



The Maddy Daily

Chronicle of Policy and Politics in the San Joaquin Valley

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Maddy Events

Maddy Report: *"The LAO: California's Non-Partisan Fiscal Advisor"* – Mac Taylor, California's Legislative Analyst, talks with Maddy Institute Executive Director Mark Keppler about the work of the Legislative Analyst's Office, the 2010-2011 State Budget, the outlook for future State Budgets and what can be done to reform the State budgeting process. The show will air Saturday, May 1 at 5:30 pm on KSEE 24, Fresno's NBC affiliate.

Maddy Forum: *"Energy: Can We Have Both Clean Energy and Energy Independence?"* – Host Rollie Smith of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and chair of the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO), talks with SJVCEO Executive Director Paul Johnson about energy issues affecting the Valley. The show is available on the [90.7 KFSR website](#) and on iTunes.

Maddy Political Insider – Diana Dooley, member of The Maddy Institute Board of Directors, will be the guest on the next edition of The Maddy Political Insider. The Maddy Political Insider can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 940 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

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

Budget blues begin anew – [California's](#) bad budget juju is beginning to emerge again for lawmakers looking for ways to close an \$18.6 billion hole. [Sacramento Bee article](#) □ □ **Anyone have an extra \$3.4 billion lying around?** -- With two days left in April, [California](#) needs \$3.4 billion in income tax revenues to meet Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger's](#) projection for the month. [Capitol Alert](#)

Political ads sparse so far in Fresno market; cost isn't cheap – Taken together, Poizner, Whitman and the backers of Prop. 16 have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars locally on television ads leading up to the June 8 primary election, records at local television stations show. The totals don't even include radio. But what about the local candidates? To date, most seem to be shying away from television. [Fresno Bee political notebook – scroll to item](#)

Whitman, Poizner to debate second time on Sunday – The second and most likely final debate between Meg Whitman and Steve Poizner, the two major GOP candidates for governor, will be held Sunday in downtown San Jose and carried live throughout the state. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

California Farm Bureau endorses Whitman – The state's biggest farm organization, the [California Farm Bureau Federation](#), announced its unanimous endorsement Thursday of Republican gubernatorial candidate [Meg Whitman](#). [Capitol Alert](#)

Whitman lacks public service background – Whitman's oft-stated passion about California's future raises a key question: Outside of the executive suite, what causes has she supported in recent years to help the state succeed? [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

□ **Gubernatorial candidates still haven't released returns** – Unlike the U.S. Senate hopefuls, none of the candidates in [California's](#) gubernatorial race has released [tax returns](#), or even summaries, this year. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

□ **Tax returns heat up Senate race** – With an adjusted gross income of \$96,524 in 2009, [Assemblyman Chuck DeVore](#) is making political hay out of the fact that that he's the poorest candidate in [California's](#) three-way GOP [Senate](#)

race. [Sacramento Bee article](#) □ □ **Two long-time GOP strategists advise Brown** – Jack Flanigan, a veteran GOP political strategist, is among the informal network of advisers Attorney General Jerry Brown consults in his race for governor. [California's Capitol blog](#)

Prop 14: Former Univision president gives Schwarzenegger \$1 million – Former Univision CEO [Jerry Perenchio](#) has given Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) \$1 million as the governor raises money for Proposition 14, the open primary initiative on the June 8 ballot. [Capitol Alert](#) □ □ **Utilities sue to remove Prop 16 from ballot** – A coalition of locally owned public utilities, including the [Sacramento Municipal Utility District](#), is claiming that [Pacific Gas](#) and Electric Corp. Chairman [Peter A. Darbee](#) essentially admitted at a March 1 stockholders' meeting that Proposition 16 is designed to choke off competition. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

