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September 23, 2022

Mr. Joe Stephenshaw, Director
Department of Finance
1021 O Street, Suite 3110
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Stephenshaw:

In a letter dated September 7, 2022, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC), pursuant to Section 28.00 in the *2022-23 Budget Act*, of a request from the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to increase its Federal Trust Fund reimbursement authority by \$36,790,114. The additional authority is related to the receipt of extra funds from the American Rescue Plan Act for implementation of the AmeriCorps National Service Program. The letter requested a waiver from the 30-day legislative review period.

My staff has informed me that the placement and living allowance payments for some AmeriCorps members were postponed because the Administration failed to promptly seek the increase in spending authority. Although the Administration received notice of these funds between June 15 and July 30, the JLBC received the request over a month later, on September 7. I believe there was ample time to add this to the August amendments to the budget bill, which would have prevented any delay. In the future, I expect items like this to be handled in a more expeditious manner.

I have concluded the change in reimbursement authority is aligned with the requirements of Section 28.00 and concur with the request. To avoid any further delay, I waive the remainder of the 30-day review period, in order to allow OPR to distribute the funds to AmeriCorps programs as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Nancy Skinner
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee

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