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Governor's May Revise an Unnatural Disaster for 38 Million Californians

(Sacramento) The Governor's May Revise budget released today proposes such draconian measures that it threatens to create a constant state of emergency in all 58 Counties.

"That ground shaking you feel is the impact of the cuts and costs shifts rolling out of the Capitol and landing at the doorsteps of counties and the communities we serve. If this budget becomes a reality, the devastation upon Californians will be on par with the aftereffects of a major natural disaster," says Tony Oliveira, President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and Kings County Supervisor. "Homelessness, hunger, permanent job losses, elimination of mental health and substance abuse treatment, and more Californians driven into abject poverty are just some of the very real possibilities outlined in the Governor's budget."

Economically speaking, 2010-11 will be the worst year for counties yet. Fifteen of California's largest counties face a combined deficit of \$2.2 billion in the upcoming budget year, which does not include the cuts that the state will now be sending their way. Counties are now balancing their budgets by making steep cuts to services, reducing staff, seeking concessions on labor agreements and raising revenues. This balanced approach, along with meaningful and long-term budget reform should also be sought by the state.

"There is agreement that the infrastructure in this state, both physical and social, is on the brink of collapse," states Paul McIntosh, CSAC Executive Director. "The federal government is not going to come to the rescue. This disaster is a byproduct of our state's dysfunctional budget process, and without tangible reform, the human cost will continue to rise. "

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is the voice of California's 58 counties at the state and federal level. The Association's long-term objective is to significantly improve the fiscal health of all California counties – from Alpine County with a little more than 1,200 people to Los Angeles County with more than 10 million – so they can adequately meet the demand for vital public programs and services. CSAC also places a strong emphasis on educating the public about the value and need for county programs and services.

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