□ **Stockton Record: Politics as usual** – Finally, California's long state nightmare is over: We have a lieutenant governor. Former state Sen. Abel Maldonado has been sworn in, and not a minute too soon. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Kern Republican drama gets public airing – Two events unfolded Thursday night in the ongoing fracture of Bakersfield's conservative Republican wing. The local group that has accused Ken Mettler -- its former president, now a state Assembly candidate -- of fiscal impropriety hosted an event at the Petroleum Club to explain its version of events and justify the allegations. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Area congressmen vote to abolish raise – Dennis Cardoza, D-Atwater; Dan Lungren, R-Gold River; and Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, were among the 402 members of the House of Representatives who voted to abolish an automatic pay raise for House members. [Stockton Record article](#)

Paul Rodriguez cancels Arizona show in protest – Comedian Paul Rodriguez is cancelling a sold-out concert this weekend in Chandler, Ariz, to protest the state's tough, new immigration law. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

□ **Schwarzenegger takes aim at Arizona immigration law on Leno show** – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday night declared the new Arizona law cracking down on illegal immigrants "a mess" and something he "would never do." [LA Times article](#)

Villaraigosa backs L.A. boycott of Arizona over immigration crackdown -- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said Thursday that he supports a boycott of Arizona by the city of Los Angeles, and he called that state's newly passed immigration law "unpatriotic and unconstitutional." [LA Times article](#)

Schwarzenegger for president? He would if he could – Gov. [Arnold](#)

[Schwarzenegger](#) would love to run for president - if he could. [AP article](#) □ □ **Stanislaus judge hopefuls debate at forum** -- The six candidates for a judgeship on the Stanislaus County Superior Court debated in front of a crowd of lawyers and sitting judges in Modesto on Thursday night, just a month before the first competitive race for a seat on the bench since 2002. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Sacramento Bee: Romero for schools chief -- If you want a reform-minded superintendent of public instruction, vote for Gloria Romero. If you want the status quo, vote for one of the others. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

News Briefs

Top Stories

Lawmakers vote to rollback county inmate early release program – State lawmakers moved on Thursday to repeal much of a new program that allows the early release of county jail inmates. The Senate voted to rollback the program after lawmakers expressed public safety concerns. They cited news reports of a Sacramento man who was arrested for attempted rape within hours of his early release. [LA Times article](#)

California high-speed rail plan trouble, official says – California may not be able to complete a high-speed rail system, set to begin construction in 2012, because of poor planning and a lack of funding, the state auditor warned Thursday. [LA Times article](#)

Dan Walters: High-speed train given a new knock – The state auditor's office is saying officially what outside analysts already had concluded – the bullet train isn't ready to roll, lacking the tens of billions of dollars in federal and private financing the project will require. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Proposed PG&E rates would provide relief to heaviest users -- Kern's biggest residential electricity users would get some relief on their power bills starting June 1 under a compromise proposal filed this month by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Agriculture/Water

Stockton Record: Shirking responsibility – Assemblywoman Alyson Huber

couldn't even get a committee second Tuesday on her proposal to require lawmakers to vote before anyone builds a peripheral canal around the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. That snub says more about the unwillingness of lawmakers to exercise oversight than it does about the El Dorado Hills Democrat's willingness to take on fellow lawmakers. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Farmers and fishermen still fighting over water – The push-and-pull over California water supplies continues this week, with warring letters that pit farmers -- or, at least, their congressional allies -- against fishermen. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#) – scroll to item

□ **Lois Henry: City ag districts say water talks going well** – The city of Bakersfield met Wednesday with two local ag districts seeking to mediate a local solution on the Kern River and the big news was that no one stormed out of the room. [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Why is Millerton dropping? – Someone was asking why Millerton Lake is dropping instead of filling, especially in April when the snowmelt is slowly beginning to roll. The Fresno Bee's Mark Grossi spoke to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, owner and operator of the dam, and officials told him Millerton is too high. As they say in the water business, it is "encroached." [Fresno Bee news blog](#)

Economy

Commercial properties struggling, experts say – Residential real estate in the Valley is experiencing a rebound from its bottom a year ago, but 2010 remains a year of caution for commercial, retail and industrial property. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Merced Sun-Star: Let's get Gottschalk to Merced – We support entrepreneurs willing to start new businesses in our community. So let's start pumping up support to bring Joe Levy back to Merced. [Merced Sun-Star editorial](#)

