



# THE NEWS

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By V.G. Harris



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## Stiffened Penalties for Theft



Prop 36, approved by California voters in November, includes heavier consequences for petty theft and shoplifting offenses. Photo courtesy of Pixabay

By Cayla Mihalovich, CalMatters.org

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Californians accused of certain drug and retail theft crimes may already be facing stiffer penalties under an initiative voters passed this year, alongside related bills Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law.

Voters this November overwhelmingly approved Proposition 36, which both modifies and adds key changes to California law.

That includes prosecutors being able to charge people convicted of various third-time drug offenses with a so-called treatment-mandated felony, which would direct them to substance use disorder or mental health treatment in lieu of up to three years in jail or prison.

Under the new law, courts are also obligated to warn people convicted

of selling or providing certain drugs, such as fentanyl, that they could face murder charges for later distributing illegal drugs that kill someone.

And heavier consequences may also extend to petty theft and shoplifting offenses, including the possibility of up to three years in jail or prison if a person has already been twice convicted for certain theft offenses.

Several district attorneys and police departments announced arrests this month that they planned to charge under the new law, including in San Francisco, Solano and Shasta counties.

The measure partially reversed a different initiative voters approved a decade ago, which reduced penalties for certain lower-level drug and petty theft offenses from felonies to misdemeanors. The initiative, Proposition 47, was intended to develop new

public safety strategies and reduce incarceration after the state's prison population exploded due to tough-on-crime policies dating back to the 1980s.

But prosecutors, law enforcement and large retailers who rallied in favor of Prop. 36 said those sentencing reforms went too far and created a revolving door for people to repeatedly commit crimes without being held accountable.

"It's a clear mandate from the public that we need to take a new approach on public safety issues, specifically hard drugs, retail theft and fentanyl," said Jeff Reising, Yolo County District Attorney.

Those who opposed the measure warned that it will worsen homelessness, drug use and crime by cutting funding for treatment programs and increasing court and prison costs in

*Continued on page 2*

## State Water Project Allocation Increases

California Department of Water Resources News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - On Dec. 23, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an update to the State Water Project allocation forecast for 2025. The allocation has increased to 15 percent of requested supplies, up from the initial allocation forecast of 5 percent announced in December. The State Water Project provides water to 29 public water agencies that serve 27-million Californians.

Strong storms in late November and early December have helped boost statewide precipitation to just above average for this time of year. Reservoir levels have also increased because of the storms. The initial allocation forecast announced on Dec. 2 had not accounted for these storms because the data was not yet available to water managers. Prior to the second half of November, the start of the water year had been dry and warm.

"The past several weeks has brought welcome rain and snow to Northern California and these improved conditions have allowed the State Water Project to increase the allocation forecast to the benefit of millions of Californians," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. "While we typically wait to provide an update until January, we felt it important to let our state water contractors know of the increase as soon as possible to allow them to better plan their water supply for the year ahead."

State water managers will continue to monitor precipitation and snow-pack conditions, as well as account for dry soils that might soak up some of the spring runoff following record heat this past summer. Additionally, Southern California remains very dry and has not benefited from the atmospheric rivers experienced so far this season.

"California is still in the early months of our wet season and as recent history has shown, conditions can change quickly," said Dr. Michael Anderson, state climatologist. "While Northern California has benefitted from early season storms, dry conditions in the new year can leave us with below average totals when warmer weather arrives."

*Continued on page 2*

## County Health Awarded Accreditation

Sacramento County Public Health News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County Public Health has officially earned national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), recognizing its commitment to high-quality public health services that improve the health and well-being of County residents.

"This achievement affirms our commitment to meeting the highest standards in public health," said Sacramento County Public Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye. "It demonstrates our division has the systems, processes and capacity in place to deliver essential public health services that directly benefit our community. It strengthens our ability to address health disparities, respond to emerging public health threats and ensure better health outcomes for all Sacramento County residents."



This accreditation validates Sacramento County Public Health's dedication to providing high-quality public health services and bolsters its ability to address emerging health challenges. Photo by Los Muertos Crew - Pexels

The accreditation process is a rigorous and voluntary review in which health departments must demonstrate that they meet or exceed national standards of public health service developed by the Public Health Accreditation Board, an organization supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. These standards are based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 10 Essential Public Health Services that guide public health practices across the country.

Sacramento County Public Health's accreditation required a comprehensive review of its systems,

policies and procedures, including the submission of over 200 documents and a two-day site visit. The county's accreditation efforts began in 2018, were put on hold during the pandemic and reinitiated in 2022.

