



**CALIFORNIA STATE
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES**



**CALIFORNIA STATE
SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**



**CHIEF PROBATION
OFFICERS OF
CALIFORNIA**



**CWDA
CALIFORNIA WELFARE
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION**



**CALIFORNIA MENTAL
HEALTH DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION**



**COUNTY ALCOHOL AND
DRUG PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATORS
ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA**

March 31, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
First Floor, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Budget Developments

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the undersigned county associations, we write to express our thanks for your extraordinary efforts over the last several months to construct a responsible and workable budget solution that aims to address a crippling and unsustainable \$25 billion deficit. Counties collectively were distressed to learn that negotiations to reach a budget solution – including action to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot – have broken down.

We know you understand the gravity of the situation we jointly face. Counties are just now beginning to prepare their budgets for 2011-12. Undertaking that effort with \$12 billion in budget solutions outstanding and the prospect of the Vehicle License Fee dedicated to local public safety programs expiring at fiscal year's end makes that a daunting exercise. It is difficult to contemplate the extent to which counties will be forced to eviscerate our local law enforcement and safety net systems if we are indeed faced with an all-cuts approach to closing the remaining budget hole. It is not a future any of us wish to visit on our communities.

With that in mind, we remain hopeful that action is taken in the narrow window available to place a measure before the voters that would extend taxes and outline a framework to support the transfer of a block of programs to county governments, including a dedicated funding source and constitutional protections. Additional details would remain, to be worked out in implementing legislation, consistent with discussions we have had with your Administration and the Legislature. Counties remain engaged and committed to doing our part in helping advance your budget solution that seeks to sustain critical education and public safety services.

Counties appreciate the commitment to the partnership you have shown us over these last several months. We understand that the pressure is intense, the interests diverse, and the timeframe short. As you clearly understand, counties' fiscal health cannot and will not improve unless and until the state resolves its persistent structural deficit and puts itself on a path toward recovery.

Governor Jerry Brown
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We look forward to our continuing partnership.

Sincerely,



John Tavaglione
President, California State Association
Counties



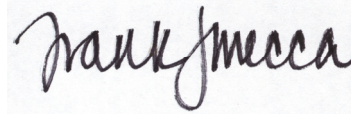
Linda Penner
President, Chief Probation Officers of
California



Patricia Ryan
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Health Directors Association



Nick Warner
Legislative Director, California State
Sheriffs' Association



Frank Mecca
Executive Director, California Welfare
Directors



Tom Renfree
Executive Director, County Alcohol and
Drug Program Administrators of
California

cc: Honorable Members, California State Legislature
Ana Matosantos, Director, Department of Finance
Diane Cummins, Special Advisor to the Governor