

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

March 1909 “At 4940 feet the Union Oil Company has strong traces of petroleum of light gravity in its famous deep well at Rosemary Station, on the Los Angeles Pacific Railroad. The strike came a few days ago and yesterday morning the drill was down 4955 feet, and was still dropping. The hole is filled with water and it is impossible now to tell what it is good for. This is the third deepest oil hole in the world, it being exceeded only by two in Pennsylvania, and it may yet pass their record, which it is approaching now.” *Los Angeles Times* (March 3, 1909) pg. II6.

May 1909 “The Palmer oil well on the Blochman property in the east end of Santa Maria field has gotten beyond control, according to word received last night, and is spurting oil high above the derrick, flooding the land about there. The well has been capped, but is apparently not strong enough to resist the immense pressure of gas and oil. The well is spouting thousands of barrels of oil into the air and many are flocking from Santa Maria to witness the spectacle.” *Los Angeles Times* (May 8, 1909) pg. II3.

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

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- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); csinfo@library.ca.gov with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

IMMIGRATION

Immigration Enforcement: Better Controls Needed over Program Authorizing State and Local Enforcement of Federal Immigration Laws. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-109. (The Office, Washington, DC) January 2009. 48 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09109.pdf>

["An Immigration and Customs Enforcement program that trains local police to arrest illegal immigrants suspected of committing serious crimes has expanded without appropriate oversight, leading to the arrest of thousands for minor infractions.... The report said that ICE hasn't established clear objectives or supervision for the program after training local law enforcement. More than half of the 29 participating agencies that the GAO contacted for its study reported concerns from community members that the program led to racial profiling and intimidation.... The 287g program has been hailed by politicians and groups who favor tough measures, particularly deportation, to punish people in the country illegally. But there has been growing criticism of the program by immigrant groups and Democratic leaders." Wall Street Journal (March 4, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-7-3401]

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Collateral Damage: An Examination of ICE's Fugitive Operations Program. By Margot Mendelson and others, Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Center, Yale Law School. Prepared for the Migration Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 2009. 34 p.

Full text at: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/NFOP_Feb09.pdf

["A new report says that in recent years, a high-profile federal program shifted its focus away from catching the most dangerous illegal immigrants who were evading deportation orders. Between 2003 and 2008, 27 percent of the more than 96,000 illegal immigrants arrested under U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's National Fugitive Operations Program had criminal convictions. And in 2007, 9 percent of those arrested were fugitives from deportation orders who were criminals or were considered dangerous. That same year, the share of arrests of illegal immigrants not facing deportation orders grew to 40 percent. Under President George W. Bush, immigrant advocates complained that armed ICE agents conducted harsh and indiscriminate raids at homes and in neighborhoods." Washington Post (February 5, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-7-3331]

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Local Democracy on ICE: Why State and Local Governments Have No Business in Federal Immigration Law Enforcement. By Aarti Shahani and Judith Greene, Justice Strategies. (Justice Strategies, Brooklyn, New York) February 2009. 100 p.

Full text at: <http://justicestrategies.net/files/JS-Democracy-On-Ice-print.pdf>

["A federal program that empowers local police to enforce U.S. immigration laws has failed in its promise to target illegal immigrants who pose a threat to public safety or national security. Instead of focusing on serious criminals, local law enforcement officers are arresting day laborers, street vendors, people who are driving around with broken taillights.... At the same time, the costly enforcement program is diverting resources from local police and sheriff departments. There were more than 65 agreements between federal immigration officials and local law enforcement agencies across the nation. Locally, immigration authorities have partnerships with the Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino sheriff's departments." Los Angeles Times (February 26, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-7-3393]

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STALKING

Stalking Victimization in the United States. By Katrina Baum and others, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (The Bureau, Washington, DC) January 2009. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/svus.pdf>

["An estimated 3.4 million Americans identified themselves as victims of stalking during a one-year span, according to federal crime experts who released the largest-ever survey of the aggravating and often terrifying phenomenon. About half of the victims experienced at least one unwanted contact per week from a stalker, and 11 percent had been stalked for five or more years.... The researchers defined stalking as a course of conduct, directed at a specific person on at least two separate occasions, that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. The most commonly reported types of stalking were unwanted phone calls (66 percent), unsolicited letters or e-mail (31 percent), or having rumors spread about the victim (36 percent)." San Francisco Examiner (January 13, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-7-3321]

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ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

California's Future Economy and Population: Implications for a Fiscal Policy Agenda. By Stephen Levy, Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy. (The Center, Palo Alto, California) February 2009. 24 p.

