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From: <Senator.Pavley@outreach.senate.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 12:13 PM
Subject: Senator Fran Pavley July Newsletter

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OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF DISTRICT 33

SENATOR FRAN PAVLEY

July 1, 2009

Dear Friend,

As I write this, California is poised to begin paying its bills with IOUs. On June 30th, during the final hours of the last fiscal year, my colleagues and I attempted to pass a bill that would have saved the state \$3.3 billion from the 2008-09 budget and prevented the issuance of IOU's and possible suspension of Proposition 98, the voter approved education budget guarantee.

The governor threatened to veto the measure, and the Senate Republicans did not support it. This despite the fact that the same proposal was contained in the governor's budget, and was considered a key component in the overall effort to fill the state's budget deficit, which now stands at \$26 billion. Assembly Republicans had earlier joined their Democratic colleagues in voting overwhelmingly for the bill.

Eighty percent of the total membership of the Assembly and Senate supported the measure. But it failed for lack of Republican votes in the Senate.

Overnight, with the start of the new fiscal year, that \$3.3 billion we failed to save grew to \$7 billion because of the complicated funding formula for education.

As a longtime public official and former mayor of Agoura Hills, I would describe last night's vote as the most financially irresponsible act I've encountered in all my years of public service.

My husband and I are former teachers. It is extremely difficult for me and for my Senate colleagues to make the kinds of cuts to education that we are being asked to make this year. We are not shirking from this duty; we know deep cuts are necessary.

The February budget included a \$2.3 billion cut to K-12 education. The budget passed by a legislative conference committee contains another \$4.5 billion in cuts. And the governor also has proposed cutting an additional \$680 million beyond that already alarming figure. For those of you doing the math – that's a \$7.4 billion cut.

The public must understand that this is not a game. On top of the billions of dollars in cuts we have identified, the governor is pushing for us to eliminate home health care services for wheelchair bound people who cannot bathe or dress themselves. Is this really what we want? Leaving aside the issue of common decency, does it even make financial sense? With no one to help them, these people will undoubtedly end up in institutions – where they will cost the state more money.

Please contact the governor's office and urge him to work cooperatively with the Legislature to solve this budget problem. California deserves better than this.

Sincerely,

Fran Pavley

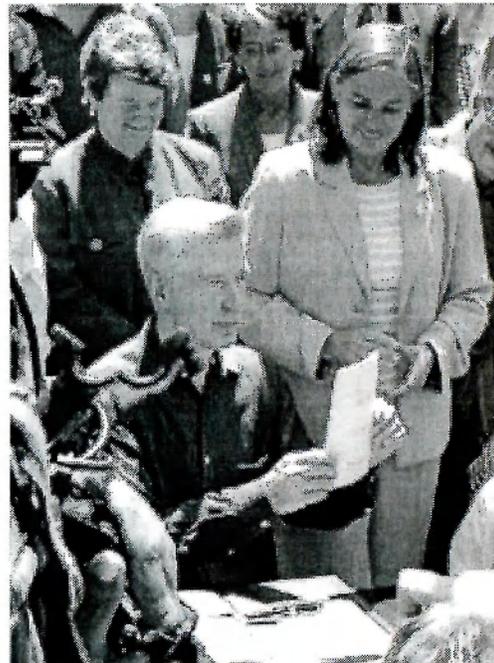
Senator, 23th District

California's effort to curb greenhouse gases from cars moves forward

On June 29, I was thrilled to receive word that California's long effort to curb tailpipe emissions of greenhouse gases had paid off and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would allow the state to move forward.

While serving in the California State Assembly, I wrote AB 1493, the first-in-the-nation bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks. The bill was signed into law in 2002 despite heavy opposition from the oil industry – a tribute to the tireless efforts of a coalition that included environment groups, religious organizations, local governments, health organizations, and businesses.

The "Pavley Law," as it is known, subsequently was blocked for eight years by the Bush Administration, which refused to issue a routine waiver from the Clean Air Act needed for California to establish stricter emissions control than the federal government. President Barack Obama reopened the issue after his election.



