

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
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Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

August 1910 “Bivouacked in a camp of gleaming white tents, the Department of California, United Spanish War Veterans, is resting upon its arms beneath the shelter of the trees in the State Capitol Park.... The veterans and the Woman’s Auxiliary both held sessions in the Capitol building today. Tonight they were guests of the Sacramento camp at a ball.... The features of today’s session were the welcoming addresses of Gov. Gillett, Mayor Beard and Adj.-Gen Lauck of the National Guard.” Los Angeles Times (August 2, 1910) p. I3.

August 1910 “Hiram Johnson, at the meeting in San Diego tonight, kept up his tirade against the Republican organization. In his speech he declared that he is the only true Moses that would lead his people out of the wilderness.... Johnson declared that all Southern California is with him. He doubted that there is any one else in the running.... His remarks were chiefly confined to attacks on W.F. Herrin and the Southern Pacific Railroad. Johnson said there would be no boss ruled legislation and that he would be the whole works at Sacramento. The most entertaining feature of the meeting was Johnson’s gestures. Old timers who have attended political meetings for a score of years said never before have they witnessed such swinging of arms and clenching of fists as was performed by Johnson.” Los Angeles Times (August 2, 1910) p. I3.

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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.
- Studies in the News is also available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

DNA

Quantifying the Specific Deterrent Effects of DNA Databases. By Avinash Bhati, Justice Policy Center, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) March 2010. 98 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412058_dna_databases.pdf

["Re-offending patterns of a large cohort of offenders released from Florida Department of Corrections custody between 1996 and 2004 were analyzed to quantify the effects of DNA databases on offending patterns. Statistical models constructed to identify the specific deterrent effects of DNA databases distinct from their probative effects yielded mixed results. Small deterrent effects were found and for only some crime types (robbery and burglary). Strong probative effects were found for most crime types. Methods, data, results and implications are discussed in this report."]

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IMMIGRATION

Brick by Brick: A Half-Decade of Immigration Enforcement and the Need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. By C. Stewart Verdery, Jr., Monument Policy Group. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) June 2010. 35 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/06/brick_by_brick.html

["This paper demonstrates how much more robust immigration enforcement has become over the last five years, with particular emphasis on the 2007 Senate bill's benchmarks. It concludes that DHS has made great strides in meeting these benchmarks, in addition to undertaking other programs largely aimed at securing international travel but with important impacts on broader immigration enforcement as well.... As Congress and the Obama administration deliberate policy changes regarding the undocumented population and reforms to legal immigration channels, these debates must reflect the fact that our federal agencies are far better equipped to enforce immigration laws going forward."]

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JUVENILE JUSTICE

The California Miracle: Drastically Reduced Youth Incarceration, Drastically Reduced Youth Crime. By Mike Males, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. (The Center, San Francisco, California) July 2010. 16 p.

Full text at: http://www.cjcj.org/files/The_California_Miracle.pdf

["In a previous report, the Center's analysis found that large decreases in the imprisonment of California youth in the State's Division of Juvenile Facilities were followed by large declines in youth crime through 2004, while large increases in adult imprisonment were followed by increases, in adult crime. These findings directly challenged prevailing 'incapacitation' assumptions that more imprisonment leads to less crime. This updated analysis confirms the findings of the CJCJ 2006 report. The analysis of current trends in California juvenile incarceration found that the rate of juvenile incarceration in California between 1980 and 2010, fell by 80 percent. Despite the unprecedented declines in youth incarceration in California the juvenile violent crime rate fell by 39 percent and the juvenile felony rate fell by 60 percent during the period."]

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PRISONS

"Everything Revolves Around Overcrowding: The State of California's Prisons." By Donald Spector. IN: Federal Sentencing Reporter, vol. 22, no. 3 (February 2010) pp. 194-199.

Full text at: <http://www.vera.org/files/FSR-Everything-revolves-around-overcrowding-state-of-californias-prisons.pdf>

["California has the nation's largest and the world's third largest prison system.... Severe overcrowding makes the safe operation of a prison system nearly impossible. Everything revolves around overcrowding. The deficiencies in the classification plan, the deficiencies in the unavailability of staff because they are doing other tasks associated with overcrowding problems to do onsite medical appointments or offsite medical appointments, the wear and tear on the infrastructure. The level of overcrowding in California's prisons is unprecedented.... Until the state recognizes that prison is a finite, scarce, and expensive resource and takes steps to use that resource efficiently and effectively to produce the maximum safety to the public, there is little hope that judicial intervention will end."]

