January 1911  “Harry Stephen Harkness, the young millionaire who has plunged the local colony of youthful millionaires into a cloud of green envy, is not through. He proposes to inaugurate the first aero-bus ever operated in California, if not the world. He proposes to assemble his three Antoinette monoplanes at Dominguez field immediately upon their arrival and plunge into the business of taking people, who yearn for ascension, up into the air at so much per head. The modest sum of $50 per ride is to be charged the envious young millionaires…. There is only one fly in his amber. He has always been gallant to the young ladies and now he is wrestling with the problem as to whether he can ask a confiding young thing to plank down fifty pieces of silver before she steps into his monoplane.” Los Angeles Times (January 18, 1911) p. III1.

January 1911  “’How about double umpires in baseball, Tip.’ ‘Don’t care for any in mine’ replied Tip O’Neill, the handsome president of the Western League, yesterday in a fanning bee. ‘Wouldn’t want them in any league then, even in close games?’ ‘No, for the home team would be liable to get the worst of things. You see, every umpire that has any sense has got to favor the home team in order to save his skin…. You see, an umpire must use a lot of judgment at all times and a man that does not is not a real one… Some umps get in wrong because they try to be too exact and perfect on every play and this cannot be done…. Few games played in the country have double umpires. No minor leagues that I know of uses them and the big leagues only when there are important games on.’” Los Angeles Times (January 20, 1911.) p. III2.

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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

EX-OFFENDERS


"We use Bureau of Justice Statistics data to estimate that, in 2008, the United States had between 12 and 14 million ex-offenders of working age. Because a prison record or felony conviction greatly lowers ex-offenders’ prospects in the labor market, we estimate that this large population lowered the total male employment rate that year by 1.5 to 1.7 percentage points. In GDP terms, these reductions in employment cost the U.S. economy between $57 and $65 billion in lost output."

[Request #S11-1-5426]

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GANGS


"This report documents the first 15-month period of the Los Angeles Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) program evaluation. GRYD is a gang prevention and intervention program that was implemented in 2008-2009 in 16 Los Angeles neighborhoods. This document reviews the GRYD program's origins, initial implementation, and the evolving development of GRYD practices and procedures in 12 of the neighborhoods. The report presents the original program evaluation design and methodology, evaluation challenges and delays, evaluation activities, and proposed next steps. Initial findings include encouraging results from a pilot retest of youth who received GRYD services."

[Request #S11-1-5425]

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PRISONER REENTRY


Full text at: http://www.mdrc.org/publications/570/overview.html

"Transitional jobs are seen as a promising model for former prisoners and for other disadvantaged groups. More than 1,800 men who had recently been released from prison were assigned, at random, to a transitional jobs program or to a program providing basic job search (JS) assistance but no subsidized jobs. .... This is the first major report in the TJRD project. It describes how the demonstration was implemented and assesses how the transitional jobs programs affected employment and recidivism during the first year after people entered the project.... The TJ group was much more likely to work than the JS group early on, but the difference between groups faded as men left the transitional jobs; overall, the TJ group was no more likely to work in an unsubsidized job than the JS group."

[Request #S11-1-5354]

PRISONS


"The United States incarcerates almost 25% of the world’s prisoners yet has only 5% of the world’s population.... Incarceration is a huge industry in the United States. About $69 billion is being spent each year on the correctional system. What many have called the prison industrial complex represents an interconnection among the prison system, the political system and the economic system.... A deeper understanding of this requires some discussion of the ‘free market’ and the drive for profits within a capitalist economic system.... Whether or not privatization of prisons continues (and there are some serious doubts that this trend will continue), prisons and jails will continue to operate, which will still guarantee steady employment for a large workforce, plus continuous profits for those businesses that provide various goods and services."

[Request #S11-1-5430]
CULTURE AND SOCIETY

LATINOS


["By their own reckoning, Latinos living in the United States do not have a national leader. When asked in an open-ended question to name the person they consider 'the most important Latino leader in the country today, nearly two-thirds (64%) of Latino respondents said they did not know. An additional 10% said 'no one.' The most frequently named individual was Sonia Sotomayor, appointed last year to the U.S. Supreme Court. Some 7% of respondents said she is the most important Latino leader in the country. U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) of Chicago is next at 5%. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa draws 3%, and Jorge Ramos, an anchor on Noticiero Univision, the national evening news program on the Spanish-language television network Univision, drew 2%."]

