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Mike Lukens

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CA Center for Regional Leadership
 Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
 Central California EDC
 Great Valley Center
 Hospital Council of Northern/Central CA
 SJV Air District
 CA Partnership for S.J. Valley
 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint
 SJV Clean Energy Organization

PUBLIC POLICY

Bedrosian Center on Governance and the Public Enterprise
 California Forward
 Center for Governmental Studies
 Center for Public Policy Studies (CSU Stanislaus)
 Civic Entrepreneur
 Latino Issues Forum
 Next 10

Public Policy Institute of California
 PolicyArchive

Rose Institute of State and Local Government
 UC Davis Center for Study of Regional Change

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Asm. Juan Arambula
 Asm. Tom Berryhill
 Asm. Bill Berryhill
 Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan
 Assemblywoman Connie Conway
 Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani
 Asm. Danny Gilmore
 Assemblywoman Alyson Huber
 Asm. Mike Villines
 Sen. Roy Ashburn
 Sen. Dave Cogdill
 Sen. Jeff Denham
 Sen. Dean Florez
 Sen. Lois Wolk
 Cong. Dennis Cardoza
 Cong. Jim Costa
 Cong. Kevin McCarthy
 Cong. Jerry McNerney
 Cong. George Radanovich
 U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer
 U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein

FRESNO COUNTY

Fresno County WIB
 Fresno County
 Council of Governments
 Fresno County EDC
 Fresno County Farm Bureau
 Elections Department
 Office of Education

KERN COUNTY

Elections Division

August 18, 2009

In this issue

- [Maddy Events](#)
- [Political Briefs](#)
- [News Briefs](#)
- [Editorial Roundup](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

MADDY EVENTS

Maddy Forum – The Maddy Forum is a weekly 30-minute public affairs program focusing on issues of interest to the San Joaquin Valley. The show airs on 90.7 KFSR radio Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. and also is available on the [KFSR Web site](#) and iTunes.

Maddy Political Insider – Former state Sen. Chuck Poochigian, a Maddy Institute board member, will be discuss “California government: What Went Wrong and How Do We Fix It?” on the next Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta water hearings start today – Lawmakers say they are determined to start solving the state's water problems this week. [Fresno Bee article](#)

California lawmakers shift focus to water problems – With California mired in a third year of drought and thousands of farm acres lying fallow, lawmakers are turning their attention from the state's budget crisis to another issue that is equally as charged: state water policy. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [Contra Costa Times article](#); [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

Legislators near vote to cut state inmate total by 27,300 – Over objections from Republican lawmakers, the Legislature plans to take up a majority-vote prison package Thursday that is designed to reduce the state's inmate population by 27,300 and is backed by Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Chino riot flames fuel prison debate -- The stench from extinguished fires still will hang heavy over the California Institute for Men in Chino when lawmakers return to the Capitol this week for a face-off on prison spending. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Sacramento Bee: Chino riot shows need for action -- If the latest riot at the state prison in Chino doesn't get lawmakers to reduce overcrowding, nothing will. While the immediate spark of the riot remains under investigation, everyone knows – or should know – that the underlying cause is overcrowding. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

California might act to jail more drug offenders – Two weeks after federal judges ordered California to reduce its prison population, an arm of the Schwarzenegger administration is set to vote on increased funding to police anti-drug units, potentially putting even more offenders behind bars. [LA Times article](#)

California considering more GPS to track parolees – State officials wrestling with efforts to reduce California's prison population - both because of [budget cuts](#) and federal court orders - are considering increased use of GPS monitoring to help keep some inmates from being returned to prison. But there already are 7,921 parolees statewide being monitored by GPS, almost all of them [sex offenders](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Lawmakers gave aides pay raises during state's fiscal crisis – Against a backdrop of deep fiscal distress, several state lawmakers rewarded their employees with pay hikes during the first half of the year, an Associated Press review of legislative pay records showed. [AP article](#)

Sacramento Bee: Even CalPERS sees a pension problem – A top official with the [California Public Employment Retirement System](#) finally conceded last week what observers of state and local government finances have been saying for years: California's public employee pension costs are "unsustainable." [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Cash flow woes? Not for candidates -- The Fair Political Practices Commission released [an analysis](#) Monday showing that close to \$61 million was raised in the first six months of 2009 by candidates considering a run for office in 2010, 2012 and as far out as 2014. [Capitol Alert](#); [Capitol Weekly article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

