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Mike Lukens

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

PUBLIC POLICY

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 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
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 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
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 U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein

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KERN COUNTY

Elections Division

August 2, 2009

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MADDY EVENTS

Maddy Forum – *Mediation Instead of Litigation: A More Civil Way to Resolve Civil Rights Disputes?* – Cherry Rojas, the Coordinator of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Regional Office in Los Angeles that covers the central and south San Joaquin Valley, will discuss the EEOC's mediation program on this week's Maddy Forum. 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 – Maddy Institute board member John Harris is the next guest on The Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

State workers' union approves strike authorization vote – Members of the largest union representing state workers have authorized their leaders Saturday to launch a strike, although union officials said there are no immediate plans to walk off the job. [LA Times article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#); [AP article](#)

Yvonne Walker: Governor's efficiency mantra is window dressing – The president of SEIU Local 1000 writes that the union is committed to providing quality public services more efficiently. But to accomplish this we need a governor who keeps his word and focuses on governing instead of grabbing headlines. [Walker op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

Million-dollar question for local governments: Borrow? – Local governments coping with the shift of billions of dollars to the state of [California](#) are eyeing ways to do what consumers have done for years. They're considering ways to borrow. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

State's long spending spree halted abruptly – Today, general fund spending stands at \$84.5 billion and the state's per capita spending is \$2,301 - down to what the state was spending per person 11 years ago, when adjusted for inflation, a Chronicle analysis of general fund budgets over the past 20 years found. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Dan Walters: Recession holds key to budget – Whether the latest incarnation of the deficit-plagued [state budget](#) hangs together and whether the state faces another fiscal meltdown next year are largely dependent on something completely out of politicians' hands – whether the state's recession-battered economy perks up. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

California's redevelopment agencies face uncertain future -- The state budget crisis could take \$1.7 billion this year from 397 active agencies and more next year, forcing some to reconsider projects and others to shut down. [LA Times article](#)

Willie Brown: Governor stepped into a pile of politics – The former Assembly Speaker writes that he suspects Schwarzenegger's final cuts to children's health care and AIDS programs were made more out of anger at Democrats than sound thinking. They will haunt him for the remainder of his term. [Brown column in San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Oakland pot tax adds fuel to pot legalization debate – When 80 percent of [Oakland](#) voters approved a gross receipts tax that charged the city's four pot dispensaries \$18 for every \$1,000 in revenue, they added political smoke to efforts in other [California](#) cities to treat municipal [budget deficits](#) by taxing medical marijuana revenues. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Sacramento Bee: Wining and dining in the friendly skies – The officials directing [California's](#) historic effort to cut [greenhouse gas emissions](#) already face an extremely difficult task. They shouldn't be complicating the challenge by taking luxury trips abroad that are partially financed by the businesses they regulate. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Steven Hill: Yes, Virginia, 'average' Californians can manage constitutional convention – The director of the Political Reform Program of the New America Foundation writes that with California grappling with a crisis of historic proportions, it is time to draw upon the genius of what has always been the Golden State's greatest resource – Californians themselves. [Hill op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

Sacramento Bee: Boom in charity care shows why we need reform – While a controversial study

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
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 Air Resources Board
 Bill information
 CA High-Speed Rail Authority
 CA Secretary of State
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 CA State Senate
 CA Transportation Commission
 Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
 Legislative Analyst's Office
 State of California
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 Bakersfield Californian
 Capitol Weekly
 Fresno Bee
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 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
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 San Francisco Chronicle
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 The Business Journal

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recently by the Kaiser Family Foundation contended that the care provided to the uninsured doesn't increase costs for those with coverage, there's no doubt that hospitals' unpaid bills, and their Medicare and Medi-Cal underpayments, do find their way into insurance rates. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Lack of cash is crunching Newsom's campaign -- The biggest challenge facing San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's run for governor is not who's running the campaign, but whether he has enough money to keep the campaign going. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Lodi council prayer debate to heat up -- Lodi has become the latest battleground over the separation of church and state, and the City Council is the target of both Christian and atheist groups throughout the country. [Stockton Record article](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Fresno Bee: Water debate goes to extremes – We would like to see those who can find common ground on the water issue step up, and the shriekers on the political extremes to go away. The divisiveness that has dominated the water debate has gotten in the way of a solution. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Valley residents take up 'clunker' call – Bill Skuban and Nora Chapman know a good deal when they see it. That's why the Fresno couple were busy shopping for a new car Saturday, taking advantage of the national "cash for clunkers" rebate program. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Air rule aims to alter commute practices – Local air officials are crafting a rule to coax more employees of large companies out of their cars and into buses, carpools and other commuting alternatives -- or their bosses will face penalties. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Weak economy makes solar panels more affordable to homeowners – Price cuts by manufacturers, tax credits, California incentives and innovative financing ease the cost of going solar. [LA Times article](#)

