

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

December 1909 “That Santa Barbara will see an aeroplane floating over its streets before any other city in the West is the statement made by E.M. Fowler who returned yesterday from New York, where he bought a Santos Dumont monoplane and acquired the agency for it, together with that of a Clement bi-plane. Mr. Fowler, who has been watching flying tests in the East, says it is easy to learn. He will pick out a level spot and teach himself when his machine arrives next May. After he has learned he will use this city as a demonstration ground.” Los Angeles Times (December 1, 1909) p. II11

December 1909 “A guarantee that the syndicate of French aviators will come direct from Paris to Los Angeles to participate in the aviation events January 10 to 20 will be sent to Paris today when H.E. Huntington will cable \$25,000 to bind the bargain.... Arrangements thus concluded assure the international feature of the events as Glenn H. Curtiss and C.F. Willard are already contracted with, the Wright army aeroplane tentatively promised and four others, which have already flown, the subject of correspondence. The French syndicate will bring eight aeroplanes, comprehending all successful makes in that country, and possibly including the latest machine made by Santos Dumont.” Los Angeles Times (December 1, 1909) p. II1.

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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

DRUGS

After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation. By Stephen Rolles, Transform Drug Policy Foundation. (The Foundation, Bristol, United Kingdom) November 2009.

["In the United States, there are many signs of prohibition ebbing away. Some 14 states have decriminalised the possession of marijuana for personal use (medical or otherwise), though most keep the option of a \$100 civil penalty.... California and Massachusetts are holding committee hearings on bills to legalise pot outright; Oregon is expected to introduce such a bill soon.... Earlier this year a report by ex-presidents of Brazil, Colombia and Mexico called for alternatives to prohibition. A British think-tank launched a report setting out ideas on how drugs could be legally regulated. For every substance from cannabis to crack, it suggests a form of regulation, via doctors' prescriptions, pharmacy sales or consumption on licensed premises." The Economist (November 14, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-32-4320]

Report. 220 p.

<http://www.tdpf.org.uk/blueprint%20download.htm>

Executive Summary. 24 p.

http://www.tdpf.org.uk/downloads/blueprint/Blueprint_exec_summary.pdf

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Marijuana Arrests in the United States, 2007: Arrests, Usage, and Related Data.
By Jon Gettman, Shenandoah University. (Marijuana Policy Project,
Washington, DC) November 2009. 25 p.

Full text at: [marijuana arrests](#)

["A new report finds no relationship between marijuana arrest and use rates -- a sign that the 'war on drugs' has failed as far as cannabis is concerned. The current system of criminal penalties encourages users to buy a little bit at a time, acting as a price support for the illegal market. Perhaps most disturbingly, the report finds that although the rate of marijuana use is only about 25 percent higher for African-Americans than for whites, African-Americans are three times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession as whites.... It should be noted that the Marijuana Policy Project Foundation funded the report, and that Gettman's curriculum vitae indicates he's more of a pro-cannabis activist than an independent, objective academic. That said, the data is what it is." Contra Costa Times (November 5, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-32-4305]

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PRISONER REENTRY

Understanding the Public Health Implications of Prisoner Reentry in California.
By Lois M. Davis and others, RAND Corporation. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) 2009. 220 p.

Full text at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR687.pdf

["Examining the demographic and health profiles of the prison population shows that it is disproportionately sicker on average than the U.S. population in general, with substantially higher rates of infectious diseases, serious mental illness, and substance abuse disorders.... In this report, we addressed three research questions: 1) What are the health care needs of prisoners in California upon their release and return to the community? 2) What is the geographic distribution of state prisoners who return to local communities in California? and 3) What types of health care services are available in these communities, and what is their ability to meet the needs of returning prisoners?... Our geographic mapping and accessibility measures suggest that parolees' access to health care resources varies by facility type, by geographic area (across and within counties), and by race/ethnicity."]

[Request #S09-32-4318]

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PRISONS

Ralph Coleman, et al. v. Arnold Schwarzenegger, et al.; Marciano Plata, et al. v. Arnold Schwarzenegger, et al. U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California and Northern District of California. 2:90-cv-00520; C01-1351. Defendants Response to Three-Judge Court's October 21, 2009 Order. November 12, 2009. 130 p.

Full text at: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/News/2009_Press_Releases/docs/11-12_Filed-Stamped_Filing.pdf

["An initial plan by the governor was rejected three weeks ago by the three judges, who threatened him with contempt of court for failing to meet their demand for a proposal to reduce the inmate population by 40,000 prisoners over two years. With his new proposal, the governor appears to be trying to avoid open defiance of the judges without giving the impression that he is contradicting his opposition to their efforts in an appeal now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. The new plan, which the governor says would reduce the prison population by 42,000 by December 2011, will heed the judges' Oct. 21 order to identify state laws that they would need to suspend to meet their goal. Yet Schwarzenegger also is expected to tell the judges he does not believe it would be legal for them to waive those laws." Los Angeles Times (November 12, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-32-4319]

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ECONOMY

CITIES

Best-Performing Cities 2009: Where America's Jobs Are Created and Sustained.
By Ross DeVol and others, Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) November 2009. 62 p.

