

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

January 1910 “An armored automobile such as royalty alone ordinarily boast will soon be a familiar sight on the streets of Los Angeles. George Mitchell, the mining man, while abroad recently, purchased for \$17,000, a regal Panhard eighty-horse-power which was designed for Prince Orloff of Russia, a member of the Czar’s family. The huge machine, almost a battleship on wheels, is especially designed against nihilist attacks, and is bomb proof. Mitchell is not afraid of nihilist attacks, but he passed through a siege in Cananea, Mexico, and the car appealed to him. He found the Russian Prince had refused to accept it because renewed nihilist plots had rendered him extremely nervous, and he was afraid the armor casing was not thick enough.” Los Angeles Times (January 5, 1910) p. III.

1910 “What promises to be the largest and in many ways, the most remarkable communistic venture in America, may soon be established in Southern California by a band of Molokane, religious exiles from Central Russia, now residents of Los Angeles. These thrifty aliens, all of whom are dependent upon manual labor for support, have saved up the extraordinary sum of \$500,000 as a fund for the purchase of ranch and orchard land and the equipment of a gigantic agricultural undertaking. Most of the great economic and organization work is due to the efforts of Paul Cherbak, a former wealthy aristocrat of St. Petersburg, whose fortune was confiscated by the Russian government when he became a revolutionist sympathizer and political exile some years ago.” Los Angeles Times. (October 29, 1910) p. II3.

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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

- 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

IMMIGRATION

Immigration and Crime: Assessing a Conflicted Issue. By Steven A. Camarota and Jessica M. Vaughan, Center for Immigration Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) November 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cis.org/articles/2009/crime.pdf>

["This report explores the question of immigration and crime and finds that there is very little conclusive data to inform the well-entrenched views on both sides of the debate. We reviewed the major academic and government reports on the topic and found that these studies lead to contrary conclusions about immigration and crime. Moreover, the crime or incarceration data that do exist often are of limited value because they are unrepresentative in some way. It is also difficult to conclude much about crime associated with legal immigrants versus illegal immigrants. However, there is some indication that illegal immigrants have relatively high rates of crime, while legal immigrants have relatively low rates of crime."]

[Request #S10-1-4377]

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Recommendations for Reforming our Immigration Detention System and Promoting Access to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings. By The Constitution Project. (The Project, Washington, DC) December 2009. 56 p.

Full text at: <http://www.constitutionproject.org/manage/file/359.pdf>

["Growing numbers of noncitizens, including legal immigrants, are held unnecessarily and transferred heedlessly in an expensive immigration detention system that denies many of them basic fairness.... The bipartisan group called for sweeping changes in agency policies and amendments to immigration law, including new access to government-appointed counsel for many of those facing deportation. Confirmation of some of their critical conclusions came in an investigation that found detainee transfers by Immigration and Customs Enforcement were so haphazard that some detainees arrived at a new detention center without having been served a notice of why they were being held, or despite a high probability of being granted bond, or with pending criminal prosecutions or arrest warrants in the previous jurisdiction." New York Times (December 2, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S10-1-4376]

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POLICE

Carl Bryan v. Brian McPherson, Coronado Police Department. U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. 08-5562. December 28, 2009. 22 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2009/12/28/08-55622.pdf>

["A court ruled that a California police officer can be held liable for injuries suffered by an unarmed man he Tasered during a traffic stop. The decision, if allowed to stand, would set a rigorous legal precedent for when police are permitted to use the weapons and would force some law enforcement agencies throughout the state -- and presumably the nation -- to tighten their policies governing Taser use.... The judges established legally binding standards about where Tasers fall on the spectrum of force available to police officers, and laid out clear guidelines for when an officer should be allowed to use the weapon." Los Angeles Times (December 30, 2009) A3.]

[Request #S10-1-4420]

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PRISONS

Intended and Unintended Consequences of Prison Reform. By Richard T. Boylan, Rice University, and Naci H. Mocan, Louisiana State University. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) November 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/tmp/8814-w15535.pdf>

["The impact of these court orders on prison spending and prison conditions is theoretically ambiguous because it is unclear if these court orders are enforceable. We examine states' responses to court interventions and show that these interventions generate higher per inmate incarceration costs, lower inmate mortality rates, and a reduction in prisoners per capita. If states seek to minimize the cost of crime through deterrence, an increase in prison costs should lead states to shift resources from corrections to other means of deterring crime such as welfare and education spending. However, we find that court interventions, that are associated with higher corrections expenditures, lead to lower welfare expenditures. This suggests that the burden of increased correctional spending is borne by the poor."] [Request #S10-1-4375]

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DEMOGRAPHY

LATINOS

Between Two Worlds: How Young Latinos Come of Age in America. By the Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) December 2009. 162 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/117.pdf>

