

The Communicator

T H E C A L I F O R N I A M O V I N G & S T O R A G E A S S O C I A T I O N

Governor Brown Signs Legislation to Bolster Transparency, Oversight at CPUC

SACRAMENTO — Moving to bolster governance, accountability, transparency and oversight at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed a package of bills and called on the Commission to take immediate action on additional reforms.

In June, Brown joined Assemblymember Mike Gatto, D-Los Angeles, and Sens. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, and Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, to announce a sweeping Commission reform package. The Legislature passed many of these reforms, but failed to act on other key legislation before the legislative session ended.

"These important reforms cannot wait another year. To that end, I am calling upon the Commission to use its existing authority to take immediate action," said Brown in the signing message that accompanied the legislative action. "Together, these administrative reforms and legislative acts will bring much needed improvement to the Commission."

The bills enact extensive reforms to help open and expand participation in Commission proceedings, improve safety and reform ex parte rules. The bill package includes measures which:

- Reform and expand rules regarding ex parte communications to require commissioners and interested persons to disclose and promptly post the content of ex parte communications online in ratesetting proceedings.
- Authorize the California attorney general to bring an enforcement action in superior court against a decision-maker or employee of the Commission who violates the ex parte communication rules.
- Require transcripts to be made publicly available promptly.
- Create performance criteria for the Commission and executive director.
- Require documents distributed to service lists be docketed.
- Require Commission voting meetings to be held in various regions of the state.
- Make administrative records more open in quasi-legislative proceedings.
- Establish thresholds for the reasonable and timely resolution of proceedings.
- Establish the Office of Safety Advocate within the Commission.
- Increase oversight of excavation and improve enforcement of dig-in safety



(GOVERNOR SIGNS CPUC BILLS continued on page 5)



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

By Robert Fraser

I hope that everyone had a great and profitable peak summer season. After speaking with many of you throughout the state, it's been pretty apparent that business this year has been as good, if not better than, what we experienced last year. I'm sure that most of you have had some of the same challenges that our company experienced this year, e.g., keeping up with demand; staying compliant in all aspects of our industry, (regulatory and environmentally); finding, hiring and keeping good employees; and, most of all, making sure that we satisfy our customers' needs and expectations.

Obviously, if you're reading this, you already know that a great resource of support and information to help us all get through these challenges is our very own California Moving & Storage Association. I've been a

member for more than 25 years now and I can't begin to tell you how much of an impact my membership has had on our business. Not only is there a wealth of information readily available on the CMSA website and through The Communicator, but the networking and friendships with fellow members over the years have been priceless. I would highly encourage you to stay involved as our season winds down for fall and the upcoming holidays by attending your local chapter meetings. There's always something new to learn and involvement will ensure that you will be better prepared when next year's peak summer season arrives.

One of my responsibilities (I should say privileges) as your Chairman of the Board is to visit each of our chapters throughout the state. In early September, I embarked on the first leg of my tour of California with our illustrious leader CMSA President Steve Weitekamp. We started in the Modesto area and visited three mover members: Casey Moving Systems, McGrath Moving & Storage and Grace Moving Company. Mike

(CHAIRMAN'S CORNER continued on page 4)



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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Steve Weitekamp

On September 1, the California legislative session ended before AB 2903 was brought up for a vote. AB 2903 was an Assembly bill that proposed a suite of re-

forms of the operations of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), including clarifying the responsibilities and oversight of various positions; improvements to ethics practices; reports related to telecommunications services and CPUC staffing; stating the intent of the Legislature to transfer most non-rail, for-hire transportation services to the State Transportation Agency (STA); and others. At the close of the legislative session, AB 2903 (known as the Gatto bill), did not receive a rule waiver and never came to the floor for a vote. The bill is dead and Gatto, one of the architects of the legislative changes to the CPUC, is termed out.

