

What's New in California

Akin Gump
STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

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POLICY ISSUES

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

U.S. Ponies Up \$1B to Keep California's Last Nuclear Plant Humming

The Biden-Harris administration announced this week that it had reached preliminary approval to allocate at least \$1.1 billion in an effort to keep California's sole remaining nuclear power plant running.

The Energy Department says that it is negotiating final terms for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant on the central coast of California to remain open and avoid its 2025 end date, according to the *Associated Press*.

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Solar industry, utilities, ratepayer advocates clash over California net energy metering proposal

Utilities, the solar industry, environmental groups and ratepayer advocates in California remain deeply divided over a proposal from the state's Public Utilities Commission to reform its net energy metering framework.

The revised proposal would ease the transition to the new tariff by adopting a five-year "glide path" methodology that increases the export compensation by a fixed amount.

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More information

- CNN: [Biden administration will give PG&E \\$1.1 billion to help keep California nuclear plant online](#)
- CNBC: [Biden grants PG&E \\$1.1 billion to keep Diablo Canyon nuclear plant open](#)
- KRCR: [Former Los Angeles Mayor visits the Northstate to discuss infrastructure needs](#)
- Auto Evolution: [California Wants To Ban Diesel Truck Sales As Early as 2024, but Not Everywhere at Once](#)

Transportation & Infrastructure

California regulators OK \$1 billion for EV charging project, mostly for trucks

The California Public Utilities Commission has approved a \$1 billion vehicle electrification charging project, with most of the money earmarked to accelerate the number of midsize and heavy-duty trucks on the state's roads.

Some 70 percent of the funds will go to charging medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, which combine to account for a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. Costs of the five-year program will be spread out among utility ratepayers across California.

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California Looks to Ban Diesel Trucks at Ports by 2035

The California Air Resources Board is proposing phasing out older big rigs operating in the busy corridors shuttling shipping containers between ports, rail yards and warehouses and require that all new vehicles be powered by clean fuels starting in 2024. From 2025, the state would bar trucks powered by internal combustion engines that have more than 800,000 miles on them from operating at ports and rail yards.

The goal is to push more than 30,000 heavily polluting trucks to clean energy by 2035.

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California Oil Companies Facing New Tax Are No-shows at Gas Price Hearing

Are oil companies exploiting Californians to rake in record profits? How can state regulators stop refineries from shutting down for maintenance at the same time? What are the best approaches to prevent future gasoline price spikes in the Golden State?

As state regulators and legislators try to better understand what's driving California's high gas prices, and weigh whether Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposal to tax oil company profits could be the answer, one thing is clear: they need more information and data from the companies producing and distributing the gasoline.

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More articles

- San Diego Union-Tribune: [California Public Utilities Commission OKs \\$1B for EV charging project, mostly for trucks](#)
- Politico: [Bickering over gas prices](#)
- Cal Matters: [Oil tax likely won't be considered until January](#)
- Cal Matters: [Another California desalination plant approved — the most contentious one yet](#)
- Inside Climate News: [Water as Part of the Climate Solution](#)
- Automotive News: [U.S. heartland lags in EV sales, but new models should help, S&P Global says](#)

Health, Education and Labor

A California crisis: Too many rural communities have no access to mental health treatment

One of the greatest challenges facing California is mental health care. We see it in the number of unhoused people suffering from mental illness. We see it in the abnormally high behavioral health worker vacancy rates. And we see it in the rising levels of depression and anxiety since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the demand for robust behavioral health treatment is at an all-time high.

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UC, CSU campuses in the hot seat

Monday marked the start of the third week of strikes at all 10 University of California campuses, where 48,000 unionized academic workers—who conduct much of the system’s teaching, grading and research—are calling for significantly higher wages, expanded child care subsidies, enhanced health coverage and other benefits they say are necessary to keep up with the sky-high cost of living in the Golden State.

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More articles

- The Hill: [Pay transparency is trending for all the right reasons](#)
- Cal Matters: [Screening for adverse childhood experiences is increasing, but are patients getting treatment?](#)
- Cal Matters: [The yin and yang of California’s job picture](#)
- University Business: [How the University of California strike could reshape higher education](#)

State Budget

California finance department spokesperson explains how state went from record budget surplus to possible \$25B deficit

Earlier this year, a historic projected budget surplus of nearly \$100 billion allowed Governor Gavin Newsom and the Democratic-led legislature to expand government programs and financial assistance.

But a report released by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office forecasted the state could be faced with a nearly \$25 billion “budget problem,” an estimate they say is the weakest revenue performance California has seen since the 2008 Great Recession.

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More articles

- Wall Street Journal: [California Heads for a Budget Crunch](#)
- Cal Matters: [Remember that budget surplus? Never mind](#)

Privacy

Will California be the death of national privacy legislation?

Californians are understandably proud of what their state has done to advance privacy protection by enacting comprehensive privacy legislation in 2018. That pride now stands in the way of federal privacy legislation. As a strong bill advanced to the House floor, California officials mounted a full court lobbying press against its preemption of provisions in state laws that are “covered by” provisions in the federal law.

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Sports Betting

Future Of California Sports Betting Murky After Election Defeat

After lopsided losses on Election Day, many now wonder about the short-term future of online gambling expansion in the state. While sportsbooks are still at least trying to put a

positive spin that sports betting could happen in the next couple of years, tribal interests and industry observers question that timeline.

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CALIFORNIA POLITICS

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla

- Sacramento Bee: [Editorial board interviews Alex Padilla in U.S. Senate race](#)

Governor Gavin Newsom

- Wall Street Journal: [California's Homelessness Problem Pits Gov. Gavin Newsom Against Mayors](#)
- Politico: [Newsom Told the White House He Won't Challenge Biden](#)
- Bloomberg Law: [California Governor Recall Process Lawsuit Rebuffed by 9th Cir.](#)
- Cal Matters: [What now for Newsom's oil profits tax?](#)

Attorney General Rob Bonta

- NBC Bay Area: [State Attorney General Rob Bonta Urges Apple to Protect Reproductive Health Data](#)
- KTLA: [Scammers are targeting California inflation relief payments, attorney general warns](#)

Treasurer Fiona Ma

- Associated Press: [The AP projects Fiona Ma has been reelected as California treasurer](#)

Speaker Anthony Rendon

- Politico: [A deal for a new speaker](#)
- Cal Matters: [A speakership deal: Rendon, Rivas agree on handover](#)
- KCRA: [California Democrats vote for Robert Rivas to take over Assembly leadership](#)

President Pro-Tempore Toni Atkins

- Times of San Diego: [Nathan Fletcher Exploring Run for State Senate When Toni Atkins Is Termed Out](#)

Mayor Karen Bass

- Politico: [Black mayors are leading the nation's biggest cities for the first time](#)

California Legislature

- Politico: [A new class of Legislators emerges](#)
- Politico: [The would-be speaker hits the road](#)

Political Developments

- Cal Matters: [Gas prices, campaign \\$\\$ database shake up Capitol](#)
- Cal Matters: [California elections finally had national relevance. Democrats didn't capitalize](#)
- Politico: [Crypto and the next pandemic](#)
- Cap Radio: [Here's what we know about California 2022 election results](#)

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