

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Assemblyman David Cox talks about the need for a solution to the budget stalemate during a press conference in Sacramento.

CITY OFFICIALS MAKE TRIP TO SACRAMENTO TO FIGHT FOR VLF FEES

SACRAMENTO - Officials with the City of Vallejo, including Mayor Tony Intintoli and City Manager David Martinez, on Wednesday attended a press conference in Sacramento to bring attention to the difficult financial times facing California cities in light of recent budget developments.

“We participated in this press conference in an effort to demonstrate our resolve in fighting for our resources,” Intintoli said. “We need to continue to send the message that we’re facing immediate cutbacks in public safety and city services if this isn’t resolved to our satisfaction.”

League of California Cities representatives and LOCAL – Leave Our Community Assets Local, a growing grassroots network of local and state individuals and organizations in California representing public safety, business, labor, health, local government, seniors and community groups – held the press conference on December 10, the day cities and counties received vehicle license fee payments reduced by over 67 percent.

For Vallejo, that meant a reduction of over \$430,000 in revenues for the upcoming month. The city typically receives about \$571,000 in vehicle license fees per month. The total loss would be over \$3 million for Fiscal Year 2003-04.

“The loss of these revenues means we need to make cuts immediately,” Martinez said. “I’ve asked staff to look at cutting their non-personnel budgets by 10 percent, and we’re implementing other reductions as well.”

During the press conference, League officials and LOCAL Coalition allies and key state legislators called on the Legislature to pass one of the VLF backfill bills currently locked up in the Senate and Assembly (SBx5 1, ABx5 3, ABx5 7). Key speakers included representatives of cities, counties, firefighters, police chiefs, sheriffs, mental health providers and social workers. It was a strong bipartisan message, with participation by the authors of the VLF backfill bills, Senator Jim Brulte, Assembly Members Alan Lowenthal and Joe Canciamilla, and Assembly Minority Dave Cox.



Livermore Fire Chief Steve Krull addresses the media during a Wednesday press conference in Sacramento regarding vehicle license fees.