Please be advised that the transfer of transportation from CPUC authority to CalSTA is still a part of the Governor's Reorganization Plan, but not constrained to timelines or language that AB 2903 might have imposed. We are pushing for stakeholder meetings on this issue. Our opinion is that this outcome has given us greater flexibility and latitude. Our legislative advocate Chuck Cole and I spent most of the day on Aug. 29 walking the halls of the California Capitol, sharing our concerns related to specific aspects of AB 2903. With the support of our membership, the Association will continue to work for the best possible outcome for the industry and its customers.

Also in September, there was the AMSA Fall Board meetings and Day on Capitol Hill event as well as the SDDC's annual Military Personal Property Forum (PPF) in Washington, D.C.

At the PPF, it was a privilege to participate in a panel discussion and share concerns of agents participating in the DOD program. The presentations I gave were

(PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS continued on page 5)



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(CHAIRMAN'S CORNER continued from page 2)

McGrath did a fantastic job leading the Mid Valley Chapter meeting at Skewer's Kabob House. With the McGraths and the Caseys active in the Mid Valley, I'm calling this one my Irish Heritage Chapter meeting.

The next day, we drove across the valley and over the hills to the Monterey area. We visited five operations that day: Cardinale Moving & Storage, Wermuth & Cahoon Moving & Storage, Scarr Moving & Storage, Miller Moving & Storage and Poulos Moving Systems. Pete Poulos also did a fantastic job leading the Monterey Bay Chapter meeting at Growers Pub Steak House. The meeting was very well-attended and with the Cardinales and Freeses (among others). I'm calling this one my Italian Heritage Chapter meeting.

Thanks to all of the above for inviting me to your businesses and giving me grand tours. From the operations that have massive record storage to the ones that provide

services to the military and to the ones that focus on their local CODs, all were very impressive! It's apparent that we all take great pride in our industry. Although we come from different California socio-economic subcultures, we all provide different aspects of moving and storage services. There are so many elements that are the same, yet so

many more that are unique. I'm just getting started and can't wait to visit with the rest of you!

We at Redwood Moving & Storage are in full swing with our crews donning on pink t-shirts in recognition of the National Breast Cancer Foundation and the breast cancer

awareness month of October. I'd like to thank Mark Hildreth of New Haven Moving Equipment Corp. for providing our crews with pink box dollies. They look great and our customers' reception of them has been phenomenal. If you would like to make a contribution to my Chairman's Choice

(CHAIRMAN'S CORNER continued on page 5)



Redwood Moving & Mark Hildreth (center)



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(CHAIRMAN'S CORNER continued from page 4)

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"That's just my signature move" — P!NK

(PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS continued from page 3)

based upon discussions and feedback from CMSA Military Affairs Committee members and others from state associations (specifically, members of NCMA) around the country.

One of the topics discussed was the military base access issue. Long delays and frequently changing security standards are a huge issue for agents, costing time and money and is the source of much frustration. While agents support and understand the need for base security, they find it difficult to understand the inability to institute a standardized system of identification and fitness. There is broad support for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), a relatively cost effective and recognized identification and fitness tool.

The months of October and November will have many networking opportunities available for members to participate in CMSA chapter meetings as well as several fundraising events. I hope to see you there.

(GOVERNOR SIGNS CPUC BILLS continued from page 1)

laws.

In his signing message, the governor called on the Commission to take immediate action on a number of measures left undone by the Legislature to further improve transparency and accountability, including the following reforms:

- Appoint an ethics ombudsman.
- Establish a web portal for the public advisor to receive public complaints and comments.
- Create a streamlined process for more quickly releasing information to the public.
- Improve coordination with other state agencies and departments.
- Increase the Commission's presence outside of San Francisco.
- Work with the California Research Bureau to study the governance of telecommunications service.