[Request #S11-1-5431]

PRIVACY


["Signaling a sea change in the debate over Internet privacy, the government’s top consumer protection agency advocated a plan that would let consumers choose whether they want their Internet browsing and buying habits monitored. Saying that online companies have failed to protect the privacy of Internet users, the Federal Trade Commission recommended a broad framework for commercial use of Web consumer data, including a simple and universal ‘do not track’ mechanism…. The commission will probably need the help of Congress to enact some of its recommendations. For now, the trade commission hopes to adopt an approach that it calls 'privacy by design,' where companies are required to build protections into their everyday business practices." New York Times (December 1, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S11-1-5432]

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


"Jobs at clean-tech or alternative-energy companies have flourished in California, with nearly a quarter of them based in Los Angeles. Employers offering jobs in fields such as solar-power generation, electric-vehicle development and environmental consultation added 5,000 jobs in 2008, the latest data available. In all, about 174,000 Californians were working in eco-friendly fields by early 2009, compared with just 111,000 in 1995.... The so-called green workforce expanded 3% from January 2008 to January 2009 -- three times the growth of overall employment around the state. Standouts include the energy-generation sector, which includes renewable-energy efforts such as wind and hydropower." Los Angeles Times (January 19, 2011) 1. ][Request #S11-1-5352]

Green Innovation Index. 72 p.  
http://nextten.org/next10/publications/greenInnovation10.html

Many Shades of Green. 40 p.  

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ECONOMIC POLICY


Full text at: http://www.kauffman.org/uploadedFiles/etf_study_11-8-10.pdf

"A strong, sustained recovery will require the formation and growth of new scale companies. These companies, in turn, often require access to equity capital as they grow. Traditionally, this has best been accomplished by the floating of shares in an initial public offering. IPOs have been down substantially over the past decade.... But a far more important, and heretofore unrecognized, deterrent to growth company IPOs is the proliferation of new indexed securities -- derivatives essentially. Initially, these products took the form of mutual funds; now they are increasingly represented as "exchange-traded funds" or ETFs. We show here that ETFs are radically changing the markets, to the point where they, and not the
trading of the underlying securities, are effectively setting the prices of stocks of smaller capitalization companies."

FILM INDUSTRY


Full text at: http://www.cbpp.org/files/11-17-10sfp.pdf

"Like a Hollywood fantasy, claims that tax subsidies for film and TV productions -- which nearly every state has adopted in recent years -- are cost-effective tools of job and income creation are more fiction than fact. In the harsh light of reality, film subsidies offer little bang for the buck. State film subsidies are costly to states and generous to movie producers. Subsidies reward companies for production that they might have done anyway. The best jobs go to non-residents. Subsidies don’t pay for themselves. No state can 'win' the film subsidy war. Supporters of subsidies rely on flawed studies.... State governments cannot afford to fritter away scarce public funds on film subsidies, or, for that matter, any other wasteful tax break. On the contrary, policymakers should broaden the base of their taxes to create a fairer and more neutral tax system." 

SAVINGS & PENSIONS


Full text at: http://assets.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Boshara_SavingsOverLifeCourse_11_10_0.pdf

"This paper argues that public policies to promote savings and asset building should be conceptualized and advanced with a 'life course' perspective. The paper demonstrates a growing consensus towards this approach and presents relevant data as well as ‘asset effects’ research in support of this perspective. The paper also presents a series of principles and two policy frameworks -- behavioral economics and institutional models -- to guide policy design over the life course. The paper continues with describing the key moments in our financial lives to build savings and assets, as well as those asset building measures that occur throughout a lifetime. Policy options for purchasing key assets and promoting those asset measures are then presented in accordance with these key and ongoing moments in our lives."
SMALL BUSINESS


["The Commission found that U.S. exporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) outperform their nonexporting SME counterparts by several measures. Whether they deal in services or manufacturing, exporting SMEs show higher total revenues, faster total revenue growth, and higher labor productivity than their nonexporting SME counterparts…. Trade barriers, including both tariffs and nontariff measures, disproportionately affect SMEs relative to large firms, as do many business impediments, such as high transportation costs…. The Commission estimates that SMEs contribute a substantially higher share of the value-added content embedded in exports than suggested by traditional trade statistics"] [Request #S11-1-5391]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE


