



COUNTY OF YOLO

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2017-18 Recommended Budget & 2016-17 Annual Report Now Available

(Woodland, CA) – Today, Yolo County released its 2017-18 Recommended Budget and 2016-17 Annual Report. The Board of Supervisors will consider the recommended budget on June 13. Total expenditures for the county are recommended in the amount of \$416,997,472 with general purpose revenues of \$74,800,455, which represents an increase of \$2,969,755 from the 2016-17 year end estimated general purpose revenue. Capital expenditures are recommended at \$37,285,724.

This year's recommended budget continues a cautious approach with California's economy at the state level beginning to show signs of slowing growth. With a focus on funding Yolo County's strategic plan strategies, increasing the general fund reserve and implementing a balanced array of cost reductions comprised of program restructuring, elimination of vacant positions and reduced expenditures, the proposed budget scenario supports long-term financial planning and places Yolo County's finances in a better position to weather future recessionary periods.

"This budget continues the Board of Supervisors' focus on long-term fiscal planning which has allowed us to improve our credit rating this year from A- to A+ with a stable outlook," said Yolo County Administrator Patrick Blacklock.

The number of Yolo County employees per 1,000 residents (6.9 full-time equivalent) is a slight decrease over 2016-17 (22 total positions countywide). Staffing continues to be at a low point over a 20 year period and currently is the lowest of comparison counties.

There are three major unfunded liabilities that continue to be of concern to the overall health of the county fiscal climate. Pensions, retiree health and road maintenance have a combined current estimated liability of \$705,387,164. The pension liability of \$243,511,563 has grown significantly (>50%) in the last three years despite pension reform lowering the formula for new employees. This is due to CalPERS' rate changes, changes in accounting methodology and revised employee termination assumptions of higher age retirement. The retiree health liability saw a reduction from \$153,091,000 to \$86,519,000 due to the implementation of the Board-approved pre-funding plan which funds the trust, capping the county premium contribution and one-time funds being reserved. The road maintenance liability of \$375,356,601 has yet to be addressed, though the recent passage of Senate Bill 1 will help, and staff is actively working on options for consideration which include a sales tax measure and regional capital improvement and financing plan.

Once adopted, the recommended budget will serve as the interim spending plan until the adopted budget hearings can be completed following adoption of the state budget. The 2017-18 recommended budget is available online at www.yolocounty.org/budget-finance.

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