



# CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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## CALPEEK TAKING VACATION FROM JUNE 30 TO JULY 6. STAYING IN L.A.

*CALPEEK.COM NEEDS A BREAK TO DO SOME DONKEY WORK FOR THE NEWSLETTER. WE WILL BE UPDATING CALPEEK.COM'S DIRECTORY OF CONSULTANTS. HAVE NOT DONE THAT FOR SOME TIME...*

### BULLET TRAIN BLASTED BY KEVIN MCCARTHY. CAP & TRADE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO BUILD HIGH SPEED RAIL TRAIN TO SOMEWHERE

Editor's note: Your publisher, Dick Rosengarten, will be in the grave long before this multi-billion dollar high speed train is complete. The most recent headlines are from the L.A. Times by reporter Melanie Mason. It's a good story, but doesn't say too much other than new GOP House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield doesn't like the new funding of the high speed rail project and slammed Gov. Jerry Brown(D) and the Demo controlled State Legislature. Nothing unusual about that. Here's our commentary & analysis...

...The funding is from Calif.'s *Cap & Trade* program which will provide \$250 million dollars a year. These funds are collected fees on polluters. McCarthy added, "Brown's persistence shows he is more interested in protecting his legacy than communities that will be uprooted by intrusion. As long as I am in congress, I will do whatever I can to ensure that not one dollar in federal funds is directed to this project."...

...One of our sources sent *Calpeek.com* a short article on Cap & Trade as it relates to the High Speed Rail project. For all the implications that HSR is diverting General Fund tax dollars, the GOP is speaking out of both sides of their mouth. HSR was the dream of former Gov. Arnold – it was a top priority...

...There are three sources of funds which will keep flowing irrespective of McCarthy: First are federal funds which keep coming; second are voter bonds (which has to be repaid from the General Fund); and third are the cap & trade funds, which are likely to generate about \$5 billion dollars a year. Jerry Brown views the HST as necessary

for the state's future, but also as a massive public works project...

...Cap & trade fees are being litigated, but to date no court has held them invalid per se so long as they go to mitigate pollution...

...The GOP complaint on HRS comes from certain South Central Valley Republican interests. HDR is actually quite popular in the Central and North Central Valley, particularly among newspaper editorial boards. This is why State Sen. Anthony Cannella (R-Ceres) has been very silent on this issue...

...In terms of getting a trailer bill to do what Brown wants, SB 862, was signed last Friday. HSR would be a part of an integrated rail passenger service – not a train to nowhere. Stay tuned...

### CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: RECENT SHORT TAKES WORTH NOTING

Editor's note: Here are some items you might have missed or just didn't read...

#### ⌘ Will Water Bond Make It on November ballot? -

It's about a 50/50 crap shoot. For the past several days the key water committees in Sacramento have been meeting trying to hammer out a bond that will pass. It's not a sure bet that the legislature will get this key bond approved...

...The NO side to any bond of any size will be fought by an anti-tunnel group called Restore the Delta. This group plans to raise at least \$1 million dollars. All of the key bills before the Legislature include funds for replenishing the Delta's fragile ecosystem. The bills have also included water supply which is reliable...

*...Construction and installation of the twin tunnels will be paid for by the water contractors. That part of the story often gets left on the editing room floor...*

...The overall plan is called BDCP – Bay Delta Conservation Plan. A coalition is already up and running. A pitch letter has been delivered to various groups seeking endorsements and campaign contributions. The most recent

letter went out on June 16 and was signed by Gene Block, chancellor of UCLA; Kathleen Brown of Manatt Phelps; David Fleming, of counsel to Latham & Watkins; George Kieffer, Manatt Phelps; Robert K. Ross, president CEO of The Calif. Endowment; Gary Toebben, president & CEO L.A. Chamber; Steven Soboroff, partner of Soboroff Partners; to name a few....

...In the letter it says in part, "This plan is smart and an overdue investment for Calif. that will provide a needed update to our 50-year-old water system." On Tuesday, June 24, Gov. Brown announced he wants a smaller bond, not \$8-11 billion, but \$6 billion dollars...

