# **County of Sonoma**

# **Citizens' Report**

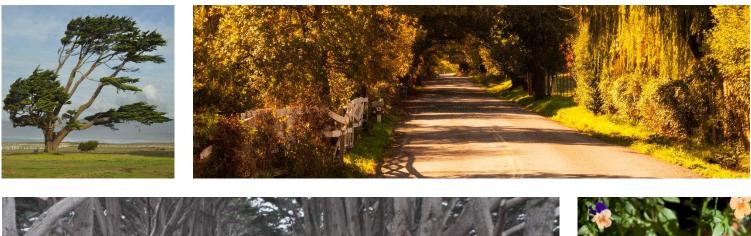
## Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017













Prepared by the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office

## **Inside the Citizens' Report**

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## What Is The Citizens' Report?

The Citizens' Report is an annual report prepared by the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's office (ACTTC) in order to provide important County financial data to taxpayers in a format that is both informative and suitable for those who are not finance professionals.

The ACTTC is dedicated to promoting transparency and fiscal accountability within local government. This Citizens' Report serves an important role in that mission by continuing to provide our taxpayers and stakeholders with access to County financial information.

#### **Covered in the Report**

The Citizens' Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, provides insight into the County of Sonoma's financial situation over the preceding twelve months, hereafter referred to as Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17.





#### **Data Sources**

The financial data in this report is drawn from the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), a more detailed and complete presentation of the County's finances. The CAFR was prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and audited by a team of independent auditors that presented the County with an unmodified (clean) opinion.

Interested parties can obtain the CAFR and Citizens' Report at <u>http://www.sonoma-county.org/auditor/</u> or in our office.



#### Sources

The following sources were used to compile the nonfinancial data in this report: California Employment Development Department, California Department of Finance, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, US Department of Commerce, Sonoma County CAFR 2016, CAFR 2017, Sonoma County Employees' Retirement Association (SCERA), and the Press Democrat.

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## A Message from the ACTTC

### **Presenting the Citizens' Report**



It is my pleasure to present to you the Sonoma County Citizens' Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. During this time, Sonoma County continued to see positive signs in economic and financial conditions. Sonoma County's unemployment rate improved, decreasing to 3.6% in June 2017. Housing prices

have increased by approximately 5.1% over the previous September, moving the median home price to \$575,000.

In November 2016, the community voted to increase the transient occupancy tax (TOT) rate in the unincorporated area of the county from 9% to 12%. The mid-year rate increase coupled with a strong tourism industry led to an overall increase in the County's TOT revenue of 24.8%. Local sales tax revenue increased by 6.8%, Prop. 172 public safety sales tax revenue increased by 7.9%, and the County's largest revenue source, secured property taxes, increased by 6.0%.

The interest rate environment has been historically low, however, short-term rates have been rising over the past year, resulting in a 46.3% increase in investment earnings to the County and other County entities.

#### Long-Term Fiscal Outlook

In October 2017, the County experienced several major wildfires that became known as the Sonoma Complex Fire (the Fire). This event was one of the worst disasters in California history. The Fire burned approximately 170 square miles, destroyed more than 6,500 structures, and damaged hundreds more. The Fire was declared a major disaster in the State of California and Federal aid was ordered to supplement State and local recovery efforts.

Prior to the Fire, the County had a cautiously optimistic financial outlook, but still faced many long-term fiscal challenges, including road and other infrastructure improvements, post-employment benefits, housing and homelessness, and healthy watersheds. The FY 2017-18

budget theme of "Preparing for Our Future" is even more relevant as the County begins the recovery process.

The impact of the Fire on the County's short, intermediate, and long-term fiscal position has not been fully determined; however, the County will likely experience funding challenges as it continues to plan for and provide essential services to the community.

The County is eligible to recover a portion of Fire related costs through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Office of Emergency Services. The County will also pursue other grants and funding opportunities to further offset disaster and recovery costs.

