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Introduction

The annual budget book serves as the County of Humboldt’s primary policy and budget document. It also communicates the Board of Supervisors’ strategic framework and how the Board’s priorities are met through county programs, services and activities that are aligned at the department level.

The annual budget provides a general overview along with line-item detail on the county’s operations and service to the community.

Mission Statement

The County of Humboldt, through the dedication and excellence of its employees, is committed to meeting the needs and addressing the concerns of the community and enhancing the quality of life.

Governance

The County of Humboldt is a general law county established in 1853 by the state legislature and is a political subdivision, or unit, of the state. Pursuant to the California Government Code, the Board of Supervisors, which serves as the legislative and executive body of county government and many special districts, is comprised of five full-time members elected by their respective districts. As the governing body of Humboldt County, the Board of Supervisors enacts legislation and determines policies for county departments and various special districts, adopts the annual budget, and fixes salaries. The Board also hears appeals of Planning Commission decisions and considers General Plan amendments.

The county is responsible for providing municipal programs and services in the unincorporated areas of the county, and its powers are limited to those granted by the state. The county budget includes many programs in the areas of health, welfare and law enforcement that are mandated, regulated and primarily funded by the state and federal governments. The Board of Supervisors has limited authority over the policy and administration of these programs.

The county budget also includes funding to provide local services not affected by state laws, such as libraries, land-use planning, county road construction and maintenance and police protection.

There are seven incorporated cities within Humboldt County that provide services to their residents, including the county seat of Eureka. The majority of general government services along with the Sheriff’s Office and correctional facility are provided at 825 Fifth Street in Eureka.

Meetings

The Board generally meets every Tuesday in the Board Chambers at 825 Fifth Street in Eureka to discuss and vote on policy items. The Board’s meeting schedule and agendas are posted on the Board of Supervisors’ website at humboldtgov.org. Video broadcasts of meetings (live and archived) are also available online.
GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Supervisorial District Map

1. Rio Dell
2. Redway
3. Fortuna
4. Eureka
5. McKinleyville

MIKE WILSON
3RD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

VIRGINIA BASS
4TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

REX BOHN
1ST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

ESTELLE FENNELL
2ND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

RYAN SUNDBERG
5TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
Organizational Structure

The county organization within the budget document is grouped by service area that represent general categories of service to the community of Humboldt County:

- Governance
- Law & Justice
- Health & Human Services
- Library and Agriculture
- Public Works
- Planning & Building

These service areas are composed of 19 separate departments. Additional information on the service areas of the organization can be found in the specific service area sections of this document. Six departments are directed by officials elected by residents to serve a four-year term: Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, District Attorney, Sheriff-Coroner, and Treasurer-Tax Collector. The remaining officials/department heads are appointed by either the Board of Supervisors or other agencies as outlined in state law.
**GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE**

**FY 2018-19 Expenditures by Functional Area**

$196,837,439

- Governance: $12,443,957
- Law & Justice: $17,392,976
- Health & Human Services: $5,475,987
- Library & Agriculture: $88,432,735
- Planning & Building: $18,686,924
- Public Works: $73,147,535
- Transfers & Contingencies: $17,392,976

**Full Time Equivalent Positions By Functional Area**

- Governance: 7%
- Law & Justice: 2%
- Health & Human Services: 57%
- Library & Agriculture: 9%
- Planning & Building: 2%
- Public Works: 23%
Governance Departments

**Assessor:** Provides assessment and recording of real property in the county and annually prepares the tax roll and delivers it to the Auditor-Controller.

**Auditor-Controller:** Exercises general supervision over the accounting of all organizations and administers the county's major financial, payroll, and property tax apportionment systems; prescribes and exercises general supervision over the accounting forms and the method of keeping the accounts of all offices and institutions under the control of the Board of Supervisors and for those entities who maintain their funds in the County Treasury, including special districts and school districts.

**Board of Supervisors:** Responsible for exercising its legislative and quasi-judicial authority, within budgetary constraints, to provide for the health, welfare, and safety of the residents of the County of Humboldt.

**Clerk-Recorder:** Records or files various authorized documents and maps, collects transfer tax and other fees, and registers all births, deaths, and public marriages occurring within Humboldt County. Once recorded or filed, the documents and certificates are made available for examination within the office for interested parties.

**County Administrative Office:** Provides a supportive framework for Board policies and decisions. This department oversees the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance, Information Technology, Economic Development, Purchasing, and Communications.
GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

County Counsel: Required to provide legal advice to all county officers and departments, boards and commissions, municipal advisory commissions, Grand Jury and special districts governed by the Board of Supervisors.

Human Resources: Provides guidance and assistance to the public, the County Administrative Office, the Board of Supervisors, county employees, and all county departments related to Human Resources management, talent acquisition, employee development, and retention of its workforce. This department oversees Human Resources and Risk Management.

Treasurer-Tax Collector: Responsible for the collection, custody, investment, and disbursements of the funds of the county, school districts, special districts, and trust funds; maintains oversight of revenue recovery operations for Court Collections-AB233 (Public Protection Function) and collections for other county departments.

Law & Justice Departments

Child Support Services: The North Coast Regional Department of Child Support Services provides professional services to locate parents, establish paternity, establish and enforce sustainable child support orders for financial and medical support, and remove barriers to regular and consistent support payments.

District Attorney: The public prosecutor of the county throughout the county, cities, and state and federal oversees Victim Witness and

Probation: The Probation part of the criminal justice function is to promote public behavior and its impact The department oversees

Public Defender: The Public for representing any person
employ counsel and who is charged with the commission of any contempt or criminal offense within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of Humboldt County.

**Sheriff-Coroner:** The offices of Sheriff and Coroner are combined. The Sheriff is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the county, whose authority extends throughout the county. The department oversees Animal Control, Coroner-Public Administrator, Custody Services, Operations, and Emergency Services.

**Health & Human Services**

The Department of Health & Human Services serves the community through coordinated, multi-disciplinary services. The department administers and oversees through the Administration budget unit three core functions, which include Public Health, Social Services and Mental Health.

**Public Health:** Public Health works closely with the public to promote and safeguard the health and wellness of the people of the County of Humboldt. Public Health oversees the divisions of Administration; Environmental Health; Healthy Communities; Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health; Public Health Nursing; and the Public Health Clinic.

**Social Services:** Social Services programs focus on the safety of vulnerable children, youth and adults, and assist families and individuals in their journey toward self-sufficiency. State and federal laws that differentiate client populations according to factors such as age, condition, types of services, and various risk factors mandate the majority of the services. Social Services is comprised of the key service areas of the Employment Training Division, Social Services Assistance Division and the Social Services Division.
Mental Health: Mental Health programs and services are committed to the principles of recovery, wellness, and discovery. Mental Health includes two primary programs, Alcohol and Other Drugs Division, which assists individuals who have substance use disorders to create and maintain a healthy and balanced lifestyle free of alcohol and other drug abuse, and Mental Health Division that serves the people of Humboldt County whose lives are affected by serious and chronic mental illness.