(GOVERNOR SIGNS CPUC BILLS continued on page 6)



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The Governor also directed the administration to work with the Commission to develop a reorganization plan to:

- Transfer those duties and responsibilities of the Commission over transportation-related entities that will be better performed by departments within the California Transportation Agency.
- Codify the appointment of all senior executive staff who will serve at the pleasure of the Commission, including the executive director, the general counsel, the internal auditor and the chief administrative law judge.
- Codify the appointment of a deputy executive director for safety and chief internal auditor at the Commission.

The administration will continue to work with the Legislature on additional reform measures included in the original reform package that require legislative approval,

including subjecting the CPUC to the judicial review provisions of the California Public Records Act and revisions to improve the CPUC public records and confidentiality statute (§ 583) to retain confidentiality with a more timely release of public information.

The bills signed include:

- AB 2168 by Assemblymember Das G. Williams, D-Carpinteria. Public Utilities Commission Audit Compliance Act of 2016.
- SB 62 by Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo. Public Utilities Commission: Office of the Safety Advocate.
- SB 215 by Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco. Public Utilities Commission.
- SB 512 by Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo. Public Utilities Commission.
- SB 661 by Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo. Protection of subsurface installations.

Source: California Chamber of Commerce, *Alert*

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Program Administrator

Paul Hanson Partners and Move-Pak Consulting Create Strategic Alliance

NAPA, Sept. 29, 2016 — Paul Hanson Partners Specialty Insurance, a leading insurance program administrator for the moving and storage and transportation industry, announced a strategic alliance with Move-Pak Consulting. Through this partnership, Move-Pak principal and industry veteran Carole Boettcher will provide discounted access to expert consulting services and educational books through Paul Hanson Partners' new Mover's Choice Online portal.

For moving and storage companies insured through Mover's Choice Insurance, Boettcher offers a complete package of consulting services on topics including:

- Insurance contracts and policies, identifying any gaps in coverage.
- Key business practices, including bills of lading, valuation, training for drivers, dispatch and operations.

(PHP AND MOVE-PAK FORM ALLIANCE continued on page 8)

Golden State Container Transitions to Victory Packaging

Longtime CMSA associate member company, Golden State Container, announced that it recently secured the name Victory Packaging for its locations in California. Effective immediately, it will be transitioning only its company name to Victory Packaging. Its location, people and everything else customers are accustomed to will not change during the company name transition.

Customers will begin to see the Victory Packaging logo in its communications.

Victory Packaging has been the company name everywhere outside of California for the past 40 years across North America. It is pleased to be able to continue its dedicated customer service now under one name, Victory Packaging.



The nation's leading supplier to the Moving and Storage industry. Our full line of van equipment and products, ongoing innovation, and unmatched network of locations provide the solutions movers need. The "standard equipment at best value" is just another reason to work with **Victory Packaging!**

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- Selling valuation coverage and understanding the difference between valuation and insurance for claims professionals, drivers and salespeople.

Her books, *The Movers Guide to Insurance* and *The Movers Guide to Valuation*, will be available for purchase at a discounted rate through Mover's Choice Online.

In addition to educating insureds, Boettcher consults with brokers who work with Mover's Choice. Her training for new agents gets them up to speed on the insurance issues and risks facing the moving and storage industry, including coverage issues and valuation.

"We could not be more pleased about integrating Carole Boettcher into the Mover's Choice team," says Lisa Paul, president and CEO of Paul Hanson Partners. "Carole's tremendous expertise in the moving industry on understanding policy forms, valuations

and business management for movers will be a central feature of training for salesmen, claims personnel and van foremen."

Boettcher has been working within the moving and storage insurance industry since 1983 and has extensive management and underwriting experience with major insurance organizations. From 1992 to 1994, she served on the board of directors for the California Moving & Storage Association. An active member of the moving and storage

community, she maintains membership in state and national moving & storage associations and speaks at moving and storage and van lines conferences.

Boettcher is also working with affiliate company Paul Hanson Partners Interna-



tional, a consulting firm that helps transportation companies improve operational efficiency, to design new industry cargo, warehouse legal and shipper's interest coverages. This from-dock-to-door approach impacts all companies in the domestic and international supply chain.



