



# CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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## **REDEVELOPMENT WARS: ITS LOCAL GOVT. VS. GOV. BROWN. HE WANTS THEIR BILLIONS – PDQ.**

Editor's note: If a city establishes a redevelopment agency, they can take about 10% of all its local property taxes and put it into a special fund to build roads and infrastructure – anything they want. If the property in question is owned by an individual or a small mom & pop store or even a large building, the power of eminent domain is often used to get the land. Redevelopment agencies can be ruthless. Gov. Jerry Brown wants the money which goes into these funds sent to the State – in other words, get rid of the agencies. There's a war going on and it isn't pretty. Here's our first report and commentary...

...Some sources call redevelopment agencies the **Unknown Government**. Agencies in cities are sometime just the 5-7 members of the city council sitting as an agency. Other times the commissioners are appointed by a Board of Supervisors or a mayor. The agency commissioners then select the developers and here there is room for hanky-panky and conflicts. That's why groups like the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. don't like these agencies and is siding with Gov. Brown...

...That 10% of local property tax being diverted to the local agency is money that could go to Calif. to help close a huge hole in the budget. Moneys for education, public safety, libraries, parks and a host of other things. The Calif. Redevelopment Assn.(CRA) has just released a new study which suggests if Brown has his way and kills off redevelopment associations, it will mean the end of future projects and spending. The CRA is talking about a loss of **304,000** jobs and **\$40** billion in economic activity. CRA has a list of counties which will be hit the hardest...

...They include L.A. Co. 74,868 jobs lost per year; Riverside Co. 28,679 jobs lost per year; Santa Clara Co. 21,406 jobs lost to year; and Alameda Co. 17,268 jobs lost per year. These are just a few of the counties. CRA has the whole list. The projections were based on an economic modeling using an IMPLAN model, which estimates the direct and indirect job-creation activities...

...While all the back and forth yelling continues, Calif. Controller John Chiang is having his auditors begin reviews of 18 agencies to see how RDA funds are used and the "extent to which they comply with laws governing their activities." The RDAs in question include City of San Jose, County of Riverside, City of Los Angeles, Contra Costa Co., Sacramento Co., City of Pittsburg, City of Fremont, Pasadena Community De-

velopment Commission, City of Fresno, Palm Desert, Placentia, Parlier, Hercules, Anderson, Citrus Heights, Calexico, Coronado and Desert Hot Springs. Large, medium and small RDAs...

...So what are cities doing before the axe falls? They are racing to hide their money. Some of these cities are transferring billions of dollars. Redevelopment agencies take in about \$5 billion per year. Now you can see why Gov. Brown wants these agencies killed off. Stay tuned...

## **IT WASN'T THE SAME OLD STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH. ATMOSPHERE SEEMED MORE RELAXED.**

Editor's note: Thank goodness the White House hands out a copy of the SOTU (State Of The Union) speech to members of the DC press corps and other reporters covering the speech. Slobs like me had to take notes and wait for the stories to be online Wednesday morning. Here's our brief analysis & commentary...

...No assigned seats and GOPers and Demos were sitting together. None of the partisan stuff at this years SOTU speech. The U.S. Congress ought to do it this way from now on...

...American competitiveness, education, new industries, keeping up with China, the need for more R&D and clean energy and a couple of plugs by Pres. Barack Obama for some immigration reform (the Dream Act) and a plug for his Healthcare legislation were his main talking points. American competitiveness was the focal point during the one hour speech. "We are the nation that put cars in driveways and computers in offices. The nation of Edison and the Wright Brothers, of Google and Facebook." He could have added some names like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs...

...On education, the President said, "It is time to reward good teachers and stop making excuses for bad ones." Wonder if he was talking about the LAUSD???

...But the president really didn't break any new ground and was downright limp on foreign policy. After all, the U.S. is still in an intense shooting war in Afghanistan and Iraq is not totally safe. And then there's the Korean Peninsula and the drug wars in Mexico. Lots of things that Americans wanted to know...

