part of the Recommended Budget. In fact, the General Fund represents just 19.8% of the total budget.

The total budget of all funds pays for a wide variety of services, programs and projects that are financed by many revenue sources including grant funds, state and federal revenues and numerous fees that are acquired in exchange for providing requested services to members of the public. When all of these funds are aggregated, the 2005-06 Recommended Budget totals \$278,667,577 and represents a \$26,972,721 million increase over the 2004-05 Final Budget. Key components of this increase include:

- Recapturing the 2004-05 employee furlough savings of \$2,337,346;
- Funding employee COLAs and equity increases of \$2,597,053;
- Financing increased PERS charges of \$2,391,507;
- Paying for increased health insurance costs amounting to \$1,679,880;
- Providing increased support of \$1,655,000 to the Sheriff-Coroner for patrol, jail operations, court security and animals services;
- Increasing the District Attorney's General Fund support by \$671,174 to pay for higher employee costs and to backfill loss of state grant funds for gang suppression;

- Financing \$2,244,969 in increased costs for indigent medical programs, emergency medical services, and jail/juvenile hall medical;
- Providing \$1,978,400 in pass-through federal and state funding for shoulder construction and road widening on County Roads 21A and 85B;
- Funding \$1,145,257 for the replacement of antiquated and obsolete telephone switching systems and the installation of more efficient and cost effective voice and data microwave systems;
- Providing \$1,039,908 in additional funding for operations of the new expanded juvenile hall;
- Funding an increase of \$840,925 to cover the costs of multi-defendant gang homicide trials;
- Increasing expenditures in the Department of Employment & Social Services of \$3,804,223 for workload relief and the full year cost of operating CalWin, the computerized case management system;
- Financing \$2,300,000 in increased capital improvement costs at the County landfill to construct a new building, a new hazardous waste facility, and a septic waste sludge disposal site.

In effect, most of these increases either reflect catching up on salary and benefit cost increases deferred entirely in fiscal year 2004-05 and partially in prior fiscal years (i.e., furlough savings backfill, COLAs, and equity increases), mandated programs with increased costs passed along to the County (increased PERS charges, increased health insurance costs, higher indigent medical program expenditures, new juvenile hall operating costs and funding for multi-defendant gang trials), or major new one-time capital expenditures replacing aging/inadequate infrastructure and equipment (funds for road improvements to County Roads 21A and 85B, new telecommunications equipment, and capital improvements at the landfill).

It has been noted previously that the vast majority of the total County budget consists of programs mandated and funded by the federal and/or State governments. In this respect, much of the increase is beyond the County's control and is simply a "passed through" of funds in the County budget.

Capital Improvements

The total appropriation for capital improvements is \$13,255,925. The appropriation is \$491,828 more than the fiscal year 2004-05 budget. The capital improvement budget is financed by revenues restricted for capital facility improvement projects and capital equipment purchases. Funding sources include state grants, development impact

mitigation fees, Accumulative Capital Outlay (ACO) funds and certain special revenue funds such as securitized tobacco receipts. Capital improvement projects for 2005-06 include:

- Constructing a new Probation office building adjacent to the new juvenile hall (\$2,257,439)
- Completing the new health and mental health building (\$5,529,309 for this year's cost only)
- Improving jail facility and housing pods (\$372,548)
- Relocating the Clerk-Recorder offices (\$1,375,300)
- Repairs to Administrative Building plumbing, exterior and interior maintenance (\$202,700)
- Replacing aging equipment (\$613,441; see Appendix A - Equipment List)
- Constructing a monument for indigent burials (\$30,000)
- Correcting drainage infrastructure adjacent to the jail (\$139,842)

Debt Service

Debt service remains very low in Yolo County – just \$1,493,198 of the total budget (about one half of 1%). Debts currently being paid off include the West Sacramento County Service Center, the District Attorney's Building, the Davis Library, the Davis County Offices, and the Library Central Services Building.

