

**Comparative Debt Measures  
California Counties  
As of June, 2008  
Produced August 18, 2010**

**Summary**

Based on data in the most recent SCO *Counties Annual Report* (2008), compared to all other California Counties, Mendocino County had per resident (per capita):

- The **highest long term debt**
- The **highest annual payments on debt**
- The **highest interest expense**

In terms of the percentage of property tax consumed by debt Mendocino County had:

- The **highest percentage consumed by interest expense.**
- The **second highest percentage consumed by annual debt payments.**

In terms of the percentage of total expenditures consumed by debt, Mendocino had:

- The **highest percentage consumed by interest.**
- The **second highest percentage consumed by total debt payments.**

These are essentially the same findings since we began this analysis four years ago. These tables show the five counties with the highest values in these measures, the average of all 57 counties and how many multiples Mendocino County's value is greater than the average for all counties.

Per Capita (Per Resident)					
Long Term Debt		Payments on Debt		Interest Expense	
<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>130</b>
Sonoma	1092	Orange	112	Trinity	67
Trinity	1057	Trinity	110	Sacramento	43
Sacramento	943	San Diego	89	Plumas	42
Sierra	763	<b>Sonoma</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>Sonoma</b>	<b>36</b>
average	315	average	36	average	17
Mendo/avr	4.0	Mendo/avr	5.4	Mendo/avr	7.6

Percent of Property Tax Income			
Payments on Debt		Interest Expense	
Orange	69%	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>43%</b>	Trinity	18%
San Diego	32%	Sacramento	16%
Trinity	29%	San Diego	12%
Sacramento	24%	Contra Costa	12%
average	11%	average	5%
Mendo/avr	3.8	Mendo/avr	5.6

SCO data from the *Counties Annual Report* does not include important forms of debt such as unfunded retiree benefits. Real estate-related debt is excluded because SCO combined principal and interest as debt.

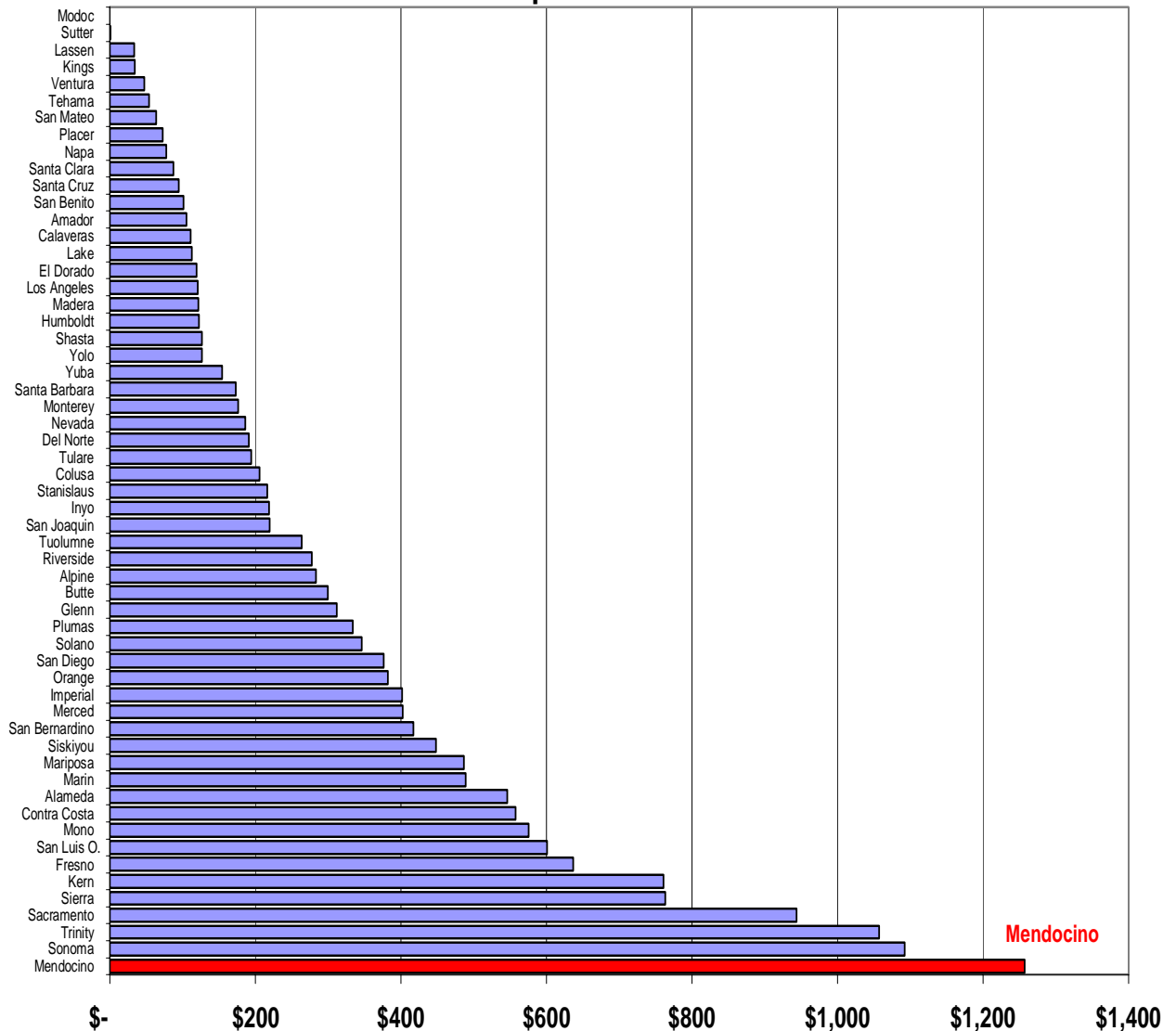
Percent of Total Expenditures			
Payments on Debt		Interest Expense	
Orange	10%	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>10%</b>	San Diego	3%
San Diego	8%	Contra Costa	3%
Contra Costa	5%	Sacramento	2%
Solano	4%	Solano	2%
average	2%	average	1%
Mendo/avr	4.3	Mendo/avr	6.2

