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Orange County Unveils FY 2015-16 Recommended Budget

Orange County's Fiscal Year 2015-16 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 9, and Wednesday, June 10 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 and Miscellaneous.

During the hearings, budget staff will provide highlights of the County's spending plan and discuss specific budget requests for augmentations, as well as answer questions from Board members and the public. Budget documents are available online at <http://ocgov.com/gov/ceo/deputy/finance/budget>.

Over the last several years and continuing into FY 2015-16, the County has focused on stabilizing the budget, preparing for contingencies, and funding infrastructure needs that were deferred during the Great Recession. Actual revenues and expenses are monitored during the year and reported quarterly to the Board of Supervisors.

FY 2015-16 Recommended Budget Highlights:

- Total budget is \$5.8 billion, of which \$3.2 billion is the General Fund Budget.
- Of the \$3.2 billion General Fund, \$723.1 million is the General Purpose Revenue portion. Last year's General Purpose Revenues were \$672 million.
- The \$723.1 million includes a \$15 million payment to the State. This is the second of five escalating payments totaling \$150 million ordered as the result of a lawsuit over the distribution of vehicle license fees.
- Reflects revenue growth assumptions of 4% in property tax revenues and 3% in Public Safety Sales Tax (Prop. 172) revenues.
- Includes \$32.3 million to restore and maintain current levels of service, including \$29.6 million for Public Safety.
- Total budgeted positions are 17,988, a reduction of 65 positions from the current year adopted budget.
- The recommended capital improvement budget includes \$2.1 million to begin work on a new juvenile multipurpose rehabilitation center funded primarily through a State grant.

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