[Request #S10-15-5069]

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ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

California 2025: Planning for a Better Future: 2010 Update. By Louise Bedsworth and others, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) June 2010. 42 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=895>

["The PPIC predicts worsening budget deficits, education shortfalls and lack of preparation for looming climate change. The report predicts the state budget will bottom out with a deficit of more than \$20 billion in about 2013 before the deficit really starts to shrink.... The report suggests drastic measures in the interest of fixing California schools – like firing large numbers of teaching staff – may not be the answer.... On the climate change front, the PPIC reported just 7 percent of local governments have finished preparing a climate change action plan, 45 percent have the same measure planned and another 45 have no plans for such action at this time.... Another water source, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, could damage local economies if rising sea levels and earthquakes compromise its levees and allow in salt water." California Watch (June 30, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-15-5113]

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COST OF LIVING

Making Ends Meet: How Much Does It Cost To Raise a Family in California? By Raúl Macías and Alissa Anderson, California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) June 2010. 79 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2010/100624_Making_Ends_Meet.pdf

["The report estimates the cost of supporting a family of from one person to four people in each of the state's 58 counties. The study uses federal and state figures to average a range of expenses including housing, utilities, food, transportation, health care, taxes, clothing, laundry services, reading materials and bath products such as toothpaste. In addition to giving Californians a way to benchmark their circumstances against state or county averages, the report seeks to highlight the cost of child care with an eye toward the current state budget crisis.... A single adult must earn nearly \$32,000 to live in San Francisco, while two working parents with two young children must take in a little more than \$84,000 to get by." San Francisco Chronicle (June 25, 2010) D1.]

[Request #S10-15-5024]

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Collaborate: Leading Regional Innovation Clusters. By Samuel Leiken and Randall Kempner, Council on Competitiveness. (The Council, Washington, DC) June 2010. 76 p.

Full text at:

http://www.compete.org/images/uploads/File/PDF%20Files/Final_Collaborate.pdf

["While it is doubtlessly true that some regions are better endowed than others to compete in the global knowledge economy, the problem is rarely that the less successful regions lack sufficient assets. Instead, these regions seem to lack the ability to think, plan and act regionally.... The research in this report demonstrates that the key to creating collaboration is effective regional leadership.... This report is a practical attempt to fill the knowledge gap about effective regional leadership by using case studies, interviews and primary and secondary research. It is filled with examples and lessons to be learned. If its lessons can be summarized in one conclusion, it is that effective leadership can turn a regional competitive disadvantage into a regional collaborative advantage."]

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FILM INDUSTRY

Film Flight: Lost Production and Its Economic Impact on California. By Kevin Klowden and others, the Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) July 2010. 46 p.

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

["Film-making, California's most famous industry, has been shedding jobs in the state and is in danger of going the way of the once-powerful aerospace industry. 'California has lost 36,000 total jobs, \$2.4 billion in wages and \$4.2 billion in total economic output,' Milken said. 'Those benefits would still be here boosting the economy if the state had been able to maintain the share of industry employment it enjoyed in 1997. Instead, these jobs have been going to places like New York, Vancouver, and even New Mexico, Louisiana and Georgia.' The study found that the number of movies wholly or partially filmed in California has dropped from 272 in 2000 to 160 in 2008. The state's share of North American film-making has declined from 40 percent in 1997 to 37.4 percent." Sacramento Bee (July 23, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-15-5079]

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

2010 Joint Strategic Plan on Intellectual Property Enforcement. By the Executive Office of the President. (The Office, Washington, DC) June 2010. 65 p.

Full text at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/intellectualproperty/intellectualproperty_strategic_plan.pdf

["There are numerous challenges to meeting the goals of predictability and enforceability. Our effort must be coordinated, efficient and comprehensive. Solutions will require strong and decisive government action, transparency and cooperation from rightholders, importers, exporters and entities that currently benefit from infringement. This Joint Strategic Plan reflects such an effort across our government, our economy and with our trading partners around the world. The 33 enforcement strategy action items spelled out represent the U.S. Government's coordinated approach to strengthening intellectual property enforcement. These action items and their implementation are our first collective step towards our goal of combating infringement."]

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EDUCATION

CURRICULUM STANDARDS

The State of State Standards--and the Common Core--in 2010. By Sheila Byrd Carmichael and others, Thomas B. Fordham Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2010. 373 p.

Full text at: http://edexcellence.net/index.cfm/news_the-state-of-state-standards-and-the-common-core-in-2010

["The K-12 academic standards in English language arts (ELA) and math produced by the Common Core State Standards Initiative are clearer and more rigorous than today's ELA standards in 37 states and today's math standards in 39 states. In 33 of those states, the Common Core bests both ELA and math standards. Yet California, Indiana and the District of Columbia have ELA standards that are clearly superior to those of the Common Core. And nearly a dozen states have ELA or math standards in the same league as Common Core."]

