

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

March 1909 "C.S. Russell, an experienced mechanic, after working up a half-dozen varieties of hard wood, has come to the conclusion that there is a great future for growing the eucalyptus in California.. He thinks there is nothing like the eucalyptus for all kinds of furniture and says it will be used more year after year from now on." Los Angeles Times (March 24, 1909) p. I5

April 1909 "Two car loads of eucalyptus trees were received in Winchester within the past week by the Southwester Cooperative Land Company. This concern, which recently purchased the Laidlaw ranch, plans to set the entire acreage to eucalypti. This spring 100,000 trees will be planted, making a 100 acre grove. A large force of men is employed in preparing the ground and the work is being energetically pursued." Los Angeles Times (April 13, 1909) p. III1.

September 1909 "Angeleno buys huge tract in San Luis Obispo County for eucalyptus plantation....The consideration is reported to have been in the neighborhood of \$150,000. The tract extends inland from the ocean a distance of five miles.... The tract will, when planted, be one of the largest plantations of its kind in the country." Los Angeles Times (September 19, 1909) p. V24.

November 1909 "The 'skinning' of one R.S. Webb was an interesting part of a meeting of the Los Angeles Florists and Nurserymen's Association last night. To Theodore Payne was delegated the duty of trimming Mr. Webb, and showing up other ridiculous claims concerning the eucalyptus, supposed to have emanated from real estate men anxious to dispose of acreage.... There is an immense future for eucalyptus in California but the very best judgment must be exercised in selecting the species to plant." Los Angeles Times (November 10, 1909) p. I5.

<http://www.library.csustan.edu/bsantos/euctoc.htm>

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Smart on Crime: Reconsidering the Death Penalty in a Time of Economic Crisis.
By Richard C. Dieter, Death Penalty Information Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) October 2009. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/CostsRptFinal.pdf>

["Death penalty costs can average \$10 million more per year per state than life sentences. The increased costs result from more expensive security requirements and guaranteed access to an often lengthy appellate process. Cases are more costly to prosecute and can take more than four times longer to try, requiring additional money for lawyers, jurors, court personnel and other related costs. States can't afford that, so cases take longer, executions are fewer, and inmates remain on death row longer, where their incarceration is more expensive to maintain. California has 678 death row inmates. We haven't executed anyone in four years. Since 1992, we've executed 13 people. From the time capital punishment was reinstated in 1978 until 1992, we executed no one." Sacramento Bee (October 24 2009) A13.]
[Request #S09-31-4243]

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CORRECTIONS

Corrections – Moving Forward. By the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (The Department, Sacramento, California) Fall 2009. 44 p.

Full text at:

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/News/2009_Press_Releases/docs/CDCR_Annual_Report.pdf

["The Department issued its annual report offering figures butting heads with its plan to reduce the inmate population by 20,000 in the next two years. The report, noting 60 percent of inmates released from California prisons in the past three years have returned to jail, illustrates the state's difficulty in reducing its inmate population.... Adult and youth offender fire crews save the state more than \$80 million annually by fighting wildfires.... The number of juveniles in the state's Division of Juvenile Justice has declined by nearly 6,500 over the past decade.... In the past several years, the prison population has actually declined from 173,479 in fall 2006 to 166,569 in fall 2009.... Corrections had transferred nearly 8,000 inmates to out-of-state prisons to ease overcrowding." Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (October 2, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-31-4169]

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PRISONER REENTRY

From the Classroom to the Community: Exploring the Role of Education during Incarceration and Reentry. By Anna Crayton, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and others. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) July 2009. 57 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411963_classroom_community.pdf

["This report surveys the current landscape of correctional education, discussing both the educational needs of people involved in the criminal justice system and the programs being provided to meet those needs; reviews research on the effectiveness of correctional education and guiding principles for effective programming; discusses the issues involved in providing education in correctional settings and identifies some potential responses to these challenges. The report closes by looking to the future and highlighting key issues and new directions in research, policy, and practice."]

[Request #S09-31-4244]

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Transitional Jobs for Ex-Prisoners: Implementation, Two-Year Impacts, and Costs of the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) Prisoner Reentry Program. By Janine Zweig, Urban Institute, and others. (MDRC, New York, New York) August 2009.

["This report presents interim results from a rigorous evaluation of the New York City-based Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO), a highly regarded employment program for ex-prisoners. CEO participants are placed in paid transitional jobs shortly after enrollment; they are supervised by CEO staff and receive a range of supports. Once they show good performance in the transitional job, participants get help finding a permanent job and additional support after placement.... The program group was significantly less likely than the control group to be convicted of a crime, to be admitted to prison for a new conviction, or to be incarcerated for any reason in prison or jail during the first two years of the study period."]

