

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Contents this week:

ECONOMY

Closure of the CA Aqueduct could impact L.A.'s economy
Statewide water market has grown in the last ten years

EDUCATION

States can achieve cost savings by collaborating on testing systems

EMPLOYMENT

Combining the Buffett Rule with investment may spur job growth

ENERGY

Alternative energy trade-offs could make up for nuclear plant shutdown

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The impact of CA tax propositions on the 2013 budget

HEALTH

Promoting emergency contraception access among teens

HOUSING

Best practices in SF's affordable housing policies

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

EPA Renewable Energy Siting Tool

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

CA's high-speed rail project employs vague cost estimates

ECONOMY

Total Regional Economic Losses from Water Disruptions to the Los Angeles County Economy.
By Adam Rose, et al. Price School of Public Policy and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events,
University of Southern California. Nov. 29, 2012. 66 p.

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/114831385/FINAL-Water-Supply-Disruption-Study-11-29-2012#page=1>

A large-scale disruption to the fresh water supplies of Southern California, whether due to a natural disaster such as an earthquake or accident, or regulatory changes, could be devastating to the state's economy. This report estimates the regional economic impact of a closure of the California Aqueduct (State Water Project) for 6, 24 or 36 months and finds that a "12-month shutdown ... could result in 550,000 lost jobs in Los Angeles County and a \$55.6 billion decrease in GDP."

California's Water Market, By the Numbers: Update 2012. By Ellen Hanak, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Nov. 2012.

Full Report. 48 p.: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_1112EHR.pdf

Technical Appendices. 29 p.: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/other/1112EHR_appendix.pdf

"The water market enables the temporary long-term or permanent transfer of the rights to use water in exchange for compensation. The ability to transfer these rights adds flexibility to the state's water

supply.... Although state and federal policies have supported the development of water marketing and groundwater banking, no official publications track their evolution in California.... This report provides an update of the 2002 PPIC report ... with an expanded analysis of statewide water market trends from 1982-2001 and new information on groundwater banking in Kern County and Southern California.”

EDUCATION

***Strength in Numbers: State Spending on K-12 Assessment Systems.* By Matthew M. Chingos. Brown Center on Education Policy at Brookings. Nov. 2012. 42 p.**

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2012/11/29%20cost%20of%20assessment%20chingos/11_assessment_chingos_final.pdf

“The report identifies state collaboration on assessments as a clear strategy for achieving cost savings without compromising test quality. For example, a state with 100,000 students that joins a consortium of states containing one million students is predicted to save 37%, or \$1.4 million per year; a state of 500,000 students saves an estimated 25%, or \$3.9 million, by joining the same consortium.... The report identifies a lack of transparency in assessment pricing as a barrier to states making informed decisions regarding their testing systems, and recommends that consortia of states use their market power to encourage test-makers to divulge more details about their pricing models.”

EMPLOYMENT

***The Employment Impact of Coupling the Buffett Rule with Job Creating Investments.* By Ethan Pollack. Economic Policy Institute. Nov. 27, 2012. 5 p.**

<http://www.epi.org/publication/ib335-buffett-rule-infrastructure-investment-jobs/>

“This issue brief analyzes the employment impact of coupling job creating infrastructure investments with the Buffett Rule.... [T]his version of the Buffett Rule would raise about \$60 billion over the next five years and around \$163 billion over a decade. Implementing this tax provision and using the revenue to invest in the nation’s infrastructure would create nearly 43,000 jobs in 2013 and an average of 95,000 jobs per year from 2014 through 2017. This analysis predicts that job creation would occur in every state, even those with a disproportionately large share of high-income taxpayers.”

ENERGY

***Reinventing Fire in Southern California: Distributed Resources and the San Onofre Outage.* Rocky Mountain Institute. Sep. 2012. 17 p.**

<http://www.rmi.org/Content/Files/RF-SoCal-final.pdf>

“The prolonged shut-down of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) in Southern California could mark an important turning point for the region’s electricity system.... Distributed and demand-side resources - including energy efficiency, demand response, and solar photovoltaics (PV) - offer a portfolio of solutions to help fill the near-term supply gap, while also advancing California’s long-term goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting local economic development and job creation.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

California's State Budget: Impact of the November Election. By Paul Warren. Public Policy Institute of California. Nov. 2012. 2 p.

http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=358

This factsheet gives a run-down of Propositions 30, 38 and 39, which were on the California ballot in November 2012, and their impacts on the state budget. Proposition 30 is expected to generate \$8.5 billion in revenues this fiscal year as well as avoid \$6 billion in "trigger cuts" to K-12 and higher education. Changing corporate taxes due to passage of Proposition 39 will raise \$500 million in 2012-13 and \$1 billion each year thereafter.

HEALTH

"Emergency Contraception." By Krishna K. Upadhy, et al. *American Academy of Pediatrics*, vol. 130, no. 6 (Dec. 1, 2012) pp. 1174-1182.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/130/6/1174>

"Adolescents younger than 17 years must obtain a prescription from a physician to access emergency contraception in most states. In all states, both males and females 17 years or older can obtain emergency contraception without a prescription. Adolescents are more likely to use emergency contraception if it has been prescribed in advance of need. The aim of this updated policy statement is to (1) educate pediatricians and other physicians on available emergency contraceptive methods; (2) provide current data on safety, efficacy, and use of emergency contraception in teenagers; and (3) encourage routine counseling and advance emergency-contraception prescription as one part of a public health strategy to reduce teen pregnancy."

HOUSING

From Urban Renewal and Displacement to Economic Inclusion: San Francisco Affordable Housing Policy, 1978-2012. By Marcia Rosen, et al. Poverty and Race Research Action Council. Nov. 2012. 68 p.

<http://nhlp.org/files/SanFranAffHsing-1.pdf>

Even with its reputation for pricey homes, real estate and rental units, San Francisco has become a model of best practices in establishing an affordable housing policy. The city developed a strong affordable housing coalition, found targeted funding sources such as community block development grants and office development fees, and shifted policy towards neighborhood preservation and inclusionary housing.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Renewable Energy Siting Tool

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/climatechange/renewcontlands/index.html>

"In partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) developed a Google Earth Map and data set that helps identify contaminated and degraded sites in California that are possible candidates for renewable energy development. The map and data set identify and screen approximately 11,000 public and private sites in California to select the prime locations for utility scale renewable energy development, based on the various renewable energy technologies and associated screening criteria."

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

High-Speed Passenger Rail: Preliminary Assessment of California's Cost Estimates and Other Challenges. By Susan A. Fleming. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-163T. Dec. 6, 2012. 21 p.

<http://gao.gov/assets/660/650608.pdf>

“Based on an initial evaluation of the California High Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) cost estimates, GAO found that they exhibit certain strengths and weaknesses when compared to best practices in GAO's Cost Guide.... [W]hile the cost estimates' methodologies are generally documented, in some cases GAO was unable to trace the final cost estimate back to its source documentation and could not verify how certain cost components, such as stations and trains, were calculated. Finally, the Authority evaluated the credibility of its estimates by performing both a sensitivity analysis (assessing changes in key cost inputs) and an independent cost estimate, but these tests did not encompass the entire cost estimate for the project.... Finally, the environmental review process and acquisition of necessary rights-of-way for construction could increase the risk of the project's falling behind schedule and increasing costs.”

About *Studies in the News*

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

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