



Metro

Daily Brief

Thursday, January 10, 2008

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20080110-0

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Governor Schwarzenegger Releases his Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Proposal

Today, Governor Schwarzenegger released his [Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Proposal](#), in which he recommends almost full funding for transportation, including fully funding Proposition 42. The Governor's proposal also funds the Public Transportation Account (PTA) including the allocation of "Spillover" revenues in accordance with trailer bill language inserted by Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, which requires that 1/2 of Spillover revenues be allocated to the PTA. The Budget document proposes a 29% reduction for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and a 20% reduction for the State Highway Operations, Preservation and Protection (SHOPP) program. It should be noted that this budget, while initially favorable to transportation, makes major cuts in other program areas and is an initial recommendation in a very challenging budget year.

We are in the process of conducting a more thorough review of the [Governor's budget](#). The following are highlights of the budget proposal:

- Fully funds Proposition 42 including the repayment of past suspensions, which is required by the Constitution.
 - Funds the Public Transportation Account in accordance with State law including the allocation of Spillover revenues. Under SB 79, a trailer bill to last year's budget, 50% of spillover revenues (this year projected at \$909 million) are to flow through the PTA and the remaining 50% flows to the General Fund. SB 717 (Perata) also increases the amount of funds flowing from the PTA to the State Transit Assistance Account.
 - Transfer of PTA revenues to the General Fund for Developmental Services and Debt Service.
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- A 29% reduction in STIP funds and a 20% reduction in SHOPP funds. We are researching these recommendations to determine if they will impact any LA County projects.
- Allocation of Proposition 1B funds in the following amounts: Public Transit - \$350 million; Rail - \$73 million; Transit Security - \$101 million; TCIF - \$500 million; and State & Local Partnership Program - \$200 million.

Also, the Governor issued proclamations declaring a fiscal emergency and calling the Legislature into special session to address the shortfall in the FY 2008 budget.

In addition, Media Relations distributed a [statement](#) on my behalf regarding the release of the Governor's proposed budget. In the statement I said that we appreciate that the Governor's initial budget recommendation maintains transportation funding, which is encouraging news for Los Angeles County. We recognize that this is an extraordinarily challenging budget deficit. We understand the magnitude of the challenge in Sacramento and stand ready to work with our partners in the Legislature and Administration in the coming months to ensure that California maintains a long-term stable funding program for transportation.

L.A. County Transportation Funding Collaborative Conference

Today, I joined Board Chair Pam O'Connor and Board Members at the L.A. County Transportation Funding Collaborative conference in downtown Los Angeles. The conference brought together a diverse coalition of agencies, community leaders, public officials and private industry representatives to discuss how the region can devise new methods for funding its critically needed transportation infrastructure. Expert panels, which included Board Members and staff, discussed several local revenue generating opportunities in light of severe budget constraints at the state and federal levels. These ideas include a half-cent sales tax increase, congestion reduction pricing, carbon fees, infrastructure financing districts, vehicle license fees, benefit assessment districts and more. Numerous media attended the conference in light of Governor Schwarzenegger's release of the State budget today, including major TV, print and radio outlets. Stories are expected to run today and this week.

Sheriff Deputies Assigned to us Receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the FBI for Anti-Graffiti Work

Earlier this week, a Special Agent David Gates from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) presented Certificates of Appreciation to Los Angeles Sheriff Department (LASD) Deputies Augie Pando and Kyle Ynclan in recognition of their assistance in the identification and prosecution of a known tagger for felony

vandalism at LAX.

In September 2007, the FBI and the United States Federal Air Marshals contacted LASD's Region II headquarters to request assistance with interpreting graffiti found in the sterile area of LAX. As a result of this contact, Deputies Pando and Ynclan, who are assigned to us, were dispatched to provide expertise in graffiti on this case.

Working with the FBI, LAX Police, and members of the Joint Terrorism Taskforce, Deputies Pando and Ynclan were escorted through different terminals and sterile portions of LAX where they immediately recognized graffiti that had been placed by a tagger known as "Tahoe." The Deputies were able to recognize Tahoe's graffiti because:

- They had recently served a search warrant and an arrest warrant for Tahoe; and
- They recognized his unique style of tagging, which was well documented.

The FBI and LAX Police were concerned that a convicted felon had access to the sterile areas of LAX. The FBI ran the suspect's name through the Los Angeles World Airports Badging database and made a positive match. The Deputies assisted in preparing documentation, which lead to Tahoe's prosecution and convicted for felony vandalism at LAX. His employment at LAX was terminated and he was ordered to pay restitution to the Los Angeles World Airports.

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