["Latino youths, the fastest growing group of young people in America, are satisfied with their lives and optimistic about the future, but they're also more likely than most other American youth to drop out of school, live in poverty and become teen parents. And when it comes to race, culture and national identity, they may challenge America's very image of itself as they grow into adulthood. A first-of-its-kind, nationwide snapshot of Latino youths ages 16 to 25, comes at a time when 1 in every 4 babies born in the United States is Hispanic. They already make up 18 percent of all Americans in their late teens and early adult years. If you want to have a clearer understanding of America in the future, you want to know what these young Latinos will be like when they grow into the adult population" San Jose Mercury News (December 11, 2009) 1.] [Request #S10-1-4378]

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ECONOMY

HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

The Importance of the Global Health Sector in California: An Evaluation of the Economic Impact. By Arindam Nandi, University of California, Riverside. (University of California Global Health Institute, San Francisco, California) October 2009.

["Global Health represents more than a \$75 billion impact on the California economy. That impact includes an estimated \$49.8 billion of revenue that is generated annually by California companies addressing global health needs, and an additional \$8 billion in tax revenue for the state, or roughly 7 percent of total state taxes. The global health sector supports 350,000 high-quality jobs in California and provides \$19.7 billion in wages and salaries, generating two dollars of business activity for every dollar invested by the state into global health. The impact of the global health sector ranks alongside the hospitality industry in scale and outweighs such prominent sectors as agriculture and telecommunications for the state."] [Request #S10-1-4382]

Report. 41 p.

<http://ucghi.universityofcalifornia.edu/assets/docs/ucghi-eir-final.pdf>

Executive Summary. 4 p.

<http://ucghi.universityofcalifornia.edu/assets/docs/executive-summary.pdf>

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INCOME DISTRIBUTION

A Penny Saved is Mobility Earned: Advancing Economic Mobility Through Savings. By Reid Cramer, New America Foundation, and others. (The Economic Mobility Project, Washington, DC) November 2009. 70 p.

Full text at: http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/EMP_Savings_Report.pdf

["Movement up the income ladder is fairly limited for children of low-income parents. To date, however, there has been less analysis that shows clearly how income mobility differs based on one's own or one's parents' level of savings. This paper clearly demonstrates the relationship between savings and economic mobility. The paper first explores whether having parents with high savings or having high savings oneself, improves one's chances of making the climb up the income ladder, or prevents one from falling down it. Second, it examines federal incentives and disincentives to savings in the federal tax code and public assistance programs. And third, it makes recommendations on ways public policy can be improved to encourage savings, especially among low- and moderate-income families."] [Request #S10-1-4379]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Global Reach: Emerging Ties Between the San Francisco Bay Area and India.
By R. Sean Randolph, Bay Area Council Economic Institute, and Niels Erich,
Global Business/Transportation Consulting. (The Council, San Francisco,
California) November 2009.

["When the Bay Area's innovation infrastructure -- research institutions, technology companies, and capital and risk-taking culture -- comes in contact with India's talent and entrepreneurial energy, the combination has been explosive, unleashing powerful business and wealth creation.... India's development parallels China's, but is based more heavily on services than on manufacturing.... This is an important time for the Bay Area and California to re-evaluate their roles in a global economy where value is increasingly created by and distributed across virtual communities of knowledge and expertise. To sustain their competitiveness and preserve high-quality jobs in this globally competitive environment, the region, state and nation need to invest in areas that build on competitive strengths and on their current leadership position as centers of global innovation."][Request #S10-1-4380]

Report. 300 p.

<http://www.bayeconfor.org/media/files/pdf/GlobalReachFullReportWeb.pdf>

Executive Summary. 16 p.

<http://www.bayeconfor.org/media/files/pdf/GlobalReachExecSumOnlyWeb.pdf>

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The Future of North American Trade Policy: Lessons from NAFTA. By Kevin P. Gallagher, Boston University, and others. (Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, Boston, Massachusetts) November 2009.

["NAFTA and the other trade agreements based on the NAFTA template need deep reform. Trade agreements need to address the asymmetries among trading partners with well-funded institutions. NAFTA established some important institutions, but they have been given neither the mandate nor the funding to allow them to help make Mexico a more equal economic partner. NAFTA's services chapter may deter local, state, and national governments from implementing new laws to address climate change. NAFTA currently lacks assurances that good faith regulations to protect public welfare will not be challenged by private interests. Reforms on the environment need to go beyond those in the US-Peru agreement, including key provisions on intellectual property, investment, services, and agriculture to raise environmental standards and improve enforcement."][Request #S10-1-4386]

Report. 99 p.

<http://www.bu.edu/pardee/files/2009/11/Pardee-Report-NAFTA.pdf>

Executive Summary. 4 p.

