

SUPERVISOR RICH DESMOND
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Supervisor Rich Desmond
Third District
Sacramento County
Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, Suite 2450

COUNTY BUDGET HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

The Sacramento County [Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2024-2025](#) has been released and is available for the public to read. The Board of Supervisors will begin hearings on the Recommended Budget at **9:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 5, 2024, in the Board Chambers at the Sacramento County Administration building, located at 700 H Street in Sacramento.**

The public is invited to attend the hearings and be heard on any items in the budget, [either publicly or through written comments](#). Budget hearings will also be telecast live on [Metro Cable 14](#) and the [County's website](#). The hearings will continue at 9:30 a.m. through June 6 and 7, if necessary.

This year's \$8.8 billion spending plan is an increase of 6.9% compared to the [FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget](#). Of the total \$8.8 billion budgeted:

- \$3.5 billion is in Enterprise and Special Revenue Fund appropriations (utility rates, fees and other dedicated revenue)
- \$3.8 billion is in General Fund appropriations (funded with \$990 million in discretionary resources, \$1.5 billion in reimbursements from restricted funds, and the remaining \$1.3 billion in Federal, State and fee revenue dedicated to specific purposes)
- \$1.5 billion in Restricted Funds

The Board's budget priorities, based on the [budget priority survey results of adult residents](#) in Sacramento County, for the uses of General Fund discretionary resources are:

1. Complying with the County's legal, financial, regulatory and policy obligations.

Sacramento, CA 95814
richdesmond@saccounty.gov

PHONE: (916) 874-5471
FAX: (916) 874-7593

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2. Optimizing the use of County resources, with budgeted service levels for County programs informed by community priorities, improving effectiveness and efficiency where possible, and limiting the extent to which reductions in dedicated revenue are backfilled with discretionary resources.
3. Funding new or enhanced programs that focus on the most critical and urgent needs, with the priority focus areas being 1) addressing homelessness and its impacts and 2) improving the condition of streets and roads in the unincorporated County.

The Recommended Budget's most significant new or enhanced programs include:

Health Services increased by **\$28.4 million** for increased acute psychiatric inpatient costs, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing funding, increased capacity and services at Permanent Supportive Housing units, and behavioral health services at the Youth Detention Facility.

Child, Family and Adult Services increased by **\$5.7 million** (\$4.5 million Net County Cost) for Child Protective Services welcome and assessment center services and family resource center court-mandated parenting workshops.

Human Assistance increased by **\$4.2 million** (\$100,000 Net County Cost) for childcare payments for CalWORKs participants and funding for a position in the County Veterans Services Office.

Sheriff increased by **\$3.9 million** (\$1.2 million Net County Cost) for a mobile command vehicle, required software expenditures and required body worn camera licenses and equipment.

Correctional Health Services increased by **\$3.4 million** (\$300,000 Net County Cost) for a Medication Assisted Treatment Program, additional pharmacy positions (both of which support the County's obligations under the Mays Consent Decree Remedial Plan) and a new electronic health record system.

Community Development increased by **\$1.2 million** (\$1 million Net County Cost) to support the Infill Acceleration Program, the Climate Action Plan, and two Planning Technician positions.

Homeless Services and Housing increased by **\$1 million** (before reimbursements) to fund beds at a planned

Safe Stay Community and three new positions and services supporting administration for the department.

This year's budget reflects the County's need to address a reduction in available one-time resources that had previously funded ongoing expenditures. This year, these reductions total \$6 million, which will result in the deletion of 31 vacant full-time equivalent (FTE) positions as well as other budget reductions across several departments. **No filled positions were recommended for deletion.**

The Recommended Budget's most significant reductions include:

Health Services reduced by **\$2.2 million** including consulting contracts, operational supplies and the deletion of 14 FTE positions.

Child, Family and Adult Services reduced by **\$1.8 million**, including the deletion of 16 vacant FTE positions.

The [budget letter and a complete set of budget documents may be found online](#) and at the County Executive's Office, 700 H Street, Room 7650.

The Recommended Budget is a preliminary spending plan; the Revised Recommended Budget will be presented to the Board in September for deliberation and adoption.

For more information about the County budget, including the [budget process/timeline](#), [key budget terms/glossary](#), the [Budget Explorer Tool](#) and more, visit the Sacramento County [Office of Budget and Debt Management website](#).

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

I consistently encourage the public to speak out to let me and the entire Board of Supervisors know your thoughts and feelings on budget and policy matters. As residents, business owners, and taxpayers, I rely on your input about priorities for Sacramento County.

The unincorporated communities, which make up almost 95% of the communities I represent, are faced with chronic issues such as homelessness, crumbling roadway infrastructure, vacant commercial corridors and crime that affects the quality of life in our neighborhoods. I implore you to take an active role in matters being decided by the Board of Supervisors and

advocate to all five Board members about issues of concern to you.