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Emerging Risk?: An Overview of Growth, Spending, Student Debt and Unanswered Questions in For-Profit Higher Education. By the United States Senate, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. (The Committee, Washington, DC) June 24, 2010. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://harkin.senate.gov/documents/pdf/4c23515814dca.pdf>

["For-profit colleges are booming as the unemployed turn to education, but some members of Congress and Obama administration officials say they are growing at the expense of taxpayers and that students are often exploited. Many drop out or find the programs aren't accredited. Fees, often twice as much as at public universities, are often paid with federal loans, with a high default rate.... The colleges cater to low-income and minority students often working online with little supervision, yet they charge on average twice as much as public universities charge in-state students.... The average profit among such publicly traded higher education companies soared to \$229 million in 2009, up from \$150 million the year before, with the lion's share of their revenue coming from federal student aid." Los Angeles Times (July 25, 2010) 1.]
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For-Profit Colleges: Undercover Testing Finds Colleges Encouraged Fraud and Engaged in Deceptive and Questionable Marketing Practices. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-948T. (The Office, Washington, DC) August 2010. 30 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10948t.pdf>

["GAO was asked to 1) conduct undercover testing to determine if for-profit colleges' representatives engaged in fraudulent, deceptive, or otherwise questionable marketing practices, and 2) compare the tuitions of the for-profit colleges tested with those of other colleges.... Undercover tests at 15 for-profit colleges found that 4 colleges encouraged fraudulent practices and that all 15 made deceptive or otherwise questionable statements to GAO's undercover applicants.... Programs at the for-profit colleges GAO tested cost substantially more for associate's degrees and certificates than comparable degrees and certificates at public colleges nearby. A student interested in a massage therapy certificate costing \$14,000 at a for-profit college was told that the program was a good value. However the same certificate from a local community college cost \$520."]

EMPLOYMENT

IMMIGRATION

The Role of Immigrants in the U.S. Labor Market: An Update. By the Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/116xx/doc11691/07-23-Immigrants_in_Labor_Force.pdf

["People born in other countries represent a substantial and growing segment of the U.S. labor force -- that is, people with a job or looking for one. In 2009, 24 million members of the labor force -- more than one in seven -- were foreign born, up from 21 million in 2004. However, the growth of the foreign-born labor force was much slower between 2004 and 2009 than between 1994 and 2004. In that earlier period, the size of the foreign-born labor force grew at an average annual rate of more than 5 percent, whereas from 2004 to 2009, the rate was about 2 percent. As a share of the total, the foreign-born labor force grew from 10.0 percent in 1994 to 14.5 percent in 2004 and to 15.5 percent in 2009."]

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LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018. By Anthony P. Carnevali and others, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 2010. 122 p.

Full text at: <http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/FullReport.pdf>

["There is a growing mismatch between the jobs that will be created over the next decade and the education and training of our adult workers. The postsecondary education and training system will fall short by 3 million or more postsecondary degrees.... Hundreds of thousands of manufacturing and natural resources jobs in farming, fishing, and forestry have been destroyed in the recession and will not be coming back. And we will lose another 1.4 million jobs in these industries over the next decade.... Postsecondary education and training is quickly becoming the only viable path to the American middle class. Education and training connects directly to occupations and less directly to industries, which can complicate economic development efforts."]

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Black Employment and Unemployment in June 2010. By Sylvia Allegretto and others, UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education. (The Center, Berkeley, California) July 2, 2010. 21 p.

Full text at: <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/blackworkers/report.php>

["African-Americans represent nearly 14 percent of the nation's population and comprise the largest racial minority in the country. They also lead the way in unemployment.... The June unemployment rate for blacks was 15.4 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nationwide, unemployment fell slightly to 9.5 percent in June, with whites at 8.6 percent and Latinos at 12.4 percent. Unemployment rates in different subgroups vary. For example, black males age 20 and older saw a 17.4 percent unemployment rate last month.... There is unemployment and there is also a very real problem of low-wage work. Both those problems challenge the black community. To ignore either one of those problems is very bad because it pits one against the other." Oakland Tribune (July 19, 2010) 1.] [Request #S10-15-5070]

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A Sharper Focus On Technical Workers: How to Educate and Train for the Global Economy. By Erin Lamos, National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, and others. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 2010. 32 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1007TECHNICALWORKERS.PDF>

