

May 25, 2009

Dear AFSCME Brothers and Sisters,

The state budget crisis got worse overnight. With the defeat of the five special election ballot measures, the projected budget deficit has now ballooned to \$24 billion, leaving both Republicans and Democrats warning of “drastic” cuts ahead. It is unclear how state workers will ultimately be affected by this current crisis, but AFSCME 2620 is fighting to protect the vital services you provide and the jobs you so admirably perform for the people of California.

The State Legislature has already convened a Conference Committee to start working on the budget gap. The Committee has six Democrats, four Republicans, and the members are racing against the clock. Budget analysts predict the state will run out of money in July and will be unable to meet their August financial obligations if the current spending plan is not changed. Without a solution, state workers could cease being paid regular wages in August.

Layoff notices have already been sent out. About 5,000 pink slips were mailed May 15<sup>th</sup>. AFSCME 2620 demanded a list of the affected employees, but as of this date, no list has been provided. If you have received a layoff notice, please contact your representative right away or email me at [Nancy\\_Swindell@msn.com](mailto:Nancy_Swindell@msn.com). We have seen some of the memo’s sent to our members by management, but they appear to be generic and fail to provide us with the information we need to address this crisis. Early reports say of the 5000 workers due to be laid off, 3600 are in corrections, including 1800 correctional officers. We have seen memos indicating workers in Coleman classifications will not be laid off as reductions in those classifications would result in the facilities being out of compliance with the Coleman Court Orders. We have also asked the state for a list of “non-general fund” departments and divisions.

We have posted the Governors May Revision and the Legislative Analyst’s overview of the budget on our website for your review. I highly recommend you review the LAO Report. It is easy to read and understand, unlike many of the budget documents coming out of Sacramento. Of particular note is the section titled LAO Budget Options. It calls for numerous cuts to state departments. For state employees it recommends a **3 day furlough** going into 2010-11, **no compensation for the two holidays** the state pulled, a **change in the retirement** for new employees, and completely doing away with the **Rural Health Care Program** for state employees. At this time these are only suggestions from the Legislative Analyst Office but we are watching very closely to see if the Conference Committee is taking these recommendations under consideration.

Please be assured that your union leaders are active participants in this budget debate, fighting to protect the critical services you provide and the jobs you perform everyday with integrity, conviction and passion.

We will post information as it becomes available.

In Solidarity,

Nancy Swindell, President  
AFSCME Local 2620