Reserves

Reserves are established to save funds for future obligations. A reserve of 5 to 15% of the General Fund operating revenues is considered prudent fiscal management by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). A 10% reserve of the general fund operating revenues would amount to approximately \$5.5 million. The 2005-06 Recommended Budget contains a General Reserve of \$5,074,480.

The 2005-06 Recommended Budget includes the following reserves:

- The Reserve for Known Benefit Cost Increases of \$3,418,914;
- Health Realignment Reserve of \$3,543,164; and
- A General Reserve of \$5,074,480.

It is also recommended that the following reserves be established:

- A Capital Improvement, Deferred Maintenance and Equipment Replacement Reserve of \$1,561,676;
- Road Fund Deferred Maintenance Reserve of \$3,000,000; and
- A Reserve Against Unfunded Liabilities of \$890,000.

The General Reserve may be accessed by a declaration of emergency, by the Board of Supervisors for statutorily specified reasons such as natural disasters, or during the annual budget process. The other reserves may be accessed for unanticipated events with a 4/5 vote of the Board.

The Role of One-Time Revenues in the Budget

One-time revenues and the prudent use of reserves have allowed the County to avoid the more drastic measures of layoffs, facility closures, service cuts, etc. Some one-time revenues recur almost every year such as fund balances and contingency funds. These “recurring one-time funds” have been incorporated into future-year projections. However, in the fiscal year 2005-06 budget, there is a significant amount, \$7,878,000 of non-recurring one-time revenues. These one-time funds are comprised of:

Carry forward of prior years’ property tax revenues	\$4,738,000
West Sacramento RDA one-time payment	\$1,000,000
Departmental savings (continued hiring freeze)	\$ 500,000
Other unanticipated general purpose revenues	<u>\$1,640,000</u>
Total	<u>\$7,878,000</u>

Carry forward funds represent both a blessing and a burden for the County. Settlement of outstanding issues such as a city redevelopment agency pass through, significant increases in property tax revenue, departmental savings and the gradual calming of the state budget crisis have provided the County with a larger-than-usual amount of one-time revenues to ease the fiscal year 2005-06 budget.

CONCLUSION

Significant increases in general purpose revenues attributed to the active real estate market and unanticipated increases in one-time revenues allow Yolo County to finally begin to address fiscal issues deferred for the past three years: employee salary and benefits, maintenance of program service levels, and long-delayed capital projects and infrastructure repairs. While the fiscal year 2005-06 budget represents a brief respite from what has been a very difficult financial environment, the long-term picture may not be as promising. It is anticipated that the carry forward balances available for fiscal years 2006-

07 will decline due to the fact that the large infusion of one-time revenues in the 2005-06 budget will not be available next year.

There continues to be a structural deficit between ongoing revenues and ongoing expenditures. Generally, expenditure demands continue to grow faster than revenue increases. If the real estate market slows down, this gap could increase more. Even with the improved picture for general purpose revenues for 2005-06, the County still projects a structural imbalance continuing into fiscal year 2006-07. It has become very apparent in recent years that the two most important factors that impact the County's finances are the state budget and the economy. Both of these external factors are beyond the County's control.

The County of Yolo continues to benefit from an engaged, skilled and dedicated workforce. The fiscal challenges of the past three years have tested the organization and its residents, but staff has risen to the occasion by holding the line on expenditures and making ever effort to maintain current service levels, despite huge financial challenges. The employees who serve the citizens of Yolo County should be recognized for this significant achievement.

The Board of Supervisors should also be acknowledged for consistently providing admirable leadership and being willing to make the difficult decisions in these financially challenging times.

Respectfully yours,

Phil Batchelor
County Administrator

COUNTY OF YOLO
2005-2006 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	i
BUDGET INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW.....	1
FUNCTIONAL AREAS	
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	8
LAW & JUSTICE SERVICES	68
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES.....	119
LAND, EDUCATION & RECREATION	157
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS LIST	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.....	214
ROAD FUND PROJECT LIST`	218
SANITATION ENTERPRISE FUND PROJECT LIST	237
APPENDICES	
APPENDIX A—RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT LIST	238
APPENDIX B—GLOSSARY.....	240
INDEX.....	244

BUDGET INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

TOTAL BUDGET

The total budget is \$278,667,557 and is balanced. A summary of the total appropriation is provided on the FY 2005-06 State Required Appropriation List, on page 3.

