

**Rio Grande County
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009**

As management of Rio Grande County, we offer readers of County's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the County for the year ended December 31, 2009. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with additional information that we have furnished in the County's financial statements, which follow this section.

Financial Highlights

- The County's financial status remained basically the same over the course of the year ending December 31, 2009. Total net assets increased 0.52 percent disregarding the adjustments made for GASB 34 infrastructure reporting.
- General revenues, primarily taxes, account for approximately \$4,845,425 or 39.4 percent of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and sales, grants and contributions, accounted for \$7,441,827 or 60.6 percent of total revenues of \$12,287,252.
- The County had \$12,053,480 in expenses related to governmental activities; only \$7,441,827 of these expenses was offset by program specific charges for services and grants.
- Outlays for capital assets were primarily comprise of two sheriff's department vehicles, two Cat motor graders for the Road & Bridge Department, and two cars for the Social Services Department.
- The County has long-term debt to fund the addition and remodeling of the Jail. Rio Grande County entered into an annually renewable Lease Purchase Agreement with San Luis Valley Federal Bank. This Lease Purchase Agreement is for \$2,500,000 with a 20-year payout schedule at 4.5%. The first payment was paid in 2006.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This annual report consists of three parts: management's discussion and analysis, the basic financial statements, and supplementary information. The basic financial statements include:

- The first two statements are government-wide financial statements that provide both short-term and long-term information about the County's overall financial status.
- The remaining statements are fund financial statements that focus on individual parts of the County, reporting the county's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements.
- The governmental funds statements tell how basic services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.
- Fiduciary funds statements provide information about the financial relationships in which the County acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of others.

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The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements, and includes a comparison to the County's budget for the year.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers a broad overview of the County's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net assets presents information on all of the Rio Grande County's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net assets. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the County is improving or deteriorating. To assess the County's overall health, you need to consider additional non-financial factors such as changes in the County's property tax base and the condition of County buildings and other facilities.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the government's net assets changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net assets are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenue and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g. uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the County that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities). Included in governmental activities are most of the County's basic services such as regular government operations such as law enforcement, tax assessment and collection, social service programs, highway maintenance and construction.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the County's funds, focusing on its most significant or "major" funds, not the County as a whole. Funds are accounting devices the County uses to track specific sources of funding and spending on particular programs. The County, like other local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The County's funds are divided into two categories: governmental funds and fiduciary funds. Governmental Funds are further divided into Governmental Activities which includes: General Government, Public Safety, Health and Welfare, Highways and Streets, Judicial, Auxiliary Services and Culture and Recreation.

Governmental Funds: All of the County's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on (1) how cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out and (2) balances remaining at year-end which are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps determine financial resources that may be available in the near term to finance the County's programs. Because this information does not encompass the long-term focus of the government-wide statements, the reconciliations on Pages 15 and 17, explain the relationship (or differences) between them.

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Rio Grande County maintains nine individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances for the (1) General Fund, (2) the Road and Bridge Fund, (3) the Social Services Fund, (4) the Capital Expenditures Fund, (5) Weed Control District Fund, (6) the Airport Fund, (7) the Conservation Trust Fund, (8) the Tourism Fund, and (9) the Public Health Agency Fund. Data from the Funds (4) through (9) are combined into a single, aggregated presentation.

Fiduciary Funds: Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. The County is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes and by those to whom the assets belong. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the County's own programs.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents supplementary information. Supplementary information includes combining statements mentioned earlier in connection with non-major governmental funds as well as budget-to-actual information for all funds as dictated by state law.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

Table 1 provides a summary of the district's net assets at December 31, 2008, and 2009.

**Table 1
Condensed Statement of Net Assets**

	Governmental Activities 2009	Governmental Activities 2008
Current and Other Assets	\$ 11,803,574	\$ 11,469,549
Noncurrent Assets	<u>39,031,203</u>	<u>38,462,950</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 50,834,777</u>	<u>\$ 49,932,499</u>
Current liabilities	5,784,335	5,037,893
Noncurrent liabilities	<u>2,286,896</u>	<u>2,364,832</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 8,071,231</u>	<u>\$ 7,402,725</u>
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 36,853,133	\$ 36,193,379
Restricted	406,182	414,661
Unrestricted (Deficit)	<u>5,504,231</u>	<u>5,921,734</u>
Total net assets at December 31, 2008 & 2009	<u>\$42,763,546</u>	<u>\$ 42,529,774</u>

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Table 2 provides a summary of the changes in net assets. Following Table 2 is a specific discussion related to overall revenues and expenses.