Library & Agriculture

Agriculture: The Agricultural Commissioner provides environmental protection through agricultural pest exclusion, detection, pesticide use enforcement, and support of US Department of Agriculture animal damage control program; protects consumers by inspecting/testing all commercial weighing devices and enforcing package label laws.

Library: The Humboldt County Library System is a vital community resource that provides service to all county residents and visitors through the Main Library in Eureka, 10 branch libraries, and the Bookmobile. Everyone is welcome to visit and use the Humboldt County Library.

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE): The UCCE has worked in partnership with the County of Humboldt and served the local community since it was founded in 1913. The UCCE in Humboldt County is part of a statewide system that serves as the primary public outreach and off-campus delivery vehicle for the UC. This system is designed to provide UC research-based information to landowners, public agencies, private industries, various organizations and the general public.
Planning & Building

The Humboldt County Planning and Building Department is responsible for protecting public health, safety, and welfare. The department achieves this through building permit review and inspections consistent with California model codes as well as planning and development review and approval consistent with the county’s General Plan. The department oversees Advance Planning, Building Inspections, Cannabis Planning, Code Enforcement and Current Planning.

Expenditures $12,443,957

Full Time Equivalent

Building Inspection
Cannabis Planning
Code Enforcement
Current Planning
Advance Planning
Public Works

The responsibilities of the Public Works Department include preparing plans and specifications, inspecting construction projects, maintaining county roads and bridges, managing county properties and right-of-way, preparing environmental documents, obtaining regulatory permits, administering solid waste franchises and facilities, and maintaining three county levee systems, county facilities, ten county parks, county trail systems and community forests, six county airport systems, and fleet services.

Expenditures $106,591,317

Full Time Equivalent
Transfers & Contingencies

Transfers and Contingencies are composed of transfers from the county General Fund to other operating funds within the county and funds held in contingency and reserve. The chart below depicts where the remaining balance of proposed expenditures reside.
Budget Goals and Priorities

The County Administrative Office developed the FY 2018-19 Budget upon the core roles, priorities and goals of the Board of Supervisors’ current Strategic Framework. In addition, budgetary recommendations are based on Board-adopted financial policies and directives that assist in developing budget priorities and funding levels.

Strategic Framework/Budget Guidelines

FOCUS

To promote a safe, healthy, economically vibrant community

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK/BUDGET GUIDELINES

• Enforce laws and regulations to protect residents
• Provide for and maintain infrastructure
• Create opportunities for improved safety and health
• Encourage new local enterprise
• Support business, workforce development and creation of private-sector jobs
• Protect vulnerable populations

PRIORITIES FOR NEW INITIATIVES

Provide our core services in ways that:

• Match service availability with residents’ needs
• Provide community-appropriate levels of service
• Support self-reliance of citizens
• Streamline county permit processes
• Retain existing and facilitate new living-wage private sector jobs and housing
• Safeguard the public trust
• Manage our resources to ensure sustainability of services
• Invest in county employees
• Invite civic engagement and awareness of available services

Make proactive decisions to:

• Promote quality services
• Foster transparent, accessible, welcoming and user friendly services
• Facilitate the establishment of local revenue sources to address local needs
• Seek outside funding sources to benefit Humboldt County needs
• Facilitate public/private partnerships to solve problems
• Build inter-jurisdictional and regional cooperation
• Be an effective and influential voice for our community at the regional, state and federal levels
• Advance local interests in natural resource discussions
• Engage in discussions of our regional economic future
• Engage new partners

VALUE STATEMENT
The Board of Supervisors wishes to promote an organizational environment in which staff and department heads are encouraged to explore innovative ways to align the County with current external realities, and are on the lookout for opportunities to improve our organization and the community.

BROAD GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-19
In Fiscal Year 2018-19 the Board will seek to enhance our core services by:

1. Emphasizing public safety and health as a key component of county decision-making.

   In addition, the attention of the Board will continue to be focused on new initiatives that provide those core services in ways that safeguard the public trust by managing our resources to ensure sustainability of services. Specifically, the Board of Supervisors will:

2. Place a high priority on rebuilding reserve and contingency accounts.

3. Continue to examine streamlining the inventory of County properties (including through repurposing and/or sale where appropriate), using an asset management program for all current and future resources including financial, capital, etc.

4. Target investments that generate long-term savings.

5. Encourage county departments to demonstrate efficacy of new and existing programs by providing cost benefit analyses using results driven data.

The Board also recognizes that proactive decision-making and engaging and influencing issues of statewide concern cannot be accomplished without a certain minimum level of investment. Therefore, in order to build inter-jurisdictional and regional cooperation, engage in discussions of our regional economic future and influence issues of statewide concern, the Board will seek to:

6. Allocate resources to support travel, training and electronic meeting costs for staff and elected officials.
SPECIFIC GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-19

The Board further recognizes the community’s desire to see progress related to this strategic framework in the short-term, and therefore has provided direction to their department heads on the following short-term goals:

1. Update local coastal plans (especially for Humboldt Bay).
2. Continue to work on a facilities master plan for county facilities that is approved by the Board of Supervisors.
3. Permit cannabis facilities and farms and collect the cannabis excise tax.
4. Streamline the county’s multiple permitting processes, in accordance with state regulations, through county policy action and/or co-location.
5. Comply with the American with Disabilities Act by adhering to the 2016 Consent Decree between the Department of Justice and the county, and ensuring that all programs, services, activities and facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities on an ongoing basis.
7. Begin renewal process of Measure Z the half-cent sales tax by working with a consultant on communication, polling and election information.
8. Identify synergies between the Department of Health and Human Services and other county departments to increase efficiency and effectiveness.
9. Complete employee contract negotiations for all bargaining units.
10. Improve the county’s financial stability through contributions to the General Reserve, Public Agency Retirement System and Deferred Maintenance.
11. Create a climate action plan and plan for alternative energy export.
12. Utilize principles and practices improve government efficiency, as well as build leadership at all levels to foster an engaged workforce.
13. Improve mental health services and facilities.
14. Address substance abuse and opioid addiction in the community.
15. Economic development after the legalization of cannabis.
16. Improve infrastructure such as roads and broadband.
17. Incentivize housing investment for community members and review housing options for county employees.

2037 - A 20-Year Vision

The Board’s recommended “preferred future” for the county and community includes:

• Being on the cutting edge of technology such as energy independence, cannabis, sustainable biomass
management and transpacific cable.

