

## **Studies in the News**

California Research Bureau, California State Library

---

Periodically, CRB will publish supplemental issues of *Studies in the News* that will include important studies and reports we were unable to include in our regular issues. This supplement contains studies and other reports gathered through December 2011.

Contents this edition:

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- Screen offenders for greater efficiency
- The economic value of preventing violence
- Public defenders: advantages over appointed counsel

### **CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

- News media platforms favored by consumers

### **DEMOGRAPHY**

- Recession affects employee trust funds
- Poll: voters and ballot propositions
- Dramatic growth of income segregation
- Non-wage compensation in the public & private sectors

### **ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT**

- Survey: fiscal condition of cities
- Legalizing immigrants has economic benefits
- UI extensions do not affect employment rates
- Fringe benefits in public vs. private sectors

### **EDUCATION**

- CA K-12 education standards considered rigorous
- Student grant aid increases
- States adopt anti-bullying measures
- School funding at or below 2008 levels in most states
- Trends in high school dropout rates

### **ENERGY**

- Increased safety in private-sector nuclear reactors
- Nuclear deregulation leads to increased efficiency

### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

- Sea level rise will cost CA beach towns
- Adaption to climate change in the Bay Delta
- Chemical industry profits, delaying government action

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

- A history and analysis of CA's initiative process

### **HEALTH**

- Teen suicidal thoughts affected by race, geography

## **HOUSING**

CA ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in nation for vacant houses  
Latinos account for half of CA's foreclosures  
Foreclosures blunt housing recovery

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

Teen birth rate, binge drinking on the decline  
Today's blue-collar jobs offer lower standard of living  
Cuts in caregiver hours could affect the disabled

## **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

High-speed rail project requires EIR

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***Sex Offender Commitment Program: Streamlining the Process for Identifying Potential Sexually Violent Predators Would Reduce Unnecessary or Duplicative Workload.*** California State Auditor, Bureau of State Audits. Jul. 2011. 40 p.

<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2010-116.pdf>

The designation sexually violent predator (SVP) is reserved for offenders who represent the highest risk to public safety because they have committed sexually violent offenses and have mental disorders. The passage of Megan's Law (Proposition 83) in 2006 quadrupled the number of offenders being referred by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (Corrections) to the Department of Mental Health for evaluation. "In response to the passage of Megan's Law, Corrections now refers *all* offenders who have committed sexually violent offenses to Mental Health for evaluation as a potential SVPs. This creates inefficiencies and duplicate work for the state. We believe that if Corrections screened offenders more closely before referring them to Mental Health, the number of Corrections' referrals might drop significantly." Streamlining the evaluation process could reduce the need to use expensive contractors for Mental Health.

***Fact Sheet: Violence and Health Equity. Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth (UNITY).*** Prevention Institute. Oct. 2011. 14 p.

<http://www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-311/127.html>

"Violence is a health equity issue, and preventing violence is an important component of achieving equity in health and in communities. Preventing violence has tremendous value, not just in saving money and lives, but also as a means to foster well-being, promote health equity, and strengthen communities." Young people of color experience a much greater level of violence and resulting poor health outcomes than their White peers. For example, "[h]omicide is the leading cause of death for African-Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaska Natives between the ages of 10 and 24, and it is the second-leading cause of death for Hispanics of the same age."

***How Much Difference Does the Lawyer Make? The Effect of Defense Counsel on Murder Case Outcomes.*** By James M. Anderson, et al. RAND. Dec. 2011. 47 p.

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/working\\_papers/2011/RAND\\_WR870.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/working_papers/2011/RAND_WR870.pdf)

"Compared to appointed counsel, public defenders in Philadelphia reduce their clients' murder conviction rate by 19% and lower the probability that their clients receive a life sentence by 62%. Public defenders reduce overall expected time served in prison by 24%." The differences may stem from the fact that "appointed counsel have comparatively few resources, face more difficult incentives, and are more isolated than public defenders. The extremely low pay reduces the pool of attorneys willing to take the appointments and makes doing preparation uneconomical.... In contrast, the public defenders' financial and institutional independence from judges, the steady salaries provided to attorneys and investigators, and the team approach they adopt avoid many of these problems. These longer-term institutional

differences lead to the more immediate cause of the difference in outcomes—less preparation on the part of appointed counsel.”

