



Daily Report

June 30, 2010

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Mike Lukens

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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  
Conq. Dennis Cardoza  
Conq. Jim Costa  
Conq. Kevin McCarthy  
Conq. Jerry McNerney  
Conq. 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  
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

**In This Issue**

- Maddy Events
- Political Briefs
- News Briefs
- Editorial Roundup
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**Maddy Events**

**2010 Maddy Tribune – Join us in honoring three distinguished Maddy Institute board members as they leave the California Legislature – Sen. Dave Cogdill and Assemblymembers Juan Arambula and Mike Villines – at the Fresno Convention Center on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. Early birds save money -- purchase your tickets by August 1 for a discount. A portion of your ticket price is tax-deductible. All net proceeds will go to support the on-going programs of the Maddy Institute, including the Legislative Intern Scholar Program. More information: [www.maddyinstitute.org](http://www.maddyinstitute.org) or call (559) 278-1133.**

**Maddy Forum: "Housing and the Homeless: Creative Local Strategies for Addressing Chronic Homelessness" -- Host Chris Fiorentino talks with Gregory Barfield, the City of Fresno's Homeless Policy and Prevention Manager, and Professor Lloyd Crask, professor of construction management at CSU Fresno, to discuss the creative strategies that are being applied locally to address chronic homelessness in our region. The show airs of 90.7 KFSR Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. and also is available on the [90.7 KFSR website](http://www.907kfsr.com) and on iTunes.**

**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. If you missed the program, you can hear it again by logging on to the "Audio" link for the Alan Autry Show at: <http://www.940kyno.com>.**

**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**

**Governor wants water bond off November ballot – Faced with potential defeat of one of his top priorities, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called Tuesday for delaying the \$11.1 billion water bond from November to 2012. [Fresno Bee article](#); [LA Times article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [San Jose Mercury News article](#)**

**Democrats, Republicans unlikely to join forces on redistricting measures for November – The state Democratic and Republican parties joined forces to unsuccessfully oppose Proposition 14, the "top-two" primary measure, but don't expect to see the same teamwork for the November election. [Sacramento Bee article](#)**

**Alcohol tax increases die on the vine in California – California's excise taxes on wine, beer and liquor remain a 1991 vintage, the last year the state hiked the price that producers pay on each gallon of alcohol. [Sacramento Bee article](#)**

**Think tank offers route to better California – The Public Policy Institute of California predicts worsening budget deficits, education shortfalls and lack of preparation for looming climate change in a report it recently released. [California Watch article](#)**

**Palin travel expenses cost \$2,500 – Sarah Palin's speaking fee remains confidential, but her expenses — for travel, hotel, etc. — amounted to less than \$2,500, California State University, Stanislaus, spokeswoman Eve Hightower said Tuesday. [Modesto Bee article](#)**

**Poll: Democrats hold slight edge in California races – California Democratic candidates for the Senate and governor hold a narrow edge over their Republican opponents as voters worry about the economy with four months to go until the November elections, a Reuters/Ipsos poll found on Tuesday. [Reuters article](#)**

**Whitman hedges on her pledge not to raise taxes – One of the first actions that Republican Meg Whitman took upon declaring her candidacy for governor was signing a pledge never to raise taxes — but on Tuesday she added a hedge to that vow. The candidate suggested that she might consider a tax hike in the event of an extreme natural disaster. [LA Times article](#)**

**Whitman says Brown is a failure – Republican gubernatorial candidate [Meg Whitman](#) told a small crowd at a motorcycle dealership in Roseville Tuesday that her opponent, Democratic nominee [Jerry Brown](#), is a failed politician and that she is the candidate who could create jobs and make government more efficient and accommodating of business. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [LA Times article](#)**

**BLOGS/SITES**

Adam Ashton's After Deadline (ModBee)  
Aquaforia  
Bill McEwen blog  
[blooetnews.com/California](http://blooetnews.com/California)  
California Majority Report  
Capital Notes  
Capital Press  
Capitol Alert  
FlashReport  
Fox & Hounds  
Fresno Bee Opinion Talk  
Fresno Bee Political Notebook  
LA Observed  
Michael Fitzgerald blog  
Mike Dvle'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 Bloometer  
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  
KQED 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  
Tracy Press  
Univision 21  
Visalia Times-Delta

**FRESNO CO. CITIES**

Coalinga  
Clovis  
Firebaugh  
Fowler  
Fresno  
Huron  
Kerman  
Kingsburg

Kings County WIB  
Office of Education  
**MADERA COUNTY**

Elections Division  
Madera County EDC  
Madera County Farm Bureau  
Madera County WIB  
Madera County  
Madera Co. Transp. Comm.  
Office of Education  
**MERCED COUNTY**

