



Sonoma County ANNUAL REPORT 2014

ENRICH INSPIRE CONNECT

Investing in beautiful, thriving & sustainable communities for all



LETTERS FROM:

Chairman Rabbitt



It has been a privilege to serve a second year as Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 2014. It was a year that brought drought, earthquake, and flood to Sonoma County, but also an economic recovery and a renewed investment in our core infrastructure and education, and support for our vulnerable communities. All this has been done with a continuing eye for fiscal discipline that will make these gains sustainable and position us for greater accomplishments to come.

The 2014 Annual Report features the many ways your County government worked to serve our community over the last year. The Board continued to prioritize the County's infrastructure, with an unprecedented investment of more than \$57 million, and by adopting the Long-Term Roads Plan and increasing our overall financial commitment to pavement preservation.

“The 2014 Annual Report features the many ways your County government worked to serve our community over the last year.”

We advanced efforts to fight homelessness by creating the innovative Homeless Outreach Services Team to provide assistance geared toward the long-term health and well-being of the homeless while helping meet immediate needs. And we continued our historic partnership with education by supporting programs in workforce development and the arts, and funding scholarships to give more of our students the chance to attend college.

We were confronted by the worst drought in more than 35 years, and responded by working collaboratively to address the current shortage while taking steps to build a resilient water supply for the future. The County also provided emergency response during the earthquake and the flood, coordinating with our cities and local agencies, as well as other counties and the State, including providing aid to Napa to assist with their earthquake response.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Board, County employees, and our community partners for a successful 2014, and I look forward to continuing our work on behalf of the residents of Sonoma County.

David Rabbitt

County Administrator Ferguson

In 2014, as the economy continued to improve, the County worked to strategically enrich the quality of life in Sonoma County through superior public service. We connected



with our community in new and creative ways, including an emphasis on youth engagement and focusing resources on neighborhoods where investments have the greatest impact.

The Annual Report highlights some of our accomplishments through the year as we advanced the Strategic Plan Goals of a safe, healthy, and caring community; economic and environmental stewardship; investing in the future; and community engagement and civic services.

This year the County's adopted budget surpassed \$1.4 billion. With economic recovery increasing revenues, the temptation is strong to increase spending. Where needs are high and innovative opportunities exist, the County augmented services. I am proud to say that we have also stayed focused on prioritizing a healthy financial future, paying down debt and growing our reserves by more than \$11 million.

“I am inspired by the passion and commitment to our community that I see every day.”

We will continue to face challenges, and I am confident that the dedicated team at the County will meet them in creative ways. I am inspired by the passion and commitment to our community that I see every day. I look forward to working with the County family and our trusted partners as we continue to make Sonoma County a beautiful, thriving, and sustainable community for all.

Veronica Ferguson



Enriching the quality of life in Sonoma County through superior public service.

WE HOSTED
5 MILLION VISITS TO OUR PARKS

COUNTY OF SONOMA IS THE
LARGEST LOCAL EMPLOYER
WITH 4,073 EMPLOYEES

RECYCLED OVER
10,000 LBS OF PLASTIC AT
AGRICULTURAL RECYCLING EVENTS

RESCUE HELICOPTER
COMPLETED 123 RESCUES

ISSUED 3,296 MARRIAGE LICENSES
& PERFORMED 1,002 CIVIL
MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

TRANSIT AND PARATRANSIT PROVIDE
5,000 PASSENGER TRIPS
EACH WEEKDAY

LIBRARIES RECEIVED 2 MILLION VISITS
AND
3 ½ MILLION
ITEMS WERE CHECKED OUT

10,000 DEVICES SUCH AS
RETAIL SCALES AND GAS PUMPS
WERE INSPECTED AND **22,000** ITEMS
WERE CHECKED FOR PRICE ACCURACY

OPENED 1,489 ACRES
FOR PUBLIC ACCESS

And so much more...



Significant **PARKS MAINTENANCE PROJECTS** were completed, including repairs to War Memorial summer dam at Healdsburg Veterans Beach and three new restroom roofs at Spring Lake Park.

