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Westly Comments on May Revise

SACRAMENTO – State Controller Steve Westly today made the following comments in response to the Governor’s May Revise announcement:

“We should be thankful that there’s additional money for schools and to pay off our debts. But we need to recognize this is a windfall for the state – a windfall of one-time revenues.”

“The Governor’s role in this great news is not what he claims. I want to be very clear the Governor has been really lucky. This is a windfall, not the result of leadership from Sacramento.”

“We need to get serious about running a tighter government where we’re not depending on good news stories to balance the budget.”

“We shouldn’t forget that the Governor took billions away from our schools. It shouldn’t take a lawsuit to force the Governor to follow the law, especially on something as vital as funding for our schools.”

“Paying down the debt is the reform the Governor promised when he took office. The Governor promised to tear up the credit cards and bring accountability to government. He has not done that.”

“My commitment to California is to bring real reform and do a better job of debt collection and collecting more of the taxes already on the books. The Governor made a mistake by vetoing legislation to clamp down on tax cheats. These are the things he should have been doing instead of waiting for this windfall.”

“To put this in perspective, California faces \$20 billion in deficit-related debt.”

“The Governor came in promising to fully fund education. He didn’t do that. The Governor came in to work across party lines. Instead he called Legislators girlie men. Now we see a Governor who is running one month on the right – vetoing prescription drugs and saying he is opposed to minimum wage increases. The next he says he supports all these things.”

“I think what the people of this state are looking for is clear and consistent leadership.”

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