

**Rio Grande County
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**

As management of Rio Grande County, we offer readers of the County's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the County for the year ended December 31, 2014. 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, 2014. Total net position increased 0.7 percent disregarding the adjustments made for GASB 34 infrastructure reporting.
- General revenues, primarily taxes, account for approximately \$4,750,455 or 26.0 percent of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and sales, grants and contributions, accounted for \$13,537,962 or 74.0 percent of total revenues of \$18,288,417.
- The County had \$17,941,965 in expenses related to governmental activities; only \$13,537,962 of these expenses was offset by program specific charges for services and grants.
- Outlays for capital assets were primarily comprised of two new pickups and two used vans for the Sheriff's Department; a hydraulic hammer, a F550 pickup with crane and two hopper spreaders for the Road & Bridge Department; and the partial installation of a fuel dispensing system for the Airport.
- 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.
- Through an energy audit, the county entered into a Lease Purchase Agreement on November 20, 2012 with All American Investment Group, LLC in the amount of \$367,062 for the purchase and installation of energy efficient components in various county buildings. This is a ten-year agreement with the second payment being made in 2014.

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.

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- 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.

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 position presents information on all of the Rio Grande County's assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, with the difference between them reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position 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 position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position 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 services 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

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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.

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 Projects 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

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Table 1 provides a summary of the County's net position at December 31, 2013, and 2014.

Table 1
Condensed Statement of Net Position

	Governmental Activities 2013	Governmental Activities 2014
Current and Other Assets	\$ 13,208,293	\$ 13,985,105
Noncurrent Assets	<u>40,890,025</u>	<u>40,415,291</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 54,098,318</u>	<u>\$ 54,400,396</u>
Current liabilities	595,900	735,331
Noncurrent liabilities	<u>2,188,189</u>	<u>2,004,384</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 2,784,089</u>	<u>\$ 2,739,715</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 2,763,656	\$ 2,763,656
Net position		
Net Invested in Capital Assets	\$ 38,790,218	\$ 38,457,758
Restricted	576,718	598,302
Unrestricted (Deficit)	<u>9,183,637</u>	<u>9,840,965</u>
Total net position at Dec. 31, 2013 & 2014	<u>\$ 48,550,573</u>	<u>\$ 48,897,025</u>

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

Table 2
Changes in Net Position from Operating Results

	Governmental Activities 2013	Governmental Activities 2014
Revenues		
Program Revenues		
Charges for Services	\$ 772,250	\$ 747,633
Operating grants and contributions	10,571,610	12,380,957
Capital grants/restricted investment earnings	549,395	409,372
General revenues		
Taxes	3,977,175	3,954,388
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	686,011	713,148
Other	<u>95,512</u>	<u>82,919</u>
Total Revenues	<u>16,651,953</u>	<u>18,288,417</u>
Expenses		

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General Government	2,646,309	4,002,140
Public Safety	2,127,526	2,106,530
Health and Welfare	8,831,140	8,704,962
Highways and Streets	2,542,331	2,630,660
Judicial	169,750	174,396
Auxiliary Services	58,783	61,832
Culture and recreation	218,412	167,510
Interest on Debt	<u>93,802</u>	<u>93,935</u>
Total Expenses	<u>16,688,053</u>	<u>17,941,965</u>
Increase (decrease) in net position	<u>(\$ 36,100)</u>	<u>\$ 346,452</u>
Ending Net Position	<u>\$48,550,573</u>	<u>\$48,897,025</u>

Property taxes, Sales Tax, and other taxes account for 21.6 percent (\$3,954,388) of the County's revenue. State and Federal funding and Grants contributes \$13,503,477 or 73.8 percent of the funding. The remainder from fees charged for services and miscellaneous sources equals to \$830,552 or 4.6 percent of the funding revenue.

Governmental Activities

The County's expenses are distributed as follows:

General Government	22.3%
Public Safety	11.7%
Health and Welfare	48.6%
Highways and Streets	14.7%
Judicial	1.0%
Auxiliary Services	0.3%
Culture and Recreation	0.9%
Interest on Debt	0.5%

Rio Grande County has a mill levy of 15.568. The County is not allowed to increase this mill levy without voter approval. All the government functions rely heavily on property tax dollars. Without being able to increase the mill levy revenue which has remained flat for the last several years, unappropriated funds has been used to balance parts of the budget. Decreases in expenses occurred within Public Safety, Health and Welfare, Highways and Streets, Auxiliary Services, Culture and Recreation. There was an increase in General Government which was due mainly to the pass through of funds for the San Luis Valley Revolving Loan Program. All the other activities that decreased where due to the function of individual programs as compared to the total expenditures and some decrease in funding.

During 2014, Rio Grande County paid \$6,001,478.23 in salaries and fringe benefits. The employees received a two-percent merit raise on their anniversary date. With the merit increase

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and the county approved a three percent wage adjustment to bring the wages to a level that would meet the 9.5 percent maximum contribution to an employee's health insurance premium as required by the Affordable Health Care Act. \$167,981.50 more was expended for salaries and fringe or a 2.9% overall increase.

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	\$ 4,002,140	\$ (1,633,914)
Public Safety	2,106,530	(1,703,542)
Health and Welfare	8,704,962	(581,997)
Highways and Streets	2,630,660	(42,686)
Judicial	174,396	(174,396)
Auxiliary Services	61,832	(61,232)
Culture and Recreation	167,510	(112,301)
Interest on Debt	<u>93,935</u>	<u>(93,935)</u>
Total	<u>\$17,941,965</u>	<u>\$ (4,404,003)</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, schools, and fire protection districts. During 2014, \$166,461 was expended down from \$258,193 in 2013. Federal funding for these grants is declining.
- \$7,802,614 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 down from \$7,899,926 received in 2013.

