

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU  
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Studies in the News**

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**California -- One Hundred Years Ago**

**June 1909** “Four women left New York today on a 4000 mile automobile trip to San Francisco. Mrs. Alice Ramsey, president of the Woman’s Motoring Club is at the wheel.... Mrs. Ramsey is one of the most daring chauffeuses in America. For more than a month Mrs. Ramsey has been preparing for her tour. She has planned every stop, and has arranged for supplies along the way. She will do her own adjusting and will make all necessary repairs when the car is far from a garage. There is no more expert woman driver in this country than Mrs. Ramsey. She has handled a car without the aid of anyone but herself for the last year and has made long drives entirely unaided.” Los Angeles Times (June 10, 1909) p. I6.

<http://www.vmcca.org/bh/aliceramsey.htm>

**August 1909** “Model E Standard Touring Car, \$1650. Four-cyl., 35-h.p.; magneto; wheel base, 108 in.; full elliptical front, three-quarter elliptical rear; roomy tonneau. This is the same type Maxwell motor that holds the world record for non-stop run, 10,074 miles. The same type motor that Mrs. Ramsey with three ladies drove from Hackensack, N.J., to Los Angeles via San Francisco. The same type motor that did the 200 miles at Santa Monica Road Race without a stop, averaging 52 miles per hour.” Maxwell newspaper advertisement, Los Angeles Times (August 29, 1909) p. VI5.

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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](http://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](mailto: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

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

**Over-Criminalization of Conduct/Over-Federalization of Criminal Law. By Timothy Lynch, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 22, 2009. Various pagings.**

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/testimony/ct-tl-20090722.html>

["There is a drift away from the idea of blameworthiness as a first principle of American criminal justice.... Discard the old maxim that 'ignorance of the law is no excuse.' Given the enormous body of law presently on the books, this doctrine no longer makes any sense. Minimize the injustice of vaguely written rules by restoring traditional legal defenses such as diligence, good-faith, and actual knowledge. Restore the rule of lenity for criminal cases by enacting a statute that will explicitly provide for the 'strict construction' of federal criminal laws. Abolish the doctrine of strict criminal liability as well as the doctrine of vicarious liability. Those theories of criminal liability are inconsistent with the Anglo-American tradition and have no place in a free society."]

[Request #S09-24-3974]

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## IMMIGRATION

**Seeking Fair and Effective Administration of Immigration Laws. By Russell Wheeler, The Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) July 2009. 11 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/07\\_immigration\\_laws\\_wheeler/07\\_immigration\\_laws\\_wheeler.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/07_immigration_laws_wheeler/07_immigration_laws_wheeler.pdf)

["Immigration presents courts and administrative agencies with tremendous challenges. A lack of consensus and resources for total enforcement of laws governing entry to and status in the country creates selective enforcement and debates over how to deploy limited resources. Most of those caught up in enforcement efforts have no access to legal representation to help them protect their rights. Immigration courts are overloaded and produce decisions that are inconsistent from court to court and judge to judge.... Many worry that the administration of immigration justice is unfair and inequitable, while others complain that border enforcement is weak and that too many illegal immigrants are allowed to remain in the country.... The new immigration debate highlights the need to craft better policies to direct the institutions most responsible for enforcing the laws fairly."]

[Request #S09-24-3975]

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## PRISONER REENTRY

**The Joyce Foundation's Transitional Jobs Reentry Demonstration: Testing Strategies to Help Former Prisoners Find and Keep Jobs and Stay Out of Prison. By Dan Bloom, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) July 2009. 20 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/522/policybrief.pdf>

["Prisoner reentry has attracted increasing attention in recent years, as states seek ways to reduce recidivism and control surging corrections costs. While most experts believe that stable employment is critical to a successful transition from prison to the community, there is little hard evidence about which program practices are effective at promoting successful transitions or reducing recidivism. This policy brief describes an ongoing initiative, the Joyce Foundation's Transitional Jobs Reentry Demonstration, (TJRD), that seeks to learn what works best to help former prisoners make a successful transition back into society.... The TJRD project is one of the largest and most rigorous evaluations of employment programs for former prisoners since the 1970s. The results, available in mid-2010, should provide solid evidence about the effectiveness of transitional jobs."]