For FY 2017-18, secured and unsecured property tax revenues are projected to increase by 3.6% and 0.2%, respectively, based on assessed value increases and estimated reassessments of properties that were damaged or destroyed by the Fire. The above secured tax revenue estimate reflects a 1.9% decrease from the pre-Fire estimate. The rebuilding effort is expected to take several years, which will have a lingering effect on secured tax revenues.

#### **Net Position Increases**

A very important figure, "Net Position, End of Year," is displayed at the bottom of page 6 of this report. Changes in this number are indicative of the overall fiscal health of the County. Sonoma County has experienced an increase in Net Position in each of the past six fiscal years. This represents a positive trend in the County's financial health. In FY 2016-17, the County's Net Position increased by \$33.4 million as County revenues exceeded expenses.

**To the citizens of Sonoma County,** thank you for your continued support of this office. I look forward to the challenges ahead and supporting the recovery effort to build a more vibrant and economically successful community for all in Sonoma County.

Sincerely,

Erick Roeser Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector County of Sonoma

## **County of Sonoma Information**

#### Susan Gorin, District 1 Supervisor



David Rabbitt, District 2 Supervisor



Shirlee Zane, District 3 Supervisor



James Gore, District 4 Supervisor



Lynda Hopkins, District 5 Supervisor



## About the County

### Location and Population

Sonoma County is located about fifty miles north of San Francisco, in a community recognized as one of the premier wine-grape growing regions in North America. The county covers more than one million acres of comfortable urban living, sprawling vineyards, rolling hills, protected wetlands, and pristine outdoor recreation areas.

Over a third of the county's 505,120 residents live in the city of Santa Rosa, the County seat; another third reside in the County's eight smaller towns and cities; and the final third are spread throughout unincorporated county land.

Those citizens residing in unincorporated areas of the county are represented in local government by the members of the Board of Supervisors and receive many of their municipal services from the County.

### **Overview and Administration**

Sonoma County policymaking and legislative authority is vested in the County Board of Supervisors (the Board). Board members are elected for staggered four-year terms, and each member represents one of the County's five districts.

A County Administrator is appointed by the Board to assist in managing, directing, and coordinating the operations of all County departments.

Four County departments—the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, and the Clerk-Recorder-Assessor—are led by elected department heads. Other department heads are appointed by the Board or the County Administrator.

#### Staffing, Resources, and Services

The County employed 3,894 full-time equivalent employees during FY 2016-17 (including extra help) in order to provide a full range of services to its residents.

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The number of full-time equivalent employees increased by 39 since last year.

Citizens residing in unincorporated areas of the County receive most of their municipal services from the County, including law enforcement, land use and zoning, building permits, local road building and maintenance, and animal care. In addition, most of services performed by the County are provided for all residents, regardless of whether residents live in cities or unincorporated areas.

The County's principal functions include seven major areas: general government, public protection, public ways and facilities, health and sanitation, public assistance, education, and recreation and cultural services. Every County resident, directly or indirectly, benefits from these services.

#### **Demographics and Economy**

#### **Population Growth**

Sonoma County's population reached 505,120 in FY 2016-17, a population increase of 3,161 people, or 0.6%, over the previous year, continuing a multi-year trend of moderate growth.

#### **Median Family Income**

The County's estimated median family income during the year was \$83,900. This represents an increase of \$8,000, or 10.5%, over the \$75,900 reported last year, and places Sonoma ahead of state and national averages, but below that of neighboring Napa and Marin Counties.



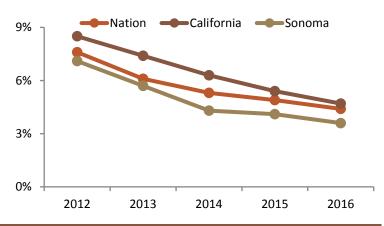
Median Family Income (Dollars in Thousands)

#### Unemployment

County unemployment continues a downward trend from recent years, dropping to 3.6% as of June 2017.

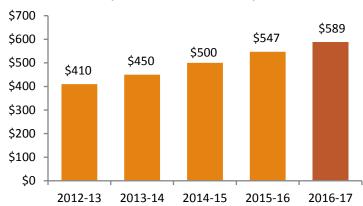
County unemployment numbers were bolstered by the continued strength of countywide agricultural and tourism industries.





