

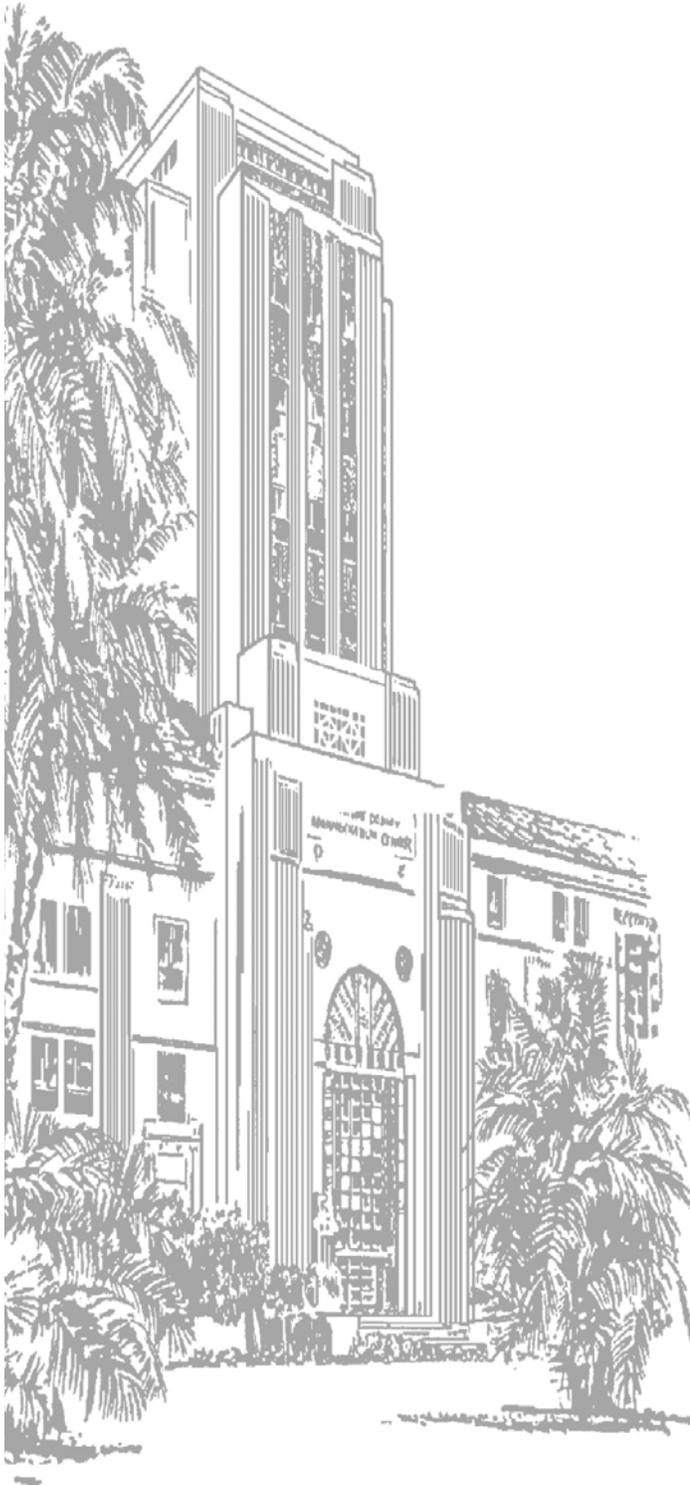
# Popular Annual Financial Report

Fiscal year ended June 30, 2008



County of San Diego ❖  
California

# About this report...



Donald F. Steuer



Tracy M. Sandoval

## Citizens of San Diego County:

Our Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 was prepared by the Auditor and Controller's office to provide readers of interest an easy to understand summary of our financial activities. The data from this report was taken from our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. Both reports are available online at <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/auditor/cafr.html>.

The information included in this report contains an overview of the County's economy and outlook, an analysis of the County's financial position and key financial information concerning the County's investments, capital assets and debt. It also includes a summary of our General Management System, around which we have built a culture of operational excellence and highlights strategic initiative achievements. It also provides summaries of how the County's monies were received and spent and includes significant statistical and demographic data.

It is important to note that the financial data in this report is unaudited, includes information exclusively on primary government funds and is presented on a non-GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) basis. This means that it excludes discrete component unit and fiduciary fund information, contains condensed financial information and does not provide all of the necessary financial statements and note disclosures required by GAAP.

We hope you enjoy reading this report and invite you to access our audited CAFR online for more detailed information on your County finances. We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions regarding the information in this report. You can contact our office at (619) 531-5413.

Chief Financial Officer

Auditor & Controller

“The noblest motive is the public good”

## Board of Supervisors



**Greg Cox**  
District 1  
Chair



**Dianne Jacob**  
District 2  
Vice Chair



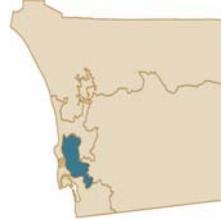
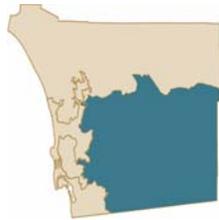
**Pam Slater-Price**  
District 3



**Ron Roberts**  
District 4



**Bill Horn**  
District 5



**County Mission:** “To provide the residents of San Diego County with superior County services in terms of quality, timeliness, and value in order to improve the regional quality of life. “

The County was incorporated on February 18, 1850, and functions under a charter adopted in July 1933. A five-member Board of Supervisors elected to four-year terms in district nonpartisan elections governs the County. The Board of Supervisors appoints the Chief Administrative Officer and the County Counsel. The Chief Administrative Officer appoints the Chief Financial Officer and the Auditor and Controller. Elected officials include the Assessor/

Recorder/County Clerk, District Attorney, Sheriff and Treasurer-Tax Collector.