CMSA / August Monthly Report

Food Collected and Delivered

Monthly	Year to Date	All Time
3,920 lbs.	26,610 lbs.	619,877 lbs.
3,266 meals	22,175 meals	516,564 meals

Top Agent of the Month

NMS Moving Systems Inc.

3,920 lbs.

3,266 meals

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tue., October 18 North Bay Chapter Mtg.

Tue., October 18 O.C./Beach Cities Chapter Golf Tournament

Wed., October 19 Northern Region Chapter Meeting

Thu., October 20 Sacramento Chapter Meeting

Wed., November 9 San Diego Chapter Meeting

November 11–13 CMSA Fall Board Meeting

Wed., November 30 2017 Roster Update Form Deadline

Wed., December 14 San Diego Chapter Meeting

Wed., January 11 San Diego Chapter Meeting

Thu., January 12 Central Valley Chapter Meeting

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California November Ballot Propositions Summary

Below are brief summaries of the measures that will appear on the November 8 General Election ballot.

Proposition 51 School Bonds. Funding for K–12 School and Community College Facilities. Initiative Statute.

Authorizes \$9 billion in general obligation bonds for new construction and modernizing K-12 public school, charter schools and vocational education, and California Community Colleges facilities.

72 hours before vote. Requires Legislature to record its proceedings and post on the internet.

Proposition 55 Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Extends by 12 years the temporary personal income tax increases enacted in 2012 on earnings more than \$250,000, with revenues allocated to K-12 schools, community colleges, and, in certain years, health care.

Proposition 52 Medi-Cal Hospital Fee Program. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

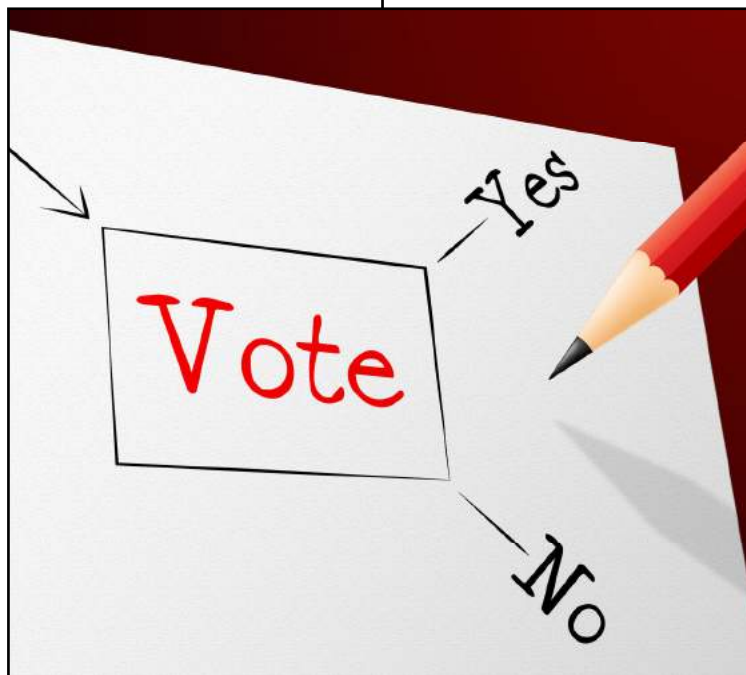
Extends indefinitely the existing law imposing fees on hospitals to fund Medi-Cal health care services, care for uninsured patients and children's health coverage.

Proposition 53 Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Requires statewide voter approval before any revenue bonds can be issued or sold by the state for projects that are financed, owned, operated or managed by the state or any joint agency created by or including the state, if the bond amount exceeds \$2 billion.

Proposition 54 Legislature. Legislation and Proceedings. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Prohibits the Legislature from passing any bill unless published on the internet for



Proposition 56 Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research and Law Enforcement. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Increases cigarette tax by \$2 per pack, with equivalent increase on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine.

