

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

October 1909. “The sale of Valencia Park in Covina for \$40,000 marks a new standard for the price of orange groves here. It is situated one mile and a half west of the city limits of Covina. The place is highly improved. The grove was planted three years ago and the young trees are now carrying their first crop of Valencias. The orchard has received the best of care and the trees are as large as five-year olds. The other improvements on the place cost its former owner \$9000. Mr. Reynolds purchased the property as raw land from the Ruddock company four years ago, without water, for \$275 acre.” Los Angeles Times (October 12, 1909) p. II10.

October 1909. “Grape picking has practically been completed and it is estimated that there are about 20,000 trays of raisins drying in the vineyards of the valley. The grapes are of good size this year and the raisin men expect large returns. Indians from the Soboba reservation have done the most of the picking, Ramona, the heroine of Helen Hunt Jackson’s romance, being among the pickers. Ramona brand of raisins should bring a fancy price among consumers in the effete East.” Los Angeles Times (October 12, 1909) p. II11..

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Introduction to Studies in the News

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

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

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey. By David Finkelhor and others, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. (The Office, Washington, DC) October 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/227744.pdf>

["The survey confirms that most of our society's children are exposed to violence in their daily lives. More than 60 percent of the children surveyed were exposed to violence within the past year, either directly or indirectly (i.e., as a witness to a violent act; by learning of a violent act against a family member, neighbor, or close friend; or from a threat against their home or school.) Nearly one-half of the children and adolescents surveyed (46.3 percent) were assaulted at least once in the past year, and more than 1 in 10 (10.2 percent) were injured in an assault.... Children in the United States are more likely to be exposed to violence and crime than are adults."]

[Request #S09-28-4214]

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IMMIGRATION

Breaking the Immigration Stalemate: From Deep Disagreements to Constructive Proposals. By William Galston, The Brookings Institution, and others. (The Institution, Washington, DC) October 2009. 36 p.

Full text at: http://www.brookings.edu/events/2009/1006_immigration_reform.aspx

["Our report represents a determined and at least in one respect unique effort to improve the heat to light ratio, and, if possible, to help break the current stalemate over immigration policy. It is unique, we suggest, because in constituting our group, we cast a very wide net. We did not narrow the range of opinions in order to reach any kind of prefabricated agreement. It was a broad and genuinely deliberative group.... Despite all the problems of our current system -- threats to the rule of law, exploitation of vulnerable newcomers, real and perceived competition with Americans for jobs and public resources -- reform will be exceedingly difficult. To break this stalemate, the roundtable is proposing six policy changes, including emphasizing enforcement at the workplace, setting standards for the legalization of illegal immigrants and establishing an independent commission on immigration."]
[Request #S09-28-4199]

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Humanitarian Crisis: Migrant Deaths at the U.S.-Mexico Border. By Maria Jimenez, Central American Resource Center. (American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego and Imperial Counties, San Diego, California) September 30, 2009. 75 p.

Full text at:
http://aclusandiego.org/article_downloads/000889/Humanitarian%20Crisis%20Report%20-%20web%20version.pdf

["Despite a 50 percent drop over the past two years in the number of people caught illegally entering the United States from Mexico, the number of those who died while trying to cross the border increased this year and is the highest since 2006.... The high numbers of border deaths -- hovering around 350 to 500 a year -- are a predictable but largely unrecognized result of border security policies.... A U.S. crackdown begun in 1994 in California and Texas increased the hazards for illegal immigrants by driving border crossers from urban centers such as San Diego and El Paso into more remote areas.... The report faults governments in both countries, saying they lack standards and centralized means to identify, recover and prepare the dead for burial, determine cause of death, and notify next of kin." Washington Post (September 30, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-28-4170]

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Immigrant Detention: Can ICE Meet its Legal Imperatives and Case Management Responsibilities? By Donald Kerwin and Serena Yi-Ying Lin, Migration Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2009. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/detentionreportSept1009.pdf>

["Better record-keeping could ensure U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement keeps dangerous immigrants in custody while operating its sprawling detention system safely and lawfully. The report notes gaps in the information ICE uses to track the more than 33,000 people in its nationwide system of jails and detention centers that hold immigrants awaiting court hearings or deportation. The gaps include whether a detainee is dangerous or might have a claim to U.S. citizenship, making it hard for the agency to ensure the system operates legally and efficiently.... 'This analysis places these criticisms in a new light by asking whether ICE can fully comply with the law, effectively manage its sprawling detention system and create a system better suited to civil detainees,' with its current record-keeping, the authors wrote." Associated Press (September 10, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-28-4097]

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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

IMMIGRANTS

Measuring Immigrant Assimilation in the United States. By Jacob L. Vidgor, Duke University. (Manhattan Institute, New York, New York) October 2009. 52 p.

