

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
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Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

October 1910 “Twenty-One Killed and More Injured in the Dynamited ‘Times’ Building: Bomb Exploded by the Enemies of Industrial Freedom and of this Paper, Fearful in Deadliness and Destructiveness – Many Bodies in Ruins, Other Crimes Planned.... Not until a sudden red glare burst up against the sky and wrought its image upon the window panes, a hoarse clamor of deep-throated fire whistles and the staccato clatter of galloping horse in the silent streets broke the quiet, did the realization come. There was an instant exodus. Every house within twenty blocks of First and Broadway seemed to leap into life upon the instant. Doors flew open like mouths, vomiting half-clad people into the streets by hundreds. There were few that, once having seen the mighty glare, paused to repair any defects of raiment. With a single mind they dashed slippered, stocking-footed, even in bare feet, toward the raging conflagration.... The paper was printed last night on a different press; but it was printed just the same. General Otis has returned from Mexico and is in full command. The familiar voice of the chief is heard on the quarter deck. The Times goes right on and the eagle still flies.” Los Angeles Times (October 2, 1910) p. II.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Times_bombing

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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](http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); csinfo@library.ca.gov with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.
- *Studies in the News* is also available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

DRUGS

The Budgetary Impact of Ending Drug Prohibition. By Jeffrey A. Miron, Harvard University, and Katherine Waldo, New York University. (Cato Institute, Washington, DC) September 2010. 62 p.

Full text at: http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=12169

["State and federal governments in the United States face massive looming fiscal deficits. One policy change that can reduce deficits is ending the drug war. Legalization means reduced expenditure on enforcement and an increase in tax revenue from legalized sales. This report estimates that legalizing drugs would save roughly \$41.3 billion per year in government expenditure on enforcement of prohibition. Of these savings, \$25.7 billion would accrue to state and local governments, while \$15.6 billion would accrue to the federal government. Approximately \$8.7 billion of the savings would result from legalization of marijuana and \$32.6 billion from legalization of other drugs. The report also estimates that drug legalization would yield tax revenue of \$46.7 billion annually, assuming legal drugs were taxed at rates comparable to those on alcohol and tobacco."]

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GUNS & GUN CONTROL

Trace the Guns: The Link between Gun Laws and Interstate Gun Trafficking. By Mayors Against Illegal Guns. (Mayors Against Illegal Guns, New York, New York) September 2010. 46 p.

Full text at:

http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/trace_the_guns_report.pdf

["Nearly 600 mayors nationwide are mounting a new campaign to identify states with lax gun laws and push for tighter restrictions to prevent the trafficking of guns used in crimes. The study uses previously unavailable federal gun data to identify what it says are the states that most often export guns used in crimes across state lines.... The study also seeks to draw a link between gun trafficking and gun control laws by analyzing gun restrictions in all 50 states in areas like background checks for gun purchases, policies on concealed weapons permits and state inspections of gun dealers. It finds that, across the board, those states with less restrictive gun laws exported guns used in crimes at significantly higher rates than states with more stringent laws." New York Times (September 26, 2010) 1.]

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IMMIGRATION

Measuring the Effectiveness of Border Security Between Ports-of-Entry. By Henry H. Willis and others, RAND Corporation. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) September 2010. 68 p.

Full text at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2010/RAND_TR837.pdf

["The study recognized that national-level effectiveness depends on 'networked intelligence' described as the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to share information and work collaboratively. The terrorist threat that border-security efforts must counter will be significantly influenced by the effectiveness of security, economic policy, military, diplomatic, and intelligence efforts targeting other aspects of terrorism.... Other steps to implement measures of the effectiveness of border-security efforts will require analytic effort. These include developing a range of models to support planning, identifying opportunities to estimate attempted illegal crossings, identifying best practices for exploiting networked intelligence, and using layered portfolio-analysis methods to evaluate past or ongoing border security efforts." California Capitol Hill Bulletin (September 16, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-19-5268]

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PRISONS

Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2008-09. By Allen J. Beck, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and others. (The Bureau, Washington, DC) August 2010. 91 p.

