



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

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SAVE MONEY TO BALANCE BUDGET

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) recommends eliminating wasteful and ill-advised spending as important keys to balancing the State Budget without cutting essential programs or hampering job creation efforts.

“The State should stop wasting taxpayer dollars. Issuing overpriced no-bid contracts and continuing to furlough state workers damages the economy. No-bid contracts and furloughs helped get us into this fiscal mess,” said Shabbir Ahmed, PECG President.

PECG recommends the following steps to help balance the State Budget:

- **Stop awarding no-bid contracts for services.** Such contracts cost the taxpayers more than twice as much as having public servants do the work or awarding contracts through competitive bidding. As Governor Schwarzenegger said today in his State of the State Address, “Competition and choice are always good.” Caltrans alone could save more than \$100 million per year which could be used to relieve traffic congestion while creating construction jobs.
- **End the furloughs of State workers.** Several independent studies have shown that the furloughs actually cost California taxpayers. Eliminating furloughs would allow public servants to perform work at half the cost of no-bid outsourcing.
- **Don’t spend more than you are billed.** The Governor originally proposed \$1.3 billion in savings from the furlough program. Recently he proposed paying the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) \$1.3 billion more than the State’s required contribution. That money should be used to eliminate the furloughs.

ABOUT PECG

PECG represents the 13,000 state-employed engineers and related professionals responsible for designing and inspecting California's highways and bridges, ensuring that schools and hospitals are safe during earthquakes, and protecting our air, water and beaches from polluters.