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Californians Against Higher Taxes Applauds Responsible Budget Proposal

Strongly opposes efforts by special interests to raise billions in new and higher taxes

(SACRAMENTO)—Teresa Casazza, President of the California Taxpayers Association and co-chair of Californians Against Higher Taxes, issued the following statement today in response to the release of the governor's FY 2016-2017 budget proposal:

"Once again, the governor has taken the responsible step not to introduce or support massive spending increases that would all but guarantee draconian budget cuts and potential tax increases during the next economic downturn. His budget also demonstrates that California has adequate revenue for state programs and that no new or higher taxes are needed.

"However, not all is rosy. The proposal to spend more than \$3 billion in cap-and-trade funds, while the issue of how the money was raised and can be spent is still being litigated, raises concerns and may create future budget problems. The program was enacted as a hidden 'fee' and not a tax, which would have required a two-thirds vote of the Legislature or a public vote.

"Last year, politicians and special interests proposed more than \$140 billion in new and higher taxes. This year, voters may face billions in new and higher taxes at the ballot box, including a higher tobacco tax, an extension of the temporary taxes in Prop. 30 and efforts to undermine Prop. 13 by increasing residential and commercial property taxes. These taxes, and others that inevitably will be introduced in the Legislature, are unnecessary, and would create irresponsible spending habits that would be unsustainable when the economy slows again.

"We applaud the governor's continued efforts to stabilize our budget process, and oppose ongoing efforts by special interests to undermine responsible budgeting by proposing billions in new and higher taxes."

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