Gov. Gray Davis signs AB 1493 into law.

The U.S. EPA's decision means 14 other states and the District of Columbia will also be permitted to implement the "Pavley Law." Under the federal Clean Air Act, other states have the option of adopting California standards, which are stricter than the federal government's. All told, the states following California's lead comprise 40 percent of the nation's new car market.

California's greenhouse gas standards are also poised to spread nationwide. On May 19, the president announced that he had ordered the federal government to write a national standard for greenhouse gas reduction that will match California's requirements by 2016, leading to a 30 percent reduction in emissions.

I was honored to attend the White House announcement, the result of an agreement between the auto industry, the federal government, and the state of California. It's good to see that our federal government is getting serious about addressing climate change.

DISTRICT UPDATE

Classrooms feel the brunt of budget cuts

A nearly \$10 million cut in Oxnard elementary schools. No librarians in Agoura Hills and Calabasas. No summer school in Los Angeles.

As I referenced above, the budget crisis in Sacramento isn't just talk. It has real, tangible effects, especially in our schools. Class sizes rise, teachers lose their jobs and students are caught in the middle, forced to learn in an increasingly strained environment, through no fault of their own.

The constant refrain I've heard from educators is that this is the worst budget crisis they have ever seen. Here are some examples of how schools in my Senate district are feeling the squeeze:

Los Angeles Unified School District

The schools in the Los Angeles and West Hollywood portions of my district are run by LA Unified. In the last year alone, LAUSD had to cut \$700 million – or about 10-15 percent – from its operating budget because of what is happening in Sacramento, said Megan Reilly, the district's chief financial officer.

"It's been a devastating impact for the services and the programs that we provide for children," she said. "The cuts just keep on coming."

Besides canceling summer school this year, the LAUSD also is cutting back on bus routes, making students' trips to campus more challenging, Reilly said. And class sizes at all levels have increased. In some L.A. high schools, there are more than 40 students for one teacher.

Reilly said she was encouraged, however, that parents in the San Fernando

Valley and other parts of the district have pulled together to raise money for their local schools. Still, she worries about the current state of affairs at the Capitol, and the future.

"This is worse than what happened in the 90s," she said. "It's the worst that anyone has seen."

Las Virgenes Unified School District

In Calabasas, Agoura Hills and Westlake Village, the local district has had to lay off 41 of 590 teachers, 10 of about 400 classified employees and three of its 33 administrators, said Karen Kimmel, chief business official.

They currently have a \$12.8 million deficit for a district of 11,500 students.

"It is so horrific, it's surreal," she said. "You're cutting something that's dead already. There's not much left to cut."

The district has severely restricted programs, including the elimination of all college and career centers and every librarian position.

Oxnard School District

In a letter sent to parents in June, Interim Superintendent Janis Duran wrote that her district had to absorb \$9.5 million in cuts for the 2008-09 school year, and that it will get worse.

"These developments have delivered a shock to our system with the potential to severely cripple and impede our ability to provide a rich, meaningful and effective education for the children of Oxnard elementary school district," she wrote. The district oversees elementary and middle schools in Oxnard and has about 15,500 students, who have seen significant progress in test scores over the last few years. But Duran worries that the current funding cuts will derail that progress.

Meanwhile, the district's chief business officer, Glenston Thompson, said the current fiscal crisis has been demoralizing.

"I've never seen anything so bad over my 15, 16 years in California," he said, adding that California needs to revisit the way it funds public education.

"Public education is at a crossroads."

Oxnard Union High School District

At the high school level in Oxnard, the district has gotten rid of about 40 of 700 positions over the last two years, and they currently have a 17 percent deficit, or almost \$10 million less in 2009-10 than they had in 2007-08, said Randy Winton, assistant superintendent of business services.

That funding slice has come as enrollment has grown about 1 percent to about

16,000 students.

