



# The Maddy Daily

*Chronicle of Policy and Politics in the San Joaquin Valley*

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## Maddy Events

***Maddy Forum:*** “*Minding Your Manners: Whatever Happened to Civility in Politics?*” – Community leader Dick Johanson talked with Assemblymember Juan Arambula of Fresno about what has happened to our ability to disagree without being disagreeable in the political arena. The show is available on the 90.7 KFSR Web site and on iTunes.

***Maddy Political Insider*** – John Harris, a member of the Maddy Institute’s board of directors, is the guest on the next edition of The Maddy Political Insider, which can be heard on the Alan Autry Show on KYNO Radio 1300 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 radiopodcast, *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

**Schwarzenegger wins a round; furloughs are back on** – A San Francisco appellate court applied the brakes Tuesday to a judge's order to end "[Furlough Fridays](#)" for tens of thousands of [state workers](#), keeping furloughs in place. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#) □ □ **California voting districts skewed by counting inmates** – A new report says voters in three Central Valley congressional and legislative districts have slightly more clout in Washington and Sacramento because thousands of inmates were counted in the last census. [AP article](#)

**Federal earmarks divide California congressional delegation** – With the nation facing unprecedented deficits, spending on pet projects is dividing members of Congress and the constituents they represent. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

**AD 30: Teachers union backs Parra** – In a needed boost to his Assembly campaign, Pete Parra has earned the endorsement of the powerful California Teachers Association in his battle with Fran Florez for the Democratic nomination. [Fresno Bee political notebook](#)

□ **Whitman donates campaign literature to libraries, but can they accept?** – Meg Whitman hasn't been elected to anything yet, but she is already extending a helping hand to underfunded public agencies. Her campaign for governor announced Tuesday that Whitman is sending two copies of her "48-page policy magazine" to 1,400 libraries around California. [LA Times article](#)

**California should seek to block healthcare plans, Whitman says --** Republican candidate for governor Meg Whitman said Tuesday that California should move to block the newly signed national healthcare plan because it would deepen the state's budget deficit, even if some elements were acceptable to introduce down the road. [LA Times article](#)

**What's this we hear about a Senate race?** – Beneath the blaring television ads and bazillion-dollar spending sprees that have thus far defined the California governor's race, there is in fact a race for U.S. Senate going on. And it's actually pretty close. [California Watch article](#)

**Dan Morain: Senate contest tests GOP 'big tent'** – But being a free thinker, Campbell occasionally strays from Republican orthodoxy, including the party's opposition to gay marriage. That stance has brought him under attack from the conservative [National Organization for Marriage](#), a New Jersey group that reached into [California](#) earlier this month and aired a

television ad aimed at derailing Campbell's bid for office. [Morain column in Sacramento Bee](#) □ □ **GOP candidates appear, one way or another, on 'Hannity'** – The major Republican candidates in the California race for U.S. Senate appeared on the well-watched, conservative "Hannity" show Tuesday. Carly Fiorina and Chuck DeVore were seated next to the host, Sean Hannity, in the shadow of the former Air Force One at the Reagan Presidential Library near Simi Valley. Tom Campbell bought his way on, in the form of a fleeting ad. [LA Times article](#)

**Rove draws big audience in Fresno** -- Karl Rove, longtime confidant of former President George W. Bush and his former White House adviser, came to town Tuesday for two reasons — to tout his new book and stump for Fresno County Supervisor Debbie Poochigian. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Kern could still answer campaign cash question** – The political turmoil at the Republican Assembly of Kern County has brought an end to a campaign finance complaint that could have triggered an intriguing debate over Kern County's campaign finance law. But ... [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Hughson collects recall support** – Dozens of volunteers spent the weekend collecting signatures of registered voters in their attempt to recall three city councilmen. [Modesto Bee article](#) □ □ **Sex-offender issues often go to voters** -- The effort to pass "Chelsea's Law" to restrain sex offenders has so far been the purview of lawmakers, but it could wind up ultimately decided by voters. [San Diego Union-Tribune article](#)

