

The County of Orange Report

Prepared for the Mesa Water District

June 16, 2022
by Lewis Consulting Group

Little Drama with Election Results

With nearly all votes counted, both state and county election results yielded few surprises. Perhaps that biggest surprise was the ease with which Orange County District Attorney, Todd Spitzer, secured an outright win in the primary. Two other races at least warranted late watching . . . Orange County's 4th Supervisorial District where Republican Steve Vargas fell just short of making November's "top two" as well as Denis Bilodeau's candidacy for the Board of Equalization, falling just short as well. A large part of this year's election predictable outcomes are due to the recent gerrymander of Congressional and legislative districts.



MESA WATER DISTRICT'S FUTURE REPRESENTATIVES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 5TH DISTRICT - winner of Pat Bates vs. Katrina Foley. Bates is considered a slight favorite.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 47 - winner of Katie Porter vs. Scott Baugh. The race is now considered a "toss-up".

STATE SENATE DISTRICTS SPLIT -

- 36TH S.D. - winner of Janet Nguyen vs. Kim Carr. Janet Nguyen is a heavy favorite.
- 37TH S.D. - State Senator Dave Min has two years left on his current term.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS SPLIT -

- 72ND A.D. - Diane Dixon vs. Judy Mancuso. Diane Dixon is favored.
- 73RD A.D. - two incumbent members of the Assembly, Cottie Petrie-Norris and Steven Choi will face-off in a district that includes the City of Costa Mesa. Assemblywoman Petrie-Norris is a slight favorite.

In other races in Orange County, here are the winners or "top two" in the run-off:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 38 -	Linda Sanchez [inc]	vs	Eric Ching
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 40 -	Young Kim [inc] *	vs	Dr. Asif Mahmood
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 45 -	Michelle Steel [inc]	vs	Jay Chen
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 46 -	Lou Correa [inc]	vs	Christopher Gonzalez
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 49 -	Mike Levin [inc]	vs	Brian Maryott
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 32 -	Kelly Seyanto	vs	Brian Nash
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 34 -	Tom Umberg [inc]	vs	Rhonda Shader
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 38 -	Matt Gunderson	vs	Catherine Blakespear
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 64 -	Raul Ortiz Jr.	vs	Blanca Pacheco
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 67 -	Sharon Quirk Silva [inc]	vs	Soo Yoo
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 68 -	Avelino Valencia	vs	Mike Tardif
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 70 -	Deidre Thu-Ha Nguyen	vs	Tri Ta
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 71 -	Matt Rahn	vs	Katie Sanchez
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 74 -	Laurie Davies [inc]	vs	Chris Duncan
O.C. SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 2 -	Vince Sarmiento	vs	Kim Bernice Nguyen
O.C. SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 4 -	Sunny Park	vs	Doug Chaffee [inc]

O.C. COUNTY ASSESSOR -	Claude Parrish re-elected
O.C. AUDITOR-CONTROLLER -	Andrew Hamilton elected
O.C. CLERK-RECORDER -	Hugh Nguyen re-elected
O.C. SHERIFF -	Don Barnes re-elected
O.C. TREASURER TAX COLLECTOR -	Sheri Freiderich re-elected
O.C. DISTRICT ATTORNEY -	Todd Spitzer re-elected in a LANDSLIDE. The expected progressive challenge against incumbent District Attorney Todd Spitzer never materialized and D.A. Spitzer, who went "all in" in the primary, was rewarded with decisive victory now standing at 64% of the vote.

POOR SHOWING FOR COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Among the five current members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Don Wagner had the best night and he wasn't even on the ballot. The others . . .

ANDREW DO -	fails to reach the Top Two in the race for California Treasurer
LISA BARTLETT -	fails to reach the Top Two in her race for Congress
DOUG CHAFFEE -	the incumbent, barely held onto second place.
KATRINA FOLEY -	had a weak incumbent showing with 40% of the vote.

DEMOCRATS INFLUENCE WILL INCREASE ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Thanks to the new Board of Supervisors redistricting, Democrats are guaranteed at least two seats of the five member Board. In NEW district 2, the winner will be either Democrat Vince Saramento or Democrat Kim Bernice Nguyen. In district 4, the winner will either be Democrat Incumbent Doug Chaffee or Democrat Challenger Sunny Park. With Republicans Andrew Do and Don Wagner not up for re-election, the contest between Republican Pat Bates vs. Democrat Katrina Foley, will determine next year's partisan majority of the Board of Supervisors.