Full text at: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2202>

["State prison officials are disputing findings from a new federal study that identified two California prisons as having some of the highest rates of sexual violence in the nation. The report ranked two California adult men's prisons among six others nationwide as 'high rate' facilities based on the prevalence of 'inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization.' The report gave the California Medical Facility a prevalence rate of 5.8 percent and Pleasant Valley State Prison a rate of 5.5 percent. The national rate for adult male inmates was 1.9 percent. The Pleasant Valley facility had 5,097 inmates at the time of the survey, and the California Medical Facility had 3,067 inmates.... But some experts were puzzled by the state's apparent use of official data to challenge findings from the report, which relied on an extensive confidential survey of inmates." California Watch (September 15, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-19-5269]

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DEMOGRAPHY

IMMIGRANTS

Assimilation Today: New Evidence Shows the Latest Immigrants to America Are Following in Our History's Footsteps. By Dowell Myers and John Pitkin, University of Southern California. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) September 2010. 47 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/09/immigration_assimilation.html

["In this paper we use the most comprehensive U.S. Census Bureau survey data to investigate how well the process is working for today's immigrants. Replacing the misleading rhetoric of immigration opponents with firm data, this study shows that assimilation is happening across our nation. The illusion of nonassimilation is created by looking only at newcomers who have not had time yet to assimilate as fully as earlier arrivers. But once we examine immigrants' advancement over time - - in this study from 1990 to the present -- we discover that the longer immigrants are here the more they advance and the better they are integrated into our society.... Integration is occurring fastest in the areas of citizenship and homeownership, with high school completion and earnings also rising."]

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ECONOMY

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

After the Fall. By Carmen M. Reinhart, University of Maryland, and Vincent R. Reinhart, American Enterprise Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) August 2010. 47 p.

Full text at: <http://www.aei.org/paper/100133>

["This paper examines the behavior of real GDP (levels and growth rates), unemployment, inflation, bank credit, and real estate prices in a twenty one-year window surrounding selected adverse global and country-specific shocks or events. The episodes include the 1929 stock market crash, the 1973 oil shock, the 2007 U.S. subprime collapse and fifteen severe post-World War II financial crises. The focus is not on the immediate antecedents and aftermath of these events but on longer horizons that compare decades rather than years.... We present evidence that the decade of relative prosperity prior to the fall was importantly fueled by an expansion in credit and rising leverage that spans about 10 years; it is followed by a lengthy period of retrenchment that most often only begins after the crisis and lasts almost as long as the credit surge."][Request #S10-19-5273]

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Block Grants: Entitlement Communities' and States' Methods of Distributing Funds Reflect Program Flexibility. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-1011. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 2010. 44 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d101011.pdf>

["From a review of all 50 states' methods of distribution described in annual actions plans, GAO found that states used a formula, competition, open application, or a combination of methods to distribute funds to non-entitlement communities. Most states used a combination of competitive and open application processes. Whatever their method of distribution, the five states in GAO's sample evaluated applications to some degree against state priorities, which reflected a variety of needs assessments. States using some competitive distribution processes also incorporated their priorities into the scoring of applicants. All five states communicated their methods of distribution to non-entitlement communities and the public through their required annual plans and additional publications, workshops, and intergovernmental organizations."]

[Request #S10-19-5274]

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IMMIGRATION

Ten Economic Facts About Immigration. By Michael Greenstone and Adam Looney, the Hamilton Project. (The Project, Washington, DC) September 2010. 20 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2010/09_immigration_greenstone_looney.aspx

["In this policy memo, we explore some of the questions frequently raised around immigration in the United States and provide facts drawn from publicly available data sets and the academic literature. Most Americans agree that the current U.S. immigration system is flawed. Less clear, however, are the economic facts about immigration -- the real effects that new immigrants have on wages, jobs, budgets, and the U.S. economy -- facts that are essential to a constructive national debate. These facts paint a more nuanced portrait of American immigration than is portrayed in today's debate.... Immigrants now comprise more than 12 percent of the American population, according to recent estimates, approaching levels not seen since the early 20th century."]

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SMALL BUSINESS

Who Creates Jobs? Small vs. Large vs. Young. By John C. Haltiwanger, University of Maryland, and others. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) August 2010. 49 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w16300>

["The work -- the first to track employment by age and size of the hiring company -- found that small, mature firms (those with fewer than 500 employees and at least 10 years in operation) are actually net drags on job growth. On average, between 1992 and 2005, they destroyed more salaries than they created. In 2005, for example, small businesses lost about a million jobs, even as the overall economy expanded by about 2.5 million. Startups accounted for nearly all the growth. New businesses are often tiny, of course, at least at first. But the distinction between them and small, mature firms is hardly semantic, says Haltiwanger. His research suggests that the policy focus should skew young, nurturing the next big firms -- which actually employ the most people -- rather than tending an old crop of small ones." Newsweek (September 5, 2010) 1.]

