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Alameda County
Supervisor Keith Carson, Fifth District

For Immediate Release
Press Release

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Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Local Officials Address the Socially Responsible Network About the Horrific Budget Proposals



Photo 1: Supervisor Keith Carson welcomes attendees to the meeting.

Photo 2: Congresswoman Barbara Lee gives the crowd a federal update on the economy

Photo 3: Kathie Zatkan of the Alameda County Network of Mental Health Clients introduces herself



Photo 4: Over 100 representatives from local community based organizations listen to advice from elected officials and finance professionals

Oakland, CA--More than 100 representatives from community based organizations, many of whom will be devastated by the proposed state budget cuts proposed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, met at Beebe Memorial Cathedral in Oakland on Monday evening. The Socially Responsible Network, an organization founded and chaired by Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, has been in existence for more than 10

years and has a membership of over 150 community based and labor organizations. Frank Russo, Chief of Staff for Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, presented the state budget with a focus on the Governor's latest proposal and its impact on local Government. Congresswoman Barbara Lee gave an overview of the Federal Budget and the County Administrative Officer Susan Muranishi presented the County Budget and outlined the State's latest proposal and the direct impact on the safety net within Alameda County. Those who attended the meeting provide essential services to working families, the frail and the elderly; and keep their clients from utilizing more expensive emergency services. The Governor's proposed reductions will dismantle the system that protects our working families.

The Governor's proposed budget closes a \$19.1 Billion funding gap, primarily through deep spending cuts that would decimate some programs and severely reduce funding for many others. The proposal included total elimination of the CALWORKS program and the possible elimination of In Home Support Services (17,000 Alameda County home bound seniors depend on those services). The Governor's proposal also increases medical costs for the poor by dropping funding for over-the-counter drugs and capping aid for essential equipment like hearing aids and increasing co-payments for hospital stays. A further proposal to release 15,000 state prisoners back to county jails would reimburse the County for less than 25% of what it now costs the State to incarcerate prisoners. Contributing to this year's deficit is the restoration of funding cuts that were rejected by the Federal Government, including freezing reimbursement rates for nursing facilities and the reducing aid for adult day care.

The Alameda County budget committee, chaired by Supervisor Carson and County Officials are currently working to close this year's \$182 Million dollar budget deficit. The County also provides significant funding for community based agencies. When asked about the Governor's budget proposal, Carson responded "Alameda County and local government will not survive the latest budget proposals. The Governor is attacking those who cannot fight back: the old, the children, the sick, the powerless. They are unable to lobby the Governor and State Legislators like those in the prison industry, the business community, and even the education lobby! This is an easy fix because they can't fight back, but we who provide the services will fight for them!"

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