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May 14, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Prop 1A Suspension**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of Stanislaus County, I am writing to urge opposition to any efforts to suspend Proposition 1A. We understand the Department of Finance is entertaining the idea of borrowing money from Counties as a budget solution.

Borrowing from local government as an option to help fix the projected budget deficit is not prudent policy in light of the desperate circumstances of counties.

We understand quite clearly the serious of the budget crisis facing the State and local communities like Stanislaus. We retain one of the smallest amounts of property tax in the state; we pay the State millions of dollars each year through the "negative bailout" (AB 8) while most counties receive addition monies; we have unemployment soaring above 17.5% and over 40% in some parts of our County. Crime and drugs are a plague on our local community. Our sparse general fund dollars have not kept up with the challenges in our community. The situation is grave.

We recognize tough decisions will need to be made and that every effort must be made to include the most prudent choices. Suspending Proposition 1A to borrow from Counties is not prudent policy.

We thank you for your attention to this serious policy consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim DeMartini  
Chairman of the Board