- Planning for sea level rise.
- Providing advancement in food production and more diversification with exports.
- Having healthy forests and watersheds, thereby creating a healthy fish population, through responsible management of our forestlands and watersheds.
- Having at least $10.2 million in the county’s general reserve or “rainy day fund.”
- Creating campus-like county facilities with co-located services that are desirable to work and be in.
- Providing airport infrastructure that includes four commercial airlines.
- Creating a thriving and working waterfront.
- Receiving more funding from the state and federal government for local needs.
- Capitalizing on tourism: Avenue of the Giants, cannabis tourism, creative arts, international tourism, cruise ships.
- Attracting and retaining the best county employees.
- Enabling state of the art medical facilities and doctors.
- Improving infrastructure to be state of the art, including roads, parks, train, cruise ships and expanding commercial airline service to four carrier options; and planning infrastructure to be multi-modal and energy efficient.
- Diversifying our local economy with living wage jobs for both blue and white-collar professionals by concentrating on “value added” industries, not resource extraction.
- Stabilizing the cannabis economy.

Budget Performance Measures For FY 2018-19
(Graphs & Charts of Performance Measures)

Each year the county goes out into the community and hosts workshops where staff and elected officials discuss the top issues facing the county, and listen to residents discuss their concerns and hopes for the coming year, called the Humboldt County Budget Roadshow, these gatherings allow citizens from the far reaches of the our rural county to provide input on the budget process before decisions are made on how funds will be allocated.

Feedback from these meetings is received by the Board of Supervisors and considered when making financial decisions about short- and long-term goals regarding the annual budget. Areas listed below came from the public during the 2018 County Budget Roadshow, which will be tied to performance measures for countywide programs, services and activities.

1. Affordable Housing
2. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma-informed care
BUDGET

3. Economic Development
4. Roads and trails
5. Targeting hard drugs
6. Ensuring success of cannabis industry

Budget Calendar

The County of Humboldt operates on a fiscal year that begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th. For budgeting purposes, the fiscal year is divided into four quarters.

Following is a description of budget activities by quarter:

1st Quarter: July-August-September: The FY 2018-19 Budget, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in June, becomes the operational document for the county on July 1st. The FY 2018-19 Budget Book is produced and distributed during this time. The prior fiscal year is “closed out” and the county Auditor-Controller uses a 60-day accrual period in the financial system and no further changes are allowed.

2nd Quarter: October-November-December: The budget development calendar for the next fiscal year is drafted. In November, the County Administrative Office presents the first quarter report on the annual budget to the Board of Supervisors. The first quarter report includes the year-end closeout adjustments and any state and federal allocation adjustments. In general, this period is used to refine estimates and to incorporate those changes into the FY 2018-19 Adopted Budget with the first quarter report. Management and Budget Team staff start preparing the Financial Forecast and the second Mid-Year quarter report in preparation for the next year’s budget.

3rd Quarter: January-February-March: In late January or early February, a calendar is presented to the Board of Supervisors outlining the timeline for budget development and implementation for the next fiscal year. In February, the Mid-Year Budget Report (second quarter) is presented to the Board. The Mid-Year Report typically represents the last opportunity during the fiscal year to address budgetary concerns on the road to producing a balanced budget. In addition, the Financial Forecast is also presented to the Board to provide economic trends, future years’ revenue projections and to highlight possible concerns or issues that may affect county government. The County Administrative Office distributes guidelines and forms to departments for development of their proposed budgets for the upcoming fiscal year and conducts an annual budget meeting. Additionally, departments representing service areas participate in community budget forums to listen to public concerns and suggestions for budgetary and project consideration.

4th Quarter: April-May-June: This is the fourth and final quarter in the fiscal year. The County Administrative Office conducts budgetary departmental discussions prior to departmental presentation to the Board of Supervisors. The County Administrative Office presents the FY 2018-19 Proposed Budget for the upcoming fiscal year in June. The Proposed Budget Hearings are typically held in the third week of June and formal adoption of the FY 2018-19 Budget occurs prior to June 30th.
### Budget & Fee Schedule Development Calendar For FY 2018-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 6</td>
<td>Present 2017-18 Mid-Year Budget Report to Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 22</td>
<td>Budget workshop: County Administrative Office presents 2018-19 budget instructions to county departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., February 28</td>
<td>Budget Roadshow – Northern Humboldt/McKinleyville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 8</td>
<td>Budget Roadshow – Southern Humboldt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 12</td>
<td>Budget Roadshow – Humboldt Bay Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 22</td>
<td>Budget Roadshow – Northern Humboldt/Willow Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 2</td>
<td>2018-19 Budget Requests Completed by county departments and due to County Administrative Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 23</td>
<td>2018-19 department presentations to Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 30</td>
<td>2018-19 department presentations to Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 14</td>
<td>2018-19 draft budget sent to departments for review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 21</td>
<td>2018-19 draft budget returned to CAO with any final modifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 5</td>
<td>County Administrative Office presents 2018-19 proposed county budget to Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 18</td>
<td>Public hearings on 2018-19 proposed county budget; 1:30 &amp; 5:30 p.m.: Clerk of the Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 25</td>
<td>Fee Update: County Administrative Office distributes fee instructions to county departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 26</td>
<td>FY 2018-19 county budget adopted by Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 6</td>
<td>Fee update requests completed by county departments and due to County Administrative Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 11</td>
<td>FY 2018-19 county fee schedule public hearing noticed and fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 2</td>
<td>FY 2018-19 county fee schedule adopted by Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 5</td>
<td>Effective date for updated county fees (except Planning &amp; Building)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 6</td>
<td>Present 2018-19 First Quarter Report to Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 3</td>
<td>Effective date for updated Planning &amp; Building Fees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Budget Schedules

The budget schedules in the budget book contain numerical information included in the County Budget. Each schedule is presented in the format prescribed by the California State Controller, and are provided by the Humboldt County Auditor-Controller’s Office. The schedules are obtained through the County’s financial system, where budget information was entered by County departments under the direction of the County Administrative Office.
OVERVIEW

Humboldt County’s 7-year Financial Forecast report is intended to provide the Board and public information on trends in anticipated revenues, expenditures and fund balance for the county’s major operating funds for the next seven fiscal years. This report covers only the largest county funds and funds with significant deficits. Forecasts for funds not included were reviewed by County Administrative Office staff and projected to have no noteworthy changes or issues over the seven-year period.

FINANCIAL FORECAST

Economic indicators for the United States (US), California and Humboldt County predict that the economy will continue to grow, according to federal Congressional Budget Office (CBO), for fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 and that over a 10-year outlook that growth will average 1.9 percent. However, a variety of factors, including higher interest rates could lead to a moderating of the economy beginning in mid-to-late 2019.

The US economy is now in the 9th year of its current expansion, and at this point there is little reason to believe that will end in 2018. In fact, this expansion will likely end up being the longest in US history, with the longest period being 10 years. Historically, recessions have occurred about five years apart and this suggests that another recession may occur during the 7-year forecast period.