[Request #S09-24-4004]

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## PRISONS

**Ralph Coleman, et al. v. Arnold Schwarzenegger, et al.; Marciano Plata, et al. v. Arnold Schwarzenegger, et al. U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, Northern District of California. CIV S-90-0520 LKK JFM P, C01-1351 THE. August 4, 2009. 184 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.prisonlaw.com/pdfs/3JudgeCourtOrder.pdf>

["In a historic move, a panel of three federal judges today ordered the state of California to reduce its prison population by more than 40,000 inmates in the next two years. The order, which will not result in the immediate release of any of the state's 167,000 inmates, almost certainly will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the first time the high court will have faced such a case.... 'The convergence of tough-on-crime policies and an unwillingness to expend the necessary funds to support the population growth has brought California's prisons to the breaking point,' the judges said. The judges added that 'federal courts do not intervene in state affairs lightly,' but that conditions in California's prisons have become 'horrific' in some cases." Sacramento Bee (August 4, 2009) 1.]  
[Request #S09-24-4002]

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## ECONOMY

### IMMIGRATION

**Restriction or Legalization? Measuring the Economic Benefits of Immigration Reform. By Peter B. Dixon and Maureen T. Rimmer, Centre of Policy Studies at Monash University in Australia. (Center for Trade Policy Studies, Washington, DC) August 13, 2009. 24 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.freetrade.org/files/pubs/pas/tpa-040.pdf>

["By the latest estimates, 8.3 million workers in the United States are illegal immigrants. Proposed policy responses range from more restrictive border and workplace enforcement to legalization of workers who are already here.... This study finds that increased enforcement and reduced low-skilled immigration have a significant negative impact on the income of U.S. households.... A policy that reduces the number of low-skilled immigrant workers by 28.6 percent compared to projected levels would reduce U.S. household welfare by about 0.5 percent, or \$80 billion. In contrast, legalization of low-skilled immigrant workers would yield significant income gains for American workers and households.... The positive impact for U.S. households of legalization under an optimal visa tax would be 1.27 percent of GDP or \$180 billion."]  
[Request #S09-24-4024]

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## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

**International Trade: Four Free Trade Agreements GAO Reviewed Have Resulted in Commercial Benefits, but Challenges on Labor and Environment Remain. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-439. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2009. 154 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09439.pdf>

["The four selected FTAs have largely accomplished the U.S. objectives of achieving better access to markets and strengthening trade rules, and have resulted in increased trade. While varying in details, the FTAs have all eliminated import taxes, lowered obstacles to U.S. services such as banking, increased protection of U.S. intellectual property rights abroad, and strengthened rules to ensure government fairness and transparency.... FTA negotiations spurred some labor reforms in each of the selected partners, according to U.S. and partner officials, but progress has been uneven and U.S. engagement minimal.... The selected partners have improved their environmental laws and made other progress according to U.S. and foreign officials. However, partner officials report that enforcement remains a challenge, and U.S. assistance has been limited."]

[Request #S09-24-4013]

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## SMALL BUSINESS

**The Economic Impact of the Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Programs on the State of California. By Sanjay B. Varshney and Dennis H. Tootelian, California State University, Sacramento. (California Department of General Services, Sacramento, California) June 2009. 71 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dgs/PIO/SB/SmallBusinessStudy.pdf>

["Given the State of California (State) established goals for certified small businesses (SBs) and disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE) participation, the question that may cross the ordinary tax payer's mind is why the State goes out of its way to help SBs and DVBEs.... To understand why the State makes such concerted efforts to increase SB and DVBE participation, one need to only understand the importance of small business to California economy.... The incremental value of the State's awarding contracts to SBs and DVBEs is positive, resulting in tremendous net new job creation, creation of net new Gross State Product (GSP), net new labor income for California employees, and indirect business taxes. Small business accounts for 99.2% of all employer firms and drives the economic engine of the State."]

[Request #S09-24-4026]

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## WOMEN

**Labor Pains: Improving Employment and Income Security for Pregnant Women and New Mothers. By Melissa Alpert and Alexandra Cawthorne, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 2009. 15 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/pdf/labor\\_pains.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/pdf/labor_pains.pdf)

["Single motherhood has dramatically risen in recent years, and unmarried women now account for nearly 40 percent of new births. Three-quarters of women entering today's workforce will become pregnant at least once while employed.... Policymakers must take action to support increased and consistent labor market participation among all women, especially pregnant workers. The policy actions we recommend include combating discrimination in the labor market; promoting flexible scheduling; improving family leave options; increasing breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace; establishing a system of quality, comprehensive childcare; and expanding access to Temporary Disability and Unemployment Insurance. Addressing these areas will ensure that pregnant women and new mothers have the economic and employment security they need."]  
[Request #S09-24-4008]

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## EDUCATION

### SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

**Private Loan Counseling for Undergraduate Students; The Role of College Financial Aid Counselors. By Carol A. Jensen, University of Nebraska. (The Author, Lincoln, Nebraska) December 2008. 169 p.**

Full text at:  
[http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content\\_storage\\_01/0000019b/80/42/d7/ba.pdf](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/42/d7/ba.pdf)