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EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Building and Using Coordinated State Early Care and Education Data Systems: A Framework for State Policymakers. By The Early Childhood Data Collaborative. (The Collaborative, Washington, DC) August 2010. 20 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org/files/DQC%20ECDC%20WhitePaper%20FINAL%20online.pdf>

["Although states may provide a variety of early childhood programs and interventions, they are often administered independently of each other and are not well coordinated. The result is that information on children's early care and education (ECE) experiences before kindergarten is siloed and uncoordinated, making it difficult for policymakers to target resources.... Accurate, timely and quality ECE data are necessary to inform policy decisions; guide the daily work of ECE professionals; and support coordination among ECE programs.... Building and using ECE data systems that support these efforts require states to lead a threefold transformation: 1) From compliance-driven data efforts to improvement-driven data systems; 2) From fragmented and incomplete data efforts to coordinated data systems; and 3) From 'snapshot' data to longitudinal data systems."]

[Request #S10-19-5305]

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Setting Statewide College- and Career-Ready Goals. By the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 2010. 15 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1008COLLEGE CAREER READY GOALS.PDF>

["To stimulate improvement in the preparation of students for postsecondary education and training, states can set statewide college- and career-ready goals. In setting state education goals, governors can define the vision and inspire the change necessary to prepare all students for success in college and careers. However, to date, very little guidance exists for states seeking to create education goals. This Issue Brief provides direction to state leaders on establishing college- and career-ready performance goals. The process should include the following five steps: 1) Select performance indicators; 2) Collect, calculate, and report baseline data for the indicators; 3) Set specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely (SMART) goals; 4) Establish annual or biannual targets to meet the goals; and 5) Publicly report performance on the indicators annually."]

[Request #S10-19-5280]

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The College Completion Agenda: State Policy Guide. By The College Board Advocacy and Policy Center and the National Conference of State Legislatures. (The Conference, Denver, Colorado) 2010. 160 p.

Full text at: http://www.ncsl.org/documents/educ/policyguide_062810sm.pdf

["Greater numbers of students are enrolling in U.S. colleges and universities, yet the proportion of individuals earning a postsecondary degree or credential continues to decline.... The College Board and NCSL have identified coauthors in their respective organizations with policy and practice expertise in each recommendation area to create the individual chapters of this State Policy Guide. The authors actively consulted with specialists from the education community and a legislative advisory group of eight experienced state legislators and staff who have given ongoing guidance to this effort."]

[Request #S10-19-5303]

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SCHOOL FINANCE

Analysis of K-12 Education Expenditures in California: FY2003-04 to FY2008-09. By Steven Frates & Michael Shires, Davenport Institute, Pepperdine University. (The University, Malibu, California) July 2010. 231 p.

Full text at: <http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/davenport-institute/reports/analysis-of-k-12-education/content/analysis-K-12-education.pdf>

["This report examines K-12 public school district finances in California. The focus of this report is on how much money is spent by these public school districts and how that money has been allocated.... Over the last several years, the expression 'budget cuts' has been heard often regarding K-12 public school district expenditures in California. In reality, total expenditures (excluding Capital Expenditures) have increased every year from FY 2003-04 through FY 2007-08, before leveling off in FY 2008-09.... Direct classroom expenditures statewide went from 59 percent of Total Expenditures (excluding Capital Expenditures) in FY 03-04 to 57.8 percent of Total Expenditures (excluding Capital Expenditures) in FY 08-09. It should be kept in mind, however, that there is a wide range among the 52 selected school districts analyzed...."]

