

Quarterly Community Issues

2019: July - September
KXPR 6:04 – 6:06 pm Weekdays

July

01: OILBUDGET

Some environmental groups hope the \$1.5 million dollar study green-lit by the state is a sign Gov. Newsom will prioritize restricting oil production.Kassie Siegel with the Center for Biological Diversity's Climate Law Institute.

01: DUICHECK

This week, the California Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies will put more officers on the road to look for people driving under the influence.

02: FIRECHARGE

Governor Gavin Newsom is proposing an insurance fund to cover wildfire liability costs...and he wants ratepayers to shoulder half the burden.

02: CENSUS BUREAU

So the millions that the Trump administration has deprived the Census Bureau — I've known this for the last two or three decades from working on census both as a member of Congress and before — you have to have a Census Bureau that for the 10 years working up to the census itself is investing, planning, doing test runs.This administration over the last few years has been denying the funding to the Census Bureau that it needs to get ready. On top of that they try to add this harmful question about citizenship.

03: PERDIEM

The Assembly says it's meeting today [FRIDAY] "to do the people's business" by voting on bills "that provide clean drinking water and address the housing and homelessness crises.

03: MONSANTOJUDGE

A federal judge in San Francisco will reconsider a jury's \$80 million damage award to a cancer victim who used Monsanto's Roundup weed-killer.

05: LGBTHOUSE

A new LGBT homeless shelter in midtown Sacramento will give youth age 18 to 24 a safe place to sleep, plus job assistance and connections to other housing.

05: SLOWDOWN

Streets surrounding more than 115 schools in Sacramento will see their speed limits reduced starting this month.

08: QUAKEINSURE

Glenn Pomeroy arrived in Ridgecrest less than 24 hours after two major quakes rattled the town last week. The CEO of the California Earthquake Authority says twenty percent of Ridgecrest homeowners had earthquake insurance ... but: We know that we've got a long way to go because most Californians are not financially protected for a shake. After the 1994 Northridge quake, insurance companies took big losses and many stopped offering quake coverage.

08: WALTONRESPONDS

New Sacramento Kings coach Luke Walton says sexual assault allegations against him are not backed by facts and are designed to attract media attention

09: HEALTHPREMIUMS

Next year, people buying insurance through California's health insurance marketplace could see a smaller price increase than they're used to. Covered California officials announced today [7/9] that premiums are expected to rise just zero-point-eight percent on average in 2020.

09: CLEANWATER

The Legislature's plan will invest up to 130-million-dollars per year to provide technical assistance and increase oversight of local water systems. The money will come from the state's cap-and-trade fund, a program that requires large businesses to purchase credits to offset pollution. Some critics of the plan noted the cap-and-trade fund was created to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—not address water issues.

10: BERRIES

The federal government has banned one of the most effective fumigants, previously used to protect strawberry plants from fungus and bugs.

10: UNCOVEREDYA

Medicaid provides health care to low-income people, and California is now set to become the first state to offer it to undocumented immigrants up to age twenty-six. It's part of a bigger plan to eventually make sure everyone in the state has coverage.

11: TAXBALLOT

The legislation does not identify a specific candidate, but one name came up repeatedly in legislative hearings: Trump. President Trump has refused to release his tax returns, citing an ongoing audit by the IRS. If Newsom signs the bill, Trump will have to release his taxes—or else not appear on California's 2020 ballot. The same would apply to all candidates running for president and governor.

11: CITYAGLOT

The city of Sacramento wants to transform a blighted lot near the Executive Airport into an urban farm. It's hoping the community will step up.

12: Back in November, voters soundly defeated Prop 10, which would have opened the door for cities to expand or enact rent control. In the wake of that defeat and facing a housing crisis, San Francisco Assemblyman David Chiu introduced a bill that brings the issue right back into consideration.

12: DEATHRACE

The End of Life Option Act took effect in 2016. It allows terminally ill people to request lethal medications from their doctors. Nearly 90 percent of people who used the law last year were white, according to new data from the California Department of Public Health. Reverend Cynthia Carter Perrilliat [per-elliot] with the Alameda County Care Alliance says it might be due to a lack of information. Her mostly-African-American congregants ask about it from time to time.

15: BATJER

When Governor Gavin Newsom signed California's new wildfire liability law last week, he also named his pick for one of the most crucial and challenging jobs in state government: the lead regulator for utilities such as P-G-and-E.

15: JENNERMURDERS

A man has been sentenced to life in prison without parole for the random killing of an engaged couple while they were camping on a Sonoma County beach in 2004.