It is the second largest County by population in California behind Los Angeles County. There are 18 incorporated cities in the County; of them, the City of San Diego is the largest and Del Mar is the smallest. Tijuana, Mexico is a substantial urban neighbor with a shared border, workforce, and economy.



**County Vision:** “A County government that has earned the respect and support of its residents.”

## County Economy and Outlook

Much of San Diego's economic strength has been derived from employment gains, commercial and industrial development, and steady population growth. Since the early 1990's San Diego County has seen an increasing diversification of economic activity into research and development and product manufacturing in the telecommunications, biotechnology, military products, electronics and information technology areas. This diversification is expected to help maintain overall stability despite the increase in unemployment rates.

In mid-September, 2008, after several months of economic uncertainty, the financial markets in the U.S. began experiencing considerable turmoil to which the federal government has responded with a plan to restore liquidity and unlock the credit markets that was set in motion on October 3, 2008. The liquidity and credit crisis has spread to the international market as well. County of San Diego management continues to monitor and assess the national and international economic and financial events. The implications of these events are being examined to evaluate the impact these conditions have on the local economy, the cost of and demand for County services, and the resources available to provide them.

County revenues that are affected by the state of the local economies include property taxes, sales taxes, and charges for services. Key factors impacting these revenues include real estate activity and consumer spending which are in turn greatly influenced by interest rates and the general economy. Although short and long-term interest rates are low by historical standards and are expected to moderate further, there is continued uncertainty about the general direction that the national, state and local economies are headed in 2009 given the distress in the financial markets.

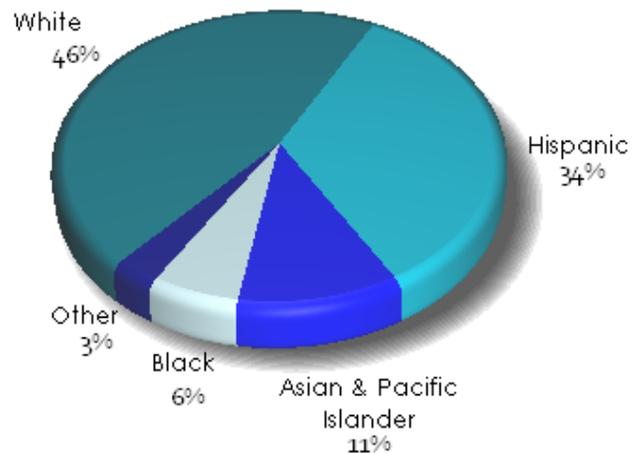
*Sources: State of California Department of Finance, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) - San Diego's Regional Planning Agency, the State of California Employment Development Department, and the California Association of Realtors.*

### STATISTICS

<b>Population</b>	<b>3,146,274</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Personal Income per Capita</b>	<b>\$45,728</b>
<b>School Enrollment</b>	<b>494,016</b>
<b>Adopted Annual Budget</b>	<b>\$4.73 billion</b>

*See Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, Statistical Table 13 and Letter of Transmittal.*

### DIVERSITY Projections for 2010



*See Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, Letter of Transmittal.*

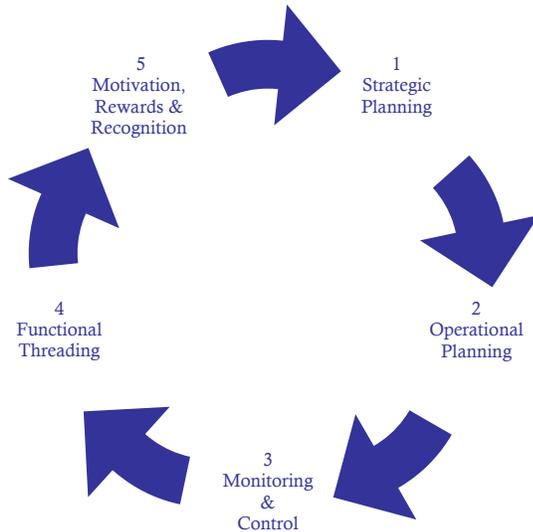
### TOP 10 PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Employees</b>
<b>State of California</b>	<b>41,400</b>
<b>Federal Government</b>	<b>40,800</b>
<b>University of California, San Diego</b>	<b>30,078</b>
<b>County of San Diego</b>	<b>17,189</b>
<b>San Diego Unified School District</b>	<b>15,800</b>
<b>Sharp HealthCare</b>	<b>14,390</b>
<b>Scripps Health</b>	<b>11,690</b>
<b>City of San Diego</b>	<b>11,054</b>
<b>Qualcomm, Inc.</b>	<b>9,444</b>
<b>Kaiser Permanente</b>	<b>7,608</b>

*See Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, Statistical Table 14.*

# The General Management System

The County of San Diego works to provide the best possible service to residents while serving as responsible stewards of public dollars. We have built a culture of operational excellence through the adoption of the General Management System (GMS). The GMS is the County's instruction manual for running an effective and accountable government. The elements of the GMS encompass an annual cycle that engages all employees on a daily basis.