## CULTURE AND SOCIETY

***How People Learn About Their Local Community.* By Tom Rosenstiel, et al. Pew Research Center. Sept. 2011. 81 p.**

<http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2011/Pew%20Knight%20Local%20News%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

“Americans turn to a wide range of platforms to get local news and information. Where they turn varies considerably depending on the subject matter and their age. Most Americans, including tech-savvy adults under age 40, use a blend of both new and traditional sources in a rich and nuanced ecosystem of community news and information. Local TV draws a mass audience largely around a few popular subjects; local newspapers attract a smaller cohort of citizens but for a wider range of civically-oriented subjects. For the 79% of Americans who are online, the internet is the first or second most relied-upon source for 15 of the 16 local topics examined.”

## DEMOGRAPHY

***State and Local Government Finances Summary: 2009.* By Jeffrey L. Barnett. U.S. Census Bureau. Oct. 2011. 11 p.**

Summary report: [http://www2.census.gov/govs/estimate/09\\_summary\\_report.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/govs/estimate/09_summary_report.pdf)

Summary table spreadsheets by state: <http://www.census.gov/govs/estimate/>

“State and local governments are facing significant financial stress from the most recent recession. The impact of economic conditions on state and local finances is most notable in insurance trust revenue and individual and corporate income tax revenue collection. Furthermore, economic stress is showcased in the dramatic increase in unemployment compensation. The market declines in 2009 had a direct impact in not only insurance trust revenues, but also cash and securities holdings, which declined sharply for employee retirement and unemployment trust funds.”

***October 2011 California Opinion Index: A Digest Summarizing California Voter Opinions About Statewide Ballot Proposition Elections.* The Field Poll. Oct. 13, 2011. 4 p.**

<http://field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/COI-11-Oct-California-Ballot-Propositions.pdf>

“While majorities of Californians have long been supportive of statewide ballot proposition elections, in recent years the strength of their support has ebbed somewhat. For example, thirty-three years ago more voters described statewide proposition elections as a good thing than a bad thing by an overwhelming 83% to 4% margin. Yet, when voters are asked about this now, the good thing/bad thing ratio is 53% to 13%, with an increasing proportion (26%) offering a mixed assessment.”

***Growth in the Residential Segregation of Families by Income, 1970-2009.* By Sean F. Reardon, et al. Stanford University. Nov. 2011. 33 p.**

<http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Report/report111111.pdf>

“From 2000 to 2007, family income segregation grew significantly in almost all metropolitan areas (in 89% of the large and moderate-sized metropolitan areas). This extends a trend over the period 1970-2000 during which income segregation grew dramatically. Income segregation among black and Hispanic families grew very sharply from 2000 to 2007. Income segregation among black and Hispanic families is now much higher than among white families.”

***Sustainable Efforts and Environmental Concerns Around the World.* Nielsen Report. Aug. 2011. 9 p.**

<http://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/reports-downloads/2011/sustainable-efforts-environmental-concerns.html> [Requires free sign-up]

“[W]hile 69% of global online consumers say they are concerned about climate change/global warming (up from 66% in 2009, but down from 72% in 2007), concern for other environmental issues are taking a higher priority in the minds of consumers and are rising with greater intensity.”

## **ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT**

***City Fiscal Conditions Survey: 2011.* By Christopher W. Hoene, et al. National League of Cities. Sept. 2011. 12 p.**

<http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/research-innovation/finance/city-fiscal-conditions-in-2011>

Local and regional economies across the country continue to face struggling housing markets, slow consumer spending and high levels of unemployment leading to declining city revenues and corresponding spending cutbacks as cities confront the persistent effects of the economic downturn. Findings from the latest annual survey include: the pace in decline of property tax revenues increased, ‘reserves’ decreased for the third year in a row as cities tapped into them to weather the effects of the downturn and cities are delaying or cancelling infrastructure projects and cutting local services – cuts that have implications for jobs and national economic recovery.