Board meetings are held live in the Sacramento County Administration building and are broadcasted on [Metro Cable 14](#) and the [County's website](#).

There are several ways to participate in Board meetings. The public can send an email to BoardClerk@saccounty.gov, mail a comment to 700 H Street, Suite 2450, Sacramento, CA 95814, or make an in-person comment.

If you are unable to watch live, a recording of each meeting will be uploaded to the County's YouTube account and on the Board of Supervisors meetings page.



GOAT GRAZING

Continuing through the month of June, the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources will be conducting its annual Goat/Sheep Grazing program at various creeks and drainage basin locations throughout the County. The Goat/Sheep Grazing program relies on a private service that provides 300+ goats and sheep to conduct vegetation management services as a natural solution to weed and brush mitigation. The use of sheep and goats for vegetation management is a greener way to maintain grasses and brush, aid in vector control, and ensure the creeks and floodways are clear for the next storm season.

Grazing periods are 5-7 days at each location. The livestock are monitored throughout the day and night with on-site herders and trained dogs. Here are some safety tips and requests if you live in these areas or encounter grazing operations:

- Please do not enter the grazing area.

- Do not discard any plants or trimmings into the grazing area as many plants can be toxic if eaten by livestock.
- Do not attempt to feed, pet, or introduce your pets to the herding dogs. Although generally friendly, they are there for livestock protection.
- Always keep all household pets out of the grazing areas.
- Check adjoining fence lines to ensure that all gates are securely locked, and no holes or loose fencing is present.

Please contact the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources at 916-875-7136 if you have any questions or concerns.



FOLLOW UP ON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY MEETINGS

In case you missed my recent series of community meetings, we discussed transportation and roadway conditions in District Three and throughout Sacramento County. Ron Vicari, Director of the Sacramento County Department of Transportation (DOT), and Lupe Rodriguez, Chief of Transportation, Division of Operations and Maintenance, provided information on the County's large backlog of infrastructure maintenance and what the County is doing to address it. The poor condition of our roads is a big issue throughout my district, and I am fighting hard against years of inadequate funding and attention to this issue. At the community meetings, DOT shared that we have roughly a

billion-dollar backlog in roadway infrastructure throughout the County.

Over the last two and a half years, my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors have joined me in directing an additional \$82.5 million of general fund dollars to supplement direct funding for our roads from gas taxes. The County continues to apply for grants and fight for funding overseen by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and Sacramento Transportation Authority. DOT is also working with utility providers to repave full roadways when they are disrupted by utility projects.

During the community meetings, DOT gave a PowerPoint presentation and had a series of maps. You can access these materials, including the PowerPoint, list of deficient bridges in the County, and maps for projects and streets that have been paved in District 3, on my website and through this link: [Community Meetings \(saccounty.gov\)](http://Community Meetings (saccounty.gov))



DOG PARKS AND LEASHES

The weather is getting warmer, and longer days means more time outside with our canine companions. We are fortunate to have many local dog parks to explore throughout the County. You can find them at the [YourSacParks website](#).

Unless you are in an “off leash” dog park, however, it is important to remember that dogs are required to be on a leash and under control of their owners at all times. Local leash laws are intended to protect the health and safety of both the people and pets who enjoy visiting our many parks and open areas. Pet owners who violate this ordinance are subject to a fine. Specific [leash laws](#) can be found here.

If you observe a dog off leash, especially if the dog is exhibiting aggressive behavior, please call the proper authorities. Our Sacramento County Regional Parks Park Rangers have made this issue one of their top priorities along the American River Parkway.

Sacramento County Animal Care: (916) 368-PETS (7387)

Sacramento County Park Rangers (for incidents on the Parkway): (916) 875-PARK (7275)

Sacramento County Sheriff: (916) 874-5115



SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Read and earn prizes this summer by participating in the Sacramento Public Library summer reading challenge from June 1 – August 15, open to all ages. Sign up on the [Sacramento Public Library's Summer Reading website](#). You can read anything you want: books, ebooks, novels, magazines, audiobooks – it all counts.

Use [the website](#) or the [Beanstack App](#) to sign up, log your reading, complete activities, and earn badges, points, and prizes.

- **Youth who read 5 books or earn 500 points** will receive one free book of their choice (for the *first* 5 books or 500 points).
- **Adults who read 5 books or earn 500 points** will receive a coupon for one free book at the Book Den and an enamel pin (for the *first* 5 books or 500 points).
- **Readers of all ages who read 25 books or earn 2,500 points** will receive a Summer Reading medal.

The Sacramento Public Library will begin the summer reading challenge with a **Kickoff Celebration on June 1, from 10am to 12pm at Howe Park, 2201 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825**. Experience art and building activities with the Sacramento Children's Museum, see live music and an instrument petting zoo with the Bigger Than Us Arts Collective, and check out the library Bookmobile.