[Request #S09-31-4245]

Report. 187 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/529/full.pdf>

Executive Summary. 13 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/529/execsum.pdf>

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DEMOGRAPHY

IMMIGRANTS

The Immigrant Paradox: The Stalled Progress of Recent Immigrants' Children.
By David S. North, Center for Immigration Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2009. 8 p.

Full text at: http://www.cis.org/articles/2009/immigrant_paradox.pdf

["The American tradition has been that the first generation of immigrants struggles, the second generation does better, and the third generation does even better in terms of income, education, personal health, and overall achievement. Currently, however, social scientists are finding that this overall pattern is not happening with the second and following generations of more recent immigrants.... Ill-funded and uninspired inner-city schools, programs for ethnic minorities that are not 'culturally competent,' an inadequate medical care system, the recently decentralized and sharply reduced welfare system, the lack of appreciation for immigrants generally, and other lingering biases in the society all tend to slow the progress of the children of immigrants."]

[Request #S09-31-4229]

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ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

California: Profile of a Green Economy. By Collaborative Economics. (National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, Washington, DC) September 2009. 6 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.subnet.nga.org/downloads/GESStateProfiles/CALIFORNIA.PDF>

["California's green economy displays a diverse array of green businesses with different levels of specialization. California has long been a leader in green industry, and is clearly a national leader in Energy Generation and Finance & Investment. Other areas of growing comparative advantage are in Advanced Materials, Business Services, Energy Efficiency, Energy Infrastructure, and Research & Advocacy. With more than 34,000 jobs, Air & Environment accounts for approximately 28 percent of employment in California's green segments, while California's 24,000 jobs in Energy Generation account for nearly 20 percent of green employment."]

[Request #S09-31-4234]

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CREDIT CARD INDUSTRY

Still Waiting: “Unfair or Deceptive” Credit Card Practices Continue as Americans Wait for New Reforms to Take Effect. By Nick Bourke and Ardie Hollifield, Pew Health Group. (Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) October 2009. 36 p.

Full text at:

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Credit_Cards/Pew_Credit_Cards_Oct09_Final.pdf

["The Credit CARD Act of 2009 provides many important consumer protections. While some new disclosure rules became effective in August 2009, most substantive protections will not take effect until February of 2010 or later. Until then, banks may continue to raise rates on outstanding balances, use what the Federal Reserve labeled 'hair trigger' penalty rate increases, apply payments in a way that maximizes interest costs, charge unrestricted overlimit fees and more.... Going forward, bank regulators have a crucial role to play in ensuring the goals of the Act are met. In particular, the Federal Reserve is responsible for creating new rules to ensure that all penalty fees and charges are 'reasonable and proportional.'"]
[Request #S09-31-4250]

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LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles: State of the City Report: 2009. By Michael R. Cousineau, University of Southern California, and others. (Pat Brown Institute of Public Affairs, Los Angeles, California) 2009. 36 p.

Full text at: http://www.patbrowninstitute.org/documents/09SOC_Report_Final.pdf

["Los Angeles is the nation's second most heavily populated city; it has a formidable economy, albeit a troubled one, that provides a financial base for the nation's largest state economy, also heavily troubled, helping California attain its status as one of the largest economies in the world. The city is arguably one of the most culturally diverse cities in the nation and, indeed, the world. This remarkable place can be analyzed and described in many ways and each perspective opens an exciting new window to its rich social, political, economic, and cultural dynamics.... We have asked six Los Angeles experts to offer their opinions on demographic dynamics and the state of the economy, healthcare, housing challenges and opportunities, immigration, governance, and education."]
[Request #S09-31-4247]

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NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Resilience & Vulnerability: The State of the Nonprofit Sector in Los Angeles: 2009. By David B. Howard and Hyeon Jong Kil, UCLA Center for Civil Society. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) October 2009. 50 p.

Full text at: http://www.spa.ucla.edu/ccs/docs/2009_NONPROFIT_REPORT.pdf

["The sector faces conditions much more difficult than in years past -- coupling increasing demand with decreasing revenues. More than a third of nonprofits reported decreased revenues over the past year, while only 14% of nonprofits reported increases. Larger nonprofits appear to have been hardest hit.... While revenues have declined, fixed administrative costs, such as health care for employees, are continuing to rise. Organizations dependent on government and foundation revenue report major budget shortfalls. Human services organizations are experiencing particularly difficult times meeting demand; it's hard to run job training programs when there is double-digit unemployment among experienced and skilled workers."][Request #S09-31-4251]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Critical Connection Between Health and Academic Achievement: How Schools and Policymakers Can Achieve a Positive Impact. By WestEd and the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy. (The California Endowment, Los Angeles, California) November 2009. 22 p.