Assn. of Governments  
Elections  
Merced County  
Merced WIB  
Merced County EDC  
Merced County Farm Bureau  
Office of Education  
**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**

Elections  
Office of Education  
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**

Elections  
Office of Education  
Tulare County  
Tulare County Farm Bureau  
Tulare County WIB  
Tulare County COG  
Tulare County EDC  
**EDUCATION**

Central Valley Ed. Leadership Institute  
CSU Bakersfield  
CSU Fresno  
CSU Stanislaus  
Fresno Pacific  
UC Merced  
University of the Pacific  
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**Brown pledges to rock the boat only enough to get state on even keel** – Attorney General Jerry Brown said Tuesday that if voters give him a chance to be governor again, he will appoint justices with a solid track record, kill the first Medfly he meets and rock the boat only "a little bit." [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

**Aiming for labor's vote, Whitman tries to divide and conquer** – But in recent days, in a fight with the California Nurses' Assn., the Republican nominee has unveiled an unusual strategy: trying to divide rank-and-file members from their union bosses. [LA Times article](#)

**Whitman: Brown should have cut more after Prop 13 passed** – Republican gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman acknowledged Tuesday that much of the deficit left behind when Jerry Brown vacated the Governor's Office was due to Proposition 13, but she said his reaction to the tax-limiting voter initiative should have been to cut spending. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Did Jerry Brown damage the Oakland School District?** – During her primary night victory speech, Whitman claimed that "Oakland schools deteriorated to the point that the [state had to intervene](#)" while Brown was mayor. [California Watch article](#)

**Feinstein: 'California needs Barbara Boxer in the Senate – now more than ever'** – California's senior [U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein](#) came back with a roundhouse response to the round table discussion with reporters earlier today in Washington D.C. by GOP U.S. Senate candidate [Carly Fiorina](#). [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

**Fiorina opposes assault weapons ban, praises Supreme Court ruling** – Republican Senate candidate Carly Fiorina said Tuesday that she opposes a ban on assault weapons and supports a U.S. Supreme Court decision this week affirming a constitutional right to bear arms. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

**Lisa Maria Boyles: Can a gay Republican represent interests of a conservative district? --** Personally, Boyles respects the fact that Ashburn is now taking steps to be true to himself. But she can also understand how his constituents could feel betrayed by his political about-face. Ashburn terms out at the end of this year, so voters in his district won't get a say in the matter. But the issue is bound to surface again with other politicians and candidates. [Boyles in Fresno Bee Opinion Talk](#)

**California Internet gambling bill dies** – But Tuesday, a bill to allow Californians to use their laptops and iPhones to legally wager over the Internet sputtered amid intense opposition from the very interests that initiated the online poker push. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Drive to recall Riverbank Councilman White starts** – A group trying to recall Riverbank Councilman Jesse James White will begin gathering signatures today. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Sacramento Mayor Johnson still pushing his strong-mayor proposal for November ballot --** Sacramento Mayor [Kevin Johnson](#), soundly thrashed in his recent bid to seek language for a charter reform measure, said Tuesday he still has time to return the issue to the City Council in time to qualify a measure for the November ballot. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### [Top Stories](#)

**Record 174 school districts on fiscally troubled list** -- A record 174 of [California's](#) school districts have been identified as financially troubled by the state Department of [Education](#), 38 percent more than appeared on a January list. [Capitol Alert; Full list; AP article; Bakersfield Californian article; Modesto Bee article; California Watch article; Educatedguess.org article; Dan Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

**Kern supervisors add to deficit on brink of fiscal year** – Kern County's budget gap grew by about \$1 million Tuesday morning after supervisors shied away from cutting public health services. That means they're now staring down a \$16.3 million hole heading into the new fiscal year that starts Thursday. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**California salivates as Obama administration offers \$2.3 billion for high-speed rail --** The Obama administration will award \$2.3 billion in high-speed rail money this year, a boost to California's dream of capturing annual funds to build a bullet-train project that critics say the state cannot afford. Unlike the one-time nature of the federal government's \$8 billion high-speed rail stimulus program in January — which gave California \$2.25 billion — the funds announced Monday are included in the Department of Transportation budget for the current fiscal year ending Sept. 30. [San Mateo County Times article](#)

### [Agriculture/Water](#)

**Thomas W. Birmingham: How far have we come in resolving water crisis?** – The general manager of the Westlands Water District writes that in the past few weeks, the Westlands Water District and other public water agencies, with the support of Sen. Dianne Feinstein and the Valley congressional delegation, have made progress toward improving the rules that have crippled the operation of California's water system and driven west-side communities toward an economic catastrophe. [Birmingham op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

