



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock
County Administrator

625 Court Street, Room 202 ▪ Woodland, CA 95695
Phone: (530) 666-8042 ▪ Fax: (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

Jenny Tan
Public Information Officer
Jenny.Tan@yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2020

Contact: Jenny Tan, Public Information Officer
W: (530) 666-8042 ▪ C: (530) 908-0186

2020-21 Recommended Budget and 2019-20 Annual Report Now Available

(Woodland, CA) – Today, Yolo County released its 2020-21 Recommended Budget and 2019-20 Annual Report. The Board of Supervisors will consider the recommended budget on June 9. Total expenditures for the County are recommended in the amount of \$493,428,239 with general purpose revenues of \$84,118,946, which represents an increase of \$2,637,759 from the 2019-20 year-end estimated general purpose revenues. Capital expenditures are recommended at \$45,660,000. These increases, however, are expected to be offset by dramatic reductions in statewide sales tax revenues which will significantly impact criminal justice and health and human services programs. As a result, the Recommended Budget proposes eliminating or defunding 54.75 full time positions while adding 4 new essential positions for a net reduction of 50.75 full time positions. Fortunately, all of the reduced positions are presently vacant as part of the Board of Supervisors early planning for economic uncertainty associated with COVID-19.

The Recommended Budget was modified after the start of the COVID-19 Shelter in Place orders to reflect the associated economic disruption. The Recommended Budget is aligned with initial economic forecasts which projected negative growth through most of this calendar year. More recent economic forecasts, however, have indicated a stronger recession than that original forecast and thus the assumptions used for the Recommended Budget may need to be updated in August and further cost cutting occur before the budget becomes final in September.

While total unfunded liabilities are lower this year due to the retiree health liability decreasing as part of implementing the Board of Supervisor's long-term financial plan; the pension liability of \$335,286,208 has more than doubled within the last four years despite pension reform lowering the formula for new employees. This is due to changes in CalPERS' assumed investment earnings and revised assumptions of higher age retirement. This amount will continue to increase as CalPERS phases in a change from a 30-year amortization to a 20-year amortization for payment of the unfunded liability and investment losses from COVID-19 are recognized. The retiree health liability continues to see reductions due to the ongoing efforts of the Board-approved pre-funding plan with the most recent 2018 actuarial study showing an unfunded liability of \$79,891,000. This is down from \$153,091,000 in 2014 but also is likely to see some increase as investment losses from Covid-19 are recognized. The road maintenance liability of \$477,000,000 has yet to be fully addressed, though SB 1 has substantively strengthened road maintenance investment in the county.

“The County of Yolo continues to benefit from an engaged, skilled and dedicated workforce who should be recognized for their ongoing commitment to making a difference by enhancing the quality of life in our community,” said Yolo County Administrator Patrick Blacklock. “This has never been more apparent than recent months when our workforce has taken on the exhaustive task of responding to the Covid-19 emergency. Their dedication, expertise, and commitment of time has been generous and commendable. I wish to thank our department heads, the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Financial Services’ budget staff and fiscal staff throughout the County whose hard work contributed to the creation of this budget. I also wish to acknowledge the Board of Supervisors for focusing attention on long-term financial planning and fiscal sustainability. I am grateful for the Board’s long-term vision and willingness to steadily take actions that have improved the County’s fiscal resilience.”

Once adopted, the recommended budget will serve as the interim spending plan until the adopted budget hearings can be completed in September following adoption of the state budget. The 2020-21 recommended budget is available online at: www.yolocounty.org/budget-finance.

###