## Comparative Debt Measures California Counties As of June, 2008

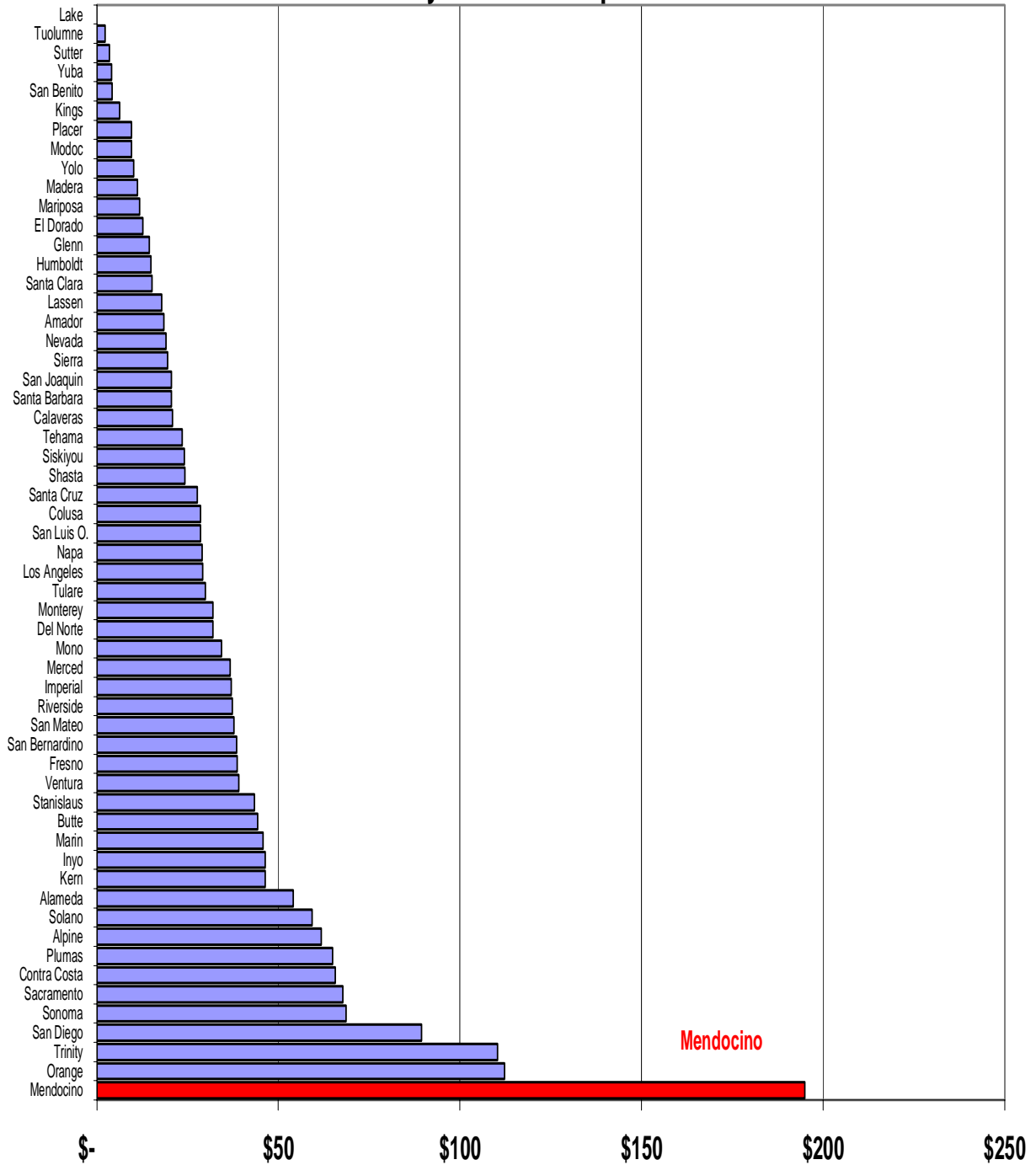
**Based on Data from 2008 Counties Annual Report  
State Controllers Office (SCO)**

The "Notes About the Data" at the end of this Supplemental Data Sheet contain important qualifications about the data on which this analysis is based.

