

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The General Government Section includes multiple departments, commissions, and offices responsible for the operation of various government programs. The Budget includes total funding of \$4.1 billion (\$514.6 million General Fund and \$3.5 billion various funds) for these entities.

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### CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) protects and promotes California's agricultural industry and ensures that only safe and quality food reaches the consumer. The Budget proposes approximately \$65 million General Fund for a number of programs, such as agricultural plant and animal health, pest prevention, and food safety services.

Significant Adjustment:

- Further Reduce General Fund Support—A permanent decrease to various department programs of \$12 million in 2012-13, as part of a two-year effort to achieve \$31 million in ongoing General Fund savings. The 2011 Budget Act reflected an initial decrease to the CDFA's budget of \$19 million. This additional reduction primarily affects various programs relating to border control stations, pest prevention, and food safety activities. Some border station hours will likely be reduced. A portion of the General Fund reduction will be replaced by the Recycling Fund for new efforts the border stations will be making to mitigate recycling fraud, which

occurs when recycling material is brought into California for illegal redemption. Funding to counties for performance of pest trapping and incoming shipment inspection activities will be reduced. Other reductions will be offset by increasing fees associated with the certification of nursery stock and milk and dairy food safety, as well as by implementing several departmental efficiencies.

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### **COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES**

The Commission on State Mandates is a quasi-judicial agency that hears test claims to determine whether local agencies and school districts are entitled to reimbursement for increased costs mandated by the state. The Constitution requires the Legislature to either fund or suspend specified mandates in the annual Budget Act.

Proposals to Balance the Budget:

- **Suspend/Repeal State Mandates**—The Budget proposes to suspend various mandates except for most mandates related to law enforcement or property taxes. Consistent with the Governor’s focus on streamlining government and providing local flexibility, the Budget proposes to repeal dozens of the approximately 50 mandates that have been suspended for the past two years or more. Many of the activities required by these mandates have become common practice and should not be mandated by the state. This proposal will result in a decrease of \$728.8 million General Fund in 2012-13.
- **Redetermination of Mandate**—Chapters 762 and 763, Statutes of 1995, created the Sexually Violent Predators reimbursable state mandate. However, in 2006, voters approved Jessica’s Law (Proposition 83), which restated several of the provisions of the reimbursable mandate. Because mandates imposed by voter-approved initiatives are not reimbursable state mandates, the Administration will submit a request to the CSM to adopt a new test claim decision for the mandate to reflect this change.
- **Delay of Program Participation Requirements for Specified Probationers**—Chapter 219, Statutes of 2010, provided for enhanced sentencing of sex offenders. The Budget proposes to implement a two-year delay, from July 2012 to July 2014, of the requirement that probationers who are registered sex offenders participate in a sex offender management program. All the enhanced sentencing terms and parole lengths that were part of the bill, which basically required longer sentences for sex offenders and in some cases longer/lifetime parole, will remain in place. No sentencing changes will result from this proposed program delay.

In light of the public safety realignment, this delay will provide probation departments the opportunity to focus on the implementation of realignment. In addition, if this program were determined to be a reimbursable state mandate, this two-year delay could result in significant General Fund savings.

- Deferral of Pre-2004 Mandate Obligations—A decrease of \$99.5 million in 2012-13 as a result of deferring the 2012-13 payment for mandate costs incurred prior to 2004-05.

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## **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

California owns and operates six veterans homes located in Yountville, Chula Vista, Barstow, Lancaster, Ventura, and West Los Angeles. Two additional homes in Redding and Fresno are under construction, scheduled to be completed in January 2012 and April 2012, respectively. These homes provide residential and medical care services to honorably discharged California veterans who served on active duty and are over the age of 62 or disabled.

Significant Adjustment:

- Further Delay the Opening of Veterans Homes in Redding and Fresno—The opening of the homes was delayed through 2011-12 and will continue to be delayed through 2012-13.

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## **OVERSIGHT OF REGULATORY PROGRAMS**

- Chapter 496, Statutes of 2011 (SB 617) provides for expanded economic analyses of new major regulations. The Administration has already begun the development of this program, which will provide standards for analysis and consideration of alternatives that are the least harmful to the economy.

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