⌘ **Mississippi Tea Party is Burning** – And for good reason: incumbent GOP U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran will be going back to the U.S. Senate for a 7<sup>th</sup> term, thanks in large part to a consolidated counter-attack by the national Republican establishment and a switch in tactics from tv to ground. Team Cochran went after voters who didn't cast ballots in the primary – Demos and Black Demos. In the end Cochran defeated Tea Party GOP State Sen. Chris McDaniel by a margin of 50.8% to 49.2%...

...McDaniel is a sorry loser because he won't concede. He thinks the Cochran supporters stole the election using Black voters. The guy's a buffoon...

...U.S. Sen. John McCain of AZ showed up to campaign for Cochran. His 2008 vp running mate, Sarah Palin, was campaigning for McDaniel. The last thing GOP senators wanted was another Ted Cruz. And that's what they would have gotten if Chris McSnotty had defeated Cochran...

...Is this a big loss for the Tea Party? Yes and it was so big because the MSNBC, CNN, Fox and CBS, NBC, ABC and FOX used the Mississippi primary runoff to build ratings. So what...

⌘ **Polls on Obama with Mixed Numbers** – The Field Poll first. Obama's job performance is 50% approve vs. 39% disapprove and 11% no opinion. By political party registration it's Demos 76% approve; GOPers 79% disapprove and NPP or others 47% approve vs. 34% disapprove. The Field Poll's sample was 1,382 registered voters and was released on June 24...

...The Field Poll also surveyed the U.S. Congress. Their numbers are still in the toilet. APPROVE 12% vs. DIS-APPROVE 75% and NO Opinion 13%.

...Most respondents feel Calif. is on the WRONG track with 52% vs. RIGHT track 34%...

...The other poll is **national** – NBC/WSJ. June 11-15

among 1,000 adults. This poll shows Obama's job performance at 41% vs. 37% approve. In this poll, 54% said that they don't believe Obama **is able to lead the country and get the job done**. Chuck Todd said the same thing when he appeared on MSNBC's Morning Joe show...

**CAMPAIGN 2014: BASHING NEO-CONS IS SERIOUS. THESE FOLKS WERE THE IRAQ WAR MONGERS**

Editor's note: Never thought I would hear FOX News anchor Megan Kelly totally bash the hell out of former VP Dick Cheney. Cheney had just finished blasting President Barack Obama, saying, "Rarely has a U.S. President been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many." Cheney has a way with words, but so does Megan Kelly. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...Here is Megan Kelly's response to the above: "Time and time again, history has proven that you got it wrong as well in Iraq, sir. You said there was no doubt Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. You said we would be greeted as liberators. You said the insurgency was in its last throws back in 2005. You said that after our intervention, extremists would have to rethink their strategy of jihad. Now with almost a trillion dollars spent there, with almost 4,500 American lives lost there, what do you say to those who say you were so wrong about so much at the expense of so many." Right on Megan...

...Although VP Dick Cheney was the chief architect and war monger during the two terms of Pres. George W. Bush, Cheney shouldn't shoulder the blame by himself. Also on the list of neo-con war mongers are Bill Kristol, Paul Wolfowitz, Paul Bremer, Condoleezza Rice. CIA Director George Tenet and NY Times reporter Judith Miller. Tenet should have known better...

...Why CNN, Fox and MSNBC continues to invite these inept people to spin their version of the events of 2003 is beyond my pay level. I give credit to CNN anchor Erin Burnett for trying to nail down Bremer about his role in disbanding many soldiers from Saddam's army, but he is very slippery. The most obnoxious of the neo-cons is Kristol. Carl Bernstein, also on CNN with Burnett, nailed Kristol with this comment: "Apologies would be in order at this point for the neo-conservatives who banged the war drum and so disastrously..."

...The only person who got the Iraq invasion correct was U.S. Sen. Joe Biden, who eventually became VP. When he was running for president in 2008, he said Iraq needed to be split into three states: the Sunni, the

Kurds. And here we are in 2014 and Biden's wisdom still holds. Stay tuned...

#### **CAMPAIGN 2014: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES**

Editor's note: Here's an update on local, legislative and statewide offices,,

❑ The newest turnout number is 25.1% as of June 25...