["The largest public education reform program of its kind, California’s Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) of 2006 is making sustained progress in helping at-risk students succeed in the classroom after two full years of implementation…. Providing extra state funding for proven reforms like smaller class sizes at lower-performing schools, QEIA and its emphasis on collaboration among educators, parents and principals is helping to make strong academic gains despite challenges from student poverty, diversity and language…. For the 2009-10 school year alone, QEIA schools, on average, experienced nearly 50 percent higher growth on the California Academic Performance Index (API) than similar, non-QEIA schools. Also, the report shows QEIA is helping to close student achievement gaps."] [Request #S11-1-5404]

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CHARTER SCHOOLS


["By establishing an alternative authorizer at the state level, local districts that do not have the capacity or do not want the responsibility of authorizing or overseeing charter schools could opt out of the authorizing role, eliminating the forced relationship that currently exists. Charter school petitioners facing school boards hostile to charter schools would have another option for approval beyond the current appellate process. The existence of an alternative authorizer at the state level might coax local boards into improving charter school authorization and oversight or risk losing control as charter school petitioners would have a new option of going directly to a statewide charter board. A state level charter school board could develop best practices and provide technical assistance to local boards."]

[Request #S11-1-5397]

COMMUNITY COLLEGES


["A nonprofit association that supports California's community colleges is calling on the colleges to educate more students and close the gaps in performance among demographic groups. The state's community colleges should educate 1 million more students by 2020 -- and assure that they earn degrees or certificates.... 'This report does not call for dramatic new state investment,' Scott Lay, president of the Community College League of California, said in a statement. 'In fact, it can be implemented even during these awful budget times. We must think different, realize our student body is dramatically different than it was 50 years ago, and focus on evidence-based solutions.'" Sacramento Bee (November 18, 2010) 2B.]

[Request #S11-1-5398]
EDUCATION POLICY


"Throwing money at education does not seem to do much good, at least in those countries that already send all their young people to school. America, for example, increased its spending on schools by 21% between 2000 and 2007. Yet in this period standards slipped.... At the very top of the global educational league -- where only a handful of countries or systems within them manage to attain really high standards -- decentralisation is the name of the game. The authorities hand over control to teachers, most of whom are highly educated and motivated, so they can learn from each other and follow the best practices. When it comes to getting the very best grades, it seems the teacher still know best." The Economist (November 27, 2010) p. 68

EMPLOYMENT

LABOR UNIONS


Full text at: http://www.fesdc.org/pdf/Perspective%20USA%201-2010%20American%20Unions_engl.pdf

"The U.S. labor movement confronts an existential threat of extinction. This has been largely due to the loss of members in key industries and their inability to secure comprehensive labor reform laws that would help them grow. The unionized share of the workforce today is down to 12 percent, and a scant 7 percent of private-sector workers are union members. For the first time in American history, the number of unionized public-sector workers now exceeds that of unionized private-sector employees. Changes at the leadership level of the two big U.S. union federations and transnational organizing efforts are small signs of hope. However, the survival of the U.S. labor movement is by no means guaranteed."

[Request #S11-1-5358]
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS


"California's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program became insolvent in 2009, ending that year with a shortfall of $6.2 billion. Absent corrective action, the fund deficit is projected to increase to approximately $20 billion at the end of 2011.... The Legislature essentially has three main choices for returning the UI fund to solvency: (1) reducing benefit payments, (2) increasing employer tax contributions, or (3) adopting some combination of the previous two options. To assist the Legislature we examined multiple scenarios for achieving solvency and found that: Decreasing UI benefits alone cannot address the fund insolvency in the near future. Options involving UI tax increases could quickly improve the fund condition. Employer tax increases could hurt California’s competitiveness. The UI financing structure is not sufficiently robust."

[Request #S11-1-5359]

WOMEN


"This report lays out the economic landscape facing women today and details some of the many ways the Administration is committed to making sure the government is working for all Americans and especially American women. Women are a growing share of our workforce, our entrepreneurs, and our innovators. An increasing number of women are breadwinners for their families. Since women are nearly 50 percent of the workforce, the recession’s economic impacts on women are even more consequential for the economy than they would have been in the recessions of the last century. Women face a number of longer-term challenges such as the gender wage gap and female underrepresentation in higher levels of management."