[Request #S10-19-5205]

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SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Learning from Leadership: Investigating the Links to Improved Student Learning: Final Report of Research to the Wallace Foundation. By Karen Seashore Louis, University of Minnesota, and others. (The Wallace Foundation, New York, New York) July 2010. 338 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/CurrentArea/sofFocus/EducationLeadership/Documents/Learning-from-Leadership-Investigating-Links-Final-Report.pdf>

["Our research has uncovered many fine grained behaviors that are elements of being an effective leader and has pointed to the conditions that encourage or discourage these productive actions. Principal - teacher relationships, district leaders' interactions with principals, and policy decisions at the state level all are intertwined in a complex and changing environment. We found links between all elements of our theoretical framework, with some having a more direct relationship with student learning.... The translation of legislative and gubernatorial initiatives into support for schools falls to the state agencies, which are struggling to realize a significant change in their roles, shaped by the standards and accountability movement. Districts and schools generally view states as partners with limited vision and even fewer resources."][Request #S10-19-5306]

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EMPLOYMENT

LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

The Stagnating Labor Market. By Arjun Jayadev and Mike Konczal, The Roosevelt Institute. (The Institute, Hyde Park, New York) September 19, 2010. 11 p.

Full text at: http://www.rooseveltinstitute.org/sites/all/files/stagnant_labor_market.pdf

["It is clear that the weakness of the labor market is a generalized one and that the situation at the moment is more dire than is typically expressed in policy circles. For as aggregate demand remains weak, there will be a continued increase in those who drop out of the labor force. The scars of unemployment show up decades later for these unemployed and absent from the labor force workers. Worse, these workers could, through a hysteresis effect, drag the long-run behavior of unemployment even higher. In light of the political climate and the impending elections, government officials may be loath to address this problem frontally. Such an approach, while politically expedient may be disastrous for the economy and for social welfare."][Request #S10-19-5282]

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Stuck Between a Recession and a Recovery: California's Workers Face the Toughest Job Market in Decades. By Alissa Anderson, California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) September 2010. 27 p.

Full text at: http://cbp.org/pdfs/2010/1009_Labor_Day.pdf

["With the job market neither getting worse nor much better, California appears to be stuck between a recession and a recovery. Barring further efforts to bolster job creation, the state will likely continue to languish for several more years with recession-like high levels of unemployment. The consequences of such pervasive and persistent joblessness for California's workers and their families will be great, and the longer the weak labor market persists, the deeper the scars will be. Even past downturns, which were shorter and milder than the Great Recession and were followed by stronger recoveries, had significant and lasting impacts on workers' earnings, their health status, and their children. This suggests that it will take many years for families to recover from the devastation caused by the longest and most severe recession in recent history."]

[Request #S10-19-5281]

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RETIREMENT

Work and Retirement Patterns for the G.I. Generation, Silent Generation, and Early Boomers: Thirty Years of Change. By Richard W. Johnson and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2010. 70 p.

Full text at: <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412175-work-and-retirement.pdf>

["This study comparing retirement patterns over the past 30 years finds that older adults are now working longer and taking more complex routes out of the labor force. More than 40 percent of men born 1943 to 1947 did not retire by age 65, compared with only 20 percent of those born 1933 to 1937. Men and women born 1933 to 1937 were much more likely than those born 20 years earlier to move to part-time work at older ages and return to work after retiring.... In light of the financial benefits of working longer and overall improvements in employment prospects at older ages, it is surprising that participation rates have not increased more among men in their late fifties and early sixties. As policymakers debate the wisdom of increasing Social Security's early entitlement age, understanding why so many worker continue to retire by age 62 is a crucial research challenge."]

[Request #S10-19-5172]

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ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS): Overview and Issues. By Randy Schnepf and Brent D. Yacobucci, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) July 2010. 33 p.

Full text at: <http://ncseonline.org/nle/crsreports/10Jul/R40155.pdf>

["In the long term, the expanded RFS is likely to play a dominant role in the development of the U.S. biofuels sector, but with considerable uncertainty regarding potential spillover effects in other markets and on other important policy goals. Emerging resource constraints related to the rapid expansion of U.S. corn ethanol production have provoked questions about its long-run sustainability and the possibility of unintended consequences in other markets as well as on the environment. Questions also exist about the ability of the U.S. biofuels industry to meet the expanding mandate for biofuels from non-corn sources such as cellulosic biomass materials, whose production capacity has been slow to develop, or biomass-based biodiesel, which remains expensive to produce owing to the relatively high prices of its feedstocks."]

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Energy Market Consequences of Emerging Renewable Energy and Carbon Dioxide Abatement Policies in the United States. By Peter R. Hartley and Kenneth B. Medlock III, Rice University. (James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Houston, Texas) September 2010. 77 p.

