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California Policy & Politics This Morning

Companies tied to Industry ex-mayor racked up fortune -- A 20-year jackpot of City of Industry contracts that included \$4.9 million for lawn mower rentals and street cleaning fees billed at six times a competitor's rate has enriched a handful of companies owned by the tiny town's former mayor and his family by more than \$326 million, an audit has found. **Frank Shyong** and **Rubin Vives** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 4/28/15

California's automatic voter registration bill advances -- A proposal to automatically register Californians to vote when they get a driver's license was approved Monday by a state Assembly panel after Secretary of State Alex Padilla noted there are about 6.7 million state residents who are eligible but not registered. **Patrick McGreevy** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 4/27/15

Assembly panel kills Republican bill to speed dam construction -- Republican drought-inspired legislation went down in an Assembly committee Monday. Backers sought to prevent environmental delays for construction of water-storage facilities. Critics said it would compromise the environment and is premature. **Christopher Cadelago** in the [Sacramento Bee](#)\$ **Amy Quinton** [Capital Public Radio](#) -- 4/27/15

Walters: California Senate duel will affect 'job killer' bills -- Seasonal rituals abound in the state Capitol and one, publication of the California Chamber of Commerce's annual list of "job killer" bills, is anticipated with both glee and dread. **Dan Walters** in the [Sacramento Bee](#)\$ -- 4/27/15

Judge won't delay order on inmate sex reassignment surgery -- A federal judge on Monday refused to delay his order for California to provide sex reassignment surgery for a transgender inmate. U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar made his ruling in response to a request by state corrections officials, who also have appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. **Don Thompson** [Associated Press](#) -- 4/27/15

LAPD officers to ride in pairs after Baltimore police warn of gang threat -- The Los Angeles Police Department ordered officers Monday to ride in pairs while in cars after Baltimore police received what they considered a "credible threat" against all law





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enforcement officers. **Richard Winton** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 4/27/15

Crime, sentencing reforms gain traction -- For decades, Californians and their representatives in the state Capitol had a “lock-‘em-up-and-throw-away-the-key” approach to lawbreakers. But that view is changing. **Samantha Gallegos** [Capitol Weekly](#) -- 4/27/15

California lawmakers soften proposed tobacco ban at baseball venues -- Chewing tobacco would be banished from California’s Major League Baseball parks but could be used at some local fields, as could electronic cigarettes, under a watered-down Assembly bill that passed a legislative committee on Monday. **Jeremy B. White** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 4/27/15

Power player got energy deal -- A political insider who organized a tribute dinner for the departing president of the California Public Utilities Commission – and had backchannel dealings with his replacement – is now in business with Southern California Edison. **Jeff McDonald** [UT San Diego](#)\$ -- 4/27/15

Rocky Chávez raising money for many campaigns -- Republican Assemblyman Rocky Chávez acknowledges he has a lot of ground to cover when it comes to raising money for his U.S. Senate candidacy. **Christopher Cadelago** in the [Sacramento Bee](#)\$ -- 4/27/15

Laura Capps Won’t Seek Mother’s Seat in California -- Laura Capps announced Monday she will not seek the California seat being vacated by her mother, Democratic Rep. Lois Capps. The younger Capps, a Democratic political operative and nonprofit consultant, had long been viewed as a potential successor in the Santa Barbara-based 24th District. **Emily Cahn** [Roll Call](#) **Noah Bierman** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 4/27/15

Lawmakers shrug off charges that state is botching high-speed rail land acquisition -- Complaints from Central Valley residents that the state has botched the acquisition of land for high-speed rail failed to convince lawmakers last week that the matter deserved further investigation. **Allen Young** [Sacramento Business Journal](#) -- 4/27/15

Gavin Newsom in DC for SCOTUS marriage cases -- California Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom will attend Tuesday’s oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in cases challenging state laws that prohibit same-sex partners from exercising the same rights as opposite-sex partners. **Josh Richman** [Political Blotter](#) -- 4/27/15