PG&E backs measure to tighten grip on cities – For years, cities dissatisfied with Pacific Gas and Electric Co. have tried to break away from the utility company, either by joining another or going into the power business for themselves. They have rarely succeeded in breaking free. Now PG&E is backing a statewide ballot measure that would make it even harder for cities and counties to leave. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

BLOGS/SITES

Adam Ashton's After Deadline (ModBee)
 Aquaforia
 Bill McEwen blog
 blognetnews.com/California
 California Majority Report
 Capital Notes
 Capital Press
 Capitol Alert
 FlashReport
 Fox & Hounds
 Fresno Bee Opinion Talk
 Fresno Bee Political Notebook
 In the Public Eye
 LA Observed
 Michael Fitzgerald blog
 Mike Doyle's blog
 Modesto Bee Opinion Blog
 New West Notes
 PolitickerCA
 Politics. Anyone? (Bakersfield)
 Real Clear Politics blog
 SF Chronicle politics blog
 Smog Blog (Fresno Bee)
 Talk on Water (Modesto Bee)
 The Hotline's Blogometer
 The Roundup
 Valley Notebook
 Valley Notebook
 CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT
 Air Resources Board
 Bill information
 CA High-Speed Rail Authority
 CA Secretary of State
 CA State Assembly
 CA State Senate
 CA Transportation Commission
 Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
 Legislative Analyst's Office
 State of California
 MEDIA
 Bakersfield Californian
 Capitol Weekly
 Fresno Bee
 KFIV Radio
 KFSN-TV
 KGPE-TV
 KJWL Radio
 KMJ Radio
 KMPH-TV
 KQED Radio
 KSEE-TV
 KVPR Valley Public Radio
 KVPR Valley Public Television
 LateUpdate
 Lodi News-Sentinel
 Los Angeles Times
 Merced Sun-Star
 Modesto Bee
 Rough & Tumble
 Sacramento Bee
 San Francisco Chronicle
 Stockton Record
 The Business Journal

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[Elections](#)
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[Assn. of Governments](#)
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[Elections](#)
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[San Joaquin County Farm Bureau](#)
[San Joaquin Partnership](#)
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[Elections](#)
[Office of Education](#)
[Stanislaus County](#)
[Stanislaus Alliance](#)
[Stanislaus County COG](#)
[Stanislaus County WIB](#)
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[Elections](#)
[Office of Education](#)
[Tulare County](#)
[Tulare County Farm Bureau](#)
[Tulare County WIB](#)
[Tulare County COG](#)
[Tulare County EDC](#)
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California's stressed IOU holders waiting for cold cash – California is winding down its IOU business, but the end won't come soon enough for struggling state vendors like [Gloria Freeman](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Conway gets key committee assignment – First-term Assembly Member Connie Conway, R-Tulare, is the new vice chairwoman of the Assembly's Appropriations Committee, her office announced Monday. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#); [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Merced Irrigation District election will keep water sales an issue – The thorny issue of water sales promises to stay front and center as Merced Irrigation District's board race gets under way. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

The Democratic left's California agenda -- Although Democrats enjoy strong majorities in both legislative houses and [California's](#) congressional delegation - and hold all but two statewide offices - the left wing of the party is quite displeased, especially about cuts in health, welfare and education services to close a [state budget](#) deficit. [Capitol Alert](#)

Boxer could face re-election fight of her career against Fiorina -- Democrat Barbara Boxer's quest for a fourth term in the U.S. Senate may give Californians a chance to pass judgment on Washington in the Obama era: Do voters approve of the early performance of the Democratic president and Congress? Or is it time to restore more power to Republicans, in this case to a controversial former Silicon Valley CEO making her first run for elective office? [Contra Costa Times article](#)

Jerry Brown and the woman with a glass eye -- Every time we see a suggestion that millionaire former Controller Steve Westly might jump into the 2010 governor's race (which – Yo Willie! – isn't happening*), we're reminded of the last time he and Jerry Brown sought the same office. [Calbuzz article](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Merced County layoffs loom – Faced with a \$44 million shortfall, the Merced County Board of Supervisors is expected to take drastic measures today to balance the county's budget. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