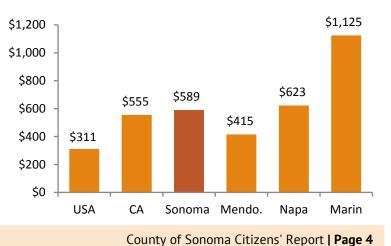
#### **Median Home Prices**

Sonoma County home prices continued to increase over June 2016, with the median home price standing at \$589,000, a 7.7% increase over the prior year.



#### Sonoma County Median Home Prices (Dollars in Thousands)

#### Median Home Price Comparisons (Dollars in Thousands)



## **Financial Summary and Trends**

#### Overview

The information in this section provides insight into how the County utilizes its resources to provide services.

#### Inside the Statement of Net Position

**Assets:** The County's listed assets represent anything of value (equipment, real estate, cash) that the County owns.

**Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources:** The outflow (consumption) or inflow (acquisition) of resources in the current period applicable to future reporting periods.

**Liabilities:** The County's liabilities represent all debts and future obligations that the County has to pay.

**Net Position:** Net position is the sum of all the County's assets and deferred outflows of resources less its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources.

## The Statement of Net Position

The Statement of Net Position below presents the County's financial position from a long-term perspective.

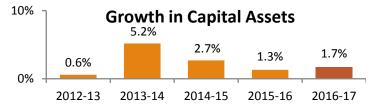
#### **Statement of Net Position**

		2016-17	2015-16	Change
ASSETS	_			
Current and other assets	\$	673,597 \$	675,798	\$ (2,201)
Capital assets	_	1,432,468	1,407,892	24,576
Total assets	_	2,106,065	2,083,690	22,375
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOUR	RCES	i:		
Total deferred outflows of				
resources	_	167,502	237,476	(69,974)
LIABILITIES				
Current and other liabilities		63,304	67,308	(4,004)
Long-term liabilities	_	1,043,459	1,100,079	(56,620)
Total liabilities	_	1,106,763	1,167,387	(60,624)
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURC	ES:			
Total deferred inflows of				
resources	_	58,826	79,227	(20,401)
NET POSITION				
Net investment in capital asset	s	1,348,366	1,308,997	39,369
Restricted		217,400	214,796	2,604
Unrestricted	_	(457,788)	(449,241)	(8,547)
Total net position	\$_	1,107,978 \$	1,074,552	\$ 33,426
(Dollar amounts in thousands)				

#### **Net Investment in Capital Assets**

Capital assets indicate the value of real property (such as buildings, industrial equipment, vehicle fleets, etc.) owned by the County. In FY 2016-17, capital assets increased by \$24.6 million to \$1,432.5 million from \$1,407.9 million.

The current year increase is primarily due to several projects: continued Sonoma County Airport runway expansion, Main Detention Behavioral Health Housing construction, new Moorland Park construction, and Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District conservation easements acquisition.



The largest component of the County's net position is its net investment in capital assets (the cost of all capital assets less accumulated depreciation and amortization and the outstanding debt in acquiring those assets). The County's capital assets themselves cannot be used to pay the County's debt, and resources needed to pay these liabilities must be provided from other sources.

In FY 2016-17, \$1.3 billion or 121.8%, of the County's net position was made up of capital assets net of related debt.

#### **Restricted Net Position**

In FY 2016-17, \$217.4 million, or 19.6%, of the County's net position was restricted. A restricted resource is subject to external regulation on its use. An example would be a grant given to the County to improve public safety. Grantors, contributors, laws and regulations, constitutional provisions, or legislation passed by federal, state, or local governments can all impose regulations on restricted assets.