...Just a suggestion, but the White House could issue a written version of his foreign policy ideas for the coming year and put

it out on the internet. Everyone would see, even counties the U.S. is not on good terms with...

...Our sources didn't think he'd raise guns as an issue. It's a no win for Pres. Obama and Demos even with the Tucson shooting still so clear in our minds. At the beginning of the SOTU he reminded the audience about the empty chair in the chamber. It was for U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords...

...The GOP response was delivered by House Budget Committee chair Paul Ryan(R-Wis). He was all gloom and doom. "The next generation will inherit a stagnant economy and a diminished country." He sees the glass half empty, while Obama sees the glass as half full. And U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of MN had walked on Ryan's parade with her own limp response. She's not very bright. Stay tuned...

#### **CAMPAIGN 2011: EIGHT RIVALS BATTLE FOR OPEN 4<sup>TH</sup> AD IN SPECIAL TO REPLACE SEN. TED GAINES.**

Editor's note: Filing for this March 8<sup>th</sup> primary special closed on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. There are now eight candidates. Here's our brief analysis & update...

..The only Demo in the race is Dennis J. Campanle, a retired West Sacramento division fire chief who ran against now Sen. Ted Gaines(R) in November. The 4<sup>th</sup> AD has a huge GOP voter registration edge: 45%(R) vs. 31%. But with seven Republicans in the primary, their vote could be split, allowing Campanle to slip in. Remember, this is the first OPEN PRIMARY election, the top two winners, regardless of political party, face off in a May 3<sup>rd</sup> runoff...

...The seven GOPers are Beth Gaines, Ted's wife; Roseville Councilman John Allard; Cheryl Bly-Chester, founder of Rosewood Environmental Engineering; Matt Williams, a South Lake Tahoe attorney; Rob Matthews, a police officer/attorney from South Lake Tahoe; Mike O'Connor, former Yuba Co. asst. personnel director; and Bogdan "Bo" Ambrozewicz, a businessman. FYI: Michael Babich of Auburn was looking but dropped out. Ambrozewicz and Bly-Chester are recent entrants in this special...

...It's mostly a battle of endorsements, but the newspapers in the district are giving the special pretty good coverage. Retired Coast Guard officer and attorney Matt Williams, who is a two-time Olympic torch bearer, says he'll cut his legislative salary by 20% if elected...

...Allard seems to be distributing the most news releases. His most recent ones tout the endorsements of Assemblymembers Dan Logue and Kristin Olsen; former Assemblyman Rick Keene and former State Senators Sam Aanestad and Tim Leslie. But perhaps Allard's best endorsement is from the Calif. Republican Assembly (CRA). CRA is the state's oldest and largest GOP volunteer organization. Haven't received any news releases from Beth Gaines in the last two weeks. The other candidates must not have press operations. Stay tuned...

#### **FULL METAL JACKET: MOVEMENT ON OLD GUN ISSUES: BANNING OF OPEN CARRYING & CLIPS.**

Editor's note: At the beginning of his State of the Union address, Pres. Barack Obama mentioned the Tucson shootings, but didn't press the U.S. Congress for more gun laws, despite U.S. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy's current, high profile push for tighter restrictions on high capacity magazines. Calif. has the toughest gun laws in the U.S., but there are some loopholes. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...The issue which is now on the front burner in Sacramento and in Los Angeles City Hall involves a ban on open carrying of unloaded guns. Open carrying of a loaded handgun is against the law, unless you're a cop (or other exemptions) or have a permit. The bill under consideration in Sacramento is AB 144 by Assemblyman Anthony Portantino(D-La Canada). This bill presumptively bans "open unloaded carry" in urban areas with tons of exemptions. L.A. City Council President Eric Garcetti wants his colleagues to pass a local ordinance modeled on AB 144...

...According to Calpeek's gun sources in Sacramento, there are some problems with Garcetti's proposal. State law would preempt the local effort and there is a more complex legal reason. The Garcetti proposal has the potential to result in forcing the LAPD to issue at least 100,000 concealed carry and loaded licenses, sources say...