For more information about the Summer Reading Challenge, visit the [Sacramento Public Library website](#).



SUMMER WATER SAFETY

Summer is here, and the river is calling your name. Visiting Sacramento County public waterways, rivers, and lakes is an excellent way to cool off and enjoy the outdoors but remember **TO BE SAFE**.

Each year, 6,000 people drown in the United States. Of that total, about 5,000 would have survived if they had worn a life jacket. More than 3,000 people who drown each year had been using alcohol or drugs at the time.

Whether swimming, fishing, boating, floating or just wading, you should always wear a life vest. It's the law for kids under 13. Learn more about the [Kids Don't Float program](#).

You can borrow a life vest at any station along Sacramento's public waterways or at a local fire station.

Life vest borrowing stations on the American River Parkway

- Discovery Park (2 sites) (kids and adults)
- Ancil Hoffman Park (kids only)
- Howe Avenue river access (kids only)
- Paradise Beach (kids only)
- Watt Avenue river access (kids only)
- River Bend Park (kids only)
- Sunrise river access (kids only)
- Life vest borrowing station in the City of Sacramento Sand Cove (kids only)

Life vests are also available at [Sacramento area](#) fire stations. Each Fire station offers 8 to 12 life vests in kid sizes to loan out.



FIRE PREVENTION

The hot and dry Summer weather brings increased fire dangers. The [Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks](#) has initiated its multi-pronged plan to reduce fire risk, defend wildlife habitat, and protect our natural resources and the neighborhoods adjacent to the parks.

The Department of Regional Parks is focused on its 2024 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan and has lined up sheep and goat grazing contracts, added maintenance crews to maintain fire breaks, and is issuing fuel break maintenance permits to properties bordering Park properties.

To decrease the number and size potential of wildfires in our parks system, the county is using several techniques including:

- **Firebreaks**– A combination of mowing, soil discing, and targeted herbicides will be used where appropriate to create perimeters around open fields, along fence lines, and behind neighborhoods. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.
- **Ladder Fuel Hand-Crews**– In limited, hard-to-reach areas, hand-crews will remove vegetation that allows the potential for a fire to climb up or move into urban areas.
- **Grazing** –There are hundreds of acres of undeveloped or protected land in our Regional Parks. Goats and sheep are ideal for vegetation management and are great at eating down weeds, bushes, and grass that manned crews cannot reach. Grazing is expected to occur through the end of June.
- **Annual Encroachment Permits** –Residents who live adjacent to Regional Parks' properties are able to apply for free annual encroachment permits to maintain a fire break behind their property line. These allow residents to string-trim grass and weeds for up to 50 feet beyond their private property line. To request a permit, provide your name, address, and contact information to Regional Parks at parksinfo@SacCounty.gov.

Additionally, our Regional Parks Park Rangers will continue their increased education and enforcement efforts related to illegal fires and cooking along the parkway in an effort to reduce the number of new fire outbreaks.

Visitors to Sacramento County Regional Parks should be aware of the following regulations:

- Open flame fires are NOT allowed, and barbequing is only permitted in designated picnic areas.
- Smoking is only allowed in developed picnic areas, asphalt surfaces, golf courses, and levee tops along the American River Parkway.

Visit the [Regional Parks website](#) to learn more about the 2024 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan for Sacramento County Parks. If you see a fire burning in our Regional Parks, please call 9-1-1.

KITTEN SEASON

Animal shelters around the country are gearing up for what is known as “Kitten Season,” when cats begin to give birth to countless kitten litters. Typically beginning in late spring and continuing throughout summer, Kitten Season stretches the resources of animal shelters and rescues when an influx of unwanted kittens and cats crowd shelter and kennel space.

The [Bradshaw Shelter’s Foster Care Program](#) helps save lives and space during this hectic season. Residents interested in becoming fosters should [submit a foster care agreement](#) to foster@saccounty.gov. The shelter provides all food, bedding, supplies, toys, and more at no cost to the foster. Fostering is a great way to help alleviate the impact of kitten season at your local shelter while providing temporary companionship for those still working from home.

The shelter is most in need of fosters for bottle babies: kittens who have been orphaned or abandoned and are too young to eat on their own. If you've never fostered a bottle-fed kitten before, the foster team will teach you everything you need to know. Fosters are also needed for kittens that just have a little bit of growing left to do, as well as for sick or injured kittens and cats. The time commitment for fostering can be anywhere from one to eight weeks, depending on the kitten's size at the time of fostering. **For more information about fostering, including [fostering FAQs](#), visit the [Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter website](#). To learn more about what to do if you find a kitten or litter of kittens, [visit the feral cat information webpage](#).**

Donations of essential kitten season supplies are also needed and will gladly be accepted at 3839 Bradshaw Road, Tuesday through Sunday, between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. For a complete list of supplies needs, visit the shelter's [Amazon Wishlist](#) or the [donation website](#).



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