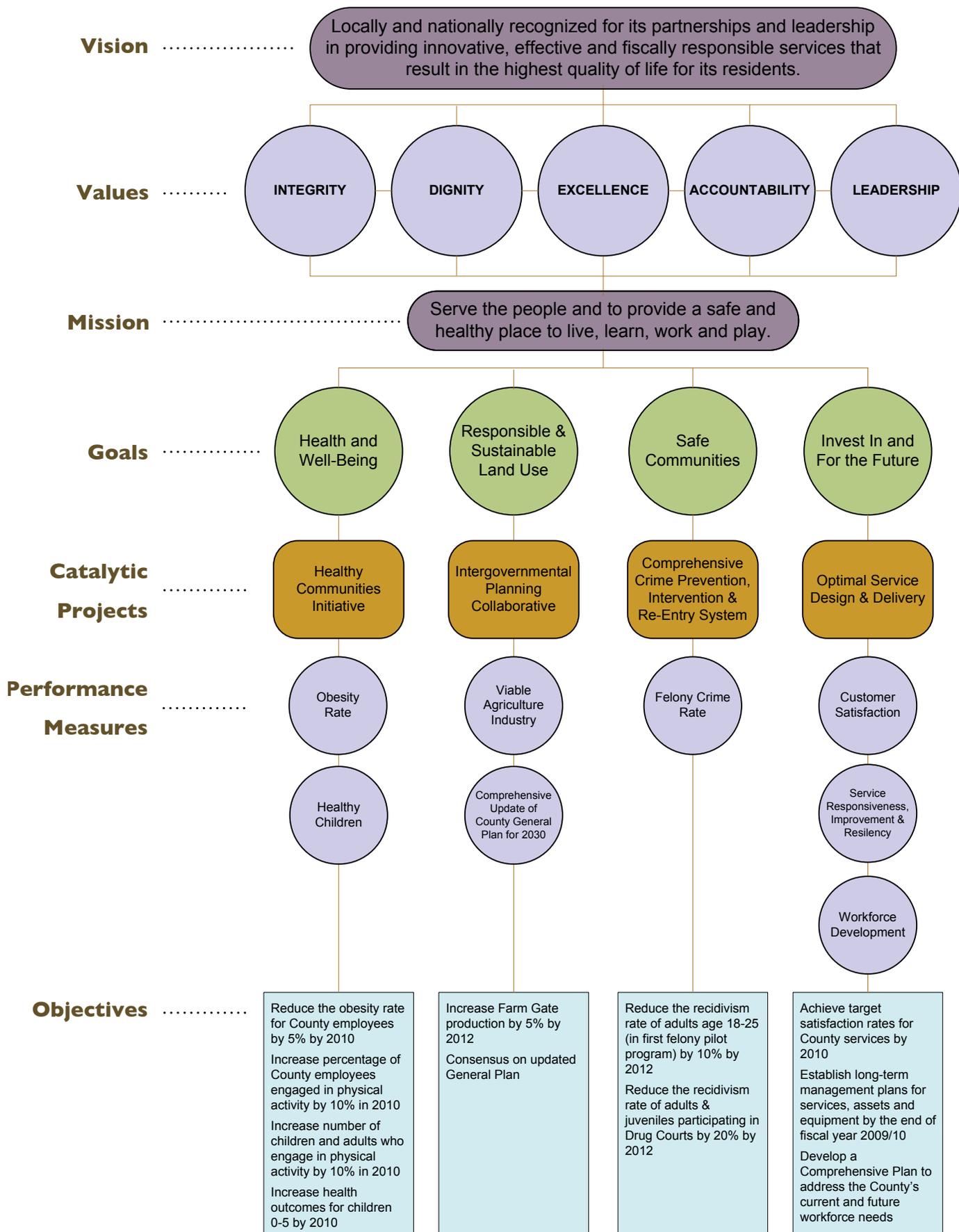




County of Solano | 2007 Annual Report

People Making A Difference Every Day

Solano County Strategic Plan



County of Solano Board of Supervisors

*“Our children are our future,
so we must protect them and their
environment.”*

Barbara R Kondylis



Barbara R. Kondylis, District 1

By following the philosophy that all behaviors and conditions observed in adults can be traced back to their youth, Supervisor Kondylis champions the needs of children and how seemingly unrelated decisions eventually will impact them. She considers this a proactive approach to ensuring family stability, low crime rates and overall good community health. This approach has also led to a focus on reducing the carbon footprint of our communities and expanding the options of open space and parks for residents.

*“Only in safe communities
with a respect for the law
can we all prosper.”*

John F. Silva



John F. Silva, District 2

Supporting the formation of the Safe Streets Gang Enforcement Task Force this year continues Supervisor Silva’s longstanding focus on public safety. He has advocated for a strong yet reasonable Code Compliance Division that works closely with the Sheriff’s Office to reduce and eliminate crime and unsightly conditions in the unincorporated areas of the county. Access to health care is another critical aspect of the county’s safety net, and he hopes the county will achieve and maintain the goal of 100 percent of all children having health insurance.

*“Ease of mobility is as essential to
the success of the individual as it is
to thriving communities.”*

James P. Spering



James P. Spering, District 3

Any agency making decisions impacting Solano County’s transportation needs has likely heard from Supervisor Spering, either as a strong proponent of better connections between transportation investments and land-use decisions or by his leadership role in numerous regional and local transportation planning organizations. Since joining the Board of Supervisors in January, he has focused on streamlining the General Plan update process. “Ease of mobility” has also come to mean that all residents should be able to easily maneuver through County programs and services.

*“The future of our community rest
on the health of our children.”*

John M. Vasquez



John M. Vasquez, District 4

Virtually any issue being addressed today—from diabetes to poverty—can be linked by Supervisor Vasquez to what he calls the epidemic of obesity. Locally and nationally, he is raising the issue that public policy decisions can and have had the unintended consequences of contributing to the reduced physical activity and poor eating habits of children and adults. At the same time, he promotes the importance of local agriculture as an economic and social component of our communities.

*“The county’s future economic
viability depends on decisions
we make today.”*

Michael J. Reagan



Michael J. Reagan, District 5

Supervisor Reagan has focused on a goal of decreasing the percentage of people commuting to jobs outside of the county by increasing the number and quality of jobs within the county. He has championed countywide economic summits that have brought government, business, and education leaders together to envision the opportunities and paths to pursue an excellent quality of life and a robust economy. This also required wrangling with regional water issues and challenging the County General Plan update to meet the needs of 2030’s expected population growth of 100,000 to 250,000 more people.



From the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Our Mission

To serve the people and to provide a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

Our Vision

The County of Solano will be locally and nationally recognized for its partnerships and leadership in providing innovative, effective and fiscally responsive services that result in the highest quality of life for its residents.

To the Citizens of Solano County,

2007 was a year of melding County programs for the future, while staying extremely focused on the day-to-day tasks of delivering quality programs and services. That's a challenging feat for any organization—public or private—but it is essential to ensure we can plan for future demands, not react to them. Our actions over the past year reflect a commitment to the historical purpose for forming this state and its counties in the first place: a promise of opportunity.

In looking forward, the County and its many community partners embarked on some pretty ambitious endeavors that will benefit all of us for generations to come. This Annual Report highlights those projects and other accomplishments that are moving us closer to achieving our goals:

- Improve the health and well-being of those who live and work here
- Ensure responsible and sustainable land use
- Maintain a safe community
- Invest in and for the future

In order for the Board to concentrate on such a long-term, big-picture perspective, we have to give credit to and thank our 3,000-plus employees who remained focused on taking care of our customers. *People Making a Difference Every Day* describes how the people of this organization go about the daily business of excellently providing necessary programs and services. Some of their efforts have been nationally and regionally recognized for excellence and innovation.