The beginning General Fund carry forward balance is \$10,585,114, which is a significant increase from the \$6.0 million budgeted in FY 2004-05.

CONTINGENCIES

Contingencies are established to cover items which occur after adoption of the final budget and which cannot be absorbed within other existing appropriations. The appropriation is also normally used to finance major items for which the total cost cannot be determined in advance (as in the case of settlement of pending litigation).

A contingency fund of 3% was, at one time, considered prudent fiscal management by the State of California. A 3% contingency on the net operating budget would require an appropriation of approximately \$7.2 million. The recommended appropriation for the General Fund (\$2,508,558), library (\$120,749), health (\$350,000) and mental health (\$783,393) funds equal \$3,762,700, or 1.5% of the net operating budget.

Contingencies are expended by first being moved to an operating fund and then spent. No funds are directly spent from contingencies. A transfer of contingencies requires a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors.

General Fund Contingency.....\$2,508,558
General Fund Contingency has increased from the \$2,257,000 budgeted in FY 2004-2005.

Library Fund Contingency.....\$120,749
Library Fund Contingencies are recommended in the same amount as the prior year.

Public Health Realignment Program Contingency.....\$350,000
Public Health Realignment Program contingency is recommended in the same amount as FY 2004-05.

Mental Health Realignment Program Contingency.....\$783,393
The Mental Health Realignment Program contingency is recommended to fund as yet to be determined cost settlement expenses from the pending state audit, and unanticipated costs from extraordinary client treatment requirements.

Public Safety Fund Contingency.....\$0
There are insufficient public safety fund revenues to finance this contingency. As was the case in FY 2004-05.

RESERVES

Reserves are established to save funds for future obligations. A reserve of 5-15% of General Fund operating revenues is considered a prudent reserve by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). A 10% reserve of the General Fund operating revenues is approximately \$5.5 million. It is recommended that the FY 2005-06 budget include the following reserves:

- General Reserve of \$5,074,480.
- Reserve for Known Benefit Cost Increases of \$3,418,914.
- Health Realignment Reserve of \$3,543,164.
- Capital Improvement, Deferred Maintenance and Equipment Replacement Reserve of \$1,561,676.
- Road Fund Deferred Maintenance Reserve of \$3,000,000.
- Reserve Against Unfunded Liabilities of \$890,000.

DEBT SERVICE

County Services Center, West Sacramento\$371,528

Debt service payments are made to the City of West Sacramento for the purchase and remodeling of the County Services Center pursuant to a tri-party agreement between the County of Yolo, City of West Sacramento and West Sacramento Redevelopment Agency (Fund 825).

Source of Financing:	Rents from Department of Employment and Social Services and Miscellaneous Tenants	\$371,528
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Library-Davis Debt Service\$679,466

Debt service payments are made to the Library fund (\$546,056) for operation and maintenance costs and a loan payment (\$133,410) for principal and interest costs for the bond passed to expand the Davis Library. The bond debt is for 30 years, with final payment due in 2022 (Fund 827).

Source of Financing:	Davis Mello-Roos Bond	\$679,266
	Interest.....	\$200

District Attorney Building.....\$285,367

Debt service for the building of the District Attorney office. The building was completed in 1999. The debt on the Certificates of Participation is for 30 years, with final payment due in November 2028 (Fund 822).