Full text at:

http://www.calendow.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/By_Topic/Access/General/Critical%20Connection%20between%20Student.pdf

["The health of California's students has a direct impact on school dropout rates, attendance, academic performance, school revenues and the ability to reach the achievement goals set by the state.... In the last 15 years, studies consistently document the powerful connection between health and academic failure, with poor health affecting students' attendance, grades and ability to learn in school. Poor health, chronic medical conditions and stress-induced inability to concentrate translate into lost dollars due to absences and lack of achievement for our youth. There is much that state and local policymakers can do to help schools ensure that students are healthy and ready to learn. Creating policies that ensure that children are healthy and able to attend school will benefit not only students but also cash-strapped school districts through increased student attendance and revenues."][Request #S09-31-4284]

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COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Steps to Success: Analyzing Milestone Achievement to Improve Community College Student Outcomes. By Colleen Moore and others, Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy. (The Institute, Sacramento, California) October 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.csus.edu/ihelp/PDFs/R_CCC_Milestones.pdf

["There is widespread recognition that the current means of measuring and accounting for outcomes in community colleges is deficient. Among the weaknesses of current systems is an under-emphasis on the reporting of intermediate outcomes that students achieve along the way to completion.... Our analysis shows that too few students reach each of the milestones along the path to degree completion, especially older students, part-time students, and black and Latino students.... This report offers a framework for guiding educators in using available knowledge and tools to improve student outcomes. It shows how better use of available data can help diagnose why students fail to make progress toward a degree and can better demonstrate the progress students make along the pathway to a degree."]

[Request #S09-31-4307]

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ENGLISH LEARNERS

¿Qué Pasa?: Are English Language Learning Students Remaining in English Learning Classes Too Long? By Edward Flores and others, University of Southern California. (Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, Los Angeles, California) October 2009. 4 p.

Full text at: <http://www.trpi.org/PDFs/LAUSD%20Policy%20Brief.pdf>

["Nearly 30% of Los Angeles Unified School District students placed in English language learning classes in early primary grades were still in the program when they started high school, increasing their chances of dropping out. More than half of those students were born in the United States and three-quarters had been in the school district since first grade. The findings raise questions about the teaching in the district's English language classes, whether students are staying in the program too long and what more educators should do for students who start school unable to speak English fluently. The sooner students switch to regular classes the better. Students who moved out of English classes by third grade scored up to 40 points higher on standardized tests than those who stayed in the classes." Los Angeles Times (October 29, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-31-4302]

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MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE TEACHING

Keeping California Competitive: The Impact of Math and Science Teachers. By Gail Evans, California Senate Office of Research. (The Office, Sacramento, California) October 2009. 5 p.

Full text at: [Keeping California Competitive](#)

["California lags behind much of the nation in math and science student test results and degrees produced in these subject areas. Research shows that the most important controllable variable in student achievement is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. Yet many students in California are taught by underprepared and beginning math and science teachers.... When the state's fiscal climate improves, some long-term strategies to attract and retain math and science teachers could include the following: Provide structured support for teachers, including induction and mentoring programs. Address the gap between salaries paid to math and science teachers, and salaries paid by industries that employ math and science college graduates. Provide ongoing professional development to teachers that is high-quality and includes more subject matter content and pedagogical skills."]

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EMPLOYMENT

JOB CREATION

The Job Creation Tax Credit. AND: Complementing Recovery Policies with a Jobs Creation Tax Credit. By Timothy J. Bartik and John H. Bishop, Economic Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) October 2009.

["A well-designed temporary federal job creation tax credit should be an integral part of the effort to boost job growth. Besides having broad-based, bipartisan political support, the best argument for a job creation tax credit is simply that it will create almost 3 million jobs in 2010 and over 2 million in 2011. Moreover, it will stimulate the entrepreneurial character of Americans by giving 6.5 million employers and millions more aspiring entrepreneurs a limited-time offer to expand their production or start new endeavors, at a discount. Because choices about whom to hire and what work they should do are left to independent decision makers who can act immediately, the credit will have just as quick an impact."]

Job Creation Tax Credit. 20 p.

http://epi.3cdn.net/d4d645e728ddc511d3_1km6iigcv.pdf

Complementing Recovery Policies. 3 p.