["As private lenders have been targeting undergraduate students to obtain private loans to fill the financial gap, many students do not have parents or other adults to help them navigate one of the largest financial investments they will ever make.... There were five major findings: (a) participant counselors believed that the 2007 Slate Act significantly limited their ability to counsel students on private loans; (b) many undergraduate students do not read or do not comprehend the written and online information counselors provide on private loans; (c) more parents are not willing or are unable to pay college costs; (d) counselors believed that one-on-one private loan counseling for students would be more effective than their current 'surface' counseling practices; and (e) many students and parents do not fully grasp the differences between private and federal student loan options."]  
[Request #S09-24-3950]

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## SCHOOL REFORM

**Vibrant Neighborhoods, Successful Schools: What the Federal Government Can Do to Foster Both.** By Margery Austin Turner and Alan Berube, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2009. 28 p.

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411927\\_vibrantneighborhoods.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411927_vibrantneighborhoods.pdf)

["Federal programs focused on affordable housing rarely take public schools into account and school officials typically assume that they have no influence over housing patterns. This paper focuses on four principles regarding the vitality and performance of schools and communities.... Low-income children benefit from the resources and learning environment available at schools that also serve middle- and higher-income families. Even in settings where most students are poor, schools can succeed with the right resources and accountability. Kids perform better in school if they don't change schools frequently, and schools perform better when they have lower turnover. Kids do better in school when they are healthy, well-nourished, and arrive at school ready to learn."]

[Request #S09-24-3982]

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## TEXTBOOKS

**Free Digital Textbook Initiative Report.** By the California Learning Resource Network. (The Network, Modesto, California) August 11, 2009. 39 p.

Full text at: <http://www.clrn.org/fdti/>

["California's Free Digital Textbook Initiative was created to provide students, teachers and parents access to free digital high school textbooks that meet California's rigorous academic content standards. It is important to note that, while the digital textbooks in this report were reviewed for alignment with California's content standards, social content review criteria were not applied during this phase. Thus, a textbook's inclusion in this report does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the State of California. Districts, schools and individuals planning to take advantage of these books are reminded to conduct their own reviews to determine whether these resources meet their needs."]

[Request #S09-24-4015]

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## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

**University of California: Annual Accountability Report. By the University of California. (The University, Oakland, California) May 2009. 415 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/accountability/report.html>

["The 2009 UC Accountability Report provides the first comprehensive assessment of the University's progress in meeting key teaching, research and public service goals across its 10 campuses. The data will inform the University's strategic planning, budgeting and performance management, as well as help the governing Board of Regents identify the most important policy issues facing UC. The report's scope will be expanded and refined over time; sub-reports scheduled throughout the year will explore specific areas of the University's enterprise in more depth. This version includes 131 individual indicators across 15 categories, assessing progress in areas like undergraduate success, financial aid, diversity, sustainability, research and budget. Most of the indicators present data for individual UC campuses as well as for the system as a whole."]

[Request #S09-24-3952]

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## EMPLOYMENT

### MINORITIES

**Unequal Unemployment: Racial Disparities in Unemployment Vary Widely by State. By Algernon Austin, Economic Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 21, 2009. 5 p.**

Full text at: [http://epi.3cdn.net/57b2ab76928042fd8f\\_5am6bn33z.pdf](http://epi.3cdn.net/57b2ab76928042fd8f_5am6bn33z.pdf)

["African Americans and Hispanics will bear a disproportionately heavy burden. Nationally, black unemployment is expected to reach 16%, the Hispanic rate 13.3%, and the white rate 8.6%. -- up from 14.7%, 12.2%, and 7.8%, respectively, in the quarter that ended on June 30. Hispanic unemployment in California and Nevada is expected to approach 18% by this time next year. Among the major racial and ethnic groups, African Americans consistently have historically had and continue to have the highest unemployment rate. In California, however, Hispanic unemployment surpassed black unemployment in the second quarter of this year and is projected to remain higher into 2010."]

[Request #S09-24-3983]

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## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKERS

**After the Dot-Com Bubble: Silicon Valley High-Tech Employment and Wages in 2001 and 2008. By Amar Mann and Tony Nunes, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (The Bureau, San Francisco, California) August 2009. 8 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.bls.gov/opub/regional\\_reports/200908\\_silicon\\_valley\\_high\\_tech.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/regional_reports/200908_silicon_valley_high_tech.pdf)

["After the dot-com bubble burst, the Silicon Valley retained its place as a global leader in high-tech and has remained a vitally important economic cluster for the Bay Area economy. Since 2001, total high-tech jobs have fallen by 85 thousand in Silicon Valley, with the majority of job losses occurring in semiconductor and computer manufacturing. However, Silicon Valley high-tech employees did earn an average of \$35,000 more in 2008 than in 2001. Furthermore, the total wages paid out by local high-tech companies reached nearly \$60 billion in 2008, significantly more than in 2000 or 2001 at the height of the dot-com boom."]

