



MELISSA WILK

ALAMEDA COUNTY

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/CLERK-RECORDER

Summer 2023 Newsletter

Message from Melissa

Dear Alameda County,

I hope everyone has been having a wonderful summer! This summer has been filled with many celebrations that have offered us a time to act and reflect on the important issues affecting our communities.

Pride Month and Juneteenth, celebrated in June, are special opportunities to recognize the efforts of those who fought and continue to fight for equal rights and freedoms. June is also the month that the **Board of Supervisors** approved Alameda County's budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. You'll find more information on the extensive and inclusive budgeting process as you read on in the Newsletter. After attending and presenting at the Alameda County Mayors' Conference earlier this year, I was invited in June to provide a presentation on the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency and County services to the Piedmont City Council. I look forward to meeting with other cities soon!



In July, celebrations for the 4th included friends and families gathering at local parades and fairs, including the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton. July's Disability Pride Month honored the history, achievements, experiences, and challenges of the disability community. In July we also celebrated the "New (fiscal) Year!" while our General Accounting staff worked hard to successfully "close out" the prior fiscal year. And in August, I was honored to participate in the **Daily Bowl Harvest** along with other County elected officials in celebrating this organization's simple approach to ending hunger. Their efforts to recover excess food that would otherwise go to waste and deliver it to Bay Area agencies that feed hungry families have been in operation since 2016. August also provided an opportunity for County department heads and myself to meet with the recently convened Grand Jury and introduce our office operations to the newly seated members.

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I'm looking forward to all of the fun upcoming fall community events in September, including the Solano Stroll on Solano Avenue in Albany and Berkeley on September 9, the Castro Valley Fall Festival on September 9-10, and the Healthy Living Festival on September 28. These events and others throughout our region provide vibrant festivities for our residents and visitors. Please learn more by reading below about the events that our Agency will be attending. This newsletter also includes information about No-Cost Tax Preparation Services and the East Bay Economic Development Association that I hope you will find helpful and informative.

As always, thank you for your interest in our Office and for reading our 2023 Summer Newsletter. Please see our [website](#) for more information about our services, and as always, don't hesitate to contact us at ACCR.info@acgov.org.

Best,

Melissa Wilk

Board of Supervisors Approve a Balanced \$4.1 Billion Budget

On June 29th, after extensive discussion and stakeholder input, the **Board of Supervisors** approved Alameda County's budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The budget is a balanced \$4.1 billion spending plan for County programs and services that closes a \$54 million funding gap and illustrates how the County leadership works effectively to best serve the community.



In the last three and a half years, the County has had to contend with the health, economic, and social impacts of the public health emergency due to COVID-19. The County was able to continue to administer vital County programs without cuts to service levels or staffing during this period as a result of Alameda County's history of longstanding prudent fiscal and budgeting policies. Alameda County's strategic vision will continue to guide the County through

challenges that might arise as we strive to achieve our goals of a Healthy Environment, a Prosperous and Vibrant Economy, Safe & Livable Communities, and a Thriving & Resilient Population.

The [Alameda County budget website](#) is part of the County's larger goal to provide information about our services in a user-friendly and informative format. It is designed to give community members a better understanding of how tax dollars are invested with highlights on funding for mandated and essential services. The County's annual budget is the window to the investments that the Board of Supervisors makes in the community on your behalf. You are invited to read the [County Administrator's budget message](#) that highlights the financial and policy issues contained in the FY 2023-24 Final Budget that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 29. In addition, you'll find other budget-related information.

The Property Tax Process



Every year I have the pleasure of partnering with the [County Assessor](#), Phong La, on the annual property tax process. At the end of June our Agency receives the assessed values for all of the taxable property in Alameda County, as determined by the Assessor. During the months of July and August, our team calculates and applies the appropriate tax rates to the assessed values and extends the tax rolls. In other words, the Auditor-Controller determines the amount of taxes that are due. The tax rate that is applied to the assessed value is based on the location of the property and includes the amount necessary to

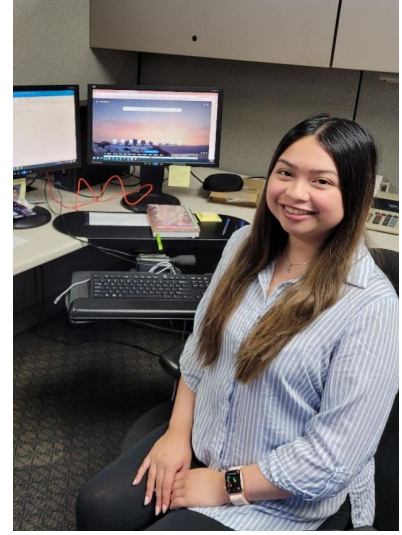
pay voter-approved debt in addition to the Countywide 1% tax. Most voter approved debt is in the form of General Obligation Bonds that have been approved as ballot measures during past elections. The Auditor-Controller also has the responsibility of adding any special assessments and/or fixed charges that are levied by other taxing districts in the County. After the Auditor-Controller completes their calculations, the [County Treasurer-Tax Collector](#) prepares and mails the property tax bills, and collects the taxes. As the last step in the process, the Auditor-Controller team apportions the tax collections to the County, cities, schools, and over 80 special districts.