In the mid-90s, the district had an 11 percent deficit, which pales in comparison to what it faces now, he said.

"This is by far (the worst), and I don't think the worst has it yet," he said.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

The cuts also have affected schools in Santa Monica and Malibu, but not to the same degree as in other districts.

The \$4.5 million eliminated from the 2009-10 budget means class size increases in elementary schools from 20-to-1 to 23-to-1, and by one student at the higher grades, said Jan Maez, the district's chief financial officer.

The good news is all cuts have been accomplished through attrition, not layoffs, she said.

Going forward, the district is looking at finding new ways to make money, including advertising on school buses and possibly going to voters for an emergency parcel tax.

The District already has a parcel tax that delivers about \$10 million a year, as well as a \$7 million annual grant from the City of Santa Monica. But that money goes to enrichment programs like music instruction and library services.

Beverly Hills Unified School District

In Beverly Hills, the district is making \$1.3 million in cuts for 2009-10, including, office staff, supplies and instructional materials, Superintendent Jerry C. Gross said.

And in 2010-11 – when things aren't expected to get any better and likely will get worse – Beverly Hills will cut the equivalent of about 30 staff members, or \$2.7 million.

Special-needs students graduate from high school

On June 19, my chief of staff, Liz Fenton, and my senior field representative, Stephanie Molen, attended a graduation at Village Glen High School in Sherman Oaks and presented certificates to the students.

Village Glen serves children with challenges in the areas of socialization, communicative and pragmatic language development and peer relations. Many of the students experience special needs associated with Asperger's Disorder, high functioning autism, anxiety-related

disorders and non-verbal learning disabilities.



Liz Fenton, & Barbara Firestone at graduation

Pavley gives Pierce College commencement address



Photo of Pierce college graduation

On June 10, I gave the commencement address at Pierce College in Woodland Hills. The 1,269 graduating students included lots of young people going on to four-year colleges, and plenty of older students who had come back to school to finish their degree or earn a certificate. The youngest graduate was 16; the oldest, 76. Congratulations to all the graduates at Pierce College and elsewhere in the 23rd Senate District!

Pacific Coast Highway Taskforce restarts its engine

Earlier this month, my district staff picked up where my predecessor, Senator Sheila Kuehl, left off, continuing the PCH Taskforce meetings.

The quarterly get-togethers provide a forum for governmental agencies, law enforcement officials and homeowners groups to discuss the unique challenges that always have faced PCH and will continue.

One of the biggest challenges coming our way is the California Incline project, a massive effort by the city of Santa Monica to replace the bridge and roadway that connects PCH with the city's downtown.

Built in the 1930s, the incline is in desperate need of repair, so replacing it is a must. The \$12 million project is currently in the revised environmental impact phase, and construction is expected to begin in January 2011.

Here's the bad news: it will be closed for about one year.

During the PCH Taskforce meeting, various groups representing Pacific Palisades expressed concerns about how the closure will affect major streets in their neighborhood, including Sunset and Chautauqua boulevards and Channel Road.

The city of Santa Monica plans to have detours set up, but there is no getting around the fact that traffic in the area during this project will be a major problem.

The PCH Taskforce will take a lead role in making sure the public is well-informed on all issues related to this project so we can hopefully mitigate some of the impacts that we all know are coming.

If you have any questions about the taskforce or the incline project, feel free to contact Aron Miller in my district office at 310-314-5214.

Sharing the LA River dream in the valley

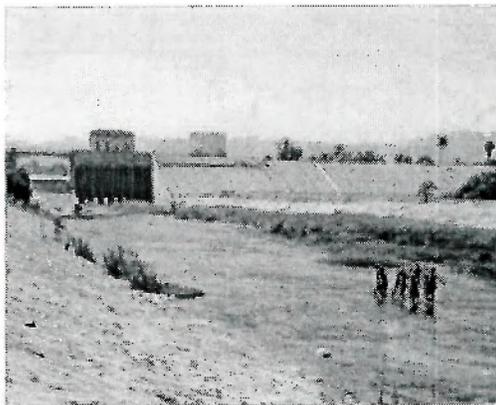
When I was elected in November, one of the biggest district projects I wanted to pursue was helping ongoing efforts to revitalize the Los Angeles River, specifically through the San Fernando Valley.