## The County's core values are expressed in these Guiding Principles:

- Provide for the safety and well-being of those San Diego communities, families, individuals, and other organizations we serve.
- Preserve and enhance the environment in San Diego County.
- Ensure the County's fiscal stability through periods of economic fluctuations and changing priorities and service demands.
- Promote a culture that values our employees, partners, and customers, and institutionalizes continuous improvement and innovation.

GMS ELEMENT	QUESTION ASKED	ELEMENT DESCRIPTION
Strategic Planning	Where do we want to go?	Our Strategic Plan looks ahead five years to anticipate significant needs, challenges, and risks that are likely to develop. Long-range planning requires assessing both where we are and where we want to be.
Operational Planning	How do we get there from here?	Operational Planning allocates resources to specific programs and services that support our long-term goals over the next two fiscal years. This includes adoption of an annual budget and approval in principle of a second year spending plan.
Monitoring and Control	How is our performance?	Monitoring and Control shows us whether we are on track to achieve our goals. We evaluate progress at regular intervals and make necessary adjustments. Progress is evaluated monthly, quarterly, and annually.
Functional Threading	Are we working together?	Although the County is divided into distinct groups, departments and divisions for operational purposes, the County has many critical functions and goals that cross these organizational lines. Functional threading ensures coordination throughout the organization to pursue shared goals, solve problems, and exchange information.
Motivation, Rewards, and Recognition	Are we encouraging excellence?	County employees must embrace the GMS and understand how the process applies to their individual job. This requires setting clear expectations, providing incentives, evaluating performance, and rewarding those who meet or exceed expectations. Motivation, Rewards and Recognition encourages individual and group excellence.

Source: County of San Diego, General Management System Manual.

## KEY TERMS

Here are some definitions that will take the mystery out of the accounting terms you will find throughout the financial sections of this report.

- Government-wide:** This PAFR presents the balance sheet (statement of net assets) which includes assets, liabilities and net assets. It also presents the income statement (statement of changes in net assets) which includes revenue and expense information.
- Governmental Funds:** The County maintains 27 governmental funds that are used to account for tax, program and other miscellaneous revenues.
- Business-type Funds:** The County maintains 12 business-type funds that are used to account for activities for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services.
- Primary Government:** Includes all of the governmental and business-type activities belonging to the County but excludes the discrete component unit and fiduciary funds.
- Assets:** What is owned by the County.
- Liabilities:** What the County owes.
- Net Assets:** The difference between the County's assets and liabilities. It is the net worth of the County.
- Current and other assets:** Includes such items as pooled cash and investments, receivables, internal balances, inventories, deposits with others, prepaid items and deferred charges.
- Capital assets:** Includes such items as County land, construction in progress, equipment, infrastructure and buildings and improvements net of depreciation.
- Long-term liabilities:** Includes such items as bonds, loans, compensated absences, and other County obligations.
- Other Liabilities:** Includes such items as payables, payroll, accrued interest and unearned revenue.
- Invested in capital assets, net of related debt:** Represents amounts invested in capital assets less accumulated depreciation and any outstanding debt used to acquire these assets.
- Restricted:** What is not available for use by the County because it is set aside for a particular use.
- Unrestricted:** One-time funds available for the County to use for operations.

## Government-Wide Statement of Net Assets

June 30, 2008 and 2007 (In Thousands)	Total Primary Government	
	2008	2007
<b>Assets</b>		
Current and other assets	2,778,634	2,975,996
Capital assets	2,950,045	2,870,606
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>5,728,679</b>	<b>5,846,602</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Long term liabilities	2,226,839	2,388,081
Other liabilities	282,251	511,594
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,509,090</b>	<b>2,899,675</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,594,379	2,521,599
Restricted	181,198	162,318
Unrestricted	444,012	263,010
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>3,219,589</b>	<b>2,946,927</b>

Net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the County, assets exceeded liabilities by \$3.22 billion (net assets) at the close of fiscal year 2008, an increase (change in net assets) of \$273 million or 9% over fiscal year 2007.

The largest portion of the County's net assets (81%) reflects its investment of \$2.59 billion in capital assets, net of related debt (which includes: land, infrastructure, buildings, and equipment; less any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets). The County uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the County's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be liquidated for these liabilities.

An additional portion of the County's net assets, i.e. restricted net assets equaled \$181 million and represent resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. External restrictions include those imposed by grantors, contributors, laws and/or regulations of other governments. The remaining portion of the County's net assets includes \$444 million in unrestricted net assets.