Source of Financing	Development Fees.....	\$35,000
	Rents	\$45,314
	Criminal Justice Fund	\$205,053

Davis Administration Building Debt.....\$156,837

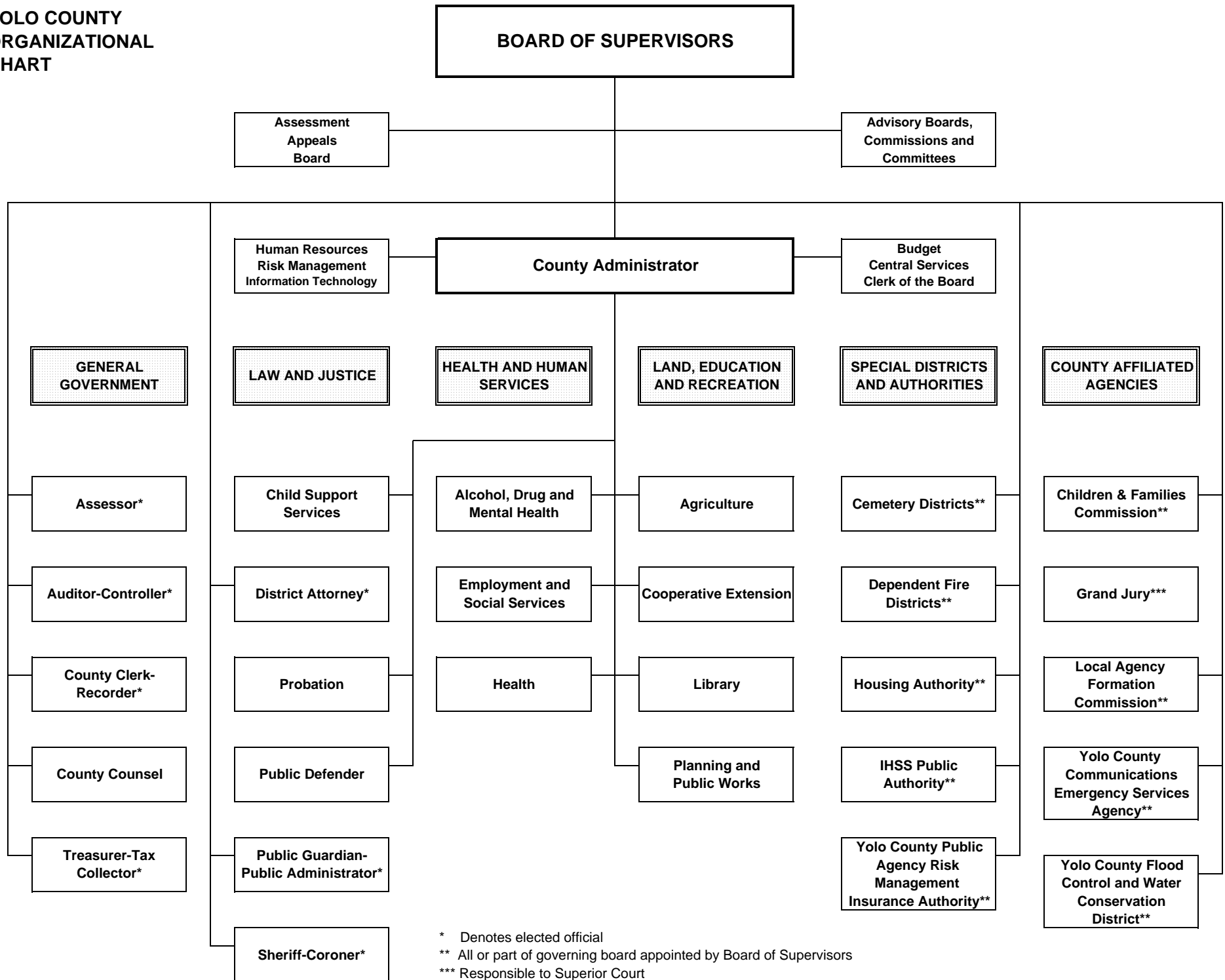
Debt service for payment of a \$1.78 million loan. The 20-year loan will expire in 2009 (Fund 828).