Local economy: The Humboldt Economic Index is a report produced by the Economics Department at Humboldt State University. It measures changes in the local economy using data from local business and organizations. The report includes a Composite Index that is a weighted combination of six individual sectors of the local economy. The March 2018 report states the Composite Index is up 2.5 points from this time last year. Retail sales have dipped 5.3 points lower when compared to February 2017. The Index of Home Sales has increased from this time last year by 17.5 points; moreover, the bigger issue is the availability of affordable housing and housing stock in general. The median home price compared to this time last year was $292,500 versus $275,000 at the time of this report. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Humboldt County increased from 3.1 to 3.5 percent. The state rate has decreased from 5.2 percent in March 2017 to 4.2 percent in March 2018. The national unemployment rate dipped slightly from 4.5 to 4.1 from March 2017 to March 2018.

The 7-year forecast for the General Fund predicts revenues (which include unspent funds from the prior year) will exceed expenditures until FY 2020-21 where the trend reverses and expenditures exceed revenues for the remaining four years of the forecast. A negative fund balance develops in FY 2020-21 of the forecast and at the end of seven years the fund balance is projected to be negative $20.3 million. Major contributing factors to the declining fund balance include increasing retirement and health insurance costs, and slow to moderate revenue growth, particularly property tax and cannabis excise tax. If either of these factors changes for the better, such as cannabis revenue, forecast figures would need to be revised and the fund balance issue would not portray such a bleak picture. In addition, since the Board cannot adopt an unbalanced budget, measures to reduce the negative fund balance and bring forth a balanced budget will
be required in future years if expenditures outpace revenues.

**REVENUES**

1. **Property Tax**

   Assessed values have seen three consecutive years of growth, which is more typical of the steady growth patterns witnessed in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and is generally a good sign in terms of future stability. The forecast includes an increase of 3.5 percent in FY 2018-19, with slightly declining revenue trends in future years. Historically Humboldt County assessed values have increased 4.5 percent annually (1.7 from the consumer price index and 2.8 from growth) however increases have not been as strong since the recession.

2. **Sales Tax**

   Bradley-Burns Sales Tax is based on state-wide sales tax and is expected to meet budgetary estimates for FY 2017-18. Based on actual revenue received for the first 11 months of this fiscal year this revenue is forecasted to be at or slightly above estimates made when the budget was adopted. A modest increase of 3.5 percent is forecast for FY 2018-19 followed by two years of slower growth to correlate with a modest recession scenario beginning in 2019-20. This is based on the sales tax trends from HdL Companies’ Operational Impacts.
3. Local Sales Tax (Measure Z)

Measure Z Sales Tax is anticipated to remain strong in the short term. However, if the measure is not renewed, it will have a drastic impact on the programs and services supported by the measure in future years. Based on current year trends, Measure Z is projected to slightly exceed FY 2017-18 year-end estimates by 1 to 2 percent. This sales tax includes the incorporated cities and does not directly correlate to the Bradley-Burns sales tax. Local sales tax growth trends have climbed over the last five years. A positive 3.5 percent growth rate is forecast for FY 2018-19 with a gradual decline in the rate of growth in future years. This is based on the sales tax trends from HdL Companies’ October
2016 California Forecast for FY 2017-18 and Beacon Economics’ projections. If Measure Z is not renewed, steps will likely need to be taken to account for more than 60 staff supported by Measure Z revenues. If Measure Z is renewed, revenue growth is likely to taper off in the out years and any increases in spending should be done with that in mind.

4. **Local Cannabis Excise Tax**

As a new source of revenue with less than one year of data, Humboldt County approached revenue estimates for FY 2017-18 and beyond in a conservative manner. Now it appears that this revenue will exceed estimates by over 30 percent for FY 2017-18. This is good news and allows the county to allocate funding towards financial reserves, ADA and pension liabilities. The fledgling, legalized cannabis industry however will need to mature before the county can predictably estimate annual revenues with any certainty. Cannabis excise tax projections will remain fiscally conservative for the near-term.
5. **Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)**

TOT continues to gradually increase from year-to-year and can be used as an indicator of the tourism industry. FY 2017-18 appears to be trending 5 percent higher than forecasted revenue estimates and may increase even further once TOT revenues are realized at the end of the fiscal year in June. Travel and destination publications, such as Lonely Planet, have named the redwood coast as one of the top places to visit in 2018. Therefore, the tourism industry may see a boost in the number of visitors and trips, which will result in increased TOT revenues for year-end and, if sustained, FY 2018-19.
6. Timber Yield Tax

The Timber Yield Tax program sets the harvest value of timber and collects an in-lieu tax when it is harvested. The revenue from this program is allocated to the counties where the timber was harvested. FY 2017-18 experienced an increase of 31 percent when compared to the year prior. The county does not anticipate revenue gains as those experienced in the early 2000’s; however, staff anticipates an upward trend for the next several years with modest gains for FY 2018-19 of about 9 percent.

FUND BALANCE

Fund balance is the difference between assets and liabilities of a governmental fund. A portion of this balance may be available to finance the next year’s budget.

In the General Fund, a negative fund balance develops in FY 2021-22 of the forecast, as depicted below. However, this assumption is based on what the financial scenario would look like if Measure Z is not renewed. Other major contributing factors to the declining fund balance include increasing retirement and health insurance costs, and slow to moderate revenue growth, particularly property tax and cannabis excise tax. As stated earlier, if either of these factors changes for the better, such as cannabis revenue, forecast figures would need to be revised and the fund balance issue would not portray such a bleak picture. In addition, since the Board cannot adopt an unbalanced budget, measures to reduce the negative fund balance and bring forth a balanced budget will be required in future years if expenditures outpace revenues.
Property tax values and other tax revenues are significant factors in the forecast outcome. A change of 1 percent in property tax values is equivalent to approximately $360,000 in revenue.

**OPERATIONAL IMPACTS/BUDGETARY CONCERNS**

**Contingencies & Reserves**

Healthy financial reserves and contingencies are vital to weathering economic recessions and emergencies like natural disasters and ensuring the county minimizes disruptions to programs and service delivery. Contingencies, which is funding set aside annually for unforeseen circumstances, reflect a $3.5 million allocation for FY 2018-19. This is in line with the policy level of 2 percent of General Fund revenues. Having sufficient monies set aside for unforeseen expenses affords the county the flexibility and means to address financial issues without affecting operational capabilities. In the past, policy levels for contingency allocations were at the 7-and 8-percent range, which proved to be impractical and not possible to meet without a severe impact to service levels. Further details regarding the Contingency Policy may be found in the Budget/Financial Policies section later in this document.

The General Reserve, or rainy day fund, should target a balance of 10 percent of the county’s total General Fund expenditures. While the county aims to eventually reach a balance of no less than two months of regular general fund operating revenues or 16 percent, reserves first need to be built up to 10 percent. The Board of Supervisors is making notable progress in building up General Reserve levels. A revised
General Reserves policy (additional detail regarding the policy may be found in the Budget/Financial Policies section of this document) and an allocation in FY 2018-19 will bring the balance to $4.6 million, which is still shy of the prudent $15.9 million but a significant step in the right direction.

