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News Release

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Stanislaus County 2020-2021 Final Budget Released for Budget Period 2020-2021/2021-2022 – Year One

Stanislaus County, CA – The Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office has released the County’s 2020-2021 Recommended Final Budget for budget period 2020-2021/2021-2022 – Year One. The Recommended Final Budget will serve as the operational plan for Stanislaus County programs and services.

This is the County’s second two-year budget, identifying both the operational plan for year one and the spending plan for year two. Managing an extensive and thorough budget process during a public health crisis has not been a simple task. In the document’s opening message Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, Jody Hayes, states, “The 2020-2021 Final Budget does not reflect the collective vision of our County leadership team prior to March 2020. This budget was intended to bring forward strategic investments in our future, while recognizing the outcomes and adjusting expectations for our existing programs and services. While we attempt to maintain as much of that vision as possible, we must acknowledge our changed circumstance and the need to strike a new balance to support our community priorities.”

Hayes concludes with, “Our County organization will continue to move forward, working together to meet the challenges ahead using lessons learned from the past. We will continue to meet the needs that arise throughout our community, providing both the standard services we are known for along with those unique to the emergency response with professionalism,

confidence, and compassion.”

As a balanced operational plan, the County budget is developed using the six Board Priorities: *Supporting Strong and Safe Neighborhoods, Supporting Community Health, Developing a Healthy Economy, Promoting First-Rate Learning, Delivering Efficient Public Services and Delivering Community Infrastructure*. The Recommended Final Budget totals \$1.5 billion in appropriations and reflects an increase of approximately 9.1% for all funds as compared to the 2019-2020 Adopted Final Budget.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 is balanced with \$1.4 billion in estimated revenue, an increase of 5.1% over the 2019-2020 Adopted Final Budget. The budget relies on the use of \$124 million in fund balance and retained earnings, nearly double that identified in the previous year’s budget, largely attributed to the use of one-time reserves to cover decreased revenues associated with direct impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency response on the economy.

The General Fund totals \$396.3 million in the 2020-2021 Recommended Final Budget, representing an increase of \$18.7 million or 5% over the total from the 2019-2020 Adopted Final Budget. Estimated Discretionary Revenue of \$233.6 million assumes a 0.3% decrease largely attributed to reduced estimates for sales and use taxes, fines and penalties, and interest due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These decreases are offset by property tax revenue projected to increase by 4.9% reflecting the increase in assessed values for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The General Fund is balanced with the use of \$41 million in fund balance for a total Net County Cost of \$274.6 million.

A Public Hearing before the Board of Supervisors for the consideration and adoption of the 2020-2021 Recommended Final Budget for Budget Period 2020-2021/2021-2022 – Year One has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. The meeting will take place in the basement Board Chambers located at 1010 10th Street in Modesto.

The Stanislaus County 2020-2021 Recommended Final Budget is available for public review on the County’s website at www.stancounty.com/budget/ as of Friday afternoon, September 11, 2020. It may also be viewed at the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Office located at 1010 10th Street, Suite 6500, in Modesto.

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