Full text at: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/bpc2009.pdf>

["The Institute heaps praise on Texas -- the Austin area was ranked No. 1 on Milken's list of 'best-performing cities,' while three other Texas cities were listed in the top five, with only No. 3 Salt Lake City cracking that elite list. Cities in recession-wracked California, meanwhile, saw their rankings decline - especially those hit hard by the collapse of the housing market. 'Metropolitan areas with a high exposure to durable manufacturing also experienced massive job losses and unemployment rates above 12 percent,' Milken says. 'Major port cities such as Los Angeles witnessed diminished trade and the loss of logistics-related jobs. Even technology production centers saw demand plunge as domestic and foreign businesses curtailed investment in information, communications, software, and related services.'" Sacramento Bee (November 13, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-32-4327]

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Five Emerging U.S. Public Finance Models: Powering Clean-Tech Economic Growth and Job Creation. By Ron Pernick and Clint Wilder, Clean Edge, Inc. (Clean Edge, San Francisco, California) October 2009. 18 p.

Full text at: [emerging finance models](#)

["To gain the benefits of the clean-tech revolution – from green jobs and energy security to climate solutions and the creation of a 21st century economy – the United States needs new financial instruments that can provide the capital necessary for the rapid expansion of clean-tech industries. We analyze five of the most promising financing models: Clean Energy Deployment Administration, aka The Green Bank; Clean-Energy Victory Bonds; Tax-Credit Bonds; Federal Loan Guarantees; and Clean-Tech City Funds. We examine each of these models – their history, current state of activity, and potential impact on clean-tech economic growth and job creation. While this report is not intended to provide in-depth analysis for the technical implementation of each model, it should help bring readers up to speed on a range of new and emerging financing opportunities."]
[Request #S09-32-4342]

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NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Measuring Racial-Ethnic Diversity in California's Nonprofit Sector. By Carol J. De Vita, the Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) November 2009. 51 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411977_CA_Diversity.pdf

["While Latinos make up more than a third of California's population, they are the least represented ethnic or racial group in nonprofit organizations throughout the state. While people of color are already the majority in California, they hold little more than a quarter of executive or board positions. Latinos, at 36 percent of the state's population, hold 6 percent of executive director positions and 9 percent of board seats. Asian-Americans, the state's second-largest minority at 12 percent, are also underrepresented, but less dramatically at 7.6 percent of board members. The percentage of African-American board members -- 6.2 percent -- is about the same size as their share of the state population. If there's good news, it's that California's nonprofits are more culturally diverse than the national average." San Jose Mercury News (November 12, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-32-4324]

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Staying Competitive: Patching America's Leaky Pipeline in the Sciences. By Marc Goulden and others, Berkeley Center on Health, Economic, & Family Security. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) November 2009.

["This report addresses the impact of children and family obligations (including elder care) on women's willingness to pursue faculty positions in research institutions or the duration of postdoctoral positions, and identifies both when and why women and men with caregiving plans or responsibilities drop or opt out of the academic science career path.... Family formation -- most importantly marriage and childbirth -- accounts for the largest leaks in the pipeline between Ph.D. receipt and the acquisition of tenure for women in the sciences.... America's researchers receive limited benefits when it comes to family-responsive policies such as paid maternity and parental leave. Young scientists early in the pipeline are the least likely to have these benefits.... Federal agencies have a shared responsibility with universities in providing adequate family responsive benefits."][Request #S09-32-4325]

Report. 52 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/11/pdf/women_and_sciences.pdf

Executive Summary. 12 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/11/pdf/women_and_sciences_exec_summary.pdf

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EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Master Plan at 50: Assessing California's Vision for Higher Education. By Steve Boilard, California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) November 12, 2009. 8 p.

Full text at:

http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/edu/master_plan_intro/master_plan_intro_111209.pdf

["California's Master Plan for Higher Education -- which set academics ablaze with the promise of a nearly free college education for all who qualified -- is limping toward the half-century mark largely ignored by lawmakers who don't even pretend they can live up to its expensive commitment. The reality of soaring student fees, volatile college budgets and enrollment caps are so far removed from the guiding Master Plan, that something must be done to bring them in line.... With no new policy on how much students should pay for their education, fee levels have been unpredictable and volatile, with little alignment to the cost of instruction or to students' ability to pay. Not only are lawmakers unaware of what it costs to educate students, they lack a policy for funding enrollment growth. The result is hit-or-miss decision making." San Francisco Chronicle (November 13, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-32-4332]

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TEACHERS

Fighting for Quality and Equality, Too: How State Policymakers Can Ensure the Drive to Improve Teacher Quality Doesn't Just Trickle Down to Poor and Minority Children. By Kati Haycock, The Education Trust, and others. (The Trust, Washington, DC) November 2009. 11 p.