Interns Gain Valuable Experience

We are excited to shine a spotlight on two of our Interns, who are contributing to our Agency's success on a daily basis.

Our General Accounting Division is pleased to work with intern

Criselle Ong. Criselle began her internship in February and has been a valuable asset to our team. Criselle recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Accounting from California State University, East Bay in June of 2023. She is a first-generation college graduate in her family and chose to work for the County because she has always had an interest in governmental accounting. Criselle is currently assisting the General Accounting Division with various tasks such as reviewing, recording and posting different transactions in the general ledger, including incoming State apportionments and other daily deposits. She is also gaining experience on the real-life application of accounting practices and principles in the County's financial system. Furthermore, she reviews and responds to inquiries from the public regarding claiming procedures for County payments that remain uncashed for more than six (6) months. Criselle is a great and valuable addition to our Agency!



The Disbursements Division happily welcomed Isaih Hood in March 2022 to their team. Isaih is currently enrolled as a full-time student at San Francisco State University studying Communications and Business and will graduate in Spring 2024. Originally from Sacramento, Isaih moved to Oakland at age four and has been a Bay Area resident ever since. In addition to going to school, Isaih also works full-time with our Agency, reviewing claims and processing payments to County suppliers. During his internship, Isaih has also worked in the Small Local Emerging Business (SLEB) Certification Unit of which he shared, "being a part of the SLEB certification process allowed me to review financial records and ensure compliance with standards, which was both challenging and rewarding. My time in the Claims Unit has taught me valuable skills in analyzing data,

verifying transactions, and efficiently resolving issues. The supportive and welcoming environment made this internship a memorable and valuable learning journey, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the organization's mission." When he's not busy working and studying, Isaih, who formerly played college basketball at a Texas university, enjoys training and mentoring young men and women on the court and plays in a local league. Isaih has a positive, can-do attitude, and we are thrilled to have him on our Disbursements Division team!

Interested in an internship opportunity? To apply submit your resume with a cover letter telling us about your educational focus and why you are interested in working with our Agency. Applications should be emailed to: hr.auditor@acgov.org.

Alameda County Escrow Association

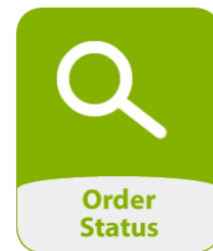
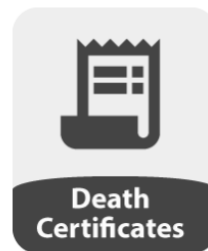
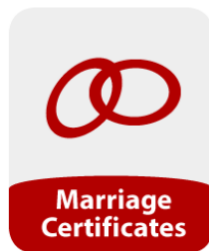
In late June, I had the pleasure of joining the Alameda County Escrow Association (ACEA) for one of their evening meetings. At the event, Assistant Controller Matt Yankee and I enjoyed meeting



with the members of ACEA, and we were excited by the excellent turnout for this event. Our meeting room was literally overflowing with attendees! Topics that we presented on included best practices for electronic recording, documentary transfer tax, Senate Bill 2 (Building Homes & Jobs Act), and Assembly Bill 1466 (redacting unlawful restrictive covenants). The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency endeavors to establish meaningful relationships with our community partners, and we are

grateful to ACEA for inviting us to this event and for the very productive dialogue with its members.

SAVE TIME AND ORDER ONLINE



Need a birth, marriage, or death certificate? Save yourself time and order online! Select our pick-up option, and we can typically turn around your order within a few days.

Once you've submitted your order, you can check the status of your request online. You can then request the document be mailed to you, or you can pick it up from our Office. It's just that easy!

Information from the East Bay Economic Development Alliance



Over the past several months, the **East Bay Economic Development Alliance** (East Bay EDA) has been leading a study of industrial lands and the companies that occupy them. This study is part of the East Bay EDA's ongoing work to strengthen the economy, build the workforce, and enhance the quality of life in the East Bay through their cross-sector, public-private partnership.