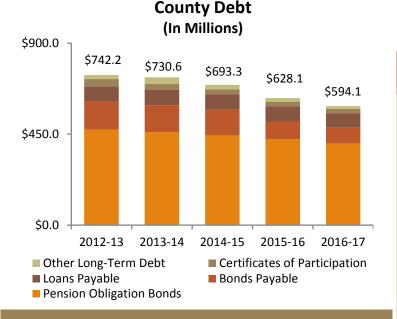
#### **Unrestricted Net Position**

The final component of net position is unrestricted net position. Unrestricted net position represents resources that can be used to meet ongoing obligations to citizens or creditors. In FY 2016-17, the County reported a \$457.8

million deficit in unrestricted net position, or 41.3% of the County's net position. This deficit is due to the continued effect of GASB 68 implementation in FY 2014-15 and the reporting of net pension liabilities.

#### Long-Term Debt

At the end of FY 2016-17, the County's long-term debt of bonds, notes, and certificates of participation totaled \$588.5 million, a decrease of \$39.6 million, or 6.3%, from the previous year's total. This reduction in total debt was primarily achieved through the repayment of \$21.1 million in Pension Obligation Bonds, and another \$12.9 million in various other long-term debt activities.



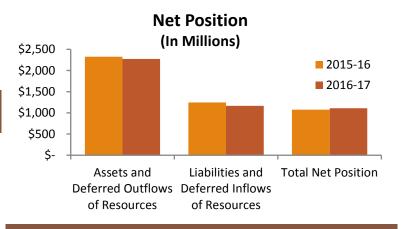
#### Liabilities vs. Long-Term Debt

The debt listed above does not match the liabilities indicated on the Statement of Net Position due to liabilities, including both the County's long-term debt and its other obligations, which have been incurred but have not yet been paid.

#### **Net Position**

Over the course of FY 2016-17, the County's governmentwide net position increased by \$33.4 million, an increase of 3.1% over the prior year.

During the year, the County's total assets and deferred outflows of resources decreased by \$47.6 million. Liabilities and deferred inflows of resources also decreased by \$81.0 million, which resulted in a \$33.4 million increase in the County's net position.



### The Statement of Activities

The following table compliments the Statement of Net Position by providing additional details about the activities that impacted the net position.

### **Statement of Activities**

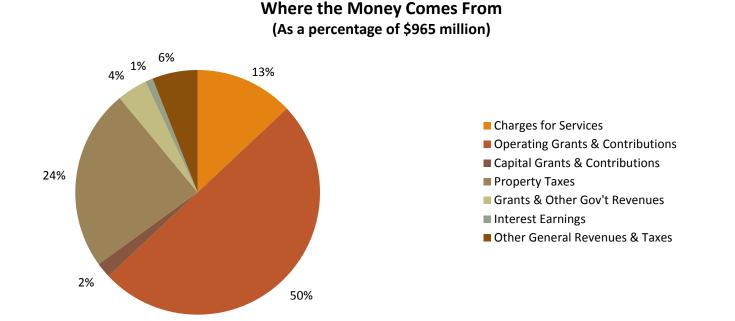
FISCAL YEAR		2016-17	2015-16
REVENUES	-	2010-17	2013-10
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	\$	128,306 \$	139,958
Operating grants and contributions	Ŷ	477,976	484,615
Capital grants and contributions		14,480	10,814
General revenues:		,	- , -
Property taxes		233,256	222,211
Documentary transfer taxes		6,047	5,541
Transient occupancy taxes		17,701	14,188
Unrestricted grants and gov't revenues		42,813	40,686
Unrestricted investment earnings		8,145	8,701
Other		36,507	17,648
Total operating revenues		965,231	944,362
EXPENSES	-		
General government		104,166	109,637
Public protection		310,466	281,574
Public ways and facilities		47,670	38,964
Health and sanitation		135,564	132,071
Public assistance		220,772	212,754
Education		1,118	1,056
Recreation and cultural services		33,174	16,004
Interest on long-term debt		29,136	35,344
Refuse		9,935	5,494
Airport		7,596	5,330
Energy Independence Program		2,458	2,581
Transit		18,816	17,923
Fair		7,199	10,661
Marinas		2,497	2,213
Other	-	1,238	1,035
Total operating expenses	-	931,805	872,641
Change in net position	\$	33,426 \$	71,721
NET POSITION			
Net position, beginning of year	\$	1,074,552 \$	1,002,831
Change in net position	_	33,426	71,721
Net position, end of year	\$	1,107,978 \$	1,074,552
(Dollar amounts in thousands)			