["Governors can shape a new future for job training in a way that will nurture and grow the largest, most important, and -- in many cases -- fastest-growing industries by taking the following actions: 1) Champion the importance of technical education and technical work to economic competitiveness and worker prosperity; 2) Focus first on the industrial sectors with the greatest economic impact; 3) Use state spending to encourage community colleges to engage in collaboration and innovation; 4) Develop multi-state partnerships focused on providing consistent, high-quality, industry-valued training; and 5) Require comprehensive outcome data to assess students' skills and credentials gained, hold educational institutions accountable, and inform policymakers."] [Request #S10-15-5068]

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ENERGY

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

Economic Benefits of a Comprehensive Feed-In Tariff: An Analysis of the REESA in California. By Max Wei and Daniel Kammen, University of California, Berkeley, (Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, Berkeley, California) July 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.fitcoalition.com/storage/resources/studies/economic-benefits-of-a-fit/economic_benefits_of_a_comprehensive_feed-in_tariff-july072010.pdf

["In this analysis we estimate that the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) enacted by the Renewable Energy and Economic Stimulus Act (REESA) will have a range of economic benefits to the state of California over the next decade versus a 'business-as-usual' scenario of renewable energy supply. We find that the Feed-In Tariff will: 1) Create three times the number of jobs from 2011-2020; 2) Increase direct state revenues by an estimated \$1.7 billion from sales tax, use tax, and income taxes over the next decade; and 3) Stimulate up to \$50 billion in total new investment in the state which in turn is eligible for up to \$15 billion in Federal tax benefits for project developers. As a result the REESA FIT provides a highly cost-effective avenue to assist in the state's efforts to achieve the 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard target by 2020."]

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Grading North American Feed-in Tariffs. By Paul Gipe. (World Future Council, Washington, DC) May 2010. 18 p.

Full text at: <http://wind-works.org/FeedLaws/USA/Grading%20N.Am.%20FITs%20Report.pdf>

["How do existing North American feed-in tariff programs stand up to best practices worldwide? How well do they compare to, say, programs in Germany or France? What programs are world-class? What programs are laggards? What programs fail to make the grade and are poor imitations of successful policies elsewhere? What innovations have North Americans contributed to what has become the worldwide policy of choice for developing renewable energy?... California and Oregon are at the bottom of the class. A one-size-fits-all policy with a tariff based on the avoided cost. The approach taken by California 26 years ago was trendsetting then, but not so now. Even the first German feed-in tariff program in 1991, or the law on feeding-in electricity to the grid, was more modern than current California policy."]

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ENERGY CONSERVATION

Untapped Potential of Commercial Buildings: Energy Use and Emissions. By Doug Henton and others, Collaborative Economics. (Next 10, San Francisco, California) July 2010. 13 p.

Full text at:

http://www.next10.org/next10/pdf/NXT10_BuildingEfficiencies_final.pdf

["Existing building stock represents the greatest opportunity for capturing the low-hanging fruit for energy efficiency gains. In the average building, upgrading building insulation results in energy savings of 30 percent.... New buildings in California do not reap the energy savings they could. With a minimal two percent increase in construction costs, new buildings can be designed to use one-third to one-half less energy than they use today. In all, California businesses and government could save tremendously through energy efficiency, but real market barriers exist to achieving these energy efficiency benefits. This white paper examines the untapped energy efficiency potential held by commercial buildings in California, analyzes obstacles to achieving widespread adoption of building efficiencies and explores approaches to removing these barriers."]

[Request #S10-15-5076]

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SOLAR POWER

California Solar Initiative Annual Program Assessment. By Sachu Constantine and others, California Public Utilities Commission. (The Commission, San Francisco, California) June 30, 2010. 91 p.

Full text at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/NR/rdonlyres/CE1D2316-405C-4C94-A805-A68A1988D640/0/2010APA_final.pdf

["Three years into the state's 10-year solar program, California is already 42 percent of the way towards its general market program goal in the territories of the investor-owned utilities. This figure includes both projects already installed and those currently holding reservations for incentives and in the process of being installed.... For every dollar spent on incentives by the state, there has been another \$2.62 invested in solar technology in California from other sources. Program data shows a decline in the average cost of solar systems. The inflation adjusted cost trends show that prices have declined since January 2007 from \$10.04/watt to \$8.49/watt for systems under 10 kW. The CSI Program has reduced incentive levels several times since 2007 in response to program demand. Incentives started at \$2.50/watt across the state, and now they are as low as \$0.65/watt."]

[Request #S10-15-5075]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Distributional Impacts in a Comprehensive Climate Policy Package. By Gilbert E. Metcalf, Tufts University, and others. (American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC) June 23, 2010. 15 p.