<http://www.bu.edu/pardee/files/2009/12/Americasprogram.pdf>

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Tracking and Detracking: High Achievers in Massachusetts Middle Schools. By Tom Loveless, Brookings Institution. (Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Washington, DC) December 2009. 36 p.

Full text at: http://edexcellence.net/doc/200912_Detracking.pdf

["Twenty years ago, most middle-school kids spent most of their day in tracked classes. Even if they had bland names like English A, B, or C, every kid knew if they were in the smart or the dumb class, and research indicated that the kids most hurt by tracking were the kids at the bottom. Today, as a result of efforts to close the gap between the highest- and lowest-performing students, tracking has all but disappeared in most middle schools.... A new study reveals that middle schools with more tracks (typically two or three) had significantly more math pupils performing at the higher levels on tests and fewer students at the bottom. He found the reverse at schools with one math track: they had more kids who were failing or needed to improve, compared with the schools that had multiple tracks." Newsweek (December 11, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S10-1-4390]

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Increasing College Success: A Road Map for Governors. By the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. (The Center, Washington, DC) December 2009. 14 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0912INCREASINGCOLLEGESUCCESS.PDF>

["While states have taken great strides to raise high school graduation requirements during the past few years, they still need to make sure high school courses are rigorous and more consistent with one another. In addition, states have to get the signaling right, so test scores tell students whether or not they are prepared for college work.... Second, students need supports both to get into college and to persist in earning a degree.... Third, states must remove barriers that make it hard for students to transfer from two-year to four-year programs.... Finally, states need to experiment with performance-based funding. The dominant mode of funding for colleges is based on enrollment and fails to create an incentive to ensure students complete degrees or certificates."]
[Request #S10-1-4393]

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With Their Whole Lives Ahead of Them: Myths and Realities About Why So Many Students Fail to Finish College. By Jean Johnson and Jon Rockkind, Public Agenda. (Public Agenda, New York, New York) December 2009. 52 p.

Full text at: <http://www.publicagenda.org/files/pdf/theirwholelifesaheadofthem.pdf>

["About 2.8 million students enroll in some form of higher education each year. But finishing what they start is a different matter: Only one in five of the students who enroll in two-year institutions graduate within three years. And even at four-year colleges, only two in five complete their degrees within six years.... The top reason the dropouts gave for leaving college was that it was just too hard to support themselves and go to school at the same time. Balancing work and school was a bigger barrier than finding money for tuition, they said.... For the non-finishers the most popular solutions were allowing part-time students to qualify for financial aid, offering more courses on weekends and evenings, cutting costs and providing child care." New York Times (December 9, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S10-1-4391]

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SCHOOL MEALS

School Breakfast Scorecard: School Year 2008-2009. By the Food Research and Action Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) December 2009. 22 p.

Full text at: http://www.frac.org/Press_Release/09release_schoolbreakfast_report.htm

["More than 1 million low-income California children who receive for free or reduced-price school lunches do not get breakfast at school even though they would qualify, and about a fifth of the schools in the state do not even offer. California ranked 33rd in low-income-student participation in the School Breakfast Program for 2008-09.... The program, which began as a pilot project in 1966 and became permanent in 1975, helps alleviate hunger, improves student achievement and reduces levels of absenteeism. In addition to nutrition and hunger issues, the lack of participation in the breakfast program represented a lost opportunity to bring in more federal dollars. If 60 of every 100 children who ate free or reduced-price lunch also had breakfast, the state would receive nearly \$98 million more in federal reimbursements." Los Angeles Times (December 11, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S10-1-4412]

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EMPLOYMENT

JOB CREATION

American Jobs Plan: A Five-Point Plan to Stem the U.S. Job Crisis. By Lawrence Mishel and others, Economic Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2009. 28 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/c68c0d218e2750adb3_rwm6iz75b.pdf

["Economic recessions are often portrayed as short-term events. However, as a substantial body of economic literature shows, the consequences of high unemployment, falling incomes, and reduced economic activity can have lasting consequences.... Large-scale job creation in the next two years will require bold, decisive action such as the American Jobs Plan. Implementing the American Jobs Plan would create or preserve at least 4.6 million jobs, bringing us a long way toward creating the 10.9 million jobs we need to return to pre-recession unemployment levels. The American Jobs Plan has five components: 1) strengthening the safety net; 2) providing fiscal relief to the states and local governments; 3) increasing investments in transportation infrastructure and school repair and modernization; 4) creating public service jobs; and 5) enacting a new job creation tax credit."]

[Request #S10-1-4398]

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Many Shades of Green: Diversity and Distribution of California's Green Jobs. By Doug Henton, Collaborative Economics, and others. (Next 10, San Francisco, California) December 2009. 36 p.