Full text at: <http://bakerinstitute.org/publications/CarbonHartleyMedlock-Final%20with%20cover%20092410%20secured%20.pdf>

["Widespread adoption of electric cars could reduce U.S. oil demand and the need for imported oil more than creation of a national mandate for renewable power such as wind and solar. The analysis found that a mandate calling for 30 percent of all U.S. vehicles to run on electric power by 2050 would be 'the single most effective way' to reduce oil demand and reliance on foreign imports. A 30-percent electric fleet would reduce U.S. oil use by 2.5 million barrels a day above the projected reduction from increased fuel efficiency standards. Imports could fall to 40 percent of U.S. oil use, down from 60 percent currently.... Implementing a national RPS 'would make virtually no contribution to lowering' U.S. oil demand or imports, the study said." Reuters (September 28, 2010) 1.]

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SOLAR POWER

2009 Bay Area Solar Installations Report. By the Northern California Solar Energy Association. (The Association, Berkeley, California) July 2010. 27 p.

Full text at: http://www.noricalsolar.org/docs/BASI_2009.pdf

["Richmond ranks No. 1 among large Northern California cities for installing the most watts per capita of new solar energy in 2009. Richmond also placed second for the total watts installed. Lafayette nabbed the No. 3 spot among small cities for the total number of systems installed. Contra Costa County was recognized with a second place award among counties for total watts installed. In Alameda County, Berkeley took first place among large cities for having the most new systems per capita. Livermore took second among medium-sized cities for the number of systems, total wattage and watts per capita. The Bay Area leads the state in new solar installations and accounts for 46 percent of new installations since the California Solar Initiative launched in 2007." Oakland Tribune (July 14, 2010) 1.]
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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

OCEAN RESOURCES

Scientific Assessment of Hypoxia in U.S. Coastal Waters. By the Interagency Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Human Health. (Office of Science and Technology Policy, Washington, DC) September 2010. 164 p.

Full text at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/nstc/oceans>

["A report issued by key environmental and scientific federal agencies assesses the increasing prevalence of low-oxygen 'dead zones' in U.S. coastal waters and outlines a series of research and policy steps that could help reverse the decades-long trend. The interagency report notes that incidents of hypoxia -- a condition in which oxygen levels drop so low that fish and other animals are stressed or killed -- have increased nearly 30-fold since 1960. Incidents of hypoxia were documented in nearly 50 percent of the 647 waterways assessed for the new report, including the Gulf of Mexico, home to one of the largest such zones in the world.... Unnatural levels of hypoxia, which occur mostly in the summer, are primarily the result of human activities that deliver nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous into waterways." OST press release (September 3, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-19-5296]

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WATER POLICY

Managing for Change: Modernizing California's Water Governance. By the Little Hoover Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) August 2010. 126 p.

Full text at: <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/reports/listall.html>

["The state lacks the comprehensive view of water use and demand needed for meaningful management and long-term planning. As a result of the state's confusing water governance structure, California cities and growers face increasing risk to their water supply, as environmental needs are not fully factored into water rights administration and enforcement, in some cases contributing to declines of endangered species. For California to successfully manage the water it has and make useful plans for its future, water planning, management, rights and enforcement need not only to be located together, but fully integrated. This will require coordinating planning and management with regulatory responsibilities. Though this has raised some concern, it is essential to ensuring these functions are informed by a cohesive set of data on water supply, demand and use."]

[Request #S10-19-5294]

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WILDFIRES

Wildland Urban Interface: Community Assistance. By the Office of Inspector General. U.S. Department of the Interior. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2010. 15 p.

Full text at: <http://www.doioig.gov/images/stories/reports/pdf/ER-EV-MOA-0012-2009.pdf>

["This memorandum transmits our evaluation of the Department of the Interior's (DOI) activities pertaining to wildland urban interface areas where private and federal properties intersect and where wildland fires may ignite without warning.... Sponsoring National Fire Plan grants is a key tool used by DOI's wildland fire management programs to promote community assistance and collaboration. Federal grant monies and direct bureau involvement have helped community beneficiaries mitigate fire risks and form partnerships with state and local fire entities. Nevertheless, significant opportunities to improve the community assistance function have been overlooked because the program lacks internal DOI ownership. Such ownership could result in clarified objectives and performance measurements, and development of effective monitoring tools."]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Are We Ready for a Disaster? Recommendations for Improving Disaster Preparation of Limited English Proficient Communities. By the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) June 2010. 28 p.

