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Mike Lukens

**REGIONAL ENTITIES**

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 SJ 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**

Assm. Juan Arambula  
 Assm. Tom Berryhill  
 Assm. Bill Berryhill  
 Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan  
 Assemblywoman Connie Conway  
 Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani  
 Assm. Danny Gilmore  
 Assemblywoman Alyson Huber  
 Assm. 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 21, 2009

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**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 – The Maddy Political Insider can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

**POLITICAL BRIEFS**

California prison overhaul stalls in Assembly – The state [Assembly](#) late Thursday was balking at approving a [Senate](#)-passed plan to reduce the [prison population](#) by 27,300 inmates and form a commission that could overhaul California sentencing laws. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [LA Times article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Kern lawmakers oppose prisoner release plan – Kern County's legislative contingent was unanimous in opposition to a plan to release some 27,000 state prison inmates early that came before the state Senate and Assembly Thursday. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Dave Cogdill: We must not throw open prison doors – The Valley state senator writes that opening the gates of our prisons could open a floodgate of crime -- and that's a risk that no Californian should be willing to take. [Cogdill op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

Dan Walters: Capitol politicians admit they can't make hard decisions – Without acknowledging it, Sacramento politicians are coming to the conclusion that there are major decisions that simply must be made because of [California's](#) economic and social reality, but that they are incapable of making. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Fresno Bee: Out-of-touch legislature – We can't imagine how a part-time legislature could do any worse than the current full-time lawmakers. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Protestors confront Costa in Hanford -- Rep. Jim Costa showed up to the Kings County Government Center Thursday to address county employees in a meeting closed to the public. So did a group of protesters demanding a town hall meeting. Hanford Sentinel article

Unhappiness reigns at Clovis health care meeting – Rep. Devin Nunes held a town-hall meeting Thursday morning in Clovis to explain health-care legislation pending in Congress. What it turned into was a massive gripe session. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Visalia-area health care providers cautious about reform – One of their top concerns is that measures to cut costs may take a bite out of the bottom line for health-care operators or get watered down to such an extent that no reforms are actually passed. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Fresno Bee: Guns have on place in town hall meetings on health care – We urge you to use your First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly to make your views known above the din of the shouting and the silent scowl of the gun. [Fresno Bee editorial](#); [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Sacramento Bee: Contracts need more sunshine – As the state squeezes its payroll, lays off some workers and furloughs most of the rest, public [employee unions](#) are calling for greater scrutiny of contracts the government uses to provide services through private vendors. The unions are right. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

No lieutenant governor run for Kevin McCarthy -- Congressman Kevin McCarthy is not mulling a run for lieutenant governor. The political paper Capitol Weekly said Thursday in a wrap-up of campaign-finance news that that McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, is "pondering" a run for lieutenant governor in 2014. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Poochigian named to state court of appeals – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger today appointed former state Sen. Chuck Poochigian, a member of the Maddy Institute Board of Directors, to the state court of appeals in Fresno. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Visalia Times-Delta 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  
 KOED 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

Kern County  
 Kern County COG  
 Kern County EDC  
 Kern County Farm Bureau  
 Kern\_Invo\_Mono WIB  
 Office of Education  
**KINGS COUNTY**  
 Elections  
 Kings County Farm Bureau  
 Kings County  
 Kings Co. Assn. of Governments  
 Kings County EDC  
 Kings County WIB  
 Office of Education  
**MADERA COUNTY**  
 Elections Division  
 Madera County EDC  
 Madera County Farm Bureau  
 Madera County WIB  
 Madera County  
 Madera Co. Transpt. Comm.  
 Office of Education  
**MERCED COUNTY**  
 Assn. of Governments  
 Elections  
 Merced County  
 Merced WIB  
 Merced County EDC  
 Merced County Farm Bureau  
 Office of Education  
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 San Joaquin County WIB  
 San Joaquin County  
 San Joaquin County COG  
 San Joaquin County Farm Bureau  
 San Joaquin Partnership  
**STANISLAUS COUNTY**  
 Elections  
 Office of Education  
 Stanislaus County  
 Stanislaus Alliance  
 Stanislaus County COG  
 Stanislaus County WIB  
**TULARE COUNTY**  
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 Office of Education  
 Tulare County  
 Tulare County Farm Bureau  
 Tulare County WIB  
 Tulare County COG  
 Tulare County EDC  
**EDUCATION**  
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 California State University, Fresno  
 CSU Bakersfield  
 CSU Stanislaus  
 Fresno Pacific University  
 UC Merced  
 University of the Pacific  
 West Hills Community College  
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Union: Fresno County sheriff broke campaign vow -- Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims has broken a campaign promise by releasing inmates early, SEIU members said Thursday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Where's the monorail? Stimulus funds go to mundane projects – When President Obama first outlined his stimulus plan to boost the economy, leaders across the country envisioned a burst of federal funding to build high-speed rail lines, modern classrooms and a new national electricity grid. [LA Times article](#)

