



Santa Maria-Bonita School District

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To: All Santa Maria-Bonita School District Stakeholders

From: Matt Beecher, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

Re: Budget Comment Link

Thank you for your interest in the State's budget crisis and its impact on the Santa Maria-Bonita School District. The State funds education with a combination of property, income and sales taxes. The significant downturn in the statewide economy has had a decimating impact on the revenues coming into the states coffers forcing the Governor and legislators to make some very hard decisions about budget reductions and possible revenue increases. This requires the District to also plan for some very hard decisions in light of major funding reductions from the State.

The District must certify by March 15th that it can meet its financial obligations in the current and subsequent two fiscal years. This will present a challenge since the Governor's budget proposal which was released in early January contained 4.57% mid-year cuts to education and proposed an additional 4% cut next year. All told, it is estimated that the reductions will total \$8 million less in District revenue compared to the Budget approved by the state just a few short months ago. In reaction to the deteriorating state budget the District has already taken action freezing both hiring and spending from most state and local funding sources. To weather this storm, the District will need to both make expenditure reductions and consume reserves. How much of each is not known at this time. The Board has directed the Cabinet to approach this situation creatively with the preservation of the best education possible for the students in the District as the core focus.

This page was set up to provide the community, students, staff and other stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute to the process. I encourage you to use the link below to email comments or suggestions regarding the budget. Every posting will be read and considered. While we will continue to plan for the worst case scenario, we will hope that it does not come to pass.

Thank you again for your concern with the District budget.

Matt Beecher, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

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