

# CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

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## Budget Misses Waste; Hits Most Vulnerable

*Westly: "The only box he blew up was the pill box in the seniors' medicine cabinet."*

**Sacramento, CA** – California State Controller Steve Westly today said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's fiscal year 2004-2005 budget should have followed the Governor's call to "blow up the boxes of government" before cutting vital services to the poor, sick and elderly.

"The only box he blew up was the pill box in the seniors' medicine cabinet," Westly said. "We need to cut waste before we cut services to the most vulnerable Californians."

Westly has called on Governor Schwarzenegger to fulfill his promise to cut waste by setting an example from the top and cutting cabinet agency offices. He has also been urging passage, with the Governor's support, of legislation to give the Controller's office the power to conduct performance audits that find waste.

"Before hurting the most vulnerable, the Governor should have pumped up efforts to cut waste," Westly added.

The budget also relies on a number of assumptions for an improved economy and other government revenues. These include \$350 million in federal assistance and \$500 million from Indian gaming.

"Hoping for the best tomorrow doesn't solve today's problems," Westly added.

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