...The reason for the license explosion is a legal ruling in U.S. District Court in San Diego which is complicated, but it was in response to an NRA lawsuit challenging S.D. Sheriff Bill Gore's licensing practices. The theory is that persons carrying open, but unloaded, can quickly load and defend themselves is not being bought by the NRA, which is appealing the ruling. The NRA claims UOC (unloaded open carry) is not only insufficient constitutionally, but is a risky tactic that *might get you hurt or killed*. But banning UOC per the San Diego ruling means *loaded and concealed shall get permits* if the individual requests...

...Sources in Sacramento say Portantino and his supporters do not want or need Garcetti getting in the middle of this with a stunt that complicates matters prematurely. L.A. City Atty. Carmen Trutanich will be asked at some point to have his office draft a bill. FYI: it is well known that while in private law practice before his election as city attorney, Trutanich was the law partner of Chuck Michel, the NRA's lead Calif. attorney...

...The other gun issue is clips or magazines. When Jared Lee Loughner was captured, he was in the process of trying to reload his gun with another 31-bullet clip. Calpeek should note that in Calif. Loughner would not have been able to buy a clip. And he would require a background check (DROS form - Dealer Record of Sale), which goes to the DOJ in Sacto for at least a 10-day waiting period. Would the DOJ have spotted Loughner as a mental case? Maybe...

...In the past, then San Francisco DA, Kamala Harris worked on a clip bill with then AG Bill Lockyer and former Assem-

blyman Johan Klehs. They were working on a serialization to better enforce current law, but it was not introduced because of costs. In 2009, State Sen. Lonnie Hancock(D-Berkeley) introduced SB 776 which required that clips have serial numbers. Insiders said the bill didn't have legs. But with Harris as AG and Hancock as chair of the Senate Public Safety Committee, they may try again. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN 2011: ONLY TWO HIGH PROFILE COUNCIL RACES, BUT MANY HOT BALLOT MEASURES.**

Editor's note: *Calpeek* will take a first look at the 8<sup>th</sup> L.A. council district now represented by Bernard Parks and Measure L, The Public Library Funding Act. Here's our brief update & report...

◆ *8<sup>th</sup> Council District* – Councilman Bernard Parks has his share of political enemies in L.A. City Hall and in L.A. County. Organized labor, especially the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor, hates him and will be spending big bucks to help Forescee Hogan-Rowles in her uphill fight to oust Parks. She'll need a financial angel because as of 12/21/10, she had only raised \$17,744. That's pathetic for someone who hopes to upset a popular councilman. Hogan-Rowles has hired SG&A Campaigns...

...As noted above, Parks has some enemies, but the L.A. Police Protective League (LAPPL) appears to have mended its fences with Parks because they now support an LAPD hiring freeze that Parks supported. Parks is the chair of the Council's Budget & Finance Committee and is known as a fiscal conservative...

...In an L.A. Times story, Hogan-Rowles was opposed to the council's decision to enact layoffs and furloughs. Parks countered that with 95% of the budget going to salaries, how would Hogan-Rowles cut the budget? The last time Hogan-Rowles ran against Parks was in 2003 and he got 78% of the vote...

...Parks hasn't always been lucky in elections. In 2008, he was defeated by now L.A. Co. Sup. Mark Ridley-Thomas in a very bitter election for the L.A. Co.'s Board of Supervisors, where the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor pumped in \$8.5 million dollars to help Ridley-Thomas...

...But sources say Parks is well liked in the 8<sup>th</sup> CD. He pays attention to crime and pot holes. Unless Hogan-Rowles can come up with good reasons to boot Parks out, our sources think he's favored to win at this point. There is one other person in this contest: L.A. City Firefighter Jabari S. Jumaane. Stay tuned...