Full text at:

http://www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/publications/files/QualityEquity_2.pdf

["Classroom teachers have a far bigger impact on student achievement than any other factor in education, an impact that literally can make or break a student's chances for success.... If state leaders invest resources and energy wisely, they don't have to choose between excellence and equity. They can improve overall teacher quality and remedy the shameful inequities in access to the single most valuable resource in education -- effective teachers. This paper outlines ten steps state policymakers and school district leaders can take now that hold the promise to make a difference in teacher quality and equitable access to the best teachers for low-income students and students of color."]
[Request #S09-32-4334]

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How Bold is “Bold”? Responding to Race to the Top with a Bold, Actionable Plan on Teacher Effectiveness. By The New Teacher Project. (The Project, Brooklyn, New York) November 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: http://www.tntp.org/files/TNTP_Bold_110909F.pdf

["For states, the 'Race to the Top' represents an historic opportunity to escape the gravitational pull of outworn policies and the failures of the past. The challenge is meeting this opportunity with a reform plan that matches its vision and ambition. Now, as the Department of Education issues final guidance on Race to the Top and states begin to put together their Phase 1 applications, we offer state applicants a blueprint for what we believe will be foundational to any winning Race to the Top proposal: a bold, coherent agenda for building a highly effective teacher workforce. States that propose a series of disjointed initiatives or meet only the minimum requirements of the competition will not be successful -- not only in the application process itself, but in achieving meaningful reform."]

[Request #S09-32-4335]

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Equity and Excellence in Education: Improvement in Teacher Distribution, but Inequities Persist. By The Center for the Future of Teaching & Learning. (The Center, Santa Cruz, California) November 2009. 4 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cftl.org/centerviews/november09.pdf>

["California has made significant strides in reducing the numbers of underprepared teachers in the state's schools.... But despite these improvements, students in high-minority schools are still five times more likely to have an underprepared teacher than their peers attending low-minority schools.... Data indicate that measures put into place over the last few years to address the maldistribution of underprepared teachers are clearly working. However, the current budget crisis and the decrease in the numbers of those entering teaching put at risk those improvements. Inequities persist. In order to ensure educational equity across all schools and districts, the state must not lose its focus on or reduce its effort to strengthen the teacher workforce. Students' academic success will depend on it."]

[Request #S09-32-4336]

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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Impact of Inequalities for Same-Sex Partners in Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans. By Naomi G. Goldberg, The Williams Institute, UCLA. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) October 2009. 28 p.

Full text at:

http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/pdf/RetirementAnalysis_Final.pdf

["This report analyzes the impact of unequal treatment of same-sex partners in the context of retirement plans and estimates the cost for employers of adopting a policy of equal treatment.... We find that same-sex couples face inequalities when it comes to their ability to accumulate wealth, plan for their futures, and pass on wealth.... These inequalities are particularly significant for female same-sex couples. Existing inequalities in income as well as structural mechanisms that reinforce discrimination have long-term implications for same-sex couples and their families. Until state and federal laws, including the Defense of Marriage Act, change to protect same-sex couples from discrimination both in the workplace and in the tax system, couples may need to take extra caution when planning their financial futures."][Request #S09-32-4263]

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LABOR UNIONS

The Changing Face of Labor, 1983-2008. By John Schmitt and Kris Warner, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) November 2009. 24 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/changing-face-of-labor-2009-11.pdf>

["The unionized workforce has changed dramatically over the last quarter century. Union workers, like the rest of the workforce, are now almost half women, older, more educated, and more racially and ethnically diverse. These changes generally follow the contours of the larger workforce, but union workers have moved out of manufacturing and into higher education and the public sector faster than the overall workforce. Unions have incorporated large shares of Latinos, Asian Pacific Americans, and recent immigrants, but have not matched the pace of these groups' growth in the economy. In the next decade, the rise of women to majority status in the labor movement and the likely continued influx of racial and ethnic minorities into unions are likely to be among the most important developments for organized labor."][Request #S09-32-4337]

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Unions and Upward Mobility for Asian Pacific American Workers. By John Schmitt and others, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) November 2009. 13 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/unions-apa-2009-11.pdf>

["An analysis of recent data suggests that even after controlling for differences between union and non-union workers -- including such factors as age and education level -- unionization substantially improves the pay and benefits received by Asian Pacific American workers. After controlling for workers' characteristics, the union wage premium for all APA workers is about 9 percent or about \$2.00 per hour. The union advantage for APA workers is even larger with respect to health insurance and pension coverage.... These findings demonstrate that Asian Pacific American workers who are able to bargain collectively earn more and are more likely to have benefits associated with good jobs. The data strongly suggest that better protection of workers' right to unionize would have a substantial positive impact on the pay and benefits of APA workers."]