DIGITAL ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY was enhanced through a redesigned website, new catalog, and implementation of virtual reference (email, chat, and text) services, as well as the addition of thousands of new e-book titles.

Using our resources to invest in the present and build a promising future

ENRICH

THE MIRABEL SEISMIC UPGRADE, which helps ensure the Russian River Diversion Structure can survive a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, was one of a number of infrastructure projects completed by the Water Agency.

\$758,442 in State funding was granted through the Probation Department to local community-based organizations to provide **PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES TO YOUTH** in the juvenile justice system.

EXPANDED PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES, including substance abuse treatment, were made available in the Sheriff's detention facilities.

THE SONOMA COUNTY NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM served over 375 low-income first-time mothers who were struggling with poverty, poor health, and other risk factors.

The County continued to build its **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE** through grants from the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District and installation of new stations and retrofitting of existing stations to meet accessibility standards by General Services.

The Sheriff's Office established a **BODY WORN CAMERA PROGRAM**.

The Community Development Commission supported work to improve health and safety of low-income residents and revitalize commercial corridors at 22 residential and 24 commercial properties through the **HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAMS**.

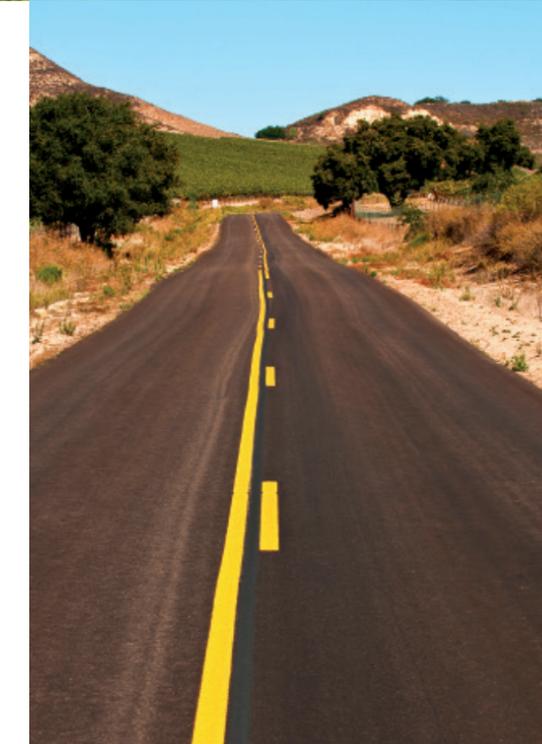
Seven infrastructure projects were awarded \$618,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds to **COMPLETE ADA MODIFICATIONS** at sites throughout the County.



WE ACQUIRED 590 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL RESOURCE AND SCENIC VIEW SHED LANDS

REGIONAL PARKS ADDED A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES, including Sonoma Mountain Regional Park and additions to Hood Mountain and Sonoma Valley Regional Parks, and also completed various trail construction projects throughout the County parks network.

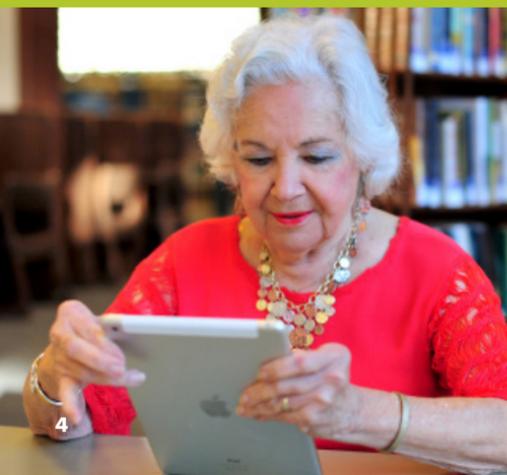
The County invested \$900,000 to fund construction of the **NEW ANNAPOLIS FIRE STATION**, providing the region a centralized, modern facility for first responders.