I encourage you to read this report with a new sense of optimism that together we can make a positive difference in the lives of our neighbors, our families and ourselves. No challenge is too great for the outstanding team we have assembled here to serve the citizens of Solano County.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Reagan
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

From the County Administrator



To the Citizens of Solano County,

The 2007 Annual Report puts the face of our employees on the services and programs provided by the County. The individuals highlighted, and countless others, are responsible for our long list of accomplishments.

We strived this year to raise the bar on the standard of customer service. All County employees—from senior management to the newest recruits—learned how our values of Integrity, Dignity, Excellence, Accountability and Leadership shape our day-to-day business. With this foundation, employees were asked to look for innovative ways to improve the County's ability to do its mission of serving the people and providing a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

The Board of Supervisors and the Senior Executive Management team met throughout the year to formulate a strategy for creating catalytic projects that move the County closer to its goals. Our Strategic Plan is on the inside front cover of this Annual Report; it includes ambitious multi-year projects and will significantly improve the quality of life in Solano County. I am excited about the work that lies ahead, and confident that the team we have in place will make it happen.

In addition, an always watchful eye on the overall financial position of the County enabled us to tackle several major infrastructure projects this year. These investments will allow us to continue providing the necessary programs and services to meet the needs of the community.

On behalf of all the County employees, our volunteers, and community partners, I want to thank the citizens of Solano County for their continued support. We look forward to the ongoing venture of building an organization that withstands the challenges of the future by building on our assets—the people of Solano County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael D. Johnson
County Administrator

Our Values

Integrity

Be open and honest, ethical and fair

Dignity

Treat all persons with respect

Excellence

Provide quality, integrated, sustainable and innovative public service

Accountability

Take ownership, be fiscally responsible and result-driven

Leadership

Be personally responsible and a positive example for others

Live Well

IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK HERE



Behind every County program or service are employees making a positive difference in the health and well-being of our residents. From expanding an emphasis on healthier lifestyles to providing innovative ways of delivering necessary services, dedicated employees are putting into action the County's mission statement: to serve the people and to provide a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

Family Health Services improves access to health care

Solano County Family Health Services made many strides in the past year to improve operations and access to care for county residents, achieving a 14% increase in patient visits. Some of these improvements include:

- Adding evening and weekend clinic hours
- Healthcare for the Homeless Satellite Site in Rio Vista
- Adding two new full-time manager positions for both Vallejo and Fairfield clinics
- Implementing same-day appointments
- Expanding the role of Behavioral Health services in the primary care clinics.

Community responds to challenge on health insurance for kids

Solano Magazine's Classic for Kids answered a challenge by the Board of Supervisors for the community's help in ensuring every child in the county was covered by health insurance. The gala affair and golf tournament raised \$193,455, which the Board pledged to match dollar for dollar. Solano County proudly boasts that it has the lowest rate of uninsured children in California - 97 percent. The funds raised will go toward providing health insurance coverage through Healthy Kids Solano, a program created by



the Solano Coalition for Better Health to provide insurance for children not eligible for publicly funded programs. Healthy Kids Solano provides comprehensive medical, dental and vision benefits for only \$1,200 per child per year.

Working to improve parenting skills

In partnership with Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health and First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, the Office of Family Violence Prevention coordinated a daylong training on positive parenting and effective discipline. More than 150 people participated in the training conducted by Robert Brunson, a passionate advocate for children and families who speaks extensively on matters of children's emotional health, prevention of child abuse, positive parenting and improving relationships. This session focused on helping First 5 grantees and service providers work with their clients to improve parenting skills. A workshop in the spring of 2008 will target interested parents.

County facilities receive health services accreditation

The Juvenile, Claybank and Justice Center detention facilities received two-year Accreditation with Special Recognition for health services after an extensive review by the independent accreditation unit of the California Medical Association—the Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ) Corrections and Detentions Health Care Committee. This accreditation means the

level of service and standard of care meets IMQ standards and exceeds the minimum state standards.

Dogs and cats 'microchip' their way home from Animal Shelter

The Animal Care Shelter implemented a new ordinance requiring the microchipping of



all dogs and cats adopted, released, redeemed or rescued from the shelter to help return

lost and stray dogs and cats to their owners. The microchip is placed just under the skin of the animal's shoulders and is read via scanner to obtain the chip identification information and facilitate the animal's quick return to its owner. Nearly 200 dogs and cats have been returned as a result of the microchips.

Keeping drugs out of regional waterways

Every day, unwanted or expired medicine is disposed down a sink or in a toilet—leading to the startling statistic that 80 percent of U.S. waterways tested by the U.S. Geological Survey have at least one pharmaceutical compound present. Solano County's Integrated Waste Management team partnered with the Sheriff's Office to organize the first countywide pharmaceutical take-back event—collecting 243 pounds of unwanted or expired prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications at the inaugural event in May. Leading the region in implementing such a program, the County partnered with several cities and special districts in funding the trial project. Future take-back events will be held in each of the seven cities.

Groups learn safe food handling procedures

UC Cooperative Extension developed and tested a new curriculum to provide food safety education and training to community agency staff and volunteers. The Make it Safe, Serve it Safe program successfully trained more than 100 community-based organizations on how to prevent food-borne illnesses in a community setting by improving safe food-handling knowledge and practices of volunteers and employees. A six-month follow-up to test how much information the participants retained is currently under way.

Wellness focus of employee programs

The third annual Solano County Employee Wellness Challenge motivated even more employee participation. For six weeks employees worked on improving their health by meeting personal goals, developing better eating habits, and participating in regular physical activity. The spring event had 455 employees looking for ways to incorporate exercise and healthy foods into their daily schedule. In a new twist on the program, 74 people tracked their weight loss and shed 349 unwanted pounds.

The County piloted a Community Supported Agriculture program that allowed employees to have local fruits and vegetables delivered to their worksite in exchange for making an advance commitment to buy local farmers. More than 80 employees participated in the "County Employees Eat Fresh, Buy Local, Stay Healthy" program.



Aaron Crutison
Child Welfare
Administrator

Aaron knows when social workers reach into their "bag of tricks" to help children in difficult situations, it is his job as a Social Services Administrator to ensure that bag is full. So his day can involve almost anything from reviewing vendor contracts so they align with federal and state outcome measures to establishing more effective business practices as part of Child Welfare Services' new Professional Development Unit.

These behind-the-scene actions for the employees help make programs like "Family-to-Family" successful. This two-year-old program changed how the County approached the placement of children who are removed from their homes. The new approach is focused on keeping the child's "community" intact—attending the same schools, staying with family whenever possible.

Aaron's tenacity for details played a critical role in opening First Place for Youth, a new service that helps youth aging out of the foster care system.



"Social workers will make better decisions for kids and families because they are prepared and have the right tools for their job."

—Aaron Crutison,
Health and Social
Services



Stand Down helps veterans up

About 170 area homeless veterans converged on the Dixon May Fair grounds in October for the sixth annual North Bay Stand Down. From dental procedures and legal assistance to providing useful information and a hot meal, several County agencies and community groups were on hand to assist the veterans. As a result of the Stand Down, veterans have been placed at the veterans home in Yountville, admitted to residential treatment facilities, and returned to the job market.



Fouts Springs expands wellness emphasis

The Fouts Springs Youth Facility expanded its wellness program by increasing its focus on providing healthy, nutritious “home-cooked” meals, physical activities and wilderness experiences, and proactive health education. The upgraded menu eliminated trans-fats and overly sweetened products. The wilderness activities program returned on July 4 with a 10-mile hike to the top of Snow Mountain where nine upper phase wards signed the Forest Service log book to mark their accomplishment. The program includes a series of educational classes in physical and nutritional health, along with a progression of other activities for wards.

