

# News Release



***Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell***

**300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850  
Sacramento, California 95814**

**Contact: Stacey Ragland (916) 445-2636**

***For Immediate Release***

## **STATE CONTROLLER KATHLEEN CONNELL RESPONDS TO MISINFORMATION CONTAINED IN CAUSE NEWS RELEASE**

**Controller's Office Acted Swiftly Once Information of Security Breach Was Learned**

**SACRAMENTO, May 28, 2002** — State Controller Kathleen Connell, in a letter dated May 28, 2002, responded to allegations made by Allan Barcelona, President of the California Union of Safety Employees. Controller Connell denied that her office “sat” on information upon discovering that the computers at the Teale Data Center were illegally accessed. The computers are used to provide information on employee payroll deductions.

“As soon as my office learned of the intrusion at the Teale Data Center, we acted swiftly and decisively,” stated Controller Connell. “Once discovered, these computers were immediately disconnected to prevent further access. Prior to reconnecting, enhanced security precautions were implemented. In addition, we requested the Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crime Task Force to conduct a criminal investigation.”

The State Controller’s Office learned of the intrusion on May 7<sup>th</sup>. At that time, the Controller requested that the Teale Data Center conduct an immediate investigation to determine whether any of the State’s information was in any way compromised.

At this time, there is no evidence that any information contained in the deduction data files were targeted or will be used for any unlawful purposes.

As the Controller indicated in her letter to the CAUSE President, it is the Teale Data Center and not the State Controller’s Office that is solely responsible for the security breach and that agency has accepted full responsibility.

A copy of the State Controller’s May 28<sup>th</sup> letter to [Allan Barcelona, President, California Union of Safety Employees](#), is attached.

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