Full text at: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr_59.pdf

["This report measures changes in the economic, civic, and cultural assimilation of immigrants to the United States....The nation's economic output peaked late in the year and then began to contract. This development affected immigration in two important ways: immigrants began arriving in fewer numbers than they have since the 1960s; and those immigrants who not only arrived but stayed fell further behind the native-born population economically.... Ironically, the effect of the reduction in the numbers of immigrants arriving and staying has been to offset the impact on the assimilation index of gradually declining levels of English skills upon arrival and afterward as well as lower rates of naturalization. The reason for this is that recent arrivals differ most from natives, and thus their absence raises the collective assimilation index values of immigrants who have been here longer."]
[Request #S09-28-4168]

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DEMOGRAPHY

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles on the Edge, Part I: Analysis of Health and Income Data from the U.S. Census Bureau. 5 p. AND: Los Angeles on the Edge, Part II: Analysis of Poverty Data from the U.S. Census Bureau. 5 p. By the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy. (The Alliance, Los Angeles, California) September 2009.

Full text at: <http://www.laane.org/research/research>

["The 2008 American Community Survey paints a portrait of a region with millions of uninsured residents, high levels of income inequality and hundreds of thousands of low wage workers. The economic recession has only intensified the hardship experienced by many residents of the county and accentuated the need for effective government action to address the problems posed by an economy that is failing to take care of its residents.... The data reveal a county with extraordinarily high rates of poverty and a staggering number of residents lacking the income to meet their basic needs. Children and people of color were much more likely to be poor than other groups and are likely to be most vulnerable to the effects of the recession. The situation is even more extreme in the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which have higher rates of poverty than the county."][Request #S09-28-4174]

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ECONOMY

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Consumer Financial Protection: Advantages, Dangers and Should it be a New Agency? By Martin Neil Baily, Pew Task Force on Financial Reform. (Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) September 2009. 10 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0930_consumer_protection_baily/0930_consumer_protection_baily.pdf

["As a first choice, the U.S. should have single conduct of business regulator covering both the protection of small shareholders and protecting consumers of financial products. The SEC is the natural choice to be the conduct of business regulator and the home for a consumer financial protection agency. As a second choice, a separate agency could serve, provided it has the appropriate structure and a staff that is balanced and knowledgeable about markets. This short paper makes these points by identifying key structural provisions of the Treasury's proposed Consumer Financial Protection Agency, enumerating some concerns that have been raised about it, arguing for a more balanced perspective on consumer protection, and offering some recommendations."]

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Leveling the Playing Field: How to Ensure Minorities Share Equitably in the Economic Recovery and Beyond. By Christian E. Weller and Amanda Logan, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2009. 25 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/09/minorities_report.html

["African Americans and Hispanics have lost more economic ground and done so more quickly than their white counterparts from the end of 2007 to the summer of 2009, and the economic fortunes of minorities have fallen from lower levels than those of whites to begin with. This means that the gap in the economic security between minorities and whites is widening in this recession, as it has in previous ones. We examine data on the different economic experiences of whites, African Americans, and Hispanics during this recession and prior ones. The data show that there are apparent structural problems such as labor market segmentation, credit market steering, and discrimination in the U.S. economy and particularly in the labor market that present an unlevel playing field for minorities. Policymakers need to pay closer attention to these problems."]

[Request #S09-28-4176]

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The Recession's Hidden Costs: Workers Lucky Enough to Keep Their Jobs Still Feel the Pain in Their Paycheck. By Lawrence Mishel and others, Economic Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2009. 9 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/954e0802653119c2e8_35m6b9poo.pdf

["The workers who have retained their jobs in this recession have not escaped unscathed. The first part of 2009 has witnessed a collapse of hourly wage growth for American workers that is both wide and deep. Workers who are still employed are seeing a decline in living standards as a result of this collapse in wages. Although the recovery package induced the end of the broader economic decline, unemployment is expected to remain high and continue to put downward pressure on wages across all income groups for several years to come. The downturn in living standards during this recession will only compound the erosion of incomes that occurred over the 2000-07 business cycle -- the only one on record in which a typical working family had less income at the end of the cycle than at the beginning."]