Full text at: http://www.next10.org/next10/pdf/Many_Shades_of_Green_1209.pdf

["Even as California's overall economy has sputtered in recent years, its green economy has continued to grow.... The study evaluated green companies, jobs, locations and growth in every region of California. Officials said the study's findings indicate that future solutions to the state's economic and jobless woes might lie in nurturing its green business infrastructure.... From January 1995 through January 2008, the number of green businesses statewide increased 45 percent and jobs in those businesses grew by 36 percent. Overall, green jobs statewide increased from 117,000 in 1995 to 159,000 last year.... The study focused on the 'core green economy' -- businesses that provide products and services for alternative energy sources, conserving energy and natural resources, and reducing pollution and waste." Sacramento Bee (December 29, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S10-1-4387]

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UNEMPLOYMENT

The Consequences of Dropping Out of High School: Joblessness and Jailing for High School Dropouts and the High Cost for Taxpayers. By Andrew Sum and others, Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University. (The Center, Boston, Massachusetts) October 2009. 16 p.

Full text at:

http://www.clms.neu.edu/publication/documents/The_Consequences_of_Dropping_Out_of_High_School.pdf

["Young high school dropouts confront a number of labor market problems in their late teens and early 20s.... Slightly less than 46 percent of the nation's young high school dropouts were employed on average during 2008. This implies an average joblessness rate during 2008 of 54% for the nation for young high school dropouts. Their employment rate was 22 percentage points below that of high school graduates, 33 percentage points below that of young adults who had completed 1-3 years of post-secondary schooling, and 41 percentage points below that of their peers who held a four year college degree.... The employment rates of the nation's young high school dropouts varied across gender, race-ethnic, and household income groups."]

[Request #S10-1-4310]

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WORK CONDITIONS

Confronting the Gloves-Off Economy: America's Broken Labor Standards and How to Fix Them. By Chris Tilly, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2009. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.irlu.ucla.edu/publications/pdf/glovesoffeconomy.pdf>

["Across the United States, growing numbers of employers are breaking, bending, or evading long-established laws and standards designed to protect workers, from the minimum wage to job safety rules to the right to organize. This 'gloves-off economy,' no longer confined to a marginal set of sweatshops and fly-by-night small businesses, is sending shock waves into every corner of the low-wage -- and sometimes not so low-wage -- labor market. What can be done to reverse this dangerous trend? This report provides a comprehensive yet compact summary of gloves-off practices, the workers who are affected by them, and strategies for enforcing workplace standards."]

[Request #S10-1-4399]

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ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

"Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error." By Timothy D. Searchinger and others. IN: Science, vol. 326, no. 5952 (October 23, 2009) pp. 526-527.

Full text at: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/summary/326/5952/527>

["A new generation of biofuels, meant to be a low-carbon alternative, will on average emit more carbon dioxide than burning gasoline over the next few decades. Governments and companies are pouring billions of research dollars into advanced fuels made from wood and grass, meant to cut carbon emissions compared with gasoline, and not compete with food as corn-based biofuels do now. But such advanced, 'cellulosic' biofuels will actually lead to higher carbon emissions than gasoline per unit of energy, averaged over the 2000-2030 time period. That is because the land required to plant fast-growing poplar trees and tropical grasses would displace food crops, and so drive deforestation to create more farmland, a powerful source of carbon emissions." Reuters (October 23, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S10-1-4230]

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Ethanol and a Changing Agricultural Landscape. By Scott A. Malcolm and others, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (The Service, Washington, DC) November 2009. 64 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR86/ERR86.pdf>

["The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 established specific targets for the production of biofuel in the United States. Until advanced technologies become commercially viable, meeting these targets will increase demand for traditional agricultural commodities used to produce ethanol, resulting in land-use, production, and price changes throughout the farm sector. Meeting EISA targets for ethanol production is estimated to expand U.S. cropped acreage by nearly 5 million acres by 2015. Much of the growth comes from corn acreage. Water quality and soil carbon will also be affected, in some cases by greater percentages than suggested by changes in the amount of cropped land. The economic and environmental implications of displacing a portion of corn ethanol production with ethanol produced from crop residues are also estimated."]
[Request #S10-1-4402]

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Tapping Our Forests for Green Energy. By Alison Berry, Property and Environment Research Center. (The Center, Bozeman, Montana) 2009. 46 p.

Full text at: http://www.perc.org/files/Green_Energy.pdf

["Federally owned forests in the United States are facing financial and ecological problems. At the same time, the public's growing concern over environmental issues and future energy sources are pushing the promotion of renewable energy. This case study explores the pros and cons of using forest waste to create ethanol, electricity, and heat.... Managers could thin out understory growth to repair past damage. But without a real market for biomass, thinning comes with high costs and no revenues. If federal agencies could effectively harness the opportunities of woody biomass energy, they could generate income to fund restoration activities. Federal lands have a plentiful supply of biomass and could take advantage of this resource to help avoid insect infestations and catastrophic fires and to generate significant revenue while saving taxpayer dollars."]

