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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 12, 2014

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## Orange County Unveils FY 2014-15 Balanced Budget

Orange County's Fiscal Year 2014-15 Recommended Budget has been released for review by the Board of Supervisors and the public.

Public budget hearings will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10, and Wednesday, June 11, at the Hall of Administration Board Hearing Room, 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana. The budget is divided into seven sections, or programs: I Public Protection, II Community Services, III Infrastructure and Environmental Resources, IV General Government Services, V Capital Improvements, VI Debt Service and VII Insurance, Reserves & Miscellaneous.

A one-hour Public Budget Preview will begin at 8 a.m. on June 10 in the Hall of Administration Planning Commission Hearing Room. Budget staff will be available to provide highlights of the County's spending plan, provide information about the budget hearings process and explain how to use the budget documents, which will be available the day of the hearings and online at <http://ocgov.com/gov/ceo/deputy/finance/budget>.

The released budget represents a disciplined approach to fiscal management as the County continues to adjust to economic realities, minimal revenue growth and continued demand for programs without adequate funding. Actual revenues and expenses are monitored during the year and reported quarterly to the Board of Supervisors.

### FY 2014-15 Budget Highlights:

- Total budget is \$5.4 billion—roughly the same as the FY 2013-14 adopted budget.
- Reflects an increase of \$60.8 million or 1% growth.
- Discretionary revenues are \$672 million or 12.5% of the total budget.
- Reflects revenue growth assumptions of 2% in property tax revenues and 3% in Public Safety Sales Tax (Prop. 172) revenues.
- Allows for 2% growth for General Fund departments.
- Includes \$54.8 million to augment base-level funding, including \$37.6 million for Public Safety.
- Total budgeted positions are 17,719, an increase of 91 over this year, due mostly to positions added as a result of the Affordable Care Act.
- Includes a payment of \$5 million to the State, the first of five escalating payments totaling \$150 million ordered as the result of a lawsuit.
- General Fund reserves are level at \$365.5 million, including the \$150 million owed to the State.
- Includes \$3.6 million for potential operation of two 24/7 year-round emergency homeless shelters.