



July 10, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor:

**You campaigned for Governor pledging to be a “different kind of leader.”**

On the campaign trail and late night TV circuit, you played to the applause by promising to “clean up the mess ...stop the special interests ... blow up the boxes.”

**After the votes were counted, the applause died down, and the spotlights went dark. You Broke Your Word.**

You immediately picked up a new script, changed characters, and became another bad actor in a warn-out rerun of failed leadership.

You raised more money from special interests and giant corporations than any other Governor in history.

You’ve paid back your Wall Street friends with tax breaks, lucrative contracts, and special access to you at private parties--for a steep price of course.

**You could close tax loopholes that only benefit giant corporations and the super-rich.**

Instead you are closing health clinics, shutting DMV offices, dismantling our college and university system, and cutting programs that cost-effectively benefit our most vulnerable seniors and children.

And all the while our roads crumble; our parks close. Public safety is compromised, while college tuition skyrockets and fewer students will be enrolled in the courses they need for a successful future.

**You’ve labeled state employees as part of the problem.**

You used your political machine to create a smoke screen around your missing leadership.

And then you launched a relentless assault on the work we do, the salaries we earn, and the benefits we have negotiated.

You’ve called us a special interest. Well, our special interest is protecting our roads, our rivers, our veterans and our children.

YVONNE R. WALKER  
President

M. CORA OKUMURA  
Vice President  
and Secretary-Treasurer

JIM HARD  
Vice President  
for Organizing/Representation

KATHLEEN B. COLLINS  
Vice President for Bargaining

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION

1808 14th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
(916) 554-1200  
(866) 471-SEIU (7348)  
(916) 554-1275 (fax)  
[www.seiu1000.org](http://www.seiu1000.org)



July 10, 2009  
Page 2

Did you even know we do that kind of work? Who do you serve, Governor? Obviously, not California. Perhaps it's those Wall Street types and Big Oil tycoons who share the cigar tent with you.

The rest of us, governor, are stressed out, anxious and wondering how we're going to pay next month's bills and keep our homes.

**When the financial crisis hit, we negotiated a revised labor agreement.**

After a deep analysis of the state budget, we knew the financial crisis was real.

Our more than 200 rank and file negotiators pulled together an agreement that your negotiators—signed with your approval—that saves more \$337 million ... and over \$1 billion if those same provisions were adopted for all other state employees.

**Again, you broke your word by refusing to honor the agreement you negotiated. And now you are demanding a 5% wage cut or a fourth furlough day monthly.**

Governor, we've sacrificed. And now we've reached our limit.

We cannot and will not allow you to use us as pawns in your political power game.

**When we negotiated one furlough day monthly, a wage freeze, and other cost saving changes, we were standing up for state services.**

While we continue to battle for quality public services, we are now standing up for ourselves as well.

We will fight for a common sense budget that combines cuts and revenues to maintain our quality of life, both now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,



YVONNE R. WALKER

President

SEIU Local 1000