Proposition 57 Criminal Sentences. Parole. Juvenile. Criminal Proceedings and Sentencing. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Allows parole consideration for nonviolent felons. Authorizes sentence credits for rehabilitation, good behavior and education. Allows juvenile court judge to decide whether juvenile will be prosecuted as adult.

(NOVEMBER BALLOT PROPS continued on page 11)

Proposition 58 English Proficiency. Multilingual. Education. Initiative Statute.

Amends and repeals portions of Proposition 227, the initiative approved by voters in June 1998 to mandate that all children in California public schools be taught English by being taught in English unless parents have gone through a waiver process. Repeals existing law giving parents/guardians standing to sue for enforcement and making public school administrators and teachers personally liable for failing to provide an English-only curriculum.

Proposition 59 Corporations. Political Spending. Federal Constitutional Protections. Legislative Advisory Question.

Asks whether California's elected officials should use their authority to propose and ratify an amendment to the federal Constitution overturning the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. The decision ruled that laws placing certain limits on political spending by corporations and unions are unconstitutional.

Proposition 60 Adult Films. Condoms. Health. Requirements. Initiative Statute.

Requires adult film performers to use condoms during filming of sexual intercourse. Requires producers to pay for performer vaccinations, testing and medical examinations. Requires producers to post condom requirement at film sites.

Proposition 61 State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards. Initiative Statute.

Prohibits state from buying any prescription drug from a drug manufacturer at price

more than lowest price paid for the drug by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). Exempts managed care programs funded through Medi-Cal.

Proposition 62 Death Penalty. Initiative Statute.

Repeals the death penalty and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Applies retroactively to existing death sentences. Increases the portion of life inmates' wages that may be applied to victim restitution.

Proposition 63 Firearms. Ammunition Sales. Initiative Statute.

Requires background check and Department of Justice authorization to purchase ammunition. Prohibits possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines. Establishes procedures for enforcing laws prohibiting firearm possession by specified persons. Requires Department of Justice participation in

(NOVEMBER BALLOT PROPS continued on page 12)

The screenshot shows the official voter information guide for the November 8, 2016 California general election. It includes a navigation bar with links to Home, Propositions, Candidates, Quick Reference Guide, Voter Information, and Audio/Large Print. The main content is divided into two columns: 'Dates to Remember' and 'Propositions'. The 'Dates to Remember' column lists key dates: October 10, 2016 (First day to vote-by-mail), October 24, 2016 (Last day to register to vote), November 1, 2016 (Last day to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot by mail), and November 8, 2016 (Election Day, Polls are open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.). The 'Propositions' column lists seven measures: 51 School Bonds, 52 Medi-Cal Hospital Fee Program, 53 Revenue Bonds, 54 Legislature, 55 Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare, 56 Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement, and 57 Criminal Sentences, Parole, Juvenile Criminal Proceedings and Sentencing. At the bottom, it says 'For more info, visit <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/en/propositions/>'.

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federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Proposition 64 Marijuana Legalization. Initiative Statute.

Legalizes marijuana under state law, for use by adults 21 or older. Imposes state taxes on sales and cultivation. Provides for industry licensing and establishes standards for marijuana products. Allows local regulation and taxation. Provides that employers will be able to continue to require a drug-free workplace.

Proposition 65 Carryout Bags. Charges. Initiative. Statute.

Redirects money collected by grocery and certain other retail stores through mandated sale of carryout bags. Requires stores to deposit bag sale proceeds into a special fund to support specified environmental projects.

Proposition 66 Death Penalty. Procedures. Initiative. Statute.

Changes procedures governing state court challenges to death sentences. Designates superior court for initial petitions and limits successive petitions. Requires appointed attorneys who take noncapital appeals to accept death penalty appeals. Exempts prison officials from existing regulation process for developing execution methods.