STRIPED AND MARKED **143 MILES** OF ROADS FOR SAFETY

The Board of Supervisors adopted the **LONG-TERM ROAD PLAN**, which established a framework for upgrading and maintaining the entire County Road System, and increased the commitment to Pavement Preservation to \$13 million, including \$1 million to address the worst roads in the County.

RESURFACED 43 MILES OF PUBLIC STREETS



The Airport completed the construction phase of the **\$55 MILLION RUNWAY SAFETY AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**, with the enhanced runway opening on October 17th. The safety improvements also open the opportunity for expanded service.

220,000 PASSENGERS TRAVELED TO AND FROM OUR AIRPORT



The Registrar of Voters launched a **MOBILE ELECTIONS APP**, providing access to sample ballots, polling place information, Vote by Mail tracking, and campaign finance reports.

WE ISSUED
351,000
BALLOTS
TO VOTE-BY-MAIL
VOTERS

INSPIRE

THE **NEW**
COUNTY
WEBSITE
RECEIVED OVER
8 MILLION VISITS



Cutting-edge programs and innovative solutions change lives

Permit and Resource Management conducted **HEALTHY BY DESIGN** outreach, including planner and architect training, which focuses on how land use planning can contribute to improved health through reducing obesity and chronic disease.

Volunteer attorneys from various County departments are working to offer **PRO BONO DEFENSE FOR UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN** in deportation hearings.

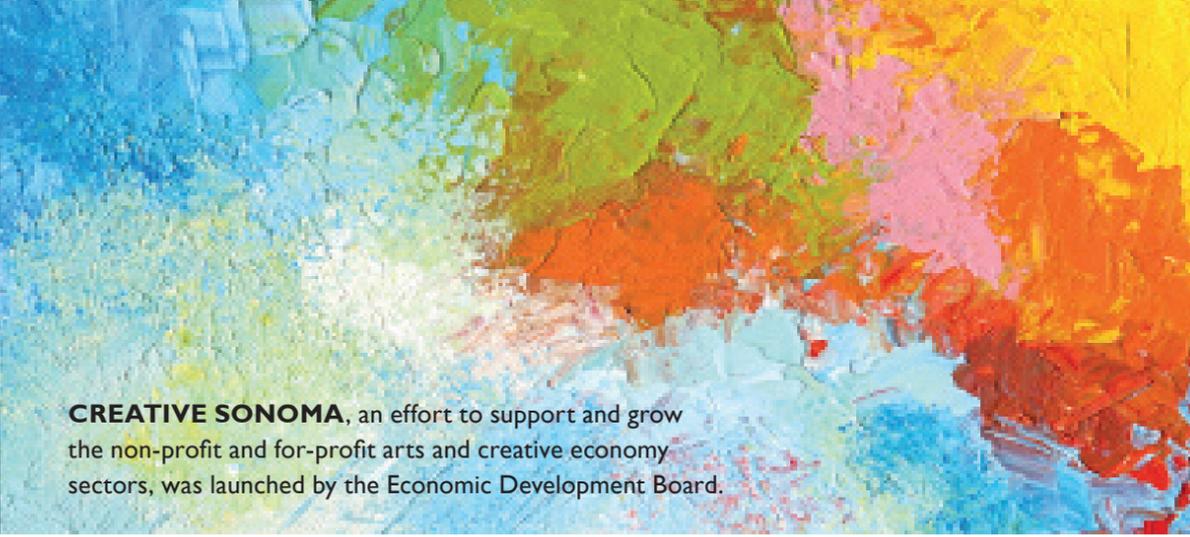
The Sheriff's Office and Probation began the **PRE-TRIAL SERVICES PROGRAM**, providing universal front-end screening for all individuals booked into the jail, and includes both the in-custody assessment and a community supervision component.

The Economic Development Board's **NEXT ECONOMY PROJECT**, aimed at providing a long-range planning tool for both the public and private sectors, brought together local business leaders to consider trends in energy, climate, demographics, and infrastructure.

