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2012

# UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000  
**SEIU**  
Stronger Together

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST OUTSOURCING

# State fails to scrutinize private contracts

## Highlighting state's dependency on 'Hidden Branch of Government'—contracting out

At a hearing legislators agreed to convene at Local 1000's urging, members told an Assembly budget subcommittee that the state depends too much on expensive private contractors for work our members can do more efficiently for less.

"Private vendors monopolize work that should be performed by state employees," said Margarita Maldonado, Local 1000 vice president for bargaining, at the Feb. 21 hearing on government contracting. "Vendors come in on a temporary basis but routinely get their contracts extended and extended, creating a situation where the state becomes dependent on contractors to do work that should be handled by our members."

Maldonado and three other members testified at the meeting, as did other employee groups.

"As a California taxpayer, I am concerned about the way the state spends—and often wastes—money on big information technology contracts," said Howard Ballin, a project administrator in the Department of Justice. "Our procurement process in California is grossly inadequate. The way we award contracts should be totally overhauled because the state really does not look at the cost-effectiveness of contracting out."

### Exposing the "Hidden Branch of Government"

Our members also gave legislators a new Local 1000 report highlighting the state's long, costly reliance on expensive private contractors. The report titled "The Hidden Branch of Government" shows the concentration of state contracts among a small group of large corporations, details the relative size of contracting, and shows how this corporate branch of government reduces competition and accountability to the public.



*"The way we award contracts should be totally overhauled because the state really does not look at the cost-effectiveness of contracting out."*

—Howard Ballin  
project administrator, Department of Justice.

Of the \$1.7 trillion spent by the state from 2003 to 2011, 13 percent—or nearly \$211 billion—was on contracts. It's not clear how much of this is for work that could be done by state employees because it is often very difficult to determine the exact nature and scope of a state contract.

### Stopping illegal contracts

Last year the governor signed into law AB 740, which puts more teeth into State Personnel Board (SPB) rulings against illegal contracts. Local 1000 sponsored the bill because some state agencies simply refused to comply with previous rulings making contracts illegal.

At the hearing, Local 1000 made a renewed pitch for increased transparency in the government contracting process. Local 1000 is pushing the state for a centralized, user-friendly way of determining how much money each department and California as a whole spends on private contracts every year.

"At present, the Department of General Services merely provides access to vast quantities of data that is unintelligible in its current format to the average citizen," said Cindy Doyel, a business analyst with the California Technology Agency. "California should follow the lead of the federal government and other states to help the public make sense of the mountains of raw government data."

To download a PDF of the entire "Hidden Branch of Government" report, go to:

**[seiu1000.org/whitepapers/  
State\\_Contracting\\_web.pdf](http://seiu1000.org/whitepapers/State_Contracting_web.pdf)**

## MEMBER STRENGTH CORNER

# Make a difference... Make your voice heard

## Building our union, one member activist at a time

Local 1000 member leader Dan Silva is looking for members who are willing to stand up and say "Enough is enough!" As the member strength director, Silva orchestrates the effort to enhance Local 1000's network of activists.

Outsourcing, the Corporate Power Grab Initiative (so-called "Paycheck Protection") on the November ballot, and the need for strong political allies are only a few of the reasons why members take it upon themselves to make a difference at their worksites and in their communities. Change starts with every individual.

At age 17, Silva saw the power of activism during his first strike with the Carpenters Union that resulted in a 10-cent wage increase. "It wasn't even about the money back then; it was about respect," Silva said.

The knowledge of what can be accomplished when workers unite fuels his desire to enlist new member activists.

### Standing up for members

"The time to sit and watch the world turn has ended," Silva said. "The futures of our children depend on what we do today."

Silva, a criminal justice specialist for the Office of Emergency Services, has worked in state service for more than 23 years, holds the position of DLC President, sits on several Local 1000 member committees and has no plans of slowing down.

Silva's work centers on identifying and empowering those members who realize the need for action—members who are willing to become involved in any one of the wide range of activities



***"The futures of our children depend on what we do today."***

**—Dan Silva**  
Local 1000 member strength director

that are organized. "Anyone can be an activist; anyone can do the right thing. If you don't fight, who will?"

Sign up and get involved by going to [seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

### Resource Center

Monday-Friday  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
866.471.SEIU (7348)

### Website

[seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

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## EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

# Flexing their organizing muscles

## EDD members win reinstatement of flex schedules

The campaign by a group of EDD employees to get flex schedules put back in place at their facility has been successful. The flex schedules will return next month.



Organized members made the difference and beginning March 1, a third work shift will begin at 7:30 a.m. for up to 50 percent of the facility's employees.

Management has signed off on the flex schedules for employees at the facility on Tech Center Drive in Sacramento. When unemployment was skyrocketing in California and management demanded extra hours of work, Local 1000 members obliged to make management look good.

"We are very excited about the changes," said Richard Wilcox, Local 1000 steward at the Tech Center Drive facility. "Everyone considers this a victory and we'll be monitoring the situation to make sure members who want to have their schedules changed can take advantage of the victory."

Management took away flex schedules after the rush, forcing employees back into eight-to-five shifts.

Accommodations will be made to employees based on seniority.