❑ The best story *Calpeek.com* has read about Eric Cantor's huge loss to Tea Party rival David Brat (56% to 44%) is from radio talk show host and author Bill Press. Lots of stuff in his one page essay titled **Political Earthquake Shakes Nation's Capital**. And a lot of stuff I didn't know. For example, Cantor was the only Jewish GOP member of House and raised \$5,026,626 – and he spent \$168,000 on lobbyists at fancy DC steakhouses. Cantor was on the air with commercials and his pollster John McLaughlin told Cantor he was up by 34 points. I wonder if Cantor will ask for a refund? He should...

...Brat won by 11 points. The pundits blamed immigration reform as one key reason why Cantor lost. But that's not the whole story. Cantor was the point man for the Tea Party and was supposed to protect Speaker John Boehner's *six (that's his rear end)*. The reason why Boehner couldn't deliver on anything was because of Cantor: minimum wage; climate change; student loans. And in Cantor's 7<sup>th</sup> CD in VA, immigration reform is 72% support vs. 23% oppose...

...No, I was glad he was defeated. Cantor was a conservative, but obviously not conservative enough for those Tea Party GOP members of the House....

❑ As of 6/25/2014 in the a.m., BOE member Betty Yee (D) is holding onto a 857 vote lead over Assemblyman John Perez. These two Demo controller rivals have been battling back and forth ever since the polls closed on June 3<sup>rd</sup>...

...Sacramento Co. is considered a bellwether county, meaning that if Sacramento goes for Yee, she wins all of Calif. In Sacramento as of 6/25/2014, Yee had 25.8% vs. 20.7% for Perez....

❑ Remember *Calpeek.com's* story last week about the two L.A. Co. Board of Supervisor's candidate vying for John Duran's endorsement? Duran came in third. Seems that former Santa Monica councilman and mayor Bobbie Shriver may have an edge over former State Sen. Sheila Kuehl. On June 6-8 at the Pride Parade in West Hollywood, Shriver was being escorted around and introduced by Duran to his friends at the parade. If Duran does in fact endorse Shriver, that's a big plus...

❑ Long Beach PD Chief Jim McDonnell has been endorsed by the L.A. Area Fire Chiefs Assn...

❑ Dana Point Mayor Lisa Bartlett(R) has been endorsed by former Secretary of Education Marian Bergeson. Bergeson was the first woman to serve in both houses of the Calif. Legislature. Stay tuned...

#### **CAMPAIGN 2014: U.S. HOUSE UPDATES**

Editor's note: Here are some items that appeared in print after the June 3<sup>rd</sup> primary...

☒ **31<sup>st</sup> CD Update** – When this story about a recount requested by 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher Lesli Gooch the GOP candidate was 209 votes short of overtaking Demo candidate Pete Aguilar who had 17.4% or 9,242 raw voters. As of 6/24(Tuesday) there is no change in the numbers. Demo sources think Aguilar will hold on, but if he doesn't a lot of fingers are going to be pointing at DCCC chair Steven Israel. As much I liked Demo candidate Eloise Gomez Reyes, Israel should have had a heart to heart talk with her and persuaded her to drop out. There was no chance that Joe Baca would leave the race. Too many Demos in the 31st CD. Had Gomez Reyes left the race sources believe Aguilar would have placed a solid second. **Calpeek.com** will keep you updated on this primary. Military vet Paul Chabot is the GOP candidate who finished with 26.6%...

☒ **52<sup>nd</sup> CD Update** – If there is a Demo candidate who might be vulnerable it's U.S. Rep. Scott Peters of San Diego. He faces GOP challenger Carl DeMaio who ran for mayor last year and lost to Bob Filner(D), who resigned in disgrace. There is a new poll by Survey U.S.A. It was conducted for the San Diego Union Tribune (and KGTV) between 6/11 and 6/12, 750 registered voters...

...It shows DeMaio leading Peters by a margin of 51% to 44%, with 6% undecided. DeMaio holds his GOP base with 82% and Peters holds the Demo base with 85%. DeMaio leads among independents by a margin of 57% to 37%, with 6% undecided...

...The question asked by Survey USA which caught my attention was #3: Carl DeMaio is openly gay. Does DeMaio's sexual orientation make you more likely or less likely to support him? Or does it make no difference either way???

...Among all respondents, 2% said they are more likely to vote for DiMaio, 10% said less likely, and no difference 88% ...