Based on the 7-year Financial Forecast presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 6, the General Fund shows signs of improvement, however revenues and expenditures are still not in agreement and that disparity is apparent in future years with declining and negative fund balance predictions. There are a number of fiscal concerns and issues (such as less than ideal reserves, fixed costs increasing faster than revenue growth, possible loss of Measure Z revenue, and reliance on fund balance to produce a balanced budget) that are manageable with a long-term plan and a disciplined approach.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The county continues to work with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to implement ADA-related projects laid out in its 2016 consent decree with the County of Humboldt. The county, as a requirement of the consent decree, retained an independent licensed architect (ILA) in April 2017. The ILA is responsible for assessing all county facilities for compliance with the ADA that offer a program, service or activity to the public. The ILA is also tasked with certifying barrier removal performed by the county and reporting the county’s progress in terms of compliance with the consent decree to the DOJ. The county has also retained the services of four design firms for project design and project management for ADA barrier removal. Additionally, the county has also increased staffing with two ADA Project Managers, an ADA Coordinator and two ADA Carpenters to address barrier removal in order to correct ADA issues identified within the consent decree. As the ADA consent decree projects progress, the county has established an internal service fund (ISF) to pay for and allocate costs for barrier removal and required modifications. Cost estimates in terms of barrier removal in the form of public projects, including the $7.5 million for curb ramp modifications, total $27 million.

CalPERS

Humboldt County provides defined-benefit pensions to its retirees through the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS). These plans are pre-funded, meaning both employer and employee make contributions during the working life of the employee, these contributions are then invested, and the earnings on the funds are re-invested. If the contribution rates and investment earnings achieve their targets over the working life of the employee, there will be sufficient funds available at the employee’s retirement date to pay a defined benefit over the remainder of the employee’s life span. Given CalPERS is a pre-funded plan, changes to, or a failure to realize, any of the assumptions that underlie its targets for funding must be made up by adjusting employer contributions in future years. In the past decade, several changes have occurred that have resulted in an unfunded liability of over $262 million for FY 2017-18 and $289 million in FY 2018-19. Retirement costs continue to increase, but growth rates may slow. The county’s contribution rates towards pension costs are expected to rise on an annual basis. CalPERS is now requiring fixed payments towards the county’s unfunded liability, rather than a percentage of payroll, which should provide predictability to contribution amounts. The estimated minimum required total employer contribution for FY 2018-19 is $32.2 million and employee contribution is $8 million,
which reflects the annual required contribution but does not address the increasing unfunded liability. In addition, CalPERS has lowered its estimates on expected returns and reduced the amortization period from 30 to 20 years, which is forcing local governments to contribute more to retirement.

There are a number of methods at the county’s disposal to address the unfunded liability issue. The implementation of a Section 115 Irrevocable Trust (also known as a Pension Rate Stabilization Program) or additional discretionary payments (ADP) are two of several methods for local government to manage the unfunded liability issue. In addition, the county plans on making a lump sum annual payment in lieu of monthly payments to CalPERS, which effectively reduces interest owed by half or an annual savings of over $500,000.

Pension Stabilization
The Board of Supervisors approved a Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) Pension Rate Stabilization Program (PRSP) in order to begin addressing the mounting unfunded liability. Contributions to PARS will help stabilize the contribution rates set by CalPERS. As the balance in the PARS trust grows and produces investment returns, those funds can be utilized to reduce the contribution rate increases, thereby reducing the effect of the contribution rate increase on the county and potentially preventing service reductions. The FY 2017-18 budget development incorporated an annual departmental contribution to PARS equal to 0.5 percent of salaries totaling $592,354. While this is a significant contribution, it does not allow for an aggressive approach to addressing the unfunded liability. The FY 2018-19 budget includes an allocation increasing the contribution rate from 0.5 percent 1.0 percent, bringing the contribution to approximately $1.25 million with an additional $1.25 million contribution from the General Fund.

Deferred Maintenance
Deferred maintenance costs continue to rise, and county policy requires a contribution of 5 percent of estimated deferred maintenance costs to be allocated on an annual basis. However, due to a number of internal and external factors the county has yet to reach contribution levels that are consistent with policy.

Several county facilities require extensive repair and/or rehabilitation, while many others are well behind in regular maintenance. The county contribution to these projects is not keeping up with costs and will require increased funding to address deferred maintenance issues and maintain facilities in a serviceable condition. The annual contribution needed to meet policy levels may increase based upon increases in deferred maintenance costs due to rising construction costs during each year that deferred maintenance projects are delayed due to insufficient budgetary allocations. Providing for and maintaining infrastructure is one of the Board’s core roles in the 2018 strategic framework. Currently, deferred maintenance costs are estimated at over $33 million for FY 2018-19.

Without a predictable and steady allocation, deferred maintenance costs will continue to increase annually based upon an average construction cost increase of 3.5 percent. The FY 2018-19 allocation of $314,250 instead of the 5 percent or $1.65 million Board policy level addresses some deferred maintenance costs
but does not keep pace with the annual increases in construction and material costs.

**Capital Improvements**

The Fixed Asset list contained in the Capital Expenditures section of the budget book includes a total of $57,477,134 for projects, vehicles, information technology and equipment in FY 2018-19. Additional detail on Capital Expenditures projects is included in the Fixed Asset Allocations section of this document. In addition, an ADA 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (ADA CIP) is also included in the Capital Expenditures section. The ADA CIP includes close to $5.3 million in expenditures for public projects involving ADA barrier removal. The total estimated cost for the 5-year ADA CIP is $17.8 million.

**FUND TYPES AND STRUCTURE**

**Fund Types**

The total county budget includes funding for many programs in the areas of health, welfare, and public safety. Many of these programs are mandated, regulated, and funded by the state and federal governments. The Board of Supervisors has limited authority over the policy and administration of these programs. The county budget also includes funding to provide local services not affected by state laws, such as libraries, land-use planning, and county road construction and maintenance.

**County Fund Structure**

The county accounts for expenditures and revenues according to generally accepted accounting principles as defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The accounts of the county are organized based on funds, and a fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balanced set of accounts. The county’s budget is allocated across multiple operating funds to allow for proper accounting of all expenditures and revenues.

The county’s budget is comprised of the following types of County Operating Funds:

**GENERAL FUND**

General Fund includes all resources that are not required to be accounted for in a separate fund. The largest portion of General Fund revenue is derived from local property and sales taxes. The General Fund is allocated to fund core services provided by the county such as general government, planning and building services, public safety, and public assistance.

**SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

Restricted revenue sources, many by statute, may only be allocated for specific purposes. Services that are funded with Special Revenue Funds include mental health services and roads.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS**

Revenue used for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects.
FUND TYPES AND STRUCTURE

DEBT SERVICE FUNDS
Includes the county retirement contribution related to pension obligation, Certificates of Participation (COP) annual payments and payments related to short-term financing plans using county-pooled funds.

INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS
Funds used for the activities associated with various insurance programs, such as Workers Compensation and General Liability, and centralized services, such as Purchasing, that are included in the county’s annual cost allocation plan.