□ **Day travelers spur growth in Kern tourism market** – Over the past five years, spending in Kern County's travel and tourism market sector reached more than \$1 billion, and in 2008, it reached nearly \$1.3 billion, according to Dean Runyan Associates, Inc. Furthermore, two-thirds of the local tax receipts from this sector can be attributed to transient occupancy, in other words, paid by out-of-the-area visitors and travelers. [Bakersfield Californian article](#); [Three thoughts on increased spending in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Now is not the time to be giving raises -- Local government will operate in emergency mode for the foreseeable future, and that means sacrifice is in order all around. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Fresno starts cleanup of Granite Park ballfields -- The city of Fresno started cleanup this week of the ballfields at the dilapidated Granite Park entertainment-retail complex in east-central Fresno. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Accusations follow new Stockton alliance director -- A former Turlock city manager accused by Turlock officials of mismanaging public money, hiring people without authorization and failing to work full days has been appointed executive director of the Downtown Stockton Alliance. [Stockton Record article](#)

Education

California mayors gather to discuss dropout rate – Mayors from across [California](#) met in [Sacramento](#) on Thursday to discuss strategies for addressing the state's high public school dropout rates. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

☐ **California lawmakers seek millions in earmarks for colleges, universities –** More than 100 of the members' requests would funnel cash to California colleges and universities, which stand to reap hundreds of millions of dollars for special projects, according to a review of lawmakers' disclosures. [California Watch article](#)

Fresno Bee: Racing for another chance – We support the reworked application, and are encouraged that these large districts are willing to be a laboratory for school reform in California. The teachers unions should not oppose this effort, especially at a time when education budgets are being cut. [Fresno Bee editorial](#) ☐☐ **Chicano studies among new UC Merced minors –** The fruits of Sean Lambert-Diaz's labor have finally paid off. The UC Merced junior began pushing for a Chicano studies minor during his freshman year in 2007-2008, after sending a letter to the school's history department requesting it hire a Chicano historian. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

☐ **CSU Stanislaus gets new provost –** One perk of the job for California State University, Stanislaus' new provost was apparent right away: "The traffic." James Strong, dean of the College of Business and Public Policy at CSU Dominguez Hills in Southern California, starts work in Turlock on Monday. CSUS President Hamid Shirvani announced the hiring Thursday. [Modesto Bee article](#)

☐ **Valley schools get construction funds --** Schools districts in Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties — along with the Fresno County Office of Education — have been awarded a share of \$961 million in state funds for school construction and modernization. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Mettler proposes anti-Milk, pro-Reagan school policies -- A Kern High School District trustee wants to say no to Harvey Milk and yes to Ronald Reagan. Trustee Ken Mettler, who is also running in the 32nd Assembly District Republican primary, will ask his board colleagues at a Monday meeting to adopt a policy

discouraging schools from celebrating Harvey Milk Day May 22, which honors one of the first openly gay men elected to public office in California. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

☐ *Health/Human Services*

☐ **Governor embraces national healthcare, vows quick implementation in California** -- As other GOP governors appeal to the courts to roll back federal healthcare reform, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced Thursday that he was fully on board with the overhaul and was directing his administration to begin putting the new system in place in California immediately. [LA Times article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Anthem withdraws rate increases – Anthem Blue Cross, the California health insurer that faced public outrage after it proposed raising premiums by as much as 39 percent for its individual policyholders, has withdrawn the proposed increase and plans to refile new rates next month, its parent company, WellPoint Inc., said Thursday. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [LA Times article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#)

☐ **State is meeting many health goals** -- California is meeting many key health objectives and is experiencing lower rates of stroke, AIDS, influenza/pneumonia, coronary heart disease and tuberculosis, according to an annual state/county public-health report card released Thursday. [Stockton Record article](#)