## Government-Wide Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the Years Ended June 30, 2008 and 2007 (In Thousands)	Total Primary Government 2008	2007
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	527,093	515,419
Operating grants and contributions	2,160,105	2,121,842
Capital grants and contributions	24,474	23,146
General revenues:		
Property taxes	637,491	559,726
Other taxes	20,374	26,760
Property taxes in lieu of vehicle license fees	303,348	277,930
Sales and use taxes	24,872	26,534
Investment Income	91,667	93,163
Other	80,909	98,252
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>3,870,333</b>	<b>3,742,772</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Governmental Activities:		
General government	298,607	295,097
Public protection	1,180,114	1,079,320
Public ways and facilities	144,452	133,148
Health and sanitation	638,869	580,384
Public assistance	1,114,453	1,043,454
Education	36,355	33,223
Recreation and cultural	33,941	28,469
Interest expense	119,138	146,997
Business-type Activities:		
Airport	8,848	8,209
Wastewater Management	5,320	4,422
Sanitation Districts	17,574	15,620
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>3,597,671</b>	<b>3,368,343</b>
Change in net assets	272,662	374,429
Net assets at beginning of year	2,946,927	2,572,498
Net assets at end of year	3,219,589	2,946,927

Program revenues are those that derive directly from the program itself or from other parties not the taxpayers. As a whole they reduce the net cost to be financed from the Government's general revenue. General revenues are those not required to be reported as program revenues. All expenses are reported under a specific function. A function is a group of related activities aimed at accomplishing a major service or regulatory program for which a government is responsible.

### Revenues:

**Charges for services** - Fees charged for licenses, permits and franchises, fines forfeitures, penalties and other fees.

**Operating grants and contributions** - Aid from local, state and federal agencies.

**Capital grants and contributions** - Federal and state grants for capital activities and donations made from external entities e.g. developers.

**Property taxes** - County property taxes levied.

**Other taxes** - Other taxes levied such as transit occupancy tax and real property transfer tax.

**Property taxes in lieu of vehicle license fees** - Property taxes collected in lieu of vehicle license fees.

**Sales and use taxes** - A consumption tax charged at the point of purchase for certain goods and services.

**Investment income** - Earnings on County investments.

**Other** - Includes various miscellaneous revenue types that are not reported in aforementioned categories.

### Expenses:

**General government** - Services provided by support departments such as the Assessor/Recorder/County clerk, Auditor & Controller, Treasurer/Tax Collector, County Counsel, Board of Supervisors and the County Technology Office.

**Public protection** - Services provided by departments such as Agriculture Weights and Measures, District Attorney, Department of Animal Services, Office of Emergency Services, fire protection Permanent Road Divisions, Medical Examiner, Probation, and Sheriff.

**Public ways and facilities** - Services provided by departments such as roads Permanent Road Divisions, Public Works, Aviation and the San Diego Lighting Maintenance District.

**Health & sanitation** - Services provided by departments such as Air Pollution Control, ambulance and paramedic County Service Areas, Environmental Health, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Works, Inactive Waste Site Management and various Sanitation Districts.

**Public assistance** - Services provided by departments such as Health and Human Services, Housing Authority, Probation and In House Support Services Public Authority.

**Education** - Services provided by departments such as the County Library, and Farm & Home Advisor.

**Recreation and cultural** - Services provided by departments such as park County Service Areas, Local Park Planning Areas and Parks and Recreation.

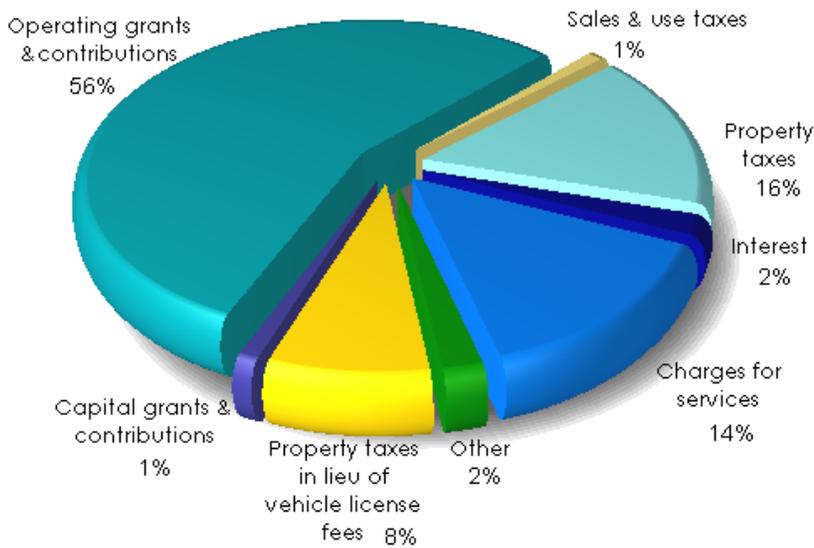
**Interest expense** - Expenses associated with County debt.

**Airport** - Expenses related to the maintenance, operations and development of County airports. A major objective of the airport program is to purchase and develop airport property in order to create tax revenues and create jobs in the private sector.

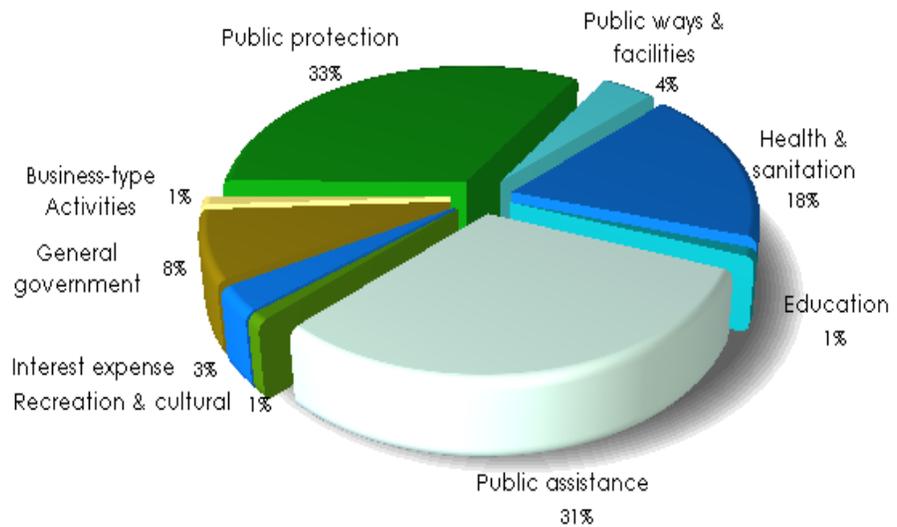
**Wastewater Management** - Expenses related to the operations and support provide to sanitation districts governed by the Board of Supervisors.