The Sheriff's Office implemented **NEW SOFTWARE** to enhance operations, including tracking and responding to citizen complaints and investigating internet crimes against children.

First 5 piloted a **DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING INITIATIVE** for children 0-5, providing a specialist that helps families navigate early intervention services for developmental delays and social-emotional issues.

Health Services conducted a **FARM WORKER WELLNESS STUDY** to assess the occupational and health conditions of farm and agricultural workers in Sonoma County.



CREATIVE SONOMA, an effort to support and grow the non-profit and for-profit arts and creative economy sectors, was launched by the Economic Development Board.

Regional Parks expanded its award-winning **RUSSIAN RIVER PATROL**, loaning life vests to thousands of river-goers, providing bilingual water-safety outreach at beaches, and performing life-saving rescues.

The Board of Supervisors approved the **COLLEGE STUDENT AND VETERANS FREE FARE PILOT PROGRAMS**, which will allow currently enrolled college students and Veterans free use of Sonoma County Transit throughout 2015, with the goal of increasing ridership and access to key facilities.

The **GREENTIVITIES SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS SHOWCASE** at the Fair, created by the Energy and Sustainability Division of General Services, was dedicated to entertaining, interactive, and education exhibits related to water, energy, waste, and healthy living sustainable solutions.

The County continued to **SUPPORT THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM**, including the development of an ordinance allowing expanded small-scale agricultural processing and farm retail sales, aimed at supporting the viability of local agriculture and increasing access to healthy food.



ISSUED 40,658
ANIMAL LICENSES

Animal Services launched the **LOVE ME LICENSE ME CAMPAIGN**, which encourages pet owners to license their dogs not only because it's the law, but because it shows the community that pets are beloved family members. A convenient online option is now available for licensing your pet.

INSPIRE

Collaborating with our partners to advance our shared goals

CONNECT

The Economic Development Board launched the **MICRO LOAN CONNECT PROJECT**, a new service to connect microenterprises and small businesses with access to capital through a network of Bay Area alternative business lenders.

The County provided **EMERGENCY RESPONSE** during the South Napa Earthquake and the December Winter Storm, coordinating with numerous County and city departments and agencies, community organizations, and other counties, including providing mutual aid to Napa to assist in their earthquake response.

The County joined ten other Bay Area government agencies to **ADD 90 BATTERY-ELECTRIC VEHICLES** into their fleets, which comprises the largest municipal fleet deployment of electric vehicles in the U.S. to date, with over a third of the total delivered to Sonoma County.

Health Services partnered with the Center for Disease Control to reduce drug and alcohol use during pregnancy through the **NATIONAL CITYMATCH PRACTICE COLLABORATIVE**.

The County and the City of Santa Rosa advanced Southwest Santa Rosa annexation efforts through the **JOINT CITY/COUNTY ROSELAND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE**.

In order to improve broadband service in rural areas, Sonoma County joined with Napa and Mendocino counties to form the **NORTH BAY NORTH COAST BROADBAND CONSORTIUM**, and agreed to form the **SONOMA MENDOCINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT** with Mendocino County to facilitate cooperation on broadband expansion and other economic development goals.



282 VOLUNTEERS

SPENT A COMBINED 2,000 HOURS ON LOCAL PROJECTS
AND 146 VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED ONE-ON-ONE



READING ASSISTANCE

AT SCHOOLS



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CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES worked with the Courts to **EXPAND THE FAMILY COURT COLLABORATION PROJECT**, which was developed to increase outreach and offer services to parents needing assistance with child support calculations, applications, and related information at the Courthouse.

CONNECT



2,241 ANIMALS WERE
SUCCESSFULLY ADOPTED
OR RETURNED TO
THEIR OWNERS

Animal Services is collaborating with Pets Lifeline, Forgotten Felines, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue, Rohnert Park Animal Shelter, and other local animal services agencies to coordinate adoption specials and campaigns under the **ADOPT LOCAL** brand, which encourages potential animal adopters to consider the many wonderful pets available at local shelters and rescues.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office and Permit and Resource Management worked closely with ranchers, farmers, and resource agencies to develop best management practices for farming in riparian areas consistent with the newly adopted **RIPARIAN CORRIDOR ORDINANCE**.