[Request #S09-32-4338]

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WORKERS COMPENSATION

Recent Decisions Likely to Increase Benefits and Employer Costs. By Ginni Bella Navarre and Christine Frey, California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) October 16, 2009. 12 p.

Full text at:

http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/workers_comp/workers_comp_costs_101609.pdf

["A major state Workers' Compensation Appeals Board decision appears to undercut the 2004 overhaul of the workers' compensation system.... Earlier this year, the WCAB declared that the system used to determine eligibility for partial disability benefits for job-related injuries and illnesses, the heart of the 2004 reforms, is not as rigid as the governor and employers had supposed. The board said that the system's determination of such benefits could be challenged in individual cases, opening the door for applicants to litigate their circumstances. The decision was modified slightly later, but led to the Legislative Analyst's Office's conclusion that it would have 'the likely result (of) increased benefits for workers and higher costs for businesses and governments.'" Sacramento Bee (October 16, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-32-4257]

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ENERGY

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Technology Roadmap; Carbon Capture and Storage. By the International Energy Agency. (The Agency, Paris, France) October 2009. 52 p.

Full text at: http://www.iea.org/Papers/2009/CCS_Roadmap.pdf

["This roadmap on CCS identifies, for the first time, a detailed scenario for the technology's growth from a handful of large-scale projects today to over three thousand projects by 2050. It finds that the next decade is a key 'make or break' period for CCS; governments, industry and public stakeholders must act rapidly to demonstrate CCS at scale around the world in a variety of settings. The roadmap concludes with a set of near-term actions that stakeholders will need to take to achieve the roadmap's vision. The IEA presents this roadmap not only to provide additional focus and urgency to the international discussions about the importance of CCS as a technology solution, but to chart the course to make CCS a reality worldwide."]

[Request #S09-32-4313]

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ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

Electric Power Storage. By Stan Mark Kaplan, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) September 8, 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40797_20090908.pdf

["Unlike natural gas or fuel oil, electricity cannot be easily stored. However, interest in electric power storage (EPS) has been growing with technological advancements that can make storage a more practical means of integrating renewable power into the electricity grid and achieving other operating benefits. This report summarizes the technical, regulatory, and policy issues that surround implementation of EPS ... EPS does not fit the traditional power industry paradigm, which involves reliance on large scale central power plants and long distance transmission lines to meet demand. This raises the question of how quickly and effectively the power industry and its regulators will be willing to pursue and deploy new approaches. Electricity storage is also currently a relatively high cost technology, another factor which could delay its deployment."]

[Request #S09-32-4119]

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ENERGY CONSERVATION

Pursuing Energy-Efficient Behavior in a Regulatory Environment: Motivating Policymakers, Program Administrators, and Program Implementers. By Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez and others, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. (California Institute for Energy and Environment, Berkeley, California) August 2009.

["The three goals of this report include: 1) identifying common perceptions of behavior change strategies; 2) identifying contexts in which program administrators, implementers and others have been or are likely to be motivated to pursue behavior change as a means of reducing energy consumption; and 3) specifying effective policy options to further motivate policymakers, program administrators, and program implementers to pursue behavior change as a means of enhancing energy and carbon savings.... Behavior change is defined rather broadly, encompassing both behaviors associated with the purchase and installation of energy-efficiency technologies as well as behaviors, decisions, and actions that might be thought of as more independent of technology. The latter include energy use habits, lifestyle choices, and consumption patterns."][Request #S09-32-4344]

Paper. 72 p.
[paper](#)

Presentation. 21 p.
[presentation](#)

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Driving Climate Change Mitigation at Multiple Levels of Governance in the West. By Timothy A. Richards, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. (The Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts) September 2009. 54 p.

Full text at: https://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/dl/1692_904_Richards%20Final.pdf

["The threat of climate change has produced policy responses at many levels. This paper explores frameworks for reducing greenhouse gas emissions at regional, state, and local levels in the western United States. The paper begins with a summary of the proposed Western Climate Initiative cap-and-trade program. California is then explored as a model for linking planning for transportation-related greenhouse gas emission reductions across jurisdictional levels. The paper concludes with case studies that explore the development and contents of climate action plans in three cities in the Intermountain West."][Request #S09-32-4207]

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"Reducing Abrupt Climate Change Risk Using the Montreal Protocol and Other Regulatory Actions to Complement Cuts in CO2 Emissions." By Mario Molina and others. IN: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, doi:10.1073/pnas.0902568106. (October 12, 2009) 6 p.