Greenhut: Education bills squelch any reform agenda -- After court setbacks, teachers’ union strikes back in Capitol. **Steven Greenhut** [UT San Diego](#)\$ -- 4/27/15

Taxes, Fees, Rates

After long fight, Orange County transportation officials agree to toll lanes on I-405 -- After fighting toll lanes for years, Orange County transportation officials on Monday said they couldn’t fight the state any longer and gave in, allowing toll lanes as part of a \$1.7 billion expansion project of Interstate 405. **Erika Aguilar** [KPCC](#) -- 4/27/15

Economy, Employers, Jobs, Unions, Pensions

Official claims bad blood with union boss bred West Coast port crisis -- A lawsuit filed



last month in Los Angeles Superior Court offers a vividly detailed picture of the obscure waterfront politics that brought Pacific Rim commerce to its knees for several tense weeks earlier this year. **Peter Jamison** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Port truck drivers strike against four companies -- Some truck drivers who haul goods from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach walked off the job Monday, organizers said, launching a protest against four trucking firms they accuse of wage theft. **Andrew Khouri** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) **Andrew Edwards** in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) **Jonathan Horn** [UT San Diego](#) -- 4/27/15

Workers to shut down Port of Oakland on May Day — with employers' backing -- Port of Oakland workers will halt shipping and loading operations on May 1 and march to protest nationwide police shootings, shutting down one of the country's busiest ports with the rare support of shipping and terminal owners. **Roland Li** [San Francisco Business Times](#) -- 4/27/15

New Rules Better Protect Workers From Heat -- Beginning May 1 new rules dictating the working conditions in agriculture, construction, landscaping and other outdoor professions will take effect. Amy Martin is Chief Counsel of Cal-OSHA. She says the rules require that shade be made available when the temperature reaches 80 degrees, which is five degrees cooler than the previous requirement. **Katie Orr** [Capital Public Radio](#) -- 4/27/15

Ruling boosts (San Diego) taxi deregulation -- San Diego's controversial plan to deregulate its taxi industry got a boost on Monday when a judge rejected a request to delay deregulation until an environmental lawsuit over the policy change is resolved. **David Garrick** [UT San Diego](#) -- 4/27/15

Myers: Union Group Submits 2016 Initiative To Boost California's Minimum Wage -- Take the swirling politics over wages and income inequality, add in a healthy dose of expectations about the size and ideology of California's 2016 electorate, and you've got the perfect recipe — in the minds of some — for voters to boost the state's minimum wage via a ballot initiative. **John Myers** [KQED](#) -- 4/27/15

Drought

San Jose, Santa Clara mayors drink recycled sewage to push expanding reclaimed water -- San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, Santa Clara Mayor Jamie Matthews and other Silicon Valley leaders on Monday took big gulps of recycled water -- filtered, cleaned and disinfected sewage -- to show that it is safe and should be a growing part of Silicon Valley's drinking water future. "Delicious," said Liccardo, as cameras clicked. **Paul Rogers** in the [San Jose Mercury](#) -- 4/27/15

Faulconer to lobby on drought -- Seeking to accelerate San Diego's efforts toward greater water independence, Mayor Kevin Faulconer will lobby Gov. Jerry Brown today for financial and regulatory help with the city's \$3.5 billion plan to recycle sewage into drinking water. **David Garrick** [UT San Diego](#) -- 4/27/15

What's that Caltrans is using for water? -- Each year, Caltrans sprinkles about 720 million gallons of drinking water along miles of medians, acres of embankments and anywhere else the highway agency wants to protect its investment in landscaping in San Diego County. **Morgan Cook** [UT San Diego](#) -- 4/27/15

New Lawsuit Seeks to Force City to Drain, Restore Hetch Hetchy -- Activists have launched a new

round in their long-running campaign to restore Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley to its natural condition by draining the reservoir that serves San Francisco and most of the Peninsula. **Dan Brekke** [KQED](#) -- 4/27/15

