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More Information on California State Budget

http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2011/110225_Budget_Plans_Compare.pdf

More Information on Air Quality

<http://www.aqmd.gov/prdas/matesIII/matesIII.html>

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ICO Leaders Join PICO Southern California Affiliates for California State Budget Action Meeting

Fifteen leaders from ICO congregations joined leaders from PICO California affiliates Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC) and Orange County Congregations Community Organization (OCCCO) on Saturday, May 7, for an information and strategy meeting on how to move the California State Legislature to adopt a budget that is fair and equitable and reflects our values.

Coming one month after ICO leaders gathered at St. Luke's Episcopal Church for a citywide strategy meeting, the Southern

California meeting was part of a set of statewide meetings PICO California has convened to share information about the budget crisis and strategize on methods to move key legislators to vote for a fair budget.

The session underscored the severe impact an all-cuts budget would have on school districts across the state, including a cut of more than \$64 million to the Long Beach Unified School District. Other potential impacts enumerated at the session included: closing a University of California campus or doubling in-state tuition; cutting a week or even a month of school for public school students; closing schools; and cutting police officers and firefighters.

Instead of passing an all-cuts budget, PICO California is urging leaders across the state to focus on key members of the State Senate and Assembly. Two Republican votes are needed in both houses to pass a budget that would make up half of the projected \$26 billion budget shortfall by extending four current temporary taxes for another five years. The other half of the shortfall was addressed through a series of significant budget cuts passed in March.

PICO California has identified senators and assembly members who are potential swing votes, including Tom Harman, whose 35th Senate District starts just across the Orange County line from Long Beach and includes the neighboring communities of Seal Beach, Los Alamitos and Cypress. PICO California is launching a six-week push in these identified districts to try to get the required two-thirds vote on the tax extensions through the legislature. These activities will include faith actions in Modesto, on either June 1st or 2nd, and in Sacramento on June 14th. ICO leaders are looking to work with our partner in Orange County, OCCCO, on actions focused on Sen. Harman. We will send out alerts as soon as information is finalized about these potential actions. A first step is a forum this Saturday, at 10:00 a.m., in Wylder Hall at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, 5450 East Atherton Street.

ICO California State Budget Forum

Saturday, May 15, 10:00am

Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach

5450 East Atherton Street, Long Beach

Wylder Hall

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ICO Leaders to Deliver Hundreds of Signatures to City Council Opposing West Side Railyard Expansion

ICO leaders are gathering signatures urging the Long Beach City Council to oppose the proposed expansion of near-neighborhood rail transfer yards in West Long Beach. The petitions also call on the Council to support efforts to move towards zero emissions goods movement practices.

Earlier this year, hundreds of West and Downtown Long Beach residents gathered for two community meetings on the continuing health impacts associated with current goods movement policies. At both meetings, the local air quality conversation began to shift from a simple “yes” or “no” on railyard expansion to a broader discussion of how to work together to create momentum towards zero emissions goods movement in our communities. Also at both meetings, Long Beach 7th District Councilmember James Johnson stated his support for zero emissions alternatives to be included in the forthcoming environmental impact reports (EIRs) for the proposed rail transfer yard expansions on the West Side.

ICO leaders plan to present the signatures to the Long Beach City Council at its Tuesday, May 17. The meeting begins at 5:00 p.m.

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