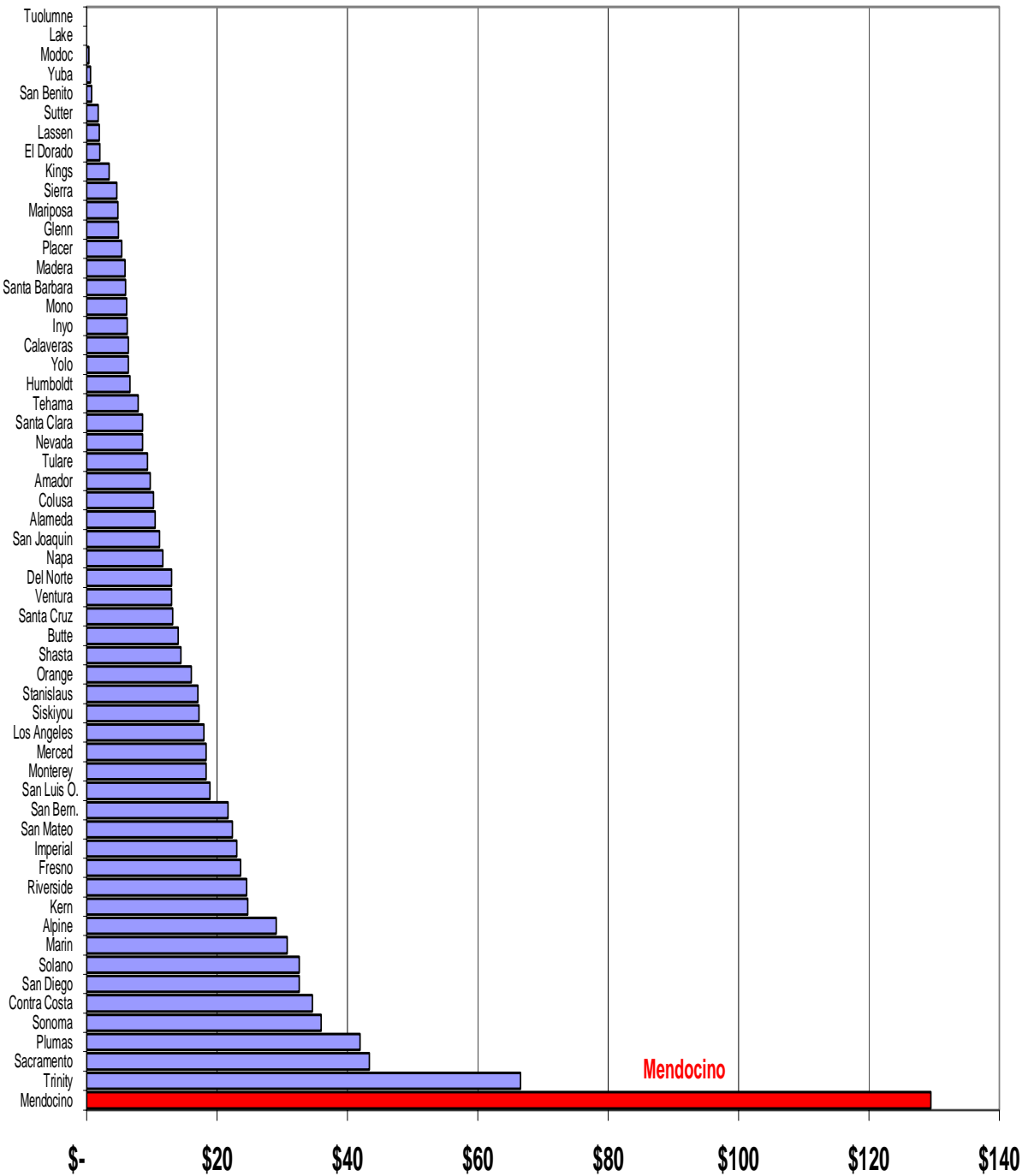
### Per Capita Debt 2008



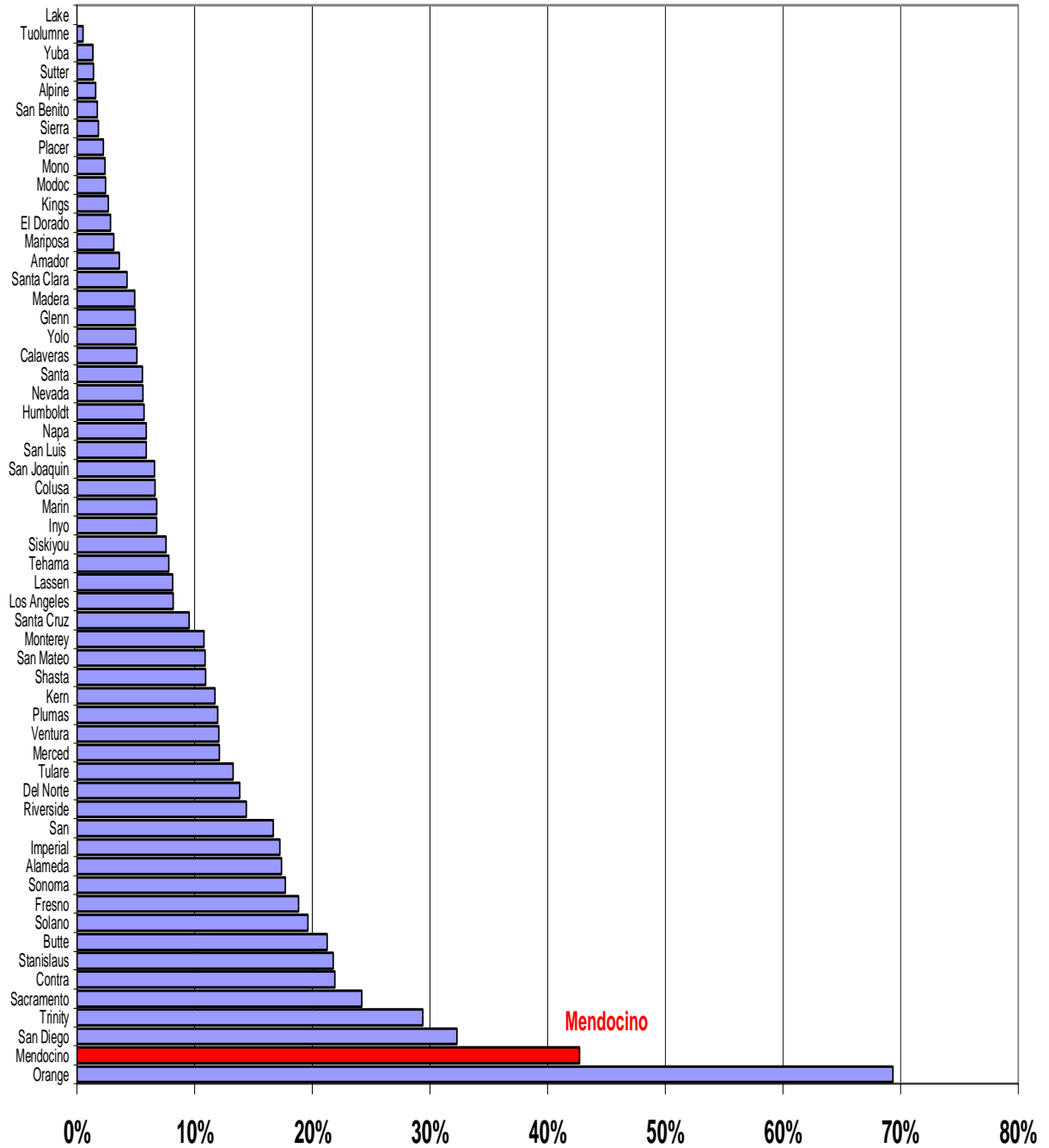
### Debt Payments Per Capita 2008