◆ *Measure L* – So far there is no strong, organized opposition to Measure L, officially called *The Public Library Funding Act*. The coalition behind this ballot measure is called *The Save Our Neighborhood Libraries, Yes on Measure L*. Measure L does not raise taxes or fees. Instead, Measure L will guarantee that L.A. neighborhood libraries receive a dedicated and consistent percentage of the city's budget. The L.A. Public Library run the largest after-school reading program and provides PSAT and SAT training...

...There is a big list of endorsers: L.A. Co. Federation of Labor, L.A. Business Council, Librarians Guild AFSCME Local 2626, the L.A. NAACP, L.A.P.D. Chief Charlie Beck, and former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan...

...FYI: the campaign team for YES on L includes lead consultant David Koenig; Josh Pulliam handling mail; and Fairbanks, Maslin et al doing the polling. Stay tuned...

**SOME INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.**

Here is some helpful information about *Calpeek* that you may need to know. Deadlines for news and Marketplace Network: 9 a.m. Wednesday. The email version of *Calpeek* is distributed on Friday mornings sometimes earlier. *Calpeek's* fax phone is (310)657-4340; e-mail calpeek@aol.com. *Calpeek* does NOT make refunds on cancellations...

**POLITICAL SHORT TAKES: NEWS ITEMS TO NOTE.**

Editor's note: Here are some news stories worth noting. This week there is lots of stuff from the U.S. Congress. Much of this news comes from blogs and other online sources...

☒ The RNC members from New Hampshire picked former MA Gov. Mitt Romney as their choice for president in 2012. Just like its primary, NH's straw poll is the first such straw poll in the U.S. Romney was a runaway winner with 35%, followed by U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas with 11% and former MN Gov. Tim Pawlenty with 8%. There were only 276 votes cast so this is really meaningless, except that the political pundits and reporters were in NH covering the event. Political consultant Mark McKinnon said the win by Romney doesn't mean a thing. FYI: Sarah Palin was a 7%, U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann got 5% as did U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint...

☒ Calif.'s unemployment rate jumped up from 12.4% to 12.5%. Main causes: the state's budgetary red ink and the poor real estate market. In November, the state added 30,500 jobs, but in December only added 4,900 jobs...

☒ U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D-CA) who is chair of the U.S. Senate's Intel Committee, issued a short statement on the sentencing of al-Qaeda terrorist Ahmed Ghailani: "Despite recent criticism of putting terrorists on trial in our federal court system, today's sentence shows that federal criminal courts continue to deliver the punishment that terrorists deserve." Ahmed Ghailani was sentenced to life in prison for conspiracy to destroy the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998...

☒ By now most all *Calpeek* readers know that MSNBC anchor Keith Olbermann has left his Count Down show. Whether it was a mutual decision by management and Olbermann, no one really knows and no one is talking. Olbermann may be a "difficult" talent, but don't feel sorry for him. He'll land on his feet with something just as good, maybe a show like HBO's Bill Maher or a pay-radio talk show. He left on a Friday with a short sign off and by Monday the new

MSNBC line up was in place, just like nothing had happened...

☒ U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock(R-Elk Grove) has a pet water project in Northern Calif. It is the Auburn Dam. As the new chair of the House Water & Power subcommittee, McC could finally get this dam started – maybe. Sounds too much like an earmark, but the committee writes water legislation.

☒ In case you missed it, sources in DC say energy & environmental adviser Carol Browner is leaving the White House. Her departure was expected...

☒ Calif. based Courage Campaign has launched a new project called Issawatch.com to keep tabs on U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa(R-Vista) who is the new chair of the House Governmental Oversight Committee. This is a *national accountability* project says Courage Campaign founder Rick Jacobs...

### **CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: ODDS & ENDS IN CALIF.**

Editor's note: Here are a few news items of interest...

◆ ***Correction on the S.F. DA's Race*** – In last week's edition, *Calpeek* said S.F. City Atty. Dennis Herrera was running for district attorney. He's running for S.F. mayor in 2011...