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

## **County Revenues and Expenses**

## **Total Revenues**

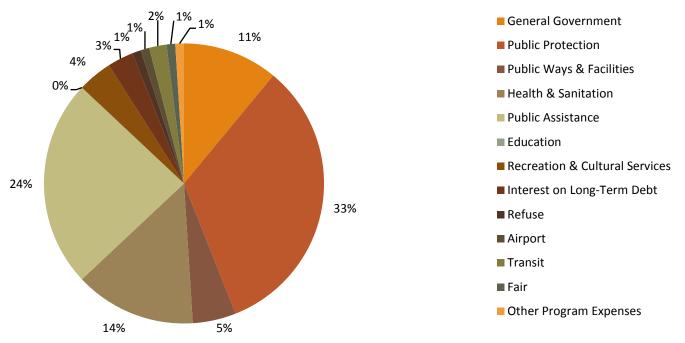
The County's total revenues for FY 2016-17 were \$965 million, an increase of \$21 million from the previous year. These revenues are derived from two broad sources: program revenues, which include items such as grants and charges for services, and general revenues, which include items such as taxes and investment returns.



Revenue Source	Amount	Description
Charges for Services	\$128 million	Charges for Services are revenues collected through charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided. Charges for Services revenues decreased by \$12 million, or 8% less compared to the previous year.
Operating Grants & Contributions	\$478 million	Operating Grants & Contributions decreased by \$7 million, or 1.4%, less than prior year. These funds are received from non-County parties, such as State or Federal governments, and are generally restricted to use by specific programs (such as public protection).
Capital Grants & Contributions	\$15 million	Capital Grants & Contributions increased by \$4 million, or 33.9% more than the prior year. These funds are typically awarded by non-County governments for the purchase or creation of capital assets.
Property Taxes	\$233 million	Property Taxes are collected based on the assessed value of real property (i.e., buildings and improvements, land), business personal property (i.e., heavy equipment), and other property (i.e., boats) located within the County. These revenues increased by \$11 million, or 5%, from the previous fiscal year. The increase was largely attributable to the real estate market increases of home values.
Grants & Other Governmental Revenues	\$43 million	Grants & Other Governmental Revenues are generally not restricted to specific programs. These revenues increased by \$2 million, or 5.2%, over the prior fiscal year.
Interest Earnings	\$8 million	Unrestricted investment earnings decreased by \$1 million, or 6.4%, due to lower average daily cash balances on deposit with the Treasury.
Other General Revenues & Taxes	\$60 million	Other General Revenues & Taxes increased by \$24.0 million, or 61.2% more than the prior year.

## **Total Expenses**

The County's total expenses for FY 2016-17 were \$932 million, an increase of \$60 million, or 6.8%, over the prior fiscal year. Expenses are classified by the function or service that they fund.



Where Your Money Goes
(As a percentage of \$932 million)

Expense	Cost	Purpose
General Government	\$104 million	County operating costs, such as the Board of Supervisors, County Administrator, County Counsel, Human Resources, and the Registrar of Voters are considered general governmental expenses.
Public Protection	\$310 million	Community protection services consist of the Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney, Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, Public Defender, and Emergency Services.
Public Ways & Facilities	\$48 million	Consists of Transportation and Public Works and includes repairs and maintenance of public roads.
Health and Sanitation	\$136 million	Includes Public Health, Environmental Health, Mental Health, and Alcohol and other Drug Services.
Public Assistance	\$221 million	Consists of Human Service programs such as Economic Assistance, Employment and Training, Adult and Aging, as well as Child Support Services and In-Home Support Services.
Education	\$1 million	Includes the University of California Cooperative Extension.
Recreation and Cultural Services	\$33 million	Represents operations and maintenance of the County's regional and community parks, campgrounds, swimming facilities, and trails.
Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$29 million	Includes the indirect interest expense paid on general long-term debt incurred by the governmental functions.
Refuse	\$10 million	Represents operations, expansion, and closing of landfills and transfer stations.
Airport	\$8 million	Represents operations, maintenance, and expansion of the Airport.
Transit	\$19 million	Represents operations and maintenance of the County's transit system.
Fair	\$7 million	Represents costs and maintenance for the County's Fair operations.
Other Program Expenses	\$6 million	Includes operations and maintenance for the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program, Marinas, and other enterprise districts.