**Legislative Analyst claims governor is circumventing the law** -- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is circumventing the Legislature by seeking all providers of retail electricity get 33 percent of it from renewable sources, according to [a budget review by the Legislative Analyst](#). [California's Capitol blog](#)

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## News Briefs

### *Top Stories*

**California's water worries aren't over yet** -- The Sierra snowpack is hefty. Waterfalls are starting to thunder in Yosemite Valley. A spring storm adds to the bounty. It's time to celebrate the end of the state's three-year drought. Right? Wrong. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Federal stimulus health funds bypass Valley** -- Plagued with high

obesity rates and rising unemployment, the Valley seemed perfectly suited to get a share of federal stimulus money aimed at improving health and creating jobs. But the region was overlooked once again. [Fresno Bee article](#)

**Firm that worked for PG&E selected to investigate SmartMeters --** State officials have selected a Houston-based energy consultancy -- one that has been paid by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. for past work -- to investigate the company's SmartMeter system, blamed by some local customers for spiking power bills last summer. [Bakersfield Californian article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

## *Economy*

**Bakersfield sales tax receipts drop again --** The city of Bakersfield's fourth quarter, holiday-season sales tax receipts were down 10 percent over the same period in 2008, more bad news for city coffers, according to City Manager Alan Tandy's latest weekly memo to the city council. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

**Stockton Record: A long, slow journey --** A new report on the California economy pretty much confirms what those of us living here already know: the recovery, if we're starting to see it at all, is going to be slow. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

## *Education*

**Stanislaus schools may lose millions more –** When Gov. Schwarzenegger unveiled his 2010-11 budget proposal, he assured it "protects education," but a new analysis warns it actually would slice \$30.3 million from Stanislaus County school funding. [Modesto Bee article](#) □ □ **\$15 million in school cuts OK'd in Tracy –** The Tracy Unified School District Board of Education voted 6-1 Tuesday to accept a prioritized list of budget cuts slashing \$15 million over the next two school years. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Lodi teachers plead against cutbacks –** Morale among Lodi Unified School District employees is low and teachers feel unappreciated as officials look to trim nearly \$30 million from their budget, a group of 70 teachers and community members expressed at a town hall meeting at Creekside Elementary School on Tuesday night. [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

**Retracing Cesar Chavez's steps: Educators protesting state budget cuts** -- Gavin Riley, a retired teacher from Cerritos, has walked a long way -- and still has a way to go. His mission: to make California golden again. Riley is part of Marching for California's Future, a 48-day walk that began March 5 in Bakersfield and ends in Sacramento on April 21. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**Merced College gets \$200,000 for registered nurse training program** -- The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development awarded Merced College \$200,000 through the Song-Brown Program, which is administered by the office through the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

### *Environment/Energy*

**Visalia Times-Delta: Edison gets its (right of) way with power lines** -- Southern California Edison has a curious way of negotiating the choice of where to run new high-voltage power lines to replace its aging ones in Tulare County. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

**Modesto Irrigation District electric rates capped for this year** -- Electricity rates in the Modesto Irrigation District do not need to rise again this year, the board members decided Tuesday. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**Green lobbying intensifies** -- According to the Center's calculations, the alternative energy industry spent 12 times more money lobbying the federal government in 2009 than it did in 1998. [California Watch article](#)

**Program helps Visalia residents dispose of, recycle green waste** -- Through April 24, the city of Visalia is offering green-waste disposal at two sites specializing in compost. The semiannual program is designed to prevent landfills from filling with material that can decompose. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

**California fisher report challenged by scientists** -- Wildlife experts allege that a new status report on the rare forest-dwelling Pacific fisher was altered by state officials to favor the logging industry. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