Reaching High Conservation Rate May Be Difficult For Sacramento Area -- Proposed regulations from the State Water Resources Control Board would require more than a dozen local water suppliers to conserve 32-percent or more. For the most part, those agencies have used education to get people to conserve. **Amy Quinton** [Capital Public Radio](#) -- 4/27/15

Amid California's Drought, Should Cemeteries Stay Green? -- It's a wrenching call: the concern is that visiting family members who see parched grass on their loved ones' graves may feel insult on top of loss. **Daniel Potter** [KQED](#) -- 4/27/15

How California's largest winemaker has cut water use by 25 percent -- That effort is part of a much broader campaign by the giant company and others in the industry to save water, and money, by reusing wastewater, irrigating crops more efficiently and using new ways to clean equipment. **Chris Rauber** [San Francisco Business Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Big water buys to ease East Bay drought shortages -- With one emergency water supply already flowing in, the East Bay's largest water district plans to buy three others to bolster its drought defenses. **Denis Cuff** in the [Contra Costa Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Education

Hundreds protest San Francisco archbishop's push on morality clauses -- Hundreds of Catholic-school teachers and supporters gathered outside the San Francisco Archdiocese on Monday afternoon waving rainbow banners and preaching acceptance of gays and lesbians — all in protest of efforts by the archbishop to require employees to embrace church opposition to “homosexual relations,” “fornication” and other “gravely evil” sexual activities. **Nanette Asimov** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 4/28/15

After years of layoffs, California schools on a teacher hiring binge -- After years of pink slips and layoffs, California school districts have emerged from the recession with plans to hire 21,500 teachers for the 2015-16 academic year at a pace not seen in a decade, according to new state data. **Loretta Kalb** and **Phillip Reese** in the [Sacramento Bee](#) -- 4/28/15

San Francisco school board divided on using interns as teachers -- With 500 teaching jobs to fill by the first day of school this fall, San Francisco's superintendent has asked the school board to let him hire more Teach for America interns for hard-to-staff schools. But some board members are balking, saying students in those schools deserve experienced teachers. **Jill Tucker** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 4/28/15

Corinthian students reeling from news of colleges' closure -- For almost a year now, the impending collapse of career-college giant Corinthian Colleges has been widely publicized, worrying students who had taken out huge loans for a chance to better their lives. **Katy Murphy** in the [San Jose Mercury](#) \$ **Loretta Kalb** in the [Sacramento Bee](#) \$ **Samantha Masunaga**, **Chris Kirkham** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) \$ -- 4/27/15

Cal State University studying hunger, homelessness among students -- California State University has launched a study into food insecurity and housing instability among students across the 23-campus

system. **Josh Dulaney** in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) -- 4/27/15

Swastikas found at three student residences at Stanford University -- Stanford University is investigating a series of hate-fueled graffiti, including swastikas, found at student housing units and a fraternity house on campus. **Veronica Rocha** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Common Core tests well under way -- With less than two months of instruction time left before summer vacation for most California schools, roughly half of the 3.2 million students expected to take the first online tests aligned with the Common Core State Standards have begun to do so, the California Department of Education reported Monday. **Katherine Ellison** [EdSource](#) -- 4/28/15

Project-based learning on the rise under the Common Core -- The young-adult novel “Hatchet” – about a boy who learns to live in the wild after surviving a plane crash – has been a staple of elementary-school English classes for years. But this year Sara Siebert taught it with a twist. **Katherine Ellison** and **Louis Freedberg** [EdSource](#) -- 4/28/15

Immigration / Border

Cal State L.A. gets \$1.6 million for 'Dreamers' student resource center -- Cal State L.A. on Monday announced a \$1.6-million gift to help fund a campus resource center for students who are in the country illegally. **Carla Rivera** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Also . . .