Source of Financing:	Rents, City of Davis	\$61,690
	Central Services	\$95,147

2005-06 STATE REQUIRED APPROPRIATION LIST

	2003-04 Adopted	2004-05 Adopted	2005-06 Recommended
OPERATIONS			
General Fund	\$49,910,792	\$50,258,252	\$55,174,988
Interfund Transfer from General Fund	\$17,236,845	\$20,368,956	\$22,749,367
Employment and Social Services	\$64,582,863	\$64,046,102	\$67,850,325
Public Safety Fund	\$35,393,701	\$37,899,700	\$42,692,355
Medical Services & CHIP Funds	\$16,898,772	\$17,482,837	\$19,727,806
Mental Health Services	\$17,726,718	\$15,353,868	\$16,771,525
Road/Transportation Fund	\$13,930,342	\$10,921,881	\$13,671,760
Library Fund	\$4,369,436	\$3,816,986	\$4,072,338
Cache Creek Area Plan	\$1,204,371	\$1,554,277	\$2,568,096
Fish and Game	\$9,350	\$18,014	\$12,650
Subtotal	\$221,263,190	\$221,720,873	\$245,291,210
INTERNAL SVC./ENTERPRISE FUNDS			
Airport Enterprise	\$430,746	\$821,996	\$272,860
Fleet Services (ISF)	\$1,161,256	\$1,290,737	\$1,404,228
Telecommunications (ISF)	\$2,726,865	\$2,339,095	\$3,484,352
Sanitation Enterprise	\$9,035,402	\$8,912,346	\$11,162,756
Dental Insurance (ISF)	\$1,947,639	\$1,915,469	\$2,061,448
Unemployment Insurance (ISF)	\$201,500	\$303,800	\$241,600
Subtotal	\$15,503,408	\$15,583,443	\$18,627,244
OPERATING BUDGET	\$236,766,598	\$237,304,316	\$263,918,454
LESS Interfund Transfer	(\$17,236,845)	(\$20,368,956)	(\$22,749,367)
NET OPERATING BUDGET	\$219,529,753	\$216,935,360	\$241,169,087
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND			
Probation Offices	0	0	\$2,257,439
Health Building	\$830,000	\$0	\$5,529,309
Accumulative Capital Projects (ACO)	\$3,377,954	\$5,764,097	\$5,469,177
Juvenile Hall	\$950,000	\$7,000,000	\$0
Subtotal	\$5,157,954	\$12,764,097	\$13,255,925
DEBT SERVICE			
West Sacramento Building	\$371,436	\$442,364	\$371,528
DA Building	\$294,867	\$291,066	\$285,367
Davis Library	\$689,816	\$674,172	\$679,466
Davis Administrative Building	\$155,858	\$159,128	\$156,837
Library Central Services	\$62,994	\$59,713	\$0
Subtotal	\$1,574,971	\$1,626,443	\$1,493,198
TOTAL CAPITAL/DEBT BUDGET	\$6,732,925	\$14,390,540	\$14,749,123
TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET	\$243,499,523	\$251,694,856	\$278,667,577

**YOLO COUNTY
ORGANIZATIONAL
CHART**



* Denotes elected official
 ** All or part of governing board appointed by Board of Supervisors
 *** Responsible to Superior Court

YOLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEADS

<u>Department</u>	<u>Department Head</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Agriculture	Rick Landon	666-8140
Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health	Tom Pinozzotto	666-8516
Assessor	Dick Fisher	666-8135
Auditor-Controller	Howard H. Newens, CIA, CPA	666-8190
Child Support Services	Mark J. Jones	661-2880
Cooperative Extension.....	Diane L. Metz	666-8143
County Administrator	Phil Batchelor	666-8150
County Clerk-Recorder	Freddie Oakley	666-8130
County Counsel	Steven M. Basha	666-8172
District Attorney.....	David C. Henderson	666-8180
Employment and Social Services.....	Diana G. Williams	661-2757
Health	Bette G. Hinton, M.D, MPH	666-8645
Library	Mary L. Stephens	666-8005
Planning and Public Works.....	John Bencomo	666-8775
Probation.....	Don L. Meyer	666-8015
Public Guardian-Public Administrator.....	K. Sylvia	666-8100
Public Defender	Barry Melton	666-8165
Sheriff-Coroner	Ed G. Prieto	668-5283
Treasurer-Tax Collector	Paul Lester	666-8625

COUNTY OF YOLO

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

General Description

Yolo County lies in the heartland of Northern California, just a short drive from the state capital along Interstate 80 and Interstate 5. It is home to more than 180,000 people with over 85% of them living in the county's four cities (Davis, West Sacramento, Woodland, and Winters).

