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State government

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced he signed Senate Bill 898, a bill by state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, to continue two voluntary tax check-off programs, the State Children's Trust Fund for the Prevention of Child Abuse and the Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Program.

The State Children's Trust Fund provides an additional source of funding for innovative child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs. Last year, the State Children's Trust Fund received \$562,286 in contributions through the voluntary contribution fund (VCF) tax check-off program. The Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Program, which supports programs for endangered and rare animals and native plant species and programs for those species which may be candidates for determination as endangered or rare, received \$555,062 in contributions last year.

Legislation written in response to the recent executive pay scandals at the University of California and the California State University was signed into law Monday by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Senate Bill SB 190, the Higher Education Governance Accountability Act authored by state Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco/San Mateo, is designed to bring major reforms to the governing boards of the two higher education systems and to end the continuing executive pay hikes that have recently tarnished the institutions.