

Steve Westly *California State Controller*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE CONTROLLER RELEASES FUNDS MARKED FOR MID-YEAR SPENDING CUTS

Sacramento, January 16, 2003 – California State Controller Steve Westly's office released \$44.8 million in State Highway Account funds that were proposed as part of the Administration's \$10 billion in mid-year spending cuts. By law, these payments could not be delayed. Only action by the Legislature could have prevented these payments.

Controller Westly said:

"This is a perfect example of why we have no time to waste in addressing the state's fiscal crisis. We need to cut billions of dollars out of the state's budget. By delaying, we limit our options. If we fail to consider the proposals that are on the table, we may be forced to make other cuts that hurt even more."

The \$44.8 million paid yesterday were quarterly payments of \$90 million in State Highway Account funds proposed for mid-year spending cuts. The remainder would come from eliminating payments through the end of the fiscal year. The funds are paid to cities and counties to fund maintenance on local streets and roads.

The State Controller serves as the elected Chief Financial Officer for the State of California with direct responsibility for financial accounting, cash management, collections, disbursements, and auditing. In addition, the State Controller serves on 57 boards and commissions, including the State tax authorities (Board of Equalization and Franchise Tax Board), two of the country's largest pension funds (CalPERS and CalSTRS), and the State Lands Commission.

Controller Steve Westly began service on January 6, 2003 following his election last November. Westly was previously Senior Vice President of eBay, an investment banker, and a faculty member at the Stanford Business School, where he also received both his B.A. and M.B.A.

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