The county covers an area of 661,760 acres (1,034 square miles). The elevation ranges from slightly below sea level near the Sacramento River (around Clarksburg) to 3,000 feet along the crest of the ridge of the western mountains.

Government and Organization

Yolo County operates under general law by the authority of the State Legislature. The State Constitution provides for the governing body of Yolo County to be the elected Board of Supervisors. Each of the five supervisors represents a district based upon population and serves a four-year term.

Economic Activity

Yolo County is covered by some of the richest soil in the world, and ranks as one of the nation's leading agricultural counties. Growth in manufacturing, warehousing and biotechnology have added to the county's economic base.

Educational Facilities

One of the nation's leading research and education facilities, the University of California at Davis, is located in Yolo County. Programs offered include Medicine, Veterinary Sciences, Biotechnology, Engineering, Law, Art, and many other graduate and undergraduate degree programs. The county is also home to the Woodland Community College, formerly known as Yuba College, D.Q. University, an accredited Native American Junior College and Hawaii Pacific University in Davis.

Arts, Recreation and Leisure

The quality of life in Yolo County suits a broad spectrum of tastes for both residents and visitors. Daytime sports and recreation activities include: river rafting, hunting, fishing, camping, golf, bicycling, and many festivals and celebrations. For nature enthusiasts, many wildlife species can be spotted at the numerous regional parks, or when learning about local plants and their habitat at the U.C. Davis Arboretum. Cultural events include viewing beautiful 19th century Victorian homes, enjoying a play or concert at the state-of-the-art Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts and historical Woodland Opera House, or touring one of the local museums such as the Gibson House Historical Museum and Heidrick Agricultural History Museum.

VALUES OF YOLO COUNTY

DOING RIGHT BY PEOPLE

We are in the “people” business. Our success is determined by those we serve and is achieved by those of us who work here. In order to earn the trust, confidence and support of those we serve and those who do the work, all are entitled to be treated with respect, dignity, courtesy, enthusiasm and responsiveness. One way we treat each other right is by finding ways to support each other. Another way is by doing right by ourselves--making sure that we stay physically and mentally fit. Commitment to the highest standards of ethics and integrity is also essential if we are to do right in our relationships with people.

STRIVING ALWAYS TO BE BETTER

Cost-consciousness is what we stand for. We are thrifty with public money and continuously seek to find the most efficient and productive ways to deliver our services. Our organization must have an environment within which creativity and innovation can flourish; where prudent and planned risk-taking is encouraged. We recognize that we, as human beings, can never be perfect--and that means we can always get better. And we understand that we are better only as the people we serve believe we are better.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

Democratic values must be an integral part of how we function as an institution. The better informed the public is about the county, the more intelligent their judgments about us will be. Thus, all of us have an obligation to be the best source of information about Yolo County as we can be. And beyond that, we must constantly improve our ability to communicate with each other and with the public about what we do, how well we do it and how we are trying to do it better. We welcome public involvement, public scrutiny, cooperative efforts with public and private entities, public-private partnerships and openness in all our communications. We should set the kind of example and exhibit the kind of pride in our work that earns the trust and confidence of all our citizens.

CREATING AND NURTURING DIVERSITY

We value our differences as much as we value what we have in common. Understanding diversity and appreciating differences can help us provide the quality of services expected of us by the public. We seek diverse individuals to join and strengthen our organization and we strive to create a work environment that nurtures and encourages good people to remain a part of our Yolo County team.