<http://www.epi.org/page/-/pdf/pm150.pdf>

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JOB TRAINING

California's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs. By the Workforce Alliance. (Skills2Compete-California, Sacramento, California) October 2009. 33 p.

Full text at: http://www.skills2compete.org/atf/cf/%7B8e9806bf-4669-4217-af74-26f62108ea68%7D/FORGOTTENJOBS_CA_FINAL.PDF

["California must improve adult education and community college programs to help laid-off workers retrain for technical positions that will open up in the next several years due mainly to retirements. The study uses federal data to look at current and projected employment in the state. It divides jobs into three categories: 25 percent that can be done with a high-school diploma, 35 percent that require a bachelor's degree or higher, and 40 percent that require a post-high-school certificate or two-year degree.... As the state economy recovers over the next few years, retirements will accelerate -- up to 60 percent of the jobs in the years ahead will be replacement openings -- and California companies are likely to face shortages in this middle-skills category." San Francisco Chronicle (October 20, 2009) D1.]
[Request #S09-31-4256]

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SCIENTISTS & ENGINEERS

Steady as She Goes? Three Generations of Students through the Science and Engineering Pipeline. By Lindsay Lowell, Georgetown University, and others. (Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers, University, New Brunswick, New Jersey) November 2009. 57 p.

Full text at:
http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/uploadedFiles/Publications/STEM_Paper_Final.pdf

["U.S. colleges and universities are graduating as many scientists and engineers as ever. But that finding comes with a big caveat: Many of the highest-performing students are choosing careers in other fields. Since the late 1990s, many of the top students have been lured to careers in finance and consulting.... The onus for improving the stock of scientists and mathematicians thus falls more on employers than students.... The researchers' conclusions suggest that making careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields more attractive -- through higher salaries, for example -- could help employers solve recruiting problems for top talent." Business Week (October 28, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-31-4309]

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WOMEN

The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation Changes Everything. By Maria Shriver and the Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) October 16, 2009.

[“This report describes how a woman’s nation changes everything about how we live and work today. Now for the first time in our nation’s history, women are half of all U.S. workers and mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in nearly two-thirds of American families. This is a dramatic shift from just a generation ago (in 1967 women made up only one-third of all workers). It changes how women spend their days and has a ripple effect that reverberates throughout our nation. It fundamentally changes how we all work and live, not just women but also their families, their co-workers, their bosses, their faith institutions, and their communities.... This report lays the groundwork for how our society can better support the new American worker and the new American family.”]

Report. 454 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/pdf/awn/a_womans_nation.pdf

Executive Summary. 11 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/pdf/awn/executive_summary.pdf

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ENERGY

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Counting All the Benefits: Energy Efficiency and Systems Thinking. By Geoffrey P. Lewis and Julian L. Wong, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 2009. 10 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/pdf/systems_thinking.pdf

["It is obvious that we should use cost-effectiveness as a criteria to assess our priorities, but it is less clear which measure of cost-effectiveness is most appropriate. Should we use upfront cost, or lifecycle cost? Some studies have suggested that although energy efficiency is cheaper over the lifecycle, it can be significantly more expensive upfront. The problem is that such studies generally do not count all the benefits of energy efficiency.... When we take a fresh look at these numbers using a more holistic framework that is sometimes referred to as ‘systems thinking,’ it becomes clear that energy efficiency is actually significantly cheaper on both metrics. Energy efficiency is cheaper over the lifecycle and requires less investment upfront to reduce CO2 emissions."][Request #S09-31-4118]

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ENERGY POLICY

Estimating U.S. Government Subsidies to Energy Sources: 2002-2008. By Adenike Adeyeye and others, Environmental Law Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2009. 38 p.

Full text at: http://www.elistore.org/Data/products/d19_07.pdf

["The federal government provided substantially larger subsidies to fossil fuels than to renewables. Subsidies to fossil fuels -- a mature, developed industry that has enjoyed government support for many years -- totaled approximately \$72 billion over the study period, representing a direct cost to taxpayers. Subsidies for renewable fuels, a relatively young and developing industry, totaled \$29 billion over the same period.... Most of the largest subsidies to fossil fuels were written into the U.S. Tax Code as permanent provisions. By comparison, many subsidies for renewables are time-limited initiatives implemented through energy bills, with expiration dates that limit their usefulness to the renewables industry.... Subsidies to fossil fuels generally increased over the study period. Almost half of the subsidies for renewables are attributable to corn-based ethanol."]