San Joaquin debates risking future layoffs to accept grant – The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors could be faced with a financial dilemma — should the county accept a \$5.1 million grant to hire 17 entry-level deputies for three years if it has to commit itself to a fourth year, this time with the county footing the bill? [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Fresno State president addresses effects of budget cuts – Fresno State President John Welty on Monday urged faculty to look beyond budget problems and turn adversity into opportunity -- partly by using furlough days to feed the hungry on the Valley's west side. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Judge lets CSU raise fees, for now – A San Francisco judge refused Monday to block a 20 percent fee increase for California State University students immediately, but scheduled a hearing in two weeks on whether to overturn the new charges. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Dan Walters: Voc ed bill on right track, but facing uphill battle – It's problematic, however, whether a decree from Sacramento, even one that's logical and fair, would succeed in restoring vocational education to the honorable position it deserves, since the education establishment seems bent on strangling or co-opting it. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Lodi brainstorming ways to live with less – The city's elected leaders will enter all-too-familiar territory Wednesday when they discuss yet again how to trim dollars from its already fragile spending plan. [Stockton Record article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Boating rally sees low turnout – About 40 boats hit the water for Sunday's so-called "Million Boat Float," well short of the several hundred boats for which organizers had hoped. Nonetheless, they called the event - to protest a peripheral canal - a success due to extensive media coverage. [Stockton Record article](#)

UC Merced visitors taking a look at surrounding area – More than 20,000 people came to UC Merced last year as part of tour groups or special recruitment and open house events, college officials said. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

CalPERS: Pension costs may not be sustainable – Bakersfield's nasty debate about police and fire pensions could soon be irrelevant. Not the topic. Just the nasty debate. That's because top officials from CalPERS, the massive state system Bakersfield contracts with, are themselves questioning whether current pension plans are sustainable. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Visalia Times-Delta: Public pensions are public record – Tulare County officials who manage the county's retirement funds have refused to provide the names of county retirees with pensions of more than \$100,000 a year. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

Funding to end for Modesto therapeutic riding classes – State budget cuts are about to crimp the progress of Lexi and dozens of others in the riding program, as well as those in music and art therapy courses. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Fresno County home prices draw buyers – Home affordability has hit a record high in Fresno County, sparking a buying frenzy that has some real estate agents hoping for more foreclosures. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Cash for Clunkers didn't boost hybrid sales – The federal Cash for Clunkers program is getting a lot of trucks and sport-utility vehicles off the road, but it hasn't made best-sellers out of the Prius or other gas-efficient

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[Visalia Times-Delta](#)
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Woodlake

hybrids. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Visalia firm's housing ads expose 'Net loophole - When a Visalia-based advertising company printed rental ads that barred couples and people with children, fair-housing advocates sued. They said the company violated a federal ban on discriminatory housing ads. But when the same company published similar ads on the Internet, fair housing laws didn't apply. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Higher enrollment marks opening day at College of the Sequoias - Enrollment is up nearly 4 percent from last August, said Lisa Hott, director of admissions and records, but class offerings have been cut by 3 percent. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Amid dirt fields, new Delta campus opens - Classes began Monday at San Joaquin Delta College's first satellite campus, a landmark occasion for the college even if the facilities are not as fancy as once envisioned. [Stockton Record article](#)

Fresno Unified girds for swine flu - Fevers, coughs and sneezes are getting more attention from school nurses this school year, and many had a close eye on the more than 73,000 Fresno Unified School District students who started the new school year Monday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Case of swine flu reported at Los Banos school - School officials confirmed Monday that a staff member at R.M. Miano School in Los Banos was sent home after tests confirmed she had swine flu. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Empire mobile home residents forced to boil water - Boiling water before using it is a chore anytime; it's especially unappetizing in August in the Northern San Joaquin Valley. But residents of a mobile home park east of here are firing up their stoves after a water main break last week left the water system contaminated. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Plan for Merced homeless shelter flounders - Despite desperate, passionate and tearful pleas, a plan to use vacant city-owned apartments as a transitional housing center for Merced's homeless foundered Monday with the City Council deciding there were too many uncertainties with the proposal. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Sacramento task force plans campground for up to 60 homeless - City leaders, [business owners](#) and homeless advocates have crafted a plan to create a legal "safe ground" where people without permanent housing could camp without police interference. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