"The value of becoming nationally accredited through PHAB extends far

*Continued on page 3*



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# CHP's Operation Holiday Watch Successful

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- In the final shopping days before Christmas, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) conducted a successful enforcement operation targeting organized retail crime, promoting safe shopping experiences for communities throughout California.

The collaborative state-wide retail theft crackdown on Friday, Dec. 20, resulted in 117 arrests, the recovery of more than \$38,000 in stolen merchandise, the seizure of two illegal firearms and the recovery of three stolen vehicles. Charges range from petty theft, grand theft, organized retail crime, felon in possession of a firearm and auto theft.

“Through proactive enforcement operations and strong partnerships with local

law enforcement and retailers, we were able to protect the state's businesses and consumers during one of the busiest times of the year,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “Our efforts send a clear message that retail theft in California will not be tolerated.”

Key operation results were 117 arrests made for organized retail theft and related offenses; recovery of 767 stolen items, valued at \$38,290.70, including clothing, shoes and fragrances; enhanced collaboration among 10 California law enforcement agencies and 56 retail partners to improve in-store security and reporting; and increased law enforcement visibility in high-traffic shopping areas, deterring additional crimes.

The daylong operation was conducted in collaboration with the Hemet Police Department, Los Angeles

Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Bakersfield Police Department, Woodland Police Department, Walnut Creek Police Department, Livermore Police Department and San Ramon Police Department.

As the holiday season winds down, the CHP will continue working with businesses and the community to prevent retail theft year-round. Anyone with information about organized retail theft operations is encouraged to contact the CHP at <https://www.chp.ca.gov/Notify-CHP/>.

Since the Organized Retail Crime Task Force's inception in 2019, the CHP has been involved in over 3,200 investigations, leading to the arrest of more than 3,500 suspects and the recovery of nearly 1.3 million stolen goods valued at \$51.3 million. ★

# State Water Project Allocation Increases



Above average precipitation and snowpack allow for an increase in planned water deliveries for 2025. Photo courtesy California Department of Water Resources

Continued from page 1

Each year, the Department of Water Resources provides State Water Project allocation forecasts based on available water storage, projected water supply and water demands. Allocations are updated monthly as snowpack,

rainfall and runoff information is assessed, with a final allocation typically determined in May or June. As the winter progresses, if California sees an increase in rain and snowfall, the allocation forecast might increase. The next update will likely come this month and will use information

from the season's first snow surveys.

The allocation forecast notice to state water contractors and historical data on State Water Project allocations are available online at [water.ca.gov/programs/state-water-project-management/swp-water-contractors](http://water.ca.gov/programs/state-water-project-management/swp-water-contractors). ★

# Stiffened Penalties for Theft

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the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Behavioral health experts across the state have voiced concern over the efficacy of a treatment-mandated felony, given that most California counties lack the resources needed to provide 'mass treatment' that has been promised by the measure's proponents.

"I believe that (proponents) have also received a mandate to embrace problem solving and supportive services for people who are struggling," said Cristine Soto DeBerry, executive director of the Prosecutors Alliance of California, a nonprofit organization that opposed

Prop. 36.

"I don't believe the mandate was (to) put more people in prison. It was not what people believed they were voting for. I hope that people with the discretion to enforce this law will think very carefully about the communities they serve and what they were asking for in this moment," she said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom tried to keep Prop. 36 off of the fall ballot and for a time considered putting a competing crime measure before voters. Instead, he signed a package of 10 bills in August that will make it easier to prosecute retail and vehicle theft. Those laws go into effect on

Jan. 1.

Although Gov. Newsom didn't put any money into fighting Prop. 36, he referred to the initiative as an "unfunded mandate" that will take California back to the war on drugs. Indeed, the measure included no new funding streams. But supporters like Reisig voiced optimism that funding opportunities already exist in the law, pointing to a \$6.4 billion from the mental health bond voters approved in March.

