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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

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

Keating seeks Tom Berryhill Assembly seat – Former Modesto City Councilwoman Janice Keating is running for the Assembly, staking an early claim to the seat opened by Tom Berryhill's decision to campaign for the state Senate. She's preparing for a tough June primary, possibly against Sen. Jeff Denham, R-Atwater. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Cogdill considers running for Stanislaus County assessor spot – State Sen. Dave Cogdill -- who a month ago said he was not seeking a second term and would return to the private sector - might end up in the public sector after all, just a lot closer to home. His spokeswoman is confirming a [report](#) in the

Flash Report blog that Cogdill, R-Modesto, is considering a run for assessor of Stanislaus County. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

Dan Walters: Assembly's top post lacks big clout – Until legislative [term limits](#) changed the game, the speakership of the state [Assembly](#) was generally regarded as [California's](#) second most powerful political office. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Sacramento Bee: 'Taking a pass' is not excusable – Certain reform groups are now pushing a proposal to transform [California's](#) Legislature from a full-time to a part-time body. When full-time lawmakers fail in their most basic of duties – to vote – they provide their opponents with plenty of ammunition. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

Radanovich frank on waste – A new taxpayer-funded mailing from Rep. George Radanovich, R-Mariposa, has a simple and alarming message for the San Joaquin Valley. "The spending of your tax dollars is out of control," the publicly funded mailer states. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Flood of initiatives awaits California voters – Californians may be faced with a dozen or more ballot initiatives when they go to the polls in 2011. An estimated 70 proposals are currently either approved for gathering signatures to qualify for the ballot or have been mentioned as possibly seeking the go-ahead. [Central Valley Business Times article](#)

PUC member's bid for second term rejected --- The leader of the state Senate on Tuesday rejected a controversial appointee of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger who had been bidding for a second term on the commission that regulates state utilities. [LA Times article](#)

Poizner's December fundraising off to slow start – GOP gubernatorial candidate [Steve Poizner's](#) drive to raise \$50,000 this month appears to be starting slowly, with only \$4,825 collected by Monday, according to his Web site. [Capitol Alert](#)

Fiorina is worth tens of millions, report shows -- Former Hewlett-Packard chief Carly Fiorina has assets totaling tens of millions of dollars and would be among the wealthiest members of Congress if elected to the U.S. Senate next year, financial disclosure records show. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

News Briefs

Top Stories

PPIC: California water myths distort critical policy debate -- Myths about California's water problems—and their solutions—are hindering the development of effective policies to manage one of the state's most important natural resources, says a study released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). [PPIC news release](#); [Full PPIC report](#); [Short summary](#)

Madera County workers face furloughs -- Two months after approving its annual budget, Madera County faces a \$4.9 million midyear deficit and will soon begin furloughing most of its employees. [Fresno Bee article](#)

UCLA forecast: State jobless rate to top 10 percent for at least two more years – Unemployment is peaking in [California](#), but a sluggish economic recovery will keep the jobless rate above 10 percent for at least two more years, according to the latest forecast from [UCLA](#). [Sacramento Bee article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Aging computer system holds up unemployment checks to 117,000 Californians -- An estimated 117,000 Californians haven't received their unemployment checks -- some for more than a month -- because of what state officials blame on an archaic computer system. [LA Times article](#)

Agriculture/Water

Fresno council to learn about PUDs -- Fresno has debated residential water meters for decades. Staff members from the city's Public Utilities and Finance departments this week may tackle one of the key questions at the heart of the issue. Are residential water meters coming to Fresno simply because it's the law, or are conservation and fairness also driving forces? [Fresno Bee news blog](#)

Updated information about Lodi 's water meter program – As residents brace for the installation of water meters throughout the city, they will have to make a choice soon about whether they want the city to install the meters or to hire their own independent contractor. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Williamson Act: Tax relief measure to preserve agriculture – Steve Malcoun has a 34.5-acre walnut orchard east of Morada. He doesn't plan to develop the land for urban uses, and the property is too far away from housing subdivisions to be considered for development. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

Sun-Maid beats raisin industry field price -- The Kingsburg-based Sun-Maid Growers exceeded the raisin industry's field price last year, providing a minimum of \$1,410 a ton for its growers. It is the 23rd consecutive year the cooperative has surpassed the industry's price for raisins. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Economy