[Request #S10-1-4437]

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Real Prospects for Energy Efficiency in the United States. By the America's Energy Future Energy Efficiency Technologies Subcommittee, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) 2009.

["To achieve greater energy efficiency, we need technology, more informed consumers and producers, and investments in more energy-efficient industrial processes, businesses, residences, and transportation.... This book examines the potential for reducing energy demand through improving efficiency by using existing technologies, technologies developed but not yet utilized widely, and prospective technologies. The book evaluates technologies based on their estimated times to initial commercial deployment, and provides an analysis of costs, barriers, and research needs. This quantitative characterization of technologies will guide policy makers toward planning the future of energy use in America."]

[Request #S10-1-4401]

Book. 300 p.

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12621toc

Executive Summary. 29 p.

http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12621&type=pdfxsum

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Economic Impact of AB 32 on California Small Business. By Jurgen Weiss and Mark Sarro, The Brattle Group. (Union of Concerned Scientists, Cambridge, Massachusetts) December 2009. 34 p.

Full text at: http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/AB-32-and-CA-small-business-report.pdf

["California's global warming law, similar in scope to a measure under consideration by the U.S. Congress, will have a negligible effect on the bottom lines of small businesses. The report found that small businesses generally do not use much energy, so even a spike in energy costs would have little effect on profits. Further, most small businesses compete with local rivals, increasing the likelihood that higher costs could be passed on to consumers by all the competitors.... The study calculates that a worst case scenario would be for energy price to jump 28 percent by 2020. That would still leave small business energy costs relatively low -- the equivalent of less than 2 percent of total sales for an average firm.... Big business might suffer more than small ones from higher energy prices in part because manufacturers tend to be big companies." Reuters (December 11, 2009) 1.]

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America on the Move: State Leadership in the Fight Against Global Warming, and What it Means for the World. By Tony Dutzik, Frontier Group, and others. (Environment America, Washington, DC) December 2009. 57 p.

Full text at:

<http://cdn.publicinterestnetwork.org/assets/6a1e91dbfae141e88e1cacd49bb6a1fe/America-on-the-Move.pdf>

["State governments have an important -- often primary -- role in setting environmental and energy policy in the United States. States have the power to limit carbon dioxide emissions, to regulate electric and natural gas utilities, to adopt standards for the energy performance of buildings and equipment, to regulate land use and transportation policy and, on a limited basis, to establish emission standards for vehicles.... The impact of state-level actions to reduce global warming pollution is significant on a global scale. A review of dozens of individual state policies, federal policies based on state models, and new federal policies in which states will have key roles in implementation suggests that state actions will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 536 million metric tons by 2020. That represents approximately 7 percent of U.S. global warming pollution in 2007."].

[Request #S10-1-4436]

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SALMON

"Not All Salmon Are Created Equal: Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of Global Salmon Farming Systems." By Nathan Pelletier and others. IN: Environmental Science & Technology, vol. 43, no. 23 (December 1, 2009) pp. 8730–8736

Full text at: <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1021/es9010114>

["Popular thinking about how to improve food systems for the better often misses the point, according to the results of a three-year global study of salmon production systems. Rather than pushing for organic or land-based production, or worrying about simple metrics such as 'food miles,' the study finds that the world can achieve greater environmental benefits by focusing on improvements to key aspects of production and distribution.... The study is the world's first comprehensive global-scale look at a major food commodity from a full life cycle perspective, and the researchers examined everything -- how salmon are caught in the wild, what they're fed when farmed, how they're transported, how they're consumed, and how all of this contributes to both environmental degradation and socioeconomic benefits." Science Daily (November 30, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S10-1-4431]

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WATER

California Water Myths. By Ellen Hanak, Public Policy Institute of California, and others. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) December 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=890>

["The prevalence of myth and folklore makes for lively rhetoric but hinders the development of effective policy and raises environmental and economic costs. Moving beyond myth toward a water policy based on facts and science is essential if California is to meet the multiple, sometimes competing, goals for sustainable management in the 21st century: satisfying agricultural, environmental, and urban demands for water supply and quality and ensuring adequate protection from floods. We focus on eight common water myths, involving water supply, ecosystems, and the legal and political aspects of governing California's water system. These are not the only California water myths, but they are ones we find to be particularly distracting and disruptive to public policy discussions."]
[Request #S10-1-4396]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Loopholes, Tricks and End Runs: Evasions of Campaign Finance Laws, and a Model Law to Block Them. By Molly Milligan, Center for Governmental Studies. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) December 2009. 52 p.

