About the OC Citizens’ Report

The Auditor-Controller Department is proud to present you with its 12th Annual OC Citizens’ Report for the fiscal year (FY) ended June 30, 2014. This report provides an overview of the County’s financial condition and a brief analysis of where the County revenues come from and where those dollars are spent. It also provides an outline of trends in the local economy and how our economy compares to neighboring counties, the state and the nation.

Most of the information in this report is drawn from the financial information appearing in the FY 2013-14 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR is a more detailed and complete financial presentation prepared in conformance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and was audited by the County’s independent auditors, receiving an unmodified (clean) opinion. While the financial data in the OC Citizens’ Report conforms with GAAP, the statistical, economic and demographic data are taken from various sources and are not GAAP-basis data. Both the CAFR and the OC Citizens’ Report are available for viewing at the Auditor-Controller’s website at http://ac.ocgov.com/info/financial.

Financial Highlights for FY 2013-14

The County prepares two sets of financial statements that measure its finances differently. The government-wide statements present a long-term perspective of the County’s assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position, as well as its operations. The fund statements provide a short-term perspective of individual fund’s assets, liabilities, and fund balance, which represents the excess of what the County owns over what the County owes, as well as the resources flowing in and out during the fiscal year. The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the County.

Here are highlights of the County’s financial activities during FY 2013-14:

• Total net position increased by $282 million, or 5% as compared to last year.
• Long-term debt decreased by $102 million, or 16% as compared to last year.
• The County’s combined ending fund balance for governmental funds increased by $81 million, or 4% as compared to last year.
• General Fund revenues and other financing sources (inflows other than regular revenues) ended the year 4% below budget.
• General Fund expenditures and other financing uses (outflows other than regular expenditures) ended the year 7% below budget.
Message from your Auditor-Controller

It is my pleasure to present to you the OC Citizens’ Report for fiscal year 2013-14. During this year, Orange County continued to out-perform national and state economic growth, with the unemployment rate at 5.4% and expected job growth of 2.6%. The median home price rose 5.4% to $590,000, the highest of any of the surrounding Counties. These positive economic indicators show the continuing strength of the local economy.

With the State of California making good progress at stabilizing their financial condition, the County has experienced fewer disruptions to State revenue streams and associated cash flows. This past year the County has set aside funds to repay the vehicle license fee adjustment amount (VLFAA) to the state, and dealt with the funding shortfall associated with criminal justice realignment (AB109). Even with these headwinds, the County ends the fiscal year with increased assets, decreased liabilities, and a stronger total net position. While making progress on the stability of current operations, these actions take a toll on the projected reserve balances at the conclusion of the five year VLFAA repayment period. Accordingly, the County is focused on the need to rebuild reserves to the best practices level recommended by GFOA. Over the next few years the County will have to constrain program growth and defer infrastructure needs to make progress at rebuilding reserve levels. Since the County receives a significantly smaller percentage of property tax dollars than all other counties, it will take time and diligence to make progress on this goal.

I hope that you find this report both useful and informative.

Sincerely,

Jan E. Grimes, CPA
Auditor-Controller
The County of Orange is a charter county that is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors who represent districts that are each approximately equal in population. The Supervisorial Districts map shows the boundaries of the County and the areas governed by each member of the Board.

A County Executive Officer oversees seventeen County Departments, and elected department heads oversee six County Departments. The Auditor-Controller is one of the six elected County officials. The County provides a full range of services countywide, which include affordable housing, airport, child protection and social services, child support services, clerk-recorder, coroner and forensic services, district attorney, elections and voter registration, environmental/regulatory health, flood control and transportation, harbors, beaches and parks, disaster preparedness, indigent medical services, jails and juvenile facilities, juvenile justice commission, landfills and solid waste disposal, law enforcement, probationary supervision, public assistance, public defender/alternate defense, public and mental health services, senior services, tax assessment, collection and appeals, veterans services, libraries, animal control, and weights and measures. Visit the County of Orange website at http://ocgov.com for additional information about the County and to access available services.