Full text at:

http://www.ccsce.com/pdf/Californias_Future_Economy_and_Population.pdf

["CCSCE has identified three major trends that can inform the state's budget strategies to support economic prosperity. These trends include: 1) California's economic growth opportunities will be increasingly concentrated in the application of creativity to developing new goods and services and in our connections to the rest of the world through foreign trade, immigration and access to capital; 2) California's population growth will be concentrated in the 55+ age groups, in young adults, in Latino and Asian population groups and in the children and grandchildren of recent immigrants; and 3) A tidal wave of baby boomer retirements will create millions of replacement job openings in the years ahead. Replacement job openings will outnumber new jobs, will occur in high, medium and low wage sectors and are critical for making California communities great places to live and work."]

[Request #S09-7-3361]

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ECONOMIC POLICY

Avoiding an American "Lost Decade": Lessons from Japan's Bubble and Recession. By Anthony Randazzo, Reason Foundation. (The Foundation, Los Angeles, California) February 2009. 28 p.

Full text at: http://reason.org/ps373_japan_lost_decade.pdf

["The study finds that Japan's housing prices rose by 51 percent and commercial real estate values rose 80 percent between 1985 and 1991. In the U.S., commercial real estate and housing prices both skyrocketed 90 percent from 2000 to 2006. President Barack Obama recently signed a \$787 stimulus package that includes over \$60 billion for infrastructure and transportation projects. Japan passed 10 stimulus packages in the 1990s that would equal \$1.4 trillion in today's dollars. From 1992 to 1999, Japan spent over \$500 billion (in today's dollars) on public works projects. After all of that infrastructure spending, Japan's unemployment rate more than doubled and the economy remained stagnant."]

[Request #S09-7-3373]

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IMMIGRATION

New Americans in the Golden State: Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians Indispensable to California Economy. By the Immigration Policy Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 2009. 3 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/images/File/factcheck/LoResCaliforniaEconomyImmigration.pdf>

["Immigrants are vital to the state's economy. California's immigrants move up the socioeconomic ladder over time -- learning English, buying homes and escaping poverty.... The report states that Latinos and Asians account for more than one-quarter of California's businesses and buying power. In addition, most native-born Californians have experienced wage gains from immigration. The reason for wage increases, the study said, is because immigrant workers often serve as complements to native workers rather than as their direct competitors for jobs, thereby increasing total economic output. Native workers benefit because they are able to specialize in more productive work. Not all analysts agree with the optimistic picture, however." Orange County Register (February 27, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-7-3402]

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LOS ANGELES

2009-2010 Economic Forecast and Industry Outlook. By Jack Kyser and others, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation. (The Corporation, Los Angeles, California) February 2009. 71 p.

Full text at: <http://www.laedc.org/reports/Forecast-2009-02.pdf>

["The declining Southern California economy may bottom out as soon as this summer, but more financial grief is coming as local industries struggle to cope with the recession, a prominent business trade group said. When growth resumes it will be moderate at best.... The five Southern California metro areas will continue to struggle in 2009. Job losses will continue in construction, manufacturing, retailing and financial services. Ventura County and the Inland Empire area of Riverside and San Bernardino counties will feel the most pain, each recording declines of 3.2% in employment.... At least the aerospace industry should hold steady, which is good news for the local economy." Los Angeles Times (February 18, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-7-3358]

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SILICON VALLEY

2009 Index of Silicon Valley. By Doug Henton and others, Collaborative Economics. (Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, San Jose, California) February 2009. 64 p.