Full text at: [regulatory actions](#)

["When it comes to climate change, carbon dioxide is seen by many as the biggest villain and the main target of a much-anticipated meeting next month in Copenhagen. But scientists are trying to focus attention on a handful of other climate enemies that lurk in the shadows. By quickly arresting soot, methane, low-level ozone and hydrofluorocarbons, the world can delay climate change by roughly 40 years -- enough time to significantly trim emissions of carbon dioxide. So-called fast-action strategies generally rely on available technologies so that they can be launched in two or three years with relatively little cost.... Regardless, non-CO2 compounds aren't likely to be a major agenda item in Copenhagen. In part, it's because the science has just been developing. Without that, it's hard to build up a scientific consensus." San Diego Union Tribune (December 1, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-32-4348]

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GREEN HOUSE GASES

Preliminary Draft Regulation for a California Cap-and-Trade Program. By the California Air Resources Board. (The Board, Sacramento, California) November 24, 2009.

["California officials issued the nation's first blueprint for a broad-based cap-and-trade plan, an innovative and controversial effort to use market forces to control global warming. The ambitious program would cap most of the state's greenhouse gases, including those from more than 600 power plants, refineries, cement plants and other big factories. It would allow companies to buy and sell emission allowances among themselves to reach an overall goal of cutting planet-warming pollutants 15% below today's levels by 2020.... Regulators estimated that California's program could cost industry as much as \$8 billion a year by 2020 if carbon trades at its current price on the European market of \$20 per ton. But industry groups warned that the state's push to control greenhouse gases could cost more than twice as much." Los Angeles Times (November 25, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-32-4346]

Draft regulation. 132 p.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/meetings/121409/pdr.pdf>

Press release. 2 p.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/nr112409b.htm>

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LAND USE

Windfall for All: How Connected, Convenient Neighborhoods Can Protect Our Climate and Safeguard California's Economy. By Stuart Cohen and others, TransForm. (TransForm, Oakland, California) November 2009.

["The study concentrated on four metropolitan centers -- Sacramento, the Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego. If all residents in the four areas lived in transportation-friendly communities, they would save \$31 billion per year on transportation costs and emit 34 percent less greenhouse gas.... The study also underscores the goals of Senate Bill 375, signed into law last year. The bill is designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions through anti-sprawl measures, including rewarding new residential development with easy access to public transit.... The study estimated savings for the Los Angeles area at \$15.4 billion, plus a 38 percent cut in greenhouse gases; the Bay Area, \$10.7 billion savings, 42 percent cut in gases; San Diego, \$2.8 billion savings, 30 percent cut in gases; and Sacramento, \$2.25 billion savings, 27 percent cut in gases." Sacramento Bee (November 21, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-32-4347]

Report. 74 p.

<http://transformca.org/files/reports/TransForm-Windfall-Report.pdf>

Report Highlights. 16 p.

<http://transformca.org/files/reports/TransForm-Windfall-Report-Summary.pdf>

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Subsidizing Infrastructure Investment with Tax-Preferred Bonds. By Nathan Musick, Congressional Budget Office, and the Staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation. (The Office, Washington, DC) October 2009. 50 p.

Full text at: <http://cbo.gov/ftpdocs/106xx/doc10667/10-26-TaxPreferredBonds.pdf>

["The federal government supports infrastructure investment in a variety of ways. However, the most common means of providing a tax subsidy for infrastructure investment -- by offering a tax exemption for interest on state and local bonds -- is generally viewed to be an inefficient way to subsidize state and local borrowing, largely because the revenue cost to the federal government may exceed the interest-cost subsidy provided to state and local governments by a substantial amount.... This study considers how the current system of tax preferences -- which historically has relied primarily on tax exemptions for interest income on debt issued by states and localities -- might change as a result of greater use of tax-credit bonds."]

[Request #S09-32-4274]

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Hidden Impact of Lawsuit Abuse on Taxpayers: California's Cities and Counties Litigation Costs Revealed. By California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse. (California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, Sacramento, California) November 2009. 13 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cala.com/images/pdf/2009costreport.pdf>

["California's largest cities and counties spent more than a half-billion dollars to deal with lawsuits during a two-year period, according to a survey.... CALA looked at monies spent on verdicts, settlements and outside counsel in fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for the counties of: Alameda, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Clara and the cities of: Anaheim, Bakersfield, Fresno, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Jose. It said those cities and counties spent \$504.1 million during those two years.... CALA is part of the business-insurance coalition that wages perpetual political war with plaintiffs' attorneys, environmental and consumer groups over the rules governing litigation." Sacramento Bee (November 5, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-32-4316]

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STATE FINANCES

Beyond California: States in Fiscal Peril. By Daniel C. Vock and others, Pew Center on the States. (The Center, Washington, DC) November 2009.

