



April 16, 2003

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Paula Higashi, Executive Director
Commission on State Mandates
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Test Claim from Santa Monica Community College District
Crime Statistics Reports (K-14); 02-TC-12

Dear Ms. Higashi:

This office represents the Department of Finance in the above-captioned matter. We hereby request a 30-day extension of time within which to file a response to the test claim from the current due date, April 21, 2003, to May 21, 2003.

Good cause exists for our request in that due to work load pressures experienced by the deputy attorney general to whom the matter was originally assigned, the matter must be reassigned to another deputy. This office, like many others in state government is suffering from the effects of a reduced workforce and increased demand for services. The Government Law Section is especially hard hit because, at a time when it has one unfilled vacancy and one deputy out on a six-month maternity leave, it is the section that is responsible for responding to an ever-increasing number of requests for advice and opinions relating to state budget issues and the various state financings

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (916) 324-5470.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Van Aken" followed by a stylized flourish.

CATHY VAN AKEN
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

For **BILL LOCKYER**
Attorney General

CVA: ch
cc: Susan Geanacou