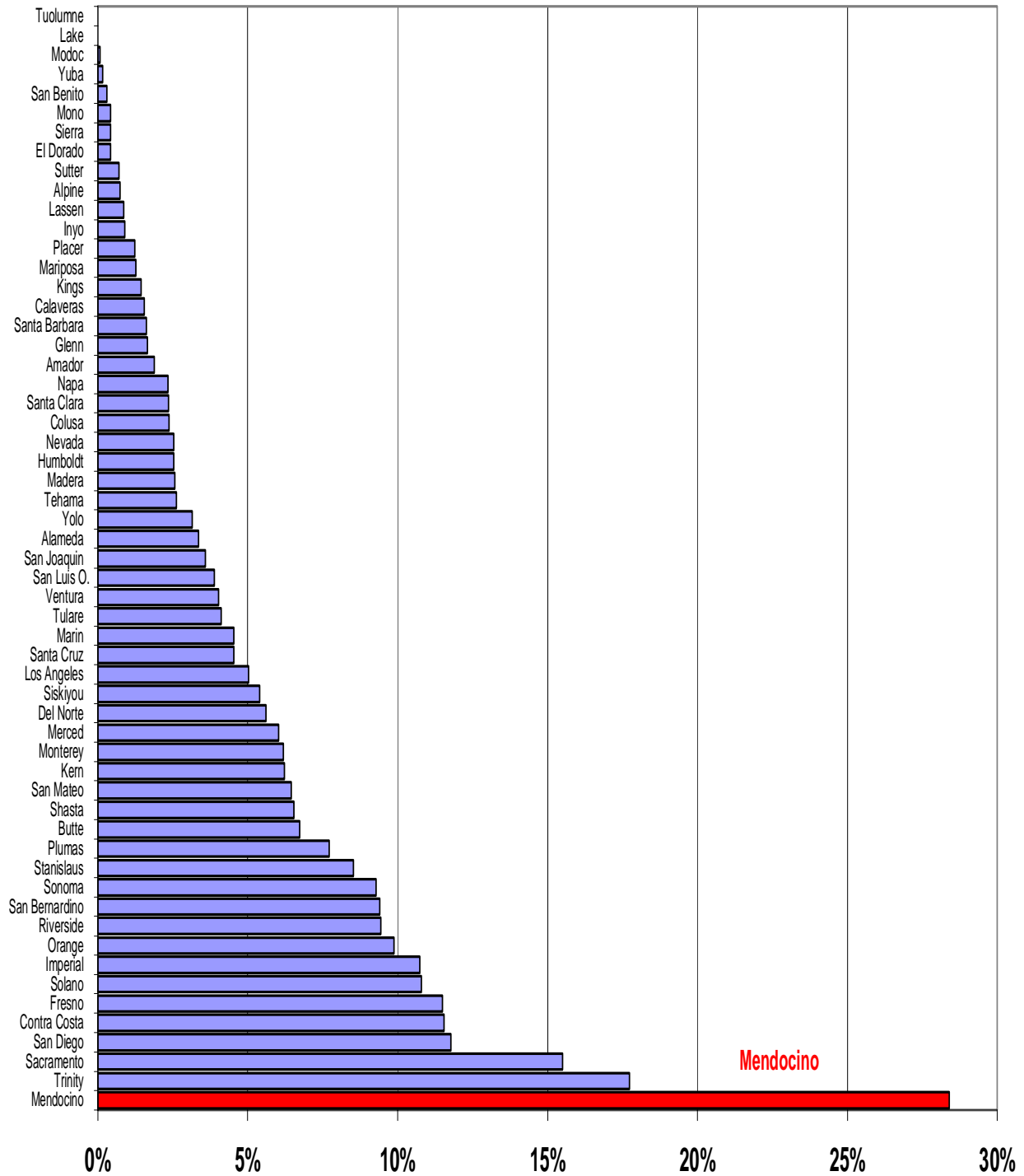
### Interest Expense Per Capita 2008



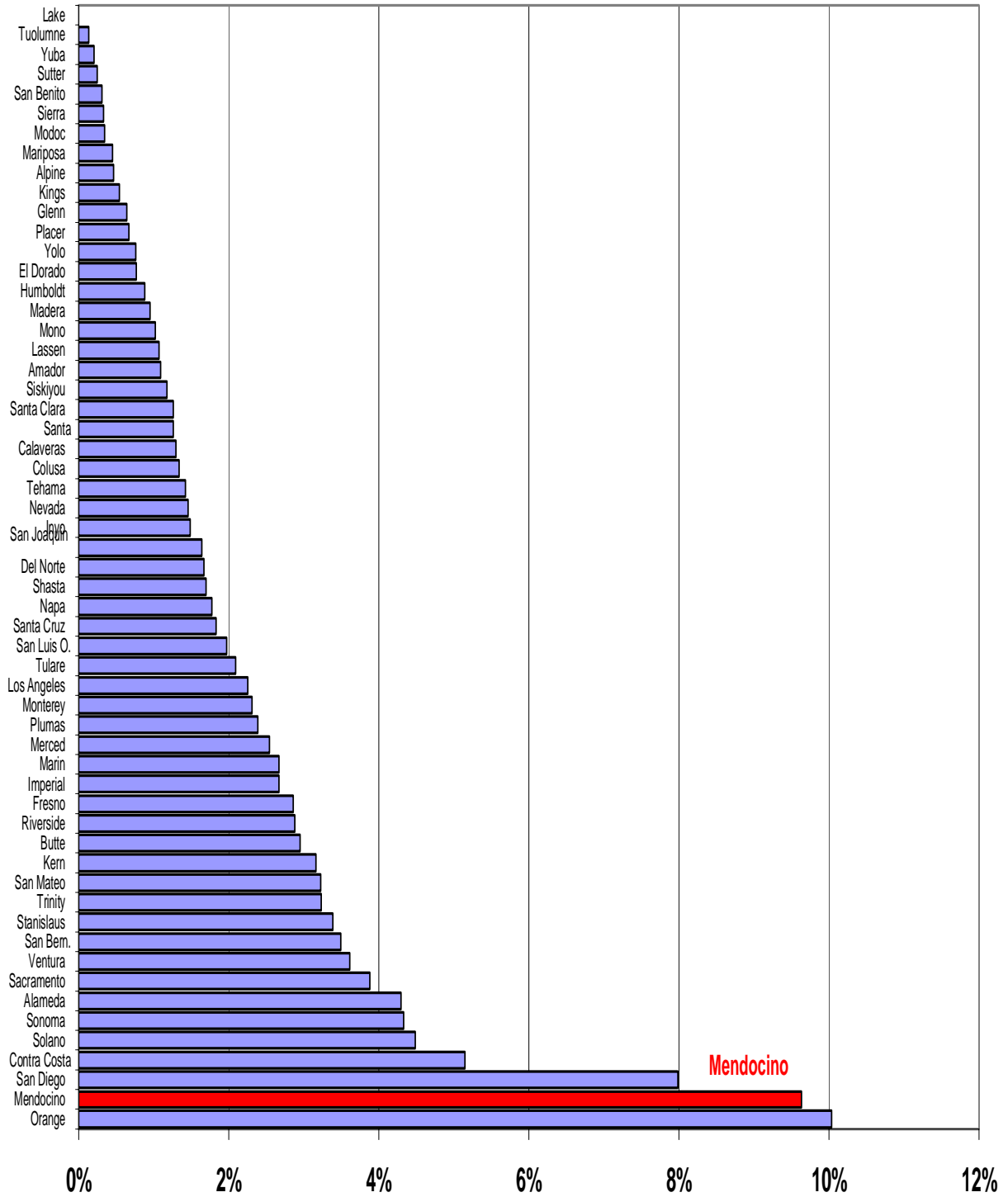
### Debt Payments Percent of Property Tax Income 2008