["The same pressures that drove the Golden State toward fiscal disaster are wreaking havoc in a number of states, with potentially damaging consequences for the entire country. This examination looks closely at nine states, in addition to California, that are particularly affected by the recession. All of California's neighbors -- Arizona, Nevada and Oregon -- and fellow Sun Belt state Florida were severely hit by the bursting housing bubble, landing them on Pew's list of states facing fiscal difficulties similar to California's. A Midwestern cluster of states comprising Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin emerged, too, as did the Northeastern states of New Jersey and Rhode Island. This report makes clear that the recession severely impacted states from different geographic regions with different types of economies, tax structures and political leanings."][Request #S09-32-4351]

Report. 70 p.

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/report_detail.aspx?id=56044

Executive Summary. 7 p.

http://downloads.pewcenteronthestates.org/Beyond_Ca_ExecutiveSummary.pdf

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VOTERS & VOTING

The Rapid Growth of Permanent Mail Ballot Registration in California and its Impact. By Mark DiCamillo, the Field Poll. (Center for Survey Research, Bloomington, Indiana) November 2009. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://surveypractice.org/2009/10/17/ca-mail-ballot/>

["A new study documents the extent to which California has transitioned to a new way of voting, one that has created a pool of 6 million voters who may participate in every future election but never again set foot inside a polling place. These are people who have signed up to be permanent mail-in voters, and their numbers are growing at a breathtaking pace. Not surprisingly, voters who automatically receive ballots in the mail are much more likely to actually vote.... Unfortunately, DiCamillo's research also reveals an unfortunate side effect: Permanent mail voting has intensified the demographic disconnect between the California populace and the California electorate.... There are also geographic, age-based and ethnic disparities. Latinos are vastly under-represented among permanent mail voters." Ventura County Star (November 11, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-32-4350]

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HEALTH

HEALTH SURVEY

The State of Health in the American Workforce: Does Having an Effective Workplace Matter? By Kerstin Auman and Ellen Galinsky, Families and Work Institute. (The Institute, New York, New York) September 2009. 46 p.

Full text at: <http://familiesandwork.org/site/research/reports/HealthReport.pdf>

["The United States has a system where health care promotion and protection are the purview of employers. Whether or how much this role begins to shift, our findings argue convincingly that employers must consider another role beyond providing health care insurance and wellness programs. The work environment -- where each of us spends most of our waking hours -- has a considerable impact on our health and well-being.... Employees' physical health shows downward trends; men's health has been deteriorating more than women's health; mental health has remained stable over the past six years -- but a large proportion of the workforce show signs of clinical depression; sleep problems are pervasive; and stress levels are rising."]

[Request #S09-32-4293]

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MINORITIES

Estimating the Cost of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. By Timothy Waidmann, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2009. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411962_health_disparities.pdf

["This analysis estimates cost burdens of racial and ethnic disparities in a select set of preventable diseases including diabetes, hypertension and stroke. Excess rates of these diseases among African Americans and Latinos relative to whites will cost the health care system \$23.9 billion dollars in 2009. Medicare alone will spend an extra \$15.6 billion, and private insurers will spend an extra \$5.1 billion. Over the next decade, the total cost is approximately \$337 billion. Left unchecked, these annual costs will more than double by 2050 as the representation of Latinos and African Americans among the elderly increases."]

[Request #S09-32-4282]

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NURSING HOMES

Supporting Culture Change: Working Toward Smarter State Nursing Home Regulation. By Robyn I. Stone and others, Institute for the Future of Aging Services. (The Commonwealth Fund, New York, New York) October 2009. 10 p.

Full text at: [Supporting Culture Change](#)

["The traditional nursing home regulatory approach, which uses survey and enforcement to achieve performance improvement, has created tensions between providers and surveyors. It has had limited success in improving quality overall and not necessarily allowed innovation to flourish. This has been the perception of many homes wanting to undergo transformative 'culture change' reforms. To move toward a new model of nursing home regulation, the states and federal government must strike a balance between the traditional regulatory approach to weed out substandard facilities and a partnership model aimed at promoting high performance. This issue brief highlights the importance of how such a model is structured, as well as the need to adequately train and educate regulatory staff and providers about culture change."]

[Request #S09-32-4292]

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OBESITY

“Calorie Labeling And Food Choices: A First Look At The Effects On Low-Income People In New York City.” By Brian Elbel and others. IN: Health Affairs, DOI 10.1377/hlthaff.28.6.w1110. (October 6, 2009) 12 p.

