



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

November 6, 2008

Dear Valued State Worker,

During the six weeks since I signed our state budget, the mortgage crisis has deepened, unemployment has increased and the stock market has dropped significantly. As a result, we are facing a projected \$11 billion revenue shortfall this fiscal year.

These dramatic developments require us to work together and respond immediately. I have called the Legislature into special session to address our fiscal emergency, and I am proposing a combination of economic stimulus measures, programs to keep Californians in their homes, revenue increases and spending reductions to address the real, immediate financial problems facing the state.

If approved by the Legislature, these spending reductions will impact our state workers. Californians rely on you to deliver important services every day, and I am proud of your hard work and dedication to the state. That's why I want you to hear about these impacts from me directly.

To achieve cost savings and protect vital state services, I am proposing the following measures:

- **Furloughs:** All state employees will be furloughed one day each month for the next year and half, a total of 19 days. This will result in a pay cut of about 5 percent. The pay cut will not affect retirement and other benefits for which you are eligible.
- **Holidays:** The Columbus Day holiday will be eliminated, and Lincoln's Birthday and Washington's Birthday will be observed together on Presidents Day. In addition, we will no longer pay time-and-a-half to employees working on holidays. Instead, employees required to work on holidays will receive holiday credit for use at another time, as they do now.
- **Four-day week:** The law will be amended to make it easier for departments to allow employees to work ten hours a day, four days a week.
- **Overtime:** The state will no longer count leave time (including sick leave and vacation time) as time worked for overtime purposes. Instead, employees will only become eligible for overtime pay once actual time worked exceeds the required threshold.

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These changes will save the state roughly \$1.4 billion over two years. I know these are not easy proposals, and I assure you we are working closely with union leadership to achieve results in the least painful way possible. All the actions we're proposing must first be approved by the Legislature.

I've always said that California has the most talented and most diligent state employees, and I am confident we will make it through this tough time by working together. Thank you for your cooperation and hard work on behalf of the State of California.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger