## **GLOSSARY**

ACCOUNT A classification of expenditure or revenue. Example: "Office Expense" is an account in "Services & Supplies."

ACTIVITY A specific line of work performed to accomplish a function for which a governmental unit is responsible. This designation is

required by the State Controller. Example: "Police Protection" is an activity performed in discharging the "Public Protection"

function.

Adopted legal spending plan for the fiscal year.

**APPROPRIATION** An authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for a specific purpose. An

appropriation is usually limited as to the time when it may be committed or expended.

ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE Amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or

body to which the governing body delegates the authority.

All the means of financing a budget (fund balance plus revenues) except for encumbered, general, and other reserves.

**BUDGET** The plan of financial operation with estimates of proposed expenditures and revenues for a given period of time, usually one year.

**BUDGET DOCUMENT** Written instrument used by the budget-making authority to present a comprehensive financial program.

**CAPITAL ASSET** An asset of a long term character such as land, buildings, equipment and intangible assets such as computer software.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS** A program itemizing the County's acquisitions, additions and improvements to capital assets. Examples: buildings, building

improvements and land purchases.

**COMMITTED FUND BALANCE** Amounts constrained to specific purposes by a government itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority; to be

reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government takes the same highest-level

action to remove or change the constraint.

**CONTINGENCY** An amount not to exceed fifteen percent of the fund in which it is allocated, appropriated for unforeseen expenditure requirements.

**DEBT SERVICE FUND** A fund established to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal

and interest.

**DEPARTMENT** An organizational device used by County management to group programs of a like nature.

**ENCUMBRANCE** An obligation in the form of a purchase order, contract, or other commitment which is chargeable to an appropriation and for

which a part of the appropriation is reserved. In some cases, reserves are carried over into succeeding fiscal years.

**ENTERPRISE FUND** A fund established to finance and account for the operation and maintenance of facilities and services which are predominantly

self-supporting by user charges. Example: Airport.

**EXPENDITURE** Designates the cost of goods delivered or services rendered whether paid or unpaid, for governmental funds such as the

General Fund and special revenue funds.

**EXPENSE** Designates the cost of goods delivered or services rendered whether paid or unpaid, for proprietary funds.

**FISCAL YEAR** Year running from July 1 to June 30 and designated by the calendar year in which it ends.

## **GLOSSARY**

**FUNCTION** A group of related activities aimed at accomplishing a major service for which a governmental unit is responsible. This designation

is specified by the State Controller. Example: "Public Protection."

FUND Independent fiscal and accounting entity which includes all accounts for which a legal appropriation is approved by the

Board of Supervisors. Example: Library.

**FUND BALANCE**The amount of assets either reserved or designated for specific purposes or available for financing the program of expenditures

and other requirements of the budget year.

**GENERAL FUND** The main operating fund of the County, which is used to account for expenditures and revenues for countywide activities.

INTERNAL SERVICE FUND An organization created to perform specified services for other County departments. The services performed are charged to the

user departments. Example: Reprographics Internal Service Fund.

INTRAFUND TRANSFER A transfer of costs from one department to another within the General Fund.

NONSPENDABLE FUND Amounts that are not in a spendable form (such as inventory) or are required to be maintained intact (such as the corpus

**BALANCE** of an endowment fund).

OBLIGATED FUND BALANCES All amounts that are unavailable for financing budgetary requirements in the budget year. This would include nonspendable,

restricted, committed, and assigned fund balances.

OTHER CHARGES Accounts established for expenditures other than salaries and benefits, services and supplies, and capital assets. Example:

"Support and Care of Persons."

**RECOMMENDED BUDGET** The County Executive Office's recommended level of funding before it is adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

**RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE** Amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government),

through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation.

**REVENUE**Money received to finance ongoing County governmental services. Examples: Property taxes, interest, fines, fees, state revenues,

federal revenues, charges for services, etc.

**SALARIES AND** 

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS** Accounts established for all expenditures for employee-related costs.

**SCHEDULE** A listing of financial data in a form and manner prescribed by the State.

**SERVICES AND SUPPLIES** Accounts established for the non-salary operating expenditures of County departments and programs.

SPECIAL DISTRICT Separate unit of local government organized to perform a single function. Examples: Street Lighting, Flood Control.