Public Health and Community Design Symposium

In late December 2006, more than 80 planners, elected officials, planning commissioners, and Public Health staff participated in a Public Health and Community Design Symposium designed to build new partnerships between the disciplines of planning and public health. Dr. Richard Jackson, former state health officer and co-author of “Urban Health and Public Health,” was the keynote speaker and discussed how community design impacts health—especially obesity and related diseases.

Reducing financial barriers for incarcerated parents

Solano County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) continues its innovative program of assisting incarcerated fathers through the complex legal process of modifying child support orders. A modification of child support reduces the financial barriers when they are released, improving their chances for successful re-entry into the community. In the last 12 months, DCSS staff assisted nearly 350 incarcerated men with more than 400 child support cases in 41 California counties and nine states.

Making reading more convenient

The Fairfield Cordelia Library staff piloted a unique early literacy program directed at busy parents of infants to 2-year-olds. Presented in both English and Spanish, parents learned how to engage their children in reading activities. Library Fun Packs were designed with books on a theme along with a rhymes booklet and other items that could be used at home. The Fun Packs were prominently displayed and easy to check out so parents could “grab and go.” All told, the Packs were checked out more than 1,100 times during the first six months of the program. Staff also trained 32 child-care providers. Due to the success of the pilot program, the Library is expanding this service to all of its branches.

Convenience at the Springtowne Library in Vallejo came in the form of free dental screenings during the summer reading program. More than 90 children were screened thanks to a partnership with La Clinica



Dental. The Springtowne Library also received a facelift: fresh paint and new carpet, furniture and equipment.

Solano County Library’s new easy to use website also won an award for the “Best Nonprofit” Website from the Massachusetts Innovation and Technology Exchange.



Board pays tribute to Solano centenarians

The chambers were packed with family and friends as the Board paid tribute to centenarians in Solano County.

Twenty-five centenarians were on hand to receive a certificates of significant accomplishment from the supervisors. Stories posted in the reception area gave glimpses of how American life changed over the century: a doctor who worked into his 90s, a woman who traveled from Arkansas to Oklahoma in a covered wagon, a first-generation U.S. citizen who was a political refugee from Iran in the 1980s. In addition to the public acknowledgement, the centenarians were interviewed by the Senior Coalition of Solano County to gain insight as they prepare an assessment of senior issues in Solano County. The report is expected to be released in early 2008.

County opens Lynch Canyon Open Space

To prepare for the grand opening on May 11 of the 1,039-acre Lynch Canyon Open Space the Parks Division mowed ten miles of trails, mended gates, installed dozens of signs, hired rangers and sent out invitations. Nearly 500 people visited the park in the first three days. Favored activities among park-goers are hiking, cycling, horseback riding, trail running, bird watching and similar recreational activities. The area's historic agricultural use was retained with active cattle grazing. Lynch Canyon is part of a three-year partnership with the landowner, Solano Land Trust.

Teen parenting program focuses on reading

The Fairfield Civic Center Library's Teenie Boppers program directed at pregnant teenagers and teenage parents earned an Excellence in Library Service to Young Adults award from the American Library Association's Young Adult Library Services Association. The program provided teens with information about the importance of reading to their child as well as practical how-to tips.

Helping Guard members transition home

The Department of Veteran Services expanded their outreach efforts to ensure returning California National Guard members from the Global War on Terrorism were aware of their veteran benefits. The department is now the primary point of contact for support activities for local National Guard armory commanders. They have also participated in command briefings and family meetings to assist veterans in making the best post-deployment adjustments.

In working with all veterans or their survivors, the department saw more than 3,600 clients and filed over 2,700 claims on behalf of veterans or their survivors. These claims resulted in the payment of new or increased monthly benefits of over \$3.3 million annually and the payment of about \$5.3 million in retroactive or lump-sum payments. About 1,100 disabled veterans received waivers for their children to attend any California public college tuition-free, saving the veterans \$2.7 million.



Janice Allen and Janelle Bogue Accounting Clerks

Come February it will be four years since co-workers Janice and Janelle made feeding the homeless part of their Thursday routine. Frustration over a repetitive, yet necessary cheap lunch menu of plain peanut butter sandwiches turned into divine inspiration for Janelle. She decided that if she didn't like eating peanut butter sandwiches, she should find somebody who does. Janelle told friend Janice, I think I am supposed to give the homeless peanut butter sandwiches.

Thousands of sandwiches later, that idea has evolved into delivering 45 brown bag lunches of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bottle of water and juice to the homeless in Fairfield. Their generous spirit has inspired others to help assemble the lunches, contribute lunch supplies as well as jackets, blankets and personal hygiene products. Over the years the duo has come to know many of the chronic homeless by name and have directed those that they could to appropriate community services.



“You think you are helping others. In reality you are helping yourself because it is you who receives the blessing when you help others.”

—Janelle Bogue,
Auditor-Controller's
Office

Live Right

ENSURE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE



Protecting and maintaining a viable agriculture industry set the stage for County employees working on tasks as diverse as eradicating exotic pests to mapping out zoning policies for an update of the General Plan.

Studies on sustainability of agriculture add to General Plan

The results of two studies commissioned by the Board of Supervisors to examine the county's diverse agricultural industry and make recommendations on how to ensure its long-term viability helped guide the development of the General Plan update. The first compared Suisun Valley's challenges to other similarly situated areas of the country. The "Agricultural Vision and Economic Innovation for Suisun Valley" study reviewed successful models in marketing and branding, agritourism, value-added products and economic incentives.

The second study, the "Solano Ag Futures Project," examined the entire county's diverse agriculture industry to determine its strengths and vulnerabilities. It also compared Solano County to other California counties to provide insight on the types of land policies that promote and protect agriculture.

General Plan gathers data from citizens on a 2030 vision

Dozens of community meetings in Suisun Valley, Old Cordelia, Collinsville, Green Valley and with area farmers were used to gather the residents' visions of what rural Solano County should look like for the next 20 years. This input helped the Citizens Advisory Committee and Resource Management staff assemble the draft General Plan document. The public will make comments on the General Plan document in early 2008 with expectations of certifying the documents in time for any General Plan amendments to go before the voters in November 2008.

Workshops help bring local products to the market

Local wines and olive oil found their way to local supermarket shelves with the help of information provided at a series of workshops presented by the Solano County Cooperative Extension office. In all farmers said they would implement 21 ideas garnered from these workshops:

- Specialty and Directly Marketed Crops:
Grow What Sells and Sell What You Grow
- Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Developing Agricultural Enterprise Zones
- Energy Crops for Solano County?
Ethanol and Other Bio-fuel Options
- How to Promote Local Agriculture

In 2008, similar workshops will focus on marketing and branding of Solano County products, developing business plans, creating farm websites and advocacy training.

Test project trains sheep to clean vineyards, leave grapes alone

The UC Cooperative Extension office piloted a project to train sheep to graze the vineyard floor for vegetation without damaging the grape vines. Preliminary results of the "Vines and Ovines" project show that sheep can be trained successfully, allowing sheep to control vegetation during the soggy spring rains. News of the trials has been reported in newspapers around the world. The final results are expected to be published by early 2008.





Agriculture Day brings the farm to town

The fifth annual Youth Agriculture Day at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo was a huge success, with more than 1,700 third-graders from 21 schools spending a warm April day watching, touching and participating in farm activities. County employees donated \$2,300 to help fund the outing which featured more than 25 educational stations.

Glassy-winged sharpshooter eradicated

After nearly four years of combating an infestation of the glassy-winged sharpshooter in the Vacaville area, the County declared the pest eradicated. The experience prepared the staff to tackle two new exotic pests.