Full text at: http://cgs.org/images/publications/cgs_end_runs_120709.pdf

["Legal defense funds, inaugural and leadership committees, donations to favored charities, contributions from political parties and reimbursed travel expenses are among the other 'loopholes, tricks and end runs' used to thwart regulations..... The Center is proposing a model for campaign finance laws that presumes all money candidates or elected officials receive is for a political purpose. Under that model, politicians would be required to disclose any contributions of more than \$100 and would be prohibited from using political money for personal purposes. Legal defense funds would be treated separately from other contributions and travel reimbursement would be limited." Associated Press (December 23, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S10-1-4424]

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GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Perceptions of Local Fiscal Stress During a State Budget Crisis. By Max Neiman and Daniel Krimm, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) December 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=889>

["City and county governments in California have been hit hard by the state's budgetary and economic difficulties, which have meant high unemployment and cuts to public services. This research details just how local governments are dealing with these fiscal troubles, using a survey of local officials. Among the most common local responses: even more cuts in public services, hiring freezes, and reduced contributions to reserves.... Program cuts clearly have very non-neutral effects due to systematic differences among localities in the concentration of resources and needs. Should these factors have played a more important role in how the budget cuts in Sacramento have been designed? Clearly, state legislators are aware of the different circumstances in the communities, cities, and counties they represent, but it is the governor who often imposes the additional budget cuts and the governor's electorate is statewide, not local."]
[Request #S10-1-4397]

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Savings for San Diego: Outsourcing to Reduce Costs and Improve Services. By Leonard Gilroy and others, Reason Foundation. (The Foundation, Los Angeles, California) December 2009. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://reason.org/studies/show/savings-for-san-diego>

["San Diego has a short-run budget crisis it has to solve, but it also has long-run fiscal management challenges that it must start fixing now, or these problems will only return in future budgets. The city can no longer afford inflated spending driven by special interest politics, budget gimmicks, borrowing, and unfunded mandates. To help San Diego turn these realities into action, this project will be providing a series of research reports and working with city officials and civic groups on: 1) Strategic outsourcing of city services where it makes sense; 2) Selling unnecessary city-owned property and real assets; 3) Reforming city worker pensions policies; 4) Budgeting for results; and 5) Improved transparency and accountability in the city budget."]

[Request #S10-1-4423]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Documenting Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in State Employment. By Brad Sears, The Williams Institute, UCLA, and others. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) October 2009. Various pagings.

Full text at:

[http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/programs/EmploymentReports_ENDA.htm](http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/programs/EmploymentReports_ENDA.html)
[l](#)

["States governments are the largest employer in every state. There are over 400,000 LGBT State employees.... The research resulted in a set of reports on employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity for each of the 50 states.... There is a widespread and persistent pattern of unconstitutional discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity against state government employees. There is no meaningful difference in the pattern and scope of employment discrimination against LGBT people by state governments compared to the private sector and other public sector employers. The list of documented examples that we have compiled far under-represents the actual prevalence of employment discrimination against LGBT people by state and local governments."]

[Request #S10-1-4262]

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HEALTH

FOOD SAFETY

FDA's Food Facility Registry. By Jodi Nudelman and others, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (The Department, Washington, DC) December 2009. 30 p.

Full text at: <http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-08-00060.pdf>

["A crucial part of the nation's rapid-reponse plan -- the ability to trace food through the supply chain during an illness outbreak or bioterrorism attack -- is seriously flawed. Companies that manufacture, process, pack or hold food that is eaten in the United States are required by federal law to provide their address and basic contact information to the FDA, so investigators can follow suspect foods through the supply chain. After interviewing managers at a sample of 130 such companies, however, government investigators found that 48 percent didn't give the agency accurate information. More than half were unaware companies had to register, and about a quarter provided no emergency contact information, because current rules don't require it." Associated Press (December 22, 2009) 1.]
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HOSPITAL COSTS

**"Does Price Transparency Legislation Allow the Uninsured to Shop for Care?"
By Kate Stockwell Farrell and others. IN: Journal of General Internal Medicine,
DOI: 10.1007/s11606-009-1176-5. (November 1, 2009) Various pagings.**

Full text at: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/38m7725631px5w44/>

["Sometimes getting an accurate estimate for a hospital bill is brain surgery. A team of researchers went undercover by pretending to be uninsured people shopping for an estimate for an elective procedure. They wrote letters to 353 hospitals in the state including every primary care facility. Though a 4-year-old state law mandates a response to price requests from uninsured people, only 28 percent of the hospitals answered, with private for-profit hospitals least likely to respond. Some estimates covered doctor's prices and some didn't, making it more difficult to compare prices.... A separate state law mandates uninsured people who meet income requirements not be charged a higher rate than Medicare would pay for the same procedure. About 75 percent of the estimates received by Rand researchers exceeded the government rate." Ventura County Star (December 16, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S10-1-4441]