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17: DAFFODIL

Thousands of visitors made the trek up to the foothills each spring to view the hillside covered with daffodils of all sizes and colors. More than 300-thousand bulbs are planted there now. The Ryan family has kept up the tradition for 80 years, but they posted on Facebook that the crush of visitors has led to traffic congestion on the narrow roads, and safety had become an issue.

17: GENTLEMANS

The Davis Shakespeare Festival is presenting "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," a dark musical comedy set in London a century ago. Critic Jeff Hudson says it's funny and stylish, with gloomy underpinnings.

18: WSACLTRAIL

The first phase of the new I Street Bridge would include wide paths for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles. There would still be enough room for a future light rail project. There are four designs under consideration. Planners hope to narrow the number to two by October. The future Broadway Bridge project could also be an option, but that's still undergoing environmental review.

18: HARASSUPDATE

California Governor Gavin Newsom says state agencies met a deadline to train supervisors in sexual harassment prevention, as required by law.

19: FIREWORK

California employers will have to do more to protect outdoor workers from wildfire smoke this season.

19: JUNEJOBS

Jobless rates around the state vary widely. Imperial and Colusa counties are the only two in double digits ... at 18 and 10 percent, respectively. Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties have the lowest unemployment rates — all below 2-and-a-half percent.

22: COUNTYCUTS

Some California counties are losing a portion of their state funding because their mental health work forces are inadequate.

22: HOUSINGPROD

Two percent. That's how much California's housing production is expected to grow compared with last year. The pace is far below what's needed to meet demand

23: BUTTESIRENS

The Butte County Sheriff's Office has added another way to alert residents in the event of an evacuation.

23: MILLIONDOLLAR

The Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival has an outdoor production of "Million Dollar Quartet," a jukebox musical about Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins as they became stars in the '50s. Critic Jeff Hudson says this energetic show will especially appeal to fans who love the songs these artists recorded as young singers in their 20s.

24: DROWNING

The leading cause of death for children between the ages of one and four is drowning.

24: NUTRIA

Fifteen-pound swamp rodents known as nutria are threatening waterways in the Delta.

25: ANIMALFAIR

State health and agriculture officials say even healthy fair animals sometimes carry e.coli, salmonella, and other bugs that can make humans sick. Most people develop mild symptoms and recover, but sometimes these germs cause serious illness. Seniors, kids under five and pregnant women are at highest risk.

25: POPUPSCOOT

The city of Sacramento wants to make sure people follow the rules of the road when using those shared electric bikes and scooters. There are currently more than a thousand of them operating on the streets.

26: SACJRO-SS

Seven thousand kids aged eight-to-18 are competing at Sacramento State this week in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics.

26: PFSTEINBERG

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg made some eye-opening claims about California's unsheltered homeless population during his recent push for a 'right to shelter' law.

29: FIREPROJECTS

Heat waves, dry vegetation ... California's fire season is upon us. But the fire prevention projects that Governor Gavin Newsom fast-tracked earlier this year are nearly all still works in progress.

29: CAMPSTUDY

After the Camp Fire, National Institute of Standards and Technology investigators began piecing together every aspect of the fire. Alex Maranghides [mar en GHEED ess] is a fire protection engineer and leader of the group and says part of their task is identifying where first responders were located every second of the fire. Cal Fire has provided them with the logs for their automatic vehicle locators for every truck and engine.

30: NSACBBALL

Three new baseball fields are in the works for the Del Paso Heights area of Sacramento.

30: PPICENV

Seven out of ten California residents are worried about wildfires in the state becoming worse because of global warming, according to the latest survey by the Public Policy Institute of California.

31: BALLOTTAX

A new law in California will require presidential candidates to release their tax returns in order to appear on the state's primary ballot.

31: WILSON1

Kurt Wilson had served through the city's bankruptcy and guided it back on a solid financial standing over his 5 years as Stockton's city manager. But among the council was a growing dissatisfaction which resulted in the city attorney announcing the action taken.

August

01: CALFRESHCUT

A proposal by the Trump Administration could cut more than a quarter-million people from California's food assistance program ... known as CalFresh.

01: CAD KBIF

There are 250 A-M radio stations in California - each, a window into a different cultural community. In Fresno, a station called K-B-I-F has changed-along-with-the-Central-Valley.

02: PFKAMALARECORD

Senator Kamala Harris faced attacks on her record as a California prosecutor this week. Especially from Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard who criticized her at the Democratic presidential debate in Detroit.

02: TAHOECLEAR1A

But how do scientists from UC Davis actually determine the lake's clarity level.

05: PLASTRIP

A woman from Amador County is planning to sail the Atlantic Ocean as part of an all-female mission to study plastic pollution.