**Sanitation Districts** - Expenses related to the operations of the 8 sanitation districts governed under the Board of Supervisors.

## Where the money comes from....



## Where the money goes...



### GMS Strategic Initiative: Kids

Improve opportunities for children  
**2008 Achievements of Note**

#### Health and Human Services Agency...

- Made 127 referrals of foster youth to San Pasqual Academy, a residential education campus for foster youth which is currently operating at full capacity.
- Added 122 new housing sites for youth, and signed an agreement with California State University San Marcos that gives foster youth guaranteed admission.

#### Parks and Recreation...

- Provided over 100 health-related events, classes, and activities throughout the San Diego region for over 6,000 youth.
- Facilitated 75 community volunteer projects for 600 youth participants.

#### Public Works...

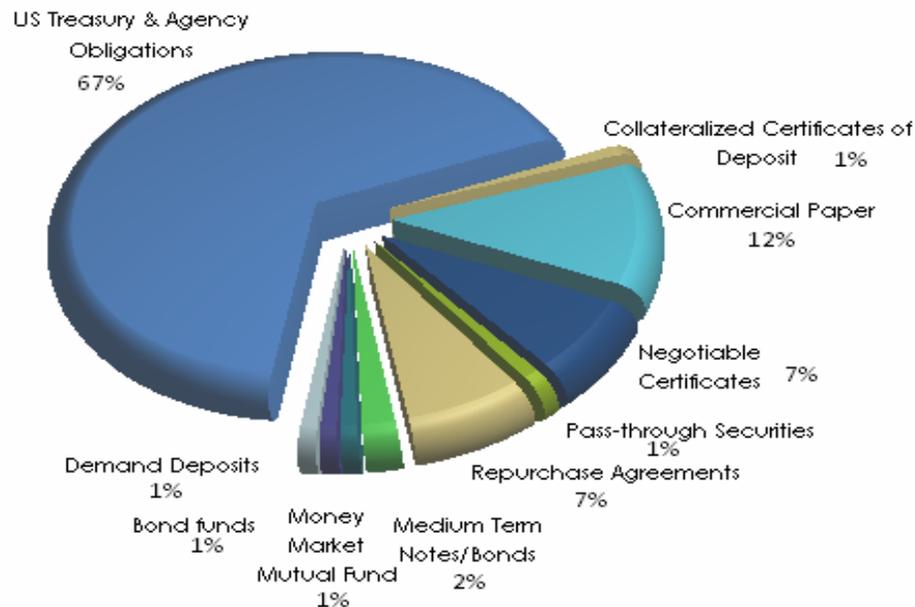
- Repainted and re-marked crosswalks and roadway legends adjacent to all 116 public school locations throughout the unincorporated county.

#### County Library...

- Increased the Youth Summer Reading enrollment by 72% in 2008 with a total of 23,097 participants.

*Note: Other County Department accomplishments are listed in the County's 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Letter of Transmittal and County Adopted Operational Plan Fiscal Years 2008-2009 & 2009-2010.*

## County Pooled Investments



The County investment practices and policies are based upon state law and prudent money management. The Pooled Investment Policy Objectives are:

- To Safeguard the principal of the funds under the Treasurer's control.
- To meet the liquidity needs of the participants.
- To achieve an investment return on the funds under control of the Treasurer within the parameters of prudent risk management.

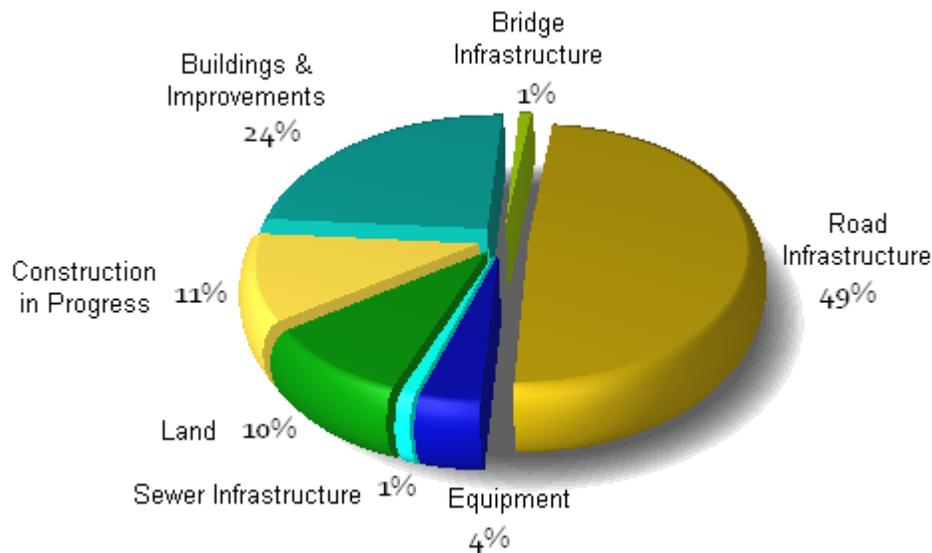
Investment Pool	Rating	Min. Fund %	Max. Fund %
AAA		67	100
AA		0	33
A		0	13