The highlight of the June 8th OCLAFCO meeting was an unanimous vote for approving the annexation of unincorporated Hamer Island in North Orange County. The 76 acre island is completely surrounded by the City of Placentia. It encompasses 1,000 residents and 326 single family homes. LAFCO staff, along with City of Placentia

officials had worked collaboratively to quell the fears of residents worried about being folded into the City of Placentia. In accomplishing this annexation, LAFCO made progress in one of their core missions.

Another issue raised by Supervisor Wagner and to be considered at a future meeting, deals with how absences are recorded for the committee's alternate members. Some alternate elected officials, due to time constraints, choose to not attend if they know the voting member will be present. They don't like having those meetings count as absences due to appearances.

In July there will be no regularly scheduled OCLAFCO meeting, but instead from 8:30AM to 12:00PM, the annual **Strategic Planning Workshop** will be held. According to the Executive Officer's report, the plan is to refine LAFCO goals set out in its prior workshop last September. June's meeting marked the final meeting for City Commissioner Mike Posey. Alternate member Peggy Huang will be elevated to a full voting member.



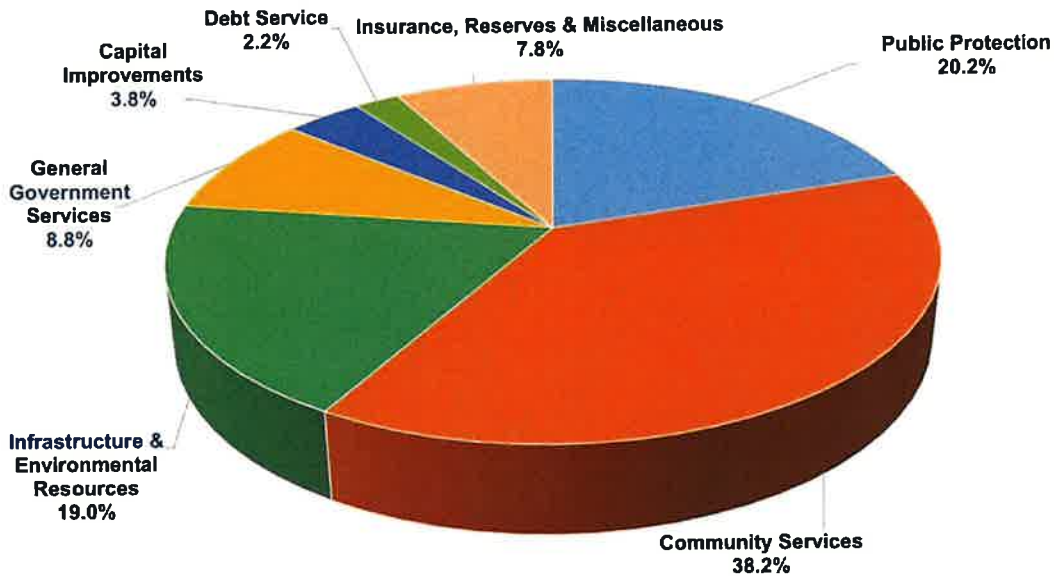
County Unveils New Proposed 2022/2023 Budget

At the June 14th meeting, County Budget Staff presented the Board of Supervisors with their newly proposed budget.

The balanced budget totaled \$8.8 billion.