**Table 2
Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results**

	Governmental Activities 2009	Governmental Activities 2008
Revenues		
Program Revenues		
Charges for Services	\$ 818,234	\$1,012,825
Operating grants and contributions	6,066,693	5,577,450
Capital grants/restricted investment earnings	556,900	320,781
General revenues		
Taxes	4,030,775	4,048,315
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	700,568	682,171
Other	<u>114,082</u>	<u>247,049</u>
Total Revenues	<u>12,287,252</u>	<u>11,888,591</u>
Expenses		
General Government	3,037,911	2,577,534
Public Safety	2,377,099	2,028,764
Health and Welfare	4,070,136	3,611,814
Highways and Streets	2,040,905	2,148,860
Judicial	178,000	161,940
Auxiliary Services	60,949	87,663
Culture and recreation	187,635	170,905
Interest on Debt	<u>100,845</u>	<u>104,757</u>
Total Expenses	<u>12,053,480</u>	<u>10,892,237</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	<u>\$ 233,772</u>	<u>\$ 996,354</u>

Property taxes, Sales Tax, and other taxes account for 32.8 percent (\$4,030,775) of the County's revenue. State Funding and Grants contributes \$7,324,161 or 59.6 percent of the funding. The remainder from fees charged for services and miscellaneous sources equals to \$932,316 or 7.6 percent of the funding revenue.

Governmental Activities

The County's expenses are distributed as follows:

General Government	25.2%
Public Safety	19.7%
Health and Welfare	33.8%
Highways and Streets	16.9%
Judicial	1.5%
Auxiliary Services	.5%
Culture and Recreation	1.6%
Interest on Debt	.8

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Rio Grande County has a mill levy of 15.568. The County is not allowed to increase this mill levy without voter approval. The two government functions of General Government and Public Safety rely heavily on property and sale tax dollars. Without being able to increase these funding sources which have remained flat for the last several years, unappropriated funds has been used to balance parts of the budget. Very little change occurred within governmental activities as shown above. The largest increase was in General Government from 23.6% to 25.2% due to the posting of the Forest Service Safer Rural Schools funding that was past on to the school districts. Public Safety did increase in 2009 since in 2008 the Sheriff's Department purchased two vehicles instead of one and the increased inmate medical costs. The Road & Bridge Fund decreased due to fewer paving projects were funded. The Health and Welfare remained about the same from 33.2% to 33.8%.

During 2009, Rio Grande County paid \$6,177,227 in salaries and fringe benefits. The employees received a two percent Cost of Living raise increase. This was an increase of \$323,554 (\$252,362 in wages and \$71,191 in benefits).

The statement of activities provides the cost of program services and the related charges for services and grants offsetting those costs. Table 3 reflects each program's net cost (total cost less fees generated by the programs and intergovernmental aid provided for specific programs). The net cost shows the financial burden placed on the County's taxpayers by each of these programs.

**Table 3
Net Cost of Governmental Activities (in dollars)**

	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services
General Government	\$ 3,037,911	\$ (2,115,104)
Public Safety	2,377,099	(1,565,117)
Health and Welfare	4,070,136	(856,312)
Highways and Streets	2,040,905	396,210
Judicial	178,000	(178,000)
Auxiliary Services	60,949	(59,749)
Culture and Recreation	187,635	(132,736)
Interest on Debt	<u>100,845</u>	<u>(100,845)</u>
 Total	 <u>\$12,053,480</u>	 <u>\$ (4,611,653)</u>

- Rio Grande County is the financial agent for the Homeland Security Grant for the San Luis Valley. These grants provide DTR communication equipment, training and exercises for all law enforcement, emergency medical and fire protection districts. During 2009, \$450,438 was received up from \$329,633 in 2008.
- \$2,703,408 was received from the State of Colorado and Federal Government for the operation of the Social Services programs such as TANF, Child Welfare, OAP, Single Entry Point, Child Care, IV-D and Fraud programs.

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Financial Analysis of the County's Funds

Information about the County's funds follows the government-wide statements. These funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. All governmental funds have total revenues of \$12,301,511 and expenditures of \$12,717,075. The net change in fund balance for the year was most significant in the Road & Bridge Fund with a decrease of \$498,967. The County General Fund increased their fund balance by \$80,880. The Social Services Fund decreased their fund balance by \$163,994. The Airport Fund increased by \$13,009 due to the PILT payment and donations for the new runway enterprise zone. The Tourism Fund increased by \$38,030 along with the Weed District Fund of \$28,207.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The County approved a budget in December, 2008, based on the needs of the various departments and the projected revenue. In December, 2009, the County revised the annual operating budget approved by the Board of County Commissioners in the prior year. The primary reasons for the Supplementary Budget were the need for roof repair on the Jail, and higher than expected costs for the Coroner due to increased number of deaths. As required by the new Public Health Agency Act passed in 2009, the Nursing Services was moved from the County General Fund in July and a new Public Health Agency Fund was formed. Only six months of revenues and expenditures were reflected in the County General Fund.