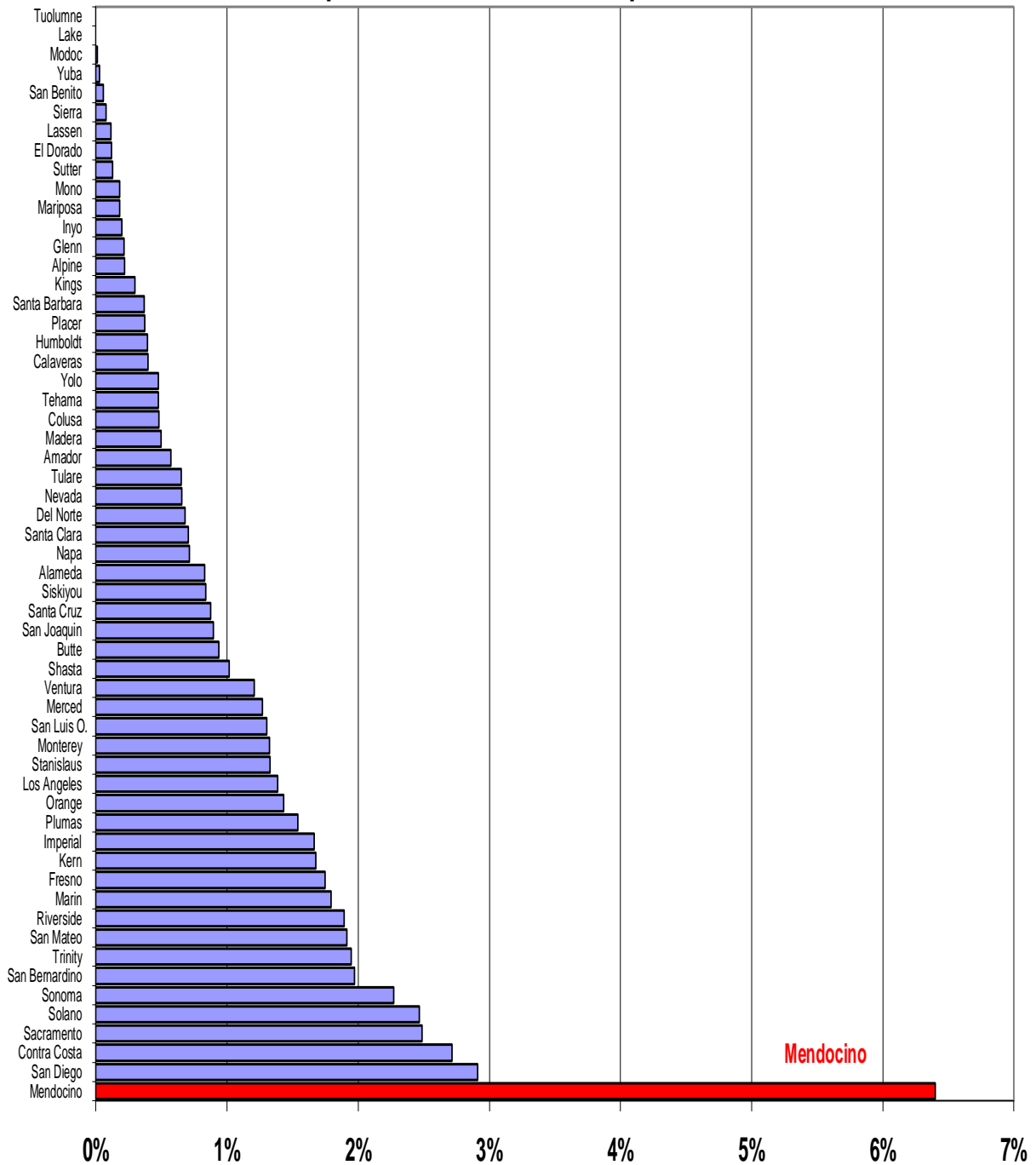
## Interest Expense Percent of Property Tax Income 2008



## Debt Payments Percent Total Expenditures 2008



### Interest Expense Percent of Total Expenditures 2008





Produced by <a href="http://www.YourPublicMoney.Com">www.YourPublicMoney.Com</a> 8/13/10						
Data from California State Controllers Office - "Counties Annual Report" for Fiscal Year 2008						
Per Capita (Per Resident)			Percent of Property Tax Income		Percent of Total Expenditures	
Long Term Debt	Payments on Debt	Interest Expense	Payments on Debt	Interest Expense	Payments on Debt	Interest Expense

