

December 2, 2009

If you want to subscribe/unsubscribe to the Maddy Daily or view the Maddy Daily with our comprehensive list of links to all federal, state and local government, public affairs institutes/regional entities, Valley media and public policy blogs click [here](#).

## In This Issue

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

## Maddy Events

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

**Maddy Political Insider** – The Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., will be on hiatus for the month of December.

**Maddy Associate Luncheon:** On Dec. 18, the *Maddy Associate* luncheon will be our “Annual Sacramento Update” with members of the Valley’s State delegation. If you are not a *Maddy Associate* and are interested in attending these events and becoming a *Maddy Associate*, please contact the Maddy Institute at [mkeppler@csufresno.edu](mailto:mkeppler@csufresno.edu)

**Maddy Institute on Facebook and Twitter** – To learn about Maddy Institute activities (e.g. *The Maddy Report* tv show, *The Maddy Forum* FM radio/podcast, *The Maddy Political Insider* AM radio show, *The Maddy Associates’ Luncheons*, the *Maddy Legislative Intern Program*), become a fan of the Maddy Institute on Facebook or log on to <http://twitter.com/MaddyInstitute>. And if you have a Facebook or Twitter account, please add us and follow us!

## Political Briefs

**Maldonado commits to LG run, no matter what** – State Sen. Abel Maldonado, picked by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last week to fill the vacant lieutenant governor’s job, told The Bee’s Editorial Board Tuesday that he will seek to be elected to the post next year -- even if his legislative colleagues fail to confirm his appointment. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

**Bob Link named Visalia mayor after swearing in of 3 new council members** – A new-look Visalia City Council will not be a “business-as-usual” body, Bob Link said tonight after being elected Visalia’s mayor for the second time. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Mike Lane ready for Visalia council challenges** – Mike Lane sees his new job as a Visalia City councilman much as he does the profession he almost entered nearly two decades ago. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Briggs faces possible fine over failed Assembly bid** – The state's political watchdog agency has recommended a \$34,000 fine against Fresno Republican Mike Briggs for campaign violations related to his unsuccessful 2004 bid for the state Assembly. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**John Perez enters speakership fight** – First-term Assemblyman John Perez, an ally of organized labor and cousin of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, has launched a campaign to capture the Assembly speakership, and many members of the house are quickly rallying behind his bid. [Capitol Weekly article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Mike Feuer and Mark DeSaulnier: Legislators explore avenues for reform** – The state lawmakers write that we need to remake structures and systems that in many cases haven't been seriously examined for years to ensure [California](#) succeeds in the 21st century and beyond. [Feuer/DeSaulnier op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

**Prop. 8 foes seek initiative sponsors' internal campaign communications** – Lawyers for two gay couples challenging last year's Proposition 8 initiative banning same-sex marriage in California brought their case to a federal appeals court panel in Pasadena Tuesday, arguing that they need access to initiative sponsors' internal campaign communications to prove the ballot measure was passed with "discriminatory intent." [LA Times article](#)

## News Briefs

### Top Stories

**State projects historic low for water deliveries** – The state put its residents on notice Tuesday: Prepare for the possibility of a fourth year of drought. Water deliveries from the Delta to two-thirds of Californians could be as low as 5 percent of the contracted totals, the state Department of Water Resources said. That's the lowest initial allocation in history. [Stockton Record article](#); [Hanford Sentinel article](#); [Central Valley Business Times article](#); [Contra Costa Times article](#)

**CSU sees record number of undergrad applications** – California State University has received a record number of undergraduate applications for a shrinking number of seats. [AP article](#)

**Online crash leads to extension of UC application deadline** -- Students applying to the [University of California](#) have another day to get their applications in because UC's online application system crashed in the hours leading up to the original deadline Monday night. The new deadline is 11:59 p.m. Wednesday. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**High-speed rail likely to pass through Hanford** – California's bullet trains -- which will connect San Francisco and Los Angeles in two and a half hours -- will most likely shoot through east Hanford, state planners told city leaders. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

**California could lose energy stimulus funds, auditor says** -- Eight months after [California](#) was awarded \$226 million in federal stimulus money to boost [energy efficiency](#) and renewable energy programs, it has failed to spend any of the cash and risks losing it, the state auditor charged Tuesday. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