Forum focuses on challenges Bakersfield faces – The Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce's "Bakersfield: The Next Five Years" luncheon focused on the challenges the county faces today. A panel of presenters spoke Tuesday about the condition of the local water supply, health care and education during the forum at the Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Grizzlies lease plan gains supporters – Several City Council members are expressing support for the proposed revision to the Fresno Grizzlies' stadium lease. But it's grudging support. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Job growth in California is growing green – Green businesses are blooming in California, creating jobs at a faster pace than the broader economy, a new study has found. [LA Times article](#)

30 percent of California households have inadequate incomes -- Thirty percent of [California's](#) households lack the income to cover "bare bones" living expenses, according to a new statistical study released by United Ways of California, a charitable fundraising consortium. [Capitol Alert](#)

Lawsuits with Stockton arena, ballpark developer affiliates to be settled – The City Council in a closed session Tuesday voted to pay \$396,718 to settle three lawsuits involving affiliates of Regent Development Inc., the developer that built Stockton Arena and Stockton Ballpark. [Stockton Record article](#)

Recession-minded shoppers paring holiday purchases – This holiday season, more people are cutting back on their gift giving because of their continued economic hardships. Extravagances have given way to a focus on the family and personal presents. [Modesto Bee article](#)

\$7.6 million for an audit? - Kern Health Systems, the agency under fire for approving a fat CEO pay raise, has spent \$7.6 million on an audit that has yet to recover a penny. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

San Joaquin supervisors OK deal for prosecutors -- County supervisors Tuesday approved an offer to county employees that would prevent the layoffs of seven prosecutors, a loss the district attorney said would hurt his office's ability to prosecute crime in the county. [Stockton Record article](#)

Education

Bakersfield Californian: Jobs creation must include tax dollars for college classes – Federal dollars must quickly flow to community colleges and universities to help retool America's work force. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Visalia Unified approves \$10 million in cuts – On Tuesday night, the Visalia Unified School District approved \$10 million in budget cuts to be implemented during a two-year plan. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Spring classes at Delta College already full – San Joaquin Delta College is lighting up the "no vacancy" sign. For the first time, the college is no longer accepting applications for admission - not for spring semester, anyhow - after perhaps 400 to 450 classes were canceled because of budget cuts. [Stockton Record article](#)

First year bumpy for Stockton Unified 'small learning communities' – For a variety of reasons - and with several exceptions - the small learning communities have been struggling since school began in July. Scheduling difficulties, insufficient time for teachers to develop lesson plans, a dearth of workplace learning opportunities for students, and students landing in classes other than the ones they selected have been just some of the problems. [Stockton Record article](#)

Fresno Unified 4th- and 8th-graders score low in math -- Fresno Unified School District students in fourth and eighth grades scored lower on a national math assessment test than public-school students in other large cities, according to test results released Tuesday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

McCarthy named president of Stockton Unified board -- Ever independent, Bill Ross broke new ground Tuesday night, drawing laughs when he voted against himself for vice president as the Stockton Unified board picked new officers. [Stockton Record article](#)

Environment/Energy

Kings hears Kettleman City appeal amid protests; landfill decision two weeks away -- After an eight-hour marathon session, supervisors closed the public hearing and postponed deliberation -- and a decision -- until Dec. 22. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Kettleman waste facility takes in 15.9 million pounds of toxic waste – The Kettleman Hills toxic waste facility in Kings County is, by far, the single location in California with the largest amount of toxic waste "released" into the environment, says the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. But virtually all of the 15.9 million pounds of toxics sent to the facility went where the stuff was supposed to go: into the ground. [Central Valley Business Times article](#)

State air board will debate a recession break on diesel rules – The [California Air Resources Board](#) must decide today whether the bad economy justifies giving truckers and construction firms more breathing room on the state's toughest-in-the-nation diesel pollution regulations. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Researcher's lie could threaten diesel rules – A sweeping California regulation aimed at cutting hazardous pollution from diesel engine exhaust could be derailed after a key state researcher on the project was caught in a lie about his academic credentials. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

FERC panel backs changes to scope of Merced River study – The red tape ruling how the Merced River is used can get as twisted as the river's course itself. The latest regulatory turn has led to a revision of an earlier ruling by the feds that seemed to let Merced Irrigation District (MID) off the hook a bit in how it was obliged to study downstream species. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Fresno VA hospital going solar -- A new solar-power system to be built next year at Fresno's Veterans Affairs hospital is one of six to be installed at VA centers in the western U.S. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Stockton council pondering wastewater rate hike – The City Council indicated Tuesday that it is willing to at least consider raising sewer and stormwater rates to modernize the city sewer plant, a project that could cost \$75 million or more. [Stockton Record article](#)