Proposition 67 Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags. Referendum.

A "Yes" vote approves and a "No" vote rejects a statute that prohibits grocery and other stores from providing customers single-use plastic or paper carryout bags, but permits sale of recycled paper bags and reusable bags.

Source: California Chamber of Commerce, *Alert*

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Security Tips: How Anonymous Are You?

By Mindi McDowell

What information is collected?

When you visit a website, a certain amount of information is automatically sent to the site. This information may include the following:

- IP Address -**
 Each computer on the internet is assigned a specific, unique IP (internet protocol) address. Your computer may have a static IP address or a dynamic IP address. If you have a static IP address, it never changes. However, some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) own a block of addresses and

assign an open one each time you connect to the internet — this is a dynamic IP address. You can determine your computer's IP address at any given time by visiting

www.showmyip.com.

- Domain Name -**
 The internet is divided into domains, and every user's account is associated with one of those domains. You can identify the domain by looking at the end of URL; for example, .edu indicates an educational institution, .gov indicates a U.S. government agency, .org refers to organization and .com is for commercial use. Many countries also have specific domain



(SECURITY TIPS continued on page 14)



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names. The list of active domain names is available from the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA).

- **Software Details** - It may be possible for an organization to determine which browser, including the version, that you used to access its site. The organization may also be able to determine what operating system your computer is running.
- **Page Visits** - Information about which pages you visited, how long you stayed on a given page and whether you came to the site from a search engine is often available to the organization operating the website.

If a website uses cookies, the organization may be able to collect even more information, such as your browsing patterns, which include other sites you've visited. If the site you're visiting is malicious, files on your computer as well as passwords stored in the temporary memory may be at risk.

How is this information used?

Generally, organizations use the information that is gathered automatically for legitimate purposes, such as generating statistics about their sites. By analyzing the statistics, the organizations can better understand the popularity of the site and which areas of content are being accessed the most. They may be able to use this information to modify the site to better support the behavior of the people visiting it.

Another way to apply information gathered about users is marketing. If the site uses cookies to determine other sites or pages you have visited, it may use this information to advertise certain products. The products may be on the same site or may be offered by partner sites.

However, some sites may collect your information for malicious purposes. If attackers are able to access files, passwords or personal information on your computer, they may be able to use this data to their advantage. The attackers may be able to steal your identity, using and abusing your

(SECURITY TIPS continued on page 15)



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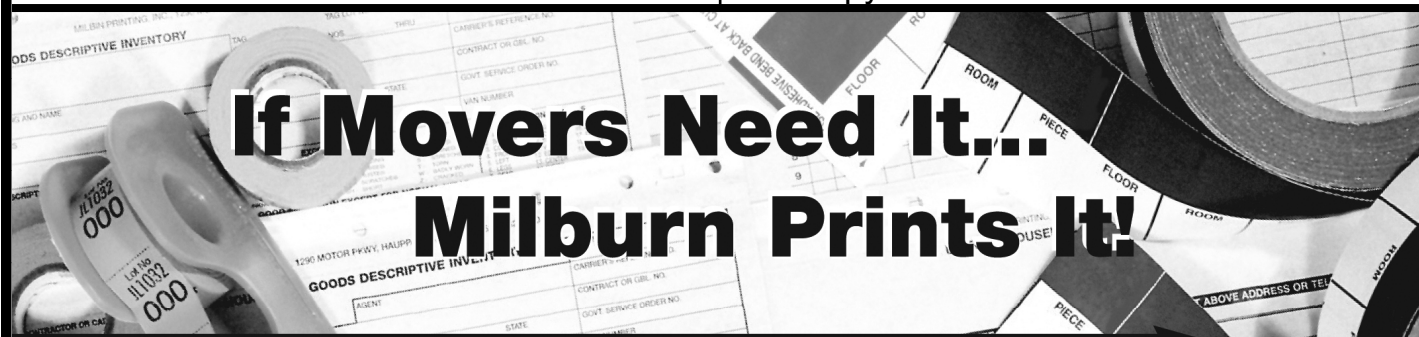
personal information for financial gain. A common practice is for attackers to use this type of information once or twice, then sell or trade it to other people. The attackers profit from the sale or trade, and increasing the number of transactions makes it more difficult to trace any activity back to them. The attackers may also alter the security settings on your computer so that they can access and use your computer for other malicious activity.