[Request #S11-1-5360]

Full text at: http://www.gsm.ucdavis.edu/census/

"["The glass ceiling shows few signs of cracking inside California's largest corporations, with women in just one of every 10 top executive positions…. Throughout the study's history, the number of women in California who enjoy a view from the corner office or sit at the boardroom table has barely budged. More than two-thirds -- 68.3 percent -- of California's 400 largest companies have no women among the highest-paid executives. That includes six of the 11 California companies in the Fortune 100, firms such as Apple, Intel and Wells Fargo. Nearly 46 percent of the firms have no woman director, including some of California's most recognizable companies, from Activision Blizzard Inc. to Gap to Netflix and Wet Seal. Only 4 percent of the companies have a woman chief executive officer." Sacramento Bee (December 3, 2010) 1.

[Request #S11-1-5439] [Back to Top]

ENERGY

ELECTRIC VEHICLES


"["An alliance of automakers, utilities, regulators and clean-air advocates released an ambitious plan to make California a national leader in accommodating electric vehicles by making charging terminals available in thousands of homes, office buildings, shopping malls and other sites within the next decade…. The plan outlines steps to get charging stations easily installed at homes and then in high-traffic public areas and apartment buildings. The plan recommends making installation of home charging stations affordable by offering rebates from the state and regional air quality districts. To further lower costs, the state could reduce registration fees for battery-powered cars, and utilities could offer cheaper charging rates during off-peak hours when there is less demand on the electric grid." San Jose Mercury News (December 13, 2010) 1.

[Request #S11-1-5442] [Back to Top]
ENERGY POLICY


"While the clean energy sector has tremendous growth potential, it can progress only if federal and state governments are willing to establish policies that will encourage commercialization and scale of energy innovation.... The report identifies five major policy strategies to accelerate the scaling of U.S. clean energy businesses; foster interstate cooperation; reduce market uncertainty; democratize access to the power grid; encourage inter-agency and cross-sector collaboration; and support human capital development."[Request #S11-1-5441]

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

GREEN HOUSE GASES


"The state took a major step toward the development of a low-carbon economy by approving a cap on the amount of greenhouse gas emissions by refiners, utilities and other energy companies. The cap-and-trade system, which will begin operating in January 2012, is a key component of the state's landmark climate change law, which aims to reduce carbon emissions to 1990's level by 2020.... The agency won't charge for allowances in the beginning but will put a price on them in the future.... The nation's largest cap-and-trade system for lowering greenhouse gas emissions is dizzyingly complex and still incomplete. It treats different industries in different ways. And the board hasn't ironed out some key details that will govern how businesses participate." Sacramento Bee (December 17, 2010) A4.[Request #S11-1-5454]

Initial Statement of Reasons. 472 p

Cap-and-trade resolution. 16 p.
http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/capandtrade.htm [Back to Top]
OCEAN RESOURCES

California Fish and Game Commission Gives Final Approval for South Coast Marine Protected Areas: Press Release. By the California Department of Fish and Game. (The Department, Sacramento, California) December 15, 2010. 1 p.


"More than 350 square miles of ocean from Point Conception to the U.S.-Mexico border -- about 15% of the Southern California coast -- will be protected under a network of marine reserves narrowly approved by state wildlife officials. The 3-2 vote by the California Fish and Game Commission bans or restricts fishing in 49 protected marine areas designed to replenish depleted fish populations and protect marine life.... The vote was the final approval after two years of contentious negotiations between conservation groups pushing for strict curbs on fishing to preserve marine habitat and recreational anglers and commercial fishing groups wary of losing territory."[Request #S11-1-5459]

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES


"More than half of the world's people now live in cities. In the United States, the figure is 80 percent. It is worthwhile to consider how this trend of increased urbanization, if inevitable, could be made more sustainable. One fundamental shortcoming of urban research and programs is that they sometimes fail to recognize urban areas as systems. Current institutions and actors are not accustomed to exploring human-environment interactions, particularly at an urban-scale. The fact is that these issues involve complex interactions, many of which are not yet fully understood. Thus a key challenge for the 21st century is this: How can we develop sustainable urban systems that provide healthy, safe and affordable environments for the growing number of Americans living in cities and their surrounding metropolitan areas?"[Request #S11-1-5460]

Book. 120 p.
http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12969#description

Summary. 17 p.
http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12969&type=pdfxsum
WATER QUALITY


Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL32201_20101028.pdf

["Congressional action to designate funds within appropriations legislation for specified projects or locations has been increasing in recent years as a way to help communities meet needs to build and upgrade water infrastructure systems, whose estimated future funding needs exceed $630 billion. Such legislative action has often been popularly referred to as earmarking. This report discusses appropriations for water infrastructure programs of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), focusing on such designations in the account that funds these programs. Information on the programmatic history of EPA involvement in assisting wastewater treatment and drinking water projects is provided in two appendixes."]