WE COLLECTED AND DISTRIBUTED
\$28 MILLION IN CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS
FOR 16,000 CHILDREN

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

The **PORTRAIT OF SONOMA COUNTY** was released in May, providing the first comprehensive in-depth look at disparities in human development in the County through an examination of local health, income, and education data.

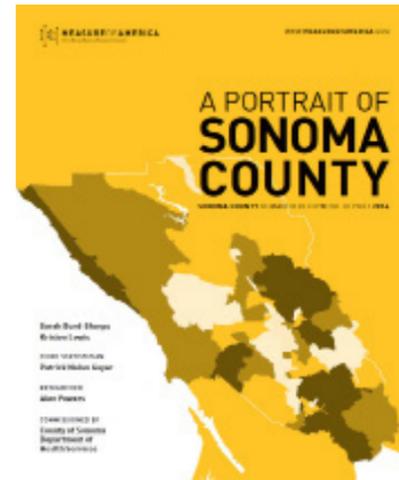
The 21-member **COMMUNITY AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE**, created by the Board of Supervisors to make recommendations regarding independent citizen review of law enforcement and community policing, met throughout 2014 and will present their final recommendations in the spring of 2015.

The District Attorney's **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM** provides criminal justice system and crime prevention information to victims and the broader community at schools, health fairs, and community forums.

The County worked closely with individual fire agencies, emergency medical responders, cities, and community members to launch the **FIRE SERVICES PROJECT**, soliciting input in an effort to reach a more effective, efficient, and sustainable fire services system.



UC Cooperative Extension **ASSISTED FARMERS** on strategies for increasing production, selecting specialty crops, managing pest problems, and enhancing marketing of local agriculture.



Over 350 homeless individuals were interviewed by the Community Development Commission and their volunteers as part of a **VULNERABILITY INDEX SURVEY** used to determine individual needs, and move the most vulnerable to the top of shelter waitlists.

\$1.9 million in local and federal funding was granted to Community Based Organizations to **PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF VITAL SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS AND THE HOMELESS**, including food, shelter, legal and domestic violence services, counseling, and case management to help County residents achieve increased economic independence and stability.

The Community Development Commission, Fairgrounds, and Catholic Charities funded and ran the **SAFE PARKING PROGRAM**, which provided pre-enrolled participants access to safe overnight parking, restrooms, showers, and warming stations. The Program also handed out blankets, sleeping bags, and other supplies, delivered one meal daily, and provided on-site case management to help people move out of homelessness.

The Community Development Commission, in partnership with other County departments and community-based organizations, began implementation of the **HOMELESS OUTREACH SERVICES TEAM (HOST)**, a project designed to engage unsheltered homeless people to provide a variety of services geared to move them into housing and improve their overall health and well-being.

County staff joined Catholic Charities and the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition for the **FIRST ANNUAL RIDING HOME TOUR**, a 3-day 150 mile bicycle tour to raise funds and awareness to help end homelessness in Sonoma County.

\$4 million was awarded to non-profit developers to **FUND CONSTRUCTION OF THREE MULTI-FAMILY RENTAL DEVELOPMENTS**, which will result in 130 additional affordable housing units in the County.

