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Westly Announces Local School Funding at Breakfast Hosted by Assemblymember Negrete McLeod

ONTARIO - State Controller Steve Westly today addressed Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod's (D-Chino) breakfast club in Ontario, opening a discussion on finding funding for roads, schools and other vital services.

"Californians expect their elected officials to roll up their sleeves and start fixing problems," Westly said. "In order for California to thrive, we need to find the common sense solutions that address our budget deficit, clogged highways, schools and the environment."

"We need to work in a bipartisan manner," Negrete McLeod said. "We as a legislature, Republican and Democrat, need to listen more to each other, to consider the needs of all Californians."

Westly, who chairs the Franchise Tax Board, noted that he discovered \$6.5 billion owed to the state that wasn't being collected. Since, Westly has spearheaded collection efforts that have so far brought in \$3.5 billion to the state budget.

"Most people in Sacramento think there are only two ways to find funding for services – raise taxes or cut services. That approach just causes more problems," Westly said. "I'm doing the common sense thing by collecting the \$6.5 billion owed to the state so we can finance our schools, parks and roads without raising a nickel in taxes," Westly said.

In addition, the Controller praised Assemblymember Negrete McLeod's work on the Alameda Corridor East Project as a way to tackle traffic delays and air pollution while stimulating the economy.

Controller Westly also announced he would begin on Monday to send millions of dollars to California school districts. The money is part of the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2004, or Proposition 55. San Bernardino County schools will receive \$2.4 million for public school construction. In recognition of their work on behalf of San Bernardino County schools, Westly presented a special check to Assemblymember Negrete McLeod (see attached photo).

Assemblymember Negrete McLeod hosts regular breakfast gatherings in her district to maintain an open and consistent dialogue with her constituents.

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