### Agriculture/Water

**Ground water worries mount for farmers** -- The battle over Kings County's dwindling water supplies is going underground. Fresno County farmer Philip Erro is circulating a petition asking Kings County

supervisors to pass an ordinance prohibiting anybody from pumping ground water after selling their surface water rights. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

**Water uncertainties delay planting decisions** – Farmers and ranchers all over California have put off making their crop plans as long as they can, hoping for some solid information about water allocations and the economy. [Central Valley Business Times article](#)

**Stockton Record: Valley river flowing toward health** -- The Mokelumne River won't ever be what it once was, but with enough effort and the continued cooperation of all the interested parties, it doesn't have to die. [Stockton Record article](#)

### *Economy*

**Economic data point to fragile recovery** – Residential real estate market shows signs of gaining momentum, while manufacturing appears to lose steam. [LA Times article](#)

**Expect less: Cuts in financial allocations to Merced County cities** – More bad financial news for four cities in Merced and Madera counties. There'll be a cut in local allocations they may have expected for November advances. Included are Merced, Livingston, Los Banos and Chowchilla. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Heating bills set to rise ... for different reasons** -- If there's any money left to squirrel away, you might want to stash a few bucks. The latest forecasts call for slightly higher winter heating bills around Kern County. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Council decides Swearingin's cuts need approval** – Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin proceeded Tuesday with layoffs and other cuts to close a \$28 million budget gap as council members and city staffers continued to debate who controls the city's purse strings. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Stockton revisits ballpark land seizure** – A property line through Stockton Ballpark divides the left field side, which is not in dispute, from the right. On Tuesday, more than four years after City Hall seized the Marina Tower property and built right field and a parking lot in its place, the City Council considered using eminent domain to acquire the land. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Kern supervisors seek to limit bonus pay at Kern Health Systems** – Kern County supervisors directed staff Tuesday to investigate whether they can limit bonuses for top executives at the taxpayer-funded Kern Health Systems health insurance provider. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Kern retirees stuck in middle of bureaucratic squabble** – Kern County supervisors directed their staff Tuesday to find a way to protect health care benefits for 33 retired workers caught between Kern County and Kern County Superior Court. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Fresno mayor invited to Obama jobs event** – Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin is one of five U.S. mayors invited to participate Thursday in a White House forum on jobs and economic growth with President Barack Obama, the mayor's office announced Tuesday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Court hears challenge to Clovis shopping center** – The debate over a proposed 490,000-square-foot Clovis shopping center that would include a Walmart Supercenter re-entered the courtroom Tuesday as lawyers sparred over whether the city's environmental document for the project correctly analyzed water and urban-decay issues. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Fresno Bee: Board should reveal high-pension identities** – The failure of Fresno's Public Safety Retirement Board not to reveal the identities of participants in the pension system is at odds with the California Public Records Act. The board should provide this information to the public without having to be forced to by a court. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

**Online tax advantage shortchanges state** -- As millions of Web surfers jammed into online shopping sites yesterday — drawn by the cut-rate prices of Cyber Monday — the surge in Internet sales didn't bring cheer to traditional stores or to state and local tax collectors. [San Diego Union-Tribune article](#)

### *Education*

**Central Unified puts breakfast within reach** – The number of students eating breakfast in Central Unified School District more than doubled this year after a simple change: Food was moved out of the cafeteria. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**UC Merced vice chancellor leaving to start own company** – John Garamendi Jr., vice chancellor for university relations at UC Merced, announced Tuesday evening that he would resign from the post to start his own business. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Mobile dairy mooves into Bakersfield school** – As part of the Dairy Council of California's Mobile Dairy Classroom, the students got a close-up look at the bovine and learned about the origin of milk, its nutritional value and how the milk gets from the farm to their school cafeteria. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

### *Environment/Energy*

**Video: PG&E execs queried on SmartMeters** – Representatives of Pacific Gas & Electric met Tuesday morning with The Bee's editorial board to answer questions about the utility's SmartMeter program. [Fresno Bee video](#)

**Fresno doctor wants truck air rules suspended** – A Valley representative on the state air board wants the board to suspend new pollution rules for trucks because they rely on research from a staff member who lied about his credentials. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Dan Walters: Air board's cover-up casts pall on diesel rules** – A year ago, high officials of the [California Air Resources Board](#) learned that the author of a statistical study on diesel soot effects had falsified his academic credentials. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

**Lois Henry: Arrogance pollutes air board** -- As much as the California Air Resources Board would like to ignore this pesky little issue of a researcher lying about his credentials and using questionable methodology to pop out a report so the board could justify its draconian new diesel restrictions, Henry is not lettin' it go. [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

