

State Budget Includes Less for Transportation

Caltrans will have fewer employees and less money for operations than at any time in the last decade, under terms of the recently enacted state budget.

The **2016-17 budget** includes \$9.7 billion for Caltrans, about \$800 million less than last year, and authorizes 19,044 positions, 252 fewer than last year.

It continues a decade-long slide from the short-term peak that came with voter approval of Proposition 1B (The Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006). Nearly all of the projects laid out in Proposition 1B have been completed and Caltrans has gradually eliminated about 4,200 positions. The reductions total nearly 30 per-

cent in funding and more than 26 percent in project direct staffing, including an 11 percent decrease in project direct staffing in just the last six years.

The 2016-17 budget fully funds the programmed projects for the State Highway and Operation Protection Program and the State Transportation Improvement Program, and it includes an early loan repayment of \$148 million for projects in the Traffic Congestion Relief Program. However, these resources are not sufficient to address the growing backlog of state highway system maintenance needs.

While no provision for addressing the transportation funding shortfall was included in the enacted budget, the special legislative session will continue. Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. continues his support for a sustainable transportation funding solution, including the plan he put forth that would bring \$36 billion in new transportation revenue over the next 10 years. **MM**

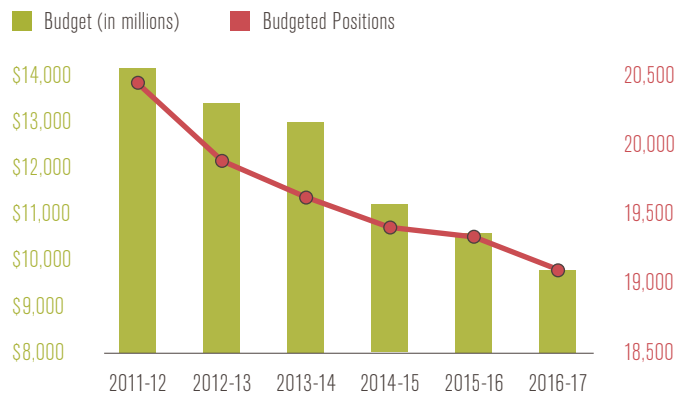
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Source: Gina L. Coates, Chief, Revenue Forecasting & Financial Analysis Branch, Division of Budgets; Athena Gliddon, Chief, Office of Capital and Finance



The completion of most Proposition 1B projects has resulted in an 11 percent decrease in project direct staffing in just the last six years.

Caltrans Budget & Staffing Levels: Six-Year Look



Caltrans budget and staffing levels have both been on the decline since fiscal year 2008-09, when the effects of the Great Recession took hold. The budget returned to pre-recession levels in 2011-12, but has declined each year since.