



County of Marin
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



On behalf of the County of Marin, we are pleased to present the executive summary of our 2005 Report to the Community. This report is designed to describe the role of County government and the important services we provide to the community. The executive summary highlights the full report and briefly conveys our priorities and key accomplishments in meeting the needs of our community. We encourage you to learn more about County government by reading our full report, which is available on our website at www.co.marin.ca.us/commreport, at your local library branch, or the Marin County Civic Center.

The overall goal of this first-ever Report to the Community is to further connect Marin County government and the community we serve. County government provides important services every day, such as public health services, cultural and recreational facilities, and community safety programs, yet many residents are not aware of how County government helps the community. The Board of Supervisors developed this report to not only provide this information, but also convey our vision and priorities for the future of Marin County and highlight recent accomplishments. Our purpose with this report is to engage the community and increase awareness and involvement by the community in their County government.

The mission of Marin County government is to provide excellent services to meet community needs throughout Marin County. To support this mission, our Board of Supervisors has adopted five broad community-oriented goals that provide a vision for our community and guide our policies and programs:

- **Healthy Communities**
- **Safe Communities**
- **Sustainable Communities**
- **Environmental Preservation**
- **Community Participation**

Within this executive summary, you will see key objectives that identify our commitment to each community goal and examples of our results in achieving each goal. The back page of the summary provides information highlighting the County's strong financial position and how you can get involved in County government.



Marin County government is dedicated to being a responsive, open, and community-focused government that fosters a sense of community throughout our diverse county. Working in collaboration with our community partners, we have clear goals and priorities that meet community needs as well as carefully manage taxpayer dollars. We also have a record of results that demonstrates our ability to provide the highest level of service to the community. We hope this report conveys our vision for Marin County and demonstrates how we improve the lives of our residents, businesses, and visitors.

Supervisor Susan L. Adams
District 1

Supervisor Harold C. Brown, Jr.
District 2

Supervisor Charles McGlashan
District 3

Supervisor Steve Kinsey
District 4

Supervisor Cynthia L. Murray
District 5

Healthy Communities

Our Commitment

- Improve community access to health services
- Provide community enrichment through cultural, recreational and learning opportunities
- Promote healthy lifestyles for county residents



Highlights of Our Results

- Provided dental services to low-income residents at our dental clinic in San Rafael, which had over 10,000 patient visits last year
- Opened an award-winning skatepark at McInnis Park, which will have an estimated 40,000 users annually
- Received over 450,000 hits in the past year on our library's website, which provides online information and services to patrons
- Reached over 150,000 people in the last two years through our Nutrition Wellness Program, which encourages residents of all ages to lead a healthy lifestyle

Highlights of Our Results

- Worked with other agencies to provide effective transit services, helping lead to a 22% increase in Golden Gate Transit ridership on local bus routes
- Funded the construction of over 230 affordable housing units across the county over the past three years, working with other jurisdictions and our community partners
- Certified 105 "green" businesses in the county that are using environmentally sound business practices, comprising 20% of the total number of green businesses in the Bay Area
- Reduced energy costs by installing solar panels on the County garage and adding hybrid vehicles to the County's fleet

Environmental Preservation

Our Commitment

- Maintain and enhance open space
- Support and promote the county's agricultural heritage
- Protect the natural environment



Highlights of Our Results

- Provided 115 free, naturalist-guided interpretive walks on open space lands to 1,800 participants last year
- Began certifying organic agriculture at a local level, which helped lead to the creation of 35 certified organic farms totaling over 11,000 acres
- Protected local water quality through restoring fish passages in Bates Canyon and Woodacre, restoring wetlands and marshes along Richardson Bay, and offering free septic evaluation to homeowners along Tomales Bay
- Diverted 71% of materials from landfills through recycling and other activities, the highest diversion rate in the state



Safe Communities

Our Commitment

- Ensure community safety through effective law enforcement and crime prevention
- Promote a fair justice system through community justice programs
- Reduce the risk of wildfires in partnership with our community
- Provide effective emergency preparedness and response



Highlights of Our Results

- Reduced the total number of crimes in the unincorporated area of the county from 1,792 in 2002 to 1,576 in 2004, a reduction of 12%
- Provided effective alternatives to incarceration through programs such as the Drug Court, where enrolled youth were 42% less likely to be arrested for a crime, 81% less likely to violate probation, and 127% less likely to test positive for drug use
- Reduced vegetation and brush from nearly 300 acres of land over the last several years to minimize the risk of wildfires
- Created a Disaster Medical Volunteer Program, which has prepared nearly 300 volunteer medical professionals to assist the community in responding to a large-scale local emergency