Full text at: <http://www.aei.org/docLib/DistributionalImpactsClimatePolicy.pdf>

["This paper provides a simple analytic approach for measuring the burden of carbon pricing that does not require sophisticated and numerically intensive economic models but which is not limited to restrictive assumptions of forward shifting of carbon prices. We also show how to adjust for the capital income bias contained in the Consumer Expenditure Survey, a bias towards regressivity in carbon pricing due to underreporting of capital income in higher income deciles in the Survey. Many distributional analyses of carbon pricing focus on the uses-side incidence of carbon pricing. This is the differential burden resulting from heterogeneity in consumption across households. Once one allows for sources-side incidence (i.e. differential impacts of changes in real factor prices), carbon policies look more progressive."]

[Request #S10-15-5110]

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Design for the WCI Regional Program. By the Western Climate Initiative. (The Initiative, Denver, Colorado) July 2010. 81 p.

Full text at: <http://westernclimateinitiative.org/the-wci-cap-and-trade-program/program-design>

["California, joined by New Mexico and three Canadian provinces, outlined a detailed plan to curb greenhouse gas emissions in a regional cap-and-trade program by January 2012. The system is a cornerstone to its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions regionally by 15 percent by 2020. The trading system is expected to handle about \$21 billion worth of allowances annually. The Western Climate Initiative, if it survives political hurdles, would be three times larger than an existing trading system for power plants in 10 Eastern states. It would cover not just the electricity sector, but most large industrial plants as well as transportation. Such state efforts are moving to the forefront just as national legislation to curb global warming pollution has stalled in Congress." Sacramento Bee (July 27, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-15-5103]

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WATER SUPPLY

Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem: Draft. By Phil Crader and others, State Water Resources Control Board. (The Board, Sacramento, California) July 2010. 191 p.

Full text at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/deltaflow/draft_report.shtml

["Californians need to take significantly less water from the state's single largest supply.... The draft report acknowledges that the delta's many environmental problems extend beyond water diversions. But it concludes that restoring the delta's collapsing fisheries and hydrologic rhythms are 'fundamentally inconsistent with continuing to move large volumes of water through the delta for export.' The study, authorized by state legislation passed last year, outlines standards that, if adopted, would substantially reduce the amount of water that could be diverted from the Northern California delta in most years. Exports to the San Joaquin Valley and the Southland could drop 30% under the flow standards, and diversions from the delta's northern tributaries could be slashed by 70%, according to board estimates." Los Angeles Times (July 22, 2010) 1.]

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Climate Change, Water, and Risk: Current Water Demands Are Not Sustainable. By Tetra Tech and the Natural Resources Defense Council. (The Council, New York, New York) July 2010. 4 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/watersustainability/>

["A new analysis examined the effects of global warming on water supply and demand in the contiguous United States. The study found that more than 1,100 counties -- one-third of all counties in the lower 48 -- will face higher risks of water shortages by mid-century as the result of global warming. More than 400 of these counties will face extremely high risks of water shortages.... some states have an extreme or high risk to water sustainability, or are likely to see limitations on water availability as demand exceeds supply by 2050. These areas include parts of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. In particular, in the Great Plains and Southwest United States, water sustainability is at extreme risk."]

[Request #S10-15-5108]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Language Access: Selected Agencies Can Improve Services to Limited English Proficient Persons. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-91. (The Office, Washington, DC) April 2010. 63 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1091.pdf>

[“Executive Order 13166 (August 11, 2000) directs each federal agency to improve access to federal programs and services for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). Agencies are generally required to develop recipient guidance and/or an LEP plan outlining steps for ensuring that LEP persons can access federal services and programs.... GAO analyzed the Executive Order and agencies’ recipient guidance and plans posted on LEP.gov; selected the IRS, FEMA, and SBA for this review because of the amount and significance of their interaction with LEP persons; and reviewed documentation of agencies’ collaborative efforts to provide access to federal services.... As of February 2010, 22 agencies have completed their recipient guidance.”]

[Request #S10-15-4970]

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GOVERNMENT REFORM

Capital Ideas: How to Generate Innovation in the Public Sector. By Jitinder Kohli, Center for American Progress, and Geoff Mulgan, Young Foundation. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2010. 36 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/07/dww_capitalideas.html

["When we think of innovation, most of us think of the private sector. But innovation is needed just as much in the public sector. Some of the impetus for innovation comes from new challenges such as childhood obesity, or climate change. Others come from public demands -- public services can easily become stuck with outdated and ineffective approaches. And still more urgency emerges from fiscal pressures: as money gets tighter, public agencies will have to find more efficient ways to conduct the census or administer social security, improve workplace safety, or tackle crime.... It’s still rare for innovation to be at all institutionalized in government budgets, roles, and processes. And it’s even rarer to find officials and politicians who are aware of the full range of tools that they could be using to accelerate the development and spread of better ideas."]

