

Brief Summary Outline State and Federal Mandated and Non-Mandated Programs

On March 3, 2009, the Board of Supervisors directed the Executive Office staff to provide information on county-wide State and Federal mandated and non-mandated programs to be presented to the Board as part of a continued Budget Workshop on March 16, 2009.

The attached worksheet in your packet provides information on State and federal mandated and non-mandated programs and services.

This worksheet also includes additional information in the comments or stated under the “Government Code Justification” column from departments on County requirements of programs and services that were approved by the Board of Supervisors, and are set forth in various Mendocino County Codes either by ordinances, policies or resolutions. These distinctions are an important factor for consideration, keeping in mind that certain County services are required by the authority of the Board of Supervisors, and can be reviewed and revised.

Summary Overview

Historically, the Executive Office and Departments have reviewed this same information provided today each year, and on a continual basis throughout the County Budget process. The data gathered and the information provided usually leads to the same conclusion: there are *many* State and Federal **mandated programs** or services that are provided by counties; in contrast, there are *very few* State and Federal **non-mandated** programs or services provided by Mendocino County.

The attached worksheet may raise more questions than it provides answers. The key issue or concern may be the question, “*How do counties squeeze out more services with less revenue from State and Federal resources, compacted with the decline of local revenue?*” Most counties are facing the same core decision making questions, and there is no clear cut answer. In this economy and State fiscal crisis, local governments may be faced with the real question “*How deep do counties cut services, and to **what extent** can State or Federal mandated programs or services, or the staff resources associated with these programs be eliminated while still meeting the State or Federal mandated requirements?*”

Each year, your Executive Budget team, County Departments, and fiscal staff go through a budget “exercise” or process working to find ways to reduce levels of services to the targeted funding levels. The exercise of re-visiting services with “status quo” funding and reduced staffing is a puzzle that Departments continue to try to solve. Departments are requested to give detailed explanation on the impacts to services provided as a result

Brief Summary Outline State and Federal Mandated and Non-Mandated Programs

of increased costs and revenue reductions, and the Executive Budget team recommends to the Board of Supervisors cuts or increased funding as appropriate to meet mandates and Board priorities.

County departments have squeezed resources, and understand that year after year they continue to be tasked with even harder decisions services are reduced where possible, like “*peeling layers of an onion*“. It also becomes a more difficult task to analyze the impacts, and identify program reductions with limited staff resources. Historically, Mendocino County has not had the revenue capacity to increase staff resources for concentrated in-depth types of analysis of county programs at the executive level. Therefore, past practices and the exercise of the budget process has been to request that departments provide as much information as possible in the submission of their budgets to make the CEO recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

For this budget fiscal year 2009-10, the Executive Office and the Departments will be reviewing services in more detail, including all grant programs, for possible termination or reduction. Other programs that are County requirements and part of the “cost of doing business” required by authority of the Board of Supervisors will continue to be reviewed for suspension or elimination. An example of a budget balancing strategy for this fiscal year 2008-09, was suspending the PC replacement program, and Vehicle replacement programs. Although these are vital programs, these programs may continue to be suspended with limited replacement based on cost efficiencies to replace parts or maintenance only to be considered on a case-by-case basis only.

The following are key highlights of State and Federal **non-mandated** programs and services:

- Probation – certain services as related to the Courts pending State funding
- Most internal support departments– including some activities within departments which are mandated but may be funded
Note: Most of these departments generate revenue, so revenue would be jeopardized if staffing is reduced or eliminated
- Museum
- Library
- Planning and Building – certain services are mandated and may generate revenue (see note above)
- All grants that are mandated as part of the grant requirements as accepted through Policy 25 through the term of the grant, but are not State or Federal mandated programs

Brief Summary Outline State and Federal Mandated and Non-Mandated Programs

- Some HHS programs (i.e. certain administration of programs, Veterans services, some AODP services and pre-trial services, Healthy Kids)
- Agriculture – Wildlife trapper services
- Water Agency – certain services for watershed management planning, NPDES Stormwater, and water supply planning
- DOT – Land Improvement- water compliance services, portions of NPDES Stormwater and airport activity
- Sheriff Patrol – Under the budgetary authority of the Board of Supervisors, local government and local officials have an obligation to give priority to the provision of *adequate* public safety services under Article 13, Section 35 of the California Constitution and to this extent sheriff patrol is mandated
- Negotiated employee benefits programs

As additional information for the Board of Supervisors, below is a list of County officer positions which are mandated per Government Codes 24000-24012. However, the dollars to fund the operations is by the authority of the Board of Supervisors. Some positions can be combined and appointed as outlined in section 24012.

The officers of a County are:

- (a) A district attorney.
- (b) A sheriff.
- (c) A county clerk.
- (d) A controller.
- (e) An auditor, who shall be ex officio controller.
- (f) A treasurer.
- (g) A recorder.
- (h) A license collector.
- (i) A tax collector, who shall be ex officio license collector.
- (j) An assessor.
- (k) A superintendent of schools.
- (l) A public administrator.
- (m) A coroner.
- (n) A surveyor.
- (o) Members of the board of supervisors.
- (p) A county veterinarian.
- (q) A fish and game warden.
- (r) A county librarian.
- (s) A county health officer.
- (t) An administrative officer.
- (u) A director of finance.

**Brief Summary Outline
State and Federal Mandated and Non-Mandated Programs**

- (v) A road commissioner.
- (w) A public guardian.
- (x) Such other officers as are provided by law.

The Executive Office is requesting that the Board of Supervisors provide direction to staff relative to services or programs that the Board would like additional information on, or expanded review and analysis of programs depicted in the worksheet, which will set priorities for this fiscal year, and as part of the 2009-10 Budget process and Budget directions to departments.

///