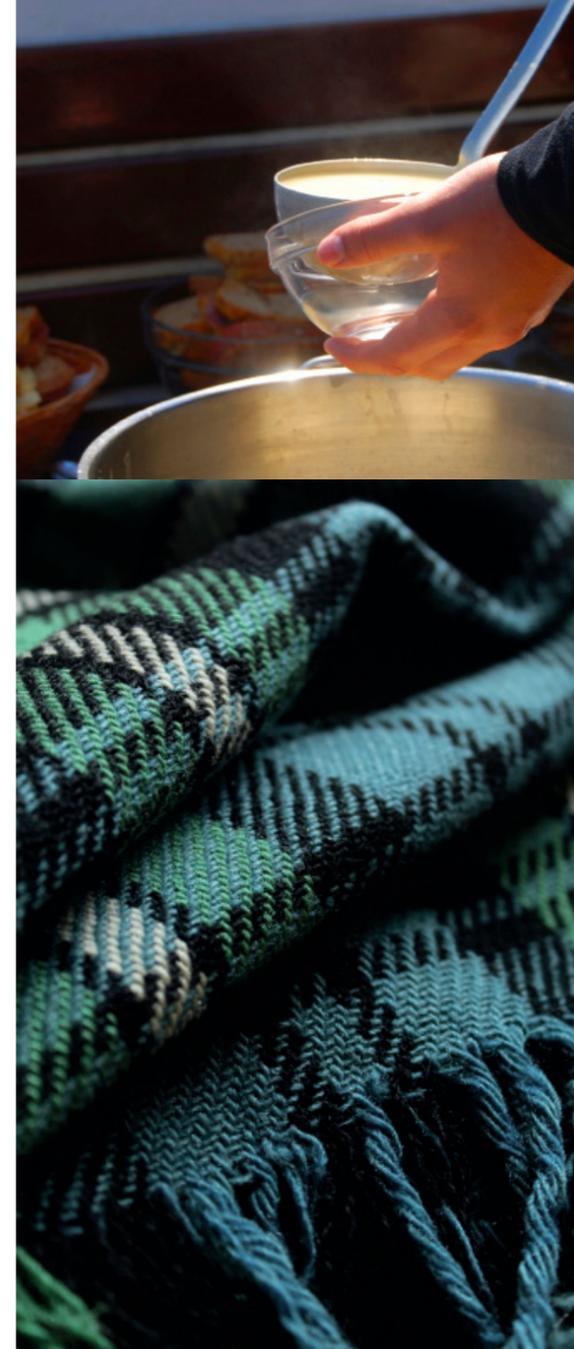
\$24 MILLION
IN RENTAL ASSISTANCE
WAS PROVIDED TO 2,923
LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

& HOUSING HOMELESSNESS

The Community Development Commission began an intensive engagement effort with the residents of the Roseland community in order to move forward on the design and use of the planned **ROSELAND VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**, and began demolition and environmental remediation on the property, preparing it for future development.

60 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND ELECTED OFFICIALS
SIGNED THE
PORTRAIT PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

Regional Parks and Health Services, in collaboration with Community Action Partnership and the residents of the Moorland neighborhood, established the **MOORLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING INITIATIVE**, which focuses on developing short and long-term strategies for improving the neighborhood's physical and social environment. The initiative will serve as a model of community planning that can be used throughout the County.





Empowering our youth through education and opportunity

YOUTH SEATS were added to a number of County boards, including the Commissions on Human Rights and the Status of Women, as well as on Health Action and Upstream Investments.

Health Services launched the award-winning **INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN**, a media effort focused on youth independence from tobacco.

The Sheriff's Office held the first **YOUTH CITIZEN'S ACADEMY**, a five day course designed to give young people between the ages of 14-18 the opportunity to learn about law enforcement in Sonoma County.

Human Services implemented **4 PATHS TO PREVENTION** and **"TOGETHER TO ENGAGE, ACT & MOTIVATE"**, aimed at protecting children and strengthening family reunification. These initiatives, and other related efforts, have resulted in a 25% increase in the reunification rate over a one year period.

The Board of Supervisors provided continued **EDUCATIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT** for Sonoma County Youth through grant awards to the Community Foundation arts education programs in underserved schools, the Career Technical Education Fund for workforce development programs, and the 10,000 Degrees program for direct college scholarship awards to students in our County.

