

## California Democrats want higher taxes and fewer cuts

SACRAMENTO — An emerging Democratic plan to address part of California's \$24.3 billion deficit appears unlikely to win support from the governor and GOP lawmakers.

That raises the prospect of another prolonged deadlock in budget negotiations, which could jeopardize the state's finances.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is proposing steep cuts in social services while vowing not to accept any plan that includes higher taxes.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass has said Democrats are considering a severance tax on oil production and closing some corporate tax loopholes. They also are discussing another increase in the vehicle license fee - this time by \$15 - to keep state parks open.

The cuts they have proposed so far are billions of dollars less than the governor's plan.

Democratic leaders said they will provide a formal summary of their budget plan Wednesday. (AP)

## Filipinos not among top US illegal entrants

FILIPINOS were not among the top nationalities arrested for trying to cross the United States border illegally, the latest report by the US Office of Immigration Statistics said.

In its June 2009 report, the agency said that apprehensions made by the Border Patrol declined in 2008 at 723,840 persons from the 2007 figure of 876,803 persons. In 2005, apprehension reached its peak of 1,189,000.

The decrease in apprehension can be attributed to the financial crisis in the US and enhanced border enforcement efforts, according to the report.

There are close to three million Filipinos in the US, including 156,000 who are undocumented, according to 2007 figures.

Mexicans topped the nationality arrested in 2008 with 661,773 persons (91 percent), followed by Honduras (19,351), Guatemala (16,395), El Salvador (12,684), Cuba (3,351), Ecuador (1,579), Nicaragua (1,467), Brazil (977), China (836), Dominican Republic (819), Canada (610), and other nationalities (3,998).

Person apprehended are subject to deportation from the US for violating the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Apprehensions beyond US borders, involving foreign nationals illegally present in the United States who may have entered without inspection or entered legally but lost their legal status, are handled primarily by Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security. (Inquirer.net)



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