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Orange County Supervisors Approve \$5.5 Billion Budget for 2009-10

(Santa Ana, CA) — The Orange County Board of Supervisors today approved a \$5.5 billion dollar budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10, a decrease of 18% when compared to the 2008-09 budget.

The County's base budget includes a 3% reduction in Net County Cost with deeper reductions in Capital Projects and Information Technology budgets. Combined with reductions implemented during Fiscal Year 2008-09, the County has reduced the General Fund budget by over \$377 million. "As property tax and sales tax revenues declined in recent months, the Board took proactive steps to reduce county spending while maintaining essential public services," said Patricia C. Bates, Board Chair and Fifth District Supervisor. "Our continuing goal is to minimize the impact of needed budget reductions on the residents of Orange County and on County staff while demonstrating fiscal responsibility."

County officials credited an additional \$35 million dollars in property tax revenue gained through legislation authored by State Senator Lou Correa with easing the impact of the economic downturn on County programs and services. "While Orange County still receives a lower property tax allocation than other comparable counties in California, we sincerely appreciate Senator Correa's efforts to improve our property tax equity position," stated Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer. "The additional funding gained through Senate Bill 8 will help to preserve public safety programs and support community health services in the next year."

The new County budget takes effect July 1, 2009.

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