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OBESITY

The Future Costs of Obesity: National and State Estimates of the Impact of Obesity on Direct Health Care Expenses. By the United Health Foundation, the American Public Health Association and Partnership for Prevention. (The Foundation, Minnetonka, Minnesota) November 2009. 13 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.americashealthrankings.org/2009/report/Cost%20Obesity%20Report-final.pdf>

["This report projects the future health care costs directly attributable to obesity for each state and for the nation.... Obesity is growing faster than any previous public health issue our nation has faced. If current trends continue, 103 million American adults will be considered obese by 2018. The U.S. is expected to spend \$344 billion on health care costs attributable to obesity in 2018 if rates continue to increase at their current levels. Obesity-related direct expenditures are expected to account for more than 21 percent of the nation's direct health care spending in 2018. If obesity levels were held at their current rates, the U.S. could save an estimated \$820 per adult in health care costs by 2018 -- a savings of almost \$200 billion dollars.... Oklahoma is expected to have the highest obesity rate in the country by 2018; Colorado is estimated to have the lowest obesity rate."][Request #S10-1-4444]

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SMOKING

A Broken Promise to Our Children: The 1998 State Tobacco Settlement Eleven Years Later. By the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. (The Campaign, Washington, DC) December 2009. 139 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/FY2010/State%20Settlement%20Full%20Report%20FY%202010.pdf>

["We have issued annual reports assessing whether the states are keeping their promise to use a significant portion of their settlement funds -- estimated at \$246 billion over the first 25 years -- to attack the enormous public health problems posed by tobacco use. This latest report finds that the states are collecting record amounts of tobacco revenue -- \$25.1 billion this year alone -- but are spending less of it on programs to prevent kids from smoking and help smokers quit. In fact, states have cut funding for tobacco prevention programs by more than 15 percent in the past year. Only one state -- North Dakota -- currently funds a tobacco prevention program at the level recommended by the U.S. CDC. Only nine other states fund tobacco prevention at even half the CDC-recommended level, while 31 states and DC provide less than a quarter of the recommended funding."]

[Request #S10-1-4413]

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HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

Underwater and Not Walking Away: Shame, Fear and the Social Management of the Housing Crisis. By Brent T. White, University of Arizona. (The University, Tuscon, Arizona) December 2009. 54 p.

Full text at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1494467

["Despite reports that homeowners are increasingly 'walking away' from their mortgages, most homeowners continue to make their payments even when they are significantly underwater. This article suggests that most homeowners choose not to strategically default as a result of two emotional forces: 1) the desire to avoid the shame and guilt of foreclosure; and 2) exaggerated anxiety over foreclosure's perceived consequences. Moreover, these emotional constraints are actively cultivated by the government and other social control agents in order to encourage homeowners to follow social and moral norms related to the honoring of financial obligations -- and to ignore market and legal norms under which strategic default might be both viable and the wisest financial decision. Norms governing homeowner behavior stand in sharp contrast to norms governing lenders."]
[Request #S10-1-4403]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Basic Facts About Low-income Children. By Vanessa R. Wight and Michelle Chau, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) November 2009. Various pagings.

Full text at: [basic facts](#)

["Children represent 25 percent of the population. Yet, 41 percent of all children live in low-income families and nearly one in every five live in poor families. Winding up in a low-income or poor family does not happen by chance. There are significant factors related to children's experiences with economic insecurity, such as race/ethnicity and parents' education and employment. These fact sheets describe the demographic, socio-economic, and geographic characteristics of children and their parents -- highlighting the important factors that appear to distinguish low-income and poor children from their less disadvantaged counterparts."]
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EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Indicators for Social-emotional Development in Early Childhood: A Guide for Local Stakeholders. By Leslie L. Davidson, Columbia University, and others. (National Center for Children in Poverty, New York, New York) November 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_901.pdf

["Social-emotional development in young children encompasses how young children feel about themselves, how they behave and how they relate to people close to them, such as caregivers, teachers, and peers. Although infant and early childhood mental health are often used in the same way, the term social-emotional development illustrates the importance of prevention and early intervention. There is strong evidence linking social-emotional health in the early childhood years (birth to 6) to subsequent school success and health in preteen and teen years, and to long term health and wellbeing in adulthood. However, research also shows that effective programs that address social-emotional health early in life can promote resilience and actually prevent mental health problems later in life."]

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FAMILIES

Family Mobility and Neighborhood Change: New Evidence and Implications for Community Initiatives. By Claudia J. Coulton and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) November 2009. 57 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411973_family_mobility.pdf

["Americans change residences frequently. Residential mobility can reflect positive changes in a family's circumstances or be a symptom of instability and insecurity. Mobility may also change neighborhoods as a whole. To shed light on these challenges, this report uses a unique survey conducted for the Making Connections initiative. The first component measures how mobility contributed to changes in neighborhoods' composition and characteristics. The second component identifies groups of households that reflect different reasons for moving or staying in place. The final component introduces five stylized models of neighborhood performance: each has implications for low-income families' well-being and for community-change efforts."]

