



Financial Policies and Schedules

Basis of Budgeting
CIP Plan Process
Debt Capacity
Public Facility Fees
CIP Financial Schedule

BASIS OF BUDGETING

The Capital Improvement Plan and Budget are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles. The accounts of the County are organized on the basis of fund and organizational groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. Governmental type funds like the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Projects, and Debt Service use modified accrual basis, while Proprietary Funds use the full accrual basis.

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when both measurable and available. Measurable means the amount of the transaction is known; available means the revenue will be collected in the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recognized when the related liability is incurred, except for principal of and interest on general long-term debt which are recognized when due.

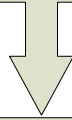
Full accrual is essentially the same manner as commercial accounting. Recognition occurs at the time of the transaction – revenue when earned and expenses when incurred.

The chart on the following page shows a typical Capital Improvement Plan cycle:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROCESS

JULY—DECEMBER

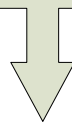
The Chief Executive Officer, along with the Board of Supervisors and departments establishes the operating and capital budget priorities and principles for the next fiscal year based on the County Strategic Plan and relevant economic, social, and demographic trends.



JANUARY—MARCH

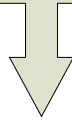
Upon release of the Governor's Proposed Budget, the Chief Executive Officer prepares a preliminary forecast of the County's discretionary revenue for the coming year based on assumptions and projections contained in the Governor's Proposed Budget and other projected revenue trends.

Instructions for preparation of the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan are issued to departments in March.



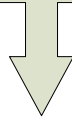
APRIL—MAY

CEO staff reviews the data, updates the CIP database, analyzes the estimated project cost and meets with departments regarding their CIP submittals. Budget analysts are preparing the proposed budget during the same time period so they are aware of both CIP and budget requests. The Assistant Chief Executive Officers review and prioritize all current projects. CEO staff prepares the Preliminary CIP Project List.



**JUNE
PRELIMINARY CAPITAL PROJECT LIST AND PROPOSED BUDGET**

The Board of Supervisors holds a public hearing to discuss and adopt the Preliminary CIP Project List and the Proposed Budget.



JULY—OCTOBER

FINAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND FINAL BUDGET

The Preliminary CIP Project List is sent to the Department of Planning and Community Development. The Planning Commission then determines whether the Preliminary CIP is in conformance with the County's General Plan. The analysis report and Commissions findings are forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors. A Final Capital Improvement Plan is then prepared and adopted by the Board.

DEBT CAPACITY

There are two primary factors to be considered when acquiring public debt. The first is market rating and access. The second is local budgetary constraints that include economic and financial trends. The County most recently evaluated their debt capacity in 2007-2008. The County is currently in the process of reevaluating their debt capacity. This evaluation should be completed by early fall 2009.

2007-2008 Dept Capacity Review

For Fiscal Year 2007-2008 the County had a total direct debt of \$167 million, of which \$63 million was for the Pension Obligation Bond. The County's net debt obligation for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 was \$13.5 million. Off setting revenues equal \$5.7 million leaving a total net debt obligation of \$7.8 million. Based on the current repayment schedule, approximately 68% of debt was projected to be paid off within the next ten (10) years.

The County's annual revenue growth has in large part been from its secured tax base and not from an expansion in its economic base. The County's wealth and income levels are below State and Federal median; however the County's financial ratios exceed the Rating Agencies median and are considered to be very strong. The County has the strongest fund balance and reserves (15.3%) compared to Peers median (8.7%). Stanislaus County's AV per capita (\$57,296) is slightly higher than the median (\$55,317) for its peer group. Debt per capita is approximately \$243 which puts it in the moderate range. However, the County's debt service as a % of General Fund expenditures is second to the highest among its peer group.

A future borrowing of \$72 million may be prudent as a result of the County's strong budget controls and current financial ratios. Also, the County has steadily increased the unreserved General Fund fund balance. There is a significant amount of offsetting revenues (42%) to fund debt service payments. The current repayment schedule will make possible a pay-off of approximately 68% of the County's debt in the next ten (10) years.

An additional debt of \$72 million would result in an annual total additional debt service of approximately \$5.7 annually. If revenues off sets remain at the same level, as in the existing borrowings, the annual debt payment on the new borrowing would be approximately \$3.3 million annually. This level of borrowing would not jeopardize the County's market rating. The County's level of debt is in the moderate range for counties over 150,000 compared to the S&P Ratio Ranges. The County has earned a rating upgrade from Standard & Poor's to A+ for its Certificate of Participation 2007 Refunding.

PUBLIC FACILITY FEES (PFF)

The Public Facilities Fee program imposes a fee on new development per Section 66000 et seq. of the California Government Code. Commonly known as a "growth impact fee," revenues collected under this program support the pro-rata extension of existing County services to support the new growth created by the development. This fee provides for the expansion of facilities or services to meet growth needs, but does not replace, repair or maintain the existing level-of-service provided by the County.

Many anticipated projects are listed in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) -- those that may support the expansion of existing County services are noted as being eligible for use of Public Facilities Fees. A project's eligibility for funding is also contingent upon the amount of fees available in the appropriate service category for which the fee is collected, other commitments for use of the available fees, and the priorities for service to the growing community. Each project is reviewed by the County's Public Facilities Fees Committee, and subsequently submitted to the Board of Supervisors for final funding recommendations and action.