FPPC probes campaign donations to CalPERS member with money woes – The state's political watchdog agency is investigating the campaign account of a prominent [CalPERS](#) board member long plagued by personal financial trouble. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Court reverses payoffs for heirs of killed Armenians – A federal appellate court invalidated a California law Thursday that allowed heirs of Armenians killed in the Turkish Ottoman Empire nearly a century ago to seek payment on the life insurance policies of dead relatives. [Fresno Bee article](#); [LA Times article](#)

Ex-Merced DA disciplined by state Bar Court – The former district attorney of Merced County, Gordon Spencer, will be barred from practicing law in California for 30 days starting Sept. 14 because of an ethical breach, according to State Bar Court filings. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Governor signs car visors to raise cash -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has decided to take the advice of his Twitter followers and autograph visors of automobiles up for sale in the upcoming "garage sale" auction of state-owned vehicles. [Capitol Alert](#)

**NEWS BRIEFS**

Governor wants teacher evaluations tied to student performance – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday called a special legislative session for lawmakers to repeal a controversial law that prohibits linking teacher evaluations to student performance. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [LA Times article](#); [Governor's Office news release](#)

UC chief warns unions not to fight furloughs – Yudof said [UC's](#) unionized workers received 4 percent raises this year, while non-union employees are taking [pay cuts](#) ranging from 4 to 10 percent. He said the university would lay off some workers if the [labor unions](#) don't agree to the furlough. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Freshman athletics survive budget cuts in Modesto, but just barely – All freshman athletics were to be chopped this year, said former Davis athletic director Brad Goudeau, before he and his peers made \$75,000 in cuts from a district-wide athletic budget of \$916,315. That budget had already been cut 20 percent from last year. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Ag Secretary Vilsack to visit Modesto area next week – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will visit Modesto next week to hear about troubles in the dairy business and other issues. [Modesto Bee article](#)

City of Merced gives up, pays employees what's due – Two Merced information technology workers will be paid a combined \$13,487 for taking on managerial duties without any salary increases, settling a long-standing court case. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Air district's budget grows 280 percent – Over the last five years, the budget for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has grown more than 280%, according to an independent study discussed Thursday at the district's board meeting. But the district's spending is among the most efficient of any similar district in the state. [Fresno Bee news blog](#)

Here's why about 100,000 Kern homes were reassessed – Homeowners, brace yourselves. The Kern County Assessor Recorder's Office last week began mailing about 100,000 postcards informing homeowners their property taxes will change to reflect more current home values. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Fresno moves toward metered water – The Fresno City Council took an initial step Thursday toward charging a metered rate for home water use starting next year. [Fresno Bee article](#)

California moves toward stringent chromium 6 standard for drinking water – California took the first step Thursday toward setting a drinking water standard for chromium 6 that could force cities and water districts to undertake costly treatment. [LA Times article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Many in state hoping for big El Nino – After a three-year hiatus, the weather phenomenon known as El Niño is back, say federal climatologists. But don't break out the rain slickers just yet. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Convention center's benefits outweigh Visalia's contribution to facility's budget – Visalia Convention Center activity is steadily reducing its cost to the city, and the average \$800,000 general-fund support it receives annually helps keep \$24 million in additional business flowing into Visalia each year, officials say. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Lodi will pick up tab to keep council meetings on the air – The city's elected leaders voted unanimously late Wednesday to hire part-time stage technicians at \$20 an hour to operate the cameras at the twice-a-month public meetings. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

State designates Taft an Enterprise Zone – Efforts to improve Taft's economy got a big boost this week as state officials preliminarily designated it one of five new Enterprise Zones specially equipped to lure new business. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Hotel serves as Fresno State dorm – Fresno State student housing doesn't usually come with a queen-