<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>130</b>	Orange	69%	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>28%</b>	Orange	10%	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>6%</b>
Sonoma	1092	Orange	112	Trinity	67	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>43%</b>	Trinity	18%	<b>Mendocino</b>	<b>10%</b>	San Diego	3%
Trinity	1057	Trinity	110	Sacramento	43	San Diego	32%	Sacramento	16%	San Diego	8%	Contra Costa	3%
Sacramento	943	San Diego	89	Plumas	42	Trinity	29%	San Diego	12%	Contra Costa	5%	Sacramento	2%
Sierra	763	Sonoma	69	Sonoma	36	Sacramento	24%	Contra Costa	12%	Solano	4%	Solano	2%
Kern	761	Sacramento	68	Contra Costa	35	Contra Costa	22%	Fresno	11%	Sonoma	4%	Sonoma	2%
Fresno	637	Contra Costa	66	San Diego	33	Stanislaus	22%	Solano	11%	Alameda	4%	San Bernardino	2%
San Luis O.	601	Plumas	65	Solano	33	Butte	21%	Imperial	11%	Sacramento	4%	Trinity	2%
Mono	575	Alpine	62	Marin	31	Solano	20%	Orange	10%	Ventura	4%	San Mateo	2%
Contra Costa	557	Solano	59	Alpine	29	Fresno	19%	Riverside	9%	San Bern.	3%	Riverside	2%
Alameda	546	Alameda	54	Kern	25	Sonoma	18%	San Bernardino	9%	Stanislaus	3%	Marin	2%
Marin	489	Kern	46	Riverside	24	Alameda	17%	Sonoma	9%	Trinity	3%	Fresno	2%
Mariposa	487	Inyo	46	Fresno	24	Imperial	17%	Stanislaus	9%	San Mateo	3%	Kern	2%
Siskiyou	448	Marin	46	Imperial	23	San Bernardino	17%	Plumas	8%	Kern	3%	Imperial	2%
San Bernardino	418	Butte	44	San Mateo	22	Riverside	14%	Butte	7%	Butte	3%	Plumas	2%
Merced	403	Stanislaus	43	San Bern.	22	Del Norte	14%	Shasta	7%	Riverside	3%	Orange	1%
Imperial	402	Ventura	39	San Luis O.	19	Tulare	13%	San Mateo	6%	Fresno	3%	Los Angeles	1%
Orange	382	Fresno	39	Monterey	18	Merced	12%	Kern	6%	Imperial	3%	Stanislaus	1%
San Diego	376	San Bernardino	38	Merced	18	Ventura	12%	Monterey	6%	Marin	3%	Monterey	1%
Solano	347	San Mateo	38	Los Angeles	18	Plumas	12%	Merced	6%	Merced	3%	San Luis O.	1%
Plumas	334	Riverside	37	Siskiyou	17	Kern	12%	Del Norte	6%	Plumas	2%	Merced	1%
Glenn	312	Imperial	37	Stanislaus	17	Shasta	11%	Siskiyou	5%	Monterey	2%	Ventura	1%
Butte	300	Merced	37	Orange	16	San Mateo	11%	Los Angeles	5%	Los Angeles	2%	Shasta	1%
Alpine	283	Mono	34	Shasta	14	Monterey	11%	Santa Cruz	5%	Tulare	2%	Butte	1%
Riverside	278	Del Norte	32	Butte	14	Santa Cruz	10%	Marin	5%	San Luis O.	2%	San Joaquin	1%
Tuolumne	264	Monterey	32	Santa Cruz	13	Los Angeles	8%	Tulare	4%	Santa Cruz	2%	Santa Cruz	1%
San Joaquin	220	Tulare	30	Ventura	13	Lassen	8%	Ventura	4%	Napa	2%	Siskiyou	1%

Inyo	219	Los Angeles	29	Del Norte	13	Tehama	8%	San Luis O.	4%	Shasta	2%	Alameda	1%
Stanislaus	217	Napa	29	Napa	12	Siskiyou	8%	San Joaquin	4%	Del Norte	2%	Napa	1%
Colusa	205	San Luis O.	29	San Joaquin	11	Inyo	7%	Alameda	3%	San Joaquin	2%	Santa Clara	1%
Tulare	194	Colusa	29	Alameda	10	Marin	7%	Yolo	3%	Inyo	1%	Del Norte	1%
Del Norte	191	Santa Cruz	28	Colusa	10	Colusa	7%	Tehama	3%	Nevada	1%	Nevada	1%
Nevada	186	Shasta	24	Amador	10	San Joaquin	7%	Madera	3%	Tehama	1%	Tulare	1%
Monterey	176	Siskiyou	24	Tulare	9	San Luis	6%	Humboldt	3%	Colusa	1%	Amador	1%
Santa Barbara	173	Tehama	24	Nevada	9	Napa	6%	Nevada	3%	Calaveras	1%	Madera	0%
Yuba	154	Calaveras	21	Santa Clara	9	Humboldt	6%	Colusa	2%	Santa Barbara	1%	Colusa	0%
Yolo	127	Santa Barbara	21	Tehama	8	Nevada	6%	Santa Clara	2%	Santa Clara	1%	Tehama	0%
Shasta	127	San Joaquin	20	Humboldt	7	Santa Barbara	6%	Napa	2%	Siskiyou	1%	Yolo	0%
Humboldt	123	Sierra	19	Yolo	6	Calaveras	5%	Amador	2%	Amador	1%	Calaveras	0%
Madera	122	Nevada	19	Calaveras	6	Yolo	5%	Glenn	2%	Lassen	1%	Humboldt	0%
Los Angeles	121	Amador	18	Inyo	6	Glenn	5%	Santa Barbara	2%	Mono	1%	Placer	0%
El Dorado	119	Lassen	18	Mono	6	Madera	5%	Calaveras	2%	Madera	1%	Santa Barbara	0%
Lake	112	Santa Clara	15	Santa Barbara	6	Santa Clara	4%	Kings	1%	Humboldt	1%	Kings	0%
Calaveras	111	Humboldt	15	Madera	6	Amador	4%	Mariposa	1%	El Dorado	1%	Alpine	0%
Amador	105	Glenn	14	Placer	5	Mariposa	3%	Placer	1%	Yolo	1%	Glenn	0%
San Benito	101	El Dorado	13	Glenn	5	El Dorado	3%	Inyo	1%	Placer	1%	Inyo	0%
Santa Cruz	95	Mariposa	12	Mariposa	5	Kings	3%	Lassen	1%	Glenn	1%	Mariposa	0%
Santa Clara	87	Madera	11	Sierra	5	Modoc	2%	Alpine	1%	Kings	1%	Mono	0%
Napa	77	Yolo	10	Kings	3	Mono	2%	Sutter	1%	Alpine	0%	Sutter	0%
Placer	73	Modoc	10	El Dorado	2	Placer	2%	El Dorado	0%	Mariposa	0%	El Dorado	0%
San Mateo	63	Placer	10	Lassen	2	Sierra	2%	Sierra	0%	Modoc	0%	Lassen	0%
Tehama	54	Kings	6	Sutter	2	San Benito	2%	Mono	0%	Sierra	0%	Sierra	0%
Ventura	48	San Benito	4	San Benito	1	Alpine	2%	San Benito	0%	San Benito	0%	San Benito	0%
Kings	35	Yuba	4	Yuba	1	Sutter	1%	Yuba	0%	Sutter	0%	Yuba	0%
Lassen	34	Sutter	3	Modoc	0	Yuba	1%	Modoc	0%	Yuba	0%	Modoc	0%
Sutter	1	Tuolumne	2	Lake	0	Tuolumne	1%	Lake	0%	Tuolumne	0%	Lake	0%
Modoc	0	Lake	0	Tuolumne	0	Lake	0%	Tuolumne	0%	Lake	0%	Tuolumne	0%
average	315		36		17		11%		5%		2%		1%
Mendo/avr	4.0		5.4		7.6		3.8		5.6		4.3		6.2