The Agriculture Department’s early pest detection program discovered an infestation of Mediterranean fruit flies in Dixon on Sept. 10, a potentially devastating pest to local agriculture. Within hours a full-scale eradication effort was under way, and by week’s end the California Department of Food and Agriculture was aerial releasing millions of sterile Medflies. A 114-square-mile area surrounding Dixon was put under a nine-month-plus quarantine by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, severely limiting the ability to move fruits and vegetables in and out of the area.

This early pest detection program also found light brown apple moths in Vallejo in June, which prompted eradication efforts of this Australia-native pest. Two foreign pests invading the county in the same year is uncommon, but they are a reminder that individuals should not bypass restrictions on movement of fruits and vegetables.

Farm commodities hit second highest record

Solano County agricultural production declined only slightly in 2006 despite floods in January, delayed planting in the spring and record heat in July. The 2006 production was valued at \$233,505,000, a 2.2 percent or \$5,184,600 decline from the prior year, but still high enough to retain the No. 2 spot for Solano County production records.

TOP 10 CROPS	DOLLAR VALUE
1. Nursery Stock	\$47,856,000
2. Cattle and Calves	\$25,143,500
3. Alfalfa	\$23,319,100
4. Tomatoes	\$20,800,400
5. Walnuts	\$18,116,900
6. Milk	\$10,473,400
7. Wine Grapes	\$9,301,400
8. Almonds	\$5,279,200
9. Prunes (Dried Plums)	\$4,541,500
10. Sheep and Lambs	\$4,244,600



Jennifer Baumbach
Master Gardeners
Coordinator

Master Gardeners love to toil in their gardens, somehow making vegetables and flowers grow where others fail. At the Cooperative Extension, their role is to be advisors so others can learn how to be good stewards of the land when they garden. They offer thoughtful advice backed up by research from the University of California, Davis. “We try to make people better gardeners,” says Jennifer.

But when asked if they could take on the project to refurbish the Children’s Memorial Garden outside of the Health and Social Services building on Beck Avenue, the Master Gardeners answered by getting their hands dirty.

In all, 13 Master Gardeners dug, mulched and placed plants according to a colorful, child-friendly garden that Carolyn Allen designed. Jennifer believes the renewing spirit of a garden is a fitting tribute for a place where the fourth Friday in April is set aside to remember the children who have died by violence.



“With a garden there is always hope for something new to rise up. Creating the garden is a very special way to think about a somber memorial that asks us to remember the children who have died by violence.”

—Jennifer Baumbach,
UC Cooperative
Extension

Live Safe

MAINTAIN A SAFE COMMUNITY



From the development of task forces to joint efforts in training, County employees are setting the example of how partnerships are improving the safety of our community. Technology has also played a role in enhancing the effectiveness of employees and their ability to deliver the highest quality of life for our residents.

Safe Streets Gang Enforcement Task Force implemented

Solano County law enforcement implemented a Safe Streets Gang Enforcement Task Force. With representation from each law enforcement agency in the county, and under the direction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, officers target organized street gangs conducting criminal activity in Solano County. Each officer is trained, equipped and sworn in as a federal law enforcement officer, providing officers the authority to charge criminal offenses at both the federal and state level. Officers assigned to the Safe Streets Gang Enforcement Task Force work with the District Attorney's Office, local criminal investigators, local gang enforcement officers, the California Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's jail staff to gather intelligence and information relative to organized street gang activity in Solano County.



County employees prepare for disaster response

The Office of Emergency Services trained more than 1,500 County employees on the National Incident Management System—

a consistent template that all government, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations have adopted to establish protocols so they can effectively work together during a disaster. The trainings ranged from several days for emergency operations center personnel to a two-hour class to assist employees in understanding their role as a disaster service worker. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response staff augmented the OES training by developing a departmental program so that the more than 1,200 Health and Social Services employees will better understand their role as a disaster service workers.

FAST prevents seniors from losing \$8 million

In their first year serving vulnerable seniors, Fiduciary Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) volunteers helped preserve and recover \$8 million in assets from reported cases of abuse. FAST consists of a countywide network of resources—including Adult Protective Services, Public Guardian/Conservator, County Counsel, the District Attorney's Office and Mental Health—to facilitate comprehensive services to victims of financial abuse. Volunteers provided more than 1,000 hours of in-kind support to the team's goals and objectives.

Hi-tech map links to case management system

The Probation Department implemented "Case Web," a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) interface to their existing case management system. Developed by the Department of Information Technology GIS Group, probation officers can now more effectively manage field operations by quickly relating case information to a map—search by active warrants, specific caseload or crime committed. The probation officer can click and see the details of the probationer who lives at the address. It can also be used to improve the planning of site inspection visits.



Cal-MMET program gains officers, experience to combat drugs

During the past year, the California Methamphetamine Enforcement Teams (Cal-MMET) has grown from a two-detective unit to a six-detective unit. With this added experience they are able to conduct an increasing number of and more complex investigations, including a 30-day sweep in the city of Fairfield. To combat how methamphetamine dealers finance the production and distribution of their drugs, the Solano County Cal-MMET team conducted an eight-week marijuana eradication program which harvested 55,798 marijuana plants.

Partnership cleans up neighborhood crime

A second district attorney was added to the Community Prosecutor Program, which works to eradicate public nuisances that are often precursors to developing criminal activity in a neighborhood. The partnership with the cities of Fairfield and Vallejo provides for more aggressive enforcement options because it combines civil and criminal actions into one investigation. Prosecutions have focused on illegal businesses and business practices, illegal dumping of waste, and the clean-up of private and commercial properties below acceptable community standards.

Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Task Force

The Solano County Sheriff’s office, in collaboration with twelve Northern California Sheriff’s Offices, formed the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Task Force. Known as SAFE, the task force targets individuals convicted of a sex offense and requires them to register with local law enforcement as a sex offender. SAFE team members locate and arrest convicted sex offenders who fail to comply with registration requirements, and assure compliance by conducting random checks on those who have registered as sex offenders.

The first SAFE team operation in Solano County was conducted on June 12 and involved more than 40 law enforcement officers from the Solano County Sheriff’s Office, Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office, Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office, Fairfield Police Department, Suisun Police Department, Vacaville Police Department, Dixon Police Department, Solano County Probation,



Jim Currie
Deputy Sheriff

Being the resident deputy in the unincorporated areas around Dixon, Vacaville and Winters takes somebody who understands the rural lifestyle. Jim does; he calls that area home and raises a few head of cattle along with a family of three kids, two dogs and a couple of cats. He keeps in touch with farm issues as a member of the local Farm Bureau and serves on the California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force.

Jim has built many strong community partnerships and is widely known throughout his beat area for his personal commitment to the job. For Jim, it is just part of the way he does business. “I treat everybody fairly, whether that is a citizen or somebody I’ve arrested.” Like his city counterparts, Jim spends a fair amount of time working with neighbors to settle disputes. His reputation makes the job easier, especially when it comes to mediating issues between farmers and newcomers to the rural life.



“We are here to help and protect people. I believe we make a positive impact on the quality of life in Solano County.”

—Jim Currie,
Sheriff’s Department



State Parole and the U.S. Marshal's Office. Officers conducted compliance checks on about 45 known sex offenders at various locations throughout Solano County. Of those checked, 17 were arrested for violations.

Sheriff adds GPS option to alternative sentencing program

County inmates serving alternative sentences can now be tracked every 10 seconds with the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) devices. The addition of this virtual 24-hour incarceration gives the Sheriff the ability to locate offenders within 15 feet, while relieving the jail of overcrowding. This new device helps ensure the community retains the appropriate level of protection and allows individuals to remain productive members of society while serving their court-ordered sentences.

