HOT ISSUES

Has Labor Leader Overreached? (Sacramento Bee)
Robbie Hunter had to fill big shoes when he became president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, and that is what he set out to do.
In his first year as leader of the 400,000-member labor organization, Hunter pushed legislation to expand prevailing wage law, the Depression-era concept that guarantees construction workers their pay.

CITY ORDINANCES

Riverside County: Supervisors Pass Pit Bill Sterilization Ordinance (The Press-Enterprise)
Pit bulls and pit bull mixes in unincorporated Riverside County must be spayed or neutered under terms of a sterilization ordinance the Board of Supervisors approved Tuesday, Oct. 8.
The 5-0 vote followed a sometimes emotional public hearing in which pit bull breeders and owners defended the dogs, and people affected by pit bull attacks urged supervisors to protect the public.

ELECTIONS & REDISTRICTING

Perris Elections to Stay on Even-Numbered Years (The Press-Enterprise)
The decision by the Perris City Council to repeal an ordinance changing election years from even-numbered years to odd-numbered years brought one council member to tears Tuesday, Oct. 8.
"This is beyond politics," council member Julio Rodriguez said as he choked back tears at the council meeting. "We love and care about our city. This issue is simply about increasing voter turnout."

Marijuana, Hemp Initiative Cleared in Sacramento (Orange County Register)
Marijuana and hemp advocates in California will get another chance to legalize marijuana use in its various forms if a Northern California group can ramp up enough support to put it on next year’s ballot. California Secretary of State Debra Bowen said last week that the California Cannabis Hemp Initiative 2014 has until Feb. 24 to gather just over 500,000 signatures from registered voters to approve it for a final vote in November of next year.

Steve Peace Drops California Privacy-Inspired Ballot Initiative (Sacramento Bee)
Peace told The Sacramento Bee on Monday that he decided to drop the effort after the Legislative Analyst's Office warned it could spur "unknown but potentially significant costs to state and local governments from additional or more costly lawsuits, increased court workload, data security improvements, and changes to information-sharing practices."

PUBLIC SAFETY

New S.F. Domestic Violence Policies Show Progress (San Francisco Chronicle)
City Hall has implemented several significant policy changes in the past year, including increasing the district attorney’s staff to handle domestic violence cases, formally certifying batterers’ programs before they can count toward probation and participating in a program in which victims can register to be notified by jail staff when their abusers are released. The city has dedicated an extra $1 million - representing a 30 percent increase - to funding domestic violence programs.
**County Seeks $80 Million for Irvine Jail Expansion (Voice of OC)**
The Orange County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to seek $80 million in state funding to expand the James L. Musick jail between Irvine and Lake Forest, as city officials gear up for a lawsuit over the issue. The request for grant money to fund 384 new “rehabilitation beds” comes as the state, to comply with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, shifts more and more responsibility for new inmates onto counties.

**LEGISLATION**

**Gov. Brown Gives Public a Closer Look at Elected Officials’ Finances (Los Angeles Times)**
One of the 33 bills signed by Gov. Brown on Tuesday will create a database for annual disclosure reports that can be accessed by the public on one website.

**Legislation Aims to Crack Down on Tax Evasion (San Diego Union Tribune)**
Not everyone is conscientious about paying their tax bill, and the scofflaws cost California an estimated $9 billion a year in uncollected revenue. Lawmakers and Gov. Jerry Brown want to change that dynamic by creating a task force charged with bringing the state’s underground economy into the open and collecting the corporate, personal, and sales and use taxes owed the state.

**Governor Signs Bills Opening the Door to Restore Funding for Santa Barbara MTD (Noozhawk)**
Federal funding should be restored to the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District, thanks to two bills signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown. MTD officials announced Tuesday that the two bills, Assembly Bill 1222 and Senate Bill 13, should allow federal funding to be restored to transit agencies throughout California, including MTD, which would prevent the agency from moving forward with emergency service reductions that the community has been exploring.

**California Governor Signs Controversial Solar Bill, Among Others (KCET)**
California Governor Jerry Brown signed a controversial bill Monday that would change how the state regulates rooftop solar owners’ agreements with utilities, but he encouraged the state agency responsible for crafting the new rules to protect the interests of current solar owners.

**Brown Signs Three FPPC Bills, Vetoes Campaign Finance Bill (Sacramento Bee)**
Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday signed a handful of bills designed to promote government transparency and vetoed one that would have required more training for people who manage finances for political campaigns.

**Calaveras Appeals to Governor to Veto Ban on Lead Bullets (Stockton Record)**
Calaveras County Board of Supervisors to Gov. Jerry Brown: Don't get the lead out. More specifically, the board voted unanimously Tuesday to ask Brown to oppose AB711, a bill awaiting his signature that would ban the use of lead-containing ammunition for hunting game in California. The state already bans the use of lead ammunition for certain types of hunting, in particular in condor habitat. Lead contamination from bullets or shot in the bodies of dead animals was found to be present in toxic levels in condors and other carrion eaters in those areas, scientists say. But in Calaveras County, where many residents hunt and own guns, the idea of a total ban on using lead ammunition for hunting is a non-starter.