[Request #S09-24-4038]

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## ENERGY

### ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

**Creating Our Future: Meeting the Electricity Technology Challenge. By Steven Specker, Electric Power Research Institute. (The Institute, Palo Alto, California) August 3, 2009.**

["The kind of deep cuts sought by federal legislation are achievable, for a reasonable price. But the price will soar without nuclear energy and clean-coal power plants.... The institute studied cutting greenhouse gas emissions 41 percent by 2030 -- a goal of the global warming bill passed by the House of Representatives in June. That goal is feasible, the study concludes. But to reach it, the United States will need more renewable power, expanding by four-fold the use of wind and solar power. The country will need to improve its energy efficiency and develop a better grid for distributing electricity. But the country also will have to build 45 nuclear reactors and extend the lifespan of those already running. And it will need to build clean coal plants while retrofitting older coal plants to capture their greenhouse gas emissions." San Francisco Chronicle (August 4, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-24-4005]

Presentation. 25 p.

[presentation](#)

Press Release. 1 p.

[press release](#)

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## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

**Unlocking Energy Efficiency in the U.S. Economy. By Hannah Choi Granade and others, McKinsey & Company. (McKinsey & Company, New York, New York) July 2009. 165 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.mckinsey.com/clientservice/electricpowernaturalgas/downloads/US\\_energy\\_efficiency\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.mckinsey.com/clientservice/electricpowernaturalgas/downloads/US_energy_efficiency_full_report.pdf)

["Energy efficiency offers a vast, low-cost energy resource for the U.S. economy -- but only if the nation can craft a comprehensive and innovative approach to unlock it. Significant and persistent barriers will need to be addressed at multiple levels to stimulate demand for energy efficiency and manage its delivery across more than 100 million buildings and literally billions of devices. If executed at scale, a holistic approach would yield gross energy savings worth more than \$1.2 trillion, well above the \$250 billion needed through 2020 for upfront investment in efficiency measures. Such a program is estimated to reduce end-use energy consumption in 2020 by 9.1 quadrillion BTUs, roughly 23 percent of projected demand, potentially abating up to 1.1 gigatons of greenhouse gases annually."][Request #S09-24-3984]

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## ENERGY POLICY

**America's Energy Future: Technology and Transformation: Summary Edition. By the Committee on America's Energy Future, National Academy of Engineering, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) 2009.**

["This report addresses a potential new portfolio of energy-supply and end-use technologies -- their states of development, costs, implementation barriers, and impacts -- both at present and projected over the next two to three decades. The report's aim is to inform policymakers about technology options for transforming energy production, distribution, and use to increase sustainability, support long-term economic prosperity, promote energy security, and reduce adverse environmental impacts. Among the wide variety of technologies under development that might become available in the future, this report focuses on those with the best prospects of fully maturing during the three time periods considered: 2008–2020, 2020–2035, and 2035–2050."] Note: America's Energy Future.... is available for loan. [Request #S09-24-4012]

Book. 184 p.

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12710](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12710)

Executive Summary. 29 p.

[http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record\\_id=12710&type=pdfxsum](http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12710&type=pdfxsum)

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## **GASOLINE AND DIESEL**

**Ranking States' Oil Vulnerability and Solutions for Change. By David Gardiner & Associates, LLC and Deron Lovaas, Natural Resources Defense Council. (The Council, New York, New York) August 2009. 21 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/states/files/states.pdf>

["The annual report ranks states on the steps they have taken to lessen their dependence on petroleum. It also ranks them on their vulnerability to rising oil prices by calculating the portion of personal income that each state's citizens spend on gasoline. California leads the country in trying to wean its economy off oil, adopting policies to make cars more efficient and expand the use of renewable fuels. West Virginia scored the worst.... California scored 33rd in terms of vulnerability. California typically has the highest gasoline prices in the continental United States. But the state's relatively high personal incomes absorb some of the blow when oil and gasoline prices rise.... California has adopted several policies to cut the use of oil and gasoline, mostly as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight global warming." San Francisco Chronicle (August 12, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-24-4016]

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## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **BAY DELTA**

**Fixing the Delta: How Will We Pay for It? By Dean Misczynski, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) August 2009. 51 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_809DMR.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_809DMR.pdf)

["This report examines the question of how to pay for urgently needed investments in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. For years, stakeholders have been at odds over beneficiary financing (charging those who use the water). But recent federal intervention to save endangered fish species and the decline of state and federal funding sources may finally break the impasse. This report situates the beneficiary payment debate in historical, legal, and political context. It also explores how this kind of financing might work for several 'big ticket' items: water conveyance facilities, storage reservoirs, environmental mitigation, and levee improvements."]

