SCUSD's worst-case shortfall is on top of \$177 million in cuts to SCUSD's budget in the last nine years – a 35 percent reduction in what was once a \$500 million budget. Even if voters pass tax extensions in a special election, it is projected that more cuts will be needed to balance SCUSD's budget for next year, due to the lingering recession and enrollment declines in some areas.

To raise awareness of budget issues, the district has been holding a series of community forums. The district also has asked its community to participate in a Budget Priorities Survey, which is available at www.scusd.edu.

"We need the public to understand that years of the state balancing its budget on the backs of kids has eliminated all the easy solutions to public education under-funding," said Raymond. "As a colleague of mine recently said, not only is all the 'low-hanging fruit' gone, the tree is gone."

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