Orange County’s economy continues to out-perform local surrounding counties, the state and national economies (in annual percentage growth), and in fact, ranks higher (in absolute growth rate dollars) than the economies of the majority of the world’s countries. Internal indicators show a continued slow but steady recovery of the local economy. First, unemployment rates were expected to decrease to 5.4% in 2014 compared to 6.2% in 2013. Second, job growth was expected to remain steady at 2.6% in 2014. Third, median home prices were expected to increase by 5.4% in 2014 relative to an increase of 25.8% in 2013. The only economic indicator where this trend was not growing was in terms of expected sales tax receipts where a slight decrease to 6.6% was expected in 2014, as compared to 7.2% in 2013.
Demographics and Economy

Comparison of County Employees per 1,000 Citizens

Orange County ranks as the third most populous county in the State of California with a population of 3,113,991 (at January 1, 2014), an increase of 1% when compared with the previous year. As of June 30, 2014, Orange County employed an estimated 5.7 employees per 1,000 citizens, which provides a measure of service levels to citizens.

Comparison of Median Family Income

The median family income for 2014 in Orange County was expected to be $84,900, which was higher than surrounding counties and the nation. The growth of median family income for 2014 relative to 2013 increased by .95%, compared to the statewide decrease of 2.16%. In addition, the County’s median family income growth rate for 2014 relative to 2013 exceeded the nationwide decrease of .78%.

Comparison of Unemployment Rates

The unemployment rate in Orange County continues to be below that of all surrounding counties. The County’s unemployment rate in 2014 was 5.4%, compared to the nationwide rate of 6.3%. This represents a slight decrease from the prior year’s rate of 6.2%. The County’s job growth was expected to increase by 2.6% in 2014, resulting in approximately 37,342 new jobs relative to 2013.

Comparison of Median Home Sales Price (in Thousands)

The median price for new and existing homes was $590,000 in 2014, representing a 5% increase relative to 2013. The median sales price in Orange County continues to exceed all surrounding counties.
The County’s budget and accounting records for governmental funds are reported on a modified accrual basis, which presents the short-term perspective of the County’s financial activities. The fiscal year begins on July 1. Revenues are budgeted in the amount expected to be received or as they are applicable to the fiscal year. Expenditures are budgeted at an amount sufficient for 12 months if they are ongoing and in their full amount if they are one-time items. The Board of Supervisors adopts the budget which becomes the spending plan for County departments. Actual revenues and expenditures are monitored during the year and reported to the Board of Supervisors on a quarterly basis. The budget may be modified based on these quarterly reports to reflect new assumptions or events.

For governmental funds, actual revenues on a budgetary basis for FY 2013-14 were $4.2 billion, or 3% below budget; actual expenditures on a budgetary basis were $4.1 billion, or 15% below budget.

The tables below show the budgeted revenues and expenditures compared to actual results for all governmental funds.

### REVENUES (DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS)

![Graph showing budgeted vs. actual revenues]

### EXPENDITURES (DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS)

![Graph showing budgeted vs. actual expenditures]

### County Debt and Bond Ratings

At June 30, 2014, the County’s outstanding long-term debt totaled $544 million, excluding capital lease obligations, compensated absences and other liabilities. During the year, the County’s outstanding bond obligations decreased by 16%, which is attributable to the retirement of $149 million of bond obligations, which included $37 million of bankruptcy related debt. The accompanying chart shows a five year comparison of the County’s long-term debt.

The County maintained its issuer ratings of Aa1 from Moody’s Investors Service and currently Fitch Ratings does not provide issuer ratings.

The Statement of Net Position presents the County’s financial position from a long-term perspective. It reports all of the County's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the County’s financial position is improving or deteriorating.