[Request #S11-1-5458]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT FINANCE


Full text at: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/120xx/doc12005/12-09-Municipalities_Brief.pdf

["Local governments -- including counties, cities, towns, school districts, and special districts -- play a significant role in people's lives and in the nation's economy. In 2009, the expenditures of local governments equaled 8.7 percent of gross domestic product, and those governments employed just over 9 percent of the labor force. That year, local governments as a group cut their spending in real (inflation-adjusted) terms. This year and in upcoming years, they expect to constrain spending and services -- primarily because of reductions in state aid and falling revenues. In particular, revenues from property taxes are poised to decline to reflect lower property values. To the extent that local governments address budget gaps by reducing spending or raising taxes, such changes will partially counteract the federal government's fiscal support for the economy."]

[Request #S11-1-5447]

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"Water is a linchpin of the U.S. economy, but its availability is being tested like never before.... These trends have enormous implications for the thousands of public utilities -- utilities managed by municipalities and counties -- that supply water and electricity to households and businesses across the country. Water utilities generate revenue through the delivery of water to their commercial and residential customers.... Municipal bonds -- the debt instrument of choice for public utilities -- are bought and sold on the basis of their credit ratings. Yet today these ratings take little account of utilities’ vulnerability to increased water competition, nor do they account for climate change, which in many areas is rendering utility assets obsolete. Consequently, investors are blindly placing bets on which utilities are positioned to manage these growing risks."

[PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS]

Addressing California’s Pension Shortfalls: The Role of Demographics in Designing Solutions. By Perry Wong and I-Ling Shen, the Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) October 19, 2010. 31 p.


"Dramatic changes are needed to cope with demographic trends and funding shortfalls.... 'We're talking about a perfect storm: more state services needed for an aging population, a workforce that will spend more years in retirement than they did contributing to the funds, and a smaller ratio of working-age taxpayers and contributing state workers to pay for it all,' said Perry Wong.... From 2000 to 2050, the number of seniors in California will triple, to 11.6 million in 2050. Seniors will account for about 20% of Californians in 2050, up from 11% now. To deal with these rising costs, the state needs to raise the retirement age and increase employee contributions, the report recommends. It also will need to switch to a hybrid plan, in which a portion of the benefit is subject to market risk while a portion is guaranteed." Los Angeles Times (October 19, 2010) 1.

[Request #S11-1-5371]
STATE FINANCES

The Electoral Consequences of Large Fiscal Adjustments. By Alberto Alesina, Harvard University, and others. (The Authors, Cambridge, Massachusetts) October 2010. 32 p.

Full text at: http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/alesina/files/Electoral%2BConseq%2Bof%2BLge%2BFiscal%2BAdjust.pdf

"The idea that imposing austerity is political hara-kiri is widely held. But a new paper... finds little historical support for it.... The results of the paper suggest that cash-strapped governments ought not worry about losing office as much as received wisdom might have it. There might be riots in the streets and strikes, but the electorate may take a grown-up view of fiscal consolidation, particularly if it is concentrated on spending rather than tax increases.... The authors suggest that a failure to tackle budget problems is far likelier when governments are beholden to interest groups, such as industries that benefit from tax breaks, or homeowners, or those on pensions, rather than the voting public at large." The Economist (December 4, 2010) p. 98.

[Request #S11-1-5423]

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HEALTH

ASTHMA


"Asthma is on the rise in California, and the low-income tend to bear the greatest burden from the condition. Since 2001, the percent of Californians diagnosed with asthma has increased from 11.3 percent to 13 percent. Asthma is most common in Central Valley and in Northern California counties, and least common in wealthy and coastal San Francisco. The report found that asthma tends to be harder on people whose family income fell under about $41,300 for a family of four.... To address these problems, the study's authors suggest an expansion of health coverage to low-income Californians. They also suggest that asthma might be better stabilized with high-quality care that involves disease management programs or a 'medical home' model." California Watch (December 17, 2010) 1.