Full text at:

http://www.apalc.org/pressreleases/2010/disaster_preparedness_report.pdf

["Emergency preparedness is necessary to limit the potential impact of a catastrophic event, and language access as a factor in disaster preparedness has received little attention in Southern California, where one-quarter of the population is Limited English Proficient (LEP).... City personnel indicated that lack of bilingual personnel and resources for translations of written documents prevent them from adequately preparing LEP communities for disasters.... Many cities do not have sufficient resources to effectively communicate with LEP communities during a disaster.... Most of the city officials interviewed (81%) identified lack of funding as a significant barrier to providing disaster services to LEP populations.... While few cities are able to disseminate warning information in other languages, many cities are prepared and willing to use ethnic media to spread this information."][Request #S10-19-5218]

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The 2010 State CIO Survey: Perspectives and Trends from State Government IT Leaders. By the National Association of State Chief Information Officers and others. (The Association, Lexington, Kentucky) August 2010. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nascio.org/publications/documents/NASCIO-2010StateCIOSurvey.pdf>

["To gain the highest return on investments in technology, state governors and legislatures must also invest state CIOs with more authority.... CIOs with strong governance structures in place need better management processes.... Acquiring and deploying IT are complex undertakings. Yet, in state government, IT procurement is too often mired in a buying system built for low-tech goods and services, which is why CIOs want procurement reform and streamlined IT acquisition processes.... Rapid change in IT is the norm, but new IT applications, solutions and services pose challenges to governments. While new technologies may offer great benefits, very often there is a lag time between their emergence and the development of government policy regarding their use by public sector entities."]

[Request #S10-19-5219]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Final Report of the President's Task Force on Post-Employment Benefits. By the President's Post-Employment Benefits Task Force. (University of California, Oakland, California) July 2010. 109 p.

Full text at: <http://universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/ucrpfuture/task-force-report/>

["The University of California retirement system faces a shortfall of more than \$20 billion, according to a new report, and a task force of administrators and employees is recommending changes to help fix the problem. The panel proposed such changes as increasing contributions made by the university and employees, raising the minimum retirement age for new hires and reducing some benefits. Much of the problem with the retirement fund stems from a decision 20 years ago when UC and its employees stopped paying into the retirement system because it was believed to be overfunded, officials said. The university and employees resumed payments this year, but concerns about the possibility of unfunded pensions and post-retirement healthcare continue." Los Angeles Times (August 31, 2010) 1.].

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Debunking the Myth of the Overcompensated Public Employee. By Jeffrey H. Keefe, Rutgers University. (Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC) September 15, 2010. 14 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/8808ae41b085032c0b_8um6bh5ty.pdf

["Public employees, both state and local government, are not overpaid. Comparisons controlling for education, experience, hours of work, organizational size, gender, race, ethnicity and disability, reveal no significant overpayment but a slight undercompensation of public employees when compared to private employee compensation costs on a per hour basis.... There are, however, substantially different approaches to staffing and compensation between the private and public sectors. On average, state and local public-sector workers are more highly educated than the private-sector workforce.... Benefits are also allocated differently between private and public-sector full-time workers. State and local government employees receive a higher portion of their compensation in the form of employer-provided benefits, and the mix of benefits is different from the private sector."]

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HEALTH

HEALTH CARE POLICY

"Role of State Attorneys General in Health Policy." By Lainie Rutkow and Stephen P. Teret. IN: Journal of the American Medical Association, vol. 304, no. 12 (September 22, 2010) pp. 1377-1378.

Full text at: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/extract/304/12/1377>

["The 50 US state attorneys general are powerful but underrecognized participants in establishing and refining health policy. Much of their work protects the public's health, but arguably, they can obstruct health goals. As a state's chief legal officer, an attorney general enjoys broad powers and can pursue a wide range of actions on the state's behalf. An amalgamation of laws, from states' constitutions, statutes, and judicial opinions, grants state attorneys general the power to protect the public interest. For example, state attorneys general can litigate to protect consumers or redress environmental law violations. They represent state agencies when legal challenges arise and issue written opinions solicited by these agencies or their state's governor. Additionally, state attorneys general can advocate for change through interviews and press releases."]

