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# *The* FISCAL REPORT *an informational update*

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## **It's Done! Legislature Approves Budget after Marathon Session**

Very early the morning of February 19, 2009, the Senate was finally successful in garnering the additional Republican vote from Abel Maldonado (R-Santa Maria) to meet the two-thirds requirement for passing the 17-month State Budget package. This was after a historical single-session length of 45½ hours.

Maldonado's vote was garnered in return for an open primary and language that prevents legislators from receiving pay increases during years when the State Budget is facing a deficit. While several Democrats initially were going to be "no" votes because of these new provisions, in the end they determined that a Budget deal at this time was more important.

The other changes to the package involved replacing the additional 12¢ per gallon gas tax with a 0.25% increase in the income tax, federal stimulus funds, and \$600 million in line item vetoes, the details of which are not yet available.

The Assembly quickly followed suit, voting to approve the package. It is now on its way to the Governor for approval.

*-Sheila G. Vickers*

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