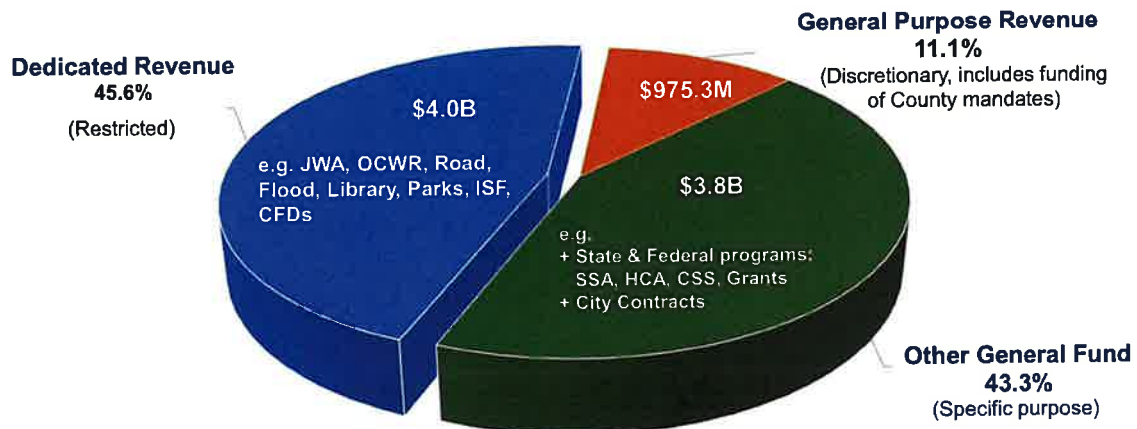
County Appropriations by Program

FY 2022-23 Recommended Budget Total = \$8.8 Billion



County Revenue Budget

FY 2022-23 Recommended Budget Total = \$8.8 Billion



County coffers were buoyed by a receipt of \$617 of Federal American Rescue Plan [COVID-19] relief money.

New PPIC Poll Showcases California Opinions

A poll recently released by the Public Policy Institute of California covered a wide ranging list of issues of which a few are featured here. The survey of 1,702 Californian adults was conducted May 12-22. A survey of this size has a margin of error of +/- 3.9% with a confidence level of 95%.

Thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?

- 27% economy, jobs, inflation
- 12% housing costs, housing availability
- 11% homelessness
- 7% gasoline prices, oil prices
- 6% water, water availability/quality, drought
- 4% crime, gangs, drugs
- 4% environment, pollution, climate change
- 4% state budget, deficit, spending
- 3% government in general, problems with elected officials, political parties
- 3% immigration, illegal immigration
- 2% COVID-19, coronavirus, mandates
- 2% education, teachers, schools
- 2% electricity costs, energy supply
- 11% other
- 2% don't know

Jobs, the economy, and inflation are the top issue for Californians



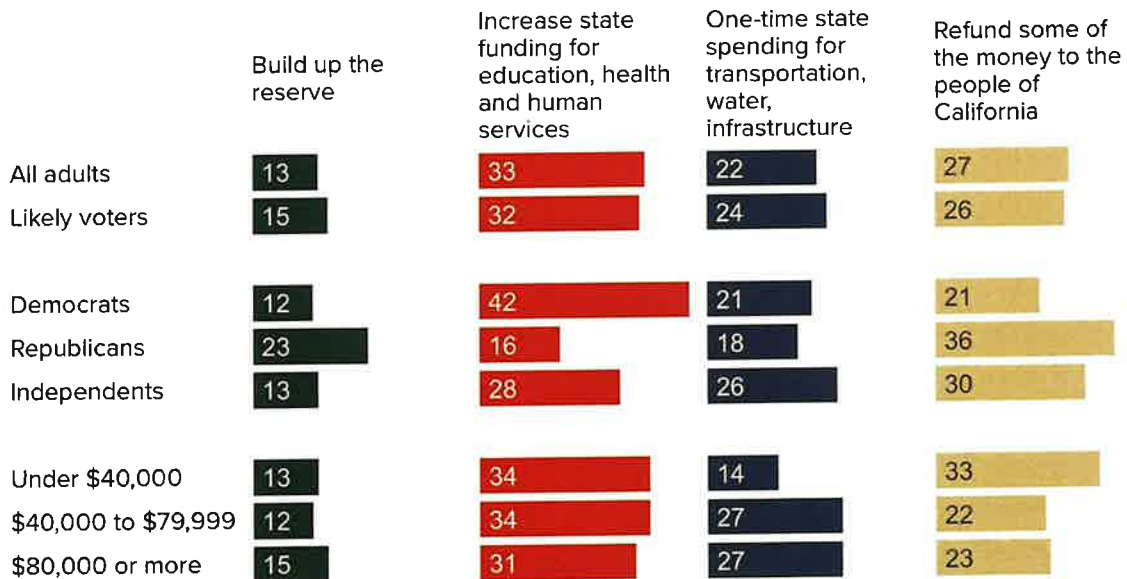
Have recent price increases caused any financial hardships for you or others in your household, or not?