[Request #S09-28-4104]

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ECONOMIC POLICY

Not What They Had in Mind: A History of Policies that Produced the Financial Crisis of 2008. By Arnold Kling, Mercatus Financial Markets Working Group. (Mercatus Center at George Mason University , Arlington, Virginia) September 2009. 50 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.mercatus.org/uploadedFiles/Mercatus/Publications/NotWhatTheyHadInMind.pdf>

["This paper looks at the roots of the current crisis through an analytical framework of bad bets, excessive leverage, domino effects, and 21st-century bank runs. It shows that broad policy areas -- including housing policy, capital regulations for banks, industry structure and competition, autonomous financial innovation, and monetary policy -- affected elements of this framework to varying, but important degrees. Ultimately, this special study seeks to draw meaningful lessons for policymakers by understanding the complex history, evolution, and integrated nature of financial regulations."]

[Request #S09-28-4103]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

International Lessons about National Standards. By William H. Schmidt and others, Michigan State University. (Thomas Fordham Institute, Washington, DC) August 2009. 72 p.

Full text at:

http://www.fordhaminstitute.org/doc/20090826_International_Lessons_Report.pdf

["Whether to adopt national standards and tests has long been a subject of lively debate in the United States. This report looks beyond America's borders for guidance on how we might best make a transition to an acceptable, workable form of national standards and tests.... It's not true that national standards portend loss of local control.... An independent, quasi-governmental institution is needed to oversee the development of national standards and assessments and to produce trustworthy reports to the nation.... The federal government should encourage and provide resources for the standards-setting process.... We should develop coherent, focused, rigorous standards, beginning with English, math, and science.... National assessments should be administered at grades 4, 8, and 12 every two years.... Hold students, teachers and schools accountable for performance."]

[Request #S09-28-4183]

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Can Teacher Training in Classroom Management Make a Difference for Children's Experiences in Preschool?: A Preview of Findings from the Foundations of Learning Demonstration. By Pamela Morris and others, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) September 2009. 19 p.

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/527/full.pdf>

["Policymakers recognize that early childhood education is a promising strategy for improving the school readiness of disadvantaged young children and for advancing their long-term academic success.... One critical aspect is the children's emotional and behavioral development -- that is, their ability to engage positively with peers and teachers and to focus their attention and behavior during classroom activities. This development is both an important outcome in its own right and can also be a pathway to improved academic achievement. Recent research documenting high levels of behavior problems for children in preschool classrooms highlights the importance of this issue. Moreover, in survey after survey, teachers consistently emphasize their need for professional development and other supports to help them address children's behavioral issues."]

[Request #S09-28-4180]

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Full-Day Kindergarten in California: Lessons from Los Angeles. By Jill S. Cannon, Public Policy Institute of California, and others. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) September 2009. 33 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=792>

["Almost half of California public school kindergarten students attend full-day classes. To understand how a longer class day might benefit students, the authors examined about 200,000 kindergarten records in the Los Angeles Unified School District and found that full-day kindergarten does seem to help reduce the chances of being retained in early grades. But full-day students do not seem to have better second-grade test scores, nor do English learners improve their English fluency at higher rates. Certain subpopulations might benefit more than others; given current budgetary constraints, policymakers may find it more effective to target full-day classes to schools most likely to benefit, such as those with low API rankings."]

[Request #S09-28-4179]

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PRIMARY EDUCATION

The Positive Impact of Social and Emotional Learning for K-8 Students: Findings from Three Scientific Reviews. By John Payton, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, and others. (The Collaborative, Chicago, Illinois) December 2008.

["This report summarizes results from three large-scale reviews of research on the impact of social and emotional learning (SEL) programs on elementary and middle-school students. SEL programs yielded multiple benefits in each review and were effective in both school and after-school settings and for students with and without behavioral and emotional problems. They were also effective across the K-8 grade range and for racially and ethnically diverse students from urban, rural, and suburban settings. SEL programs improved students' social-emotional skills, attitudes about self and others, connection to school, positive social behavior, and academic performance.... The addendum to the report examines emotional health problems, as well as risk and protective factors, among students in California, with an emphasis on San Mateo and Santa Clara counties."]

[Request #S09-28-4178]

Report. 50 p.

<http://www.casel.org/downloads/PackardTR.pdf>

Executive Summary. 12 p.

<http://www.casel.org/downloads/PackardES.pdf>

California Addendum. 15 p.

