

I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

B. Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenue. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Certain indirect costs have been included as part of the program expenses reported for the various functional activities. Program revenue includes 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment, and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenue are reported instead as general revenue.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide, proprietary, and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Nonexchange transactions, in which the County gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include property taxes, grants, entitlements, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations are recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The County considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within 60 days after year-end. The primary revenue sources susceptible to accrual are property taxes, which are recognized as deferred revenue until cash is received, and grant income, which is accrued when the legal and contractual requirements of the individual programs are met. Expenditures are recorded when incurred. However, expenditures for principal and interest on general long-term debt, compensated absences, and claims and judgments are recorded when due. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

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