

# CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

300 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.445.2636  
[www.controller.ca.gov](http://www.controller.ca.gov)

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CONTACT: LINDA CHOU  
916-445-2636

## Westly Unveils Oversight and Accountability Plan for Infrastructure Bond

**EDS: REPLAY OF CONTROLLER WESTLY'S TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE  
AT 800-925-2059**

**LOS ANGELES** – Controller Steve Westly today unveiled a strict accountability and oversight plan for the billions in infrastructure improvement dollars that would be raised by the bond proposals being debated by the governor and lawmakers in Sacramento.

“Sacramento can’t consider spending 10 to 50 billion dollars without first establishing ironclad accountability and oversight controls to prevent waste and fraud,” Westly said. “I want to make sure the people’s money is protected and that we are investing in crucial infrastructure like levees, not wasting money on pork barrel projects for politicians. An infrastructure bond should be a boon – not a boondoggle – for the state. One can only hope that the Governor's infrastructure proposal is written with more care than the ballot propositions he tried to push on California last month.”

Westly called for an oversight commission that would have final approval of bond-financed projects to ensure they address the voters' wishes and California’s infrastructure priorities -- and do so in a cost effective way. The California Infrastructure Improvement Oversight Commission, modeled in part on the State Public Works Board, would also monitor projects to ensure they are on budget and on time. The commission would have representation from statewide elected officials including the Governor (including representatives from relevant departments like Business, Transportation and Housing), Controller and Treasurer; members of the legislature; and the public.

Westly also called for the State Controller’s Office to regularly conduct independent financial and performance audits to ensure bond money is being spent efficiently and to address California’s infrastructure needs.

“People just have to look at the billions in waste and fraud that are hampering the Iraq and Katrina rebuilding efforts to see what happens when accountability is ignored,” Westly said. “The people of California are entitled to tough safeguards over their tax dollars.”

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