



Community College League
OF CALIFORNIA

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Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Community Colleges Experience Surprise \$84.4 million Cut
*Mid-year Announcement Highlights Unfair Treatment of
Largest Higher Education Segment***

Community colleges across California learned late last week of a statewide cut of \$84.4 million that has left community college officials across the state scrambling to balance their budgets, with only three months left in the fiscal year. The cut reduces general support by \$72 per full-time student, or about 1.5% of the colleges' general per student funding.

“Unlike the midyear cuts that the Legislature acted on earlier this year, this is a truly three-quarter year cut, which significantly limits the options our colleges have to keep the impact away from students,” said John Romo, board chair of the Community College League of California (League) and President of Santa Barbara City College. In the announcement last week, Romo’s college was informed of a \$1.1 million cut.

The surprise is primarily due to a drop in property tax revenue, which was announced by the state last Thursday. The annual state-approved community college budget includes a mix of the state’s General Fund and expected local property tax revenues. A similar shortfall is expected to occur for K-12 schools; however, under state law any shortfall in property taxes is automatically backfilled to K-12 schools by the state’s General Fund, but not to community colleges.

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“We will continue to seek equitable treatment with legislation to ensure that student access and success is maintained,” said Scott Lay, President and Chief Executive Officer of the League. “In previous years, the Legislature has stepped up and agreed to fulfill the budgetary promise made at the beginning of the year, and we hope they will do it again.”

“The property tax situation could actually get worse with the April payment deadline approaching,” said Theresa Tena, Director of Fiscal Policy for the League. “If it does and the Legislature doesn’t act to offset the cuts, summer school classes will likely be cut and important student support services will be reduced, which will make it more difficult for students to complete their educational goals on time.”

The cuts are in addition to the \$31 million cut from the community college budget by the Legislature during February budget-balancing actions. While some colleges intend to use state-required reserve funds to backfill the drop in property taxes, the action will exacerbate the impact of proposed cuts for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Attached: Impact of \$84.4 million cut on community college districts.

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Estimated District Impact of Surprise \$84.4 Million Cut

ALLAN HANCOCK	\$716,091	OHLONE	\$646,507
ANTELOPE VALLEY	\$838,422	PALO VERDE	\$200,127
BARSTOW	\$215,639	PALOMAR	\$1,418,361
BUTTE	\$792,446	PASADENA AREA	\$1,663,409
CABRILLO	\$874,947	PERALTA	\$1,521,987
CERRITOS	\$1,222,681	RANCHO SANTIAGO	\$2,132,611
CHABOT-LAS POSITAS	\$1,306,283	REDWOODS	\$385,647
CHAFFEY	\$1,092,473	RIO HONDO	\$975,270
CITRUS	\$854,417	RIVERSIDE	\$2,047,775
COAST	\$2,613,812	SAN BERNARDINO	\$1,069,512
COMPTON	\$406,024	SAN DIEGO	\$2,933,676
CONTRA COSTA	\$2,160,618	SAN FRANCISCO	\$2,491,892
COPPER MT.	\$161,976	SAN JOAQUIN DELTA	\$1,249,043
DESERT	\$572,453	SAN JOSE-EVERGREEN	\$1,133,003
EL CAMINO	\$1,479,993	SAN LUIS OBISPO	\$704,010
FEATHER RIVER	\$157,763	SAN MATEO	\$1,630,484
FOOTHILL-DEANZA	\$2,441,646	SANTA BARBARA	\$1,139,804
GAVILAN	\$407,428	SANTA CLARITA	\$1,066,893
GLENDALE	\$1,142,439	SANTA MONICA	\$1,643,963
GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA	\$1,359,515	SEQUOIAS	\$683,403
HARTNELL	\$507,747	SHASTA-TEHAMA-TRINITY	\$546,512
IMPERIAL	\$521,521	SIERRA	\$1,102,335
KERN	\$1,566,506	SISKIYOU	\$223,934
LAKE TAHOE	\$183,274	SOLANO	\$682,510
LASSEN	\$165,743	SONOMA	\$1,454,650
LONG BEACH	\$1,571,854	SOUTHWESTERN	\$1,153,472
LOS ANGELES	\$7,497,473	STATE CENTER	\$2,044,567
LOS RIOS	\$3,920,997	VENTURA	\$1,882,191
MENDOCINO-LAKE	\$276,050	VICTOR VALLEY	\$709,754
MERCED	\$695,267	WEST HILLS	\$444,864
MONTEREY PENINSULA	\$559,690	WEST KERN	\$294,957
MT. SAN ANTONIO	\$2,045,074	WEST VALLEY-MISSION	\$1,200,263
MT. SAN JACINTO	\$789,537	YOSEMITE	\$1,245,959
NAPA VALLEY	\$457,487	YUBA	\$640,017
NORTH ORANGE COUNTY	\$2,444,811		
			\$84,383,459