[Request #S10-15-5066]

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Money and Power in the City of Angels. By Ava Alexandar, Center for Governmental Studies. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) July 2010. 50 p.

Full text at: http://cgs.org/images/publications/mny_pwr_la_fnl_063010.pdf

["This report revisits the issue of campaign finance reform in Los Angeles by analyzing campaign contribution, expenditure and public financing data during the city's 2009 municipal elections.... Contributions to candidate controlled ballot measure committees, which are currently unlimited, should be subject to the same limits as contributions to candidate committees. The Los Angeles City Ethics Commission should release candidate controlled ballot measure committee contribution and expenditure data in the same electronic spreadsheet format that they use for candidate contributions and expenditures. Lobbyists should be banned from acting as intermediaries who can deliver campaign contributions. The Los Angeles City Ethics Commission should resume issuing periodic reports that list the top ten lobbyists."]

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STATE AGENCIES

California Public Utilities Commission: Gaps Emerge in Telephone Consumer Protections. By John Adkisson and others, California Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes. (The Office, Sacramento, California) July 16, 2010. 74 p.

Full text at:

http://www3.senate.ca.gov/deployedfiles/vcm2007/senoversight/docs/ca_public_utilities_commis_report_for_web.pdf

["The agency has largely turned its back on the telecom market since 2006. AT&T and Verizon control about 85% of the market, with prices for some services up as much as 600%.... The report says the California Public Utilities Commission has largely turned its back on the telecom market after declaring four years ago that sweeping deregulation would usher in a new era of market competition and lower prices for consumers.... Officials are not doing enough to prepare for a lifting of rate caps on January 1 for basic residential phone service and subsidized Lifeline service for low-income people. Regulators collect reams of data about phone companies' performance that could help consumers make informed decisions about which service to pick. Currently, however, none of it is made public by the PUC, defeating the purpose." Los Angeles Times (July 16, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-15-5115]

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TAXES

A Value-Added Tax for the United States: Part of the Solution. By William G. Gale and Benjamin H. Harris, Brookings Institution and Tax Policy Center. (The Institution, Washington, DC) July 2010. 16 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/0721_vat_for_us_gale/0721_vat_for_us_gale.pdf

["This paper discusses why a federal Value-Added Tax (VAT) should be part of a constructive solution to the fiscal problem. Under a VAT, businesses pay taxes on the difference between their total sales to other businesses and households and their purchases of inputs from other businesses. That difference represents the value-added by the firm to the product or service in question. The sum of value-added at each stage of production is the retail sales price, so in theory the VAT simply replicates the tax patterns created by a retail sales tax and is therefore a tax on aggregate consumption. In practice, the key distinction is that VATs are collected at each stage of production, whereas retail sales taxes are collected only at point of final sale. The VAT is easier to enforce and is widely regarded as having a superior administrative structure to a retail sales tax."][Request #S10-15-5080]

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HEALTH

FOOD SAFETY

Enhancing Food Safety: The Role of the Food and Drug Administration. By the Committee on the Review of Food and Drug Administration's Role in Ensuring Safe Food, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) June 2010.

["The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees approximately 80 percent of the U.S. food supply, including all produce, seafood, and cheeses. Food safety experts and the public have criticized the FDA's food safety system and questioned whether it properly safeguards Americans from foodborne diseases.... Although the FDA recently created the Office of Foods to oversee and coordinate all food policy efforts within the agency, the FDA's approach to food safety continues to be reactive, lacking a systematic focus on prevention.... The agency should use a risk-based approach to evaluate food safety problems rather than its current reactive approach to food safety -- which only addresses problems on a case-by-case basis and may fail to account for all the factors involved in making a decision."][Request #S10-15-4972]

Book. 520 p.

[book](#)

Report Brief. 4 p.

[report brief](#)

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

"Assessing Health Reform's Impact on Four Key Groups of Americans." By Joseph P. Newhouse. IN: Health Affairs, vol. 29, no. 9 (September 2010) pp. 1-11.

Full text at:

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.2010.0595?ijkey=Fz7cAKs3lxugY&keytype=ref&siteid=healthaff>

["Health reform can be assessed from the perspective of four groups that collectively include most Americans. For those who are now in Medicaid or who are uninsured, reform will be a major gain. For those who obtain health insurance in the individual and small-group markets, reform should bring improvements. For those who have health insurance from midsize- and large-group insurers, reform will bring little change. Finally, for Medicare beneficiaries, reform promises to bring positive change. However, financing future health spending overall, and Medicare spending in particular, poses a formidable challenge. Although not a panacea, all-payer rate setting, in which a federal or state agency establishes standard payment rates for each class of payer, may be the only feasible alternative, at least in the short run."]