Full text at: <http://www.jointventure.org/publicatons/index/2009Index/index.html>

["Finding better ways to produce and save energy offers one of Silicon Valley's best hopes for emerging from the current economic slump. Even so, the downturn has the Bay Area reeling.... Moreover, the report warns that Silicon Valley's future remains far from certain. That's partly because of what the study characterized as the region's insufficient educational and job-training programs to provide the workers local businesses need. Another worrisome factor is the dwindling proportion of low and middle-income residents, who typically fill many crucial support jobs.... One bright spot highlighted in this year's report is so-called clean technology, which includes an array of businesses focused on everything from producing renewable energy to recycling." San Jose Mercury News (February 17, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-7-3389]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

California Educational Opportunity Report: Listening to Public School Parents.
By John Rogers and others, UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education, and
Access. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) February 2009. 32 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.idea.gseis.ucla.edu/publications/eor08/state/pdf/EORSTATE09.pdf>

["California ranks 48th in the nation in the percentage of high school seniors who go on to a four-year college the next academic year. The near-the-bottom ranking comes despite the fact that the majority of California students who graduate indicate an intention to get a bachelor's degree. 'The problem is not one of low expectations of what students can accomplish but of the inability of our educational system to meet widely held high expectations of what it should deliver.' California students are more likely to attend overcrowded schools and receive less personal attention. 'Intensely segregated' high schools are three times as likely as majority white and Asian schools to experience shortages of qualified math teachers." Daily News of Los Angeles (February 23, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-7-3407]

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COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The Other College: Retention and Completion Rates among Two-Year College Students. By Molly F. McIntosh, CNA, and Cecilia Elena Rouse, Princeton University. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) February 2009

["In 2005, two-year college enrollment was almost 40 percent of total college enrollment. These 6.5 million students fare far worse than their four-year peers in persisting through postsecondary education until receiving a credential. Among first-time students who start at a four-year college, approximately three-quarters persist to the second year, compared to roughly half of first-time students who start at a two-year college.... This lack of persistence and degree completion presents a compelling challenge for education and economic policymakers since postsecondary education is key for both individual success and economic competitiveness in the global, knowledge-driven economy.... This paper shines much needed light on the complexity of contemporary college going and the potential causes of the gap in persistence and degree completion."]
Report. 26 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/pdf/two_year_colleges.pdf

Executive Summary. 5 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/pdf/two_year_colleges_execsummary.pdf

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SCHOOL READINESS

Closing the Expectations Gap: Fourth Annual 50-State Progress Report on the Alignment of High School Policies with the Demand of College and Careers. By Achieve. (Achieve, Washington, DC) February 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: <http://www.achieve.org/files/50-state-2009.pdf>

["Since Achieve launched the American Diploma Project (ADP) Network at the National Education Summit on High Schools in 2005, state leaders across the country have been hard at work aligning their standards, graduation requirements, assessments and accountability systems with the expectations of colleges and employers. Each year since the Summit, Achieve has surveyed all 50 states and the District of Columbia about the status of their efforts to adopt and implement this challenging ADP agenda.. This year's survey asked questions regarding, how states know their policies are aligned, where states are in the policy process and when the new policies likely will be adopted."]

[Request #S09-7-3367]

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EMPLOYMENT

LABOR UNIONS

Card Check: Changing the Rules for Collective Bargaining. By Thomas P. Gies, American Enterprise Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 2009. 6 p.

Full text at: http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090220_0523904OTIGies_g.pdf

["Whether the misleadingly named Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) -- known as 'card check' -- is introduced next week or next year, it remains the central political objective of organized labor. It was also championed as a domestic priority by President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats during the 2008 campaign. The EFCA would undercut the idea of a secret ballot in unionization drives and guarantee mandatory arbitration of many initial collective bargaining agreements. Canada's experience with card check illustrates how it could further hobble the U.S. economy."]

[Request #S09-7-3377]

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LOW-WAGE WORKERS

Job Differences by Race and Ethnicity in the Low-Skill Job Market. By Gregory Acs and Pamela J. Loprest, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 2009. 6 p.

Full text at:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411841_race_ethnicity_job_market.pdf

["This brief uses data from the 2007 Survey of Employers in the Low-Skill Labor Market to examine the differences in jobs held by workers of different races and ethnicities and the impact of these differences on wages. We focus on the less-skilled labor market because many workers in this sector are either newly entering the labor market or struggling to make ends meet. Policymakers are concerned about how to improve these workers' earnings generally, along with specific issues for young black men and immigrant workers. Understanding racial and ethnic wage differences for less-skilled workers and the potential role of discrimination will help address the need for and creation of targeted policies to improve wages for these workers."]