Southern Alameda County cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City are home to some of the fastest growing and most innovative companies in sectors such as biomedical, cleantech, creative design and advanced manufacturing. In just these three cities, these industries grew by

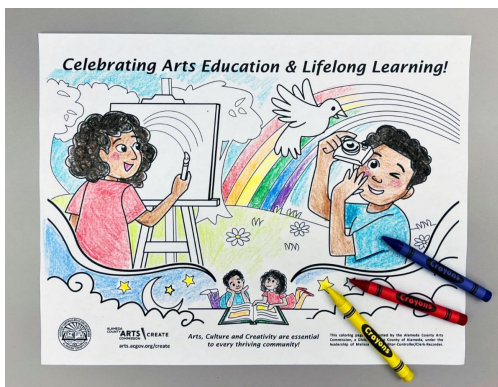
more than 26,000 jobs, or 77%, in the 10-year period between 2011 and 2021. These companies are driving the creation of new products and services that are already showing their potential to transform entire industries. Read more in the [East Bay EDA Blog](#) with their series featured in [San Francisco Business Times](#) highlighting stories from the East Bay's diverse economy.

No-Cost Tax Preparation Services Extended

The Alameda County Social Services Agency's **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance** (VITA) program has extended its no-cost IRS-certified tax preparation assistance for low- and moderate-income taxpayers through Saturday, October 14, 2023. Community members can register and make an appointment at the [Social Services Agency's website](#). Users need to create an account using either a cell phone number or e-mail address. For details, including what materials you will need and location sites, [click here](#). For more information call **510-271-9141** or email vita.eitc@acgov.org.



National Arts in Education Week



In celebration of **National Arts in Education Week** during September 10 – 16, the **Alameda County Arts Commission** is sharing new coloring pages! Click on this link to [download the three free coloring pages](#). Print them at-home and color in using markers, colored pencils, crayons, or watercolor paint.

The arts are an essential part of a complete education, no matter if it happens in the home, school, or community. Students of all ages—from kindergarten to college to creative aging programs—benefit from artistic learning, innovative thinking, and creativity. Celebrating National Arts in Education Week is a way to recognize this impact and share the message with friends, family, and communities.

51st Annual Castro Valley Fall Festival

The Castro Valley Fall Festival is an exciting community tradition in Castro Valley. This two-day event is filled with entertainment, activities, food and local vendor booths. The event takes place on Castro Valley Boulevard in front of the

Shopping Center and over 30,000 people are expected to attend! Over 150 arts and crafts, community and non-profit booths will be featured with live music and dance performances by youth and adults, and lots of fun activities for kids.

Stop by on Saturday, September 9 - 10, 2023, 10am - 6pm at Castro Valley Boulevard at Redwood Road in Castro Valley. For more information, visit the [Castro Valley Fall Festival website](#).



47th Annual Solano Stroll



Since 1974, Solano Avenue and the twin-cities of Albany and Berkeley have hosted the Solano Avenue Stroll, the East Bay's largest street festival. This event features over four hundred vendors including 50 entertainers, 25 food booths, 100 government and non-profit agencies, 100 artisans, jewelers, makers, and much more. This family event promotes the unique traits of Solano Avenue, helping independently-owned businesses, artists, and community organizations to thrive by exposure and

fundraising.

The Solano Stroll is on Sunday, September 10, 2023, 10am - 6pm on Solano Avenue in Albany and Berkeley. For more information, visit the [Solano Stroll website](#).

20th Annual Healthy Living Festival

The Healthy Living Festival is a free event for older adults, 55 and above, living in Alameda County. This annual event, promotes health and wellness for aging adults, and includes free food, music, fun and more. Community members are invited to take collective action to improve the quality of life for seniors throughout our County. Together, we can make a positive change! Friends and family of guests are welcome to attend and must be registered in advance.



The United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County are proud to present the annual Healthy Living Festival with their mission to provide institutional



support for seniors, to collectively participate in the public arena, to act from a position of strength, to enable the elderly to address their critical issues, and to change the conditions that impact their lives.

I look forward to continuing our support of the Healthy Living Festival. If you are able to attend, please visit our booth! (Image from the 2022 event with Melissa and County Supervisor Nate Miley).

This event is held on Thursday, September 28, 9:00am - 2:00pm at the Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Road in Oakland. For more information visit the [Healthy Living Festival event page](#).

QUESTIONS FOR OUR AGENCY?

Are there any upcoming community events that you would like us to attend? Do you have a specific question you would like to ask? Is your community or organization interested in a presentation about the services provided by the County and the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency?



Email Melissa Wilk at ACCR.info@acgov.org to let her know what questions we can answer and how we can support your efforts. We look forward to sharing upcoming news with you in our future quarterly newsletter.

STAY IN TOUCH

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