

Date

Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
Local Senator  
Local Assembly member  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Eliminating redevelopment is wrong decision in this economy and would have devastating impacts for <region>**

Dear Governor Brown and Names of Your Legislators:

<ORGANIZATION NAME> strongly opposes the Administration's proposal to abolish redevelopment agencies. Redevelopment has been a critical tool in CITY/REGION for creating jobs and economic opportunities where none existed. This proposal will further damage our already beleaguered economy and it completely thwarts the will of the voters who have repeatedly said they want local funds to stay local.

Eliminating redevelopment will kill jobs and economic expansion at the worst possible time, and our state and local economies will suffer long-lasting and irreparable harm if this proposal is enacted. Consider, statewide:

- Redevelopment activities support an average of 304,000 full- and part-time private sector jobs in a typical year, including 170,600 construction jobs;
- Redevelopment contributes over \$40 billion annually to California's economy in the generation of goods and services; and
- Redevelopment construction activities generate \$2 billion in state and local taxes in a typical year.

The success stories of redevelopment are all over California, including here in CITY.

- INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLES OF REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT ARE THREATENED BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET PROPOSAL. INCLUDE JOB LOSSES AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND SPECIFIC PROJECT DETAILS.

Abolishing redevelopment would be bad for California's working families. It is the second largest funder of affordable housing behind the federal government. And, by revitalizing downtrodden and rundown areas, redevelopment helps reduce crime and make safer, more vibrant communities for families.

Furthermore, the State's own numbers show that killing redevelopment will bring very little financial relief for the State. That's because redevelopment agencies have more than \$87 billion in bond and other contract obligations in place that must be repaid before funds are available for other purposes. ***In fact, after this budget year, the State Department of Finance acknowledges zero State savings from shutting down redevelopment.*** Yet, it would cause huge financial pain to local communities.

While we fully understand the realities of the State's massive budget deficit, it is important to ensure that no decisions are made that will make our financial problems worse. We strongly urge you to reject this measure and refocus on proposals that offer real solutions to California's budget problems.

Sincerely,