[Request #S09-7-3413]

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UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Unemployment Rises Sharply Among Latino Immigrants in 2008. By Rakesh Kochhar, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 12, 2009. 21 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/102.pdf>

["The unemployment rate for foreign-born Latinos increased from 5.1 percent to 8 percent from the end of 2007 to the end of 2008.... In at least one sense, immigrant Latinos are still better off than native-born Latinos and African-Americans, two groups that have higher overall rates of unemployment. About 11.5 percent of African-Americans were unemployed in the last three months of 2008, and 9.5 percent of native-born Latinos were without work.... But in the past year, no group has dropped from the nation's workforce at a faster rate than Latinos from abroad." Contra Costa Times (February 12, 2009) 1.]

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ENERGY

ENERGY CONSERVATION

"Energy Implications of Bottled Water." By Peter H. Gleick and Heather Cooley. IN: Environmental Research Letters, doi:10.1088/1748-9326/4/1/014009 (February 2009) 6 p.

Full text at: http://www.iop.org/EJ/article/1748-9326/4/1/014009/er19_1_014009.pdf

["Bottled water, increasingly popular because of its convenience and presumed purity, also consumes a lot of energy to produce and transport, according to an exhaustive new study. 'As bottled water use continues to expand around the world, there is growing interest in the environmental, economic, and social implications of that use, including concerns about waste generation, proper use of groundwater, hydrologic effects on local surface and groundwater, economic costs, and more. But a key concern is how much energy is required to produce and use bottled water,' said article co-author Peter Gleick, president of the Pacific Institute. 'It turns out the answer is, a lot.'" Sacramento Bee (February 25, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-7-3390]

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GASOLINE AND DIESEL

The Long and Winding Road: Automotive Fuel Economy and American Politics. By Pietro S. Nivola, The Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) February 25, 2009. 22 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0225_cafe_nivola/0225_cafe_nivola.pdf

["Why does America's effort to moderate the use of oil in automotive transportation continue to fall so woefully short? The following paper tackles this question, proceeding in six segments. First, the essay outlines in a bit more detail the 'energy-saving' regulatory regime on which our politicians have fastened for more than a third of a century. Second, I describe this system's failures -- including the fact that its impact on greenhouse gas emissions has been perforce minimal. Third, the paper shows how other advanced nations have achieved far better fuel economy, and hence are able to aim much higher in their prospective efficiency standards. Fourth, I discuss the political reasons for this country's lag and for Europe's big lead. Fifth, that analysis segues to some basic reflections about what animates our regulatory politics. Finally, the framework for a more enlightened U.S. policy mix is proposed."]

[Request #S09-7-3403]

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WIND POWER

Green Power Superhighways: Building a Path to America's Clean Energy Future. By Rob Gramlich, American Wind Energy Association, and others. (The Association, Washington, DC) February 2009. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://www.awea.org/GreenPowerSuperhighways.pdf>

["Lawmakers must set specific guidelines and provide resources for federal agencies to foster development of an electricity grid that can handle renewable energy power sources. A new study published by two renewable energy trade groups, found that U.S. government policy is the main obstacle to creating a modern interstate transmission grid that can deliver electricity generated by wind, solar, and geothermal sources. Currently a patchwork of rules allows state regulators in many areas to have the primary authority to determine what electricity projects are built and how they are paid for. These state regulators only consider the benefits of projects for residents of their states." Reuters (February 19, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-7-3375]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Nano Maldonado v. Will Kempton, Director of the California Department of Transportation. U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. 06-15657 and 07-15535. February 25, 2009. 18 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2009/02/25/0615657.pdf>

["California's restrictions on commercial advertising on billboards alongside landscaped freeways promote highway aesthetics and don't interfere with free speech, a federal appeals court ruled.... The court said its past rulings have allowed the government to impose controls on speech that promotes commercial products. Government officials are entitled to decide in which category a billboard's message belongs. The law applies only to areas of freeways that have been landscaped and not to designated commercial zones, where the state imposes fewer restrictions. The ban also exempts billboards that were in place when the original law took effect in 1967." San Francisco Chronicle (February 26, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-7-3394]

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FEDERAL/STATE RELATIONS

A Matter of Trust: Why Congress Should Turn Federal Lands into Fiduciary Trusts. By Randal O'Toole, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) January 15, 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa630.pdf>

["The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service collectively manage well over a quarter of the land in the United States. Although everyone agrees that the lands and resources managed by these agencies are exceedingly valuable, the lands collectively cost taxpayers around \$7 billion per year. Several Cato Institute studies have called for privatization of the public lands, but this idea is strongly resisted by environmentalists, recreationists, and other users of public land. An alternative policy that will both enhance the values sought by environmentalists and improve the fiscal management of the lands is to turn them into fiduciary trusts. Under this proposal, the U.S. would retain title to the lands, but the rules under which they would be governed would be very different."]