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUNDS
There are two types of special districts: dependent and independent. Dependent districts are those overseen by the Board of Supervisors as District Directors. Independent Special District Funds are not included in the county budget or this budget book, although their cash balances are included in the county’s audited financial statements since the majority maintain accounts within the County Treasury.
BUDGET/FINANCIAL POLICIES

Preparation of the annual budget is built upon policy direction provided by the Board of Supervisors that the County Administrative Officer (CAO) uses to formulate fiscal strategies to address immediate needs and long-term sustainability of the organization. The following guidelines and policies represent the basic fiscal principles and general governmental accounting standards used in the development of the annual budget.

The County of Humboldt is committed to establishing achievable and sustainable fiscal policies. Best practices, as recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), state that the county should maintain a prudent level of financial resources to safeguard against reducing service levels, incurring debt or raising taxes or fees due to temporary revenue shortfalls or unpredicted one-time expenditures. By adopting and implementing GFOA’s guidance on establishing minimum limits on identified fund balances, the county will have the fiscal tools in place to adapt to economic, social and political changes.

The GFOA recommends that local governments establish policies regarding how and when a government builds up stabilization funds such as the General Fund Reserve and the General Fund Contingency Reserve. Such policies not only allow the county to respond more quickly and effectively to financial emergencies, but it may also be viewed positively by credit rating agencies, such as Fitch and Moody’s, when evaluating a government’s credit.

(Policies in their entirety may be found on the county’s website at: https://humboldtgov.org).

County Budget Act

California Government Code Sections 29000 through 30200, as applied through rules issued by the Office of the State Controller, provide the legal requirements pertaining to the content of the budget, budget adoption procedures and dates by which action must be taken.

Balanced Budget

On October 7, 2008, the Board adopted a policy to control expenses in such a manner that department budgets are not expended above the levels that are appropriated in the annual budget or beyond that which the county has the funds to pay.

The following guidelines establish how a balanced budget will occur:

A. The annual budget is an operational, fiscal, and staffing plan for the provision of services to the residents of the county. Therefore, the county and its departments shall endeavor to annually adopt a balanced budget as a whole, where expenditures do not exceed current available revenue sources.

B. In the event, due to unforeseen circumstances, a balanced budget cannot be adopted, a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors is required to adopt an unbalanced budget.
BUDGET/FINANCIAL POLICIES

C. Recurring expenses may not exceed recurring revenues.

D. The use of available fund balance shall be limited to one-time only expenditures and is generally earmarked to support capital projects, fixed asset purchases and the acquisition of communications and computer systems.

E. New and/or expanded unrestricted revenue sources will first be applied to support or restore existing county programs prior to funding new or non-county programs. Expansion of existing programs is possible, with the availability of sufficient funds to meet the needs of existing programs.

F. One-time revenues will only be used for one-time expenditures.

G. The CAO shall coordinate the implementation of this policy.

Basis of Accounting

Budgets are adopted for the General Fund and most special revenue funds. Accounting principles applied for purposes of developing data on a budgetary basis are materially the same as those used to present financial statements in conformance with generally accepted accounting methods. The County of Humboldt adopts the budget government-wide financial statements, which comprise both the governmental and proprietary fund-basis financial activities, are prepared and reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting pursuant to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement number 34. The government-wide financial statements should report all of the assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses, and gains and losses of the county. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Non-exchange transactions, in which the county gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include property and sales taxes, grants, entitlements, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year that the taxes are levied. Revenues from sales taxes are recognized when the underlying transactions take place. Revenues from grants, entitlements, and donations are recognized in the fiscal year that all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Prior to the end of year worksheet adjustment conversion into the whole of the government-wide financial statements, the governmental activities are prepared and reported using the flow of financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting, pursuant to GASB Statement number 11.

Budget Amendment Process

The State of California County Budget Act, Article 6 – Appropriations and Transfers authorizes amendments to the adopted budget through the budget adjustment process. Revisions enable departments to move or adjust budgeted appropriations or adjust estimated revenues. Pursuant to revised county policy, dated March 18, 2014, departments may request budget amendments at any time during the fiscal year. Budget amendments may include requests to add revenue and appropriations, to transfer appropriations or revenues between budget units, transfer between funds, or add a fixed asset to the fixed assets list requiring Board of Supervisors approval. Transfers within the same budget unit, however, may be accomplished via
approval of the Auditor-Controller and County Administrative Office.

**General Fund Contingency Reserve Policy**

On February 6, 2018, the Board adopted a Contingency Reserve Policy to hold funds in reserve for cash flow purposes, revenue shortfalls, unanticipated one-time expenditures, and capital expenditures.

This policy states that the General Fund Contingency Reserve shall be budgeted for each year and contributions to the reserve may be made when the county receives unexpected one-time revenues. It should be noted that at year-end, the balance of the Contingency Reserve may be used for other funds, such as the General Reserve. Accordingly, the Contingency Reserve must be replenished each fiscal year.

The county shall hold funds in reserve for cash flow purposes, revenue shortfalls, unpredicted one-time expenditures, and capital expenditures. These cash reserves include but are not limited to: Library Contingency; Roads Contingency; General Fund Contingency Reserve; General Reserve; and Deferred Maintenance.

A. The General Fund Contingency will be budgeted at a minimum of 2 percent of the county’s total General Fund revenues on an annual basis.

B. When the General Fund receives unbudgeted one-time revenues, consideration shall be given to contributing a portion of those revenues to the General Fund Contingency Reserve.

C. All other contingencies will be budgeted in amounts necessary to preserve the financial stability of the individual fund.

D. Allocation criteria for using the Contingency Reserve to support one-time costs:
   1. When the county is impacted by an unanticipated reduction in state and/or federal funding and/or aid;
   2. When the county faces economic recession/depression and the county must take budget action before the beginning of a fiscal year;
   3. When the county is impacted by a natural disaster;
   4. When the county is presented with an unanticipated or unbudgeted expense that is necessary for the delivery of local services; and,
   5. When the county is affected by known future events with unknown fiscal ramifications that require the allocation of funds.

E. The Contingency Reserve may also be used to support ongoing costs or as a financing mechanism when presented with critical program initiatives that have a time requirement that cannot be deferred. The program initiatives would become part of the next year’s operating budget and be subject to review by the BOS at that time.

F. In each case when a request for Contingency Reserve funding is made, the department requesting the funds must provide an analysis demonstrating that funds do not exist within their current modified
brought.

G. When possible, the allocation of the Contingency Reserve funding should occur at a quarterly budget review.

H. No expenditure shall be made directly from the Contingency Reserve. Funds for expenditure shall be transferred to a budget unit.

I. A four-fifths vote of the BOS is required to authorize Contingency Reserve expenditures.

J. The CAO shall coordinate the implementation of this policy. The CAO will work with all necessary departments and the BOS to make appropriate contributions to the General Fund Contingency Reserve in an effort to ensure a solid financial foundation for the county.