Baltimore police commissioner served in California, dealt with Oakland unrest -- Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts, who struggled Monday to stop rioting in the city, spent most of his law enforcement career in California, confronting unrest during a rocky two-year tenure in Oakland. **Lee Romney** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

California man killed in Everest avalanche was on dream trip, friend says -- On Thursday, Vinh Truong shared a video from his journey in Nepal – images of cows, punctuated with his comments about how loud and dusty the surroundings were. **Christine Mai-Duc** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

San Francisco climber survived Everest avalanches, remains stuck -- As the death toll mounted Monday from the devastating earthquake in Nepal, San Francisco resident Terry Trevino waited and hoped. Trevino, 51, is worried about his wife, 43-year-old adventurer Siobhan McFeeney, who is at Mount Everest’s partially buried base camp after being helicoptered to relative safety from above. **Kurtis Alexander** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 4/27/15

4 San Diego climbers trapped in Nepal -- Four San Diegans are stranded in Nepal after Saturday’s massive earthquake and are running low on food, a family member said Monday. **Teri Figueroa** [UT San Diego](#) -- 4/27/15

Docs’ malpractice protections don’t apply to wet hospital floors -- Among the protections California has provided to the medical profession in malpractice cases for the last 40 years is a one-year deadline between the time a patient learns he or she has been injured and the last day for filing a lawsuit. **Bob Egelko** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 4/27/15

Court orders LAPD to turn over video said to show man's police beating -- A federal magistrate ordered the Los Angeles Police Department on Monday to give an attorney video footage that she says

shows her client being assaulted by an LAPD officer in South L.A. **Richard Winton** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

County poised to OK settlement over sheriff's actions in Antelope Valley -- Los Angeles County supervisors are expected to vote Tuesday on a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice over allegations that sheriff's officials systematically targeted racial minorities in the Antelope Valley. **Abby Sewell** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Family of unarmed man killed by Long Beach police want federal probe -- Hector Morejon, 19, was shot and killed Thursday by a Long Beach police officer after the officer believed he was pointing a gun at him during a trespassing and vandalism incident. **Veronica Rocha** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Model sues, says Bay Area police broke bones in her face during arrest -- A model has filed a suit in which she claims Bay Area police officers slammed her to the ground and broke four bones in her face. Footage from police security and body cameras recorded at least part of the incident. **Veronica Rocha** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Man is stopped by police a day after \$650,000 settlement reached in beating -- A man kicked and punched by a group of San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies was stopped by police for running through several backyards a day after he reached a \$650,000 settlement for the beating. **Veronica Rocha** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Legal team steps in for a street vendor facing hundreds in fines -- Before Calderon walked into the courtroom, she asked God to help her. But she brought a legal team for backup -- including a civil rights attorney, a crew of earnest law students and their professor, all clad in conservative suits, ready to pitch every legal argument they could at this seemingly routine case. **Emily Alpert Reyes** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Four San Diegans Trapped On Mountain In Nepal Following Quake -- The climbers' dream of tackling Mount Ganchempo turned into a nightmare two days into their hike when the earthquake hit. Kathleen Heldman and her husband Kevin Krough were on a month-long trip with friends Oscar Olea and Brigida Martinez when the earthquake hit. Heldman was able to call home Sunday on a satellite phone, but the news was not good. [KPBS](#) -- 4/27/15

Chipotle says it's the first chain to get rid of GMO ingredients -- Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. said Monday that it is using virtually no genetically modified ingredients and that it is the first restaurant chain to do so. **Samantha Masunaga** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Too rude for the road — California vanity plates rejected by the DMV -- Last month, the state Department of Motor Vehicles canceled the license plate of a Southern California driver after grasping its double meaning. The tag: "NOT SEE." **Kurtis Alexander** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 4/27/15

Beltway

Democrats, several of them Californians, were 'Party of No' in House budget fight -- As a parade of budget proposals whizzed through Congress this year, Rep. Ami Bera and 30 other lawmakers voted, at the very least, consistently. No on the four Republican budget plans. No on the Democratic alternative. No on the Black Caucus budget. No on the Progressive Caucus budget. **Noah Bierman** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15

Justice Kennedy's long road from Sacramento to landmark gay marriage case -- Anthony M. Kennedy was a 44-year-old appeals court judge in Sacramento — a Republican appointee and happily-married Catholic — when he first confronted the question of whether the Constitution protected the rights of gays and lesbians. **David G. Savage** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 4/27/15