



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Jean Ross
(916) 444-0500

Statement: Jean Ross on the Release of Governor Jerry Brown's May Revision

The California Budget Project, a nonpartisan public policy research group, released the following statement from Executive Director Jean Ross today in response to the release of Governor Jerry Brown's May Revision to his 2011-12 Proposed Budget:

"After a long and painful recession that battered state revenue collections, the higher-than-previously-anticipated tax collections are good news for California. These dollars, however, represent just a fraction of the amount needed to close the state's remaining budget gap.

"The balanced approach presented by Governor Brown in January remains the only credible path to a balanced budget that protects the critical public structures and systems, including our public schools, colleges, and universities, needed to support a healthy economy.

"We regret the Governor's decision to retain the Enterprise Zone Program – a program that has been proven ineffective by rigorous, independent economic research – while closing gems of the state park system and maintaining the deep cuts that endanger many vulnerable families, children, and seniors. Keeping programs that do not work, while scaling back those that do – such as our highly successful welfare-to-work program – does not reflect Californians' values and priorities.

"More than ever, California needs our leaders to make critical choices that move us to long-term stability, not temporary, patchwork fixes. We call on Governor Brown and lawmakers to move expeditiously toward a plan that is not only balanced, but that provides a multi-year approach to resolving the state's budget crisis so that California can move forward to address the critical challenges that lie ahead."

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The California Budget Project (CBP) engages in independent fiscal and policy analysis and public education with the goal of improving public policies affecting the economic and social well-being of low- and middle-income Californians. Support for the CBP comes from foundation grants, publications, and individual contributions. Please visit the CBP's website at www.cbp.org.

1107 9th Street, Suite 310
Sacramento, California 95814
P: (916) 444-0500
F: (916) 444-0172
cbp@cbp.org
www.cbp.org