"I hope that lawmakers and the governor embrace the mandate and work collaboratively to make sure that we're successful in delivering the promise of Prop. 36," Reisig said. ★

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Cleaned Salted Rex Sole 340g REG. 6.99/EA <b>\$3.99/ea</b>	Fried Fish Cake 2.2 lbs REG. 6.99/EA <b>\$3.99/ea</b>
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## WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Rump/Bottom Round Roast - Bnls \$4.79/lb	Beef T-Bone Steak \$4.99/lb	Chicken Drumsticks 79¢/lb
Chicken Breast Tenders - IQF 2.5/lbs Bag \$8.99	Pork Loin Chops Bone In \$2.39/lb	Pork St. Louis Ribs - Single Pack \$3.99/lb

### WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

Chicken Drumsticks 89¢/lb	Australian Lamb Shoulders Chops-Bone In \$2.99/lb	Beef Rump/Bottom Round Roast \$4.79/lb
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## FRESH PRODUCE

Red Potato 79¢/lb	Red Beets 89¢/lb	Russet Potato 10 lbs \$2.99/bag	Orange 10 lbs bag \$5.99/bag
English Cucumber 99¢/ea	Baby Spinach 2.5 lbs \$5.99/bag	Honeycrisp Apple 2lbs for \$1	Seafood Mushroom 150g 79¢/ea

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## ASIAN GROCERY

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## HOUSEWARES

BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) REG. \$7.99 <b>\$5.99/ea</b>	ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL REG. 39.99 <b>39.99</b>	KAIZEN WOK PAN 20 CM REG. 14.99 <b>14.99</b>	WATERMELON SLICE KNIFE REG. 3.99 <b>3.99</b>
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## FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Swiss Roll Cake Milk Tea 200g REG. 5.99/EA <b>\$3.99/ea</b>	Columbus Pan Roasted Turkey REG. 12.99/LB <b>\$11.99/lb</b>	Kalamata Olives w/ Garlic & Pepper REG. \$6.39 <b>\$6.39/lb</b>	Green Olives Stuffed w/ Jalapeno REG. \$5.19 <b>\$5.19/lb</b>
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# Sac County Partners Protect Children

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - When the Child Abuse Prevention Center chose a new leader, it found someone with a deep understanding of its mission: someone who was in foster care mainly because her family was impoverished.

In November, Janay Eustace became president and chief executive officer of the Child Abuse Prevention Center, an organization that aims to reduce child abuse and neglect.

"It's an amazing opportunity to give back to my own community," Eustace said.

The Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Center, based in Sacramento, has grown since its founding in 1977 from a local resource into a multiple-agency organization that offers training, education and research locally and statewide.

A core initiative

that the Child Abuse Prevention Center oversees, with backing from the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) and First 5 Sacramento, are the Birth & Beyond Centers located within family resource centers to support those in need in nine neighborhoods.

Whether Child Protective Services (CPS) refers families or they decide to come in on their own, families can connect for free with Birth & Beyond services such as workshops on positive parenting, help with household utilities and safe sleep practices to prevent crib deaths. Parents can learn proper car seat use, join support groups, set up play times for their children and learn self-defense skills. Trained professionals can do home instruction to teach coping skills and offer other skill training. The family resource centers, some of which have playgrounds and activity

rooms, are located in communities.

One targeted campaign reduced infant deaths by addressing how to safely put infants to sleep, such as avoiding adult beds.

Birth & Beyond centers demonstrate Sacramento County's dedication and investment in prevention efforts and the effort is paying off. Working with parents for as little as eight hours can keep parents and their children out of Child Protective Services, the agency has reported.

In 2014, there were 2,073 children in foster care. By 2024, the number dropped to 1,188, a decrease of 57 percent, Eustace said.

Prevention is key, Eustace said. If her family had received help from a program such as Birth & Beyond because of the poverty that her mother faced, "things would have been different," Eustace said.

"We would have done better," Eustace said.

Eustace said that the

poverty overcoming her mother was how she ended up in foster care but her grandmother waded through a mountainous bureaucracy to make sure she was her foster parent.

"She did whatever she had to do," Eustace said.

Eustace was able to keep herself on track, volunteering as early as age 14 to help others and even partnering with Child Protective Services while in the system. Eustace grew to understand how she could help others avoid what broke up her family. She went on to college and earned a master's degree.

Eustace worked for Child Protective Services in Sacramento and then as the executive director of California Youth Connection, advocating for positive transformation to the foster care system. All of this prepared Eustace for her work at the Child Abuse Prevention Center, empowering communities to prevent families from experiencing foster care.

And on a personal



Janay Eustace became president and chief executive officer of the Child Abuse Prevention Center, an organization that aims to reduce child abuse and neglect. Photo by Anne Stokes

note, Eustace's mother also survived her circumstances to become what Eustace calls "an amazing grandmother."

