

Response to Strategic Priorities and Budget Principles  
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In regards to the 2012/2013 Strategic Priority and Budget Decision Principles adopted by the Board I offer the following response. The Strategic Priorities and Budget Decision Principles clearly articulate a solid framework that seeks to give sound guidance and direction to the County Administrator in the creation of the 2012 and 2013 Budget.

The Board should be commended on its effort to provide a document that offers both flexibility in its interpretation and specificity in the methods available to demonstrate the effectiveness of programs and services. The commitment to remain as a world-class service provider in the face of economic hardship requires an ongoing commitment to innovation, community, safety and investment. Alignment of the organizational structure to adequately reflect the service needs of the community is vital to the longevity and institutional stability of the organization. Disciplined fiscal responsibility is essential if the County is to remain successful in its endeavors and maintain the high-quality of life that residents expect and demand from their government and elected officials.

It is evident a great deal of thought has been given to the priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. However, more emphasis and clarity on some qualitative priorities may provide the Administration and staff with a better understanding of the Board's intent. Clear concise statements particularly in reference to guidance objectives 1 and 4 may help to focus resources on programs and services that adhere with the strategic priorities outlined by the Board. In addition, this document identifies several priorities that assume responsibility for services that go beyond investment in core services and functions essential to maintaining long-term institutional stability. The Board should exercise care to ensure its commitment of priorities do not over extended the resources of the County should economic conditions worsen.

Overall the document is a thoughtful cogent strategy that provides sufficient flexibility to address the diverse services needs and investment objectives the Board aspires to accomplish. The five "Guidances" set forth ambitious goals acknowledging an immediate need to streamline and consolidate services that will achieve both maximum cost savings with the biggest positive measurable impact to the community.