[Request #S09-31-4261]

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Hidden Costs of Energy: Unpriced Consequences of Energy Production and Use. By the Committee on Health, Environmental, and Other External Costs and Benefits of Energy Production and Consumption, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) October 2009.

["Electric cars will not be dramatically cleaner than autos powered by fossil fuels until they rely less on electricity produced from conventional coal-fired power plants. Nuclear and renewable power would have to generate a larger portion of U.S. power for electric cars to become much greener compared to gasoline-powered cars.... Materials in electric car batteries are hard to produce, which adds to the energy it takes to make them. In fact, the health and environmental costs of making electric cars can be 20 percent greater than conventional cars, and manufacturing efficiencies will have to be achieved in order for the cars to become greener.... Hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles with batteries that are charged by the driver hitting the brakes scored slightly better than both gasoline-powered cars and plug-in hybrid cars." Reuters (October 20, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-31-4259]

Book. 466 p.

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12794

Executive Summary. 39 p.

http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12794&type=pdfxsum

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SOLAR POWER

Solar Powering Your Community: A Guide for Local Governments. By Hannah Muller, U.S. Department of Energy, and Sarah Truitt, SENTECH, Inc. (The Department, Washington, DC) July 2009. 152 p.

Full text at:

http://www.solaramericacities.energy.gov/resources/guide_for_local_governments/

["This comprehensive resource will assist local governments and stakeholders in building sustainable local solar markets. The guide introduces a range of policy and program options that have been successfully field tested in cities around the country. The guide describes each policy or program, followed by more information on: 1) benefits from implementing the policy or program; 2) various tips and options for designing and implementing the policy or program; 3) experiences from communities that have successfully implemented the policy or program; and 4) additional reports, references, and tools that offer more information on the topic, where applicable."]

[Request #S09-31-4260]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Local Economies. By Rosalind H. Bark. (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts) October 2009. 58 p.

Full text at: https://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/dl/1706_924_Bark%20Final.pdf

["Climate change impacts will range from increased risk of droughts, floods and wildfires, landscape level vegetation change, exacerbation of the heat island effect and ozone non-attainment, to changes in river flows and reservoir storage. These impacts will compel households, businesses, farmers, land managers, and local governments to adapt. The key question is whether adaptation will be ad hoc or guided. There are cost-efficient reasons to incorporate climate change impact planning into all local government decision-making from building codes to transportation planning.... Local governments can incentivize end users to invest in adaptation through regulation, partnerships with utilities, rebates, grants and bonding, leading-by-example, and education."]

[Request #S09-31-4264]

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ENDANGERED SPECIES

Center for Biological Diversity v. California Fish and Game Commission. San Francisco County Superior Court. Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate. October 28, 2009. 15 p.

Full text at: http://www.earthjustice.org/library/legal_docs/pika-final-petition.pdf

["Earthjustice filed another suit against the state to push for protection of the American pika, a small rabbit-like mountain creature that can only live at high elevation. It was the second lawsuit filed this year over the pika. The pika is slowly being forced into alpine islands in the Sierra Nevada as the climate warms up. The California Fish and Game Commission denied a petition in June to protect the pika under the state Endangered Species Act. Environmentalists in May went to court and won a review of their first pika petition, which had been turned down last year. But the state again refused to list the animal for protection. The Center for Biological Diversity maintains that the pika's habitat will completely disappear at the end of this century." Fresno Bee (October 28, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-31-4267]

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GREEN HOUSE GASES

Equity and Efficiency in Cap-And-Trade: Effectively Managing the Emissions Allowance Supply. By Adele C. Morris, The Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) October 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: [Equity and Efficiency](#)

["Policymakers are keenly interested in the likely effect of the cap-and-trade system on their constituents. This paper summarizes the economic literature on the 'incidence' of cap-and-trade climate policy, meaning all the ways people may be made better or worse off as a result of the policy.... One often hears about how a particular climate policy approach might benefit corporations as opposed to individuals or vice versa. We examine the effects of climate policy on individuals and different categories thereof, including consumers, shareholders, household income groups, and geographic region, not the effects on individuals vis-à-vis corporations. Only people can bear the costs and benefits of the program."]
[Request #S09-31-4265]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

A Call to Action for State Government: Guidance for Opening the Doors to State Data. By Eric Sweden, National Association of State Chief Information Officers. (The Association, Lexington, Kentucky) September 2009. 18 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nascio.org/publications/documents/NASCIO-DataTransparency.pdf>

["State governments have been leaders in the establishment of state transparency and accountability portals and are now considering including high priority datasets in the mix. With vast data resources, States are in a position to create a new kind of relationship with their citizens. NASCIO encourages states to follow suit in the steps of the District of Columbia, Utah, California and several local governments. The difference now is the availability and provision of raw, machine-readable data, structured to allow manipulation and analysis electronically. This allows the combining of multiple public datasets using mashups to create new information, data and services. Data within the context of these discussions is unabridged data; data that has not been aggregated, summarized or interpreted."]