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 \$18,318,916 and expenditures of \$17,660,038. The net change in fund balance for

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the year was most significant in the County General Fund with a decrease of \$103,935. The Tourism Fund decreased by \$11,987 and Public Health Fund decreased by \$12,578. The remaining funds had an increased in their fund balances: Road & Bridge Fund, \$572,860; Social Services Fund, \$102,513; Conservation Fund, \$45,078; Airport Fund, \$59,200; Weed District Fund, \$15,744.

The County approved a budget in December, 2013, based on the needs of the various departments and the projected revenue. In December, 2014, 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 receipt of various grants (Post Disaster Recovery Grants and the SLV Revolving Loan Program Grant and additional funding for the SLV Homeland Security Grants). The Public Health Fund also received additional grants.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The actual expenditures were \$622,708 below the supplementary budget. The total revenues were \$382,187 over the estimated amount. The net result was the expenditures were 103,935 more than the revenues.

The fund balance as of December 31, 2014 was \$3,495,786, compared to \$3,599,721 as of December 31, 2013.

Road & Bridge Fund Highlights

Road & Bridge Fund balance ended 2014 with an increase of \$572,860 due to less snow removal, personnel savings and decreased operating expenditures. Highway User's Tax Fund (HUTF) provided \$2,063,494 of the total actual revenue of \$2,743,696. The HUTF was up by \$64,803 from 2013.

The fund balance as of December 31, 2014 was \$5,091,629 compared to \$4,518,769 as of December 31, 2013.

Social Service Fund Highlights

The Social Services Fund ended 2014 with an increase of \$102,513. Expenditures were \$2,008,411 less than projected. State funding sources were \$7,802,614 which resulted in increasing the fund balance to \$849,518.

The fund balance as of December 31, 2014, was \$849,518 compared to \$747,005 as of December 31, 2013.

Non-Major Funds Highlights

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Non-Major Funds include the Airport Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, Tourism Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Public Health Agency Fund, and the Rio Grande County Weed Control District. These funds realized a \$95,457 increase in fund balance during 2014. The Weed Control District Fund had an increase of \$15,744; the Airport Fund, \$59,200; and the Conservation Trust Fund, \$45,078. The Tourism Fund decreased their fund balance by \$11,987, and the Public Health Fund by \$12,578.

As of December 31, 2014, the fund balances were as follows: Conservation Trust Fund - \$299,756; Tourism Fund - \$184,293; Capital Projects Fund - \$8,180; Public Health Agency Fund - \$308,422; Rio Grande County Weed Control Fund - \$225,010; and Airport Fund, \$213,930.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

By the end of the fiscal year 2014, the County had \$1,335,001 of additional capital assets, which included building improvements, new road construction, four sheriff's vehicles, a pickup, two spreaders and a hammer for Road & Bridge Fund, and fuel dispensing system for the Airport. There were deletions of \$14,000 of vehicles and equipment which gave net position before depreciation of \$70,710,214. The depreciation for 2014 was \$1,795,735, bringing the County's Net Capital Depreciation to \$30,778,601. This brings the Net Capital Assets to \$40,415,291.

Table 4
Capital Assets

	Governmental Activities	
	2013	2014
Land	\$ 433,301	\$ 433,301
Construction In Progress	0	50,377
Building & Site Improvements	5,368,742	5,224,050
Equipment & Vehicles	1,946,207	1,832,609
Infrastructure	<u>33,141,775</u>	<u>32,874,954</u>
Total	<u>\$40,890,025</u>	<u>\$40,415,291</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. The outstanding balance at December 31, 2013 and 2014 was \$1,749,147 and \$1,636,328 respectfully.

A Lease Purchase Agreement was entered into between All American Investment Group, LLC, as lessor, and the County as lessee in the amount of \$367,062 with an interest rate of 2.5% on

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November 20, 2012 to purchase energy efficient components for the County buildings. Repayment began in April 2013 and quarterly thereafter from the General Fund. This Lease Purchase Agreement will be completed in 2025. The outstanding balance at December 31, 2014 was \$302,847.

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 has seen a slight increase in assessed value.
- Sales tax had a slight increase of \$9,212 from 2013 to 2014 or 1.157%.
- Interest on investments increased \$23,384 from 2013 to 2014 (34.2%) which is a reversal from prior years.
- With the West Fork Complex Fire during 2013, the tourism economy in Rio Grande County dropped considerably as shown in the decrease of 9.5% in sales tax. Compiled with the economic climate in the United States, the County is continuing to watch closely the intergovernmental funding. During 2014, the County received \$1,702,431 (14.4%) more in state and federal funding. This increase is miss leading since \$1,166,120 was the pass through funding for the San Luis Valley Revolving Loan Program. The 2014 County Budget was funded by 69.5% Intergovernmental Revenues; with 23.38% from Property Tax, Sales Tax, Lodging Tax, and Specific Ownership Tax; and 5.1% from Other Local Revenue. The balance needed from unappropriated surplus was 2.02%. Over the past three years, the county has continued to monitor closely the expenditures and revenues in order to respond timely to any shortfalls. 2014 ended in surplus funds in several fund due to reduction in expenditures. The county continues to fight the trend of shifting costs from the State to the County. The General Fund continues to be a major concern due to the reduction in revenues and increase costs that can only be reduced by cutting employees and programs.
- 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 especially with the lower asphalt prices and the increase in fund balance.

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 Chief Financial Officer, 925 6th Street, Room 207, Del Norte, CO 81132.