The first step in that effort took place July 10, when Senator Carol Liu and I co-chaired a meeting at CBS Studios in Studio City of about 30 stakeholders, all of whom are enthusiastic backers of river revitalization.



Assembly member Julia Brownley, Senator Pavley, Senator Carol Liu and Assembly member Mike Feuer listen to presentations during the LA River meeting.

We heard six dynamic presentations on everything from the city and county of Los Angeles' progress on its respective goals, to watershed issues and making sure we capture stormwater runoff, to updates on specific projects, including one in Reseda that has really rallied the community in support of the river.



Then the group discussed some of the obstacles to making all this happen – funding being at the top of the list – and provided some productive feedback on what we can do at the state level to make sure the river has a high profile in Sacramento.

I look forward to being a major part of this effort. Tremendous progress already has been made to transform the river from a concrete flood channel into a greenbelt that

incorporates transportation and environmental concerns. Let's keep the

momentum going.

If you have any questions about the LA River, contact Aron Miller in my district office at 310-314-5214.

Gills Onions in Oxnard receives monthly Pavley Sustainability Award

On July 17, my staff will present one of my Sustainability Awards to Gills Onions in Oxnard, the largest fresh onion processing plant in the world.

Gills is doing amazing things to help protect our environment with its Advanced Energy Recovery System. It converts almost 150 tons of onion waste every day into clean, reusable energy, cutting the company's electricity costs by 35 percent, or \$700,000 a year.

They also have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by up to 30,000 tons per year, making their operations virtually emissions free.

When I began my monthly Sustainability Awards earlier this year to honor individuals and businesses dedicated to preserving our environment by living and working responsibly, this was exactly the kind of business I had in mind.

Anti-Defamation League legislative breakfast

On July 10, I participated in the Anti-Defamation League's annual "State of the State" Legislative Breakfast and Briefing at the in Jewish Community Center in West Hills.

The morning was a wonderful opportunity to answer questions from constituents on a range of issues from the budget to promoting diversity in education. I always embrace opportunities to speak directly with the voters of my district.

I had a chance to discuss my voting record in the Assembly and the Senate and how those actions are in line with ADL values. I support the ADL's mission to fight all forms of bigotry and to reduce bias, hate crimes and discrimination.

Celebrating the 4th of July

Starting with my days in the Assembly, I have made a point every year to participate in one of my favorite events -- the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July parade.

I really appreciate the warm reception I received from my constituents there. The Palisades is one of the most beautiful areas in a Senate district filled with beauty, and I always enjoy visiting with the residents and catching up on what's happening.

Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this annual tradition for so

many years.

Save the Date: Friday, August 21st, 2009

Congressman Henry Waxman (Representative, 30th District of California and Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee) and State Senator Fran Pavley (23rd Senate District and Chair, Select Committee on Climate Change and AB 32 Implementation) will hold a public forum at UCLA on Friday, August 21st.

The program will include California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols distinguished scientists and researchers who will discuss how California's landmark climate legislation, AB 32, will work in concert with the Waxman-Markey federal climate legislation which passed the House in June and is now being debated in the U.S. Senate. The program will also include an update on the latest scientific research on climate and discussion of the economic impacts of climate policies.

California State Senator Fran Pavley - District 23

The 23rd Senate District includes the cities of Agoura Hills, Beverly Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, and Westlake Village, as well as several communities in the City of Los Angeles, including Bel Air, Beverly-Fairfax, Beverly Glen Canyon, Brentwood, Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Encino, Pacific Palisades, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Tarzana, West Hills, Westwood and Woodland Hills. The district also includes Topanga, Channel Islands and other communities in unincorporated Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

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