[Request #S09-24-4009]

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## NATIONAL PARKS

**Climate Change and National Park Wildlife: A Survival Guide for a Warming World. By Kurt Repanshek, National Parks Conservation Association, and others. (The Association, Washington, DC) August 2009. 60 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.npca.org/climatechange/wildlife\\_survival/pdfs/00-NPCA-Wildlife.pdf](http://www.npca.org/climatechange/wildlife_survival/pdfs/00-NPCA-Wildlife.pdf)

["The federal government must take decisive action to avoid 'a potentially catastrophic loss of animal and plant life' in national parks. The report details concerns related to climate change in the parks, including the bleaching of coral reefs in Florida and the disappearance of high-altitude ponds that nurture yellow-legged frogs in California.... Right now, no national plan exists to manage wildlife throughout their habitat, which often is a patchwork of lands managed by multiple federal agencies, states, tribes, municipalities and private landholders. The report recommends adaptation strategies including the creation of wildlife corridors stretching from one park to another so that species can move unencumbered into cooler areas. It also recommends more effective limits on environmental hazards." Los Angeles Times (August 7, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-24-4010]

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## WATER QUALITY

**Well Water Consumption and Parkinson's Disease in Rural California. By Nicole M. Gatto, University of California Los Angeles, and others. (National Institute of Environmental Health Science, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina) July 31, 2009. 29 p.**

["Rural residents who drink water from private wells are much more likely to have Parkinson's disease, a finding that bolsters theories that farm pesticides may be partially to blame. The risk to people in California's Central Valley was 90 percent higher for those who had private wells near fields sprayed with certain insecticides. People with the incurable neurological disease 'were more likely to have consumed private well water, and had consumed it on average 4.3 years longer,' UCLA scientists reported. Unlike municipal water supplies, private wells are largely unregulated and are not monitored for contaminants.... The strongest link to the disease was for propargite.... Other strong links were found for the insecticides methomyl and chlorpyrifos." EHS press release (August 5, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-24-4007]

Study. 29 p.

<http://www.ehponline.org/members/2009/0900852/0900852.pdf>

Press release. 1 p.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/parkinsons-and-pesticides>

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## WATER RESOURCES

**A Clear Blue Future: How Greening California Cities Can Address Water Resources and Climate Challenges in the 21st Century.** By Noah Garrison, Natural Resources Defense Council, and others. (The Council, New York, New York) August 2009. 53 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/lid/files/lid.pdf>

["As global warming threatens our water resources, communities are faced with a need to respond quickly and economically to water supply shortfalls. Both the snowpack and surface runoff that form a critical supply of potable water for western states are being affected by higher temperatures. Low impact development, or LID, is a land planning and engineering design approach to stormwater management that enables cities, states, and individuals to increase access to safe and reliable sources of water while reducing the amount of energy consumed and global warming pollution generated by supplying the water. Analysis shows that implementing LID practices at new and redeveloped residential and commercial properties in parts of California can increase water supplies by billions of gallons each year."]

[Request #S09-24-4017]

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## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### STATE BUDGET

**Darrell Steinberg v. Arnold Schwarzenegger and John Chiang. San Francisco County Superior Court. Complaint for Declaratory Relief; Petition for Writ of Mandate. August 10, 2009. 31 p.**

Full text at: <http://dist06.casen.govoffice.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7725E161-3575-4D46-9AAA-F23C36620558%7D/uploads/%7B3139DD1F-7570-4EAD-8D20-ECFF2C8D9739%7D.PDF>

["Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg filed suit to block nearly \$500 million in Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's July line-item vetoes, imposing cuts to programs ranging from Healthy Families to the Department of Parks and Recreation.... The governor, in signing the vetoes, said he was forced to cut a wide range of programs because the Assembly sent him a budget revision last month that was out of balance and lacked a reserve. Democrats have since argued that because lawmakers approved a budget revision filled with cuts -- rather than a plan that appropriates new money -- the governor does not have the same line-item veto authority that applies to regular budget acts. Chiang, a Democrat, is named in the suit as a formality because he is responsible as controller for carrying out Schwarzenegger's vetoes." Sacramento Bee (August 11, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-24-4034]

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## STATE LEGISLATION

**States' Regulation of Assisted Reproductive Technologies: What Does the U.S. Constitution Allow? By Michelle N. Meyer, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) July 2009. 17 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/health\\_care/2009-07-States\\_Regulation\\_ART.pdf](http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/health_care/2009-07-States_Regulation_ART.pdf)

["This paper addresses the extent to which the rights of privacy and reproductive liberty protected by the United States Constitution prevent states from regulating assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs). It concludes that under the best interpretation of the Supreme Court's existing case law, states have ample room to regulate individuals' decisions to procreate, including decisions to use ARTs. States, pursuant to their police powers, may regulate ARTs in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens. However, courts will strictly scrutinize any regulation of procreation that distinguishes socially disfavored groups for different treatment. Similarly, even where a regulation would apply equally to all citizens, it must serve a legitimate governmental interest, rather than merely reflect 'outmoded taboos.'"]