For more information, visit the Child Abuse Prevention Center website

at [www.thecapcenter.org/](http://www.thecapcenter.org/). For more information about other resources, visit the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services website at [dcfas.saccounty.net](http://dcfas.saccounty.net). ★

# County Health Awarded Accreditation

*Continued from page 1*  
beyond the walls of the health department," said the Public Health Accreditation Board President and CEO Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN. "People living and working in communities served by these health departments can be assured that their health department is strong and has the capacity to protect and promote their health. Going through the accreditation process itself helps health departments pinpoint the areas that are critical to improving the work they do for their communities."

The Sacramento County Public Health accreditation team developed core accreditation components to meet the Public Health Accreditation Board's requirements, including:

Community Health Assessment (CHA): Completed in October 2023, this assessment identified

Sacramento County's key health priorities.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP): Built on the Community Health Assessment findings, this plan addresses the pressing health issues through community collaboration.

Strategic Plan: Sacramento County Public Health updated its mission, vision, values and identified strategic priorities to guide its public health efforts.

Workforce Development Plan: This plan ensures Sacramento County Public Health staff have the necessary skills and training to meet public health demands.

Quality Improvement Plan: Focuses on continuous improvement of Sacramento County Public Health's services to achieve better health outcomes.

Emergency Operations Plan: This plan facilitates preparedness for, response to and recovery from public

health emergencies.

Health and Racial Equity Action Plan: Published in June 2024, this plan shows Sacramento County Public Health's intentional approach to address factors that contribute to specific populations' higher health risks and poorer health outcomes, or health inequities.

Accreditation strengthens Sacramento County Public Health's capacity to secure funding, improve service delivery and drive innovation. The department will maintain its accreditation for the next five years, submitting annual reports and preparing for reaccreditation throughout.

This achievement signifies an investment in public health that will bolster the department's ability to respond to evolving community needs.

About Sacramento County Public Health  
Sacramento County


Public Health works to promote, protect and assure conditions for optimal health and public safety for residents and communities of Sacramento County through leadership, collaboration, prevention and response. Sacramento County Public Health is committed to reducing inequities in the community and within its organization by intentionally building trusted

relationships, improving communication, leaning into innovation and fostering inclusive and sustainable collaborations.

About the Public Health Accreditation Board

The Public Health Accreditation Board was created to serve as the national public health accrediting body and is jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Vital Records/Health Statistics accreditation is funded, in part, by the National Center for Health Statistics. The development of national public health department accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, state, local, Tribal and territorial levels. ★



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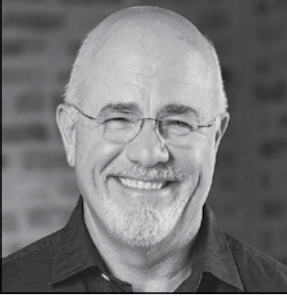
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# Dave Ramsey Says Your Goals Means Planning Your Goals

Dear Dave,  
Do you have any advice for sticking with your goals and New Year's resolutions? I always have great things in mind to shoot for in December, but then they always seem to fall by the wayside before spring.

like "lose weight" has no target attached to it. But "lose 20 pounds" has a clear finish line. You can also break your goal setting into bite-size chunks. Give yourself daily, weekly and monthly steps to take. Focus on those, and when you accomplish one, tackle the next.

Three, set a time limit. You need a finish line, so take your goal, create a plan and break it all the way down into daily activities. Then, give yourself a deadline. You might say, "I want to lose 25 pounds by December 31, 2025." To lose those 25 pounds by your deadline, figure out things like how many times you need to work out each week and how many calories to eat in a day.

Number four, make sure the goals are yours. Trying to achieve someone else's goals for your life never works. Why? Because working hard is hard work. You won't have the drive to stick with it if it's something you aren't not passionate about.

Finally, set your goals down in writing. Something special happens when you write down specific

goals. Seeing them plainly in front of you hammers it home in a way nothing else will. There's a reason God said, "Write the vision, and make it plain," in Habakkuk 2:2 (KJV). Get those goals down on paper, along with all the steps it'll take to make them happen.

And hey, don't beat yourself up if you get a little off track, Rae. Keep your chin up and your eyes on the prize. As long as you stay focused on the end goal and keep taking steps—even small ones in the right direction—you'll eventually turn those goals into reality!

— Dave  
*Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions.* ★

# Kings Korner By V.G. Harris



It's raining in Sactown and it's not a welcome rain. Fans, a derivate of fanatic, are having their true fervor tested.

Seen as a team with 50 wins plus potential, the Kings entered the 2024/2025 season by losing every game in the preseason. What was even more surprising to many fans was coach Brown's seemingly inability to assess the talent on his roster.