**'Happy Cow' bill would require publicly funded commercials for California products to be made**

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  
Los Banos  
Merced  
**SAN JOAQUIN CO. CITIES**

Escalon  
Lathrop  
Lodi  
Manteca  
Ripon  
Stockton  
Tracy  
**STANISLAUS CO. CITIES**

Ceres  
Hughson  
Modesto  
Newman  
Oakdale  
Patterson  
Riverbank  
Turlock  
Waterford  
**TULARE CO. CITIES**

Dinuba  
Exeter  
Farmersville  
Lindsay  
Porterville  
Tulare  
Visalia  
Woodlake

**in the state --** Call it the Happy Cow bill. The California Legislature is chewing over a measure that would require commercials promoting state products, and that are financed with public funds, to be produced in California. [LA Times article](#)

**Merced County sheriff's Star team kept busy by rural criminals --** Farmers who think their biggest problems are making sure they have enough water for their crops, or getting the right price at harvest time, face another worry. Theft, whether it's of equipment or produce, can cost growers thousands of dollars. According to the Merced County Sheriff's Department, growers can take several steps to keep their equipment safe. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

### Economy

**Lodi eyes fee for drivers at fault in crashes --** City leaders are considering charging drivers who cause vehicle crashes for the first-responder costs that accompany their accidents, a practice that has gained steam among more than a dozen cities in California. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Atwater likely will avoid layoffs --** At a time when most cities are asking if anyone can spare a dime, Atwater officials have once again managed to minimize hardships -- and the city may even be in the money. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Riverbank, employees agree on pay cuts --** The city has reached tentative agreements with its employees that call for them to take 12 furlough days for the budget year that starts Thursday. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**State Center wins federal job-training grant --** A federal grant of nearly \$3 million is on its way to Fresno's State Center Community College District to help train people for jobs in the health-care field. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Four-legged weed eaters that won't fleece the budget --** Landfills across San Joaquin County are deploying squadrons of sheep and goats to chomp down brush, grass, thorns and thistles that otherwise would grow into tangled and dry tinder. The animals, after all, are cheaper than a maintenance crew. And the four-legged lawn mowers don't emit dirty diesel fumes. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Stockton venue management vote likely in July --** Should the city successfully oust the current manager of its money-losing entertainment venues, a contract with the proposed new operator would offer financial incentives tied to fiscal improvement, city officials said Tuesday. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Audits find \$200,000 in government waste and fraud --** Investigations have turned up more than \$200,000 in waste and fraud involving state employees and facilities, including \$70,105 paid to an inspector in the Department of Industrial Relations while she did private work during her state work hours, the state auditor reported Monday. [LA Times article](#); [Capitol Alert](#); [California Watch article](#)

**Summer job market cold for teens --** The unemployment rate for 16- to 19-year-olds hovered at 26.4% last month — the highest May figure since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began tracking it in 1948 — as older workers continued snapping up jobs normally held by the under-20 set. [LA Times article](#)

**California Senate kills bill limiting funds' rental investments --** The [Legislature](#) has killed a bill that would have banned California's two public [pension funds](#) from investing in real estate deals that rely on freeing up rent-controlled housing. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

### Education

**Census: State per-pupil spending in the middle --** The U.S. Census Bureau this week simplified the data a bit by releasing per-pupil spending statistics for school districts across America. It shows California spent an average \$9,863 per student, about 4 percent less than the national average, during the 2007-08 school year. Among states, California ranked 22nd in student spending. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Stockton Record: Let him do his job --** Here's our hope: Carl Toliver had a long and distinguished career with SUSD. He knows the district and hundreds of the people who work there. He is a consensus builder and a listener. He actually believes a school district's only purpose is to educate children, something that seems lost on certain board members. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

**UC Merced encourages aspiring young writers --** The program, which ends Thursday, was designed to help students improve their writing skills and expand on what they learn during the school year, said Cynthia Cassidy, a UC Merced Young Writers instructor. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Tulare County College Access Initiative gets new push --** A new effort to get middle-school students on the path to college is proceeding well, officials involved say. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

### Health/Human Services

**West Nile virus detected in Bakersfield --** Mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus have been found in Bakersfield again this summer. The potentially deadly virus has been detected in Kern County mosquito populations for seven years running -- since 2004 -- so the most recent confirmation Friday came as no surprise to county mosquito abatement officials. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Sacramento Bee: State pushes ahead on health reform** – The 90-day anniversary of the signing of the federal health care overhaul has come and gone. While budget matters have stalled in the [California Legislature](#), lawmakers are making progress with legislation to implement the federal [health reform](#). [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