## Data California Counties - June 30, 2008

	Population	DEBT SERVICE					LONG TERM DEBT			Property Tax	Total Expenditures
		Long Term		ST Debt Interest	Total	Memo Ttl Interest	POB Due	Other	Total		
		Principal	Interest								
Jun-08											
Alameda	1,543,000	67,333,156	16,156,502		83,489,658	16,156,502	777,930,000	65,225,900	843,155,900	479,817,783	1,944,733,831
Alpine	1,222	40,000	35,475		75,475	35,475		346,056	346,056	4,716,010	16,232,167
Amador	37,943	330,000	367,819		697,819	367,819		3,987,751	3,987,751	19,528,145	64,207,945
Butte	220,407	6,661,359	3,097,066		9,758,425	3,097,066	49,895,000	16,189,303	66,084,303	45,926,784	330,536,361
Calaveras	46,127	665,884	20,982	272,390	959,256	293,372		5,131,122	5,131,122	18,838,405	73,930,562
Colusa	21,910	400,242	223,312	1270	624,824	224,582		4,502,233	4,502,233	9,446,322	46,880,195
Contra Costa	1,051,674	32,584,732	29,503,833	6,881,772	68,970,337	36,385,605	525,157,034	61,096,200	586,253,234	315,086,282	1,339,985,217
Del Norte	29,419	558,985	381,715		940,700	381,715		5,626,807	5,626,807	6,810,727	56,265,599
El Dorado	179,722	1,934,855	351,797		2,286,652	351,797		21,433,250	21,433,250	81,299,126	299,356,467
Fresno	931,098	13,975,000	21,974,313		35,949,313	21,974,313	525,792,749	67,178,168	592,970,917	191,106,721	1,256,974,584
Glenn	29,195	280,469	141,823		422,292	141,823		9,109,501	9,109,501	8,502,428	66,249,879
Humboldt	132,821	1,091,420	875,207		1,966,627	875,207		16,279,411	16,279,411	34,449,739	222,765,677
Imperial	176,158	2,455,604	4,056,970		6,512,574	4,056,970	60,725,000	10,093,933	70,818,933	37,783,035	243,990,830
Inyo	18,152	730,665	112,138		842,803	112,138		3,976,740	3,976,740	12,411,304	56,803,978
Kern	817,517	17,798,430	20,162,605		37,961,035	20,162,605	461,052,237	160,864,522	621,916,759	324,295,092	1,202,186,350
Kings	154,434	435,295	528,510		963,805	528,510		5,382,796	5,382,796	36,471,249	177,741,648
Lake	64,059				0	0		7,199,469	7,199,469	26,659,168	115,247,631
Lassen	35,757	570,000	68,551		638,551	68,551		1,199,890	1,199,890	7,850,204	59,944,298
Los Angeles	10,363,850	115,792,236	167,364,403	18,364,541	301,521,180	185,728,944	352,255,395	899,651,615	1,251,907,010	3,685,802,731	13,390,566,398
Madera	150,887	804,058	881,666		1,685,724	881,666		18,343,926	18,343,926	34,343,351	177,777,058
Marin	257,406	3,869,427	7,908,536		11,777,963	7,908,536	112,805,000	13,058,003	125,863,003	174,443,962	441,484,371
Mariposa	18,406	128,000	87,796		215,796	87,796		8,955,236	8,955,236	6,861,170	48,093,358
Mendocino	90,163	5,893,680	7,040,946	4,638,799	17,573,425	11,679,745	97,280,000	16,102,882	113,382,882	41,129,084	182,476,804
Merced	255,250	4,683,198	4,674,044		9,357,242	4,674,044	51,740,000	51,083,212	102,823,212	77,467,917	368,231,435