[Request #S09-31-4268]

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California Budget Transparency 2.0: Online Tools for Better Government. By Siena Kaplan, Frontier Group, and others. (CALPIRG Education Fund, Sacramento, California) October 2009. 36 p.

Full text at: <http://cdn.publicinterestnetwork.org/assets/sLKO1VS0ptK-AkAfHAI6kw/GovTransReport.pdf>

["At least 29 states currently mandate that residents be able to access a searchable online database of government expenditures. These states have come to define a new standard of comprehensive, one-stop, one-click budget accountability and accessibility. With the state in the midst of an historic budget crisis, it's especially important for Californians to have easy access to information about the state's expenditures. California has taken some steps towards better transparency, but still falls far short of the best practices established by other states. California should fill in the gaps in government reporting and bring its online transparency up to speed, so that Californians can stay abreast of -- and have the tools to influence -- the difficult decisions being made in Sacramento."]

[Request #S09-31-4269]

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GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Online Town Hall Meetings: Exploring Democracy in the 21st Century. By David Lazer, the Harvard Kennedy School and Northeastern University, and others. (The Congressional Management Foundation, Washington, DC) October 2009. 52 p.

Full text at: <http://nposoapbox.s3.amazonaws.com/cmfwweb/Online-Town-Hall-Meetings-Report.pdf>

["Strikingly little attention has been focused on how the Internet might facilitate and enable conversations between citizens and Members of Congress. This report aims to at least partially fill this deficit. To this end, we facilitated 20 online town hall meetings in 2006 with U.S. Representatives and one event in 2008 with a U.S. Senator, with a total number of participants in excess of 600.... The sessions were extremely popular with constituents. The discussions in the town halls were of high quality. The town halls attracted a diverse array of constituents. The online town halls increased constituents' approval of the Member's position on the issue discussed. The online town halls increased constituents' approval of the Member."] [Request #S09-31-4271]

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PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 13 and the Transformation of California Government. By Jack Citrin. IN: California Journal of Politics and Policy, vol. 1, no. 1 (2009) pp. 1-9.

Full text at: http://www.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?context=cjpp&article=1013&date=&mt=MTI1NzM2NTEyMQ==&access_ok_form=Continue

["Thirty years after the tax revolt of Prop. 13, it remains the third rail of California government. In the throes of the budget crisis of 2008, there was no serious talk of reforming the property tax system. Prop. 13 was opposed by the elite, supported by the masses, and attitudes have hardly changed in 30 years, despite substantial change in the composition of the electorate and years of handwringing about the effects of the measure on public education and other government services. But what fairly can be labeled a revolutionary event neither ushered in the millennium promised by its promoters nor brought on the apocalypse prophesied by its detractors. It did change the way of doing political business in California. Power shifted from local governments to the state, from the legislature to the governor, and from representative democracy to plebiscitary government."] [Request #S09-31-4272]

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HEALTH

DRUG PRICES

Time Release: The Effect of Patent Expiration on U.S. Drug Prices, Marketing, and Utilization by the Public. By Frank R. Lichtenberg, Columbia Business School, and Gautier Duflos, Paris School of Economics. (Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, New York, New York) October 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/mpr_11.pdf

["We examine the role of marketing in generating demand for drugs by observing changes in market structure when patents expire and cheaper generic competitors enter the market. If the critics are right, what we call 'utilization' -- the number of prescriptions dispensed for the universe of drugs sold in the United States -- should increase as prices drop. While branded drugs are significantly more expensive than generics, this study does not find any evidence that patent protection reduces utilization of drugs. This may be because of high prescription drug insurance coverage that shields U.S. consumers from a large fraction of prescription drug costs. Declines in drug prices resulting from competition from generics may produce significant savings to insurers or pharmaceutical benefit managers that are not necessarily passed on to consumers."][Request #S09-31-4294]

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HEALTH CARE

Aiming Higher: Results from A State Scorecard on Health System Performance, 2009. By Douglas McCarthy, The Commonwealth Fund, and others. (The Fund, Washington, DC) October 2009.