[Request #S10-15-5084]

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Rite of Passage: Young Adults and the Affordable Care Act of 2010. By Sara R. Collins and Jennifer L. Nicholson, The Commonwealth Fund. (The Fund, Washington, DC) May 2010. 24 p.

Full text at:

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2010/May/1404_Collins_rite_of_passage_2010_v3.pdf

["Young adults between the ages of 19 and 29 represent one of the largest segments of the uninsured. The problem is linked to critical transition points in young adults' lives: aging off parents' coverage when they graduate from either high school or college, and losing eligibility for public programs like Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program when they turn 19. Health reform, however, has the potential to cover millions of uninsured young people. This issue brief describes critical provisions in the new law that will help, including the ability to enroll in a parent's health plan up to age 26 beginning in September 2010; significant expansion in eligibility for Medicaid, beginning in 2014; and the creation of state or regional health insurance exchanges with subsidized private insurance for people with low and moderate incomes, also beginning in 2014."]

[Request #S10-15-4966]

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Even When Physicians Adopt E-Prescribing, Use of Advanced Features Lags. By Joy M. Grossman, Center for Studying Health System Change. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2010. 5 p.

Full text at: <http://www.hschange.org/CONTENT/1133/1133.pdf>

["Physician practice adoption of electronic prescribing has not guaranteed that individual physicians will routinely use the technology, particularly the more advanced features the federal government is promoting with financial incentives. Slightly more than two in five physicians providing office-based ambulatory care reported that information technology was available in their practice to write prescriptions in 2008. Among physicians with e-prescribing capabilities, about a quarter used the technology only occasionally or not at all. Physicians in practices using electronic medical records exclusively were much more likely to report routine use of e-prescribing than physicians with stand-alone e-prescribing systems. Other gaps in adoption and routine use of e-prescribing also exist, most notably between physicians in larger and smaller practices."]

[Request #S10-15-5083]

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HOUSING

FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

Veterans Affairs: Opportunities Exist to Improve Potential Recipients' Awareness of the Temporary Residence Adaptation Grant. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-786. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2010. 29 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10786.pdf>

["Adaptive housing assistance grants help eligible service members or veterans adapt or modify a residence to accommodate disabilities sustained through military service. The Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 authorized the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to expand its existing adaptive housing assistance grants to include eligible individuals temporarily living in a home owned by a family member, known as Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) grants. The act also mandated GAO to issue interim and final reports on VA's implementation of TRA. This final report examines (1) the characteristics of TRA grants and grantees and (2) what accounts for low utilization of the program and how to ensure that the program serves its intended recipients."]

[Request #S10-15-5092]

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HOUSING

The State of the Nation's Housing. By the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. (The Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts) 2010. 44 p.

Full text at: <http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/markets/son2010/son2010.pdf>

[“Even as the worst housing market correction in more than 60 years appeared to turn a corner in 2009, the fallout from sharply lower home prices and high unemployment continued. By year’s end, about one in seven homeowners owed more on their mortgages than their homes were worth, seriously delinquent loans were at record highs, and foreclosures exceeded two million. Meanwhile, the share of households spending more than half their incomes on housing was poised to reach new heights as incomes slid. The strength of job growth is now key to how quickly loan distress subsides and how fully housing markets recover.... As job growth resumes household growth should pick up and help spur increased new construction and sales.”]

[Request #S10-15-5017]

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RENTAL HOUSING

Staying Home: The Rights of Renters Living in Foreclosed Properties. By the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 2010. 72 p.

Full text at: http://www.nlchp.org/content/pubs/StayingHomeReport_June2010.pdf

["The foreclosure crisis has not only affected homeowners, but also renters living in foreclosed properties. According to 2009 estimates by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, 40 percent of families facing eviction due to foreclosure are renters, and 7 million households living on very low incomes (31-50 percent of Area Median Income) are at risk of foreclosure.... In May 2009, the federal government enacted the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 (PTFA).... This report summarizes the results of a 50-state survey of state law since enactment of the PTFA.... In addition, the report summarizes and assesses implementation of and compliance with the PTFA to date. It concludes that despite the new law, many tenants across the country are still being ordered to vacate their homes with little notice once the property enters foreclosure."]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Trauma Faced by Children of Military Families: What Every Policymaker Should Know. By Fianna Sogomonyan and Janice L. Cooper, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) May 2010. 12 p.