Investment	Fair Value	% of Total Pooled Cash & Investment
US Treasury & Agency Obligations	3,392,309	67%
Commercial Paper	619,295	12%
Negotiable Certificates	375,035	7%
Repurchase Agreements	360,677	7%
Medium Term Notes/Bonds	98,270	2%
Pass-through Securities	39,523	1%
Collateralized Certificates of Deposit	65,000	1%
Money Market Mutual Fund	43,270	1%
Bond Funds	34,895	1%
Demand Deposits	35,000	1%
<b>Total Pooled Investments</b>	<b>5,063,274</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Data presented in these charts exclude investments with fiscal agents.

## Capital Assets

The following chart depicts the outstanding capital assets, net of depreciation, as of June 30, 2008 for both Business-type and Governmental funds.



At June 30, 2008, the County's Capital Assets, net of depreciation totaled \$2.95 billion. Capital assets are used to provide services to County residents. Some of the significant capital asset activity in fiscal year 2008 was as follows:

- \$50.1 million towards the construction of the Edgemoor Skilled Nursing Facility in Santee.
- \$41.6 million towards the construction and improvement of County maintained roads, bridges and other related infrastructure.
- \$16.6 million in infrastructure was donated by developers.
- \$12.4 million towards the construction of the Medical Examiner Building in Kearny Mesa.
- \$10.6 million for the acquisition of real property for the multi species conservation program.

### GMS Strategic Initiative: Safe & Livable Communities

Promote safe and livable communities

#### 2008 Achievements of Note

##### District Attorney...

- Developed interagency procedures to promote proactive investigation of fraud & nursing home crimes against the elderly.
- Developed a curriculum to increase law enforcement expertise in the area of human trafficking investigation and prosecution.

##### Sheriff...

- Implemented the Division of Inspectional Services to review critical incidents, all events involving serious injury, use of force, and performance audits.

##### Probation Department...

- Increased public safety and offender accountability through intensive supervision, monitoring compliance with court ordered conditions of probation, and use of community and custodial interventions.

##### County Library...

- Opened new branches in Encinitas and La Mesa and completed the first full year of operation of the 4-S Ranch branch.

##### Housing and Community Development...

- Conducted 14,400 inspections, ensuring all assisted housing meets federal housing quality standards.

*Note: Other County Department accomplishments are listed in the County 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Letter of Transmittal and County Adopted Operational Plan Fiscal Years 2008-2009 & 2009-2010.*

## Long-Term Liabilities (Debt)

**Certificates of Participation (COPs)** provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities and equipment. The County's COPs are backed by a lease structure where the County leases certain properties to another entity, a lessor, which in turn leases the properties back to the County. At the County, this lessor is the San Diego Capital Asset Leasing Corporation (SANCAL).

**Taxable Pension Obligation Bonds (POBs)** are issued by the County to reduce its pension unfunded actuarial liability and to achieve interest rate savings by issuing bonds at interest rates which are less than the assumed rate of return earned on proceeds placed in the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association's pension plan. They are also issued to refund previously issued Pension

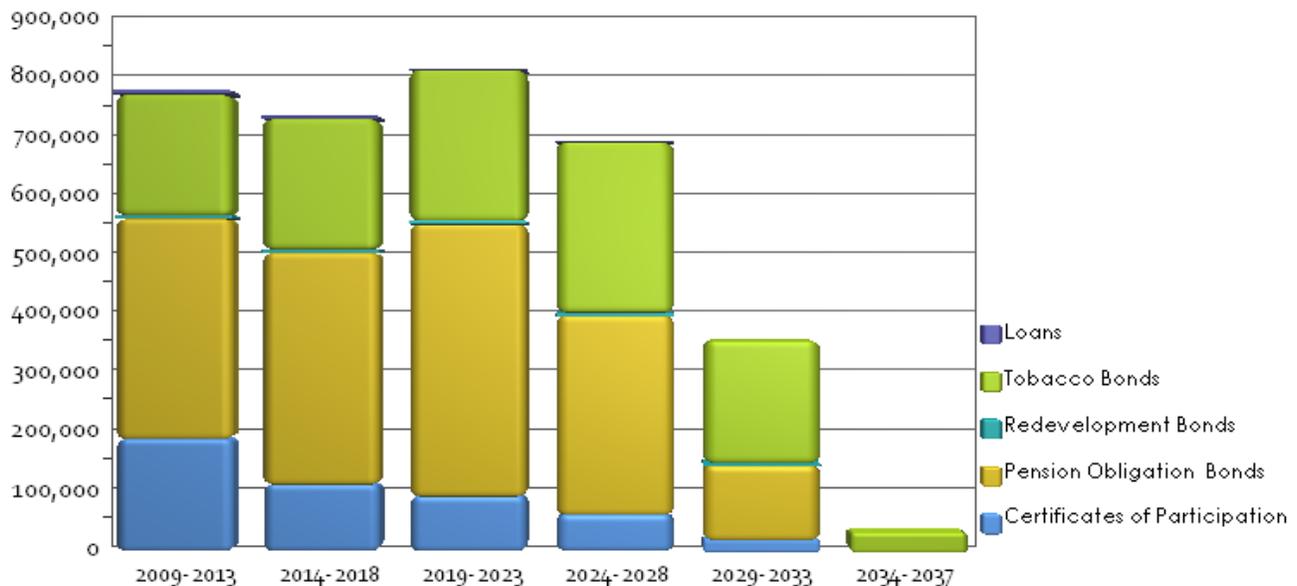
Obligation debt.

