

## **Understanding California and its Counties Internet Research Project**

It is important for informed citizens of California to understand the benefits that we enjoy as a result of the system of county government in our state. The average person in California moves once every three years. It is quite possible that your education and career will take you to live and work in many places throughout our state. This section of the Service Learning Project will make you more familiar with our system of county government.

You will be assigned a specific county in California to investigate through its web site. For this county, you are to answer the following questions on separate paper with depth and detail providing facts and concrete details to support your answers.

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Print out the first page of the web site and attach it to your sheet of answers. Print out the attached county map from the Service Learning packet; locate and identify your assigned county on the map. Attach the map to your sheet of answers as well.
2. Every county administers itself through county departments. Visit three departments and describe the services that each provides. In what ways do you think these departments meet the needs of the county residents?
3. The elected officials of each county are the Board of Supervisors. Name the elected Supervisors in your county. Describe their duties.
4. All counties have Boards and Commissions that report to the Board of Supervisors. Visit one Board and one Commission and describe the structure and work of each.
5. Counties must be prepared to respond to critical emergencies such as floods, earthquakes, droughts and fires. Describe the emergency services provided by your county. Do you think these services are adequate or not? Support your answer with evidence from the web site.
6. If you wished to find a job working for this county or in this county, how could you utilize the web site to do so? What sorts of jobs are available in, or for this county? List several. Is this web site effective in assisting people seeking employment? Support your answer.
7. Review the budget for this county. Describe the budgeting process. Draw three conclusions about the financial condition of this county. What is the primary source of revenue for county governments?
8. Based upon what you have learned so far, is this a county where a business would want to locate? If so, why or if not, why not? What incentives (encouragement) do this county offer to attract businesses?
9. Would you want to live in this county? Name three things that would make this county an attractive place to live and work and three things that would make this county a less desirable place to live and work.
10. How do you register to vote in this county? How else does the web site reflect democratic values and American values such as liberty, economic opportunity and personal responsibility?

# California Counties' Websites

<b>County</b>	<b>Website Address</b>
Alameda	<a href="http://www.acgov.org">www.acgov.org</a>
Alpine	<a href="http://www.co.alpine.ca.us">www.co.alpine.ca.us</a>
Amador	<a href="http://www.co.amador.ca.us">www.co.amador.ca.us</a>
Butte	<a href="http://www.buttecounty.net">www.buttecounty.net</a>
Calaveras	<a href="http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us">www.co.calaveras.ca.us</a>
Colusa	<a href="http://www.colusacountyclerk.com">www.colusacountyclerk.com</a>
Contra Costa	<a href="http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us">www.co.contra-costa.ca.us</a>
Del Norte	<a href="http://www.co.del-norte.ca.us">www.co.del-norte.ca.us</a>
El Dorado	<a href="http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us">www.co.el-dorado.ca.us</a>
Fresno	<a href="http://www.co.fresno.ca.us">www.co.fresno.ca.us</a>
Glenn	<a href="http://www.countyofglenn.net">www.countyofglenn.net</a>
Humboldt	<a href="http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us">www.co.humboldt.ca.us</a>
Imperial	<a href="http://www.co.imperial.ca.us">www.co.imperial.ca.us</a>
Inyo	<a href="http://www.inyocounty.us">www.inyocounty.us</a>
Kern	<a href="http://www.co.kern.ca.us">www.co.kern.ca.us</a>
Kings	<a href="http://www.countyofkings.com">www.countyofkings.com</a>
Lake	<a href="http://www.co.lake.ca.us">www.co.lake.ca.us</a>
Lassen	<a href="http://www.co.lassen.ca.us">www.co.lassen.ca.us</a>
Los Angeles	<a href="http://www.lacounty.info">www.lacounty.info</a>
Madera	<a href="http://www.madera-county.com">www.madera-county.com</a>
Marin	<a href="http://www.co.marin.ca.us">www.co.marin.ca.us</a>
Mariposa	<a href="http://www.mariposacounty.org">www.mariposacounty.org</a>
Mendocino	<a href="http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us">www.co.mendocino.ca.us</a>
Merced	<a href="http://www.co.merced.ca.us">www.co.merced.ca.us</a>
Modoc	<a href="http://www.modocounty.us">www.modocounty.us</a>
Mono	<a href="http://www.monocounty.ca.gov">www.monocounty.ca.gov</a>
Monterey	<a href="http://www.co.monterey.ca.us">www.co.monterey.ca.us</a>
Napa	<a href="http://www.co.napa.ca.us">www.co.napa.ca.us</a>
Nevada	<a href="http://www.mynevadacounty.com">www.mynevadacounty.com</a>
Orange	<a href="http://www.oc.ca.gov">www.oc.ca.gov</a>
Placer	<a href="http://www.placer.ca.gov">www.placer.ca.gov</a>
Plumas	<a href="http://www.countyofplumas.com">www.countyofplumas.com</a>
Riverside	<a href="http://www.countyofriverside.us">www.countyofriverside.us</a>
Sacramento	<a href="http://www.saccounty.net">www.saccounty.net</a>
San Benito	<a href="http://www.san-benito.ca.us">www.san-benito.ca.us</a>
San Bernardino	<a href="http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us">www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us</a>
San Diego	<a href="http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us">www.co.san-diego.ca.us</a>
San Francisco	<a href="http://www.ci.sf.ca.us">www.ci.sf.ca.us</a>
San Joaquin	<a href="http://www.sjgov.org">www.sjgov.org</a>
San Luis Obispo	<a href="http://www.co.slo.ca.us">www.co.slo.ca.us</a>
San Mateo	<a href="http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us">www.co.sanmateo.ca.us</a>
Santa Barbara	<a href="http://www.countyofsb.org">www.countyofsb.org</a>
Santa Clara	<a href="http://www.sccgov.org">www.sccgov.org</a>

Santa Cruz	<a href="http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us">www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us</a>
Shasta	<a href="http://www.co.shasta.ca.us">www.co.shasta.ca.us</a>
Sierra	<a href="http://www.sierracounty.ws">www.sierracounty.ws</a>
Siskiyou	<a href="http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us">www.co.siskiyou.ca.us</a>
Solano	<a href="http://www.co.solano.ca.us">www.co.solano.ca.us</a>
Sonoma	<a href="http://www.sonoma-county.org">www.sonoma-county.org</a>
Stanislaus	<a href="http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us">www.co.stanislaus.ca.us</a>
Sutter	<a href="http://www.co.sutter.ca.us">www.co.sutter.ca.us</a>
Tehama	<a href="http://www.co.tehama.ca.us">www.co.tehama.ca.us</a>
Trinity	<a href="http://www.trinitycounty.org">www.trinitycounty.org</a>
Tulare	<a href="http://www.co.tulare.ca.us">www.co.tulare.ca.us</a>
Tuolumne	<a href="http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov">www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov</a>
Ventura	<a href="http://www.countyofventura.org">www.countyofventura.org</a>
Yolo	<a href="http://www.yolocounty.org">www.yolocounty.org</a>
Yuba	<a href="http://www.co.yuba.ca.us">www.co.yuba.ca.us</a>