<http://www.casel.org/downloads/casel-addendum.pdf>

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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Employee Misclassification: Improved Coordination, Outreach, and Targeting Could Better Ensure Detection and Prevention. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-717. (The Office, Washington, DC) August 2009. 74 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09717.pdf>

["When employers improperly classify workers as independent contractors instead of employees, those workers do not receive protections and benefits to which they are entitled, and the employers may fail to pay some taxes they would otherwise be required to pay.... The national extent of employee misclassification is unknown; however, earlier and more recent, though not as comprehensive, studies suggest that

it could be a significant problem with adverse consequences.... DOL's work in this area is limited, and the agency rarely uses penalties in cases of misclassification.... GAO identified various options that could help address the misclassification of employees as independent contractors. Stakeholders GAO surveyed, including labor and employer groups, did not unanimously support or oppose any of these options."][Request #S09-28-4112]

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OLDER WORKERS

Rising Senior Unemployment and the Need to Work at Older Ages. By Richard W. Johnson, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2009. 19 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411964_senior_unemployment.pdf

["Unemployment rates for older workers reached record levels in 2009, partly because fewer workers eligible for early retirement benefits are dropping out of the labor force. Growing concerns about the adequacy of retirement savings and whether retirees will have enough money to live comfortably in later life appear to have discouraged early retirement. Instead, more older workers are now remaining in the labor force and searching for work after they lose their jobs. The need for older adults to keep working raises the imperative for new policies that help address the special challenges that older job seekers face."]

[Request #S09-28-4213]

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America's Changing Workforce: Recession Turns a Graying Office Grayer. By Paul Taylor and others, Pew Research Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: <http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/americas-changing-workforce.pdf>

["The American work force is graying -- and not just because the American population itself is graying. Older adults are staying in the labor force longer, and younger adults are staying out of it longer. Both trends took shape about two decades ago. Both have intensified during the current recession. And both are expected to continue after the economy recovers. According to one government estimate, 93% of the growth in the U.S. labor force from 2006 to 2016 will be among workers ages 55 and older. Demographic and economic factors explain some -- but not all -- of these changes. Attitudes about work also play an important role -- in particular, the growing desire of an aging but healthy population to stay active well into the later years of life."]

[Request #S09-28-4115]

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ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Why Sustainability Standards for Biofuel Production Make Little Economic Sense. By Harry de Gorter and David R. Just, Cornell University. (Cato Institute, Washington, DC) October 7, 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa647.pdf>

["The federal 'sustainability standard' requires ethanol to emit at least 20 percent less carbon dioxide than gasoline. Recent rulings by California and the Environmental Protection Agency, however, have cast doubt on the methodology of the sustainability calculus and whether those standards are being met. We show that the methodological debate is misplaced because sustainability standards for ethanol are, by definition, illogical and ineffective.... Sustainability standards are based on 'lifecycle accounting,' in which ethanol is assumed to replace gasoline; but in fact, it may be replacing coal or other energy sources. Life-cycle accounting also fails to recognize that if incentives are given for ethanol producers to use relatively 'clean' inputs, the 'dirtier' inputs will simply be used by other producers to make products that are not covered by the sustainability standard."]

[Request #S09-28-4187]

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ENERGY CONSERVATION

Energy Efficiency in the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009: Impacts of Current Provisions and Opportunities to Enhance the Legislation. By Rachel Gold and others, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. (Environment California, Los Angeles, California) September 2009. 41 p.

Full text at: http://www.environmentamerica.org/uploads/wg/je/wgjeUjz_UIOtKTo-BDwS5A/E096.pdf

["California households would save an average of \$209 per year and 66,200 sustainable jobs would be created in the state over the next ten years if Congress acts now to include strong energy efficiency improvements in energy and climate legislation. The efficiency provisions would prevent 30 million metric tons of global warming emissions; this is the equivalent of removing the pollution from over 5 million cars from the road for a year.... The report also found that energy efficiency policies.... would create 38,900 new jobs, save the average household \$137 a year, and reduce annual carbon emissions by 18.3 million metric tons in California by 2020."]