Sustainable Communities

Our Commitment

- Reduce traffic congestion by providing transportation choices
- Support affordable housing opportunities
- Promote efficient resource and energy use
- Encourage collaboration with public/private organizations



Community Participation

Our Commitment

- Encourage an informed and engaged community
- Improve access to County facilities and services
- Promote and support diversity

Highlights of Our Results

- Began broadcasting the Board of Supervisors' regular Tuesday meetings live on the County's website at www.co.marin.ca.us
- Dedicated over \$2 million over the last few years to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to County facilities and services
- Supported diversity in the county through events such as Bi-National Health week, held each October in San Rafael's Canal Area
- Provided effective elections services, which contributed to Marin County having the highest voter turnout in the state for the 2004 Presidential election at 78%



Achieving Financial Excellence

Marin County government is in strong financial shape, the result of careful management to ensure funding for both current and future community needs. We are committed to continuing to provide cost-effective services that focus on doing the most important things well.

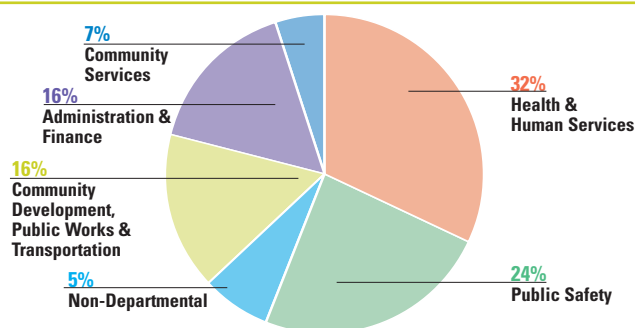
Our strong financial position is demonstrated by our:

- Superior AAA bond rating, which saves taxpayer dollars in lower interest costs
- Low amount of long-term debt from funding projects with grants, reserves, and other sources
- Stable budget reserves to protect services from budget uncertainties
- Responsible financial policies to guide us in making budget decisions

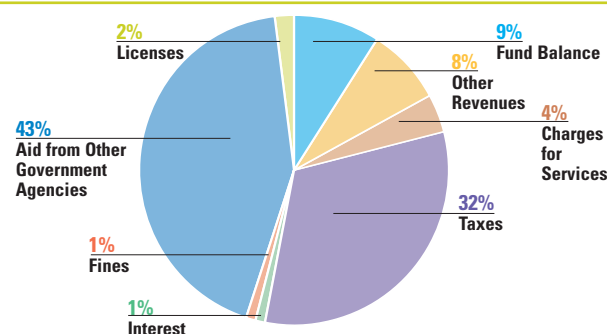
Key points about the County's budget:

- Total budget is \$389.7 million for FY 2005-06
- Over 50% of our budget is dedicated to health and human services that provide a "safety net" for many residents and public safety programs that help keep our communities safe
- We receive 43% of our funding from federal, state, and other government agencies, 32% from local taxes, and the remainder from other charges and revenues
- Property taxes are distributed throughout the county: For every \$1 in property tax revenue, we receive 18 cents while 82 cents is distributed to schools, special districts, cities, and redevelopment agencies

FY 2005-06 Total Budget: \$389.7 Million



FY 2005-06 Total Sources of County Funding: \$389.7 Million



Getting Involved with the County

Active community members are a rich source of knowledge and energy that bring immeasurable benefits to the community. There are many ways to get involved with the County:

• ***Contribute through volunteer opportunities***

Last year, more than \$7.3 million in services were delivered to visitors and residents of Marin through the Civic Center volunteers program. Volunteer job openings are posted at www.co.marin.ca.us/vt

• ***Participate on an advisory board or commission***

The County has nearly 60 advisory boards and commissions that meet regularly to discuss and provide input on specific issues and public projects and programs. Open positions are posted at www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/bs/Members/bcopenings.cfm

• ***Attend Board of Supervisors' meetings or view them online***

Regular Tuesday meetings of the Board of Supervisors are held in Room 330 of the Civic Center. Live and archived meeting videos as well as agenda materials can be found on the Board of Supervisors' website at www.co.marin.ca.us/bos

• ***Join the County of Marin workforce***

Working for the County offers career opportunities in many different fields. Our job openings are posted at www.co.marin.ca.us/jobs

• ***Contact the County of Marin***

General Information Line: **415-499-7000**
Internet Home Page: www.co.marin.ca.us



Our Commitment

Provide Excellent Services to Ensure Healthy, Safe and Sustainable Communities Throughout Marin