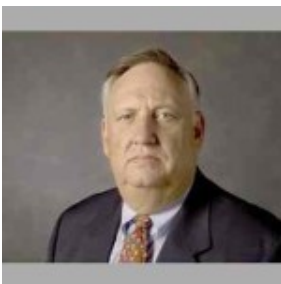


Opinion: Brown wants to avoid past budget errors

By Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee

Fourteen years ago, the governor of California solemnly pledged not to squander a \$12.3 billion revenue windfall on unsustainable tax cuts or spending.



Dan Walters

“I intend to resist the siren song of permanent spending whether it comes from the left or the right,” Gray Davis told reporters. “And I will stand up to anyone who tries to convince the Legislature that they should spend most or all of this money in ongoing expenses.”

Davis caved within a few weeks, agreeing to use two-thirds of the windfall for permanent spending and tax cuts. Not surprisingly, the state faced multibillion-dollar deficits a year later.

On Thursday, Gov. Jerry Brown stood at the same podium that Davis used in 2000 and solemnly pledged not to overspend a new surge in state revenue – even alluding indirectly to Davis’ failure.

Read the whole story