05: PREP-1-SS

Medication that prevents HIV infection has been on the market since 2012, but patients say access is still a challenge.

06: CAGVRO

President Trump is again voicing support for what he calls "extreme risk restraining orders" after this weekend's shootings in Texas and Ohio. California is one of at least 15 states that has such a law.

06: TAHOECLIMATE

The Tahoe we know today could look very different by the end of the century because of climate change.

07: TARGETLIST

The mass shooting that killed three people at the Gilroy Garlic Festival is now a domestic terrorism investigation.

07: PFGUNDEATHS

Feinstein made her claims on Twitter this week, after the mass shooting in El Paso and hours before the one in Dayton. We found there's no official count for the number of guns in our country – only widely varying estimates. Some put the total as high as three hundred ninety million guns – far more than the U.S. population – others place the total closer to two hundred sixty million, far lower.

08: FIREDOWN

The total number of acres that have burned this year in California ... both on Cal Fire and National Forest Service lands ... is about 45 thousand.

08: SHAZIER

The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office is calling on the public to rally against the placement of a sexually violent predator in Del Paso Heights.

09: PFCAGOP

Was President Trump really kicked off the California ballot? That's the claim on from the California Republican Party this week.

09: VAXMED

The Medical Board of California has voted to support a bill that could reduce falsified medical exemptions for vaccines.

12: HOMESTRETCH

That's the biggest debate before lawmakers adjourn next month. Democrats and labor unions want more companies in California to classify their workers as employees instead of contractors. That means offering benefits and guaranteeing a minimum wage. This would impact major gig companies, like Uber and Lyft, but also sectors like trucking, agriculture and health care. So, industries are pushing for exemptions.

12: VEGFOODTRUCK

A handful of urban farms brighten the cityscape where empty lots used to be. Ten growers work these West Sac "incubator farms" growing their business model before launching on their own. Sara Bernal has managed the farms for five years as part of the Center For Land-Based Learning, a Winters-based non-profit. She's met many residents living with food insecurity.

13: TRUMPSPECIES

One amendment will make it tough to use climate change as a reason to protect species. Others could shrink habitat and allow economics to be considered when making a designation. Ajay Singh is a Sacramento State environmental studies professor.

13: HOVSMOG

At the beginning of the month, Caltrans announced 23 miles of carpool or high occupancy vehicle lanes on I-5 between Elk Grove and Sacramento. Ralph Propper is president of the Environmental Council of Sacramento [and a retired air pollution researcher with the California Air Resources Board.] He says cars traveling above 45 mph are worse for Sacramento's air pollution which is primarily nitrogen-based.

14: DYNATKINS

The debate over whether “gig economy” companies should be required to treat their California contract workers as employees could spill into next year.

14: COOLCENTERS

An Excessive Heat Warning from the National Weather Service has prompted some Sacramento area cities to open cooling centers over the next few days for people without shelter. But officials say, they're not very likely to fill up.

15: POTSALES

The report by Arcview Market Research and BDS Analytics finds consumers are spending roughly 3 dollars in the state's underground cannabis economy for every 1 dollar in the legal one. Hefty tax rates and illicit sales are blamed for slower-than-expected activity in the new market.

15: LEGSOFTBALL

Once a year California lawmakers gather for the annual legislative softball game.

16: SPLITROLL

A coalition of labor unions and progressive groups say they're ready to touch that electric third rail of California politics — Proposition 13. They've got a new initiative for next year's ballot that would tax commercial properties at a higher rate than residential properties.

16: AUTISMBALLET

Sacramento's dance scene is getting more accessible for people with disabilities. Capital Dance Project, an offshoot of the Sacramento Ballet, has new offerings for people with autism and other developmental disorders.

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19: SACFCLATEST

Despite being passed over again for a Major League Soccer franchise, the people behind the push to bring MLS to Sacramento say they remain confident it will be their turn soon.

20: AUDILITIES

Audits of the city of Sacramento Utilities Department show more than 30 thousands of dollars in gasoline purchases were made with city gas cards...by people who no longer work for the city.

20: REDFLAG

Restraining orders that separate people who threaten violence from their guns appear to be working, according to a new study from UC Davis.

21: PFKAMALAJOBS

California Senator Kamala Harris recently said ‘as many as three hundred thousand auto workers’ could lose their jobs this year.

21: HEAVYDUTY

The proposal would require manufacturers to produce more electric trucks in the coming decades. Vidaurre says it’s a step in the right direction. But she wants the board to set a hard deadline for transitioning all heavy truck fleets to zero-emission vehicles. The Air Resources Board says the proposal is one of several rule changes for truck fleets that will help California reach its emission reduction goals.

