

WESTSIDE CITIES

- BEVERLY HILLS
- CULVER CITY
- LOS ANGELES
- SANTA MONICA
- WEST HOLLYWOOD
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

June 8, 2009

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Westside Cities Council of Governments at its last meeting took an emergency action **opposing** any proposal that seeks to take or borrow local property taxes, transportation funds or other revenues to balance the state budget. Such action on the part of the state will harm the cities and cripple local services.

The Westside Cities COG's combined population represents over 750,000 individuals and 60,000 businesses—one of the highest population and employment densities in Los Angeles County, as well as one of the highest proportions of transit ridership. As well, the Westside Cities are working together diligently to address one of the largest homeless populations in our nation.

The Westside Cities are already suffering in this economy. Local revenues are declining, businesses are closing, jobs are being cut or eliminated completely. As a result, each of the COG member jurisdictions are considering significant budget cuts that may include reductions in public safety, transportation, and many of the public services provided to residents and responding to the homeless needs of our communities.


These will be difficult decisions, but the Westside Cities will have no other choice. This is the type of leadership our residents expect and deserve. Borrowing local revenues is not leadership that will create fiscal policy changes needed to be made by the state.

Borrowing or taking local revenues is not what California voters want. This was made evident in 2004 when voters passed Proposition 1A with nearly 84 percent of the vote. Additionally, an October 2008 Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) survey found that 91 percent of Californians think it's wrong for the state to borrow to balance its budget.

The state must find a way to resolve its budget problems without borrowing or taking local revenues. Nobody likes to make these hard decisions, but they are necessary to restore stability and voter confidence.

It's time for leadership. Cities are already making the tough decisions required to balance their budgets. The legislature needs to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon R. Anderson". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a circular flourish.

Gordon R. Anderson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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