**Statement of Net Position (Dollar Amounts in Millions)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Years</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current and Other Assets</td>
<td>$3,940</td>
<td>$3,770</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Assets</td>
<td>3,579</td>
<td>3,503</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>7,519</td>
<td>7,273</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Charge on Refunding</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Liabilities</td>
<td>1,383</td>
<td>1,488</td>
<td>(7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Liabilities</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>2,079</td>
<td>2,101</td>
<td>(1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET POSITION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment in Capital Assets</td>
<td>3,271</td>
<td>3,152</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>1,463</td>
<td>1,487</td>
<td>(2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NET POSITION</td>
<td>$5,450</td>
<td>$5,171</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Five Year Comparison of Net Position (Dollar Amounts in Millions)**

Capital Assets
At June 30, 2014, the County’s assets totaled $7.5 billion. Approximately $3.9 billion represented current and other assets while $3.6 billion were capital assets. Capital assets include land, structures and improvements, equipment, infrastructure, and intangible assets that are used to provide services to the citizens of Orange County. Capital assets are reported at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

**Net Position Components**

The largest component of the County’s net position, about 60% or $3.3 billion, was net investment in capital assets. Even though the County’s investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate the County’s debt, and so the resources needed to pay these liabilities must be provided from other resources.

$1.5 billion or 27% of the County’s net position was restricted. Restricted means that these resources are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. External restrictions include those imposed by grantors, contributors, laws or regulations of other governments, or restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provision or legislation, including those passed by the County itself.

The final component of net position is unrestricted net position. Unrestricted net position is a resource that can be used to meet ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. Unrestricted net position totaled $716 million, compared to $532 million in FY 2012-13.
The Statement of Activities reports the fiscal year's financial activities from a long-term perspective. It is designed to provide a summary of the financial health and stability of the County. Information contained within this section should provide the reader with a general understanding of how available resources are used to provide services.

As of June 30, 2014, the County's revenues for the year totaled $3.8 billion, an increase of $113 million from the previous year while expenses totaled $3.52 billion, a decrease of $60 million from last year's total expenses. The significant increase in revenues was primarily the result of an increase of $129 million in operating grants and contributions. In addition, there was an increase in monies received from the Highway Users Tax and Proposition 172 Public Safety Sales Tax. In addition, there was an increase in monies received from the State and Federal government for various public assistance programs. Expenses decreased primarily due to a decrease of $90 million for the general government due to a decrease in judgements and damages recorded for the payment of the VLFAA. The overall effect of operations was an increase in net position of $282 million.

**Revenues**

Revenues are classified by source. Program Revenues are derived directly from the program itself or from parties outside the County's taxpayers or citizenry.

- Charges for Services are revenues that arise from charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from the goods, services, or privileges provided.
- Operating Grants and Contributions are monies received from parties outside the County and are generally restricted to one or more specific programs.
- Capital Grants and Contributions are monies received for capital purposes, to purchase, construct, or renovate capital assets associated with a specific program.

General Revenues are taxes and other items, such as unrestricted interest revenue not reported as program revenues.

**Expenses**

Expenses are classified by function.

- General Government includes expenses incurred by the Board of Supervisors, Clerk of the Board, Assessor, Auditor-Controller, County Executive Office, County Counsel, Clerk-Recorder, Human Resources, Internal Audit, Performance Audit, Registrar of Voters, and Treasurer-Tax Collector.

**Readers wanting more detailed financial information should refer to the County's FY 2013-14 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) available at the Auditor-Controller's website at: http://ac.ocgov.com/info/financial.**
Expenses

- **Public Ways and Facilities** consists of repairs and maintenance of public roads and parking facilities under the OC Public Works Department.
- **Health and Sanitation** includes indigent medical services, public health care and emergency medical service programs, and environmental health services.
- **Public Assistance** consists of a variety of social services and housing and community services.
- **Education** reflects the operating costs of providing library services, as well as building public libraries.
- **Recreation and Cultural Services** represents the operating and capital asset related expenses for the harbors, beaches and parks.
- **Interest on Long-Term Debt** accounts for indirect expense of interest paid on general long-term debt incurred by the governmental functions.
- **Airport** accounts for major construction and self-supporting aviation-related activities at John Wayne Airport.
- **Waste Management** accounts for the operation, expansion, and closing of existing landfills and the opening of new landfills.
Pension

The County of Orange is typical of most state and local entities in that we provide a pension plan with defined benefits and partially paid retiree medical benefits for our employees. Accounting standards issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require state and local governments to report their liabilities for future pension costs and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) such as retiree medical benefits. Also, in order to comply with these accounting standards, the County utilizes actuarial valuations to get estimates of the value of plan assets using assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future.