The Sheriff also expanded reciprocal agreements with 17 counties that allow inmates who do not reside in Solano County the ability to serve their sentences in the county in which they live and are employed. The Solano County Sheriff's Office is one of only eight counties in the state taking this aggressive and proactive stride in keeping up with the latest technology and improving public safety.

Law enforcement gains skills to reduce domestic violence

In collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, Office of Family Violence Prevention (OFVP) facilitated the Family Violence Prevention Brown Bag Group—representatives from each law enforcement agency, the District Attorney's Office, the Courts, Child Welfare Services, Probation, Parole, Travis Air Force Base Office of Special Investigations, Sexual Assault Response Team, Family Law Facilitator's Office, Victim Witness, and the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center—to discuss common issues and work to develop solutions.

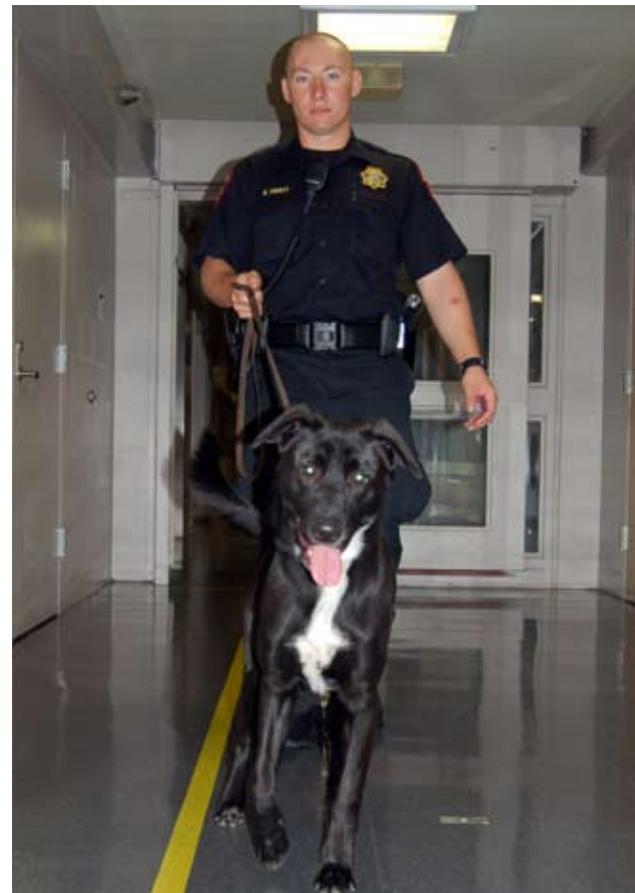
In conjunction with the Solano Partnership Against Violence, the OFVP conducted a regional domestic violence response training for more than 200 law enforcement professionals. The event featured Mark Wynn, a nationally recognized authority on law enforcement response to domestic violence.

Food inspections go hi-tech

Environmental Health specialists automated field inspections of local eateries with a portable "office" that provides business owners with immediate feedback. With a few clicks on a comprehensive electronic inspection checklist, inspectors provide a typed report with information on the observations, pertinent code sections, and guidance on how to correct any food-handling issues. The new technology will improve compliance with general sanitation standards as well as improve data management and the sharing of inspection findings.

Volunteers assist domestic violence victims

The Family Violence Intervention Team (FIT) of the Office of Family Violence Prevention developed a Volunteer Victim Services program. The program recruits volunteers, who receive more than 40 hours of training so they can work one-on-one with domestic violence victims and assist them with filling out restraining order applications. Volunteers are also trained to provide crisis support and court accompaniment. The training is facilitated by FIT staff, Sheriff Deputies, a Deputy District Attorney, Probation Officer, Court and Victim Witness



staff. Volunteers are recruited from area colleges and universities, businesses, and the community.

Vulnerable clients identified for emergency contact

The Older and Disabled Adult Services staff developed a computer database to identify quickly which of their nearly 2,600 clients will require health and safety checks during extreme weather conditions or in a disaster. Situations requiring the health and safety checks include extreme heat or cold, natural disasters such as an earthquake or flooding, or other disasters such as chemical spills or poor air quality. Clients with compromising health conditions who live alone with little or no contact from family and others are considered the highest priority for such contacts.

Reducing children's exposure to violence

The Office of Family Violence Prevention hosted three "train the trainer" sessions for "Safe From the Start: Reducing Children's Exposure to Violence" workshops. This added twelve new trainers to the team, allowing for an increase in the number of annual workshops and the number of professionals and parents receiving this important information.



Delta and Dawn: a whale of a story

Sheriff's Marine Patrol officers, along with the U.S. Coast Guard, kept the Sacramento River safe as two wayward humpback whales eluded, for two weeks, the attempts of researchers to coax them back out to sea. From their first spotting near Sandy Beach Park to their journey up the shipping channel to the Port of Sacramento and back, "Delta" and "Dawn" drew national media attention and thousands of curious spectators. For the safety of both the whales and recreational boaters, the Marine Patrol helped maintain a 500-yard safety zone that kept vessels away from the whales. A federal, state and local unified command was established in West Sacramento and then moved to Rio Vista. Eventually and silently the whales slipped out of Solano County waterways and back into the San Francisco Bay.

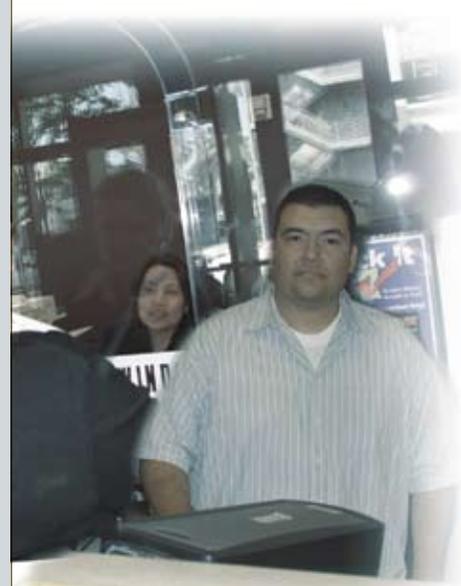


Armando Martinez
Senior Group
Counselor

Armando feels he learned how to be a better father to his toddler by working with troubled teens for the last decade. "We have to be so involved to make a difference in their lives; I knew the commitment I needed to make to my family, my children."

As a Senior Group Counselor, Armando ensures the juveniles are where they need to be during their typical two- to three-month stay at the Juvenile Detention Facility: Court, school, medical visits, counseling and family visits.

Everything in his day revolves around creating a much-needed structure that fills a void in the teen's lives. "We take on the roles of a parent, teacher and counselor to help these kids learn the right way to get along with others." Armando also tries to create a rapport with the teens and their families, often extending beyond the walls of the facility. "I see kids I've worked with when I'm at a store, and they come up say 'Hi, Mr. Martinez.' I know I've made a positive impact when that happens."



"Working with these kids is not enough. You have to get involved in their lives so they know that somebody really cares."

—Armando Martinez,
Probation

Live Ahead

INVEST IN AND FOR THE FUTURE



The mark of an effective organization is its ability to plan for the future while taking care of the business of today. County employees demonstrate this by managing construction projects and developing innovative ways to improve service with technology and better processes. The County's investment also includes expanding employee training, facilitating discussions on regional economic development and providing programs that educate our youth.

County moves forward on design of several building projects

The County is currently advancing nearly 80 capital improvement projects to deliver effective public services. These projects range from smaller tenant improvements throughout the County to major improvements designed to accommodate current demands and anticipated needs driven by future County population growth.

