



**California State Association of Counties**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CSAC APPLAUDS GOVERNOR'S FISCAL PRUDENCE**

*SACRAMENTO – The following statement is being issued on behalf of CSAC President and Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia in reaction to the Governor's budget proposal for 2014-15 announced today.*

We commend the Governor for presenting a budget proposal that balances the need for continued fiscal discipline – which has helped the state recover from the recession – and the importance of investing in education, health care, public safety, and rebuilding the state's aging infrastructure. California counties are uniquely positioned to work with the Governor and the Legislature on achieving our mutual goal of healthy and safe communities.

In particular, counties are gratified that the Governor recognizes health care and public safety as key priorities for improving our communities. Focusing on areas of need with an eye towards integration of services can improve outcomes for individuals, families, and California as a whole. In our role as providers of critical public safety, health care and mental health services at the local level, counties are committed to engaging the Governor and the Legislature in a dialogue about targeted investments for vulnerable populations that can reduce recidivism, improve health outcomes, and save money. Further, CSAC greatly appreciates the Governor's significant commitment to public safety and, in particular, support for 2011 realignment as counties continue to grapple with issues associated with long-term offenders in our county jails.

We are also happy to see that the Governor proposes to invest a significant portion of the Cap and Trade revenue, including a partial repayment of last year's loan, to a variety of programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve other co-benefits such as improving public health. Local governments are well-positioned to help in that effort with green and efficient energy programs and the development of sustainable communities. We look forward to working with the Governor and Legislature to maximize the role local governments can play in this endeavor.

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## Budget React 2-2-2-2

The Governor's proposal to eliminate the "Wall of Debt" by 2017-18 includes scheduled repayments of obligations for local government reimbursable mandates starting in 2015-16 of about \$900 million. Counties, cities, and special districts have borne these costs on their own since the early 2000's and we see the benefit of accelerating these payments and resolving this long-standing issue. That said, counties are interested in a broader discussion about the mandate system and are prepared for a focused dialogue to develop reforms that establish clear authority for providing services and receiving reimbursement, clear responsibility for uniformity where it is appropriate, and clarity for taxpayers.

California's counties stand ready to work with the Governor and the Legislature to continue to restore the promise and opportunities of the Golden State and ensure a safe and healthy environment for our communities.

*The California State Association of Counties is the voice of California's 58 counties at the state and federal level.*

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