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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1090
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To the Citizens of the County of Mendocino:

On September 15, 2009, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors adopted its final budget for fiscal year 2009-2010. The budget, presented herein, will govern the financing of County services through June 30, 2010. In these challenging economic times, when County unemployment rates are at historical highs and property tax revenues and other traditional funding sources are at historical lows, balancing the budget is a painful process of allocating funds to the optimum combination of required state and local mandated programs and services, programs and services that will contribute to the safety and physical well-being of our citizens, and programs and services that will enhance the emotional well-being of our citizens and support the County's long-term economic growth. The Board of Supervisors believes this budget reflects this objective and is the best allocation of funding to sustain critical County services, support the retention of highly valued County employees and to meet our objectives for prudent long-term fiscal accountability.

This document identifies expenditure limits for County department budget units and Special Districts that are under the purview of the Board of Supervisors. It also includes revenue estimates for fiscal year 2009-2010 and other fiscal and narrative information relative to County operations. In the interest of clarity and comprehensiveness, organizational charts, graphics, and details on special purpose grants are included in this report.

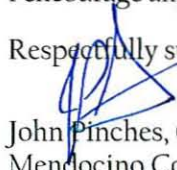
Determining the best use of limited resources often comes down to the tough reality of separating the 'want' from the 'need'. Balancing the 2009-2010 Final Budget was a strenuous and stressful accomplishment, however, the Board of Supervisors takes great pride in preserving optimal funding for many of the County's vital programs and services, including law enforcement, keeping the Museum and Libraries open, and preserving the valuable services of the Bookmobile. Additionally, the 2009-2010 Final Budget includes two and one half times more County road projects than in the previous year.

Over the past three years, the ongoing economic recession which began in December 2007, has had a major impact on the ability of County government to provide needed services. In 2007-2008, operating costs were reduced, in 2008-2009, operating costs were reduced and employees were asked to take voluntarily time off. With few options left for reducing costs in 2009-2010, the County struggled to maintain service levels. The employees were again asked, and once again surrendered a portion of their salaries for the benefit of Mendocino County's citizens. It is with deep gratitude and appreciation that the Board of Supervisors wishes to thank them for their commitment, dedication and for their sacrifice.

The Board of Supervisors also wishes to thank all of those who have offered advice, consent, and critique during the budget process and throughout the year. Public input is fundamental to our efforts to make informed and responsible policy, planning and program decisions. We value your interest and support as we work to protect and advance the public interest.

I encourage any citizen with questions on this document to call me or the Executive Office.

Respectfully submitted,


John Pinches, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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