For pension benefits, substantially all County employees participate in the Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS). On December 18, 2012, the Board approved and adopted the 1.62% @ 65 retirement formula for certain general (non-safety) public employees hired on or after January 1, 2013.

OCERS is an independent, defined-benefit retirement plan governed by the Board of Retirement, which is independent of the County Board of Supervisors. The OCERS Board supervises the investment of OCERS assets and the distribution of benefits to retired employees. The OCERS Board also determines the annual required contribution (ARC) of the County to fund the pension benefits. The ARC consists primarily of two components: the normal cost (future cost of benefits earned in the current year) and the amortized portion of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL). The UAAL represents the amount of obligation for prior service that is not covered by plan assets. Plan assets are restricted in a trust and can only be used to pay plan benefits. The County’s funding policy is to fully fund the ARC which is combined with employee contributions and investment income in order to provide its members with full benefits. The Schedule of Funding Progress presents multi-year trend information on the funding status of the Pension Plan. Over the past year, the OCERS funding ratio increased from 62.52% to 65.99% as of December 31, 2013. A schedule of funding progress for OCERS is shown below and is also included in the Required Supplementary Section of the OCERS CAFR located at http://www.ocers.org.

In June 2012, GASB issued Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions-An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27, that fundamentally changes how state and local governments account for the cost of pension benefits in their financial statements. The County will be implementing this new standard in the FY 2014-15 CAFR. Under GASB No. 68 requirements, the entire net pension liability, which is the County’s pension obligation in excess of resources held, will be presented in the County’s financial statements, and a more comprehensive measure of pension expense will be disclosed. The implementation will enhance transparency and accountability through revised notes to the basic financial statements and provide additional supplementary information to financial statement users on the total cost of providing services to the County’s citizens.
Property tax is a major source of revenue for local government in California. In FY 2013-14, $5.65 billion in property tax collections were distributed to county government, cities, schools, redevelopment trust funds and special districts in Orange County.

County government relies on property tax as the main source of revenue to pay for county-wide services. Although Orange County is the third most populous county in the state, the property tax per capita received by Orange County to fund county-wide services is one of the lowest of the surrounding Southern California counties. The chart below compares per capita FY 2013-14 property taxes of the major Southern California counties allocated for county government services.

Changes in assessed value have a corresponding impact on property tax assessments. The chart below shows the trend in assessed value over the past five years. Orange County’s total assessment roll for FY 2013-14 was valued at $447.7 billion. With improving economic and housing market conditions, assessed value has steadily improved, increasing by 6.39% to $476.3 billion for FY 2014-15.

Property Tax In-Lieu of Vehicle License Fees (PTILVLF) is a major part of the property tax revenue for county government. As a result of the state’s successful lawsuit against Orange County’s method of calculating the PTILVLF, Orange County was required to recalculate the PTILVLF amounts for fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13. The lawsuit decision led to Assembly Bill 701 (AB 701), enacted in September 2013, resulting in the elimination of Orange County’s Equity Amount revenue of $50,000, but the addition of $53,000 to the recalculated PTILVLF. AB 701 also led to a settlement agreement requiring Orange County to repay the state the difference between the original PTILVLF amounts and the recalculated amounts related to the two years, $150 million, over five years.
What We’ve Done for You Lately

1. Provided 15,038 shelter bed nights for the homeless served through the Armory Emergency Shelter program.

2. Orange County Waste and Recycling received the Discovery Science Center’s Arnold O. Beckman Award for vision, innovation, and leadership with the strategic educational program which includes the three Eco Challenge exhibits at the Discovery Science Center.

3. The Orange County Public Libraries implemented the EDGE initiative which is a management and leadership tool that shapes the way libraries communicate about their role in communities.