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## STATE TAXES

**2009 Facts & Figures: How Does Your State Compare? Mid-Year Update. By Mark Robyn, the Tax Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) July 2009. 50 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/f&f\\_booklet\\_midyear-20090723.pdf](http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/f&f_booklet_midyear-20090723.pdf)

["The number and significance of state tax changes that have occurred in the first half of 2009 has led us to publish this unprecedented mid-year update. Before this year, optimistic revenue projections led wishful-thinking state officials to increase their state spending commitments. The subsequent drop in revenue sources has resulted in large budget shortfalls. State lawmakers are struggling to choose among reprioritized services and different types of tax increases. We hope this booklet will help inform those choices. It is designed to give taxpayers and their lawmakers a simple, pocket-sized guide to see how their state ranks on several dozen different measures such as individual and corporate income tax rates, excise taxes, tax burdens and state spending."]

[Request #S09-24-3991]

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## TAXES

**Expanding Sales Taxation of Services: Options and Issues. By Michael Mazerov, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2009. 55 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/8-10-09sfp.pdf>

["Broadening the sales tax base to encompass more services, a step that tax experts have long recommended to modernize state tax systems, is receiving renewed attention because of the state fiscal crisis. The report provides state-specific information on what services states now tax, how much revenue they forgo by failing to tax selected services, and how much revenue they could raise by taxing services comprehensively.... Official tax study commissions charged with finding ways to put state finances in California and Colorado on a solid footing for the future are also considering wider taxation of services.... Household spending has been shifting from goods to services for decades. In 2007, household purchases of services (excluding housing) represented 45 percent of personal consumption expenditures; the trend is likely to continue slowly but steadily upward."]

[Request #S09-24-4018]

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## HEALTH

### EMERGENCY CARE

**Freestanding Emergency Departments: Do They Have a Role in California? By Mike Williams and Michael Pfeffer, The Albaris Group. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) July 2009. 23 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.chcf.org/documents/hospitals/FreestandingEmergencyDepartmentsIB.pdf>

["Although freestanding emergency departments (FEDs) have existed since the early 1970s, much of the public remains unaware of them -- including many people in the health care industry. However, use of FEDs is growing, with patient visits increasing 32% in the last decade alone. The declining number of hospital emergency departments combined with the increased demand for emergency services in general has prompted an increased focus on FEDs, both for their potential to alleviate pressure on the hospital system and concern over how their operations should be regulated. This issue brief profiles the prevalence of FEDs in the national landscape and inventories their practices. It also presents an overview of their regulation by federal and state governments, as well as a discussion of the environment for FEDs in California."]

[Request #S09-24-4031]

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**Reducing Ambulance Diversion in California: Strategies and Best Practices. By Mike Williams and others, The Albaris Group. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) July 2009. 17 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.chcf.org/topics/hospitals/index.cfm?itemID=134002>

["This issue brief presents the results of the California ED Diversion Project, a study to measure ambulance diversion in California and analyze emergency department (ED) demand and capacity. The project included the formation of a multi-hospital collaborative intended to help reduce diversion, as well as identify best practices that emergency departments can use to improve their ability to handle spikes in patient flow. While a high diversion rate is typically a symptom of a community strained by tightening hospital capacity, the reverse does not necessarily hold true."]

[Request #S09-24-4030]

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**Is California's Hospital-Based ED System Eroding? By Glenn Melnick and Katya Fontych, University of Southern California. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) July 2009. 12 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.chcf.org/documents/hospitals/EDSystemCapacityDemand.pdf>

["Although the total number of emergency departments (EDs) in California hospitals has declined in the past decade, some hospitals have expanded their ED bed capacity. This issue brief analyzes trends in the use and size of the state's hospital-based EDs from 1996 to 2007. The research indicates that worsening severity of illness may be a greater factor in the problem of ED overcrowding than the growing volume of patients. Among the findings: The supply of California ED beds grew by 17% between 2001 and 2007, while population rose 6% and ED visits increased 2%; A higher proportion of ED patients are more severely ill, and a greater share of visits results in hospital admission; and The number of ED visits considered non-emergency has increased."]

