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Westly Comments on May Revise

SACRAMENTO – State Controller Steve Westly today issued the following statement in response to Governor Schwarzenegger’s May Revise budget proposal:

“The Governor has brought a lot of people on board, but balancing the budget is still going to be a long, bumpy ride.

“I’m pleased the Governor wants to restore funding for three essential human services: home care for seniors, lifesaving treatment for AIDS patients and health coverage for children.

“I’m proud we’ve helped bring in nearly \$2 billion in new revenues by cracking down on abusive tax shelters, proposing a new income tax amnesty program, and increased auditing of MediCal and other services.

“Nonetheless, I am concerned that parts of the Governor’s budget may be very difficult to achieve, including his proposed borrowing to cover employee pensions and trying to capture 75 percent of all punitive lawsuit settlements. Only a truly balanced budget will honor the commitment we made to voters in Propositions 57 and 58.

“To get to an on-time budget, the Governor must now negotiate with our Legislative leaders and solve the problems that remain. An on-time arrival would be worth a few bumps along the way.”

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