[Request #S09-7-3408]

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LAND USE

The Future of Downtown: How Can We Bring More Jobs into the Region's Most Transit-Rich Employment Center? By Anthony Bruzzone and others, San Francisco Planning & Urban Research Association. (The Association, San Francisco, California) March 2009. 21 p.

Full text at: http://www.spur.org/documents/030109_article_01.shtm

["San Francisco lagged the region's suburbs in job growth over the last three decades, forcing increasing numbers of commuters to pack highways instead of public transportation even as the dangers of greenhouse gas emissions become increasingly evident. The city, and other urban areas better served by mass transit than suburban business parks, must adjust policies to attract a greater share of office development and employers. In particular, the city must revisit current zoning rules, under which the downtown office market could only expand by about 16 percent, or 13 million square feet. Based on various projections, that means the city's core could be completely built out in as little as seven years - and at most 15." San Francisco Chronicle (March 1, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-7-3400]

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Golden Lands, Golden Opportunity: Preserving Vital Bay Area Lands for all Californians. By the Greenbelt Alliance and the Bay Area Open Space Council. (The Alliance, San Francisco, California) January 2009. 23 p.

Full text at: http://www.greenbelt.org/downloads/resources/report_GoldenLands.pdf

["Thousands of acres in the Bay Area -- from redwood forests in Sonoma County to orchards in Contra Costa and a large section of open space on San Francisco's waterfront -- should be protected from development. The areas are included in the first comprehensive list of woodlands, trails, orchards, watersheds and parks that more than 100 land-use experts decided should be part of a regionwide green corridor with space for wildlife, human recreation and agriculture. The report is an attempt to coordinate the region's land-use plans and streamline local, state and federal funding for various projects." San Francisco Chronicle (February 4, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-7-3325]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BUDGETING

What Will Happen to State Budgets When the Money Runs Out? By Donald J. Boyd, The Nelson A Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) February 19, 2009 7.p

Full text at: http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government_finance/2009-02-19-What_Will_Happen_to.pdf

["The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 contains significant aid for states, -- \$87 billion temporary increase in the federal share of Medicaid cost -- \$54 billion in a State Fiscal Stabilization Fund -- to stave off cuts states will make to public education and other programs. Smaller funding streams that will benefit state needy populations and/or state finances; grants for transportation, clean water, and other construction projects. But this aid will be temporary. Will it be enough until the recovery comes? This study examined the impact of the fiscal stimulus package on state government finances under two scenarios: 1) a 'low-gap' scenario under which the current fiscal crisis is a bit less severe than the sharp 2001 fiscal crisis, but lasts longer, and 2) a 'high-gap' scenario under which fiscal gaps approach \$370 billion over the next 2.5 years."]

[Request #S09-7-3366]

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call 311: Connecting Citizens to Local Government: Final Report. Edited by Cory Fleming, International City/County Management Association. (The Association, Washington, DC) 2008. 88 p.

Full text at: <http://bookstore.icma.org/freedocs/43547.pdf>

["The survey results and findings from the case study research offer a new understanding of the current practices and successful implementation of coordinated systems for customer service. This final report is intended to serve as a reference manual for local governments considering the implementation of a centralized customer service system. Included in the report are recommendations based on findings from both the national survey and the case studies. These recommendations represent what ICMA researchers and study advisors consider critical management practices for obtaining optimum results from a centralized system."]

[Request #S09-7-3355]

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STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: A Guide for State and Local Governments. By Stuart S. Kurlander and others, Latham & Watkins, LLP. Prepared for the Council of State Governments. (The Council, Lexington, Kentucky) February 2009. 59 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.staterecovery.org/Websites/staterecovery/Images/CSG%20Complete.pdf>

["This paper summarizes key opportunities for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to secure federal support through the ARRA. This includes direct funding as well as opportunities to act as a conduit for funds to constituents. Many of the provisions in the ARRA increase funding for existing programs.... Time is an important consideration in evaluating opportunities under the ARRA. By 45 days after the date of enactment (April 3, 2009), state governors (or in some cases, state legislatures) must certify that their states will request and use funds and that these activities will create jobs and economic growth."]