[Request #S09-28-4121]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

A Harsh Climate for Trade: How Climate Change Proposals Threaten Global Commerce. By Sallie James, Center for Trade Policy Studies. (The Cato Institute, Washington, DC) September 9, 2009. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.freetrade.org/files/pubs/pas/tpa-041.pdf>

["Proponents of a cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gas emissions have loaded up their proposal with giveaways, loopholes, and barriers to imports from nations with less stringent emission caps. These trade measures are likely to be ineffective at best and harmful to U.S. interests at worst.... To the extent that global warming is a real problem warranting action, it needs to be addressed globally rather than through unilateral efforts. Antagonizing trade partners through probably illegal trade measures will undermine efforts to secure global cooperation on climate change. A freer, more prosperous economy is a more auspicious path to ensuring a more rapid spread of environmental technology and the global consensus needed to combat climate change."].

[Request #S09-28-4124]

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Urban Planning Tools for Climate Change Mitigation. By Patrick M. Condon, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and others. (The Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts) August 2009. 52 p.

Full text at:

https://www.lincolnst.edu/pubs/dl/1573_890_Tools%20for%20Climate%20Change%20final.pdf

["Land use and urban form are key contributors to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) through the physical arrangement of streets, building types, and land uses that influence vehicle use and energy consumption in buildings. City and regional officials now facing new emissions reduction requirements are increasingly turning to urban design as a key component of climate mitigation. But, this approach requires decision support tools that illustrate the GHG implications of land use and transportation options. While a wide spectrum of tools currently exists, few have the capacity to work simultaneously at both the regional and local scale. This report reviews existing tools by scope, scale, methodology, and policy support, and presents four case studies illustrating how existing tools at various stages of development have been used."]

[Request #S09-28-4210]

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The Low-Carbon Diet: How the Market Can Curb Climate Change. By Joel Kurtzman, Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) August 25, 2009. Various pagings.

Full text at:

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/publications.taf?function=detail&ID=38801211&cat=ART>

["It has been projected, based on EPA estimates of the future value of carbon, that the value of emissions permits as proposed in the House energy bill will be roughly \$60 billion a year in 2012 and will increase to \$113 billion in 2025. If sums this large were transferred annually from polluters to those undertaking alternative-energy, conservation, and emissions-abatement programs, these cash flows could help transform the economy into one that is more environmentally benign. The market is a powerful force for allocating capital and creating wealth. And at a time when climate change threatens the globe, it can also be a powerful force for social change. With so much at stake for the environment, cap-and-trade legislation cannot wait."]

[Request #S09-28-4128]

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY

The Pulse of the Estuary 2009: Bay Sediments: Past a Tipping Point. By the San Francisco Estuary Institute. (The Institute, Oakland, California) September 2009. 96 p.

Full text at: <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/pulse/index.html>

["Millions of tons of sand and clay that Gold Rush miners scoured from the Sierra Nevada have finally flushed out to sea after more than a century in San Francisco Bay. While that has led to a remarkably clearer bay in the past decade, scientists are worried about the implications for fish and wetlands, which require a certain amount of free-floating silt for survival..... Less sediment means that more sunlight can permeate the bay's waters. That, in turn, spurs growth of phytoplankton, the microscopic plant matter that makes up the base of the food chain. An overabundance of phytoplankton can result in a massive die-off with plant life sinking to the bottom of the bay to decompose. Free-flowing sediment serves another purpose -- namely as a camouflage for certain fish." San Francisco Chronicle (October 5, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-28-4203]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

The Investments We Need for the Future We Want: California Needs a Master Plan. By the Office of the California State Treasurer. (The Office, Sacramento, California) October 1, 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/publications/2009dar.pdf>

["California should adopt a Master Plan for Infrastructure Financing and Development. The Governor and Legislature should appoint a commission to produce the master plan. This blueprint should fully assess the state's longterm capital outlay needs for the period 2010 to 2050, estimate the annual costs of financing construction through the issuance of bonds during that period, and analyze the availability of state, local and private revenues to complete construction or replacement of necessary infrastructure. The framework for financing those needs should fully integrate infrastructure development into the State budget process."]

[Request #S09-28-4189]

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GOVERNMENT REFORM

A Citizens Constitutional Convention for California: How to Avoid Partisanship and Special Interest Influence. By Steven Hill, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Sacramento, California) July 2009. 10 p.

Full text at: <http://www.newamerica.net/files/CitizenDelegates.pdf>

["Critics of deliberative democracy approaches of turning over important policy proposals to groups of randomly selected citizen bodies have questioned if such a body would have sufficient expertise, even with an involved pre-education process.... But the dozens of examples from across the United States as well as abroad shows that, with the right kind of institutional support, randomly selected panels of average citizens are able to grasp and deliberate on complex issues. Moreover, they bring a commonsense pragmatism to the task at hand, and check their partisanship and narrow self-interest at the door. That allows a new and innovative synthesis of ideas and solutions to come to the fore. The methods and techniques of deliberative democracy tap into the genius of 'we the people' in a way that has never before been possible."]