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 Univision 21  
 Visalia Times-Delta  
**FRESNO CO. CITIES**  
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 Firebaugh  
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 Kerman  
 Kingsburg  
 Mendota  
 Orange Cove  
 Parlier  
 Reedley  
 San Joaquin  
 Sanger  
 Selma  
**KERN CO. CITIES**  
 Arvin  
 Bakersfield  
 California City  
 Delano  
 Maricopa  
 McFarland  
 Ridgecrest  
 Shafter  
 Taft  
 Tehachapi  
**KINGS CO. CITIES**  
 Avenal  
 Corcoran  
 Hanford  
 Lemoore  
**MADERA CO. CITIES**  
 Chowchilla  
 Madera  
**MERCED CO. CITIES**  
 Atwater  
 Dos Palos  
 Gustine  
 Livingston  
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 Escalon  
 Lathrop  
 Lodi  
 Manteca  
 Ripon  
 Stockton  
 Tracy  
**STANISLAUS CO. CITIES**  
 Ceres  
 Hughson  
 Modesto  
 Newman  
 Oakdale  
 Patterson  
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[Woodlake](#)

sized bed, color television and maid service. But that's the good news for some students. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Stockton Record: Progress must continue – The degree of difficulty has increased, but continued progress is essential. Our students and our communities can prosper when the goal is education excellence. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

\$1.6 million grant to benefit Tulare County history teachers – Fifty Tulare County teachers will have the opportunity to better their skills in teaching American history, thanks to a federal grant. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

CSU Stanislaus makes college list – California State University, Stanislaus, is celebrating its 14th year on U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings of "America's Best Colleges." [Modesto Bee article](#)

Rise in absences in Merced County school may be caused by swine flu – Schools in the Weaver School District have seen a dramatic increase in the number of students staying home with flu-like symptoms. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Swine flu kills 2 in San Joaquin – Two San Joaquin County residents, a 5-year-old Stockton girl and a 34-year-old Lathrop man, have died in the past month from the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus, San Joaquin County Public Health Services confirmed Thursday. [Stockton Record article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Dour economy keeps day care attendance down – The gold rush days of endless glitter and glue are over at Kairos Child Development Center in Modesto, at least for now. These days, thanks to a drop in enrollment because of the slow economy, school supply purchases are kept to the bare essentials, said director Karma Souza. [Modesto Bee article](#)

13 percent late, on path to lose home – With the recession throwing thousands of people out of work daily, more than 13 percent of U.S. homeowners with a mortgage have fallen behind on their payments or are in foreclosure. [AP article](#)

State ranks near top in attacks on homeless in nation – Last year, 22 homeless men and women were attacked – 10 of them killed – in 10 [California](#) cities, according to a study released this month. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Dealers hope for payment as Cash for Clunkers ends – The federal government, which will put the brakes on Cash for Clunkers on Monday, says it feels the pain of [auto dealers](#) waiting to be reimbursed for [car sales](#) under the rebate program. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Modesto Bee: Your chance to keep local parks running – The city is inviting residents, civic groups and others to help out and is getting some good response. [Modesto Bee editorial](#)

Cotton suit granted class-action status – A lawsuit against a Bakersfield-based cotton marketing cooperative has been given the green light to become a class-action lawsuit, a federal district court in Fresno has ruled. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Public hearings on Hanford sewer rate hikes likely this fall -- Hanford residents and property owners can expect the notice of a proposed sewer service rate hike in their next utility bill. The rates won't go up just yet, but the city wants to raise the rates by 18 percent over the next two years, increasing the monthly rate by a little more than \$3.50. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Central Valley center faces audit -- The state will audit regional centers that help the developmentally disabled, including one in Fresno that was criticized this summer for giving employees bonuses while the state was cutting budgets. [Fresno Bee article](#)

## EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Fresno Bee -- We urge you to use your First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly to make your views known above the din of the shouting and [the silent scowl of the gun](#); We can't imagine how [a part-time legislature](#) could do any worse than the current full-time lawmakers.

Merced Sun-Star – State's [water talks](#) near stalemate

Modesto Bee – Keep [Columbia Big Trees](#) running; Your chance to [help local parks](#) survive.

Sacramento Bee – As the state squeezes its payroll, lays off some workers and furloughs most of the rest, public employee unions are calling for greater scrutiny of contracts the government uses to provide services through private vendors. The [unions are right](#); Don't let [taunts and guns](#) intimidate you in health care debate.

Stockton Record – [Progress must continue](#) in student test scores.

Visalia Times-Delta -- [Cheers](#) to Tulare County people and businesses.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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](mailto: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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