Are you exposing any other personal information?

While using cookies may be one method for gathering information, the easiest way for attackers to get access to personal information is to ask for it. By representing a malicious site as a legitimate one, attackers may be able to convince you to give them your address, credit card information, social security number or other personal data.

How can you limit the amount of information collected about you?

- **Be careful supplying personal information.** Unless you trust a site, don't give your address, password or credit card information. Look for indications that the site uses SSL to encrypt your information. Although some sites require you to supply your social security number (e.g., sites associated with financial transactions such as loans or credit cards), be especially wary of providing this information online.
- **Limit cookies.** If an attacker can access your computer, he or she may be able to find personal data stored in cookies. You may not realize the extent of the information stored on your computer until it is too late. However, you can limit the use of cookies.
- **Browse safely.** Be careful which websites you visit; if it seems suspicious, leave the site. Also make sure to take precautions by increasing your security settings, keeping your virus definitions up to date and scanning your computer for spyware.



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Economy Pushes Through Global Turbulence; State Still Among Fastest Growing in U.S.

By Dave Kilby

U.S. economic output has slowed to a crawl over the last three quarters — averaging less than a 1 percent pace of growth compared to 3 percent in the previous six quarters. Despite these disappointing results, prognosticators of the economy have, for the most part, not reduced their growth outlook for the nation by much. Most are still looking for rates in the 2 percent to 2.5 percent range.

The reason for the relative optimism is that the head winds which have slowed the U.S. economy in recent months have come largely from external sources — the global commodity glut, the slowing of the Chinese economy, political turmoil in the Middle East and Europe and wild gyrations in equity markets driven by fears over all these issues. These problems have stalled U.S. ex-

ports and industrial production, and led to a decline in business investment — in particular, a big runoff of business inventories.

In contrast, domestic demand has remained quite strong. Consumer spending added almost 3 percent to growth in the second quarter, more than enough to offset declines in business investment. Consumers are also increasing their spending for the right reason — they are earning more.

The U.S. labor markets continue to expand, adding 275,000 jobs per month in June and July after a weak spring. The construction, health care, professional services and hospitality sectors have all been growing at a faster-than-average rate.

Also helping is weak inflation driven by low commodity prices and low unemployment rates that have finally shifted the economic balance toward labor to some small

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degree. Median real wages for a full-time worker have grown 4 percent over the past two years, still modest but better than the previous eight years when real earnings didn't grow at all.

Positive Indicators

The housing market has shown stronger signs of life recently. Sales of new and existing homes, while still far below long-run sustainable levels, have hit post-Great Recession highs in recent months.

While tight credit remains a major impediment to full recovery, the improved financial situation of the average American household combined with ongoing low interest rates will lead to a

faster pace of construction in the second half of the year.

Poor Global Outlook

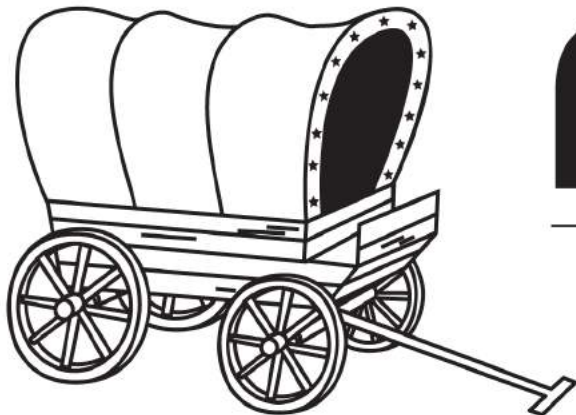
As positive as all these signs are, the United States is unlikely to return to an average pace of growth within the next year or more. While the nation has muscled through

the turbulence so far, the global outlook remains poor. The Chinese economy is still weak despite various policy measures put into place over the last year. Europe is growing again, but is dealing with issues surrounding deflation and the Brexit. And the

commodity glut — while good for American consumers — continues to hurt growth



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prospects for many developing economies. As such, the overall outlook for U.S. growth remains much as it did last year at this time.