[Request #S09-28-3940]

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STATE TAXES

Commission on the 21st Century Economy: Report. By the Commission on the 21st Century Economy. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) September 2009. 425 p.

Full text at:

http://www.cotce.ca.gov/documents/reports/documents/Commission_on_the_21st_Century_Economy-Final_Report.pdf

["The state sales tax would be eliminated along with taxes on corporate income in a sweeping proposal by a blue ribbon commission. 'The overall objective ... is to help stabilize state revenues, reduce volatility, promote long-term economic growth and job creation for the state and its citizens, (and) to establish a tax structure that fits the state's 21st century economy,' said Gerald Parsky, the chairman of the panel.... California's tax system has been criticized by many as being too sensitive to the wild swings of the stock market because a significant amount of tax revenue comes from capital gains taxes.... Richard Pomp strongly argued against outright elimination of the corporate tax, and also criticized the plan because most of the reductions would benefit the wealthy." San Francisco Chronicle (September 11, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-28-4188]

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2010 State Business Tax Climate Index. By Kail M. Padgitt, the Tax Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) September 2009. 60 p.

Full text at: <http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/bp59.pdf>

["California's tax system is the 48th least business-friendly among the 50 states, according to a research group. The foundation said its index measures the business competitiveness of tax systems based on corporate/individual income and sales, property and unemployment insurance taxes. States score higher when their tax systems encourage investment with a broad tax base and low rates. South Dakota ranked No. 1 in the index, followed by Wyoming, Alaska, Nevada and Florida." Sacramento Bee (September 23, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-28-4143]

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HEALTH

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Technical Report for State and Local Public Health Officials and Child Care and Early Childhood Providers on CDC Guidance on Helping Child Care and Early Childhood Programs Respond to Influenza during the 2009–2010 Influenza Season. By the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (The Centers, Atlanta, Georgia) September 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/childcare/technical.htm>

["The new guidance expands upon earlier guidance documents by providing a menu of tools that health officials and early childhood providers can choose from based on conditions in their area. The new guidance recommends actions to take now, during the 2009–2010 flu season; suggests additional strategies to consider if CDC determines that flu is becoming more severe; and provides a checklist for decision-making at the local level. Based on the severity of 2009 H1N1 flu-related illness thus far, this guidance recommends that children and early childhood providers with influenza-like illness remain home until 24 hours after resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications."]

[Request #S09-28-4218]

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NURSES

The Nursing Workforce Challenge: Public Policy for a Dynamic and Complex Market. By Randall R. Bovbjerg and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) August 31, 2009. 40 p

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411933_professionalnurse.pdf

["Nurses are health care's backbone, spending the most time with patients and adding value within institutional teams of caregivers and in providing ambulatory primary care. Short-term shortages wax and wane as employers seek to hire at accustomed prices. More seriously, the next decade may see more older nurses retiring than new ones entering the workforce, so education needs to be augmented and improved. But no precise estimation method can show how many nurses society 'should' produce. Policy should focus more on nurses' scopes of practice and aligning how they are treated and paid with the value they add to patient care."]

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OBESITY

Zoning For Health? The Year-Old Ban On New Fast-Food Restaurants In South LA. By Roland Sturm and Deborah A. Cohen. IN: Health Affairs, DOI 10.1377/hlthaff.28.6.w1088. (October 6, 2009) 10 p.

Full text at: <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.28.6.w1088/DC1>

["A regulation banning the establishment of new fast-food restaurants in South Los Angeles is unlikely to curb obesity rates. Concerned about high levels of obesity, the lack of traditional grocery stores and a proliferation of fast-food eateries, the Los Angeles City Council approved a moratorium on new fast-food restaurants in one of the poorest sections of the city last year.... Obesity takes a 'disproportionate toll on minority populations, especially among African American and Hispanic youth' who live in South Los Angeles... 'Policy choices such as forcing restaurants to print calorie and nutrition information on their menus and reducing the availability of snack food and sodas is likely to be more effective in combating obesity than restricting the areas where fast-food establishments can open' said Strum." Los Angeles Times (October 6, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-28-4216]