## **Component Units**

## **Financial Highlights**

#### **Discrete Component Units**

Included in operations are several component units that provide services within the County. These legally separate discrete component units include the Community Development Commission (CDC) and the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) as major discrete component units and Sonoma Valley, Russian River, South Park, and Occidental County Sanitation Districts as nonmajor discrete component units.

#### **Community Development Commission**

The CDC's net position increased by \$7.0 million, or 7.9%, in FY 2016-17, primarily due to increases in the net position of several programs.

The County Fund for Housing Program (CFH) receives revenues from Sonoma County's Permit and Resource Management Department and provides short and long term loans to developers which provide affordable rental and ownership housing for low-income households. The HOME Program receives revenue through HUD. The net position of CFH increased \$4.5 million, HOME increased \$1.6 million, several other Programs administered by CDC increased \$0.9 million.

#### Sonoma County Water Agency

The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Water Agency exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows by \$371.4 million for FY 2016-17. Of this amount, \$47.3 million may be used to meet the Water Agency's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

Revenues increased by \$6.5 million primarily due to an increase in business activities of \$6.9 million. Key increases over the prior year included an additional \$2.1 million in water sales revenue, \$1.5 million in operating grants/contributions and \$2.4 million in additional capital grants/contributions. These gains were partially offset by \$0.9 million decreases in other areas.

Expenses increased by \$6.3 million resulting from an increase of \$5.0 million in salary and benefit expense, and

an increase of \$2.2 million for habitat restoration projects in Dry Creek, offset by \$0.9 million decreases in other areas.

The Water Agency's net position decreased by \$0.1 million in FY 2016-17.

#### **Statement of Net Position**

ASSETS	-	CDC		Water Agency	· .	Non-Major
Current and other assets	\$	90,039	\$	188,456	\$	36,454
Capital assets		9,419		351,394		119,390
Total assets		99,458		539,850		155,844
Total deferred outflows of resources LIABILITIES	-	1,440		10,830	, ,	255
Current and other liabilities		1,127		14,610		3,159
Long-term liabilities	_	4,217		163,389		29,217
Total Liabilities		5,344		177,999		32,376
Total deferred inflows of resources <b>NET POSITION</b>	-	178	I	1,294	, i	
Net capital assets		8,653		220,547		91,632
Restricted		466		103,498		5,419
Unrestricted		86,257		47,342		26,672
Total Net Position	\$	95,376	\$	371,387	\$	123,723

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

### **Statement of Activities**

	_	CDC *		Water Agency	 Non-Major
Revenues:					
Program Revenues:					
Charges for services	\$	762	\$	55,421	\$ 23,413
Operating Grants/IContributions		45,892		5 <i>,</i> 954	1,395
Capital Grants/@ontributions		-		4,004	3,589
General Revenues:					
Property taxes		-		25,278	93
Investment earnings		1,754		777	418
Total revenue		48,408		91,434	28,908
Expenses		41,435		91,581	23,986
Change in net position		6,973		(147)	4,922
Net position, beginning of year, as restated		88,403	_	371,534	118,801
Net position, end of Year	\$	95,376	\$	371,387	\$ 123,723

\* CDC Net position beginning of year restated (Dollar amounts in thousands)

## **Retirement and Pensions**

## About SCERA

#### **Background and Additional Information**

Employees of the County of Sonoma are enrolled in the Sonoma County Employees' Retirement Association (SCERA), a multi-employer pension trust fund paid for through employee and employer contributions.

SCERA was established January 1, 1946, and is an independent, defined-benefit retirement plan (Plan) governed by a nine member Board of Retirement. SCERA's most recent fiscal year covers the period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

A financial report suitable for citizens who are not finance professionals is available on the SCERA website at <u>www.scretire.org</u>.