The only major change in expectations is in regard to interest rates and Federal Reserve policy. Given the recent weak U.S. growth data and the decline in interest rates driven by nervous investors seeking safety in U.S. markets following the Brexit, there is a mounting realization that low interest rates are going to be with us for some time.

California Outlook

The California economy, like the nation overall, slowed its pace of growth over the past year. Still, the state remains one of the fastest growing economies in the nation.

Output growth also has been higher than the national average. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, California's gross state product (GSP) grew 3.1 percent from the first quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2016, compared to 2.1 percent in the nation overall. This is the fourth-straight year that California has out-

grown the United States as a whole.

Moreover, the gains in the state are not being driven by one industry or by one region. The tech sector is hot, but so too are the tourism, logistics, entertainment and more traditional professional services sectors. Better incomes are driving demand for local services — and the health care, retail and construction sectors have all seen large jumps. The expansion is also largely statewide, with many regions seeing high rates of job growth.

California's share of national employment recently returned to 12 percent, tied for the best ever with a record set back in 1990 before the onset of the early 1990s downturn. The state's share of personal income is also currently at a record high level. Overall, California has clearly been an economic success story in otherwise difficult times.

Hurdles

This isn't to say that the state's complex regulatory system and high-tax rates

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haven't been issues — California would likely be doing even better in the absence of those hurdles. But the state's other advantages in location, industry and climate have, so far, persevered.

Taking a closer look at the numbers indicates that, much like the United States overall, the slowing of job growth in California is related to trade and investment.

The state lost manufacturing jobs over the last year — after the previous year saw solid growth in these positions. Logistics, information and construction employment also

slowed sharply. Recent data on industrial production, and the rebound in equity prices, suggest the second half of the year will look much better.



Regional Impacts

Regionally, the slowing of business investment and the cooling of the tech sector has affected San Francisco and San Jose. Still, both locations hold some of the top spots for overall job

growth with year-over-year growth rates of 3 percent and higher.

Other rapidly growing economies were

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mainly in the central portions of the state — including Stockton, Fresno and the Inland Empire. Bakersfield and Ventura both saw increases in the pace of employment growth after a weak previous year.

Housing Situation

As good as the employment and income numbers have been (until recently), the Cal-Chamber Economic Advisory Council almost universally agrees that the state will likely lose some of its steam in the next two years.

The high pace of job growth has been fed mainly by a supply of excess labor — in other words, the high unemployment rate in the state. Job growth has outpaced labor force growth by a factor of two over the last four years. With labor markets reaching full employment, high job growth rates can be sustained only by bringing workers into the state from other places.

Unfortunately, California is unlikely to attract such workers given the rapidly growing cost of housing. Median home prices in the

state recently crossed the \$400,000 mark while in the red hot Bay Area, median prices can reach well over \$1 million (in San Francisco). Inventories are very tight, with most major economies having between two and three months' supply of homes on the market — on par with the peak of the housing market bubble.

But this is not like the last cycle because high demand has not been met with new supply. Single-family building permits are roughly one-quarter of what they were a decade ago.

The only bright part of new housing supply — multifamily units — is also below that pace. And the pushback against even modest development, particularly in the dense coastal regions, is heating up.

The problem is being widely discussed, but there is little consensus among political leaders as to how to deal with the mounting problem.

Source: California Chamber of Commerce, *Alert*



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