



MELISSA WILK

ALAMEDA COUNTY

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/CLERK-RECORDER

April 2022 Newsletter

Message from Melissa

Dear Alameda County,

I am so happy to see our weather warming into spring and bringing with it the seasonal beauty and vitality we so enjoy throughout the County. Members of the Alameda County community have been reaching out and we have been thrilled to participate and celebrate many events with them.

I am also happy to report that we have been receiving very positive feedback from our customers in the Tri-Valley after re-opening our Clerk-Recorder's Office in Dublin last month.



In This Issue

- County Budgeting Process Kicks Off
- Apply for COVID-19 Cash Aid Grants
- Volunteer Marriage Commissioners
- Online Services
- Apply for the Arts Relief Grant Program
- Presenting Resources to the Community
- Arts, Culture & Creativity Month
- Raising Leaders Raises \$3M
- In the Community
- Stay In Touch

Our operations in Dublin have been running smoothly and we are so pleased to be serving you in-person at [both of our locations](#) – in Dublin as well as Oakland.

Parking at our **Dublin Office** is free and is also less than a half-mile from the West Dublin BART station. Our **Downtown Oakland Office** offers discounted parking at the Oakland Museum of California garage (enter on Oak Street and 11th). Our Oakland Office is also within walking distance to the Lake Merritt BART station and many AC Transit bus stops.

Don't forget that you can order vital documents like birth, death, and marriage certificates through our [online service](#), which is available 24 hours a day.

Closed for Memorial Day



All County Offices will be closed on Monday, **May 30** in observance of Memorial Day. Our Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Services are always available online. [Click here if you need to order vital documents.](#)

I invite you to stay up to date on important County events like our annual budgeting process, applying for grants to support local organizations and the arts, volunteering with our marriage services team, and more by reading below.

As always, please let us know how we can better serve you!

Best,

Melissa Wilk

Alameda County's Budgeting Process Kicks Off with Final Budget Approval by June 30



This month, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors began to meet in budget work sessions to prepare the County's Fiscal Year 2022-23 Proposed Budget. The County's budget will identify how billions of taxpayer dollars are distributed for the next Fiscal year, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for spending in four main areas – health care services, public assistance programs, public protection, and general government services.

Alameda County is committed to an open and transparent budget process to ensure inclusiveness, accountability and trust. In the ensuing weeks, the Board of Supervisors, County Administrator, County Agency and Department heads, labor representatives, and various community stakeholders will meet to discuss budget policy impacts and reconcile their needs with available resources. The most important guiding principles used in creating a balanced budget include:

- Conserving our limited resources while sustaining core services;
- Incorporating budget equity principles; and
- Advancing the objectives of the [Board's Vision 2026](#).

A critical aspect of this process includes the County Administrator's analysis of the proposed budgets submitted by County Departments and Agencies, and determining any Fiscal Year 2022-23 funding gap. The funding gap is the difference between the cost of maintaining current services and available financing. Any funding gap will be targeted for budget balancing in a collaborative effort among all of the stakeholders identified above.

Another critical aspect of this process involves an analysis of how State and federal funding and policy decisions will impact Alameda County residents. This analysis will be conveyed through reports that will be included in the Proposed and Final Budget documents.

In May and June, County departments will make any necessary adjustments to their initial proposals for final consideration by the Board of Supervisors. The Proposed Budget is slated to be presented to the Board in early June.

The Board will subsequently hold hearings for the public to offer comments to the Proposed Budget. This will be an important opportunity for Alameda County residents, businesses, and organizations to share their thoughts and feedback. The County anticipates receiving input and insights on how the Proposed Budget will impact significant issues such as criminal justice reform, the ongoing homelessness crisis, and the future of employment and safety net programs.

After public hearings, the Board will vote to adopt the Final Budget no later than June 30, 2022.

Cash Grants for Non-Profit and Business Organizations Impacted by COVID-19

Apply for up to \$100,000 in Relief!



Local non-profit and business organizations that have experienced negative economic, health, and safety impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and are located in or serve residents of Alameda County are invited to apply for the American Rescue Plan Act (**ARPA**) **Community Needs Cash Aid Grant**. This program was launched by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors earlier this month.

Eligible organizations may receive cash aid grants up to the maximum amount of \$100,000 per Supervisorial District based on demonstrated and qualifying impacts. The total cash aid grants cannot exceed the amount of your organization's loss.

Through the application process, applicants must demonstrate and attest to the harm and economic loss sustained by the organization due to negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Priority will be given to organizations operated by or serving populations and communities that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each Supervisorial District (five in total) has been allocated \$3.1 million to disburse grants. Grants are subject to availability of funds, eligibility of applicants, and any other relevant factors according to each Supervisorial District.