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TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Battered by the Storm: How the Safety Net Is Failing Americans and How to Fix It. By John Cavanagh, Institute for Policy Studies, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2009. 44 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ips-dc.org/reports/battered-by-the-storm>

["The economic crisis is still on the rise for millions of Americans, while at the same time the social safety net is failing to support many of them. The percentage of poor children receiving temporary assistance under TANF (the main federal 'welfare' program) has fallen from 62% in 1995 to 22% in 2008. TANF benefits are far from sufficient to support the families that depend on them: 2008 assistance payments averaged only 29% of the money needed to bring families up to the official poverty line. Even while labor force participation of mothers has increased, the supply of affordable child care has lagged behind, creating a significant barrier to employment for many, especially single mothers. Roughly 57% of unemployed people are receiving unemployment compensation; amounts are less than half of wages, and many are losing work-related health benefits."]

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TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

Dangerous By Design: Solving the Epidemic of Preventable Pedestrian Deaths (and Making Great Neighborhoods). By Michelle Ernst, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, and Lilly Shoup, Transportation for America. (Transportation for America, Washington, DC) November 2009. 84 p.

Full text at: http://t4america.org/docs/dangerousbydesign/dangerous_by_design.pdf

["The Southern California metro area has by far the most pedestrian deaths among the state's 26 metro zones during 2007 and 2008 -- 491. The second-highest was the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario region, at 159.... The safest? San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles at 15.4. That region had three pedestrian deaths during the two-year span... Most pedestrians are killed on arterial roads -- which are wider, have more traffic and allow higher speeds. Another contributing factor, is that too many arterial roads, even in urban areas, are not built with pedestrians in mind and often lack sidewalks. Neighborhoods that do provide sidewalks often lack crosswalks or have crosswalks that are spaced too far apart to be convenient for pedestrians" Orange County Register (November 10, 2009) 1.]

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FEDERAL FUNDING

Public Transportation: Federal Project Approval Process Remains a Barrier to Greater Private Sector Role and DOT Could Enhance Efforts to Assist Project Sponsors. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-19. (The Office, Washington, DC) October 2009. 55 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1019.pdf>

["Transit project sponsors are increasingly looking to alternative approaches, such as public-private partnerships, to deliver and finance new, large-scale public transit projects more quickly and at reduced costs. GAO reviewed (1) the role of the private sector in U.S. public transit projects as compared to international projects; (2) the benefits and limitations of and barriers, if any, to greater private sector involvement in transit projects and how these barriers are addressed in the Department of Transportation's pilot program; and (3) how project sponsors and DOT can protect the public interest when these approaches are used.... The Federal Transit Administration should incorporate greater flexibility in its pilot program through the use of existing tools, such as conditional approvals, to streamline the New Starts process."]

[Request #S10-1-4411]

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Future Mobility in California: The Condition, Use and Funding of California's Roads, Bridges and Transit System. By The Road Information Program. (TRIP, Washington, DC) December 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.tripnet.org/California_Mobility_Report_Dec_2009.pdf

["Southern California's neglected roadways and bridges cost the average motorist about \$2,500 a year in accidents, congestion-related delays and wear-and-tear on their vehicles. And the road will get even bumpier for commuters -- and the economy -- without increased investment in transportation improvements at the state and federal level. 'A safe and more efficient transportation system is critical to economic recovery,' said Carolyn Bonifas, associate director of research and communication for TRIP. 'It puts people back to work making the repairs to the roads and also insures the freeflow of commerce.'... About one-third of the bridges and overpasses in the Los Angeles area show significant deterioration to decks and other components." Los Angeles Daily News (December 23, 2009) 1.]

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LAND USE

Co-Evolution of Transportation and Land Use: Modeling Historical Dependencies in Land Use and Transportation Decision Making. By Lei Zhang, Oregon State University. (Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium, Portland, Oregon) November 2009.78 p.

Full text at: <http://otrec.us/project/68>

["The interaction between land use and transportation has long been the central issue in urban and regional planning. Models of such interactions provide vital information to support many public policy decisions, such as land supply, infrastructure provision, and growth management. Both the transportation system and the land use system exhibit historical dependencies in policy decisions. For instance, the expansion of a roadway today will change travel demand patterns, and make certain other roads more or less likely to be expanded in the future. A specific land supply decision made at one point of time, by changing the relative attractiveness of other areas in the region, can have profound impact on future land supply decisions. Today's land use decisions clearly influence future transportation policies and vice versa."]

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