YOUTH

OVER 3,000 STUDENTS VISITED PROTECTED LANDS VIA OUR OUTINGS PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WAS PROVIDED TO MORE THAN 15,000 STUDENTS

SUPERVISORS



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. In 2014 he served as Chair of the Board of Supervisors. 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); 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 on the CA State Seismic Safety Commission.



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. Among other appointments, she was the Chair of Sonoma Clean Power, and served on the First 5 Commission, Sonoma County Water Advisory Committee, LAFCO, Bay Conservation Development Commission, and North Bay Water Reuse Authority. In 2014 she was Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors.



Supervisor Shirlee Zane represents the Third District, which includes central Santa Rosa, east Rohnert Park, and SSU. Among other appointments, Supervisor Zane served on Health Action, the SMART Board, Sonoma County BEST (Building Economic Success Together), the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare Foundation, and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority; was the Chair of the National Association of Counties Long Term Care Subcommittee; and served on the California State Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee.



Supervisor Mike McGuire represented the Fourth District, which includes Northwest Santa Rosa, Fulton, Larkfield-Wikiup, Windsor, Healdsburg, Geyserville, and Cloverdale. Among other appointments, Supervisor McGuire served on the Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, the Library Joint Powers Agreement Review Advisory Committee, North Coast Air Basin Control District, Eel Russian River Commission, and the Northern California Counties Tribal Consortium.



Supervisor Efren Carrillo represents the Fifth District, which encompasses the west county including the coast, 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, Sonoma Clean Power Board, and the California Association of Counties Board of Directors.

The official dishwasher of Sonoma County.



5,000 DROUGHT TOOL KITS DISTRIBUTED

DROUGHT RESPONSE

To assist Russian River communities save over 40 million gallons of Lake Mendocino water per year, a coalition of local government agencies and water suppliers created the **RUSSIAN RIVER DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM**.

The free **CURBSIDE CHIPPER PROGRAM**, launched in August by Fire and Emergency Services, sent a wood chipper to residences in high risk fire areas to grind trimmings from cleared vegetation.

Addressing the drought now while building a more resilient water supply for the future

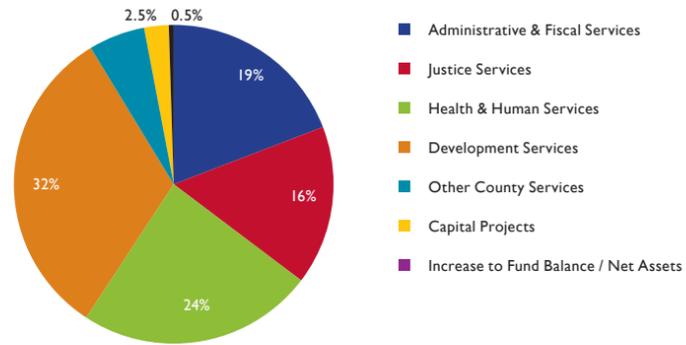
The UC Cooperative Extension **MASTER GARDENER'S PROGRAM** helped home gardeners conserve water through free classes and on-site consultations, as well as sponsoring a **DROUGHT WORKSHOP** with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Water Agency, and Winegrape Commission.

The Water Agency is working with the Scripps' Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes to **STUDY ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS** to decrease future flooding and maximize water capture.