The actual expenditures were \$447,357 below the supplementary budget. The total revenues were \$596,468 over estimated. However, the expenditures were still \$80,880 less than the revenues.

The fund balance as of December 31, 2009 was \$2,759,092, compared to \$2,678,212 as of December 31, 2008.

Road & Bridge Fund Highlights

In December, 2009, a Supplementary Budget of \$175,000 was past to cover the addition expenditure for the replacement of a large canal bridge and the additional paving. Road & Bridge Fund ended 2009 with a decrease \$498,967 due to having to budget all the Forest Service receipts including the portion distributed to the various school districts. Highway User's Fund Tax (HUFT) provided \$1,962,769 of the total actual revenue of \$2,542,802. The HUFT was up \$137,895 from 2008. The balance was from property tax, specific ownership tax and other fees and services.

The fund balance as of December 31, 2009 was \$2,160,560 compared to \$2,659,527 as of December 31, 2008.

Social Service Fund Highlights

A Supplemental Budget was approved in December 2009 for an additional \$126,750 for costs incurred in Child Care and TANF. The Social Services Fund ended 2009 with a decrease of \$163,994. Expenditures increased by \$531,128. State funding sources increased by \$320,584 while local sources increased by \$7,093.

The fund balance as of December 31, 2009, was \$522,433 compared to \$686,427 as of December 31, 2008.

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Non-Major Funds Highlights

Non-Major Funds include the Airport Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, Tourism Fund, Capital Expenditure Fund, Public Health Agency Fund, and the Rio Grande County Weed Control District. These funds realized a \$173,995 increase in fund balance during 2009. The Weed Control District Fund had an increase of \$28,207; the Tourism Fund of \$38,030; the Airport Fund, \$13,009; the Conservation Trust Fund, \$2,876; and \$91,873 in the newly formed Public Health Agency Fund.

As of December 31, 2009, the fund balances were as follows: Airport Fund - \$43,290; Conservation Trust Fund - \$224,605; Tourism Fund - \$182,663; Capital Expenditure Fund - \$8,180; Public Health Agency Fund - \$91,873; and Rio Grande County Weed Control Fund - \$151,187.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

By the end of the fiscal year 2009, the County had \$2,250,738 of additional capital assets, which included building improvements, new road construction, two sheriff's vehicles, and two motor graders for Road & Bridge Fund (See Note 6.) There were deletions of \$362,532 of vehicles and equipment which gave net assets before depreciation of \$61,434,433. The depreciation for 2009 was \$1,647,813, bringing the County's Net Capital Depreciation to \$22,836,531. This brings the Net Capital Assets to \$39,031,203.

**Table 4
Capital Assets**

	Governmental Activities	
	2009	2008
Land	\$ 433,301	\$ 433,301
Construction In Progress	0	0
Building & Site Improvements	5,588,870	5,721,384
Equipment & Vehicles	2,204,426	2,016,740
Infrastructure	<u>30,804,606</u>	<u>30,291,525</u>
Total	<u>\$39,031,203</u>	<u>\$38,462,950</u>

In order to finance the needed expansion of the County Jail, Rio Grande County entered into an annually renewable Lease Purchase Agreement with San Luis Valley Federal Bank. The bank issued \$2,500,000 for the purchase of the McCallister Building, the Annex, and two county shop buildings. The county is leasing the buildings back via the Lease Purchase Agreement at 4.5% interest. This agreement is for 20 years with an annual payment of \$191,328.27.

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Factors Bearing on the County's Future

At the time these financial statements were prepared and audited, the County was aware of the following existing circumstances that could significantly affect its financial health in the future.

- Rio Grande County continues to see little increase in assessed value.
- Sales tax dropped \$65,183 from 2008 to 2009 or 8.1%.
- Interest on investments has dropped \$113,303 from 2008 to 2009 (65.6%).
- With the economic climate in the State of Colorado and the United States, the County is continuing to see reductions in funds from the state and federal governments. With reduced revenue, services and programs have been cut and future cuts might be necessary. The County continues to fight the trend of shifting costs from the State to the County.
- The County is experiencing increased inmate medical costs and has been trying to find ways to contain these costs.
- There continues to be pressure from citizens for more of the county roads to be paved. The Commissioners will continue to work on these requests as funds allow.
- If any of the three ballot questions pass, the County will need to severely cut programs and departments. Two budgets will be prepared for 2011 - one will reflect our basic budget, the other will reflect the result of the passage of the amendments/propositions.

Contacting the County's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide the County's citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the County's finances and to demonstrate the County's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the County Administrator, 925 6th Street, Room 207, Del Norte, CO 81132.