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Stanislaus County Final Budget Released for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Stanislaus County, CA – Stanislaus County officials are releasing their Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Recommended Final Budget for consideration as the final spending plan for the current fiscal year. The Adopted Proposed Budget approved by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors on June 10, 2014, was a rollover budget to provide interim spending authority as the County's multi-year budget strategy was updated.

A Public Hearing to adopt the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Recommended Final Budget has been scheduled for 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, to be continued if necessary on September 17 and 18 at 9 a.m. The meeting will take place at 1010 Tenth Street in Modesto in the basement Board Chambers.

The Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Recommended Final Budget totals \$1,092,658,111 in appropriations (authorized spending) which reflects a \$49,670,380 (4.8%) increase over the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Final Budget. Spending increases since Fiscal Year 2013-2014 are primarily due to an accelerated pay down of debt and increases in health and social services programs.

“In spite of the challenges we have faced as a county, I take heart in knowing we have a championship caliber team in Stanislaus County that are finding ways to bounce back and overcome the adversity that has come our way,” stated Stan Risen, Chief Executive Officer for Stanislaus County. “We remain committed to restoring and maintaining financial strength through sound fiscal policy.”

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The 2014-2015 Final Budget staffing recommendations include 28 additional positions to the allocation count. The recommendations include adding 24 new positions, restoring 11 unfunded positions, unfunding two vacant positions, deleting five vacant positions, deleting five unfunded positions, transferring 17 positions between budget units, reclassifying 14 positions, conducting 11 classification studies, and double-filling one Manager IV position up to three months. Three positions will be transferred from the Health Services Agency to the Community Services Agency. The current position allocation count is 3,950. The new recommended position allocation count for the 2014-2015 Final Budget is 3,978. With the recommended changes, the number of full-time allocated positions will still be 13.6% below the high of 4603 in Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

Discretionary revenue is unrestricted money the County is free to use for things like law enforcement, health care, parks or many other services. Property tax and sales tax are two key components of discretionary revenue. Discretionary revenue is budgeted at \$169 million in the Final Budget and is up by nearly \$13 million from the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Final Budget. Of note, property and sales tax are still lagging behind by 8.5% from the high of \$181.6 million in Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

The Stanislaus County Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Recommended Final Budget is available for public review. It can be viewed at the Board of Supervisors Office of the County of Stanislaus at 1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6500 in Modesto. It is also available on the County's website, www.stancounty.com/budget or at any of the thirteen libraries located throughout Stanislaus County.

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