***Effects of Legal and Unauthorized Immigration on the U.S. Social Security System.* By Selçuk Eren, et al. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Working Paper No. 689. Oct. 2011. 40 p.**

[http://www.levyinstitute.org/pubs/wp\\_689.pdf](http://www.levyinstitute.org/pubs/wp_689.pdf)

As of March 2010, undocumented immigrants in the United States represented 11.2 million people, or approximately 3.7% of the total population. This paper analyzes the long-term effects of legal and unauthorized immigration on the financial viability of the US economy and Social Security and finds that legalization of undocumented immigrants has a positive effect on economic aggregates such as capital stock, output, consumption, labor productivity, and welfare. For example, a 50% legalization rate would contribute an additional \$36 billion to the US economy, with the magnitude of the effect dependent on the model's assumptions about the social insurance system and taxation.

***Unemployment Insurance and Job Search in the Great Recession.* By Jesse Rothstein. University of California, Berkeley and NBER. Brookings Fall 2011 Conference on Economic Activity. Sept. 9, 2011. 54 p.**

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/Programs/ES/BPEA/2011\\_fall\\_bpea\\_papers/2011\\_fall\\_bpea\\_conference\\_rothstein.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/Programs/ES/BPEA/2011_fall_bpea_papers/2011_fall_bpea_conference_rothstein.pdf)

This paper investigates the effect of dramatic expansions of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit durations, to as many as 99 weeks, on job search and reemployment, finding such UI extensions raised the unemployment rate by only about 0.2-0.6 percentage points, much less than is implied by previous analyses. Half or more of this effect is due to reduced labor force exit among the unemployed rather than to the changes in reemployment rates that are of greater policy concern. UI extensions, by keeping displaced workers in the labor market, may have increased the share who were later reemployed.

***Comparing Compensation: State-Local Versus Private Sector Workers.* Center for State and Local Government Excellence. Sept. 2011. 18 p.**

[http://www.slge.org/vertical/Sites/%7BA260E1DF-5AEE-459D-84C4-876EFE1E4032%7D/uploads/Comparing\\_Compensation12-082%281%29.pdf](http://www.slge.org/vertical/Sites/%7BA260E1DF-5AEE-459D-84C4-876EFE1E4032%7D/uploads/Comparing_Compensation12-082%281%29.pdf)

This report explores the differences in non-wage compensation between the public and private sectors. “[V]irtually all analysts agree that wages in the state-local sector – particularly when adjusted for the

higher education attainment of public sector workers – are lower than those in the private sector. The big debate, as will become evident, is the extent to which fringe benefits – pensions, retiree health insurance, and other amenities – offset the lower wages.”

## EDUCATION

***Lining Up: The Relationship Between the Common Core Standards and Five Sets of Comparison Standards.*** By David T. Conley, et al. Education Policy Improvement Center. 2011. 86 p.  
<https://www.epiconline.org/files/pdf/LiningUp-FullReport.pdf>

California’s current K-12 standards in the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics have significant overlap with the new Common Core Standards. Overall, California standards are considered rigorous. California standards showed more consistency with the Common Core in mathematics than ELA. Educational performance standards, including those in California, were compared for alignment on depth, breadth and cognitive difficulty.

***Trends in Student Aid 2011.*** College Board Advocacy and Policy Center. Nov. 2011. 32 p.  
[http://trends.collegeboard.org/downloads/Student\\_Aid\\_2011.pdf](http://trends.collegeboard.org/downloads/Student_Aid_2011.pdf)

New tax subsidies combined with federal loans, other grants, and work study programs added up to \$227.2 billion in student aid for the 2010-11 school year. Federal grant aid in 2000-01 was 29% of all aid, while in 2010-11, that figure increased to 46%. On the state side, in 1985-86 only 9% of state grant aid was awarded without regard for student financial need. This number has increased to 28% currently as states compete for high-achieving, and often wealthier, students. The report breaks out graduate vs. undergraduate aid and sorts by source, as well as charts the rise of grant and loan amounts in constant dollars.