- A new 10,000-square-foot Suisun library, jointly developed by the County, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District and Suisun City, is under construction.
- The County moved forward on its expansion project for the Claybank Adult Detention Facility. Expanding from an original plan for a new 256-bed facility, the \$88 million project has grown to 512 beds to address growth, inmate population trends, avoid increasing building costs. This is the first major physical expansion of the facility since 1989, and is on track for construction to start in 2008.
- A \$53 million Twin Campus Project is scheduled to break ground in 2008. This project consists primarily of a new 58,000-square-foot Health and Social Services

building at the Tuolumne Street Campus in Vallejo and a new 30,000-square-foot Clinic, Public Health

Employees receive Customer Service Foundations Training

The County began its journey to ensure the organization is providing high-quality customer service. The official roll-out of its Customer Service Foundations Training began in April with a cadre of 39 trainers from eleven departments who led a three-hour interactive training for all full-time, part-time, and extra help employees. By September, more than 3,000 County employees were trained. Participants made suggestions on how to improve customer service, which were reviewed by the respective departments and the County Administrator. Several of the suggestions were implemented, including the Treasurer replacing outdated cash registers and adding a portable drop box to decrease the time people waited in line during the last-minute rush to pay their taxes. All new employees now receive Customer Service Foundations Training within their first 30 days.

Crews busy making roads, bridges safer to travel

Resource Management improved 60 miles of roads during 2007, including:

- Replacing bridges on Abernathy Road and Cordelia Road
- Making major improvements on Browns Valley Road, Carrot Lane, Fulton Avenue, Meridian Road, Peaceful Glen Road and Pitt School Road
- Making room on more than five miles of



shoulder-widening projects to ensure that bikers can safely travel alongside cars, adding to a multiyear effort to connect Davis to Vallejo via a network of bike lanes.

- Overlaying 16 miles, chip sealing 37 miles and slurry sealing three miles of roads



Airport apron widened, more accessible

The reconstruction of the airport apron made the Nut Tree Airport more accessible to a wider variety of aircraft. The additional width allows aircraft to taxi right up to the front of the terminal building, and aircraft can park into the

wind, which is less stressful to the aircraft. In addition, the airport now has three helicopter parking pads.

Internet improves public's access to information

In its continuing efforts to make Solano County government transparent to the public, more information related to the Board of Supervisor meetings is now available on the County's website. Board agendas and the associated staff reports, minutes and videos of the meeting are a click away at solanocounty.com. There is also a search function to help guide the public.

Solano County, City of Ji'an exchange Sister City visits

A delegation from the City of Ji'an of the People's Republic of China visited Solano County in



August and the County reciprocated in October. Solano County officials attended the First Jiangxi Conference on Exchanges Among International Friendship Cities in Nanchang. The two communities moved forward on their Sister City relations by setting the groundwork for exchanges of nurses, teachers, lecturers and students. Opportunities for importing and exporting of agricultural products were also discussed.

Summits raise profile of shared economic issues

In partnership with the Solano Economic Development Corp. the City County Coordinating Council and the Solano Transportation Authority, the Board of Supervisors initiated a series of economic summits to capitalize on the county's position at the center of a mega-economic region stretching from San Jose to Reno.

The forums have rallied the community around collaborative efforts on tourism, agriculture, business development, infrastructure and education.



Terry Jacobsen
Supervising Librarian

With an infectious, upbeat attitude reminiscent of a social director, Terry talks about the Fairfield Cordelia Library's long list of programs and how it is a happening place. Story time for toddlers. Computer gaming for teens. Adults researching their next careers. Computers. Books. Magazines. Movies. "This isn't your father's library," says the recently promoted branch librarian. With a gain of more than 3,000 new library cardholders since the branch opened in December 2006, the Library branch has clearly found its market.

This connection with the customer and the matching of the Library's mission with the needs of the customer reflects the goals of the County's Customer Service Foundation Training. Terry was one of the 39 trainers, and found it exciting to see how other County employees engaged their customers. "The public needs us to listen and try to help with what is important to them at that moment." She points out that it is not as easy as it sounds, but it is what you have to do when your job is public service.



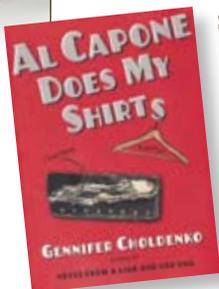
"When we open the doors at the library, it is show time. We are here for the public."

—Terry Jacobsen,
Solano County
Library



Greatest Generation project connects youth to seniors

To celebrate Older Americans Month in May, Solano County Library sponsored a project called “Greatest Generation: Please Share Your Memories” to document the stories of people 80 years or older who lived through the Depression and World War II. An intergenerational experience, interviews were conducted by high school students from Fairfield, Rio Vista, Vacaville and Vallejo. More than 40 people shared their stories with these students. The stories were highlighted in displays at the various branch libraries around the county and at the Solano County Fair and now reside on the library’s website (solanolibrary.com).



Solano Kids Read gets children on the same page

As part of its efforts to encourage reading, County libraries, along with the Solano County Library Foundation, sponsored Solano Kids Read, a one-community, one-book program. From September to November, fourth- to eighth-graders countywide were encouraged to read *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko. The event was topped off by a two-day visit by the author, who presented and participated in a number of activities at libraries throughout the county. To make it easy for children to get a copy of the book, the Library Foundation purchased sets of the book for each elementary school in the library’s service area, paid for bus rentals to bring children to programs and funded a luncheon and reception for the author.

New radio tower on Cement Hill
The County and the seven cities agreed to

continue the work of the Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative on Joint Solano Emergency Communications Activities in order to resolve countywide two-way radio interoperability issues of various police, fire and emergency service agencies. The effort helps ensure that communication systems in the county conform to current and emerging federal regulations. One of its accomplishments is the slated completion of a new radio tower on Cement Hill and an adjacent facility to house radio equipment.



County transfers Court facilities to the State

A signing ceremony in June culminated the four-year process of transferring the responsibility of Court facilities at 600 Union St. and 530 Union St. in Fairfield and 321 Tuolumne St. in Vallejo to the State. In August 2003 Solano County was selected as one of the three original pilot counties to participate in the negotiations with the Administrative Offices of the Courts. Negotiations were facilitated by the passage of SB 10, legislation the County successfully lobbied for to allow the transfer if the County retained liability for the seismic events at the Hall of Justice and the Solano Justice Center.

Community service time for juveniles benefits Lynch Canyon, Rush Ranch

In July, juveniles in the Probation Department’s Weekend Academy program

became part of a new community-based work detail that helped maintain Lynch Canyon and Rush Ranch open spaces. Under the supervision of the department's Conditional Release Program Officers, the minors cleared trails and removed debris. The goal of the program is to use education and community service to promote positive change and to engage youth in positive social activities.



Mail sorting technology saves time, tax dollars

An investment in a new piece of equipment is reducing postal expenses by more than \$50,000 a year. The state-of-the-art machine sorts the mail by ZIP code which reduces postage rates by as much as 25 percent. With a speed of sorting 24,000 pieces of mail per hour, the equipment is also used to sort incoming absentee ballots to their proper districts. This commitment to improving postal service was acknowledged by the Bay Valley District of the U.S. Postal Service; Solano County Central Services was the only county agency in the region to receive the recognition.

Investing in technology that improves service

Technicians from the Department of Information Technology worked on a number of projects capitalizing on technology.

