

REVENUE TRENDS – MARCH 2004

Statewide tax collections during the month of March totaled \$313.8 million, which was \$78.2 million or 33.2% more than the amount collected the previous March. With March's increase, cumulative state tax collections for the first three quarters of the 2003-2004 fiscal year amounted to \$2,946.3 million, \$186.9 million or 6.8% ahead of the previous year's pace.

The major contributor to March's increase was a \$47.4 million upswing in revenue from general excise and use taxes, which was due in part to the "weekend effect". February general excise taxes normally due on the last day of the month were not due until March 1 since February 29 fell on Sunday. This caused some February collections to spill over into March. This March revenue surge pushed cumulative fiscal year collections from this source \$78.9 million or 5.9% ahead of the previous year's pace.

Transient accommodations tax collections also were subject to the "weekend effect" and increased by \$5.9 million. Cumulative fiscal year revenue from this source advanced \$6.0 million or 4.7% ahead of the previous year's pace.

Individual income tax revenue rose by \$5.8 million in March as increases in estimated taxes, payments with returns, and withholding taxes overcame an increase in refunds. At the three-quarter point of the fiscal year, cumulative collections from this source were \$40.9 million or 5.2% ahead of the amount collected for the corresponding period the prior year.

Franchise tax revenue for March showed a sharp positive change only because March 2003 experienced a large negative amount stemming from escrow actions due to protested liability.

STATE GENERAL FUND

Tax collections accruing to the state general fund for the month of March totaled \$269.8 million, \$65.7 million or 32.2% more than the amount that accrued the previous March.

Cumulative general fund accruals after the first nine months of fiscal 2003-2004 amounted to \$2,499.7 million, which was \$131.4 million or 5.5% more than the amount accrued during the same period the previous year. For the full fiscal year, the Council on Revenues has projected an increase of 5.2%.