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NUTRITION

In the Matter of POM Wonderful LLC and Roll International Corp., companies, and Stewart A. Resnick, Lynda Rae Resnick, and Matthew Tupper, individually and as officers of the companies. Federal Trade Commission. Docket No. 9344. September 24, 2010. 25 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2010/09/pom.shtm>

["The Federal Trade Commission has filed a complaint against Los Angeles-based pomegranate juice maker Pom Wonderful and its billionaire owners, Lynda and Stewart Resnick, alleging that they violated federal law by making 'false and unsubstantiated claims' about the health benefits of their products. Since its launch in 2002, the garnet-red juice in the curvy little bottle gave way to a culinary boom bolstered by Pom's products advertised as helping to treat conditions including heart disease, prostate cancer and erectile dysfunction. The company has spent more than \$34 million to back pomegranate-based scientific research. The commission was skeptical. It questioned the scientific methods used in the studies and alleged they did not find evidence showing the products to be effective against certain diseases." Los Angeles Times (September 27, 2010) 1.]

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OBESITY

How Does Obesity in Adults Affect Spending on Health Care? By Noelia Duchovny and Colin Baker, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 8, 2010. 12 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/118xx/doc11810/09-08-Obesity_brief.pdf

["Health care spending per adult grew substantially in all weight categories between 1987 and 2007, but the rate of growth was much more rapid among the obese (defined as those with a body-mass index greater than or equal to 30). Spending per capita for obese adults exceeded spending for adults of normal weight by about 8 percent in 1987 and by about 38 percent in 2007. That increasing gap in spending between the two groups probably reflects a combination of factors, including changes in the average health status of the obese population and technological advances that offer new, costly treatments for conditions that are particularly common among obese individuals."]

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Taxing Caloric Sweetened Beverages: Potential Effects on Beverage Consumption, Calorie Intake, and Obesity. By Travis A. Smith and others, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (The Service, Washington, DC) July 2010. 33 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err100/>

["The link between high U.S. obesity rates and the overconsumption of added sugars, largely from sodas and fruit drinks, has prompted public calls for a tax on caloric sweetened beverages. Faced with such a tax, consumers may reduce consumption of these sweetened beverages and substitute nontaxed beverages, such as bottled water, juice, and milk. This study estimated that a tax-induced 20-percent price increase on caloric sweetened beverages could cause an average reduction of 37 calories per day, or 3.8 pounds of body weight over a year, for adults and an average of 43 calories per day, or 4.5 pounds over a year, for children.... Actual impacts would depend on many factors, including how the tax is reflected in consumer prices and the competitive strategies of beverage manufacturers and food retailers."]

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HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Where Does the Affordable Housing Money Go? Administrative Spending by Redevelopment Agencies Lacks Accountability. By Nancy Vogel and others, California Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes. (The Office, Sacramento, California) September 30, 2010. 121 p.

Full text at:

<http://www3.senate.ca.gov/deployedfiles/vcm2007/senoversight/docs/affordable%20housing%20report.pdf>

["California's 398 redevelopment agencies exist primarily to obliterate blight and create jobs.... State laws encourage redevelopment agencies to use the housing set-aside money as efficiently as possible. The Legislature dictated that the amount of money spent for planning and 'general administrative activities' should not be disproportionate to that spent to build, rehabilitate, and preserve affordable housing. Yet in 2007-08, the redevelopment agencies that characterized 60 percent or more of their affordable housing fund expenditures as planning and administration numbered 63. Each year, roughly 25 to 40 agencies characterize as planning and administration all or nearly all of the housing set-aside fund money they spend. Some do so in the course of constructing new homes. Others do so year after year without creating much affordable housing at all."]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

CalWORKs Children with Disabled Parents on SSI. By Jane Mauldon, University of California, Berkeley, and others. (Child and Family Policy Institute of California, Sacramento, California) August 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: http://www.cfpic.org/pdfs/CFPIC_SSI_Parent_Brief_eVersion.pdf

["Raising children is a challenge for virtually all parents. It is made harder when a parent is disabled by poor physical health, mental illness, or learning barriers. In 2008-2009, about 31,000 California parents sufficiently disabled and poor to qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) were raising between them some 55,000 children with assistance from the child-only component of CalWORKs, California's TANF program. Drawing on data from families in San Francisco, this brief aims to help policy makers assess how adequately the combination of SSI and CalWORKs meets the needs of these particularly vulnerable families."]

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GRANDPARENTS

Since the Start of the Great Recession, More Children Raised by Grandparents. By Paul Taylor and others, Pew Research Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2010. 7 p.