**REPORTS & STUDIES**

**Reforming California’s Initiative Process (Public Policy Institute of California)**
Californians are highly supportive of the initiative process but see room for improvement. Three steps to improve the process—connecting the legislative and initiative processes, increasing disclosure of initiative funders, and reengaging citizens in the initiative process—reflect Californians’ critiques and their desire to continue making laws at the ballot box. These reforms could have far-reaching consequences, with
considerable promise for increasing citizen engagement, encouraging voter participation, and building trust in state government.

The Buzz: Californians Like Ballot Initiatives But Want Process Altered (Sacramento Bee)
Californians value the ballot initiative and want it to remain as a check on a political system they mistrust, but voters support major reforms, according to a new poll from the Public Policy Institute of California.

PENSIONS / EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Public Pensions Woes Loom for Some Municipalities (Daily Republic)
Regardless of what happens in bankruptcy court, California's local governments, especially cities, are facing years, or even decades, of fiscal distress from rapidly rising pension costs. Sharp increases in local pension benefits over the past 14 years, coupled with lackluster earnings by the California Public Employees' Retirement System and other pension trust funds, and a tide of baby-boomer retirements are pushing costs upward.

California Labor Union Feud Lands on Brown's Desk (Sacramento Bee)
It's certainly not unusual for conflicts between business and labor to be played out in the Capitol. It is, however, very unusual for conflicts between two labor unions to reach the Capitol. And one such duel now presents Gov. Jerry Brown with a dilemma.

REVENUE & TAXATION / FINANCE

Hollywood Increases Pressure on Sacramento to Keep Production in State (L.A. Biz)
The battle is on to get more support for film and television production from the California government. Only days after Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti put industry vet Tom Sherak in charge of lobbying Sacramento for more tax credits for Hollywood, the Motion Picture Association of America has issued a new call to bolster the incentive program for big-budget blockbusters.

Airbnb Says its Hosts Should Pay Taxes (San Francisco Bay Guardian)
Under pressure in San Francisco and New York City for violating local tenant and land use laws and refusing to pay local taxes, Airbnb has finally acknowledged that transient occupancy taxes apply to the room rentals it facilitates. But the company still hasn't taken any steps to collect the tax or admitted that it shares this tax debt with its hosts.

MARIJUANA

California Water Officials to Inspect Marijuana Farms (Sacrament Bee)
California water quality regulators will soon begin inspecting illegal marijuana growing operations in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada, reversing an earlier ban intended to protect employees.

WATER

Yuba County Says No to Boost in Water Rates (Appeal Democrat)
Yuba County supervisors on Tuesday joined the local chorus of opposition to California Water Service's proposed water rate increase in Marysville. Supervisors voted unanimously for a resolution opposing "the size of this increase and the resulting effect it will have on the county budget and the community."

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Bacteria Levels Up in Forest Areas but Los Angeles River Cleaner, Health Report Says (Whittier Daily News)
A new study from the Council for Watershed Health found the Glendale Narrows portion of the L.A. River is actually cleaner than many popular mountain streams. Concentrations of E. coli, a bacterium that can cause sore throats, flu-like symptoms or serious illnesses,
were above action levels at such popular watering holes as Chantry Flat above Arcadia, Hansen Lake in the San Fernando Valley and Eaton Canyon and the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena.

**Climate Action Plan Goes Forward: Council Directs Staff to Begin Environmental Review Process (Los Altos Town Crier)**
A policy document that will serve as a guideline in making Los Altos more environmentally friendly recently entered a new phase.

The Los Altos City Council voted unanimously in favor of preparing a final draft of the city’s Climate Action Plan Sept. 24. In doing so, the council directed city staff to initiate an environmental review process, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

**CITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

**San Mateo Holding Public Forum to Discuss Proposed Changes to Downtown Parking (The Daily Journal)**
San Mateo officials and consultants will conduct a public forum tonight on the city’s downtown parking management plan before the Public Works Commission has a chance to review the draft findings later in the night.

The discussion, in small group settings, will center on proposed changes to parking in downtown and community feedback will be considered as the commission considers new proposals to find the right spot to build the area’s next major parking structure or whether time limits should be revised.

**Hercules City Council OKs Sale of Vacant Downtown Tract to Safeway (Contra Costa Times)**
After seven years of effort, Safeway on Tuesday got an OK from the City Council to build a grocery supermarket near the city’s busiest intersection -- provided the project makes it through the Hercules Planning Commission, the California Environmental Quality Act, the city’s form-based design code and possible zoning restrictions, among other hurdles that lie ahead.