Brown's substitution patterns reminded me of a middle school team whose coach was bent on equal playing time for every player.

The preseason had no chance of finding anything resembling a rotation that made any semblance of sense. Every game saw different bench players with significant court time, leading to inconsistency and a style of substitution that can only be described as frenetic.

The only thing consistent in the preseason was the Kings losing, and regrettably this habit carried into the regular season, as the Kings dropped the first three games of the regular season. Sadly, this team with high expectations had yet to find anything resembling a consistent rotation of players coming off the bench. As a result, bench players found themselves with no court time whatsoever, absent from the court for multiple games in succession, or suddenly, inexplicably breaking into the starting lineup.

This became Mike Brown's brand of 2024/2025 basketball known as experimental substitution. Sadly, this continued for the first third of the season, and with an abysmal record of 13-18 Monte McNair and owner Vivek Ranadive decided to give coach Mike Brown the rest of the season off. Coach Brown's tenure was punctuated by an atrocious 5-game stretch that saw the Kings lose every game, culminating in a purely give-away game against the Detroit Pistons.

Pundits and fans will likely argue the merits of replacing a coach that is just 1 1/2 years removed from leading the Kings to their first playoff appearance in 16 years, albeit claiming the title of coach of the year in the process.

The truth is that too many players no longer knew their role, and players like Alex Len didn't know if they'd see significant playing time or spend three games on the bench with no court appearance whatsoever. The problem with this style of coaching is the reflection it invariably has on a player's

confidence, and a player without confidence is doomed to failure.

From this writer's perspective, the real issue this season has been a carryover from last year, and that is the inability to accurately assess the talent on this team as it is assembled today.

Case in point is the outright blunder in trading Davion Mitchel and Sasha Vezenkov, along with a 2nd round draft pick to the Toronto Raptors for Jalen McDaniels.

Mitchell wasn't just a Sacramento fan favorite; he was highly popular in the locker room and had a reputation for playing defense like a whirling dervish. Davion had too many intangibles to note, and his absence from this lineup has been sorely missed.

Davion has started several games for the Raptors this season, averaging 9.1 points, 6.3 assists, 2.8 rebounds, and 1.1 steals, while averaging 31 minutes per game. As for the player we traded for, Jalen McDaniels never even saw the regular season, being sent unceremoniously to the San Antonio Spurs before the 2024/2025 campaign ever started.

With the departure of Mike Brown, the Kings have entrusted our Sactown ballers to assistant coach Doug Christie. Coaching from the perspective of a former player will undoubtedly be different, and I'm sure every fan is wishing Doug much success in his new role.

First and foremost, I will be looking for the basics, and that is making sure every player clearly understands his role. Consistency in who replaces Domantas Sabonis every game when he takes a break, and a tighter handle on depth of the bench. It wasn't uncommon for Brown to go as far as 12 deep, and that simply has to change. I see Kevin Huerter, Alex Len, Keon Ellis, and Trey Lyles as the go-to guys off the bench and the rotation needs to have consistency. Time for experiments to stop, and confidence building to begin.

Whatever you do, don't quit on this team Kings fans. 2025 is a new year full of new beginnings.

Happy New Year and all the best Kings fans!  
*Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.* ★

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# Social Security Matters

## Can my Wife Claim Her SS Now and Get Half my SS Benefit Later?



**By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor**

**Dear Rusty:** My wife will reach her full Social Security benefit at 66.5 years of age which is just under 2 years away for her now. If she were to begin to get her monthly check now (i.e. early), would that prevent her from being eligible for the spousal benefit to receive half of what I am currently drawing? **Signed: Curious Husband**

**Dear Curious:** If your wife claims her own SS retirement benefit now (e.g., at 64.5 years), and you are already collecting your own SS benefit, then she will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit immediately when she claims her own benefit (she does not have the option to defer claiming her spousal benefit until later). This is a change made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which requires all those first claiming

SS to file for ALL benefits they are eligible for when they claim. What that would mean is that your wife's benefit now, including her spousal boost from you, would be actuarially reduced by the number of months early she claimed. Her own SS retirement benefit would be permanently reduced by about 15%, and her "spousal boost" (the additional amount she would get as your spouse) would be reduced by about 19%, yielding a combined benefit which is roughly 42% of your full retirement age (FRA) SS benefit.

The only way your wife can get half (50%) of your FRA benefit entitlement is by waiting until her own full retirement age (66 years and 10 months) to claim. Note too that your wife's spousal benefit will be based on your FRA entitlement, so if you claimed earlier or later than your own full retirement age, her spousal benefit will still be based on your FRA entitlement.

