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**Alameda County**  
**Supervisor Keith Carson, Fifth District**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Alameda County Makes Hard Choices to Present A Balanced Budget**

On Thursday, June 12 Alameda County Administrator, Susan Muranishi presented the proposed 2010 Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-2010 that the County's Budget Work Group has been working on since last year. The proposed budget totals \$2.4 billion and closes an unprecedented \$177.6 million funding gap. In order to close the funding gap \$101.6 million of one-time strategies and \$76 million of on-going strategies were used. The Board of Supervisor's Values-Based Budgeting priorities have been considered in the development of strategies within each program area. Although an exact number has not been determined there are a significant number of people that will be laid off.

The County may be making even deeper cuts as State representatives squabble over how to fill California's \$24 billion shortfall.

The budget process was a collaborative effort of the Board of Supervisors, County agency and department heads, and other stakeholders. County departments cost reductions will come from Health Care (\$30M), Public Assistance (\$45M), Public Protection (\$40M) and General Government (\$28.4M). Countywide strategies will make up the remaining \$34.2 million.

"The reductions outlined in this Proposed Budget continue to have a devastating impact on people's lives," said Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, who is the Chair of the County's Budget Work Group. "The Governor and the Legislature have begun to outline program cuts that will directly impact seniors who are homebound and children who receive public dental services. In short, all residents and especially the most vulnerable residents in our society will lose essential services. The possibility is real that services that offer a lifeline for our most vulnerable residents will soon disappear."

The Health Care Services Agency net cost reductions will be \$30 million. A total of \$14.5 million in Fiscal Management Reward Program savings will be used to close the budget gap. One-time revenues accounted for \$6.5 million in savings, including \$6 million in federal stimulus funding for behavioral health care and \$500,000 in unanticipated Tobacco Master Settlement revenues. The elimination of a 2% cost-of-living adjustment for community-based organizations and the Alameda County Medical Center (ACMC) will provide \$4.5 million of on-going savings; however, service reductions may occur at ACMC and other organizations that contract with the County.

Public Assistance Programs will see a \$45 million reduction. Federal stimulus funding will provide \$12.9 million which will supplement the County's share of cost for In-Home Support Services (IHSS) wages. The County has assumed that the State will decrease its contribution to IHSS wages resulting in a reduction from \$11.50 to \$10.20 per hour. The General Assistance program adjustment will limit employable recipients to three months of benefits within a twelve month period and reduce cash payments to other recipients. This adjustment will result in saving \$12 million.

Public Protection will see a net cost reduction of \$40 million. The proposed reductions will result in decreased services in law enforcement, the Coroner's Office, the Crime Laboratory, emergency services, jail operations, and the closure of the Fairmont Animal Shelter. Reductions will also reduce the supervision of adults and youth on probation, and impact other youth services, such as the Community Probation program, home supervision, and truancy reduction efforts.

General Government will reduce its budget by \$28.4 million.

Proposed cuts to State programs that will have an even further devastating impact on Alameda County's budget include the elimination of the CalWORKs program, the elimination or substantial restrictions of the Healthy Families program, and the elimination of In-Home Support Services for all but the most severely disabled. Additionally, 39,000 State prison inmates may be released early and sentencing revisions will direct future offenders to County jail rather than State prison, reducing contract revenues for the Sheriff and increasing costs and service demands on all public safety and social service departments.

Over the past seventeen years the State has taken \$3.7 billion from County property tax revenues. The State Legislature continues to pass the burden onto local governments by borrowing from local funds making it even more difficult for the County to provide services for the most vulnerable.

There will be public hearings held in the Board Chambers on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1221 Oak Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. The budget is set to be adopted on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

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