**Coastal Staff Still ‘No’ Convention Center (San Diego Union Tribune)**
The California Coastal Commission staff remained opposed Tuesday to the $520 million San Diego Convention Center (SDCC) expansion, which is up for a vote Thursday.

In an addendum to its earlier recommendations, the staff cited agreement on all issues that had been in dispute, except one -- better access to the bay. The full commission, meeting in Mission Valley on Wednesday through Friday, must give its approval for the long-awaited project to proceed.

**Tejon Development Will Fit In With Sustainable Future Ideal (The Bakersfield Californian)**
Timing is everything. Just as the Kern Council of Governments, or Kern COG, is working to develop its first-ever Sustainable Communities Strategy, the long-term partnership between the Tejon Ranch Co. and DMB Pacific Ventures is collaborating on the future of important areas within Tejon Ranch. With this partnership’s proven conservation strategies and Pacific Ventures' legacy of livable community development, time, place and ethic seem in perfect alignment.

**Transit Village Moves Forward: Planners Say Yes, Now It's Up to San Carlos City Council (The Daily Journal)**
The San Carlos Planning Commission voted 4-1 to recommend the City Council greenlight the controversial Transit Village, a mix of apartments and retail proposed around the existing historic train station.

The commission’s vote, with Commissioner Scot Marsters dissenting, came after three separate meetings include the one Monday night which pushed past the regular 10:30 p.m. end time. Before voting on the required planned development plan and rezoning, the commission took a magnifying glass to numerous components of the project that might impact the city and surrounding neighborhood, with landscaping, traffic and transportation among the key issues.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**City Votes to Add, Expand Business-Boosting Zones (Orange County Register)**
For 40 years communities in Long Beach have used these special zones to pay for extra services beyond the ones already provided by city government. Exactly what they provide depends on the district, but it is all geared to supporting businesses, such as with permits for sidewalk sales, benches, landscaping, parking lot maintenance, security and promotions.

REDEVELOPMENT

Clearlake City Council to Discuss Redevelopment Successor Agency Business This Week (Lake County News)
The Clearlake City Council will present a proclamation before convening as the redevelopment successor agency when it meets week.

BANKRUPTCY

San Bernardino: Mayor Outlines Path to Solvency in Speech (The Press-Enterprise)
San Bernardino must reduce labor costs and fundamentally change how it delivers services if it is to become financially solvent in the long run, Mayor Patrick Morris said in his annual State of the City address on Tuesday, Oct. 8.

HOMELESSNESS

Homeless Debate Heats Up in Albany (Inside Bay Area)
The controversy over the homeless situation at the Albany Bulb heated up this week as Monday's City Council meeting was the target of a protest by Bulb residents and their supporters. After the meeting, about two dozen protesters set up a homeless camp overnight on Solano Avenue to demonstrate what would likely happen if homeless people were cleared out of the Bulb. City Councilman Michael Barnes said part of the problem is that the homeless population on the Bulb is not homogeneous.

FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

Government Shutdown puts Thousands of SF Veterans’ Benefits at Risk (San Francisco Bay Guardian)
More than 7,000 employees in Veterans Benefits Administration offices nationwide were furloughed today (Tues/8), the newest casualty of the federal government shutdown.

IN OTHER CITY NEWS

The idea of a $15 minimum wage continues to build momentum in the Seattle area, with Mayor Mike McGinn saying he would support an effort to set the standard even higher. In an interview with The Associated Press, McGinn said he thought $15 was a "fair starting point" for the minimum wage discussion. He cautioned that the issue was best handled legislatively and that the actual number would be determined by city councilmembers.

City Debuts New Logo in an Effort to Appeal to Business (Petaluma Argus-Courier)
A new city logo is set to debut on materials meant to market Petaluma to outside businesses this October, thanks to a collaboration between the city's Economic Development Department and a group known as the Petaluma Design Guild.

Santa Clarita Resident Wins Award from LAFCO (Santa Clarita Valley Signal)
The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) has awarded its 2013 Outstanding Commissioner Award to Jerry Gladbach. CALAFCO, a statewide association of 57 LAFCO's in the State of California, presents the Outstanding Commissioner Award annually to one commissioner for "extraordinary service to his or her Commission." CALAFCO presented Mr. Gladbach with the Outstanding Commissioner award at its annual conference on September 26, 2013. He was selected from amongst several nominees by the Nominating Committee.
of the CALAFCO Board of Directors, which includes representation from LAFCOs throughout the State of California.

**California Economic Summit Inches Closer (California Forward)**

A little over a month before the California Economic Summit on November 7-8 in Los Angeles, the final updates to the Signature Initiatives identified at the 2012 Summit have been added to the Summit’s Progress Tracker.

Several of these initiatives (Regulations, Infrastructure, Workforce, and Capital) continue to have active action teams working on plans for 2013—with last year’s Water action team now joining Infrastructure and last year’s CEQA team incorporated into Regulations.