**Seeking health insurance? State is taking names** – The state of [California](#) is starting to take names of people interested in new [health insurance](#) for those with pre-existing medical problems. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**State paid for medical care to the dead** – California Medi-Cal officials paid \$273,000 to health providers who claimed to have rendered care to 35 dead people, raising questions about the agency's accounting and potential health provider fraud. [California Watch article](#)

**Surgical robot gets workout** -- It's not a bionic surgeon, but it's close. On Tuesday, surgeons at Saint Agnes Medical Center set up a demonstration of their new da Vinci Si surgical robot. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Decision on Stockton pot shops delayed** -- City leaders put off a decision late Tuesday to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries while forcing another to close its doors the same day. [Stockton Record article](#)

#### Land Use/Housing

**Foreclosures dominating Valley realty market** – Two of every three Stanislaus County homes sold this year have been bank owned or "short sales" to avoid foreclosure, just-released statistics show. That's more than double the national average, and it demonstrates how foreclosures continue to dominate the region's real estate market. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Foreclosure sales total 68 percent in San Joaquin** -- Foreclosure homes accounted for 68 percent of all residential sales in San Joaquin County in the first three months of this year, down from 85 percent a year ago, foreclosure specialist RealtyTrac reported. [Stockton Record article](#)

#### Transportation

**Fresno rail firm to disclose war role under bill compromise** -- A French railway company vowed to make "full disclosure" of its role in transporting Nazi victims to World War II death camps as part of a compromise reached Tuesday in legislation designed to pressure the company to make amends. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

#### Other Areas

**Huron flap over electronic snooping** -- Huron city officials hired an investigator in April to conduct a sweep of City Hall for surveillance equipment after they became suspicious that members of the city's police department were listening in on closed-door meetings. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Open-meetings lawsuit against Tulare County could be thrown out** – A Tulare County Superior Court judge today could throw out a lawsuit seeking to force the county Board of Supervisors to end its practice of holding lunch meetings. Such a decision, however, would lead to further legal action. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**Report: African-Americans disproportionately targeted for pot** -- An analysis of arrest data in major California counties shows that African-Americans are far more likely to be booked for marijuana possession - even though pot use is lower among blacks than whites. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**Violent crime down for third straight year, but not in Kern** – Violent crime has dropped statewide for the third straight year, but Kern County isn't sharing in that trend. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Fresno police get training** -- Training police to handle situations involving people with mental illness is much-needed as officers deal with an increasing number of such calls, Fresno Police Jerry Dyer said Tuesday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Lois Henry: Ban fireworks? Absolutely!** -- Yes, it's that time of year again -- when fireworks booths pop up like toadstools and I make my annual rant urging a ban on all personal fireworks. We absolutely must ban personal fireworks. There, I said it again. Deal with it. [Henry column in Bakersfield Californian](#)

#### EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

**Bakersfield Californian** – The arrest of a Bakersfield Police Department officer on suspicion of driving a patrol car to work while under the influence has some questioning the practice of officers taking their vehicles home. Agencies are from time to time forced to [defend the practice](#). We'll defend it as well; In Washington, a [July 4-flavored](#) history lesson.

**Fresno Bee** – We hope this isn't how Democrat Kamala Harris believes she can win the California attorney general's election. The Harris campaign has gotten off to [a truly disappointing start](#).

**Merced Sun-Star** – California gets [an early start](#) on health care reform.

**Sacramento Bee** – For once, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers got it right. But it hasn't gone far enough in [reconsidering draconian rules](#) that could lead to many, many trees being unnecessarily chopped down in the cause of levee safety; California [pushes ahead](#) on health reform.

**Stockton Record** – Let Stockton Unified superintendent [do his job](#); The now vanquished former interim SUSD superintendent, Steve Vaczovsky, did win some [passing praise](#) from the county grand jury.

**Visalia Times-Delta** – Farmers Market can help [revive Lincoln Oval park](#).

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Board of Directors will hold its quarterly meeting at the International Agri-Center in Tulare on Friday, Aug. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. More information: Jen Paul at [jenpaul@csufresno.edu](mailto:jenpaul@csufresno.edu).
- The 2010 Maddy Tribute to honor three distinguished Maddy Institute board members as they leave the state Legislature – Sen. Dave Cogdill and Assemblymembers Juan Arambula and Mike Villines – will be held at the Fresno Convention Center on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. Early birds save money -- purchase tickets by August 1 for a discount. More information: [www.maddyinstitute.org](http://www.maddyinstitute.org) or call (559) 278-1133.

**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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