- GIS-based maps were aligned with parcel data and aerial photography. Web applications were developed so both County staff and the general public can easily use the new maps. The department is working with cities and agencies within the County on ways to best share the data.
- By developing a standard document imaging platform, data is now shared electronically between the law and justice departments within the County. In a related project with Contra Costa County, law and justice data can be shared between the two counties and all of the cities.
- Efforts to modernize the County's technology infrastructure, especially the data center's storage area network and server virtualization, reduced the number of servers maintained. The benefit is reduced hardware costs and energy use.
- A number of new applications improved County business processes: a caseload management system for Public Health to monitor teen pregnancies, a personnel management system for Emergency Medical Services, and an automated process for the Assessor's Office to conduct the mass valuation of watercraft, which saved an estimated six man-months over the previous manual method.



Urlita Coronel-Mangune
Architectural Project Coordinator

What does a social worker, a lab technician and a correctional officer have in common? Urlita. She is part of the team that's building a County Government Center in Vallejo, a Public Health Laboratory in Fairfield, and the expanded Claybank Adult Detention Facility in Fairfield. These are three of the nearly 80 projects in the works to modernize facilities needed to deliver County services.

As an architectural project coordinator, she helps manage the logistics of these projects: from defining the needs of a building and performing comprehensive design reviews, to organizing what furnishings, fixtures and equipment that need to be purchased. Urlita sees her job as more than just designing buildings. "There is a need in the community, and it is our job to design the building that addresses those needs." Having that more meaningful purpose gives Urlita a greater sense of pride, especially when she sees how an idea transforms into the bustle of activity.



"Turning an idea into something that is really functional for employees and the public is awe-inspiring."

*—Urlita Coronel-Mangune,
General Services*

Live Smart

TAKE OWNERSHIP, BE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND RESULT-DRIVEN



The County of Solano achieved several financial milestones during 2007

- The final FY2007/08 budget was \$1.02 billion, the largest in County history.
- Board of Supervisors adopted the most comprehensive reserve strategy in the state.
- Solano County Treasurer's Investment Pool received the Standard & Poor's "AAAF" fund credit quality and a "S1" fund volatility rating.

The **Spending Plan by Function** chart indicates the percentage of total budget for each of the functional areas required within the County Budget. As shown, General Government represents the single largest category of County expenditures at 22%. Public Protection, the second largest, represents 19% of the total.

The **Revenues by Source** chart indicates the sources of funding to finance the budget. The County's single largest revenue source is Intergovernmental Revenue from state and federal agencies, generally with specific requirements for the funds' expenditures. Intergovernmental Revenue represents 31% of the total.

The **Sources of Discretionary Revenue** chart provides information concerning General Fund financing for County operations. Discretionary revenues are not collected in direct response to services provided. This includes countywide property taxes as well as intergovernmental revenue that comes to the County without restrictions. These non-program revenues are reflected in the General Revenue budget.

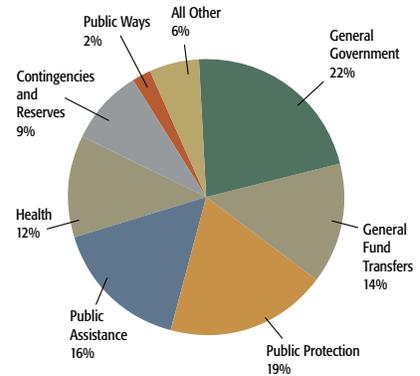
Budget Strategy

General Budget Policy

- Build reserves during economic expansion; apply reserves to stabilize spending during fiscal distress;
- Avoid back-filling reductions in state and

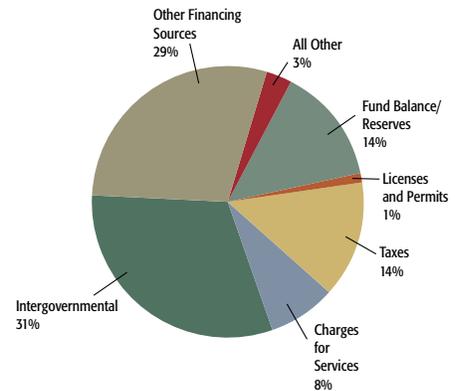
Spending Plan by Function

FINAL BUDGET 2007/08 (TOTAL: \$1.02 billion)



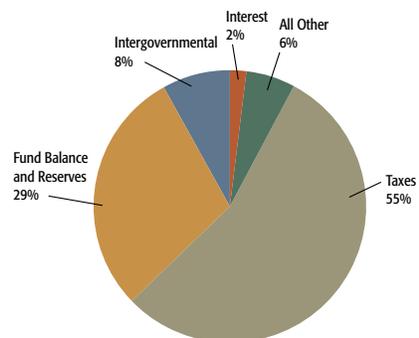
Revenues by Source

FINAL BUDGET 2007/08 (TOTAL: \$1.02 billion)



Sources of Discretionary Revenue

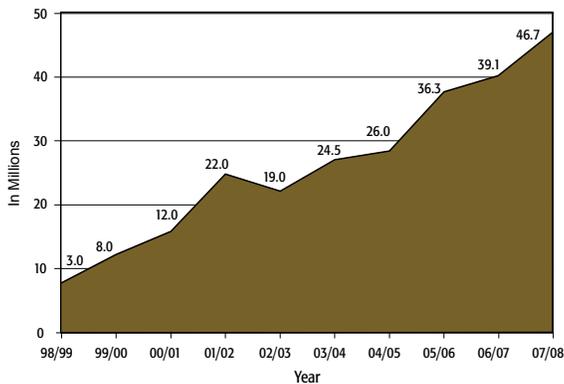
FINAL BUDGET 2007/08 (TOTAL: \$223 million)



federal funds with County discretionary dollars, to the extent possible;

- Use one-time revenue for one-time costs instead of ongoing operational expenses.

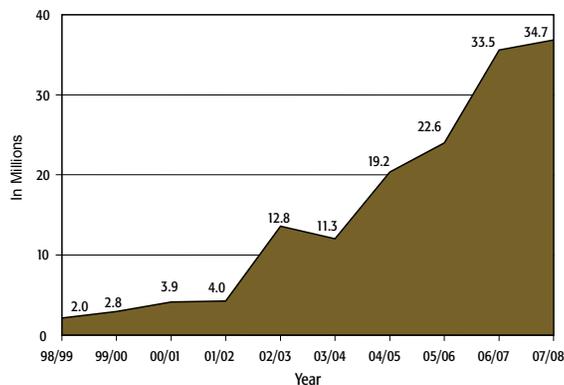
10-Year History of County's General Reserves



Reserves

- Allow the County to normalize the County Budget during periods of fiscal distress;
- Maintain a minimum of 5% of the total budget, with a target of 10% of the County budget, excluding inter-fund transfers;
- Are used as the last resort in balancing the County Budget;
- A maximum spend-down of \$6 million per year;
- Provides for designations for accrued leave payoffs, deferred maintenance for capital projects and uncertainties with the state budget.

10-Year History of County's General Fund Contingency



Contingency

- Mitigates the impact of potential risks to the General Fund;
- Target is 10% of the General Fund budget.



Quang Ho
Assistant County Administrator

For the last 15 years, Quang has been at the heart of the process that prepares and manages the County's annual budget. She has a well-earned reputation for fiscal prudence, which over the years has helped position the County to weather fiscal storms.

Less well known, however, is the motivation for her by-the-numbers approach. Presenting a balanced budget that does not put the Board of Supervisors in a position of cutting necessary services or laying off employees is a personal triumph for her.

Quang sees it as an obligation of public service to tightly manage taxpayer dollars. She is also proud that the County has been able to sustain or expand programs for our children and seniors – our vulnerable and venerable populations – during times when other counties faced tough budget choices.

Quang believes that by investing in our public servants, the County will be able to continue its proud tradition of providing services to the public.



“To have a balanced budget that addresses our needs of today, invests in what we want for tomorrow, and keeps the options open for future leaders of the County is a legacy we are building every day.”