**Bay Area pollution district eyes first guidelines for reducing global warming gases from local development** -- The Bay Area's air pollution district is proposing the nation's first-ever guidelines for when projects would produce enough global warming gases to warrant an environmental review of ways to reduce them. [Contra Costa Times article](#)

### *Health and Human Services*

**Swine flu vaccine is limited in Modesto area** – Stanislaus County health officials still are directing available H1N1 vaccine to local health care providers that serve people in high-risk groups -- passing over members of the general public for another month. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**No new H1N1 deaths reported in Kern** – There were no new deaths and only one hospitalization due to H1N1 swine flu in Kern County last week -- more evidence that Kern may be seeing a lull in total cases. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Flu vaccine draws a crowd in Stockton** – The line stood 30 deep outside the first in a series of San Joaquin County Public Health Services H1N1 influenza vaccination clinics on this frosty Tuesday morning. No one was complaining about the chill known to spark a mother's warning to bundle up to avoid catching a cold. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Loss of COBRA subsidy may boost number of insured** -- The loss of COBRA subsidies means thousands of laid-off Californians subsisting on [unemployment checks](#) will have to use most of that income to pay for [health coverage](#), if they choose to keep it. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Report: Most state hospitals fail to comply with price-quote law** -- Most California hospitals are failing to comply with a state law requiring them to furnish price quotes upon request for a host of medical services, according to a report released Tuesday. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Tulare supervisors OK rules for medical marijuana distributors** -- The Tulare County Board of Supervisors gave final approval to an ordinance limiting the number of clients seen by marijuana-distribution organizations as well as capping at 99 the number of plants they may possess. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Foster Farms chicken rates poorly on cleanliness** -- A Consumer Reports study found Foster Farms chicken to be one of the most contaminated birds in a nationwide test. But Foster Farms claims its chicken is just as safe as any other company's. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

### Land Use/Housing

**Loan modifications come slower than some seek** -- A day after the federal government announced a new campaign to ramp up assistance to mortgage borrowers at risk of losing their homes, some in Bakersfield remained worried. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

### Other Areas

**Hughson city manager back at work** -- It's business as usual -- or what passes for usual around here -- at City Hall. Five weeks after his near-ouster, Joe Donabed resumed his job as Hughson's city manager Monday. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Disputed contract for Fresno County jail service OK'd** -- Fresno County supervisors Tuesday narrowly approved a new contract for inmate phone service, rejecting complaints from competing contractors that the winner wasn't qualified. [Fresno Bee article](#)

## Editorial Roundup

**Fresno Bee** -- The failure of Fresno's Public Safety Retirement Board not to reveal the identities of participants in the pension system is [at odds with the California Public Records Act](#).

**Merced Sun-Star** -- Expanding COBRA will [ease burdens](#).

**Sacramento Bee** -- This health bill is a test of [the majority's ability to govern](#). The Democrats can't hide behind divided government.

**Stockton Record** -- The Mokelumne River won't ever be what it once was, but with [enough effort and the continued cooperation](#) of all the interested parties, it doesn't have to die.

**Visalia Times-Delta** -- [Share your bounty](#) with others.

## Upcoming Events

- The San Joaquin Valley Green Jobs Summit will be held at the Fresno Holiday Inn Downtown on Dec. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Rey Leon, executive director, Valley LEAP and SJV Regional Green Jobs Coalition Chair, at (559) 269-9563 or [sjvleap@gmail.com](mailto:sjvleap@gmail.com).

- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Air Quality Work Group will meet in conjunction with the Fast Track Advisory Committee on Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to noon at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District office in Fresno. Information: Jennifer Johnson at [jejohnson@csufresno.edu](mailto:jejohnson@csufresno.edu).
- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's PreK-12 Education Work Group will hold its second annual Exemplary Practices in Education conference on the California State University, Fresno campus on Wednesday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Information: Dr. Walt Buster, (559) 278-0388 or [wbuster3036@comcast.net](mailto:wbuster3036@comcast.net), or Dr. Marcy Masumoto, (559) 304-2190 or [mmasumoto@csufresno.edu](mailto:mmasumoto@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.**

This document is to be used for informational purposes only. Unless specifically noted, the Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno does not officially endorse or support views that may be expressed in the document. If you want to print a story, please do so now before the link expires.