NEWS

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Supervisors voice budget concerns during meeting with state legislators

RANCHO CUCAMONGA – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors met with state legislators on Friday to discuss the county's \$930.7 million budgetary impact and consequences of the governor's proposed state budget. Members of the Board of Supervisors met with members of the Inland Empire Legislative Caucus as part of the annual meeting between county supervisors and state legislators focusing on how the proposed budget affects operations and service delivery to county residents.

Historically, the meeting is held in Sacramento and used as a forum for county board members to communicate the county's legislative priorities with the local delegation. This year, in light of the current fiscal calamity in Sacramento and as a cost-savings measure to the county, the meeting was held locally with the focus of the meeting beaming on the governor's Proposed State budget for fiscal year 2010-11. "As part of our county's ongoing and persistent application of fiscal responsibility, we decided to hold the event within county boundaries as a cost-saving measure," said County Legislative Affairs Director Lance Larson.

"Members of the Board of Supervisors took turns explaining to state lawmakers how the proposed budget translates in real dollars and real positions to county residents and employees." Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary C. Ovitt said today. "I want this to be very clear to the legislators that the governor's budget before them will put people out of work in the County of San Bernardino, further straining our economy."

"San Bernardino County is a key partner with the state, and we take our responsibility to provide critical services to all residents very seriously." San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said. "However, we have suffered deep state cuts and have been excluded from the process of reshaping or streamlining programs that may result in achievable savings and efficiencies. California's counties know best how to serve our residents, and we need flexibility and a seat at the table in crafting reasonable budget solutions."

Legislators were given copies of the County's 2010 State Legislative Platform. The event was held at the Victoria Gardens Cultural Center in Rancho Cucamonga.