

# News Release



*Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell*

300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850  
Sacramento, California 95814

Contact: Lisa Casalegno (916) 445-2636

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **STATE CONTROLLER CALLS ENERGY CONTRACT DISCLOSURE A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS SHARING INFORMATION**

### **CONTROLLER HAILS COURT ORDER DIRECTING RELEASE OF SOME INFORMATION**

Sacramento, June 13, 2001 – State Controller Kathleen Connell today called on the Administration to work towards full disclosure of the details of long-term energy contracts.

“I am pleased that the Administration is starting to release this information. I have been fighting for full disclosure since the State entered the energy business, because it is the only way taxpayers can be assured that government is working in their interest,” Connell said. “Today’s court action cleared the way for this to happen, but we still have a long way to go.”

Today San Diego Superior Court Judge Linda B. Quinn was set to hear arguments in a Public Records Act case filed by Republican lawmakers and news organizations seeking details about long-term contracts. However, the Administration reversed its position and agreed to release the contracts with four restrictions, subject to approval by the plaintiffs. If approval is not granted, the case will be heard on June 27, 2001.

“For months, reporters and lawmakers have been demanding this information, and I am pleased that a major portion of the information will soon be shared.”

The Controller called on the Administration to do even more, by taking steps to disclose all details.

“It is time for the Administration to go back to the power companies and fight for the public’s right to know,” Connell said. “The Administration negotiated contracts with clauses that keep Californians in the dark about the energy crisis. There is no reason the Administration can’t secure some cooperation from the power generators and lift the cloud of secrecy those contracts put in place.”

Because the State Controller’s Office pays the State’s bills, all energy contracts must be forwarded to the Controller’s Office. The Controller planned to share information about energy purchases, however, at the request of the Administration and upon receipt of an Attorney General’s opinion, the information was not released.

“I hope this compromise solution will satisfy the need for information among the public, the news media and lawmakers, and I will continue to fight for full disclosure of the long-term contracts and spot market energy purchases,” said Connell.

###

For more information on the State Controller’s Office visit our Web site at <http://www.sco.ca.gov/>