22: YOUNGVOTERS

Minors in California may soon be able to vote in primary and special elections.

22: PONDSKI

Summer tourists are descending on Lake Tahoe ... but there's still some snow on the winter playground's mountaintops.

23: MountainFire

A wildfire in Northern California prompted evacuations and road closures yesterday near the city of Redding, where last year the Carr Fire killed 8 people and destroyed more than a-thousand homes.

23: BADVAPE

Lung disease that's been connected to illegal cannabis vaping is showing up throughout California.

26: BARSCAN

A growing number of Sacramento nightclubs and bars are using new technology to create a database of customers ... which they say helps them deal with bad actors.

26: HOMECAR

The most recent homeless tally in Sacramento County shows nearly 500 people are living in their vehicles. One Sacramento city council member is now proposing safe areas to park.

27: AB5TRUCKING

Independent truckers help fill gaps in the supply chain and cover specialized jobs. But AB 5 could change that. It would create a new standard for classifying workers as employees, making it harder to hire them as contractors.

27: NONWHITE

The U.S. is gradually changing its face from white to a darker complexion.

28: SHELTER

A divided Sacramento City Council last night [Tuesday] approved two new 100-bed homeless shelters - one in Meadowview and the other near Oak Park.

28: PARENTDIVERSION

Should California send parents who commit certain crimes to rehab instead of jail?

29: HOMELESSCZAR

Eight months into his term as California governor, it's still not clear whether Gavin Newsom plans to hire a cabinet-level homelessness secretary, something he vowed to do during his campaign.

29: TAHOEBEARSS2WAY

It's that time of year when tourists descend on Lake Tahoe for hiking or relaxing on the beach. They'll take in the pristine blue water and witness some of the most beautiful pine-tree dotted wilderness on the planet. And ... they also might run into a bear.

30: SUICIDEPREVENT

Mental health experts and advocates are weighing in on a California strategic plan for suicide prevention.

30: ARTWORKS

Centers for disabled adults in California are becoming more job-focused. CapRadio's Sammy Caiola reports on a program that's helping people gain independence through the arts.

September

03: TRACYARREST

Police in the Central Valley town of Tracy say they've arrested a suspect in last month's murder of a Sikh [seek] man.

03: FORCETRAINING

Governor Gavin Newsom signed legislation last month that changes the standard for when police can use deadly force in California. Proponents say the law will hold more officers accountable when they use excessive force. But a companion bill is still making its way through the Capitol.

04: QUITASOL

Three people with ties to St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton are presumed to be among the victims of Monday's deadly boat fire in Southern California.

04: LGBT

A new LGBT Community Center headquarters will be coming to Midtown Sacramento after city council approved yesterday [Tuesday] a final step for its move.

05: DIVEFAMILY

Five family members from Stockton were among the 34 people killed when a dive boat caught fire off the Southern California coast on Monday.

05: PLATE

A federal judge has declined to throw out a lawsuit against the California state D-M-V over a personalized license plate.

06: MH COURT

California is expanding mental health court — a type of probation for mentally ill offenders that focuses on treatment instead of jail time.

06: LEBRONPAYPLAY

Lebron James is coming out in support of a California bill that would allow college athletes to profit from their endorsements and the use of their image.

09: RENOHOUSE

Public officials in Reno are on the defense about what many residents call a lack of affordable housing.

09: SACRTBUS

Sacramento Regional Transit has revamped its schedule to include more options for people on weekends and after sundown.

10: NTSBFIXIT

The National Transportation Safety Board has issued a recommendation urging California to move faster in repairing damaged highway barriers.

10: VERITY

Voters in San Joaquin County may have a new voting system in place by the presidential primary in March.

11: DYNOGIG

There will be no deal for gig companies like Uber and Lyft in the California Legislature this year to keep their workers classified as contractors instead of employees.

11: PINBALL

What do you do when you have hundreds of pinball machines staring you in the face? If you're at the Golden State Pinball Festival ... you play them. Cap Radio's Bob Moffitt was at this year's event in Lodi and bumped into all kinds of colorful characters who remind us that pinball is still a thing ... and not as easy as it looks.

12: PFKAMALAENVIRO

Democratic Senator and presidential hopeful Kamala Harris recently claimed she 'took on Big Oil' as California attorney general.

12: CREASMAN

Experts told us the environment wasn't necessarily Harris' top priority as AG – other issues like mortgage fraud were bigger. Still, Mary Creasman of the California League of Conservation Voters says she did reach ... a twenty four million dollar settlement with Chevron over allegations it mishandled hazardous waste ... and investigating Exxon over lying about climate change.