◆ ***Former O.C. Sheriff Carona Begins Prison*** – Former Orange Co. Sheriff Michael S. Carona has started serving his 5 ½ year sentence for witness tampering. He is in a low-security Federal prison in Littleton, CO, a suburb of Denver...

◆ ***1<sup>st</sup> Reagan Foundation Symposium*** – The Ronald W. Reagan Centennial Celebration and academic symposium on Leadership and Legacy is being presented by the Univ. of Southern Calif. School of Policy and Planning in partnership with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. For info on speakers and specific times and locations, contact Eddie North-Hager of the USC Media Relations (213)740-9335. OR Melissa Geller of the Reagan Foundation (805)522-2877. Tom Brokaw, former Calif. Gov. Pete Wilson, Reagan speechwriter Peggy Noonan, historian Kevin Starr and presidential biographer Richard Reeves are among the panelists...

◆ ***Reducing Prison Overcrowding Leads to Jail Overcrowding*** – There's no solution. Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to transfer prisoners from State prisons to county jails sounds good, but it won't work. And that's because county jails are in fact just as crowded as state prisons. According to a Sacto BEE story, there are about 20 jails that are under court order to release prisoners because of overcrowding. The biggest headach for the Dept. of Corrections are jails in L.A., San Diego and Fresno. ***Calpeek's solution:*** build temporary facilities in remote areas of Calif. and don't spend a ton on these prisons...

◆ ***Legislators Who Won't Take New Cars*** – 18 of the 31 new members of the State Senate and Assembly won't accept new cars subsidized by Calif. taxpayers. Here they are: Achadjian (R-San Luis Obispo), Atkins(D-San Diego), Bonilla(D-Concord), Dickinson(D-Sacto), Gorell(R-Camarillo), Grove(R-Bakersfield), Halderman(R-Fresno), Hernandez(D-West Covina), Hueso(D-San Diego), Mansoor(R-Costa Mesa), Morrell

(R-Rancho Cucamonga), Pan (D-Sacramento), Perea(D-Fresno), Valadao(R-Hanford) and Wagner (R-Irvine). Here are the State Senators who won't take new cars: Cannella(R-Ceres), Rubio (D-East Bakersfield) and Vargas (D-San Diego)...

◆ ***For Now Rahn Is Back on the Ballot*** – Rahm Emanuel has won a stay until the Illinois Supreme Court makes a final decision regarding Emanuel's residency. The court will hear the case on an expedited basis. The stay keeps the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners from kicking Pres. Barack Obama's former chief of staff off the ballot in his battle for Mayor of Chicago. Stay tuned...

### **CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS & PERSONNEL NOTICES**

Editor's note: Here are some items you might want to take note of. We've got tons of these announcements...

☐ A sad note: Former GOP Congressman and Assemblyman Wayne Grisham(R) has died. He was 88 and passed away Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> of respiratory failure & pneumonia. He was serving as a La Mirada councilman and mayor when he was elected to the U.S. House in 1978. He was reelected in 1980, but lost to David Dreier(R) when his seat was redistricted in 1982. R.I.P...

☐ Bruce Reed, executive director of Pres. Barack Obama's deficit commission and former Clinton policy expert, is VP Joe Biden's new Chief of Staff, replacing Ron Klain. Biden and Reed have known each other for years...

☐ Schubert Flint Public Affairs has promoted two persons in its Sacramento office and one person in its Orange Co. office. Kristy Babb is now a Sr. VP in the Sacto office and Nancy Limon is now a VP in the firm's Orange Co. office. Danielle Vaticano has been promoted to AE in the firm's Sacto office...

☐ Former Assemblyman Richard Katz has been elected chair of the Metrolink Board of Directors. He was previously vice chair of the board...

#### **CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK**

**Bell, McAndrews & Hiltachk, LLP** seeks an associate attorney in its Sacramento office for its campaign finance and election law practice. Related experience 2-5 years preferred. Please send resume with salary range to mail@bmhlaw.com...

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