HOW TO APPLY: Visit the [ARPA Cash Aid Grants](#) webpage for full details and to submit an application.

Getting Married with Us

Meet our Volunteer Deputy Marriage Commissioners

Summer is just around the corner, which means our marriage services team will be gearing up for what will likely be a very busy season of weddings. A very special part of our marriage services team is the Volunteer Deputy Marriage Commissioners who perform the civil marriage ceremonies at the Clerk-Recorder's Office.

We had the opportunity to speak with two of our Volunteer Deputy Marriage Commissioners, Linda Sandsmark and Teri Schlesinger, to learn more about how they discovered our program, why they chose to apply and their invaluable contributions to the Clerk-Recorder's Office.



Linda (pictured above) has been volunteering as a Deputy Marriage Commissioner at the Clerk-Recorder's Office since March 2020. Linda learned about the Clerk-Recorder's Volunteer Deputy Marriage Commissioner program many years ago through a recruitment ad in the Castro Valley newspaper seeking volunteers for an upcoming Valentine's Day. It wasn't until after she retired from her teaching job in 2020 that she finally decided to apply for our program.

"It looked like fun!" said Linda when asked why she decided to apply. "It was a great way for me to continue helping the community after I retired. I also like that I get to meet a wide variety of people and couples whose happiness are very contagious."



Teri (pictured left) has been volunteering as a Deputy Marriage Commissioner since the Summer of 2017. After retiring, Teri was looking for a fun way to remain active and a friend recommended that she apply for our Volunteer Deputy Marriage Commissioner program.

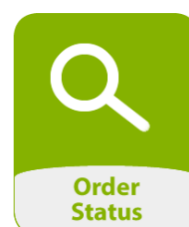
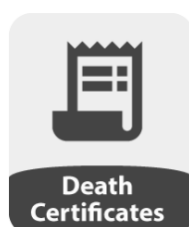
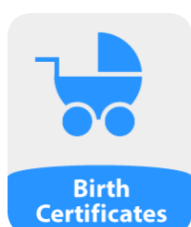
Teri has married over 2,100 couples throughout her five years at the Clerk-Recorder's Office. When asked what she enjoys most about volunteering in the program, Teri responded, "I love talking to all of the different people that I get to meet and learning about their decision to get married, especially after being together for years and years." Teri recounted a couple whom she married after 42 years of being together. "Their stories are always so interesting!"

We are so grateful for our Volunteer Deputy Marriage Commissioners who choose to volunteer their time serving the community at the Clerk-Recorder's Office.

Schedule your appointment to get married with us by visiting our [website](#). If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Deputy Marriage Commissioner, send your [application](#) to 1106 Madison Street, Oakland, CA 94607. For additional information, contact the Clerk-Recorder's Office at 510-272-6362.

SAVE TIME AND ORDER ONLINE

Need your birth, marriage, or death certificate? Save yourself time and order online! Select our pick-up option and we can typically turn around your order within a few days. Click below to get started.



Apply for Round Two of the Arts Relief Grant Program

Application Deadline: Friday, May 13, 5pm



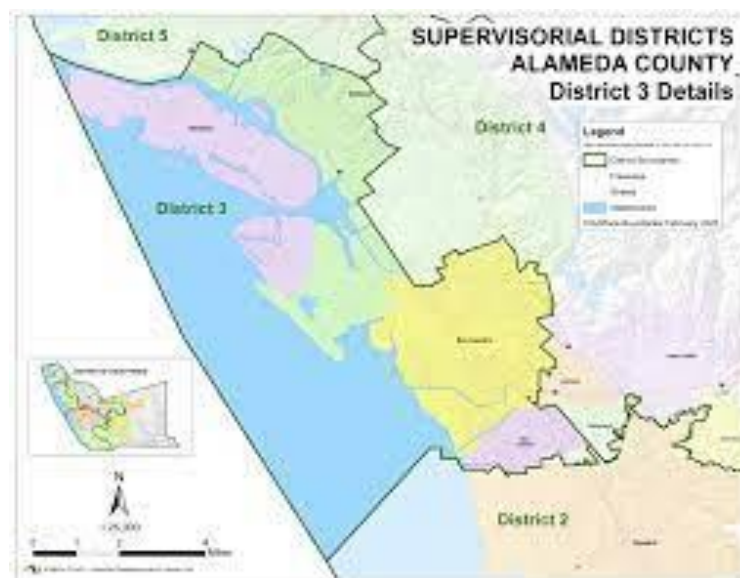
Alameda County arts and cultural nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply to this new opportunity! For more information, please review the [Guidelines](#) and apply through the [Online Application](#).