- 36% yes, serious
- 31% yes, not serious
- 32% no
- 1% don't know

The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money? Would you prefer to pay down state debt and build up the reserve [or] would you prefer to increase state funding for education, health, and human service programs [or] would you prefer one-time state spending for transportation, water, and infrastructure projects [or] would you prefer to refund some of this money to the people of California?

- 33% increase state funding for education, health, and human services
- 27% refund some money to the people of California
- 22% one-time state spending for transportation, water, infrastructure
- 13% pay down debt and build up reserve
- 2% other
- 3% don't know

Californians are divided on what to do with surplus budget funds



As part of the May Revision to the state budget, Governor Newsom has proposed spending \$18 billion in funding to address inflation with most of the money going towards tax rebates for vehicle owners and making public transportation free for three months. Overall, do you favor or oppose this plan?

- 62% favor
- 33% oppose
- 5% don't know

Proposition 13 is the 1978 ballot measure that limits the property tax rate to 1 percent of assessed value at time of purchase and annual tax increases to no more than 2 percent

until the property is sold. Overall, do you feel passing Proposition 13 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

- 64% mostly a good thing
- 21% mostly a bad thing
- 2% mixed
- 12% don't know

It should be noted that in more recent national polls, gun violence has zoomed up as a top concern in wake of the tragic Texas school shootings.

Anaheim Faces Turmoil

An FBI investigation into corruption in Anaheim has stung one of the County's three original members of the Metropolitan Water District. The ongoing investigation has already forced the resignation of Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu, creating a vacancy on the Orange County Water District. So far, MET Director Steven Faessel, has not been implicated in the investigation.



Orange County COVID-19 Update

ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS	6/13/2022	5/16/2022
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	586,120	561,148
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	7,076	7,023
DEATHS REPORTED TODAY	8	0
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	9,301,644	8,973,525
TESTS REPORTED THIS WEEK	65,212	99,305
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	194 *	89 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU	19	15
CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE	556,320 *	543,397 *

* = INCLUDES **ICU** CASES

California Snowpack Vanishes - Reservoirs Hurting

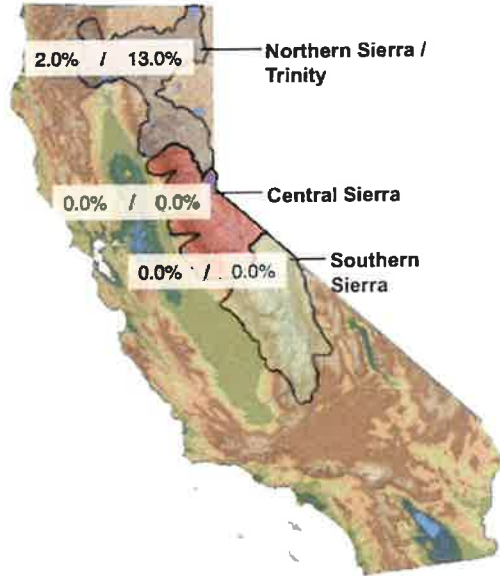
The latest information from the California Data Exchange center shows that the California snowpack is now a dismal 4% of average. Below is the map and graph of California's frozen gold.

Snow Water Equivalents (inches)

Provided by the California Cooperative Snow Surveys

Data For: 08-Jun-2022

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



Change Date



08-Jun-2022

NORTH

Data For: 08-Jun-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	29
Average snow water equivalent	0.7"
Percent of April 1 Average	2%
Percent of normal for this date	13%

CENTRAL

Data For: 08-Jun-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	45
Average snow water equivalent	0.0"
Percent of April 1 Average	0%
Percent of normal for this date	0%

SOUTH

Data For: 08-Jun-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	25
Average snow water equivalent	0.0"
Percent of April 1 Average	0%
Percent of normal for this date	0%

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

Data For: 08-Jun-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	99
Average snow water equivalent	0.2"
Percent of April 1 Average	1%
Percent of normal for this date	4%

As a result, there is little help ahead for California's beleaguered reservoirs.

CALIFORNIA RESERVOIR LEVELS OVER TIME

JUNE 8, 2022

RESERVOIR	% Capacity	% Average
Shasta Lake	40	48
New Melones	35	56
Don Pedro	67	83
Lake Oroville	53	68
Trinity Lake	30	38
San Luis Res	44	67
New Bullards Bar	90	102
Lake McClure	43	63
Pine Flat Res	62	90
FOLSOM LAKE	88	110

