



For Immediate Release

July 1, 2010

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CAPS SAYS NO TO MINIMUM WAGE PAY STATE SCIENTISTS IN FULL AND ON TIME

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS) will continue to oppose Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s efforts to pay state scientists and other state employees federal minimum wage simply because he cannot reach an agreement on a new state budget. For years, CAPS has led efforts to ensure its members receive paychecks that are in full and on time.

Today, CAPS President and Staff Environmental Scientist Patty Velez urged Governor Schwarzenegger to take a different approach in getting an agreement on a state budget, rather than to reduce the salaries of state scientists.

“It’s a sad day when the boss wants to make his employees collateral damage in a budget dispute. State scientists work hard and we deserve a full paycheck, and our boss should ensure we get it,” said Velez. Governor Schwarzenegger had no problem taking credit for ordering dozens of scientists to work long hours in support of the Gulf oil spill cleanup, and we were happy to do it. But our members will be saddened to hear that they may come back from 15 hour days in the Gulf to a minimum wage paycheck. We will continue to fight for paychecks in full and on time in the legislature and in the court.”

CAPS strongly supports State Controller John Chiang who has vowed to correctly follow the law and pay state scientists in full and on time paychecks.

ABOUT CAPS

CAPS represents nearly 3,000 state employed scientists working in over 30 state departments in 230 scientific classifications. CAPS members protect the public from life threatening diseases, safe guard our wildlife and abundant natural resources, and protect our air and water from toxic waste and pollution.