

Santa Cruz County

Annual financial statement and compliance audits

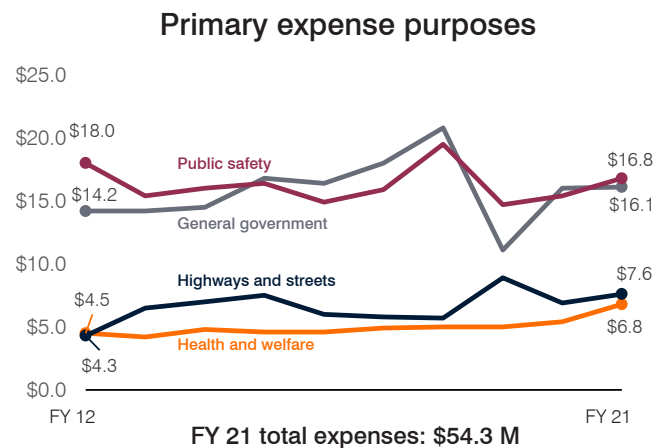
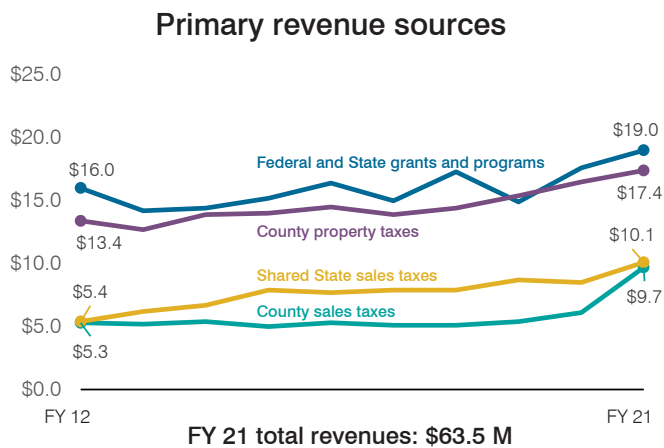
The County's fiscal year 2021 reported financial information is reliable, and we did not report any noncompliance. However, we reported deficiencies over financial reporting, summarized on the next page.

Audits' purpose

To express our opinions on the County's financial statements and on compliance with certain federal requirements and, if applicable, to report findings over noncompliance with certain laws and regulations or other financial deficiencies.

Primary revenue sources and how they were spent

Fiscal years (FY) 2012 through 2021
(In millions)



Source: Auditor General staff summary of information obtained from the County's financial statements.

Largest primary revenue sources FY 2021

- **Federal and State grants and programs 30.0%**—Includes federal and State government grants and programs awarded as assistance to the County and its residents, including highway user tax revenues for authorized transportation purposes.
- **County property taxes 27.5%**—Levied and collected from property owners based on the assessed value of real and personal property within the County.

Largest primary expense purposes FY 2021

- **Public safety 30.9%**—Costs for protecting the County's persons and property with the largest portion for County jail operations, County Sheriff's office services, probation services, and Flood Control District operations.
- **General government 29.7%**—Costs for general operation, oversight, and administration of County operations, including property assessments and taxes, budgeting and finance, and elections.

County's net position increased in FY 2021

County revenues were \$9.2 million greater than its expenses, increasing total net position to \$67.9 million at June 30, 2021. Net position includes all assets, such as buildings, vehicles, and cash and investments, less all liabilities, such as unpaid pension and other payroll obligations, long-term debt, and accounts payable. None of this net position is unrestricted, meaning some is not in spendable form, and the rest is restricted by external parties.

Auditor findings and recommendations

Summarized below are our findings and recommendations included in the County's [Single Audit Report](#) where there is further information and the County's responses.

- The County needs to continue to develop, document, and implement policies and procedures to effectively respond to risks and to prevent, detect, and respond to unauthorized or inappropriate access, damage, or loss to its information technology systems and data, including financial and sensitive data. We reported similar findings in the prior year.
- The County should develop and implement written policies and procedures for County departments to follow for contracting and monitoring professional services, including requiring a written contract agreement for the services and staff requirements for monitoring contract performance and subsequent billings. We found that during the year the County Superior Court lacked written agreements and monitoring procedures to ensure it received all the indigents' legal defense services for which it paid \$645,229 to 14 attorneys during the year, putting the County at risk of wasting public monies.

Auditor General website report links

- The June 30, 2021, Santa Cruz County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Single Audit Report that are summarized in these highlights can be found at this [link](#). These reports should be read to fully understand the County's overall financial picture and our reporting responsibilities.
- The County's reports from prior years are available at this [link](#).
- For help in understanding important information presented in these reports, please refer to our user guides at the following links:
 - [Financial Report User Guide for State and Local Governments](#).
 - [Internal Control and Compliance Reports User Guide](#).