General Fund Reserve Policy

On February 6, 2018, the Board adopted a Reserve Policy to hold funds in reserve for cash flow purposes, revenue shortfalls, unanticipated one-time expenditures, and capital expenditures.

Policies regarding the use of these funds are often tied to an adverse change in economic indicators (such as declining employment or personal income) to ensure that the funds are not depleted before an emergency arises. Such is the case for the County of Humboldt’s policy, which depends on locally generated revenue. In short, this policy aims to contribute to the county’s general reserve during times of economic prosperity so that funds are available during times of budgetary stress.

This policy identifies the county’s cannabis excise tax as the main source of revenue by which to determine contribution amounts. As a new local tax approved by voters in 2016, the cannabis excise tax has the potential to generate significant revenue, but is also potentially volatile due to recent changes in regulations in California. Until this new, unestablished revenue source can gain a stronger standing in the eyes of credit rating agencies such as Fitch and Moody’s, the county’s credit could be negatively affected if it is heavily relied upon to fund many ongoing expenses.

The county shall hold funds in reserve for cash flow purposes, revenue shortfalls, unpredicted one-time expenditures, and capital expenditures. These cash reserves include but are not limited to: Library Contingency; Roads Contingency; General Fund Contingency; General Reserve; and Deferred Maintenance.

A. The General Reserve shall target a balance of 10 percent of the county’s total General Fund expenditures, as averaged by the current and prior year adopted budgets. While the county aims to eventually reach the GFOA recommended balance of no less than two months of regular general fund operating revenues or 16 percent, it will first build up reserves to 10 percent. Government Code § 29085 gives the Board of Supervisors (BOS) authority to determine reserve contributions.

B. The General Reserve will be used to support the following:

1. Essential cash flow for county operations during the first six months of the fiscal year until property tax payments are collected in December; and
2. Extraordinary expenditures due to unforeseen events that exceed the capacity of appropriated funds, including the Contingency Reserve.

C. No expenditure shall be made directly from the General Reserve. Funds for expenditure shall be transferred to a budget unit. The General Reserve fund shall be the last resort in balancing the county budget.

D. A four-fifths vote of the BOS is required to authorize General Reserve expenditures.

E. Until the General Reserve balance has reached target levels, the county shall include an allocation to the General Reserve equaling no less than 10 percent of the annual tax revenue derived from the county’s Cannabis Excise Tax.

F. Transfers detailed in Section E shall be made unless financial constraints, as determined by the BOS and County Administrative Officer (CAO), prohibit such a transfer.

G. In the event that the General Reserve contribution has been decreased or increased from the prior year’s contribution, at the time the budget is adopted, the CAO must identify and report to the BOS on the specific circumstances that have led to an increase or decrease in the General Reserve.

H. The CAO shall coordinate the implementation of this policy. The CAO will work with all necessary departments and the BOS to make appropriate contributions to the General Reserve Fund in an effort to ensure a solid financial foundation for the county.

I. The CAO shall report annually to the BOS on the progress of meeting said General Reserve policy and provide year-to-date General Reserve balances.

Deferred Maintenance

Adopted on October 7, 2008, this policy states the Deferred Maintenance Fund shall receive an annual contribution of five percent of the total deferred maintenance costs. The Deferred Maintenance Fund will be used to support costs for capital improvements to county-owned facilities. The Deferred Maintenance Fund can be accessed for maintenance needs identified in the Facilities Master Plan, brought to the Board of Supervisors on July 8, 2008, and items identified and recommended by county Public Works staff. The allocation of Deferred Maintenance funding should occur at the time of bid award. No expenditure shall be made directly from the Deferred Maintenance fund. Funds for expenditure shall be transferred to the Capital Projects Budget Unit 170.

In the event that the Deferred Maintenance contribution is less than five percent of the county’s total deferred maintenance costs at the time the budget is adopted, the CAO must identify and report on the specific circumstances that have led to a less than five percent contribution.

Debt Limits

According to California Government Code Section 29909, the bonded debt limit for general law counties is 5 percent of the “taxable property of the county as shown in the equalized assessment roll.” The County of Humboldt FY 2017-18 assessed valuation Secured Net Roll Value is $12,217,429,844. The 5 percent limit of
this total is $610,871,492. As of June 30, 2017, the County of Humboldt’s total debt amount is $13,039,161 (or 0.11 percent of the assessed valuation), which is well below the 5 percent limit allowed. Total outstanding County debt includes Certificates of Participation in the amount of $13,039,161, and pension obligations in the amount of $289,000,000.

Debt Management Policy

The Board of Supervisors adopted a revised policy on June 27, 2017, the purpose of this policy is to promote fiscal responsibility and long-term planning efforts to establish guidelines addressing capital improvement costs, short-term and long-term cash management and to create policies and procedures that minimize the county’s debt service and issuance cost. The primary objective is to ensure prudent debt management practices to maintain financial stability, preserve public trust and minimize costs to taxpayers. In addition, the county shall observe the following goals:

- Provide benefits to the public by identifying benefits, cost savings and contribution to prudent use of debt financing;
- Long-term debt shall not be used to finance ongoing operational costs;
- Whenever possible, the county shall pursue alternative sources of funding, such as pay-as-you-go or grant funding, in order to minimize the level of direct debt;
- Whenever possible, the county shall use special assessment, revenue or other self-supporting debt instead of General Fund obligated debt;
- Any debt issued shall not have a maturity date beyond the useful life of the asset being acquired or constructed by the debt proceeds;
- The county shall establish an affordable debt level in order to preserve credit quality and ensure sufficient revenue is available to pay annual debt service.

The county’s overriding goal in incurring long-term financial obligations is to respond to the evolving needs of its citizens while maintaining its fiscal responsibilities. This policy documents the county’s goals for the use of debt instruments and provides guidelines for the use of debt for financing county needs.

Although long-term financing sometimes requires higher total expenditures rather than a cash purchase, it has the benefit of allowing immediate completion of the project so that those paying for the project are also those utilizing the project. Additionally, during times of rapidly increasing construction costs, the costs related to financing a project are sometimes less than construction cost increases caused by delaying the project until adequate cash is available.

The county’s Debt Management Policy is designed to:

- Establish guidelines for the use of debt financing;
- Provide guidance to decision makers related to debt affordability standards;
• Promote objectivity in the decision-making process;
• Facilitate the actual financing process by establishing important policy decisions in advance.

The debt policies and practices of the county are, in every case, subject to and limited by applicable provisions of state and federal law. The county will adhere to the following legal requirements for the issuance of public debt:

• State law, which authorizes the issuance of the debt;
• Federal and state tax laws, which govern the eligibility of the debt for tax-exempt status;
• Federal and state securities laws governing disclosure, sale and trading of the debt.