[Request #S09-24-4029]

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## HEALTH CARE REFORM

**Grand Junction, Colorado; A Health Community That Works. By Julie Barnes and others, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) August 12, 2009.**

["It is possible to delivery higher quality care at lower costs in the U.S. health care system. We have to look no further than Grand Junction, Colorado to prove it is possible. In 2006, average Medicare spending per enrollee in Grand Junction was \$5,800, about 30 percent lower than the national average of \$8,300 and more than 60 percent lower than high-cost areas. Despite its lack of a formal integrated delivery system, Grand Junction patients benefit from excellent outcomes, state-of-the-art health information technology, and the latest innovations in preventive and palliative care at much lower costs than elsewhere in the U.S. "]  
[Request #S09-24-4027]

Report. 17 p.

<http://www.newamerica.net/files/GrandJunctionCOHealthCommunityWorks.pdf>

Summary. 3 p.

<http://www.newamerica.net/files/inbriefgrandjunctioncolorado.pdf>

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## HOUSING

### REAL ESTATE LOANS

**The Gains from Right to Rent. By Dean Baker and Hye Jin Rho, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2009. 11 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/gains-right-to-rent-2009-07.pdf>

["Many of the homeowners currently facing foreclosure would likely be able to afford the market rent on their home. If, recognizing the extraordinary situation, Congress were to temporarily alter the foreclosure laws to allow foreclosed homeowners to remain in their homes as renters, it is likely that many would choose to take advantage of this opportunity. This path would offer savings for former homeowners, as well as help stabilize families and communities that are blighted by foreclosures. In addition, Right to Rent offers the advantage that it could immediately benefit all homeowners facing foreclosure without any bureaucracy and would require no taxpayer dollars."]  
[Request #S09-24-3997]

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## RENTAL HOUSING

**Economic Study of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the Los Angeles Housing Market. By Daniel Flaming and others, the Economic Roundtable. Prepared for the City of Los Angeles Housing Department. (The Roundtable, Los Angeles, California) August 2009. 431 pages.**

Full text at: [http://www.economicrt.org/pub/rso\\_study/RSO\\_Study\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.economicrt.org/pub/rso_study/RSO_Study_Final_Report.pdf)

["The Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) covers 66 percent of LA's inventory of rental units and, when owner-occupied units are included, 40 percent of all housing in the City. The majority of Los Angeles renters are rent-burdened, paying over 30 percent of their income for rent, and roughly a third are severely rent-burdened, paying half or more of their income for rent. Strengths of the RSO program include that it touches a large segment of households in Los Angeles, most of whom are at the lower end of the income distribution, and protects them against rapid rent increases and arbitrary eviction. The RSO program is limited in that it does not address the overall scarcity of housing in Los Angeles and the acute scarcity of housing that residents can afford, it provides little rent savings for short-term tenants, and it places administrative burdens on owners."][Request #S09-24-3996]

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## HUMAN SERVICES

### CHILDREN

**Disparities in Early Learning and Development: Lessons from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Birth Cohort. By Tamara Halle and others, Child Trends. (Child Trends, Washington, DC) June 2009.**

["Education and business leaders and the public at large have grown increasingly concerned about the achievement gap between children from at-risk backgrounds and their more advantaged peers -- a gap that is apparent even among young children.... Disparities in child outcomes are evident at 9 months and grow larger by 24 months of age. These disparities exist across cognitive, social, behavioral, and health outcomes.... Nearly half of all infants and toddlers -- approximately 1.5 million children -- are in families with incomes below 200% of poverty at 9 and 24 months of age, and many have multiple risk factors.... The most prevalent risk factors are low family income and low maternal education at both 9 and 24 months.... The more risk factors a child has, the wider the disparities across outcomes."][Request #S09-24-3998]

Report. 39 p.

[http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-2009\\_07\\_10\\_FR\\_DisparitiesEL.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2009_07_10_FR_DisparitiesEL.pdf)

Executive Summary. 7 p.

[http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-2009\\_07\\_10\\_ES\\_DisparitiesEL.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2009_07_10_ES_DisparitiesEL.pdf)

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**Kinship Care When Parents Are Incarcerated: What We Know, What We Can Do.** By Creasie Finney Hairston, University of Illinois at Chicago. (Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland) May 2009. 40 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Topics/Child%20Welfare%20Permanence/Foster%20Care/KinshipCareWhenParentsAreIncarceratedWhatWeKn/10147801\\_KinshipPaper06a%203.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Topics/Child%20Welfare%20Permanence/Foster%20Care/KinshipCareWhenParentsAreIncarceratedWhatWeKn/10147801_KinshipPaper06a%203.pdf)

["This report examines the involvement of the child welfare system in children's care and protection when parents are incarcerated, with a focus on kinship care. Kinship care is defined as care in which relatives other than a child's parent assume parenting responsibilities for the child. It is a common care arrangement for children of incarcerated parents.... Given the significant role these grandparents and other relative caregivers are playing in the lives of children of incarcerated parents, there is an urgent need to collect and analyze existing research, as well as conduct new research in key areas."]