Under the leadership of Melissa Wilk and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the Alameda County Arts Commission has helped to establish an **Arts Relief Grant Program** to provide funding assistance to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through this American Rescue Plan Act-funded grant program, it is anticipated that up to \$1 million will be provided to Alameda County arts and cultural nonprofit organizations that have experienced a negative economic impact as a result of COVID-19 during the period of March 1, 2020 to the present. Funding will be provided to arts and cultural organizations located throughout Alameda County with additional support provided to organizations located within the County's unincorporated areas.

Arts and cultural organizations who have received a grant through Round One of the Alameda County Arts Relief Grant Program in 2020 and/or through the Alameda County ARTSFUND Grant Program are still eligible to apply for the program, provided that all other eligibility requirements are met as outlined in the guidelines.

Presenting our Resources to the Community



The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency offers many public resources, and we have been reaching out to various communities throughout Alameda County to let them know how we serve and support them. Hosted by Alameda County's Board of Supervisor Dave Brown, Melissa presented a virtual presentation to inform the unincorporated communities of San Lorenzo and Hayward Acres of our services and updates on April 20, 2022.

During the presentation, Melissa presented information about our Restrictive Covenant Redaction Project and how the public can get involved, arts projects sponsored by the County Arts Commission, key information about our Clerk-Recorder services, and more.

If your organization would like to invite Melissa for an update on our agency's services, please email us at ACCR.info@acgov.org.

April is Arts, Culture & Creativity Month in Alameda County

In March 2022, President of the Board of Supervisors Keith Carson (pictured right) and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors honored April as "Arts, Culture & Creativity Month" with a proclamation which was presented to Melissa Wilk (left) and Rachel Osajima, Director of the Alameda County Arts Commission (center).



The Alameda County Arts Commission partners with Californians for the Arts to present this annual month-long spotlight on the arts to raise visibility and awareness about the value of the arts sector, to empower arts advocates to take action, and to spur greater investments on the industry and workforce.

In celebration of Arts, Culture & Creativity Month and Spring, the staff of the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency participated in the Emeryville Spring Expo and Egg Hunt where they distributed Arts Education watercolor activity sheets to dozens of families.



The festivities included face-painting, an Easter egg hunt, photos with the Easter Bunny, and opportunities to sign up for activities sponsored by the City of Emeryville.

To learn more about the CFTA, please visit <https://bit.ly/3JZBMAP>

Alameda County Continues Support of Raising Leaders, Contributes \$3M



Alameda County Probation Department and District 2 Board Supervisor Richard Valle came together to raise more than \$3 million to continue the incredibly successful Raising Leaders program. Raising Leaders provides at-risk youth and young adults with the opportunity to gain their diplomas and provide hands-on experience for careers in government. Raising Leaders, recognizing the needs of all youth in our community, will now extend its programs to serve 8th grade youth as young as 14. The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency has hosted interns from the Raising Leaders program for the last two years. Our Agency was proud to be the first to offer full-time employment to a Raising Leaders graduate.

Out in the Community!



On April 20, Melissa joined Mayor Melissa Hernandez of Dublin at the State of the City Address hosted by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce to engage Dublin's leaders and community members about the City's latest updates, recent accomplishments and challenges that lay ahead. Mayor Hernandez focused on Dublin being "Stronger than Ever" as it approaches its 40-year anniversary of incorporation. Mayor Hernandez discussed the city's estimated \$209 million general fund reserves, \$20 billion in property valuation, and expansion plans for future parks, affordable housing, mental health and

transit. Under Mayor Hernandez's leadership, Dublin is truly a City that is "stronger than ever!"

Pictured above from left to right: Jerry Hunt, Managing Partner at 3VG; Amy Miller at Chabot-Las Positas Community College District; Melissa Hernandez, Mayor of Dublin; Melissa Wilk.

Organized by the Dublin, Pleasanton, Hayward and Livermore Chambers of Commerce, the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder staff attended the Tri-City Chambers Networking Mixer on April 13. The event was hosted by the Chabot Las Positas Community College District and the Economic Development and Contract Education (EDCE), who empower individuals and communities to thrive by creating career, education and economic opportunities.



QUESTIONS FOR OUR AGENCY?

Are there upcoming community events that you would like us to attend? Do you have a specific question you would like to ask? Is your community or organization interested in a presentation about the services provided by the County and the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency?

Email Melissa Wilk at ACCR.info@acgov.org or follow her on [Twitter](#) to let her know what questions we can support your efforts.



STAY IN TOUCH

To get breaking updates on Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency services, announcements, and hours of operation, follow Melissa on Twitter [@MelissaWilkACCR](#).

If this email was forwarded to you, subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at ACCR.info@acgov.org.



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