#### Membership

SCERA's membership as of December 31, 2016, consists of 10,036 members, including 4,812 retirees and beneficiaries, 4,112 active employees, and 1,112 terminated vested members.

#### **Financial Summary**

SCERA's fiduciary net position as of December 31, 2016, was \$2.4 billion. This amount reflects an increase of 6% in fiduciary net position during 2016, primarily as a result of net investment gains of \$189.9 million. Employer contributions decreased by 7% and employee contributions increased by 5% in 2016.

SCERA benefits are funded by three primary mechanisms, employer contributions, employee contributions, and investment returns.

Revenues for the year were \$294.4 million. This was comprised of \$63.6 million of employer contributions, \$40.8 million of member contributions, and an investment gain of \$190.0 million.

Expenses for the year were \$161.7 million, an increase of \$8.8 million, or 6%, over the prior year. The majority of this increase was due to \$8.1 million, or 5%, in pension

benefit payments and refunds. Administrative and other expenses increased \$0.7 million over prior year.

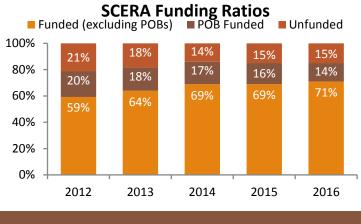
#### **Pension Obligation Bonds**

A Pension Obligation Bond (POB) is a bond issuance made by an organization for the purpose of using borrowed funds to generate a higher rate of return than the cost of the debt.

As of June 30, 2017, the County held three POB's, issued in 2003 and 2010, with an outstanding combined balance of \$404.2 million.

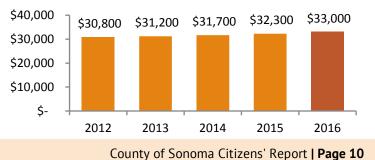
#### **Plan Funding**

The contribution requirements of Plan members and the County are determined by an independent actuary, approved by the SCERA Board of Retirement, and adopted by the County Board of Supervisors. The actuarial valuation on December 31, 2016, determined the Plan was 85.5% funded. A 100% funding ratio would indicate that there are sufficient funds to pay all current and future obligations.



#### **Pension Benefits**

The average SCERA annual pension benefit received in 2016 was \$33,000, \$700 more than the prior year.



# Highlights

## Your Tax Dollars at Work

This section highlights some of the ways that your tax dollars help make Sonoma County a wonderful place to live.

The County completed many major initiatives in FY 2016-17 while maintaining core services during the year. The following highlights only represent a partial list of the many accomplishments of the Sonoma County organization in FY 2016-17:

- The County and City of Santa Rosa negotiated and entered into a pre-annexation agreement for the Southwest Santa Rosa annexation addressing the sharing of costs associated with services and projects within the annexed areas.
- The Board of Supervisors adopted a local regulatory framework for medical cannabis businesses, including the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance, Cannabis Health Ordinance, and Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance, which was passed by voters in March 2017.
- The Board of Supervisors created a standing Independent Citizen's Pension Committee to further the County's efforts to ensure a fair, equitable, and sustainable County pension system by increasing community engagement, adding insight and value to the process, and building an improved understanding for all parties.
- The County and the Water Agency joined with 9 other local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Petaluma Valley, Santa Rosa Plain, and Sonoma Valley in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- The Board approved an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Chanate Community Development Partners, and staff is negotiating a Disposition and Development Agreement for the Chanate Campus.
- The County received several new grants in partnership with non-profit agencies, non-governmental, and tribal partners for the Family Justice Center Sonoma County and California Office of Emergency Services Outreach and Services in support of victims of crime.
- Human Services implemented a new senior homeless prevention program called Linkages to Senior Housing.

The program will serve 100 older adults at risk of homelessness.

#### **Reporting Awards**

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to the County of Sonoma for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award of Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award of Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Award.



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Presented to

County of Sonoma California

For its Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2016

Jeffrey L. Ener

Executive Director/CEO