Oakdale sludge plan approved -- Stanislaus County leaders unanimously agreed Tuesday to allow spreading of cannery sludge in orchards around Oakdale. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Health and Human Services

Swine flu deaths climb to 19 in Kern – The Kern County death toll from the H1N1 virus grew by two in the last weekly reporting period to a total of 19, the county Department of Public Health reported Tuesday. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Kings lifts limits on swine flu vaccine – Anyone in Kings County who wants a swine flu vaccine can now get one, Kings County health officials announced Tuesday. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Fresno County indigent care funding urged – Fresno County supervisors indicated Tuesday they're willing to publicize the county's indigent medical care program -- but they're not ready to back a community coalition's request to expand the program's funding. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Tulare County confirms hiring of HHS workers – A year after announcing the layoff of 200 workers at the county's Health and Human Services Agency, county officials announced Tuesday they will be hiring 66 workers. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

LA City Council OKs cap on medical marijuana dispensaries – Seeking to bring the city's medical marijuana dispensary boom under tight control, the Los Angeles City Council decided today to cap the total number at 70, but to allow those that originally registered with the city to remain open. [LA Times article](#)

Heavy traffic linked to higher miscarriage rates -- African-American women are three times more likely to miscarry if they live near freeways or other heavily traveled roadways, a new state study has found. [Capitol Alert](#)

Land Use/Housing

Northwest Bakersfield development thwarted again -- An emotional appeal from developer Andreis Lewis didn't sway Kern County supervisors to approve a proposal for 12 acres of commercial development at Driver Road and Rosedale Highway. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Two Merced supervisors to serve on short-handed housing authority board -- Two county supervisors will serve as emergency commissioners for the Merced County Housing Authority, allowing the dilapidated board to rebuild itself. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Other Areas

Bakersfield council prayers too Christian? – First Tehachapi, now Bakersfield. Bakersfield is the second city in Kern County to have prayers at city council meetings challenged by the Freedom From Religion Foundation Inc., a Wisconsin nonprofit with a membership of most atheists and agnostics. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

God going on wall of Turlock chamber – The City Council soon will conduct business with the words "In God We Trust" inscribed on a wall behind the council dais. The council voted 5-0 to place those words behind them and "We The People" — the opening words of the preamble to the Constitution — on the front of the podium used by the public to address the council. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Valley gets some positive ink in blog – It's always nice to see the Central Valley get some positive reviews from time to time, particularly given the bad rap we have with our neighbors to the north and south of us. So it was nice to get some recognition from "Californiality," a blog written by Mark Lorier. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Stockton Record: Stockton should pay fees – It looks like the city of Stockton will end up paying about \$14,000 in legal fees for a former and current city official caught up in the dispute over the firing of former Deputy City Manager Johnny Ford. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Jerry Dyer: Invest in our public safety – Fresno's police chief writes that public safety is an investment, not a cost. [Dyer op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

New execution method unlikely to gain traction in California – The method used in Ohio is unlikely to gain traction in California, experts say, because of procedural hurdles and persistent concerns about how the drugs -- whatever their number -- are administered to the condemned. [LA Times article](#)

Kern supervisors approve new animal regulations -- Kern County supervisors voted to change the county's animal control laws on Tuesday after four years of controversy and debate. The major goal of all the work was to combat animal overpopulation in Kern County, which forces county workers to kill nearly 20,000 unwanted animals a year. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Editorial Roundup

Bakersfield Californian – Federal dollars must quickly flow to community colleges and universities to [help retool America's work force](#).

Fresno Bee – Costly in-home support needs [another look](#).

Merced Sun-Star – When state legislators fail to vote, they provide their opponents with [plenty of ammunition](#).

Sacramento Bee – Certain reform groups are now pushing a proposal to transform California's Legislature from a full-time to a part-time body. When full-time lawmakers fail in their most basic of duties – to vote – they provide their opponents with [plenty of ammunition](#).

Stockton Record – It looks like the city of Stockton will end up paying about \$14,000 in legal fees for a former and current city official [caught up in the dispute](#) over the firing of former Deputy City Manager Johnny Ford; Lode faces [flood insurance](#).

Visalia Times-Delta – Homeless survey [needs assistance](#).

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.
- 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.
- 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 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: Dr. Walt Buster, (559) 278-0388 or wbuster3036@comcast.net, or Dr. Marcy Masumoto, (559) 304-2190 or 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.

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