[Request #S11-1-5415]

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AUTISM


Full text at: [autism article](http://autism article)

"Children born to mothers who live close to freeways have twice the risk of autism. The study, its authors say, adds to evidence suggesting that certain environmental exposures could play a role in causing the disorder in some children. 'This study isn't saying exposure to air pollution or exposure to traffic causes autism,' said Heather Volk, 'but it could be one of the factors that are contributing to its increase.'... Children living about 1,000 feet from a freeway at birth -- about 10% of the sample -- had a two-fold increase in autism risk. The link held up even after researchers controlled for other factors that may influence development, such as ethnicity, parental education, maternal age and exposure to tobacco smoke" Los Angeles Times (December 16, 2010) 1.

[Request #S11-1-5414]

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MENTAL HEALTH


Full text at:

"Living with the stress of a marginalized identity has clear and negative effects on the mental health of LGBT youth. They are consistently reported as having higher rates of depression and anxiety than their non-LGBT peers. Even more troubling, studies have demonstrated that these young adults are more likely than non-LGBT teenagers to engage in self-harm, have suicidal thoughts, and attempt suicide…. A new California law eliminates the third requirement for accessing treatment, allowing LGBT minors who are not yet in serious danger to receive outpatient mental care. This shift in policy is tremendously important; instead of focusing on crisis management once a mental health situation has already become life threatening, the new law emphasizes prevention and early detection, which are more effective and less costly for health care providers."

[Request #S11-1-5421]

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Full text at: physical activity article

["Mounting research has suggested linkages between neighborhood safety, community design, and transportation patterns and eating and activity behaviors and health outcomes. On the basis of a review of evaluation findings from 3 multisite healthy eating and activity initiatives in California, we provide an overview of 3 community process strategies -- engaging local advocates, linking safety to health, and collaborating with local government officials -- that may be associated with the successful development and implementation of long-term community-improvement efforts and should be explored further."] [Request #S11-1-5411]

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["What if there were a new economic engine for the U.S. that would put our people back to work without putting the government deeper in debt?... The potential for just such an economic renaissance is a lot more plausible than many would imagine. At the heart of this opportunity are the underappreciated implications of a massive demographic convergence. In short, the two largest demographic groups in the country, the baby boomers and their children -- together comprising half the population -- want homes and commercial space in neighborhoods that do not exist in anywhere near sufficient quantity. Fixing this market failure, unleashing this latent demand, and using it to put America back to work could be accomplished without resorting to debt-building stimulus or layoff-inducing austerity."] [Request #S11-1-5448]
REAL ESTATE LOANS


Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/11/walk_the_talk.html

"Foreclosure mediation achieves two things simultaneously. It is the last line in foreclosure prevention where all the parties can settle upon a loan modification that is both sustainable for the homeowner and nets the mortgage servicing company greater value than it can expect from selling the home in foreclosure. And foreclosure mediation also is the first line of speeding up the foreclosure process for those homeowners who simply cannot make their mortgage payments even if modifications were made. This paper explains how best to structure a foreclosure mediation program. We favor automatic foreclosure mediation, in which mediation is scheduled automatically at the start of the foreclosure process instead of waiting for a party to request it."]


"GAO found that most of the servicers interviewed were not always obtaining updated property valuations before initiating foreclosure. Fewer abandoned foreclosures would likely occur if servicers were required to obtain updated valuations for lower-value properties.... GAO identified various actions that local governments or others are taking to reduce the likelihood or mitigate the impacts of abandoned foreclosures. Increased counseling could prevent some borrowers from vacating their homes too early.... By creating entities called land banks that can acquire properties from servicers that they otherwise cannot sell, some communities have provided increased incentives for servicers to complete instead of abandon foreclosures."

[Request #S11-1-5449]

Full text at: funding permanency services

"States and localities can be creative in using available dollars even in times of fiscal constraint, and they can do this now. Without broad child welfare funding reform at the federal level, states and localities can still marshal resources to keep children safe at home, place them in family- and community-based care settings when needed, achieve permanence for children and youth, and provide support to help reunified, guardianship, and adoptive families remain safely together. They can enhance their capacity to maximize available federal dollars and to reinvest state and local general fund dollars, freed up through this process, into preventive and intervention services."

