

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Craft-Maintenance Division State of California Unit 12
Locals 3, 39 & 501. AFL-CIO

January 11, 2018

Sent via Certified U.S. Mail
#7015 3010 0000 3910 2798

Honorable Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

On January 10, 2018 you released your proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 which includes a projected surplus of 19.3 billion dollars.

Over the past eight years we have seen increased investments in education, transportation, health care, and many other projects that you and the legislature deemed appropriate.

The one area that we have not seen increased investments in, is your workforce. Until our last round of negotiations, state employee's net pay had been stagnant for nearly a decade while the cost of housing continues to skyrocket.

It's no secret that in both the public and private sectors there is a severe shortage of skilled and semi-skilled workers in the State of California which is hampering new home construction and operations and maintenance of state facilities. The problem has gotten so bad that the vacancy rates in our bargaining Units 12 and 13, for these two categories of jobs, has risen over 20 percent.

For example, when Senate Bill I went into effect in November 2017, Caltrans announced they would be hiring an additional 1,000 Unit 12 workers to accomplish all of the new transportation projects. After meeting with Caltrans officials, we found they may not go forward with this hiring plan because they have over 200 vacancies they cannot currently fill due to the low wages they offer and the lack of a geographic pay differential for high cost regions in the state.

In our bargaining Unit 13, it is virtually impossible for the State to recruit Stationary Engineers and Water and Waste Water Treatment Plant Operators. In several locations, the state now has contracted out the work to private contractors at anywhere from \$160 to \$180 per hour. A state prison that cannot recruit new Water Plant Operators, is bringing in bottled water at a cost of nearly \$30,000.00 per month, this is such a waste of the tax payer's dollars!

Governor Brown, we ask that you give serious consideration to these problems and re-invest in your neglected state workforce. On behalf of the 13,000 state workers we represent, we urge you to restore your workforce to the level of competitiveness it once had several decades ago.

Sincerely,



Steve Crouch
Unit 12, Director of Public Employees

cc: Marybel Batjer, Secretary, Government Operations Agency
Richard Gillihan, CalHR Director

SC:dd:Unit#12/afl-cio

1620 North Market Boulevard, Sacramento, California 95834 • 916-928-0399 • Fax: 916-928-1216