[Request #S09-7-3399]

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STATE FINANCES

California's Spending by the Numbers: A Historic Look at State Spending from Gov. Pete Wilson to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. By Adam B. Summers, Reason Foundation. (The Foundation, Los Angeles, California) February 2009. 21 p.

Full text at: http://www.reason.org/pb78_ca_budget.pdf

["California's spending nearly tripled from \$51.4 billion in 1990-91 to \$144.5 billion in 2008-09. Politicians often blame falling revenues for California's budget woes, but state revenues jumped 167 percent between 1990 and 2008. In 1990-91, the state took in over \$38 billion in General Fund revenues. By 2008-09 revenues were \$102 billion. If California had simply limited its spending increases to the 4.38 percent average increase in the state's consumer price index and population growth each year since 1990-91, it would be sitting on a \$15 billion surplus right now. In 1990-91 the state spent \$1,350 per capita. Today, California spends \$2,644 per person."]

[Request #S09-7-3372]

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HEALTH

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Federal Role in Promoting Health Information Technology. By David Blumenthal, The Commonwealth Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) January 2009 5. p

Full text at:

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/1230_Blumenthal_federal_role_promoting_hlt_IT_Perspectives.pdf?section=4039

["There is widespread agreement that wiring the health care system is fundamental to enhancing quality and containing cost -- and thus improving overall system efficiency. To increase the effective use of electronic health systems, private and public agencies and groups must accomplish the following tasks: 1) Get doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers to acquire and use electronic health records. 2) Get electronic health records to 'talk to one another' by becoming interoperable. 3) Get providers to use EHRs to improve quality and efficiency in the provision of health care services. Federal authorities can encourage HIT adoption by creating national regulations and standards in several areas that will improve the confidence of doctors and patients alike in the electronic management of health information."] [Request #S09-7-3329]

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An Unprecedented Opportunity: Using Federal Stimulus Funds to Advance Health IT in California. By the California Healthcare Foundation. (The Foundation, Oakland, California) February 2009. 22 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.chcf.org/documents/chronicdisease/AnUnprecedentedOpportunity.pdf>

["The Obama Administration has authorized \$36 billion dollars in outlays over six years for Health Information Technology. Health care practice remains largely unchanged: fragmented, inconsistent, and intermittently automated. California is well placed to make use of the ARRA funds. This issue brief presents an analysis of the Act and recommendations on how to prepare for, compete for, and use the state's fair share of these funds that could total 3 billion dollars."]

[Request #S09-7-3380]

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MEDICAID

Challenges of Providing Health Coverage for Children and Parents in a Recession: A 50 State Update on Eligibility Rules, Enrollment and Renewal Procedures, and Cost-Sharing Practices in Medicaid and SCHIP in 2009. By Donna Cohen Ross, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Caryn Marks, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (The Foundation, Menlo Park, California) January 2009. 70 p.

Full text at: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7855.pdf>

["Because they were still grappling with budget shortfalls, nearly half the states put in place enrollment procedures that made it more difficult for children and parents to secure and retain health coverage.... Coming out of the last economic downturn, states worked to eliminate SCHIP enrollment freezes and reverse some of the enrollment barriers they had imposed. This enabled caseloads to recover somewhat. An important lesson learned, however, is that the problematic effects of changing administrative procedures can endure if such changes send conflicting messages to prospective and current program participants."]

[Request #S09-7-3336]

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Examining the Health Consequences of the 2008–09 Recession. By the George Washington University Medical Center School of Public Health and Health Services. (The Center, Washington, DC) January 2009. 12 p.

Full text at:

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/about/rapidresponse/download/Rapid_HlthRecs_Final.pdf

["Given the established links between employment, higher family income, and better health, the current recession may have grave consequences for Americans' health and health care. Research shows that 1) Every one percent rise in joblessness pushes about one million more people into the ranks of the uninsured; 2) As unemployment rises, budget-strapped states face heightened demands for publicly funded health care and other services, but have diminished resources to pay for them: and 3) Food insecurity and a family's inability to pay energy costs, which are both related to unemployment and poverty, are associated with poor health outcomes among children. This paper reviews opportunities to provide new safeguards against impoverishment, diminished health, and reduced access to health care."]