Full text at: [Calorie labeling](#)

["A study of New York City's pioneering law on posting calories in restaurant chains suggests that people's stomachs are more powerful than their brains. It found that about half the customers noticed the calorie counts, which were prominently posted on menu boards. About 28 percent of those who noticed them said the information had influenced their ordering, and 9 out of 10 of those said they had made healthier choices as a result. But when the researchers checked receipts afterward, they found that people had, in fact, ordered slightly more calories than the typical customer had before the labeling law went into effect, in July 2008.... New York City was the first place in the country to require calorie posting, making it a test case for other jurisdictions. Since then, California, Seattle and other places have instituted similar rules." New York Times (October 6, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-32-4280]

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Shaping a Healthier Generation: Successful State Strategies to Prevent Childhood Obesity. By Joyal Mulheron and Kara Vonasek, National Governors' Association Center for Best Practices. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2009. 64 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0909HEALTHIERGENERATION.PDF>

["Obesity rates among children over the past 30 years more than doubled among children ages 2 to 5, quadrupled among children ages 6 to 11, and more than tripled among adolescents ages 12 to 19.... Understanding the interrelated factors that influence children's health -- family income, household education, and race and ethnicity -- can help policymakers effectively target services. Knowing how to use the levers of government -- the bully pulpit, governance, funding, data, regulations, and other tools -- also can lead to well-coordinated policies that are carried out efficiently and effectively by all the state agencies that impact children's health, including education, health and human services, transportation, housing, and public safety."]
[Request #S09-32-4365]

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HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

The Continuing Home Foreclosure Tsunami: Disproportionate Impacts on Black and Latino Communities. By Raul Hinojosa Ojeda, University of California, Los Angeles. (The William C. Velásquez Institute, Los Angeles, California) October 2009. 10 p.

Full text at:

http://www.wcvi.org/data/pub/WCVI_Publication_Homeownership102309.pdf

["'We are about to face wave two of this tsunami of foreclosures,' Hinojosa said. 'And it's going to hit hardest among minorities -- blacks and Latinos -- in a perfect storm of decreasing employment, decreasing property values, as well as the resetting of high-priced mortgages.' Blacks and Latinos in the Los Angeles area were about three times more likely to hold high-priced mortgages than whites -- and half of all home loans sold to blacks and Latinos were considered 'high-priced.' Furthermore, blacks and Latinos in several major cities across the nation held more than double the amount of high-risk loans compared to whites from 2006 to 2007. The reason is simple: Latinos and blacks were more vulnerable to predatory lending practices during the housing boom in the early to mid-2000s." Whittier Daily News (November 14, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-32-4353]

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Designing Loan Modifications to Address the Mortgage Crisis and the Making Home Affordable Program. By Larry Cordell, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and others. (The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) October 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: [designing loan modifications](#)

["Foreclosures continue to occur in cases where both the borrower and investor would be better off if such an outcome were avoided. The U.S. government has engaged in a number of initiatives to reduce such foreclosures. This paper examines the economic underpinnings of the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). We argue that HAMP should help many borrowers avoid foreclosure, as its key features alleviate some of the previous obstacles to successful modifications. That said, HAMP is not well-suited to address payment problems associated with job loss because the required modification in such cases would often be too costly to qualify for the program. In addition, the focus of the program on reducing the payments rather than the principal, may limit its effectiveness when the homeowner's equity is sufficiently negative."]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Children of Incarcerated Parents: An Action Plan for Federal Policymakers. By Jessica Nickel and others, Council of State Governments Justice Center. (The Center, New York, New York) October 2009. 58 p.

Full text at: [children of incarcerated parents](#)

["The growth in the number of men and women incarcerated in the United States over the past twenty years has affected an extraordinary number of children and families. In 2007, more than 1.7 million minor children had a parent in federal or state prison. Despite these large numbers of affected children and the mounting interest in prisoner reentry, the need to improve outcomes for children of incarcerated parents has received minimal attention at the national level.... The action plan reviews both federal and state barriers to identifying and serving children of incarcerated parents, and offers policy recommendations for the U.S. Congress and the Administration. This plan will help federal leaders improve policies for children of incarcerated parents, but also includes recommendations of value to state and local governments that can facilitate and complement federal initiatives."][Request #S09-32-4358]

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ELDERLY

California's Elder Abuse Investigators: Ombudsmen Shackled by Conflicting Laws and Duties. By John Hill, Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes. (The Office, Sacramento, California) November 3, 2009. 47 p.