...The last time the Calif. GOP House delegation had a

gay member was a few years ago with U.S. Rep. David Dreier. He was not openly gay but DC insiders knew he was. Lots of news stories. Dreier was chair of the powerful House Rules Committee, so he had lots of respect from his fellow Republicans in the caucus...

...Calpeek.com did a Google search and there are about 29 real anti-gay/anti-lesbian GOP House members. The worst offenders are Paul Broun of GA and Steve King of IA. I wonder if these two and others will make life miserable if DeMaio wins the 52<sup>nd</sup> CD???

☒ The Western Growers issued this statement by Western Growers President and CEO Tom Nassif. "We are very pleased that Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield will represent our industry so well in the House Leadership." Taking McCarthy's place as GOP Whip is Steve Scalise of Louisiana. Scalise won a three-way race to replace McCarthy. Scalise is a Tea Party member...

☒ DCCC Raises \$7.3 million dollars in May. The DCCC's cash on hand is now \$45.9 million in the bank. The RCCC has cash on hand of \$32.3 million. House Republicans were late in releasing their May fundraising. There are 233 GOPer vs. 199 Demos and three vacancies...

☒ 17<sup>th</sup> CD Update – Former GOP Assemblyman Jim Cunneen has endorsed U.S. Rep. Mike Honda(D-San Jose) for reelection. Cunneen was Honda's opponent in 2000...

☒ 10<sup>th</sup> CD Update – On June 20<sup>th</sup>, President Obama announced the formation of a task force to investigate the declining honeybee crisis in the U.S. Demo candidate for the 10<sup>th</sup> CD is Michael Eggman and he is a commercial beekeeper and almond farmer. Eggman said, "Colony Collapse Disorder is a real ecological and economic threat. We cannot allow honeybee populations to disappear. Pollinators annually provide tens of billions of dollars toward the U.S. economy and if pollinator populations continue to decline at the current trend, it will decimate the agricultural industry." Stay tuned...

#### SHORT TAKES: NEW JOBS & OBITUARIES

Here are a few items you may have missed...

◆ A sad note: Paula Kent Meehan who in May purchased the Beverly Hills Courier weekly newspaper and was a well known philanthropist, died at her Beverly Hills home June 23 after battling lung infections for months. She was the co-founder Redken. She was a real beauty and appeared in a Hamm's beer tv ad in the early 60s. R.I.P...

◆ Calif. State Supreme Court Justice Marvin Baxter has announced he will retire from the high court in January.

Baxter has been on the Calif Supreme Court for 24 years. Baxter, 74, was appointed to the court by then-Gov. George Deukmejian and has served under three chief justices. Baxter is the court's most conservative member...

◆ Seleta Reynolds has been nominated as General Manager of the Dept. of Transportation. Reynolds currently works for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency...

◆ On the move: Reed & Davidson, LLP is moving to 515 S. Figueroa Street, Ste. 1110, L.A. 90071, Phone and fax remain the same (213)624-6200...

#### CAMPAIGN 2014: LIST OF CANDIDATES WHO WON PRIMARIES FOR CALIF. STATEWIDE OFFICE

**GOVERNOR** – Jerry Brown(D) vs. Neel Kashkari(R).

**LT. GOVERNOR** – Gavin Newsom(D) vs. Ron Nehring(R)...

**ATTORNEY GENERAL** - Kamala Harris(D) vs/ Ronald Gold(R)...

**STATE CONTROLLER** – Ashley Swearengin(R); John Perez(D); and Betty Yee(D)...

**TREASURER** – John Chiang(D) vs. Greg Conlon(R)...

**INSURANCE COMMISSIONER** – Dave Jones(D) vs. Ted Gaines(R)...

**SECRETARY OF STATE** – Alex Padilla(D) vs. Pete Peterson(R)...

**BOARD OF EQUAL #1** – Chris Parker(D) vs. George Runner(R).

**BOARD OF EQUAL #2** – Jack Theis(R) vs. Fiona Ma(D)...

**BOARD OF EQUAL #3** - Jerome Horton(D).

**BOARD OF EQUAL #4** – Diane Harkey(R) vs. Nader Shahtit(D)....

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION** – Tom Torlakson(Incum) vs/ Marshall Tuck...