—Quang Ho,
County Administrator's Office

Live Proud

LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP



County recognized for innovation by state association

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) recognized several innovative programs in Solano County.

- BabyFirst Solano received a Challenge Award for its public-private partnership approach to improving prenatal care in high-risk populations. The Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Bureau presented their program at a workshop entitled “Best Practices: California Counties’ Most Innovative Programs” at the annual CSAC meeting in Oakland.
- First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission received a Merit Award for its strategy to leverage funding and nearly doubled the funds received by grantees in fiscal year 2005/06.
- Public Defender’s Office received a Merit Award for its hard-hitting presentation to middle school students throughout the county on the devastating impacts of methamphetamine use.
- Health and Social Services received a Merit Award for improving access to mental health care by integrating mental health clinicians into the primary care clinics.

BabyFirst Solano recognized for impacts on prenatal care

BabyFirst Solano was selected as a Promising Practice under the National Association of County and City Health Officials’ (NACCHO) Model Practice initiative and was highlighted in their Model Practice Database, a national online collection of local public health departments programs designed to facilitate the sharing of best practices. The programs’ successes include 93 percent of women in the project entering first or second trimester prenatal care, 78 percent attending at least 75 percent of their prenatal care visits, nearly 90 percent attending their postpartum appointment, and 93 percent of the babies born full term and at optimal birth weight. They also

presented their results at the 2007 First 5 California annual conference.

Auditor-Controller’s Office wins awards in financial reporting

For the fifth consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the County of Solano and the Auditor-Controller’s Office, this time for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006. The County also received the State Controller’s Award for Achieving Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Juvenile Detention Facility earns design award

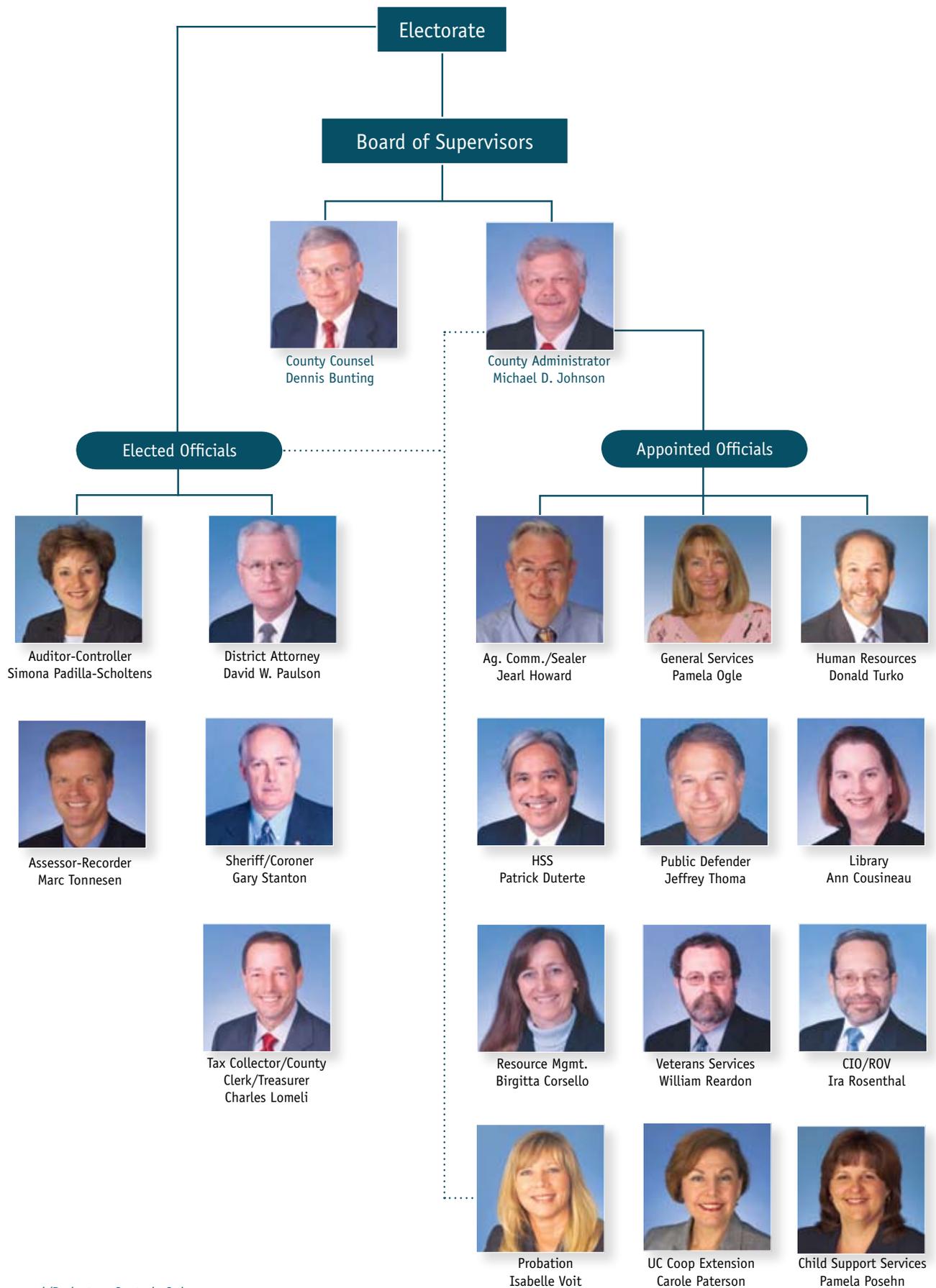
A straightforward design with a clear line of sight mixed with color and textures helped to create a rehabilitative and treatment-oriented Juvenile Detention Facility. The 90-bed facility caught the eye of the American Institute of Architects, earning the County facility a 2007 Selected Award for Justice. The facility was also highlighted in *Corrections Forum*, a periodical for correctional management professionals.

Exhibit wins Best of Show at California State Fair

For the third consecutive year and the fourth time in the last five years, the Solano County exhibit earned the Best of Show award at the California State Fair. The exhibit wowed the judges, earning a perfect score. The County also won the Best Agricultural Display Award, the Best Use of Animation Award and swept the awards determined by the fairgoers: the People’s Choice Award, the Most Educational and the Most Fun.



COUNTY OF SOLANO ORGANIZATION CHART



.....Personnel/Budgetary Controls Only

COUNTY OF SOLANO MANAGEMENT TEAM



County Administrator's Office

Michael D. Johnson | County Administrator
Quang T. Ho | Assistant County Administrator
Veronica Ferguson | Assistant County Administrator

Public Protection

David W. Paulson | District Attorney
Gary Stanton | Sheriff
Jeffrey Thoma | Public Defender
Isabelle Voit | Chief Probation Officer

Health and Public Assistance

Patrick Duterte | Health and Social Services Director
Pamela Posehn | Child Support Services Director
William Reardon | Veteran Services Officer

Land Use, Agriculture and Transportation

Birgitta Corsello | Resource Management Director
Jearl Howard | Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

Education

Ann Cousineau | Library Services Director
Carole Paterson | Cooperative Extension Director

General Government and Support Services

Charles Lomeli | Treasurer/Tax Collector/County Clerk
Simona Padilla-Scholtens | Auditor/Controller
Marc C. Tonnesen | Assessor/Recorder
Dennis Bunting | County Counsel
Ira Rosenthal | Information Technology Director/Registrar of Voters
Pamela Ogle | Acting General Services Director
Donald Turko | Human Resources Director

Manager's Principles

We are leaders; we are personally and professionally accountable for our actions; our chief function is to serve the best interest of those who reside and work in Solano County; we value teamwork and take pride in working for the County of Solano.

County Administrator's Office

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