**Tobacco Settlement Asset-Backed Bonds (TSAB)** are issued by the Tobacco Securitization Joint Powers Authority of Southern California to securitize future revenue streams available to the County pursuant to various agreements.

**County Redevelopment Revenue Refunding Bonds (CRA)** were issued by the County Redevelopment Agency to fund project activities in Gillespie Field Airport.

**Loans** provided funds for road improvements and maintenance, the construction of low income housing, for various projects in County facilities to increase energy efficiency; and for the construction of a sewer line and installation of a control tower, at the Ramona Airport.

County Debt Service Requirements to Maturity

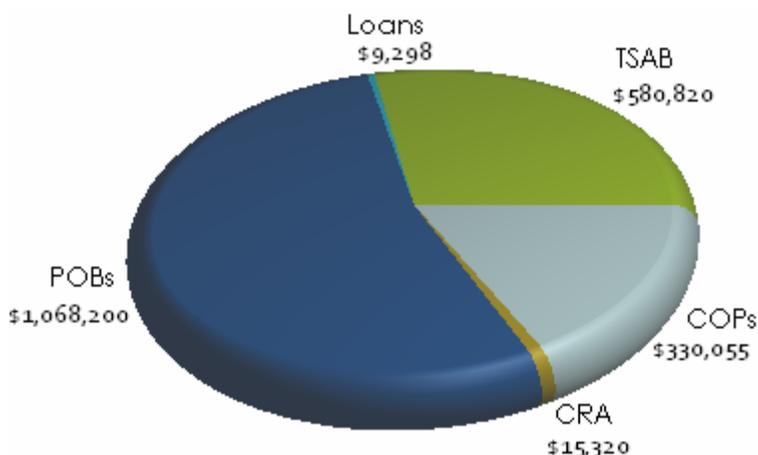


At June 30, 2008 the County's total long term liabilities totaled \$2.004 billion in certificates of participation, bonds and loans. Other long-term liabilities that include capital leases, claims & judgments, landfill closure and postclosure, compensated absences, arbitrage and unamortized premiums, discounts and deferred amounts totaled \$223 million for a total of \$2.227 billion in long-term liabilities.

(Note: the charts in this section exclude other long-term liabilities).

## ...More on Debt

**County Principal Debt Outstanding  
as of June 30, 2008  
(in Thousands)**



### CREDIT RATINGS

	Moody's	S&P	Fitch IBCA
<b>Issuer Rating</b>	<b>Aa2</b>	<b>AA+</b>	<b>AA+</b>
<b>Certificates of Participation</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>AA</b>
<b>Taxable Pension Obligation Bonds</b>	<b>Aa3</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>AA</b>

As of 6/30/08.

See Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, Management's Discussion and Analysis.

### GMS Strategic Initiative: The Environment

Manage resources to ensure environmental preservation, quality of life, and economic development

#### 2008 Achievements of Note

##### Office of Emergency Services...

- Led and coordinated the regional response for the devastating wildfires in October 2007. The County's Operational Area Emergency Operations Center was in full operation for 24 hours a day for three weeks with over 85 County, city, State, and federal agencies working to ensure regional coordination.

##### Department of Public Works...

- In response to the October 2007 Firestorm, provided an emergency base at Gillespie Airport for Cal Fire Aircraft and Base Camp Personnel: Supported 1,200 Cal Fire aircraft flights from Gillespie, Ramona, and Fallbrook Airports. Provided land at Gillespie Field for over 1,000 fire fighting personnel, 500 fire units and a large animal evacuation shelter for more than 100 displaced horses and other farm/domestic animals.

##### Parks and Recreation Department...

- Converted the Fallbrook Community Center into a Local Assistance Center (LAC) to help displaced fire victims during the October 2007 Firestorm. Nearly 8,200 evacuees used the LAC for assistance or resource from October 2007 to January 2008.
- Reopened the majority of the 41 parks within a month. Parks were closed due to the October 2007 Firestorm. Removed debris and made necessary repairs to ensure public safety.
- Opened 4 new preserves (Barnett Ranch, Santa Margarita, Del Dios Highlands, and Lakeside Linkage) which provide trail opportunities for the public.