Modoc	9,702	90,000	2,970		92,970	2,970	-	0	3,826,897	26,703,774
Mono	13,759	389,446	83,783		473,229	83,783	7,914,376	7,914,376	19,886,443	46,344,283
Monterey	428,549	5,840,000	5,268,768	2,590,041	13,698,809	7,858,809	75,483,852	75,483,852	126,790,231	593,313,119
Napa	136,704	2,375,349	1,595,396		3,970,745	1,595,396	10,569,464	10,569,464	67,825,934	223,866,224
Nevada	99,186	1,034,624	848,604		1,883,228	848,604	18,435,865	18,435,865	33,543,891	129,268,978
Orange	3,121,251	300,270,493	49,941,266		350,211,759	49,941,266	177,956,576	1,013,813,579	1,191,770,155	504,937,379
Placer	333,401	1,403,370	1,785,189		3,188,559	1,785,189	24,328,938	24,328,938	143,824,078	478,016,059
Plumas	20,917	479,790	864,325	12,288	1,356,403	876,613	6,978,106	6,978,106	11,350,754	56,876,945
Riverside	2,088,322	26,717,609	48,144,088	3,001,729	77,863,426	51,145,817	387,995,000	192,888,054	580,883,054	541,147,001
Sacramento	1,424,415	34,692,458	61,734,921		96,427,379	61,734,921	915,404,968	428,479,571	1,343,884,539	398,222,457
San Benito	57,784	195,000	42,326		237,326	42,326	5,844,389	5,844,389	14,030,805	77,049,641
San Bernardino	2,055,766	34,437,171	40,558,386	4,009,899	79,005,456	44,568,285	721,640,591	136,657,366	858,297,957	474,132,613
San Diego	3,146,274	178,695,000	97,651,667	4,963,300	281,309,967	102,614,967	1,053,187,916	129,519,488	1,182,707,404	871,717,879
San Joaquin	685,660	6,359,975	7,679,831		14,039,806	7,679,831	150,703,666	150,703,666	213,840,839	855,069,902
San Luis Obispo	269,337	2,600,596	5,090,108		7,690,704	5,090,108	129,034,398	32,892,036	161,926,434	130,747,639
San Mateo	739,469	11,321,546	16,539,020		27,860,566	16,539,020	46,939,436	46,939,436	256,384,333	863,662,606
Santa Barbara	428,655	6,235,534	2,570,889		8,806,423	2,570,889	74,297,584	74,297,584	158,349,525	698,625,371
Santa Clara	1,837,075	12,336,415	14,353,635	1,326,325	28,016,375	15,679,960	160,064,274	160,064,274	661,903,454	2,225,752,900
Santa Cruz	266,519	3,850,789	3,515,295		7,366,084	3,515,295	25,306,826	25,306,826	77,528,786	402,408,708
Shasta	182,236	1,766,507	2,640,518		4,407,025	2,640,518	23,054,986	23,054,986	40,312,872	260,091,232
Sierra	3,380	50,302	15,531		65,833	15,531	2,579,167	2,579,167	3,611,436	19,924,484
Siskiyou	45,971	313,473	790,622		1,104,095	790,622	16,485,000	4,132,943	20,617,943	14,631,311
Solano	426,757	11,395,477	13,006,181	911,597	25,313,255	13,917,778	121,020,000	26,914,559	147,934,559	128,860,136
Sonoma	484,470	15,815,407	17,430,041		33,245,448	17,430,041	275,540,000	253,741,230	529,281,230	187,720,497
Stanislaus	525,903	13,871,287	8,948,760		22,820,047	8,948,760	55,790,000	58,185,204	113,975,204	104,904,070
Sutter	95,878	161,624	169,465		331,089	169,465	108,031	108,031	23,878,792	134,762,782
Tehama	62,419	974,667	408,945	85,386	1,468,998	494,331	3,357,948	3,357,948	18,868,677	103,277,064
Trinity	13,966	611,862	929,890		1,541,752	929,890	7,565,000	7,196,175	14,761,175	5,244,592
Tulare	435,254	8,957,882	4,042,690		13,000,572	4,042,690	21,345,000	63,308,884	84,653,884	98,078,066
Tuolumne	56,799	127,500			127,500	0	14,993,795	14,993,795	25,249,919	95,440,422
Ventura	831,587	21,630,642	3,505,647	7,342,055	32,478,344	10,847,702	-	39,642,480	39,642,480	269,414,868
Yolo	199,066	739,682	1,269,823		2,009,505	1,269,823	0	25,198,319	25,198,319	40,380,326
Yuba	71,929	255,000	38,601		293,601	38,601	0	11,069,624	11,069,624	21,838,172

## Notes About the Data.

This analysis is based solely on data contained in the California State Controllers Office's (SCO) *2008 Counties Annual Report*. The SCO produces several compilations of financial and other data about different types of local governments in California, including counties, cities, public retirement systems, etc.

While this is the best source of comparative financial data for counties (other than obtaining financial reports from each county directly), there are several issues about which readers of this analysis should be aware.

### 1. Some Debt Is Not Included

SCO does not include unfunded retiree obligations as debt in its *Annual Counties* report. Such unfunded benefits are not listed in audited financial reports as debt (this analyst believes they should). However, they are disclosed in "Required Supplementary Information" in the financial statements. However, SCO doesn't include this Supplementary Information in its *Annual Counties* report (this analyst believes they should). Therefore they are not included in the tables above.

Debt related to most real estate purchases is also not included. Most California counties use a financing technique known as "Certificates of Participation" ("COPS") to finance real estate purchases. The county itself doesn't buy the property. It sets up a non-profit corporation (often titled a "Facilities Corporation") that it controls, and that non-profit buys the property. The Corporation finances the purchase by the sale of COPS to investors. It then leases the property to the county for enough to pay the principal and interest on the COPS. The amount reported in the SCO *Annual Counties Report* combines principal and interest, and is therefore expressed differently from other debt which only lists principal. Therefore COPS are excluded from this analysis.

The debt that is reported in the SCO report includes all Bonds, Loans, Notes, and many other forms of long term debt. It allows a good (but not complete) comparison of counties' debt.

### 2. Comparability of the Data from Different Counties

California Counties vary greatly in size of population. They also vary in the percentage of their residents that live in incorporated cities v. in rural areas. Many services provided by counties for residents in unincorporated parts of their counties are provided by cities within their city limits. Therefore the more a county's population lives outside of cities the more services the county must provide. If two counties had the same number of residents but one had (say) 80% in cities and the other had only 20%, the latter would be expected to be a larger financial entity and its debt measures could vary as a result.

Clearly Mendocino County is not like most other California Counties. Most have more people living in cities than in rural areas. Many have much larger populations.

But 22 of California's 58 counties have more residents living outside of incorporated cities, including Mendocino. The largest of these is El Dorado with not quite 180,000 residents; Mendocino is 5th of these 22 with about 90,000.

Most of these counties are comparable to Mendocino. Given Mendocino's position at the top of all these relative debt measurements, it's safe to say that it is far more indebted than its comparable counties.

Several years of SCO *Counties Annual Report* are available to download as pdf files at [http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard\\_locrep\\_annual\\_financial.html](http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_locrep_annual_financial.html). The other types of Local Government Annual Reports are also available at that address.

Note: We believe our analysis is based on data correctly copied from the SCO 2008 *Counties Annual Report*, and that the analysis is mathematically accurate. If someone notices a mistake, please tell us about it at the various addresses in the footer at the bottom of each page.