Public Facility Fees cannot be more than the cost of the public facility needed to mitigate growth impacts and can only be used for intended purposes. The determination of the quantity of the above listed items to serve the forecasted population growth requires the adoption of standards. These standards establish

the level of service for existing and future County infrastructure. Standards are stated in terms of space, services and/or use per capita. A per unit of cost is also used to calculate a correct public facility fee amount. New development cannot be held responsible for a higher standard than exists for the current population.

Public Facilities Fees are typically reviewed and adjusted annually to reflect anticipated costs; and the basis for the fees (including projected population and growth impact assumptions) is updated on a five-year review cycle.

Use of Public Facilities Fees funding for any project is subject to the review and recommendation of the County's Public Facilities Fees Review Committee and subsequent approval by the Board of Supervisors.



WHAT IS A CIP FINANCIAL SCHEDULE?

SAMPLE

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS		FUNDING SOURCES	
Preliminary	\$ 2,000,000		
Design	\$ 2,000,000		
Acquisition	\$ -		
Construction	\$ 22,000,000		
Other	\$ -	Total County Funding	\$ -
		State/Federal Funding	\$ 18,000,000
		Other--Grants	\$ 3,000,000
		Total Other Funding	\$ 21,000,000
		Non-County Contribution	\$ -
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ 26,000,000	Total Project Funding	\$ 21,000,000
		Funding Not Yet Identified	\$ 5,000,000

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

Each project includes estimated project costs in the following five categories: Preliminary, Design, Acquisition, Construction and Other. The categories are defined below.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	
Preliminary	Preliminary costs include County staff costs for review and coordination with State and other agencies. Roads may use the following definition. Preliminary engineering includes project management, preliminary and final engineering design costs including payments to consultants and/or in-house labor and project expenses. This phase consists primarily of development of draft construction documents, and all pre-construction project coordination and clearance activities such as completion of environmental clearance and permit contact with other public agencies, utilities, and resource agencies.
Design	Design includes programming (including studies), schematic design, design development, construction documents, seismic evaluation, design support from construction management firms, and peer review of design and construction documents.
Acquisition	Acquisition of land, existing buildings, or equipment and vehicles. The Public Works Department uses the following definition. Right-of-Way/Acquisitions consist of right-of-way costs for capital projects, including appraisal, survey services, and research, as well as purchase transactions and any associated assistance. Property acquisition is typically initiated and normally completed during this phase.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	
Construction	Construction includes the cost of the construction contract, the cost of the bidding process, construction management costs, demolition costs, administrative, contingency, Construction Management Firms and site visits by Architect and Engineer Designers. Construction costs include construction management, contract costs, inspection and engineering support labor, survey and engineering costs, contracted laboratory, consulting, or other inspection services, and community coordination. Costs for furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF &E) are also appropriate in this section. Costs may also include secondary contracts such as landscape maintenance or resource mitigation installation and compliance.
Other	Other costs such as professional fees and development fees, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), permits, County building department reviews, easement fees and utility connection fees.
Total Estimated Project Cost	The sum of the Preliminary, Design, Acquisition, Construction and Other costs equals the Total Estimated Project Cost.

FUNDING SOURCES

Project funding is identified as potential sources for proposed projects for planning purposes. Funding sources for many projects is speculative and is subject to change as project demands, budgetary limitations, implementation schedules and other conditions change. Some projects have been identified in concept, but specific funding sources have not yet been identified. Projects in development or closer to implementation (such as the A-Approved/Funded and B-Pending Implementation categorized projects) list project costs and funding sources more definitively than long-range project concepts.

County funding may include use of County General Funds, Public Facilities Fees, Department Fund Balance or Retained Earnings, or funds generated through a public financing. Each project plan and funding plan is reviewed and approved by the Board of Supervisors prior to implementation. Inclusion of the proposed project in the Capital Improvement Plan alone does not constitute Board approval to proceed with implementation of the project.

Other funding sources may include use of State or Federal funds, grants, or contributions by others toward the project. Many projects are joint development efforts with other agencies or private parties for which other, non-County contributions may be earmarked.

Project costs and funding sources are reviewed annually in the Capital Improvement Plan.

FUNDING SOURCES	
Total County Funding	The County's portion of the project costs would be identified from the sum of County General Fund contributions, Public Facilities Fees, Department Fund Balance, Retained Earnings and any bond or borrowing.
State/Federal Funding	Funding provided by either State or Federal funding programs.
Other—Grants	A grant is a contribution by a government or other organization to support a particular function. Grants may be classified as either "block" (annual set amount designated for an organization) or "competitive" (variable amounts determined by the merits of the grant submittal compared to other competing submittals).
Total Other Funding	The sum of State/Federal Funding and any other funds obtained through Grants. Stanislaus County is obligated to manage, properly allocate, and expend funds received from State/Federal agencies and grants.
Non-County Contribution	Funding provided to Stanislaus County from a non-County source, such as another city, county or irrigation district. This can include contributions received from any private entity or citizen.
Total Project Funding	Total County Funding plus Total Other Funding plus Non-County Contribution equals the Total Project Funding.
Funding Not Yet Identified	The difference between Total Estimated Project Costs and the Total Project Funding equals the Funding Not Yet Identified.