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Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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Dear Members of the Manhattan Beach Community:

As you may be aware, the Governor has unveiled his proposed State Budget for the 2008-2009 school year. To address the state's projected \$14 billion structural deficit, the Governor has outlined significant cuts in funding for K-12 education. These reductions include:

- Mid-year cuts of \$360 million in revenue limit funding in 2007-2008. Approximately \$190,000 has been deducted from Manhattan Beach Unified School District's 2007-2008 state apportionment.
- For 2008-2009, a 10% overall state reduction results in a District loss of 2.5%. For MBUSD, if enrollment remains steady, the District will receive approximately \$900,000 fewer dollars to operate the schools than the current year. Beyond this, the District must continue to pay ongoing obligations resulting in an overall loss to the District of approximately \$1,600,000 for 2008-2009.
- Elimination of COLAs (Cost of Living Adjustment) and reductions in funding for 2008-2009 in special education and other restricted programs such as GATE, English Learner, and Instructional Supplies.

We recognize that this is only the Governor's proposed budget and that the negotiations process with the Legislature and interested constituent groups is just now beginning. It may well be that the final 2008-2009 budget is different from the proposal introduced by the Governor. At this time, however, we must be proactive in protecting the District's future fiscal viability in the face of such financial uncertainty. One thing is certain: we can no longer rely on the budget assumptions that existed at the time of the District's adopted budget that formed the basis for the District's economic projections.

In light of the uncertainty that now exists, the District is compelled to consider budget reductions in all areas including programs, services and personnel. In addition, revenue enhancement options are to be explored aggressively to add local income to offset these state imposed deficits. We are seeking suggestions that will reduce expenses and/or increase revenues for the District. Your ideas can be e-mailed to ideas@mbusd.org. Please be assured that all ideas will be carefully considered.

We invite you to attend a special Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, February 27 at 6:30 P.M., in the District boardroom. During the meeting, the Board will receive a projected three-year budget recovery plan, hear ideas and suggestions from the community and allow for staff/community input.

We remain committed to informing staff and community as the State, as well as the District, budget process unfolds. It is important to reach out and include everyone in the process. For additional information on the state budget, you may go to the EdSource website <http://californiaschoolfinance.org/tabid/182/Default.aspx>. We look forward to your involvement and support as we work together to find solutions to ensure a quality education for all of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverly J. Rohrer', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Beverly Rohrer, Superintendent of Schools