[Request #S09-7-3309]

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HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Decade of Neglect Has Weakened Federal Low-Income Housing Programs: New Resources Required to Meet Growing Needs. By Douglas Rice and Barbara Sard, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 2009. 42 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/2-24-09hous.pdf>

["A large and growing number of low-income renters face unaffordable housing costs. Federal housing programs have proven effective in enabling millions of low-income households to obtain stable, decent housing, but a funding squeeze and various actions taken by Congress and the Bush Administration have weakened these programs considerably, just when the need is rising. This report documents that growing need, explains how federal housing programs help address it, shows how recent funding shortfalls and policy changes have hurt these programs, and outlines a series of steps to make housing more affordable for low-income families.... This problem is likely to get worse."]

[Request #S09-7-3412]

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REAL ESTATE LOANS

Stabilizing Communities: A Federal Response to the Secondary Impacts of the Foreclosure Crisis. By Alan Mallach, Metropolitan Policy Program. (The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) February 2009. 59 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/02_foreclosure_crisis_mallach/02_foreclosure_crisis_mallach_report.pdf

["The wave of home mortgage foreclosures that began in 2006 continues to surge, greatly destabilizing neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the United States. Without robust, carefully-targeted federal policies to mitigate the community-level impacts of foreclosure, local and state efforts will invariably fall far short of what is needed. For that reason, the federal government should adopt a four-part strategy that provides state and local leaders with the tools to stabilize affected neighborhoods and promote market recovery in the wake of the mortgage crisis."]
[Request #S09-7-3363]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILD SUPPORT

Navigating the Child Support System: Lessons from the Fathers at Work Initiative. By Laura Wyckoff and others, Public/Private Ventures. (Public/Private Ventures, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) February 2009. 52 p.

Full text at: http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/274_publication.pdf

["You've probably heard of 'deadbeat dads' -- men who have the ability to support their children but refuse to do so. But what about 'deadbroke dads'?... Many are young, do not have a high school diploma, have a criminal history and may be struggling with addiction or other barriers to employment and stability. They are often motivated to improve their lives for the sake of their children -- to stop engaging in criminal activities, to get clean, to find a steady job with future prospects or to improve their education. You can help these men understand how child enforcement support operates, how they might avert coercive action, what they can do to try to arrange more manageable payments and how to pay down, instead of build up, debt while taking care of their families."]
[Request #S09-7-3381]

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CHILDREN

What Gets Measured Gets Done: High Priority Opportunities to Improve Our Nation's Capacity to Monitor Child and Youth Well-Being. By Brett Brown and Kristin Anderson Moore, Child Trends. (Child Trends, Washington, DC) January 2009. 15 p.

Full text at: http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2009_02_10_FR_WPaperChildWBeing.pdf

["A strengthened national system for monitoring child and youth well-being will be a critically important resource for the new Administration and for policy makers at all levels of government as they work to serve children in what promises to be a very challenging fiscal environment. Social indicators are increasingly indispensable as tools of governance for identifying needs, setting priorities, tracking progress towards goals, and for holding actors accountable for measurable results. In addition, accurate and upto-date data are critical to efforts to monitor the development and well-being of children at the state as well as the national level. Good data can highlight progress and the lack of improvement, and with adequate samples, data can target new concerns and identify population subgroups at particular risk."]

[Request #S09-7-3383]

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ELDERLY

Half a Million Older Californians Living Alone Unable to Make Ends Meet. By Steven P. Wallace, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and Susan E. Smith, Insight Center for Community Economic Development. (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Los Angeles, California) February 2009. 6 p.