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PUBLIC HEALTH

The Ten Riskiest Foods Regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. By Sarah Klein and others, Center for Science in the Public Interest. (The Center, Washington, DC) October 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: http://cspinet.org/new/pdf/cspi_top_10_fda.pdf

["In recent years, U.S. consumers have faced foodborne-illness outbreaks linked to contaminated food. A complex, globalized food system, archaic food-safety laws, and the rise of large-scale production and processing have combined to create a perfect storm of unsafe food. Unfortunately, the hazards now come from all areas of the food supply: not only high-risk products, like meat and dairy, but also the must-eat components of a healthy diet, like fruits and vegetables.... The hurdles to accurate outbreak tracking are many: people rarely see a doctor to treat foodborne illness; those who do are often treated without the lab testing needed to document the cause of the illness; illnesses need to be investigated by state health officials in order to be identified as part of an outbreak; and states often lack the resources to conduct thorough investigations to identify the food involved."]

[Request #S09-28-4217]

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HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

Subprime Revisited: How Reverse Mortgage Lenders Put Older Homeowners' Equity at Risk. By Tara Twomey, National Consumer Law Center, and Rick Jurgens. (The Center, Boston, Massachusetts) October 2009. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://www.consumerlaw.org/reports/content/ReverseMortgages1009.pdf>

["Reverse mortgages, which let seniors cash out home equity, have the potential to spawn another subprime-style financial crisis.... The report cited aggressive marketing tactics, and said seniors are sometimes pressured to use reverse mortgages to buy inappropriate financial products, such as annuities. It did not cite any statistics to document abuses. The law center recommends tightening consumer protections.... Legislation pending in California would add some safeguards. A bill that passed the Senate and Assembly and awaits the governor's signature would establish a suitability checklist for reverse mortgages." San Francisco Chronicle (October 7, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-28-4191]

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HUMAN SERVICES

PARENTS

Will Parent Training Reduce Abuse, Enhance Development, and Save Money? Let's Find Out. By Richard P. Barth, University of Maryland, and Ron Haskins, The Future of Children. (The Future of Children., Princeton, New Jersey) October 2009.

["Three decades of research has shown that parent training can improve developmental outcomes for children. Recent research suggests that parent training can also reduce child abuse and neglect, especially when the training is embedded in a broader community campaign. Parent training and community campaigns warrant further rigorous experimental evaluation to determine cost-effectiveness. This policy brief presents a strategy for testing community-developed parent training initiatives. Such a test will generate knowledge of the feasibility of different approaches to reducing child maltreatment and promoting child development."][Request #S09-28-4193]

Policy Brief. 8 p.

http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/19_02_PolicyBrief_2.pdf

Journal. 216 p.

<http://www.futureofchildren.org/>

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POVERTY

It's Time for a Better Poverty Measure. By Mark Greenberg, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 25, 2009. 9 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/pdf/better_poverty_measure.pdf

["The federal poverty measure shapes our understanding of how many people are in poverty, who is in poverty, and how much poverty goes up or down when economic conditions and policies change. No alternative is perfect, but it's possible to develop a substantially better measure than the current one. A poverty measure typically has two components: the thresholds used to determine whether an individual or family's income is below the poverty line, and the resource-counting rules used in making that determination.... The thresholds are essentially arbitrary because they simply represent a number calculated more than 40 years ago and then adjusted for inflation, and they no longer represent anything in relation to family incomes or costs.... The resource-counting rules make no adjustment for geographical variation despite the large variations across the country."]

[Request #S09-28-4151]

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YOUTH

The Changing Pathways of Hispanic Youths Into Adulthood. By Richard Fry, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) October 17, 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/114.pdf>

["Young Latino adults in the United States are more likely to be in school or the work force now than their counterparts were in previous generations. In 1970, 77% of Hispanics ages 16 to 25 were either working, going to school or serving in the military; by 2007, 86% of Latinos in this coming-of-age group were taking part in these skill-building endeavors. The growth over time in the share of youths involved in such market-oriented activities is not limited to Latinos. Similar changes have occurred among black and white youths. But the Latino trends are particularly noteworthy because their share of the young adult population has risen so dramatically during this period. The increase in their attachment to school or the work world (which includes employment by the military) has been driven mainly by the changes in the endeavors of young Hispanic females."]