***Addressing Bullying: State guidance to districts is both helpful and a missed opportunity.*** The Center for Mental Health in Schools at UCLA. Sept. 2011. 7 p.  
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/bullying.pdf>

Bullying, including cyber-bullying, in schools has received renewed attention by state legislatures and has led state education agencies (SEAs) to direct schools and districts to implement anti-bullying policies. Most SEAs approach bullying through discrete initiatives rather than use the increased attention on this issue to create integrated policies and practices. To broaden the work and impact of anti-bullying measures, SEAs need to seek out ways to embed concerns about bullying into a comprehensive learning system. Several states, including Florida and Maryland, may serve as models for a more comprehensive approach to bullying reduction.

***New School Year Brings Steep Cuts in State Funding for Schools.*** By Phil Oliff, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Oct. 2011. 16 p.  
<http://www.cbpp.org/files/9-1-11sfp.pdf>

“Elementary and high schools are receiving less state funding than last year in at least 37 states, and in at least 30 states school funding now stands below 2008 levels.” California has cut K-12 spending by 23% from 2008 levels, when adjusted for inflation. This is approximately \$1,400 less per student, per year in 2011 dollars. In the past year, California decreased K-12 education spending by 9.3%. The decrease in education funding has significant impacts on the state. “State education budget cuts are deepening the recession and slowed the pace of economic recovery by reducing overall economic activity. Not only do they directly impact jobs, but they also counteract and sometimes undermine important state education reform initiatives, and put upward pressure on local property taxes.”

***Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 1972-2008, Compendium Report.*** By Chris Chapman, et al. National Center for Education Statistics. U.S. Department of Education. Dec. 2010. 104 p.  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011012.pdf>

The dropout rate in California has increased in the past ten years. Seventy-one percent of California freshmen entering high school in 2003-04 graduated in 2007-08. The dropout rate is not consistent across genders, races, or income levels. Hispanics, girls, and students in low-income families were much more likely to drop out than their other peers. While 95% of all Asian/Asian-American students graduated in four years, 94% of Whites did, 87% of Blacks did, and 75% of Hispanics did. For foreign-born Hispanics, the graduation rate was just over 59%.

## **ENERGY**

***Corporate Incentives and Nuclear Safety.*** By Catherine Hausman. U.C. Berkeley Energy Institute at Haas. Nov. 2011. 53 p.  
[http://ei.haas.berkeley.edu/pdf/working\\_papers/WP223.pdf](http://ei.haas.berkeley.edu/pdf/working_papers/WP223.pdf)

"Approximately half of all commercial U.S. nuclear power reactors have been sold by public utilities to private, independent power producers in the past fifteen years. Previous work has found evidence of dramatically increased power generation at these divested plants. Using a model of endogenous maintenance decisions, I show conditions under which safety is expected to improve following deregulation. I find empirical evidence that safety did not deteriorate, and in some cases increased, following divestiture."

***Deregulation, Consolidation, and Efficiency: Evidence from U.S. Nuclear Power.*** By Lucas Davis, et al. U.C. Berkeley Energy Institute at Haas. Aug. 2011. 58 p.  
[http://ei.haas.berkeley.edu/pdf/working\\_papers/WP217.pdf](http://ei.haas.berkeley.edu/pdf/working_papers/WP217.pdf)

"Deregulation has been accompanied by substantial market consolidation and today the three largest companies control more than one-third of all U.S. nuclear capacity. Deregulation and consolidation are associated with a 10% increase in operating efficiency, achieved primarily by reducing the frequency and duration of reactor outages. At average wholesale prices the value of this increased efficiency is approximately \$2.5 billion annually and implies an annual decrease of almost 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions."