Modesto growth policies called poor – Disunity at Modesto's highest level on how to approach growth contributed to the city's embarrassingly low score in a recent university study. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Foreclosure money ready to spend in Modesto -- It's now easier to get down payment assistance to buy foreclosed homes in Modesto, thanks to a federal rule change. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Stimulus questions? Bakersfield Californian has answers – After The Californian published a story last Sunday about the federal stimulus dollars coming to Kern County, readers contacted us with questions. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Destination Kern: Officials work to promote county as sports mecca – It's no joke: Sports events have become the star of Bakersfield's tourism and hospitality industry, which now supports the city's economy to the tune of more than \$20 million a year. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Walt Gardner: California education is on a race to the bottom – The former LA teacher writes that it's time to recognize that the Race to the Top will help fill the coffers of participating states, but it will deplete the intellectual capacity of students most in need. That's hardly a good deal. [Gardner op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Control spikes in college costs – Putting the financial burden for public universities on the shoulders of students practically guarantees disaster in the years ahead. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Keep exit exam exemption in place – The California High School Exit Exam, a reality for the past few years on campuses statewide, will no longer be required of certain disabled students, including those with learning disorders, mental retardation, autism and visual or hearing impairments. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Modesto schools in middle of policy debate – Modesto City Schools trustees will pick up the discussion Monday of a policy that allows students to leave school for medical appointments without parents' knowledge. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Bullard parents vocal about school's slump – Frustrated with mounting problems at Bullard High School, some parents have waged a reform campaign so intense that they even considered trying to turn the northwest Fresno campus into a charter school. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Stockton Record: The ratings game – The good news for the city, of course, is that Moody's Investors Services has removed Stockton from its watch list, meaning the city is not likely to see its debt rating deteriorate further. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Plan to protect Tuolumne River – Out of the limelight, Yosemite National Park officials are drafting a plan to keep development and future crowds from making a mess of the pristine Tuolumne River -- the park's "other" major stream. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Jobs program helps youths and businesses in Stanislaus – The Stanislaus Youth@Work Program is a \$3.89 million initiative designed to give the county's low-income youths summer jobs and career training. [Modesto Bee article](#)

San Joaquin industrial, commercial building take hit as down cycle continues – Commercial and

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Woodlake

industrial construction this year through June 30 totaled less than \$72 million, a drop of 80 percent, the Research Board reported. [Stockton Record article](#)

Michael Fitzgerald: Drawing parallels between Irish, Valley economic woes – If Karl Marx opened a Capitalist Hall of Shame, the San Joaquin Valley would be an early inductee. The powers that be drive wages so far down here that the region is in some ways a free-trade zone, workers maquiladoras. [Fitzgerald column in Stockton Record](#)

Stockton rail yard project is on track – The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission is moving closer to building a new maintenance yard in central Stockton, a move rail officials say will reduce delays, position Stockton to accommodate future rail expansion and create about 200 construction jobs. [Stockton Record article](#)

Modesto Bee: Locals' help keeps parks up to par – Modesto's parks are a treasure that the community doesn't want to see deteriorate. The city is trying to make it easier for residents to help out; we're pleased that so many are signing up to do just that. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

Call for volunteerism heard in Stockton – Volunteers in orange shirts were taking lawn mowers, chain saws and weed whackers to an overgrown stretch of land north of March Lane on Saturday when Mayor Ann Johnston arrived, her first stop on a tour of some of the projects being done that day by 1,000 or more people around town. [Stockton Record article](#)

Fresno Bee: Another plus side to small businesses – Planning decisions should be based on the long-term needs of the community -- not on a shortsighted race for tax revenues. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Many guns start legal, but find their way into hands of criminals – Modesto's streets are flooded with hundreds of illegal firearms -- weapons exchanged for cash or drugs in an underground black market operated by dope peddlers and thugs who use guns to protect their illicit profits and intimidate rival gangs. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Kern Schools sells card business -- Kern Schools Federal Credit Union customers will soon find themselves with a new contact for Visa charges. The credit union is turning over control of its credit card business to Bank of America by the end of September. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Payday loans: Fash cash, expensive debt trap -- State law limits payday loans to \$300, but nothing says you can't borrow against the same paycheck from more than one company or renew the debt repeatedly. With the loans typically carrying annual interest rates of 460%, that can mean trouble. [Fresno Bee article](#)

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Bakersfield Californian – The California High School Exit Exam, a reality for the past few years on campuses statewide, will [no longer be required](#) of certain disabled students, including those with learning disorders, mental retardation, autism and visual or hearing impairments; Putting the financial burden for public universities on the shoulders of students practically [guarantees disaster](#) in the years ahead.

Fresno Bee – The divisiveness that has dominated the water debate has [gotten in the way of a solution](#): Planning decisions should be based on the [long-term needs of the community](#) -- not on a shortsighted race for tax revenues.

Modesto Bee – Modesto's [parks are a treasure](#) that the community doesn't want to see deteriorate; A study of Northern California waterways has made some [troubling discoveries](#) about a widely used group of pesticides and the role of homeowners and businesses in putting them there.

Sacramento Bee – [Wining and dining](#) in the friendly skies over greenhouse gas emissions; [Boom in charity care](#) shows why we need health care reform.

Stockton Record – The [good news for the city](#), of course, is that Moody's Investors Services has removed Stockton from its watch list, meaning the city is not likely to see its debt rating deteriorate further.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will host a Healthy Air Living Air Quality Chat at the Arnold Rue Community Center in Stockton on Aug. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will host a Healthy Air Living Air Quality Chat at Westside Union Elementary School in Los Banos on Aug. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.

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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