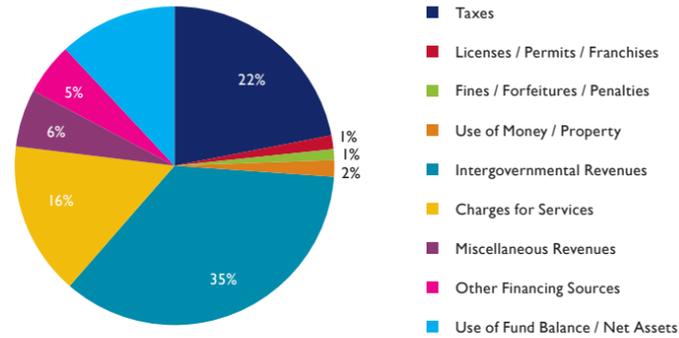
FINANCES

WE ADDED **\$11.3 MILLION**
TO OUR RESERVES,
A 34% INCREASE

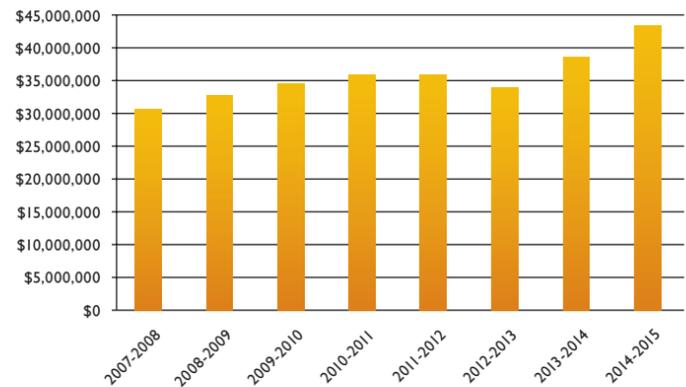
2014-15 Budget by Function: \$1.457 Billion



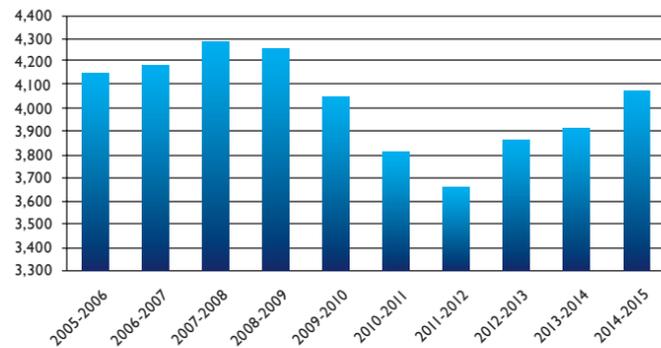
2014-15 County Budget Sources: \$1.457 Billion



General Fund Reserves 2007–2015



Number of Full Time County Employees 2005–2015



The Board of Supervisors approved a first of its kind **ADDITIONAL \$3.5 MILLION PAYMENT** to the retirement system, not only reducing the total outstanding liability, but avoiding an additional \$3 million in expenses over the next 20 years.

More than 75% of retirement benefits are paid to local recipients, with every \$1 of pension benefit leading to \$2.36 in economic impact. For our county, that is a **\$20M BOOST TO THE ECONOMY** each month.

PENSION REFORM RESULTED IN
\$4 MILLION IN **SAVINGS**

Information Systems, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office and County Administrator's Office, in collaboration with departments countywide, completed Phase I of the Enterprise Financial System (EFS) Implementation on schedule and on budget. EFS is an integrated financial system that will improve efficiency and reduce the use of paper.

The County maintained its **AA RATING FROM STANDARD AND POOR'S** on its pension obligation bonds, and **FITCH AFFIRMED THE COUNTY RATINGS OF AA+** for our general obligation and sales tax bonds. These favorable ratings will very likely save the County significant costs on any future financing.

Working together creatively
to invest in beautiful,
thriving & sustainable
communities for all

VISION



STRATEGIC GOALS AND 2014 BOARD PRIORITIES

Safe, Healthy & Caring Communities

- Improve community's health to achieve Healthiest County by 2020
- Support immigrants and families
- Increase confidence in safety and justice services

Invest in the Future

- Ensure the long-term fiscal health of the County organization
- Develop new, ongoing revenue sources that support County priorities and neighborhood resilience
- Highest and best use of County facilities and Systems

Economic & Environmental Stewardship

- Transportation and recreation facilities support a thriving economy
- Natural resources are protected and the local food system is valued
- Economic development, education and jobs for the benefit of all

Civic Services & Engagement

- Community understands and informs services
- Increase access to and citizen participation in County government
- Professionally manage County organization that is responsive to community needs

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

MISSION





The County of Sonoma is comprised of 25 departments and agencies that provide a full range of services to the community. Sonoma County encompasses over 1600 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

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