[Request #S09-28-4215]

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Vulnerable Youth and the Transition to Adulthood. By Heidi Johnson and others, the Urban Institute. (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC) July 2009. Various pagings

Full text at: <http://www.urban.org/publications/411948.html>

["This series examines youth vulnerability and risk-taking behaviors on several outcomes for young adults. Notable results suggest youth follow one of four patterns in connecting to the labor market and school in the transition to adulthood: consistently-connected, later-connected, initially-connected, or never-connected. Second generation Latinos make a fairly smooth transition to young adulthood, but are less likely to engage in post-secondary schooling than whites. Youth from low-income families, distressed neighborhoods, and youth with poor mental health engage in relatively high levels of some adolescent risk behaviors and have relatively lower earnings and levels of connectedness in early adulthood. "]
[Request #S09-28-4150]

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TRANSPORTATION

FINANCING

"Green" Transportation Taxes and Fees: A Survey of Californians. By Asha Weinstein Agrawal and others, Mineta Transportation Institute. (The Institute, San Jose, California) June 2009. 142 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/MTIportal/research/publications/documents/GreenTaxes%20\(Final%20with%20Cover\).pdf](http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/MTIportal/research/publications/documents/GreenTaxes%20(Final%20with%20Cover).pdf)

["This report explores public opinion on a new and promising concept -- green transportation taxes and fees. These are taxes and fees set at variable rates, with higher rates for more polluting vehicles and lower rates for those that pollute less. This approach to transportation taxes and fees adapts the traditional transportation finance system to achieve two critical public benefits at once: encouraging drivers to choose more environmentally-friendly transportation options and raising revenue for needed transportation programs.... The survey results show that the concept of green transportation taxes and fees strongly appeals to Californians.... Another striking finding from the survey is that support for the green taxes and fees did not vary greatly by population subgroups; a diverse range of Californians supported the green taxes and fees."]
[Request #S09-28-4156]

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HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Where High-Speed Rail Works Best. By Yoav Hagler and Petra Todorovich, America 2050. (America 2050, New York, New York) September 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://www.america2050.org/pdf/Where-HSR-Works-Best.pdf>

["The study ranks all potential high-speed rail corridors in the United States showing where high-speed rail works best -- the Northeast, Midwest and California -- and recommends the federal government invest in these corridors first to increase the probability of success of the high-speed rail program. The ranking was based on six criteria: number of potential passengers, optimal distances, potential for connections to transit, economic productivity, most auto congestion, and containment within a megaregion -- networks of metropolitan regions with shared economies, infrastructure and natural resources.... The study comes at a key time as Federal Rail Administration is deciding how to spend \$8 billion in stimulus funds dedicated for investment in high-speed rail as outlined in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Competition for the dollars will be fierce."]

[Request #S09-28-4152]

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TRANSIT

Josh Shaw, et al. v. The People ex rel. John Chiang, as Controller, etc. et al. California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. C058479. June 30, 2009. 54 p.

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/C058479.PDF>

["The California Supreme Court turned away an appeal by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration, which was seeking the right to divert \$3.4 billion in transit funds to the general fund to ease the state budget deficit. That left intact the ruling of the 3rd District Court of Appeal this summer that recent funding diversions violated a series of voter measures supporting transit taxes.... The issue will now go back to a lower court to determine how the money should be paid back.... 'By denying the state's appeal, the Supreme Court has affirmed once and for all what we always maintained was true: that it's illegal to shift dedicated state transit funds away from transit agencies and their riders,' said Joshua Shaw, executive director of the California Transit Association." San Jose Mercury News (October 2, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-28-4198]

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Achieving California's Land Use and Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emission Targets Under AB 32: An Exploration of Potential Policy Processes and Mechanisms. By Susan A. Shaheen and others, University of California, Berkeley. (Transportation Sustainability Research Center, Richmond, California) October 2009. 117 p.

Full text at:

http://www.its.berkeley.edu/newsbits/fall2009/AB32_Compiled_Report_final.pdf

["California led the nation by passing the first global warming legislation in the U.S.: the Global Warming Solutions Act or Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32). The legislation requires California to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (approximately a 27 percent reduction) using an enforceable statewide target to be phased in beginning in 2012.... This report represents a body of work conducted to assist the State of California in its efforts to develop a plan to achieve the emission targets set forth by AB 32. This research includes a literature review, expert interviews, and regional stakeholder workshops to identify and explore possible policy processes (e.g., cap and trade, budgets, feebates, etc.), mechanisms (e.g., smart growth and ITS), and strategies that could be employed to meet AB 32's GHG reduction goals."]

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