##### Department of Environmental Health...

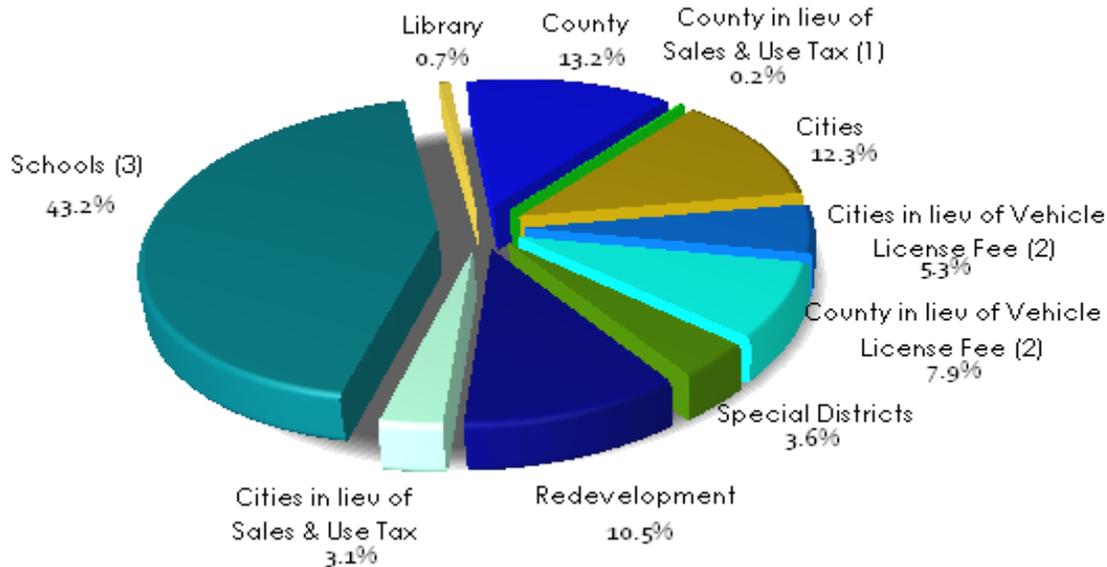
- Conducted 70 outreach presentations to over 4,000 primary and/or secondary school students covering such areas as: personal protection and vector-borne disease awareness; household hazardous waste; hazardous materials; and careers in environmental health.
- Conducted 8 successful outreach sessions for businesses that generate hazardous and universal waste.

Note: Other County Department accomplishments are listed in the County's 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Letter of Transmittal and County Adopted Operational Plan Fiscal Years 2008-2009 & 2009-2010.

## How Property Tax Collections Are Allocated

Proposition 13, enacted in 1978, set the maximum advalorem property tax rate at one percent (1%) of a property's cash value plus voter approved debt service tax rates, and it limited annual increases to 2 percent (2%). The Fiscal Year 2008 Property Tax Allocation was as follows:

### 1% Property Tax Revenue Allocation Property Tax Collections \$3,835,511,407



- [1] Represents the exchange of Property Tax for Cities and County Sales and Use Tax as authorized under Assembly Bill 1766, chaptered August 2, 2003.
- [2] Represents the exchange of Property Tax for Cities and County Vehicle License Fees as authorized under Senate Bill 1096, chaptered August 5, 2004.
- [3] Revenue for Schools has been reduced by the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund deficit as authorized under Senate Bill 1096, Chaptered August 5, 2004.

Source: County of San Diego Property Valuations, Tax Rates, Useful Information for Taxpayers - Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008.

### TOP 10 TAXPAYERS

	Secured Taxable Assessed Value
<b>San Diego Gas &amp; Electric Company</b>	<b>3,923,050</b>
<b>Southern California Edison Company</b>	<b>1,616,669</b>
<b>Irvine Company</b>	<b>1,599,391</b>
<b>Qualcomm Incorporated</b>	<b>1,310,309</b>
<b>Kilroy Realty LP</b>	<b>953,879</b>
<b>Host San Diego Hotel LLC</b>	<b>886,573</b>
<b>Pacific Bell Telephone Company</b>	<b>763,563</b>
<b>San Diego Family Housing LLC</b>	<b>529,380</b>
<b>Camp Pendleton &amp; Quantico Housing</b>	<b>534,664</b>
<b>Genentech Inc</b>	<b>503,582</b>

See Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, Statistical Table 7.

## The County Seal



The County seal was designed by the architect, Samuel Hamill. The central element of the seal is a double-headed axe rising from a bundle of sticks, which served as a symbol of authority in ancient Rome. Also included in the seal are the stars and stripes of the United States, a stylized dolphintail representing the fruits of the sea, and a horn of plenty representing the fruits of the land. A clipper ship recalls San Diego's historic background of the sea, and the airplane looks into the future. Mt. Palomar Observatory represents a world renowned achievement in science and San Diego's position on the threshold of scientific history. The observatory overlooks an orange grove, which reflects the agricultural riches of the County. Encircling the seal is the motto "The Noblest Motive is the Public Good" - a quotation from the classical Roman poet, Publius Vergilius Maro, better known as Virgil, that was chosen by the Building Committee as the motto to adorn the Civic Center Building. The Board of Supervisors officially adopted the seal in 1937, replacing an earlier version chosen in 1933.

Source: Bridging the Centuries, The Jewel on the Bay, December 1998.

### For more information...

If you would like to view the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in its entirety please visit us at <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/auditor/cafr.html>.

The screenshot shows the County of San Diego website's Auditor and Controller section. The main heading is "Comprehensive Annual Financial Report" with a sub-heading "Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) AND Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008". There are navigation links for "Complete CAFR", "Table of Contents", and "Complete PAFR". A sidebar on the left lists various links like "Home", "Office Locations and Contacts", "Organizational Structure", "Services", "Reports", "Forms", "By Division", "FAQs", "Sitemap", and "Customer Satisfaction Survey".



Popular Annual Financial Report  
County of San Diego ❖ California