[Request #S09-24-4019]

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## VETERANS

**California's Women Veterans: The Challenges and Needs of Those Who Served.** By Lisa K. Foster and Scott Vince, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-09-009. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) August 2009. 136 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/09/09-009.pdf>

["Women represent over 15 percent of the active duty and reserve forces of the military, and make up over 220,000 of the 1.8 million troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan -- the largest wartime deployment for U.S. women. Following their military service, often in combat conditions, women are returning to their roles as private citizens -- wives, mothers, caregivers, workers -- in unprecedented numbers. Women veterans share many of the short- and long-term physical and emotional consequences and needs that their male counterparts face as a result of serving their country. In addition, they have unique experiences and needs as female veterans. The report describes the state's more than 167,000 women veterans (eight percent of the total veteran population); it identifies the challenges these veterans face, the primary services they need, and barriers they encounter."]

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## TRANSPORTATION

### AUTOMOBILES

**Well-to-Wheels Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Analysis of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles.** By Amgad Elgowainy and others, Center for Transportation Research, Argonne National Laboratory. (The Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois) February 2009. 70 p.

Full text at: <http://www.transportation.anl.gov/pdfs/TA/559.pdf>

["The plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) offered reductions in petroleum energy use as compared with regular hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs). More petroleum energy savings were realized as the all-electric range (AER) increased, except when the marginal grid mix was dominated by oil-fired power generation. Similarly more GHG emissions reductions were realized at higher AERs, except when the marginal grid generation mix was dominated by oil or coal. Electricity from renewable sources realized the largest reductions in petroleum energy use and GHG emissions for all PHEVs as the AER increased. The PHEVs that employ biomass-based fuels (e.g., biomass-E85 and -hydrogen) may not realize GHG emissions benefits over regular HEVs if the marginal generation mix is dominated by fossil sources."]

[Request #S09-24-4021]

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**Real Transportation Solutions for Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** By the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials. (The Association, Washington, DC) July 2009. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.transportation1.org/RealSolutions/RealSolutionsReport.pdf>

["How can we reduce greenhouse gases produced by cars and light trucks without sacrificing jobs and our way of life? There are many options on the table -- driving less and more efficiently, using alternative fuels, building more fuel-efficient cars. In fact, there is no single best way to reduce emissions from these vehicles -- which produce 16.5 percent of all greenhouse gases in the United States. The real answer is a combination of new technologies, cutting-edge public policy, and changing how we drive."]

[Request #S09-24-4020]

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## DRIVERS

**Driver Licensing Policies and Practices: Gearing Up for an Aging Population. By Jane Stutts and Jean Wilkins, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, (The Foundation, Washington, DC) June 2009. 49 p.**

Full text at: <http://lpp.seniordrivers.org/lpp/pdf/DriverLicensePoliciesReport.pdf>

["There is no shortage of policies, programs, activities, and materials developed with the older driver in mind. These range from small local endeavors to statewide and even national policies and programs, and address areas as diverse as driver licensing and training, law enforcement, vehicle modification, education and awareness, roadway engineering, and alternative transportation. The vast majority of these programs have not been adequately evaluated. What has differentiated the current project from these other undertakings is a particular focus on driver licensing policies and programs for older and medically-at-risk drivers; the level of detail collected and provided; and the fact that the information has been documented in a searchable database that will be made available on a Website and updated as new information becomes available."]

[Request #S09-24-4023]

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## TRAFFIC CONGESTION

**Transit and Congestion Pricing: A Primer. By the Federal Highway Administration. (The Administration, Washington, DC) April 2009. 24 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop09015/fhwahop09015.pdf>

["All congestion-pricing schemes deployed in the United States to date have had the primary goal of congestion reduction (via modifications to travel times and routes) followed by revenue enhancements. Most areas have barely acknowledged mode shift as a goal and then usually only as a byproduct of pricing initiatives. Transit involvement in domestic value-pricing strategies has been limited. Upper management at both highway and transit agencies must commit to jointly developing a congestion-pricing program. Experience suggests that without an active transit role, projects are likely to revert to a highway initiative. Express buses are the primary transit modes involved with, and benefiting from, HOV or HOT lanes and other corridor-pricing strategies, compared with the multiple transit modes that must be involved with zonepricing strategies."]

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