The County Administrative Office shall prepare a five-year capital program for consideration, prioritization and adoption by the Board of Supervisors as part of the county’s budget process. The capital budget, on an annual basis, shall identify revenue sources and expenditures for the coming current year and the next succeeding four fiscal years. The plan shall be updated annually. The County Administrative Office has recently prepared an Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) 5-year capital improvement program that includes barriers identified in the 2016 consent decree and projects for the future ADA transition plan.

Funding of the Capital Improvement Program

Whenever possible, the county will first attempt to fund capital projects with grants or state/federal funding, as part of its broader capital improvement plan. When such funds are insufficient, the county will use dedicated revenues to fund projects. If these are not available, the county will use excess surplus from the General Reserve debt financing, and general revenues.

The county shall be guided by three principles in selecting a funding source for capital improvements:

1) Equity
2) Effectiveness
3) Efficiency

Maintenance, Replacement and Renewal/FLIP

The county intends to set aside sufficient current revenues pursuant to the Board adopted policy outlining contributions to the Deferred Maintenance Fund, which establishes support costs for capital improvements to county owned facilities. Adopted on October 7, 2008, this policy states the Deferred Maintenance Fund shall receive an annual contribution of five percent of the total deferred maintenance costs.

The Deferred Maintenance Fund will be used to support costs for capital improvements to county owned facilities for the financing of ongoing maintenance needs and to provide periodic replacement and renewal consistent with its philosophy of keeping capital facilities and infrastructure systems in good repair and to
maximize a capital asset’s useful life.

No county debt issued for the purpose of funding capital projects may be authorized by the Board of Supervisors unless an appropriation has been included in the capital budget.

DEBT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
All proposed debt financings shall be presented to the Debt Advisory Committee (“the Committee”) for review and recommendation and must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The Committee shall:
• Oversee the issuance of all county debt;
• Periodically review and evaluate existing county debt;
• Periodically review, revise and/or amend the existing county Debt Management Policy as needed (revisions must be approved by the Board of Supervisors);
• Review all internal financing requests and unsolicited financing proposals to ensure they comply with the Policy; document and justify any recommended exceptions;
• Make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Supervisors;
• Ensure all covenants and continuing disclosure requirements are met on each existing debt issue.

Master Fee Schedule
Annually, county departments review fees and charges to determine whether such fees and charges are sufficient to ensure cost recovery of services. County staff present proposed fees at a public hearing to the Board of Supervisors. A comparison of the existing fees and charges to those proposed are presented outlining proposed changes to existing and/or new fees with calculations supporting the new charge and documentation detailing why the fee is being recommended by the affected department. The purpose and intent of the Master Fee Schedule is to establish a comprehensive consolidated guideline related to the County of Humboldt’s fees for services.
**County Budget Formula**

The basic budget formula is applicable to counties, dependent special districts and other agencies under the supervision and control of the Board of Supervisors. Government Code Section 29009 requires the adopted budget to be in balance; therefore, Total Financing Sources shall equal Total Financing Uses.

\[
\text{Total Financing Sources} = \text{Total Financing Uses} + \text{Estimated Financing Uses} + \text{Increases to Obligated Fund Balances (New or Incr.)}
\]

\[
\text{Fund Balance Available} + \text{Decreases to Obligated Fund Balances} + \text{Estimated Additional Financing Sources} = \text{Estimated Financing Uses} + \text{Increases to Obligated Fund Balances (New or Incr.)}
\]

Source: California State Controller’s Office County Budget Guide

**THE HEADING**

Each type of schedule is identified numerically and contains a heading to describe the information contained within. Schedule numbers are located in the upper right, and the schedule title is located at the top of each schedule. For example, Schedule 9 (each governmental budget unit has its own Schedule 9) is titled “Budget Unit Detail.”

**SCHEDULE LISTING**

The State Controller requires that 15 different schedules be presented within the budget book. Schedules 1 through 15 can be found in this budget book under the section titled “Appendices”. Below is a list of each of the budget schedules required:

1. All Funds Summary
2. Governmental Funds Summary
3. Fund Balance – Governmental Funds
4. Reserves/Designations – By Governmental Funds
5. Summary of Additional Financing Sources by Source and Fund
6. Detail of Additional Financing Sources by Fund and Account
7. Summary of Financing Uses by Function and Fund
8. Detail of Financing Uses by Function, Activity and Budget Unit
9. Financing Sources and Uses by Budget Unit by Object (Most Common Schedule)
10. Operation of Internal Service Funds
11. Operation of Enterprise Funds (The County of Humboldt does not utilize this schedule.)
12. Special Districts and Other Agencies Summary
13. Fund Balance – Special Districts and Other Agencies
14. Special Districts and Other Agencies – Reserves/Designations
15. Special Districts and Other Agencies – Financing Sources and Uses by Budget Unit by Object
Reading A Schedule 9 (Budget Unit Detail)

Each Budget Unit in a Governmental Fund has a Schedule 9, making it the most common schedule in the Budget book. The following instructions explain how to read a Schedule 9 form.

FINANCING USES CLASSIFICATION, COLUMN 1

Column 1 provides information on what specific category of revenue or expenditure is shown, along with the code used by staff to represent those figures. All expenditures start with the number 86, while revenues start with the number 82. The third number in each code is called the “Thousand Series Number,” which delineates groupings of revenues and expenditures. For example, “861011 Regular Employees” covers the cost of employee salaries (but not benefits). “86” means it is an expenditure. If the next numbers fall between 1000 and 1999 it means they cover personnel compensation related costs. By looking at the number you can tell that 861011 is a personnel related expenditure. The Thousand Series for expenditures used throughout the Budget book are:

- The 1000 Series – Salaries & Employee Benefits
- The 2000 Series – Services & Supplies
- The 3000 Series – Other Charges
- The 8000 Series – Fixed Assets

2015-16 ACTUALS, COLUMN 2

Column 2 represents actual amounts for spending and revenues three years prior to the current budget year. These represent some of the best comparisons to use when examining a budget. This is not required information for the State Controller’s Office, but is included for additional historical context for the public.

2016-17 ACTUALS, COLUMN 3

Column 3 represents actual amounts for spending and revenues two years prior to the budget year. These actual prior year numbers represent some of the best comparisons to use when examining a budget.

2017-18 ADJUSTED, COLUMN 4

Column 4 represents actual amounts for spending and revenues one year prior to the budget year. When reading the Budget book, it is important to note that column 4 has the notation Estimated, and may not accurately reflect what the Actual numbers will be when the fiscal year is closed. This is because the Budget was adopted and the book is published before the year-end closeout has been completed, and thus not all expenditures have been paid or revenues received. Actual numbers for FY 2017-18 will not be reflected in the Budget Book until the Board adopts the FY 2018-19 budget.

2018-19 PROPOSED, COLUMNS 5 & 6

Column 5 represents the final adopted budget numbers for FY 2018-19. Column 6 reflects the Adopted Budget’s change over FY 2017-18’s budget. This is not a requirement of the State Controller’s Office, but again provides a helpful comparison of changes over the prior year.