Full text at: [elderabuse investigators](#)

["California has more than 9,000 nursing and residential care facilities for the elderly, and 290,000 licensed beds. Riding herd on them are about 1,000 'long-term care ombudsmen' - people originally meant to be watchdog/mediators, doing spot checks of facilities, following up on complaints, and helping make life better for residents by serving as intermediates, and advocates, with management. But something else has happened entirely. Because of laws California has adopted, these watchdog/mediators have morphed into the front line for investigating serious reports of elder abuse and neglect. That gives rise to several problems -- the least of which may be that there's no time for the routine spot checks and patient advocacy that was originally envisioned." Orange County Register (November 6, 2009) 1.] [Request #S09-32-4359]

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HUNGER

Household Food Security in the United States, 2008. By Mark Nord and others, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (The Service, Washington, DC) November 2009.

["President Obama cited a survey showing that 17 million American households (nearly 15%) were 'food insecure' in 2008, compared with 13 million (about 11%) in 2007.... 'Hunger,' experts say, better describes the plight of a persistent lack of food and malnutrition every day. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has said there is little evidence of that among households in the United States. 'This is not malnourishment in the sense of people dying from hunger,' Vilsack told reporters, 'but it is a circumstance where youngsters are not able to perform up to their potential.' The report avoids the word 'hunger.' It defines households as 'food insecure' if sometime during the year they 'had difficulty providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources.'" Los Angeles Times (November, 27, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-32-4356]

Report. 66 p.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err83/>

Report Summary. 2 p.

http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR83/ERR83_ReportSummary.pdf

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POVERTY

Measure by Measure: The Current Poverty Measure v. the National Academy of Sciences Measure. By Dorothy Smith, Center for Law and Social Policy. (The Center, Washington, DC) November 2009. 11 p.

Full text at: <http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/measurebymeasure.pdf>

["The need for a new measure has been recognized for some time. The central critique is that the current poverty measure is based on outdated assumptions about family expenditures and resources. Measure by Measure offers a state by state comparison of poverty rates between the current measure and two modern measures based on National Academy of Sciences recommendations.... A key question for those seeking to increase economic opportunity is whether a policy intervention is helping to reduce poverty. Answering this question necessitates a realistic poverty measure that incorporates the value of a range of programs and reflects the everyday expenses of American families. Here are useful tools for policy makers and advocates in shedding light on state poverty and the potential impact of strategies to reduce poverty in several ways']

[Request #S09-32-4355]

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TRANSPORTATION

DRIVERS

Alternative Transportation Programs: A Countermeasure for Reducing Impaired Driving. By TransAnalytics, LLC. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC) September 2009. 54 p.

Full text at: [alternative programs](#)

["This report is a compilation of information on alternative transportation programs that could provide guidance to States and local communities in developing, refining, or expanding programs to address impaired driving.... Alternative Transportation (AT) programs emerged as an approach to reduce drinking and driving episodes. These services transport drinkers home from -- and sometimes to and between -- drinking establishments using taxis, privately owned vehicles, buses, tow trucks, and law enforcement agents. Some programs provide drivers to drive the drinker's car.... Studies on AT programs concluded that specific characteristics of various programs show promise. These included accessibility, availability, and ease of integration into activity. The model AT program would be continually available, free to users, and would be convenient and easy to use."]

[Request #S09-32-4362]

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PUBLIC TRANSIT

Transit and Small Urban Sprawl. By Del Peterson, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute. (The Institute, Fargo, North Dakota) October 2009. 49 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ugpti.org/pubs/pdf/DP217.pdf>

["Small urban sprawl has resulted in new housing developments and business centers that have never been served by transit. Unfortunately, transit agencies are often not included in the land development process within small urban communities. The objectives of this study were to determine what steps small urban transit providers are currently taking to integrate transit service into sprawling communities, and to determine what can be done to improve relationships with local governments during the land development planning process.... New developments are often built at such low densities that implementing new service there would not be feasible. Also, other agencies indicated that even if sufficient demand existed for service, the finances are not available to extend service beyond its current structure."]

[Request #S09-32-4363]

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

“Travel Demand in the Context of Growing Diversity: Considerations for Policy, Planning, and Forecasting”. By Heather Contrino and Nancy McGuckin. IN: TR News, no. 264. (September/ October 2009) 6 p.

Full text at: <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/trnews/trnews264TravelDemand.pdf>

[“As U.S. society increases in diversity in the next few decades, a significant portion of growth in travel demand will come from minority populations. The differences in travel behavior have wide-reaching consequences for short and long-term policy development, planning, and travel demand forecasting.... On average, minorities are more dependent on transit, have higher occupancy levels in automobiles, and have lower levels of vehicle ownership. Initiatives that focus on tolling, infrastructure development, land use planning, and highway finance can benefit from information about the travel behavior, options, and needs of minority groups. Understanding the differences in travel behavior can help in modeling travel demand, in finding the policies best suited for the travel needs of all population groups, and in addressing concerns about environmental justice.”]
[Request #S09-32-4364]

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