Full text at: http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_938.pdf

[“Active duty military personnel and National Guard and reservists experience multiple deployments as a result of the conflicts that comprise the War on Terror. A large body of research has accumulated on the behavioral health problems faced by military personnel as a result of these conflicts. After nearly a decade of war, a growing area of research shows the negative impact on children, youth and families of U.S. military personnel. Children of military families often experience multiple stressors before and during their parent’s deployment and when they come home. Without appropriate mental health support systems, children of military personnel may be at a significant disadvantage compared with their peers in non-military families.”]

[Request #S10-15-4977]

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ELDERLY

California’s Senior Centers: Preparing for the Boomer Wave: Final Report. By the Congress of California Seniors. (The Congress, Sacramento, California) June 2010. 44 p.

Full text at: http://www.seniors.org/goDocUserFiles/2233.27497_CCS%20Lores.pdf

["In 2009, CCS joined in collaboration with the California Commission on Aging and senior center association members to conduct a survey of the state’s senior centers. This report summarizes the results of this senior center survey... The report is organized into seven sections which mirror the areas of inquiry in the survey. The first several sections are descriptive to give policymakers a clear picture of California’s senior centers at the end of the decade. The final four sections describe areas of need and suggest ways that the state could promote better community services and facilities for millions of people who will spend their golden years in the Golden State."]

[Request #S10-15-5094]

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HOMELESS

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. By the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (The Council, Washington, DC) June 2010. 74 p.

Full text at:

http://www.usich.gov/PDF/OpeningDoors_2010_FSPPpreventEndHomeless.pdf

[“The plan lays out the most comprehensive strategy on the subject in decades, ordering more than a dozen federal departments to attack the crisis through new funding and realignment of programs in education, labor, housing, mental illness, substance abuse and shelter. Its lofty goals are to end chronic homelessness in five years, end it among veterans in five years, and among families, youths and children in 10 years. The key differences between the Obama administration's plan and those proposed by the Bush administration are that the new blueprint has the federal government firmly taking the lead on reducing homelessness, and it expands the focus to all segments of the homeless population.... One thing every agency agrees upon is that family homelessness has been rising since the recession began.” San Francisco Chronicle (July 11, 2010) C1.]

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YOUTH

Relationships Beget Relationships: Why Understanding Attachment Theory is Crucial to Program Design for Homeless Youth. By Toni Vaughn Heineman, A Home Within. (California Homeless Youth Project, Sacramento, California) June 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/HYP-Report.pdf>

[“Without adults to help, support and protect them, these young people often live a grim, frightening, and dangerous existence. Why then, don’t they come to recognize that they need help from adults? Why do some seem unwilling to accept our offers of food and shelter? Why do some fail to take advantage of the programs we create to help them improve their health, education, and general well being?... Attachment theory, with its descriptions of different relational styles, may offer useful insights into these questions and point us toward answers that will help us develop policies and programs to successfully address the needs of homeless youth. At its most basic, attachment theory simply describes the ways in which young children relate to their caregivers -- demonstrating that they are either securely or insecurely attached.”]

[Request #S10-15-5093]

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TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

The National Bicycling and Walking Study: 15-Year Status Report. By the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. (The Center, Chapel Hill, North Carolina) May 2010. 24 p.

Full text at: http://drusilla.hsrc.unc.edu/cms/downloads/15-year_report.pdf

["In the 15 years since the publication of the National Bicycling and Walking Study, support for bicycling and walking has increased at the local, State, and Federal levels... Progress has been made toward the two national goals of increasing nonmotorized activity while also decreasing injuries and fatalities. While the percentage of bicycling and walking trips has not doubled since 1994, available data have shown that increases have occurred. Other studies have indicated that substantial increases in investment in these modes, along with more comprehensive and robust methods for data collection, will provide further support for bicycling and walking in the United States."]

[Request #S10-15-4999]

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

A Guidebook for Corridor-Based Statewide Transportation Planning. By John L. Carr, Wilbur Smith Associates, and others. (Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC) July 2010. 78 p.

Full text at: http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_661.pdf

["This guidebook provides a template for corridor planning that will assist states to better understand the implications of transportation decisions on mobility, communities, economic development, and environmental stewardship. The template can be a useful tool to help states program funds to meet identified needs and priorities. It should be of immediate use to transportation decision makers, managers, and planning practitioners involved in the preparation of statewide transportation plans and priority programs.... Statewide corridor planning can be an effective method to (1) understand the relationship between modes of transportation, (2) evaluate transportation system performance, (3) generate innovative solutions to transportation problems, and (4) aid in preparing an effective statewide transportation plan."]

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