["Californians may lead healthier lives than most Americans, but the state's record on health care is mostly mediocre or dismal. California ranked fifth among all states in having a population leading 'healthy lives,' but ranked in the bottom 10 on such measures as access to health care and prevention and treatment.... The state's high ranking for 'healthy lives' is based on the low infant mortality rate (the state ranks sixth) and the low number of smokers (second). The study underscored a health care system split by the haves and have-nots, with some states rising to challenges while others lagged.... What the report shows is that California was already in a bad place before we were hit by the recession and the state budget crisis." Sacramento Bee (October 8, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-31-4278]

Report. 110 p.
[report](#)

Executive Summary. 20 p.
[executive summary](#)

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

The Costs and Benefits of a Public Option in Health Care Reform: An Economic Analysis. By Ethan Kaplan, Columbia University, and Melissa A. Rodgers, UC Berkeley School of Law. (The School, Berkeley, California) October 2009. 16 p.

Full text at:

http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/chefs/Public_Option_Economic_Analysis.pdf

["This report explains why the public option is likely to garner greater benefits and cost savings than previously projected. Previous estimates have suggested that costs would be shifted to private insurers and employers would drop private insurance in favor of a public option. While the public option would compete with private insurers, whose local monopoly power currently provides them advantages in many markets, there is no good empirical evidence that the public option's lower reimbursement rates would shift costs onto private insurers. Nor does the evidence suggest that employers who currently provide insurance would suddenly stop covering their employees in favor of the public option."]

[Request #S09-31-4291]

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IMMIGRATION & IMMIGRANTS

Impact of the DRA Citizenship and Identity Documentation Requirement on Medi-Cal: Findings from Site Visits to Six Counties. By Caroline Davis, Health Management Associates, and others. (The California Endowment, Los Angeles, California) October 2009. 20 p.

Full text at:

http://tcenews.calendow.org/pr/tce/document/CA_DRA_report_October_2009.pdf

["A federal requirement to check the citizenship of all Medi-Cal applicants has imposed significant burdens on California's 58 counties but officials have not reported any cases of existing recipients who had falsely claimed U.S. citizenship. The study found that the requirement in particular made it harder for the homeless, mentally ill, people born outside California and children over age 16 to access public healthcare. That's because such groups had a more difficult time finding birth certificates, passports, driver's licenses and other documents needed to prove U.S. citizenship and identity.... In an attempt to simplify the verification procedures, Congress passed new rules this year allowing counties to check Social Security numbers via computer, minimizing the need for applicants to produce original documents." Los Angeles Times (October 22, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-31-4283]

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SMOKING

Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Cardiovascular Effects: Making Sense of the Evidence. By the Committee on Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Acute Coronary Events, Institute of Medicine. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) October 2009.

["A major report confirms what health officials have long believed: Bans on smoking in restaurants, bars and other gathering spots reduce the risk of heart attacks among nonsmokers. More than 126 million nonsmoking Americans are regularly exposed to someone else's tobacco smoke.... While heavier exposure to secondhand smoke is worse, there's no safe level. And it cited 'compelling' if circumstantial evidence that even less than an hour's exposure might be enough to push someone already at risk of a heart attack over the edge.... The impact can be quick: Helena, Montana, for example, recorded 16 percent fewer heart attack hospitalizations in the six months after its ban went into effect than in the same months during previous years." Associated Press (October 15, 2009) 1.]

Book. 220 p.

[book](#)

Report Brief. 4 p.

[report brief](#)

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HOUSING

FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

An Overview of Federal Support for Housing. By Elizabeth Cove Delisle, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) November 3, 2009. 8

Full text at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/105xx/doc10525/11-03-HousingPrograms.pdf>

["Most of the federal government's support for housing is provided for homeownership. In 2009, the federal government devoted almost four times the amount of budgetary resources to supporting homeownership (about \$230 billion) as it devoted to improving rental affordability (\$60 billion). Until recently, the bulk of federal support for homeownership took the form of tax expenditures, which make it less expensive to own a home by reducing taxes for homeowners and investors.... As a result of recent actions to address the crisis, the government now provides roughly equivalent amounts of support for homeownership through tax expenditures and spending programs.... This brief categorizes 28 federal housing activities by type of support (homeownership or rental), mechanism (spending or taxation), and budgetary cost in 2009."][Request #S09-31-4275]

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HOUSING

Bay Area Burden: Examining the Costs and Impacts of Housing and Transportation on Bay Area Residents, Their Neighborhoods, and the Environment. By the Urban Land Institute Terwilliger Center for Workforce Housing and the Center for Housing Policy. (The Institute, Washington, DC) November 2009. 28 p.