13: SACECON

The Sacramento region's economy is diversifying ... and leads the nation in several areas, according to a study released yesterday [THUR].

13: SACECONOMY

Once considered a government town, the types of jobs available in Sacramento have changed in recent years ... and that is encouraging to Lisa Stanley with CBRE, the area's largest commercial real estate firm.

16: FLAVORBAN

As a mysterious lung illness tied to vaping sweeps throughout the country, California Governor Gavin Newsom says he wants to ban flavored e-cigarettes.

16: SEXTRAFF

The people behind a statewide effort to better understand human trafficking in California ... are looking to Sacramento County for answers.

17: KAISERSTRIKE

Kaiser unions representing about 80-thousand workers say the health care giant could be hit with the largest strike in the country since a U-P-S walkout by teamsters in 1997.

17: EWNFOSTER

Before Earth Wind and Fire takes the stage tomorrow (Wednesday) night in Sacramento, the band will host foster youth who are interested in careers in music.

18: TRACKNTRACE

In May, less than 10 percent of licensed cannabis businesses were enrolled in the system known as track-and-trace. Speaking at a press conference Monday, Nick Maduros with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration says the state has made significant progress.

18: FIREAI

California's resources are stretched thin when fires erupt throughout the state simultaneously. Now, something called machine learning ... a type of artificial intelligence ... could help crews decide which fires should get the most attention.

19: JUMPHIKE

The cost to rent a Jump bike will rise 150-percent or more ... starting tomorrow [FRI] in Sacramento, West Sacramento, and Davis. Jump ... which is owned by parent company Uber ... says fee increases imposed by cities throughout the U.S. ... including Sacramento ... make it more expensive to operate.

19: CAPARKHOT

Some of the people who live and work at the Capitol Park Hotel say they are suffering while the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency turns it into transitional homeless housing.

20: GAVINCLIMATE

Newsom's executive order has several directives. For example, there's a new push to move California's more than 700 billion dollars of pension investments toward what the governor's office calls "carbon-neutral and climate resilient technologies." His order also seeks to leverage the state's purchasing power and transportation systems.

20: RENOSTRIKE1

University students in Reno are planning to walk out of class today [Friday] as part of a global movement to urge politicians to take action on climate change.

23: NYC

Millions of people worldwide took part in student-led demonstrations on Friday to call attention to climate change. One of the largest actions was in New York City ... and it was led by a 14-year-old from Davis.

23: SACECO

The city has about a dozen possible initiatives it could roll out to help spur economic growth in communities that lack locally-owned businesses. Michael Jasso is an Assistant City Manager. He says one idea is to use farm to fork to create more jobs and ownership opportunities.

24: PGECUT

P-G-and-E spokeswoman Brandi Merlo [mer-low] says once power is cut, it takes up to two days to get it back on again, because each line has to be visually inspected. This will mark the third time the utility has cut power for this purpose. Last November, it had considered this approach in Butte County, but decided weather conditions didn't reach the threshold.

24: NEWSOMUN

California Governor Gavin Newsom delivered the opening remarks at Climate Week in New York this morning [Monday]. Newsom touted California's leading role in fighting climate change and producing clean energy.

25: CADEMSTRUMP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi isn't the only Northern California Democrat who's shifted on whether to explore the impeachment of President Trump.

25: MEDI-CAL

If you're a taxpayer, you're helping to pay for Medi-Cal, California's state-run health system. And healthcare advocates say you're not getting your money's worth.

26: SJCROPS

Farmers in San Joaquin County showed an increase in crop values in 2018 according to its annual crop report.

26: PFTRUMPSUITS

California has filed more than 60 lawsuits against the Trump administration on everything from the border wall to the U.S. census. But is the state really 'winning' in court as top Democrats have claimed.

27: HOMELESSBILLS

Several bills recently signed by Governor Gavin Newsom will speed up the approval process in California for housing and shelter projects for homeless people.

27: THOUSANDHOMES

The Reno City Council will vote this week on an ambitious plan to create more housing.

30: NCAAPAY

California is the first state to pass a law that allows student athletes to make money in connection to their sport. It breaks with the NCAA's [N-C-double-A's] long-standing precedent of prohibiting students from profiting while playing in a school's program. Starting in 2023, athletes at all California colleges will be able to make money from the use of their name, image and likeness.

30: RALLY

Hundreds of high school seniors rallied in Stockton this morning [Tuesday] to promote filing financial aid applications for college.