Full text at: <http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/764-children-raised-by-grandparents.pdf>

["One child in ten in the United States lives with a grandparent, a share that increased slowly and steadily over the past decade before rising sharply from 2007 to 2008, the first year of the Great Recession. About four-in-ten (41%) of those children who live with a grandparent (or grandparents) are also being raised primarily by that grandparent, according to the Census data. This figure -- 2.9 million children -- rose slowly throughout the decade and it, too, spiked from 2007 to 2008. In that single year, there was a 6% increase. The phenomenon of grandparents serving as primary caregivers is more common among blacks and Hispanics than among whites, but the sharpest rise since the recession began has been among whites."]

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TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Rethinking Welfare in the Great Recession: Issues in the Reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. By Gordon L. Berlin, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) September 21, 2010. 19 p.

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/566/full.pdf>

["In the short run, it seems imperative to extend the current TANF law, as well as to extend and fund continuation of the Emergency Fund. The economic recovery has stalled, and the Emergency Fund appears to be providing vital bridge funding for clients, employers, communities, and states during this difficult period. However, an extension should be conditioned on improved state reporting about TANF spending, about participation in activities that states do not currently report, as well as about the nature of state maintenance of effort programming. We need better information in order to make good decisions about how to improve TANF.... In the long run (and perhaps with better data), we should step back and consider some more fundamental changes, including rethinking TANF's goals and structure."]

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YOUTH

Violent Behaviors and Family Income among Adolescents. By the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (The Administration, Washington, DC) August 19, 2010. 6 p.

Full text at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/189/ViolentBehaviorsHTML.pdf>

["Combined 2004 to 2008 national data indicate that 22.6 percent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 participated in a serious fight at school or work in the past year, 16.1 percent participated in a group-against- group fight, and 7.6 percent attacked others with the intent to seriously hurt them An estimated 7.8 million youths, engaged in at least one of these violent behaviors. An estimated 40.5 percent of adolescents in families with annual incomes of less than \$20,000 and 24.6 percent of those in families with incomes of \$75,000 or more participated in any of these violent behaviors. The pattern of lower rates of violent behaviors with higher family income generally held among students with a 'C' or better grade average, but among students with a 'D' average or lower, those with higher family incomes were no less likely to participate in violent behaviors than those with lower incomes."]
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TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

Public Policies for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety and Mobility: An Implementation Project of the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety and Mobility International Scan. By the International Technology Scanning Program. (Federal Highway Administration, Washington, DC) August 2010. 68 p.

Full text at: <http://drusilla.hsrc.unc.edu/cms/downloads/PBSPolicyReview.pdf>

["A team of 12 transportation professionals from the U.S. with expertise in bicycling and walking visited five countries in Europe to identify and assess effective approaches to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility. The countries visited -- Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom -- were chosen because of their innovative approaches to pedestrian and bicycle transportation, as well as the potential transferability of their policies and practices.... No single 'silver bullet' policy or action exists to make streets and roads safer and more conducive to pedestrians and bicyclists.... Several model policies and programs in the United States can serve as examples and best practices for other U.S. cities and States.... There are numerous examples of enabling programs and strategies that can be used to implement complete streets policies."]
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DRIVERS

Distracted Driving 2009. By the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (The Administration, Washington, DC) September 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811379.pdf>

["In 2009, 5,474 people were killed on U.S. roadways and an estimated additional 448,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes that were reported to have involved distracted driving.... The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers was the under-20 age group – 16 percent of all drivers younger than 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving. Of those drivers involved in fatal crashes who were reportedly distracted, the 30- to 39-year-olds had the highest proportion of cell phone involvement."]

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TRANSIT

Public Transportation: Use of Contractors is Generally Enhancing Transit Project Oversight, and FTA is Taking Actions to Address Some Stakeholder Concerns. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-909. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 2010. 42 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10909.pdf>

["The Federal Transit Administration uses contractors - known as project management oversight contractors (PMOC) and financial management oversight contractors (FMOC) -- to help oversee the planning, construction, and financing of major capital projects..... FTA officials, contractors, and project sponsors identified benefits of FTA's oversight approach. For example, FTA officials and project sponsors said that FTA's oversight approach has improved project management, supplemented existing FTA staff, and provided insights through technical assistance and expertise. However, FTA's oversight program faces some challenges, including balancing project management oversight and advancing projects, managing the larger, more complex projects entering the New Starts portfolio, and communicating with project sponsors."]

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