Full text at: http://bayareaburden.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/Bay-Area-Burden_FINAL_lowres.pdf

["Housing and transportation costs eat up nearly 60 percent of the median income of Bay Area families. The average household spends \$28,000 on housing and \$13,400 on transportation each year.... The burden of paying for homes and commutes is even higher -- 63 percent -- for the inner East Bay communities hugging the Bay, which the study attributes more to lower incomes west of the hills than of comparatively higher housing and transportation costs.... Organizers are taking guests on tours of transit-oriented developments and revitalized urban and retail areas. Proponents will use the study and a model they call 'location efficiency,' a metric that shows lower cost burdens in places such as San Francisco and Alameda counties because of the proximity of residents to job clusters and public transit." Contra Costa Times (November 3, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-31-4276]

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HUMAN SERVICES

HOMELESS

Homeless Cost Study. By United Way of Greater Los Angeles. (United Way, Los Angeles, California) October 2009. 4 p.

Full text at:
http://www.unitedwayla.org/getinformed/news/Documents/HomelessCostStudy_09_r2_v3.pdf

["It would cost taxpayers less to provide public housing for Los Angeles' vast homeless population than to let them wander the streets as transients. The survey of four individuals found that it cost taxpayers \$107,032 to provide housing and other benefits to a homeless person for two years, compared with \$187,288 for those living in the street. Costs for a more unsettled lifestyle soared because of more frequent visits to hospitals and mental health clinics and more frequent arrests and time spent in jail -- bills also picked up by the public."]
[Request #S09-31-4246]

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POVERTY

Half in Ten: Why Taking Disability into Account is Essential to Reducing Income Poverty and Expanding Economic Inclusion. By Shawn Fremstad, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2009. 19 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/poverty-disability-2009-09.pdf>

["Disability is both a fundamental cause and consequence of income poverty. Disability can result in job loss and reduced earnings, barriers to education and skills development, and a myriad of other challenges that can, in turn, lead to economic deprivation and hardship. As a result, it comes as no surprise that the income-poverty rate for persons with disabilities is between two to three times the rate for persons without disabilities.... The linkages between disability and income poverty have far-ranging implications for contemporary anti-poverty research and advocacy in the United States.... Researchers, who in the United States have defined poverty narrowly in terms of income, should consider adopting the kinds of broader frameworks and concepts for anti-poverty research and advocacy that have become commonplace in nearly all other wealthy nations."]

[Request #S09-31-4255]

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TRANSPORTATION

AUTOMOBILES

Technology Roadmap: Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles. By the Directorate of Sustainable Policy and Technology, International Energy Agency. (The Agency, Paris, France) 2009. 52 p.

Full text at: http://www.iea.org/papers/2009/EV_PHEV_Roadmap.pdf

["The Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle (EV/PHEV) Roadmap for the first time identifies a detailed scenario for the evolution of these types of vehicles and their market penetration, from annual production of a few thousand to over 100 million vehicles by 2050. The next decade is a key 'make or break' period for EVs and PHEVs: governments, the automobile industry, electric utilities and other stakeholders must work together to roll out vehicles and infrastructure in a coordinated fashion, and ensure that the rapidly growing consumer market is ready to purchase them. The roadmap concludes with a set of nearterm actions that stakeholders will need to take to achieve the roadmap's vision. It is the IEA's hope that this roadmap provides additional focus and urgency to the international discussions about the importance of electric-drive vehicles as a technology solution."][Request #S09-31-4312]

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COMMUTERS & COMMUTING

Using Bicycles for the First and Last Mile of a Commute. By the Mineta Transportation Institute, San José State University. (The Institute, San Jose, California) September 2009. 62 p.

Full text at:

[http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mtiportal/research/publications/documents/Bike%20Commuter%20\(with%20Covers\).pdf](http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mtiportal/research/publications/documents/Bike%20Commuter%20(with%20Covers).pdf)

[The Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) has been instrumental in encouraging a necessary dialogue between cyclists and public transit operators. This is the second bicycle summit produced by MTI, and this year's dialogue between cyclists, interested members of the community and transit operators focused on ways that bicycle commuters can best be integrated into existing systems, especially commuter rail. What do cyclists need from transit operators in order to seamlessly integrate public transportation into their workday commutes? What can surface transportation managers do to encourage cycling and increase the safety of cyclists who are sharing the road with automobiles? What facilities are needed at transit stations and aboard transit vehicles to help commuters complete their trips to work?"]

[Request #S09-31-4277]

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