☐☐ *Health/Human Services*

**'Radical' changes likely at San Joaquin General** -- It could take big changes to fix the financially struggling San Joaquin General Hospital. That's

the message inside a package of recommendations approved Tuesday by the county Board of Supervisors, including separating the hospital into its own department. [Stockton Record article](#); [Lodi News-Sentinel article](#)

**Pot delivery entrepreneur pans Modesto's 'vague' rules** -- Starting a business can be a bureaucratic nightmare. Not for Stephen Boski. His application sailed through City Hall. That is, until Modesto realized Boski's license was for a medical marijuana delivery service. [Modesto Bee article](#)

**San Jose votes on plan for allowing and taxing medical marijuana dispensaries** – As San Jose confronts a fiscal crisis forcing massive service cuts such as closure of popular community centers, the City Council moved Tuesday toward allowing medical marijuana collectives as a potential new source of revenue. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

**San Joaquin ends state of emergency over H1N1** -- County policymakers Tuesday officially ended the state of public emergency they declared in November, when fears of the spread of the H1N1 virus were at a peak and the delivery of vaccine to fend off the "swine flu" was delayed in San Joaquin County, as it was elsewhere in the country. [Stockton Record article](#)

☐☐ *Land Use/Housing*

**Merced taking on downtown lots to build denser housing** – A cluster of empty lots and run-down houses at the intersection of 18th and I streets in Merced will soon become part of the city's pilot project to revitalize downtown with new, denser, housing. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

☐ **California rebound boosts national home price index** -- A surprisingly strong rebound in California's real estate market helped lift a key home price index for the eighth month in a row. [AP article](#)

### *Transportation*

**Stanislaus supervisors, city managers can't agree on roads fees** -- Even during a bludgeoning recession, when construction is mostly a forgotten dream, getting everyone to agree on how growth should pay for itself is a struggle. Four concerned city managers set aside budget ulcers and other worries Tuesday to engage Stanislaus County supervisors in a public debate over development fees. [Modesto Bee article](#)

☐ *Other Areas*

**46 percent in U.S. return forms before census day** -- with a month to go

before follow-ups begin, about 46% of U.S. households have returned their forms. California is below the national average at 44%. Central San Joaquin Valley counties, on average, are in the same range as the state average, but the average conceals wide variations. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

**Two withdraw Stockton city manager applications** – Two of six finalists for city manager have withdrawn their applications, one after interviewing March 13 and one before an interview that was expected to be done Tuesday, officials said. [Stockton Record article](#)

**Talks behind Merced supervisors' closed doors apparently quell upheaval over CEO's performance** -- A performance evaluation of Merced County Executive Officer Larry Combs on Tuesday morning led to no disciplinary action against the leader who took office four months ago. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

**State death sentences rise as U.S. total falls** -- As the number of death sentences declined nationwide in 2009, death verdicts in California rose to their highest total in nearly a decade, the American Civil Liberties Union said Tuesday. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

## Editorial Roundup

**Fresno Bee** – Thursday is National Census Day, and we hope San Joaquin Valley residents have [completed their census forms](#) and dropped them in the mail by now.

☐ **Sacramento Bee** – Regional Transit service cuts are [a brutal blow](#); Foster home limits are [a needed check](#).

**Stockton Record** – A new report on [the California economy](#) pretty much confirms what those of us living here already know: the recovery, if we're starting to see it at all, is going to be slow; The [proper move](#) for a Lodi Unified board member.

**Visalia Times-Delta** – Southern California Edison has [a curious way of negotiating](#) the choice of where to run new high-voltage power lines to replace its aging ones in Tulare County.

## Upcoming Events

- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Advanced Communications Services Work Group will meet at the Great Valley Center in Modesto on April 26 from 1-3 p.m. Information: Dejeune Shelton at [dejeune@greatvalley.org](mailto:dejeune@greatvalley.org) or (209) 522-5103.
- 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](http://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](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).
- 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](http://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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