AI Smith/Ruth Evans: Consolidate Fresno city, county services now - The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce leaders write that recent headlines about inmate releases from the Fresno County Jail and the struggle to fund the county Public Defender's Office are just more reasons public safety integration must happen in Fresno County -- and must happen soon. [Smith/Evans op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

Bill McEwen: Freed inmates could be players in consolidation debate -- We soon might learn if there is a limit to the love that residents of Fresno county islands have for sheriff's deputies. [McEwen column in Fresno Bee](#)

Hanford City Council proposes sewer rate hike -- The cost of sewer and storm drainage services could be going up in Hanford. On Tuesday, members of the Hanford City Council will review a staff proposal to raise the sewer rates by 18 percent over the next two years. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Fresno bug traps empty so far, but vigilance continues - Agricultural officials have come up empty in their initial search of a north Fresno neighborhood for the Asian citrus psyllid, a tiny bug with the potential to carry a deadly plant disease. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Visalia City Council studies survey results - The results of a city-conducted quality-of-life survey inspired lively comments Monday during a work session of the Visalia City Council. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

No-smoking policy studied for Visalia parks - Smoking policies in Visalia's public parks will be discussed today at a regular meeting of the Visalia Parks and Recreation Commission at City Hall West. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Stockton volunteers want to be seen, heard - Teams of developmentally disabled adults - all clients of the Alan Short Center, which for more than 30 years has offered music and art programs, life-skills training and opportunities to socialize - have been coming for about a month to clean the park on Allston Way. [Stockton Record article](#)

Nursing reform effort moving slowly - Despite [the governor's pledge to better discipline errant health professionals](#) there are signs that it will be difficult to enact sweeping changes as quickly or easily as the administration has suggested. [LA Times article](#)

Drugstores popping up everywhere in Valley - Drugstores are proliferating in the Northern San Joaquin Valley and beyond to serve an aging population. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Drunken driving prevention methods go high-tech in Kern - When it comes to those with a record of drunken driving, some Kern County judges are taking a technological approach to prevent DUI violators from drinking and driving. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Kern seeks public's help in fighting child abuse - Child abuse is on the rise in Kern County. In 2008, Cheadle said, the department confirmed abuse and neglect caused nine child deaths. So far in 2009, with a third of the year left to go, we're up to seven. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Hiring starts for Macy's at Fresno's River Park, Visalia -- Hiring will begin this week as Macy's prepares

to open new stores in Fresno and Visalia. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Toyota denies story, says Fremont exit undecided -- A Japanese newspaper has reported that Toyota Corp. will quit making cars in Fremont as of March, but the president of New United Motor Manufacturing Inc. said Monday that no decision has been reached. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Bakersfield Californian – The stench from extinguished fires still will hang heavy over the California Institute for Men in Chino when lawmakers return to the Capitol this week for [a face-off on prison spending](#)

Fresno Bee – Public pension debate [can't wait](#) any longer; State would be wrong to [bet on gambling](#).

Merced Sun-Star – Chino riot shows [urgency of fixing prisons](#).

Modesto Bee – State [budget follies](#) prolonged by Steinberg suit; Finally, even insiders admit acknowledge [pension trouble](#).

Sacramento Bee – If the latest riot at the state prison in Chino doesn't get lawmakers to [reduce overcrowding](#), nothing will; A top official with CalPERS finally conceded last week what observers of state and local government finances have been saying for years: California's [public employee pension costs are "unsustainable."](#)

Stockton Record – [Short takes](#) on IOUs, home prices and the health care debate.

Visalia Times-Delta – Public pensions are [public record](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Health and Human Services Work Group will meet at Lionakis Beaumont Design Group, 1207 I St., Suite 100, Modesto, on Aug. 20 from 2 to 4 p.m.

A California Solar Initiative workshop will be held on Sept. 1 at 1129 Enterprise St. in Stockton from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. September 1, 2009, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Information: <http://www.pge.com/mybusiness/edusafety/training/stockton/contact/>

The Central Valley Venture Forum will be held on September 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Fresno. Registration will open in August. Contact: Nancy Kobata, nancyko@csufresno.edu.

The Kenneth L. Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno was established to honor the legacy of one of California's most principled and effective legislative leaders of the last half of the 20th Century by engaging, preparing and inspiring a new generation of governmental leaders for the 21st Century. Its mission is to inspire citizen participation, elevate government performance, provide non-partisan analysis and assist in providing solutions for public policy issues important to the region, state and nation.

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