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

***The Economic Cost of Sea Level Rise to California Beach Communities.*** By Philip G. King, et al. San Francisco State University. Sept. 13, 2011. 97 p.  
<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/PDF/Reports/CalifSeaLevelRise.pdf>

California beach towns could face hefty economic losses. "Sea level rise will send reverberations throughout local and state economies. We also found that the economic risks and responses to a changing coastline will vary greatly over time and from beach to beach." The study evaluates five sites along the California coastline. The findings predict, "valuable infrastructure, ecosystems, and recreational areas [are] facing increased risk." Researchers noted that adaptation may be less costly than repairing after-the-fact damage.

***Projected Evolution of California's San Francisco Bay-Delta-River System in a Century of Climate Change.*** By James E. Cloern, et al. PloS One. Sept. 2011.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0024465>

According to accumulated evidence, "the planet is warming as a response to human emissions of greenhouse gases. Strategies of adaptation to climate change will require quantitative projections of how altered regional patterns of temperature, precipitation and sea level could cascade to provoke local impacts such as modified water supplies, increasing risks of coastal flooding, and growing challenges to sustainability of native species." Policymakers must be cognizant of the alterations in the landscape and their potential impact on individuals and businesses along the California Coastline.

***The Delay Game: How the Chemical Industry Ducks Regulation of the Most Toxic Substances.*** By Jennifer Sass. Natural Resources Defense Council. Oct. 2011.

<http://www.nrdc.org/health/files/IrisDelayReport.pdf>

"By exploiting loopholes in the law, the chemical industry for decades has systematically subverted Environmental Protection Agency efforts to protect public health... As a result, the industry has made enormous profits while delaying restrictions on unsafe chemicals, largely by ginning up scientific uncertainties, according to the NRDC study.... This report is a case-study of how the chemical industry has stymied government action that would protect the public from exposure to TCE, formaldehyde and styrene. The study highlights the need to update the 35-year old Toxic Substances Control Act, so that the EPA can test, assess and regulate chemicals in a timely manner in order to protect public health. Because the law has never been updated, the public has been exposed to thousands of chemicals in consumer products that have never been tested for safety by EPA."

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***California's Initiative Process: 100 Years Old.*** By Mark Baldassare, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Sept. 2011.

[http://www.ppic.org/main/publication\\_show.asp?i=265](http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=265)

This year the initiative process in California turns 100 years old. Since its enactment in 1912, 342 initiatives have appeared on the ballot with 115 (34%) receiving voter approval. In recent PPIC surveys, 75% of Californians surveyed "believed that it is a good thing that voters can make laws and change public policies by passing initiatives." Sixty-two percent of voters and likely voters also said that public policy decisions made using the initiative process "are probably better than those made by the governor or the state legislature." However, the majority of those surveyed (76%) think that the initiative process needs changing; 81% favor compromise solution discussions before an initiative is placed on the ballot, and 73% favor requiring any initiative creating new programs or reducing taxes to identify a specific funding source.

## HEALTH

***Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors Among Adults Aged ≥ 18 Years – United States, 2008-2009.*** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Surveillance Summaries. Vol. 60, No. 13. Oct. 21, 2011. 28 p.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6013.pdf>

Substantial variations exist at the regional and state level in the prevalence of adults who had suicidal thoughts, made plans to attempt suicide, and attempted suicide in the past year. California Blacks differed from other states in the number who had seriously considered (top 4), planned (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), or attempted (highest) suicide. Geographic differences in prevalence might be attributable to selective migration, sociodemographic composition of the population, or the local social environment (e.g., social relationship

indicators such as divorce rates or resources for access to healthcare). These findings emphasize the importance of continued surveillance to collect locally relevant data on which to base prevention and control activities.

## HOUSING

***Vacant Properties: Growing Number Increases Communities' Costs and Challenges.* United States Government Accountability Office. Nov. 2011. 102 p.**

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1234.pdf>

“Vacant and unattended residential properties can attract crime, cause blight, and pose a threat to public safety. While homeowners or mortgage owners – including the mortgage servicers that administer loans on behalf of loan owners – are responsible for maintaining vacant properties with mortgages undergoing foreclosure, the costs local governments incur to mitigate any unsafe conditions can be significant. California ranks no. 8 nationwide in states with the greatest increase in nonseasonal vacant units’ share of housing stock, 2000 to 2010.”