Full text at: http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Older_CAs_PB_0209.pdf

["The report measured economic stability by the real costs to eat, travel and pay for medical costs and housing in each of California's 58 counties. Its findings reveal 47 percent of state residents 65 and older are unable to pay for their basic needs. That's 864,000 seniors, more than half of whom struggle at home alone. The new data reveal far deeper poverty rates among seniors than was previously known.... 'For us, what's striking is that these numbers are not even taking into account the latest economic crisis,' said Susie Smith.... The researchers are calling on the state to continue their data collection and use the new measurement to determine eligibility for need-based public programs. California's aged population is expected to grow by 18 percent in the next four years." San Jose Mercury News (February 24, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-7-3387]

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: State-by-State Estimates of Key Provisions Affecting Low- and Moderate-Income Individuals. By the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) March 3, 2009. 22 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud.pdf>

["The ARRA is designed to boost employment and the economy. It contains a number of spending and tax measures crafted to inject more aggregate demand into the sagging economy. This paper provides state-by-state estimates for a number of the major spending and tax provisions that will affect low- and moderate-income Americans.... Low-income and unemployed families will spend benefits or tax refunds quickly to meet household expenses. The state fiscal relief will lessen the degree to which states will have to enact very painful budget cuts and tax increases, both of which have a negative effect on the economy. In addition, the measures included in the package will help avert severe hardship among low-income populations and preserve some needed state and local services."]

[Request #S09-7-3410]

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WELFARE TO WORK

Welfare-to-Work Program Benefits and Costs: A Synthesis of Research. By David Greenberg and others, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) February 2009.

["There has been considerable variation from state to state in approaches to welfare reform, which are often collectively referred to as 'welfare-to-work programs.' To help states assess various program approaches in an informed way, this report draws on an extraordinary body of evidence: results from 28 benefit-cost studies of welfare-to-work programs based on random assignment evaluation designs. The synthesis addresses such questions as: Which welfare reform program approaches result in positive payoffs on the investments made in them? Which approaches make participants better off financially? Which approaches improve the government's budgetary position?"]

[Request #S09-7-3409]

Report. 145 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/511/full.pdf>

Executive Summary. 20 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/511/execsum.pdf>

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TRANSPORTATION

FINANCING

Paying Our Way: A New Framework for Transportation Finance. By the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission. (The Commission, Washington, DC) February 2009.

["The government should make it a lot more expensive for Americans to drive and should install devices in cars that levy a fee for every mile traveled. The report lands in the middle of debate over how to pay for roads and other transportation projects and recommends an array of potentially controversial increases in the cost of driving. Among the proposals: raising the 18.4 cents-a-gallon federal gasoline tax by 10 cents, or 54%, and then indexing future increases to inflation. The study estimates that would cost American households about \$9 more a month.... Longer term, the study calls for shifting away by 2020 from a fuel-tax system to a technology-enabled system that levies taxes based on how many miles people drive" Wall Street Journal (February 26, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-7-3391]

Report. 250 p.

http://financecommission.dot.gov/Documents/NSTIF_Commission_Final_Report_Advance%20Copy_Feb09.pdf

Executive Summary. 16 p.

http://financecommission.dot.gov/Documents/NSTIF_Commission_Final_Report_Exec_Summary_Feb09.pdf

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Transportation and Infrastructure Finance: A CSG National Report. By Sean Slone, Council of State Governments. (The Council, Lexington, Kentucky) 2009. 44 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.csg.org/pubs/Documents/TransportationInfrastructureFinance.pdf>

["Most states have begun to look at and even implement innovative ways to fund transportation. Their efforts come with the realizations that raising fuel taxes is politically difficult and that the future revenue yield from existing funding sources will be inadequate to maintain the nation's existing transportation systems and to increase capacity for the future. This report examines the transportation funding issues states are faced with, the finance options available to them, and how states can decide which options best fit into their transportation plans. It draws on the work of two federal commissions created by Congress as well as the research and assessment of numerous other transportation, law and tax policy analysts, expert panels, and state and federal officials."][Request #S09-7-3404]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation: Clear Federal Role and Criteria-Based Selection Process Could Improve Three National and Regional Infrastructure Programs. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-219. (The Office, Washington, DC) February 2009.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09219.pdf>

["According to GAO's interviews and prior work, clearly defining the federal role in surface transportation is an important step in enhancing these programs. Two historical approaches could then be used to distribute federal funds -- a criteria-based competition or a formula-based distribution. GAO's interviews and prior work suggest that a criteria-based competition could enhance these programs. Some interviewees also called for a wide range of other enhancements, from broad proposals to increase investment in different transportation modes to specific suggestions, such as using cost-benefit analysis in selecting projects."]
[Request #S09-7-3346]

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