



June 15, 2011

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The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tempore
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John A. Perez
Speaker
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bob Dutton
Republican Leader
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Connie Conway
Republican Leader
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Anticipated 2011-12 Budget Plan – OPPOSE**

Dear Honorable Leaders:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I write to express our profound disappointment and grave concerns about the state budget plan, as we understand it, currently before the Legislature. As you are all aware, California counties have been working diligently over the past months to develop consensus on the Governor's budget plan, including the vast and historic realignment plan. CSAC engaged with the Administration and Legislature in a sincere effort to craft a balanced budget solution that allows for more efficient and effective delivery of services to our mutual constituencies. Unfortunately, this package represents an extreme departure from those discussions.

While the budget framework anticipated to be adopted by the Legislature is not fully known at this point, it is imperative that we point out that without an adequate and ongoing funding source for the anticipated transfer of offenders contemplated under AB 109, counties will be forced to come to the Legislature on an annual basis, hat in hand, fighting for dollars in a structurally imbalanced budget environment. This is a wholly inappropriate model for addressing the state's chronic recidivism problem that will result in the exact same problems the United States Supreme Court identified and directed the state to remedy. CSAC continues to advocate for a comprehensive realignment plan, with dedicated and protected resources to support transferred programs. To ask counties to accept anything different is unacceptable.

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Additionally, it is unreasonable to expect communities to receive new offender populations without more than \$500 million in local public safety subventions, which represent a foundation for local public safety services in every community in California. Counties will be forced to lay off deputy sheriffs, probation officers, and other employees that are currently tasked with dealing with offenders locally and deterring crime. This is no formula for a public safety solution. At the very least, these subventions must be funded if counties are to achieve any meaningful success under AB 109.

We have endeavored to work in a cooperative manner with all parties to achieve general agreement on how to approach these and a variety of other issues that arise from the Governor's realignment plan. To contemplate this budget plan without the appropriate funding mechanisms and constitutional protections for counties is to undermine the many hours of time and energy expended to achieve a meaningful reform in the spirit of partnership. Counties must have appropriate resources to provide public safety services and the public expects reasonable people to come together to find an appropriate way to fund them. We realize that these choices are difficult ones, but urge you to redouble your effort to seek a compromise that allows for the Governor's realignment plan to move forward.

The impacts of an all-cuts budget will effect every citizen in every community across the State – citizens that each of you and your fellow legislators represent in your respective communities. We strongly encourage you to put aside your partisan differences and work toward a compromise on behalf of all Californians.

Until then, we strongly oppose the budget plan before you today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Tavaglione". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John Tavaglione
President, California State Association of Counties
Riverside County Supervisor

cc: The Honorable Governor Jerry Brown
Ana Matosantos, Director, California Department of Finance
Honorable Members, California State Legislature