***Lost Ground, 2011: Disparities in Mortgage Lending and Foreclosures.* By Debbie Gruenstein Bocian, et al. Center for Responsible Lending. Nov. 2011. 49 p.**

<http://www.responsiblelending.org/mortgage-lending/research-analysis/Lost-Ground-2011.pdf>

Foreclosure rates vary by ethnic and racial differences and income and housing market groupings. In California, half of the state’s foreclosures were experienced by Latinos. And, with strong housing appreciation before the economic collapse, California’s foreclosure rates have been highest among middle and high-income borrowers. Nationally, 2.7 million households have lost their homes during this crunch, and researchers estimate that we are only half way through the foreclosure crisis.

***The State of the Nation’s Housing 2011.* Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, John F. Kennedy School of Government. 2011. 44 p.**

<http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/research/publications/state-nation%E2%80%99s-housing-2011>

“As in past downturns, renewed job growth and stronger consumer confidence are needed to spark the housing recovery. Through 2010, however, conditions in few states showed signs of improvement. Unemployment rates are still hovering near 9% and confidence remains relatively low. In addition, the persistent decline in home prices, the ongoing foreclosure crisis, the large shares of underwater homeowners, and tight lending standards are all holding back homebuyer demand. The impact of the crisis will linger as millions of loans work their way through the protracted foreclosure process. This will not only blunt the housing recovery, but also reinforce the downward spiral of communities where foreclosures are concentrated.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***America’s Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2011.* Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. Jul. 2011. 223 p.**

<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp>

This report continues a series of annual reports on the conditions affecting children and adolescents in the United States. Topics include health and well-being, household demographics, food and nutrition, behavior, education, and economic circumstance.

***Living on the Edge: America's Low-Earning Families.*** By Sophia Parker. Foundation for Child Development. Jun. 2011. 21 p.

[http://fcd-us.org/sites/default/files/Living%20on%20the%20Edge\\_0.pdf](http://fcd-us.org/sites/default/files/Living%20on%20the%20Edge_0.pdf)

“One in three working families in America today find that employment does not guarantee a decent living standard. Forty percent of all children – 30 million kids – grow up in such households ... The 60 million new jobs added to the economy over the last generation are very different to yesteryear's blue-collar jobs. Nearly a third of all American jobs today pay below the median wage and do not offer health or retirement plans.”

***Independence at Risk: Older Californians with Disabilities Struggle to Remain at Home as Public Support Shrinks.*** By Kathryn G. Kietzman, et al. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Dec. 2011. 8 p.

<http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/NewsReleaseDetails.aspx?id=97>

Should as much as \$100 million in additional cuts be made to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) on December 15, as proposed by the state Legislature, seniors with disabilities will lose crucial support systems that allow them to remain safely in their homes and out of nursing homes. This vulnerable group could face a 20% loss in the number of paid caregiver hours they receive, on top of cuts already enacted earlier this year.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Town of Atherton v. California High-Speed Rail Authority.*** Superior Court of California Case No. 34-2010-80000679. Nov. 10, 2011. (Available in the California State Library)

“A Sacramento Superior Court judge has ruled for a second time that an environmental assessment of high-speed rail through the Bay Area didn't adequately address its impacts on local communities. Judge Michael Kenny said Nov.10 that the California High-Speed Rail Authority fell short in examining how its trains would impact traffic along Monterey Road through San Jose.... He also found the rail authority's second attempt at an environmental impact report still didn't adequately study how trains would affect Peninsula neighborhoods along the San Jose-to-San Francisco corridor.” (Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal, Nov. 11, 2011).

### **About *Studies in the News***

*Studies in the News* (SITN) is a service provided to the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and State Constitutional Officers by the California Research Bureau, a section of the California State Library.

- SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed periodically. Prior lists can be viewed at the California State Library's website at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb>.
- To update your e-mail address, or add/remove your name from the *Studies in the News* distribution list, please contact us at [crb@library.ca.gov](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov), or (916) 319-2691.
- *Studies in the News* is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.