4. OC Parks refurbished seven historic buildings at Irvine Ranch Historic Park.

5. OC Parks achieved the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver designation from the Green Building Certification Institute for meeting rigorous environmentally friendly building requirements for recent construction of the Irvine Park Maintenance Yard Office Building.

6. Maintained the Child Support Community Resource Center, which provided over 4,000 referrals and assistance to child support customers on social services such as food assistance, medical care, child care, job assistance, education, veterans’ services, housing and more.

7. The Health Care Agency transitioned 44,500 patients from the Medical Services for Indigents (MSI) Program to CalOptima.

8. Operation Santa Claus (OSC) distributed 42,000 toys and gifts to children who are dependents of the Juvenile Court due to abuse and/or neglect, as well as children in need.

9. Senior Santa and Friends (SSF) assisted 2,000 low-income seniors and adults with disabilities who are served by one or more County agencies.

10. The Clerk-Recorder implemented a new online appointment system for customers wishing to obtain a passport.

11. The Orange County Assessor’s Office reviewed approximately 273,000 properties for market reduction. Approximately 163,000 of these properties had their taxable values kept the same as last year.

12. There were 24,000 marriage licenses issued over 12,000 civil wedding ceremonies were performed, which is an increase of 9% and 24% respectively from last year.

13. There were 145,000 copies of Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates issued, which is an increase of 13%.

14. Partnered with various community organizations for the Townsend-Raitt Street Fair, Dia de los Ninos at Myrtle Street, and Bishop Manor Health Fair to create safer and healthier neighborhoods for local children.

15. John Wayne Airport launched their redesigned website (www.ocair.com) offering essential information for travelers and visitors.

16. Assisted over 26,000 people per month through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and other rental assistance programs.
What We’ve Done for You Lately (Continued)

17. Spearheaded the completion of improvements to Mile Square Park’s Archery Range in Fountain Valley. The newly renovated 6.7-acre facility now includes 24 shooting stations, a shaded awning and a 20-foot safety berm behind the targets.

18. Enhanced the scope of the Haster Basin Pump Station renovation project to include the addition of a 2-acre Recreational Park for local residents, complete with soccer fields, exercise stations, and an improved jogging/walking trail.

19. Welcomed the first county-wide Citizens’ Academy which provides Orange County residents the opportunity to learn how the department operates as an organization in partnership with our contract cities.

20. The Orange County Crime Lab implemented the online Driving Under the Influence of Drugs Program which allows the County to track the significant use of prescription drug and inhalant chemical usage while driving.

21. The Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center, located at Upper Newport Bay, was visited by 32,358 people and is considered one of the best wildlife viewing spots available to Orange County residents.

22. Secured 100 additional Section 8 Vouchers for the Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing program for homeless Veterans.

23. OCLinks Referral Line was implemented by the Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services to provide referrals to callers seeking child/adult mental health services, alcohol and drug inpatient and outpatient programs, and Prevention and Early Intervention services.

24. A three year grant was approved by the Board for the Veterans’ Employment-Related Assistance Program to provide Veterans with employment tools to transition from military life into high-wage jobs and civilian careers.

25. Designated the County of Orange as a “Purple Heart County,” and also declared the month of November as “Purple Heart Month,” in honor of Purple Heart recipients in Orange County.

The following sources were used to compile this report: Economic & Business Review; Chapman University, June 2014; DataQuick Information System; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Department; State of California, Employee Development Department; California Department of Finance; Facts and Figures 2014; County of Orange 2014-15 Recommended Budget; County of San Diego Adopted Operational Plan, 2014-15 to 2015-16; County of Los Angeles 2014-15 Recommended Budget; San Bernardino County 2014-15 Adopted Budget; Riverside County Recommended Budget 2014-15; County of Orange 2013-14 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; County of Orange; Orange County Website at http://ocgov.com.

PAFR Designed by Peter Dibble, Volunteer Graphic Artist; Photography of Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park Courtesy of: Raj Ghodasara.