Message to cities from LA pot shop fight: Expect lawsuits – L.A.'s fight to drive hundreds of pot shops out of town is serving up a cautionary tale of what is in store for other cities just hoping to get a few dozen to go away. If L.A.'s battles are any key, expect lawsuits - and more lawsuits. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Land Use/Housing

Agents, homebuyers rush to beat deadline – Real estate agents across the country are working seven days a week, builders are staying open late and homebuyers are scrambling to get their offers in as they rush to take advantage of tax credits that expire at midnight tonight. [Fresno Bee article](#)

You can find rental bargains in north Valley -- Apartment rents continue to be a relative bargain throughout the Northern San Joaquin Valley. The asking price for monthly rent is about what it was five years ago, according to RealFacts. And that's before the impact of incentives is calculated in. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Transportation

Realigning Highway 165 through Merced brings out the critics – A

campaign to reroute Highway 165 through Merced County to reduce traffic on Lander Avenue and keep heavy trucks from Hilmar's main thoroughfare continued Wednesday evening at a public meeting in Hilmar. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Memorial sought for Valley transportation advocate -- Modesto's McHenry Avenue and its northern extension, known as Highway 108, would be designated "Kirk Lindsey Memorial Highway" under legislation making its way through Sacramento. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Other Areas

Fresno's population estimate tops 500,000 -- The housing bust may have slowed growth throughout California, but not by enough to stop Fresno from reaching a historic milestone. Sometime in 2009, California's fifth-largest city reached a half-million population, according to new estimates released Thursday by the state Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Merced County population up 3,000 – As of Jan. 1, the department's Demographic Research Unit estimated that Merced County had 258,495, an increase of 1.1 percent over the previous year's figure of 255,591. The city of Atwater grew by the largest percentage in Merced County, with 474 more people for a 1.7 percent jump. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

□ **State's population is stable in '09** – The record goes to Colfax because, throughout [California, population growth](#) was minimal last year. Statewide, the gain was 1 percent, a growth of about 390,000 people. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

□ **Visalia residents air concerns during first of four town meetings** -- Attending the first of four town hall meetings scheduled for different regions of Visalia, Bill Brensel asked a question that most residents have entertained at one time or another: How many gang members are there in the city. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

New policy for lethal injections -- State prison officials on Thursday released their revised lethal injection regulation, asking to have it adopted as state law toward resuming executions in California. [Stockton Record article](#)

□ Editorial Roundup

Bakersfield Californian – Local government will operate in [emergency mode](#) for the foreseeable future, and that means sacrifice is in order all around; Defenders of a memorial [cross erected long ago on federal land](#) in the Mojave

Desert have had their day in the Supreme Court, and they've won.

Fresno Bee – We support the reworked Race to the Top application, and are encouraged that these large districts are willing to be [a laboratory for school reform](#) in California.

☐ **Merced Sun-Star** – Let's get [Gottschalk to Merced](#).

Modesto Bee – Congress must [recriminalize "crush" videos](#); [Honor Bette Belle Smith](#) with service.

☐ **Sacramento Bee** – If you want [a reform-minded](#) superintendent of public instruction, vote for Gloria Romero. If you want the status quo, vote for one of the others.

☐ **Stockton Record** – Finally, California's [long state nightmare](#) is over: We have a lieutenant governor; Assemblywoman Alyson Huber couldn't even get a committee second Tuesday on her proposal to require lawmakers to vote before anyone builds [a peripheral canal](#) around the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

Upcoming Events

- The Great Valley Center will hold its annual conference, "Valley Up: Ideas, Innovation, Inspiration," at the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto on May 6-7. Information: www.greatvalley.org/conference
- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley board of directors will hold its quarterly meeting in Merced on Friday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. More information: www.sjvpartnership.org.
- The San Joaquin Valley Regional Equity Forum, which will highlight the work of regional and local efforts addressing inequities in health and well-being, will be held in Fresno on Wednesday, May 26, at 9:30 a.m. More information: thngo@csufresno.edu.
- The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will hold an air quality conference, "Particulate Pollution in the San Joaquin Valley, in Fresno on June 9-10. Information: www.valleyair.org.

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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