

I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets or Equity (Continued)

Property Taxes (Continued)

The County's taxes on real property are a lien (as of the date of levy) against such property until paid. The County may foreclose on real property upon which it has a lien for unpaid taxes. Delinquent taxes on property not otherwise collected are generally paid when there is a sale or transfer of the title to the property.

Any liens and subsequent suits against the taxpayer for payment of delinquent personal property taxes are barred unless instituted within four years from the time such taxes became delinquent. Unlike real property, the sale or transfer of most personal property does not require any evidence that taxes thereon are paid.

Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets invested in capital assets, net of related debt consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvements of those assets, and adding back unspent proceeds. Net assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislations adopted by the County or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

Fund Balance

The governmental fund financial statements present fund balances based on classifications that comprise a hierarchy that is based primarily on the extent to which the County is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in the respective governmental funds can be spent. The classifications used in the governmental fund financial statements are as follows:

- **Nonspendable:** This classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Nonspendable items are not expected to be converted to cash or are not expected to be converted to cash within the next year.
- **Restricted:** This classification includes amounts for which constraints have been placed on the use of the resources either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

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