[Request #S11-1-5420]

FAMILIES


"The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, a nationally representative survey of births in large cities, has shown that unwed parents have a host of characteristics that complicate getting good jobs, forming stable families, and performing successfully as parents. Within five years after the birth, a third of children born to unmarried parents see their father less than once a month, 55 percent of mothers have formed new relationships, and children are already showing problems in test performance and behavior. We recommend policies to support single parents, to prevent unwed births, to reduce the number of young men given long prison sentences, and to fund at least some federal demonstration programs that provide marriage education and services to these young couples."

[Request #S11-1-5416]

Article. 8 p.

FOOD STAMPS


"California is missing out on nearly $4.9 billion in federal nutrition benefits, because more than 3.6 million eligible, low-income residents are not participating in the food stamp program. Food stamp usage has grown rapidly since the recession. Still, fewer than half of eligible Californians participate in the federal food stamp program. If every eligible participant enrolled in CalFresh, the state would net an additional $4.85 billion in federal funding.... The USDA says that every dollar in food assistance generates $1.79 in economic activity. For California, enrolling all eligible individuals would yield nearly $8.7 billion in economic activity. Nutrition benefits -- funded entirely by the federal government, which also shares 50 percent of the program's administrative costs -- would also benefit state and county coffers." California Watch (November 19, 2010) 1.

SNAP participation rates. 8 p
http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/SNAP/FILES/Participation/Reachin

Lost Dollars, Empty Plates. 42 p.

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VETERANS


"Home For Good is a blueprint to end chronic and veteran homelessness in L.A. County by building the most efficient and effective system in our region’s history. It’s a plan meant not simply to put an end to someone’s life on the streets. Rather, it is designed to provide homes as a means to an individual’s vital integration into our communities.... This approach is cost-effective because it drastically reduces individuals’ stay in shelter or on the streets. By focusing resources on rapid access to permanent housing with supportive services provided after housing, the system can permanently house more people for the same cost, with higher rates of retention and success in housing."

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Full text at: http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/display_asset/tod203corridors#Leads\Transportation\Transit Corridors and TOD.doc

"All scales of planning for TOD are important, but planning at the corridor level can be a more efficient way to achieve the benefits of TOD at all stations along the corridor. Corridor planning typically begins when a new transit investment is proposed. Corridor planning is a cost-effective planning process, especially when multiple stations along a corridor face similar challenges and opportunities. The corridor is also the best scale at which to predict the long-range impacts of transit on the market for new development, on commuter travel behavior, and on where the potential for displacement of low-income residents may be greatest. Corridor planning also presents an enormous opportunity to engage stakeholders early in the process."

[Request #S11-1-5461]


Full text at: http://dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/orip/Collaborative%20Planning/Forms/CARegional Progress_12-8-2010.pdf

[“The report presents a framework for measuring sustainability based on twenty integrated, place-based quality-of-life regional indicators. Regional-scale issues such as air quality, housing affordability, vehicle miles traveled and electricity use form the basis for assessing the combined impact of regional outcomes on the state's sustainability. Data needs are highlighted for important regional-scale indicators that currently lack widespread or accurate measurement, including tracking new development, combined housing and transportation costs, and equity. The report calls for dialogue among state, regional, and local governments to share strategies, address disparities, define sustainability, and improve sustainability measurement.”]
TRAFFIC CONGESTION


Full text at: http://www.ceosforcities.org/work/driven-apart

"A new analysis finds that congestion has much more to do with how we build our cities than how we build our roads. The report reveals the inaccurate assumptions that have directed transportation spending to building more highways and roads rather than creating more compact development. The report closely re-examines the accepted metrics used to measure traffic systems -- long perpetuated by the Urban Mobility Report (UMR) -- that overlook travel distances, exaggerate travel delays, and inaccurately estimate travel speeds. The UMR’s reliance on inaccurate metrics has led to spending that universally rewards cities that are spread out as opposed to compact urban areas. The report correctly focuses on trip distances and total travel times as the real indicators of how we measure congestion." CNT review (September 29, 2010) 1.

[Request #S11-1-5462]