



# HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

## COMMISSIONERS COURT

1001 Preston, Suite 938 • Houston, Texas 77002-1817 • (713) 755-5113

Robert Eckels  
*County Judge*

El Franco Lee  
*Commissioner, Precinct 1*

Sylvia R. Garcia  
*Commissioner, Precinct 2*

Steve Radack  
*Commissioner, Precinct 3*

Jerry Eversole  
*Commissioner, Precinct 4*

March 4, 2005

To: County Judge Eckels and  
Commissioners Lee, Garcia,  
Radack and Eversole

Re. **FY 2005-06 Budgets**

Enclosed are schedules and materials for the FY 2005-06 budgets which will be effective for the period of March 1, 2005 through February 28, 2006.

The county's general fund expenditures for the year ending February 28, 2005 are projected to be \$990 million, an increase of 5.5% compared to the previous year's expenditures of \$938 million.

The cash balance in the general fund at February 28 is projected at \$234.9 million with \$63.4 million encumbered, \$2.6 million restricted, and \$168.9 million, or 17.1% of expenditures, unreserved. The Auditor's Office will provide any final adjustments that may be necessary.

The estimate of available resources by the Auditor for FY 2005-06, including the above balance, is \$1,163,688,119, which is 1.4% less than the previous year's adjusted estimate of \$1,180,520,652, and 3.5% less than the estimated actual for FY 2004-05 of \$1,205,357,273.

The following table shows the general fund resources by category based on the Auditor's estimates.

<u>General Fund</u> (\$ millions)	FY 2004-05 Adjusted Estimate	FY 2004-05 Estimate Actual	FY 2005-06 Revenue Estimate
Beginning Cash	\$ 284.6	\$ 271.6	\$ 234.9
Taxes	625.0	643.0	644.9
Intergovernmental	24.8	28.2	25.6
Service Charges	174.1	175.2	180.2
Fines/Forfeitures	22.3	22.4	23.3
Rentals/Parks	3.7	3.8	3.9
Reimbursements/Refunds	21.3	24.8	20.3
Interest	3.1	5.0	6.6
Miscellaneous	1.6	11.4	4.0
Transfers	20.0	20.0	20.0
Revenues & Transfers	\$ 895.9	\$ 933.8	\$ 928.8
Total Resources	\$ 1,180.5	\$ 1,205.4	\$ 1,163.7

### **Flood Control**

The estimate for the Flood Control operations and maintenance budget and capital projects funds for FY 2005-06 is \$433.7 million.

### **Debt Service**

Funds will be available for debt service expenditures for the fiscal year in the amount of \$128.9 million for the county, \$150.8 million for the Toll Road Authority, \$38.1 million for Flood Control, and \$33.3 million for the Port of Houston.

### **Departments and Policy Issues**

The tables that follow show a listing of proposed budget amounts for departments. The total of the proposed budget is balanced against the Auditor's estimate of available resources. A list of policy issues follows the budget materials. Adjustments will be made as necessary in accordance with the court's decisions March 8. A more detailed summary will be prepared for your reference as part of the annual budget book that will be printed for the fiscal year.