Also, your wife should be aware that anyone who claims early is subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much can be earned while collecting early benefits. Thus, if your wife is working, she will be restricted on how much

she can earn before Social Security takes away some of her benefits. FYI, the earnings limit changes annually, but for 2025 it is \$23,420 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit. And, FYI, the earnings limit goes up a lot during the year FRA is attained, and the earnings test no longer applies once full retirement age is reached.

I hope this answers your question, but if you have need additional information, please feel free to contact us directly at [SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org), or call us at 1.888.750.2622.

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# Tax Loopholes Cost California and its Cities \$107 Billion but Get Little Scrutiny



**By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org**

Among the hundreds of bills introduced in every session of the California Legislature, a few deal with what state officials term "tax expenditures," which requires some explanation.

The term refers to provisions in personal and corporate income taxes and sales taxes that exempt specific financial transactions from levies that otherwise would be applied. They have exactly the same fiscal effect as direct appropriations in the budget, which is why they are dubbed "expenditures."

While many loopholes reflect a broad public and political consensus that they serve positive purposes — such as making prescriptions drugs and most grocery store foods tax-free — others provide subsidies to special interests with political clout.

My personal favorite among the latter was enacted about 35 years ago at the behest of Silicon Valley interests. It exempted custom computer programs from sales taxes, generally benefiting corporations willing to pay millions of dollars for such software, while continuing to tax off-the-shelf programs such as Quicken or TurboTax purchased by ordinary consumers.

It's certainly not California's largest tax loophole, costing state and local

governments \$119 million a year in lost revenue, but it exemplifies the narrow focus of many exemptions.

The software loophole estimate comes from an annual report issued by the state Department of Finance that gets scant public, media and political attention even though, as this year's version confirms, the accumulated effect on state and local government revenues is \$107 billion, counting only exemptions of \$5 million or more.

"The result: California's \$204 billion of estimated General Fund revenues (excluding transfers) in 2024-25 would be roughly 45% greater if there were no personal income, sales and use, or corporate income tax expenditures in state law," Jason Sisney, a fiscal consultant for the Legislature, says in an analysis of the data.

Over time, the number and size of tax expenditures has tended to increase because they often enjoy political support from their beneficiaries, while there's little or no pressure on governors or legislators to reduce or eliminate those with little or no rational basis, such as the custom software exemption.

The legislation creating it was carried by a Silicon Valley legislator, now deceased, known for his lamentations about the state's parsimonious attitudes toward vital education, health and social services.

What happened a couple of decades ago in the state Board of Equalization, which was then the collector of sales taxes, is another illustration. State law taxes hot prepared foods, such as those served in restaurants, or offered by delis, but exempts cold prepared foods — for reasons

lost in antiquity.

The owner of a theater chain asked the board to exempt popcorn from the hot food tax, arguing that while it may be warm when purchased, it's cold by the time theater patrons return to their seats. The board granted the exemption.

The new report lists the income tax exemptions for employer-provided medical care and pension contributions, totaling \$29 billion in reduced revenues, as California's two largest tax expenditures. Other personal income tax biggies are exemption of some Social Security benefits (\$5.5 billion) and capital gains on inherited properties (\$5 billion).

The largest corporate income tax provision, valued at \$3.1 billion, limits taxation on the revenues of multinational corporations, an issue that has kicked around the Capitol for at least 50 years with several iterations.

Among the newer items on the list are income and sales tax credits for motion picture and video production (\$213 million) and a sales tax exemption for menstrual products (\$28 million) and children's diapers (\$81 million).

Each year, the governor and the Legislature spend months negotiating thousands of items in the state budget. With \$107 billion at stake, perhaps they should spend some of that time reviewing off-budget tax expenditures.

*Dan Walters is one of most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★*

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Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
FAIR 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08842 A.C.O.N. Inc, 10100 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Suite I, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Eastern Gardens Cooperative" 3045 Eastern Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 21, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
GARDENS 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08508 Dung Huynh Quoc Nguyen and Trang Thi Huyen Nguyen, 24988 Blue Ravine Road, #100B, Folsom, CA 95630 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "BeBe Nails" 24988 Blue Ravine Road, #100B, Folsom, CA 95630. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 12, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
NAILS 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08401 Anastasia Duda, 4059 Innovator Drive, Unit 7102, Sacramento, CA 95834 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "DA Beauty Club" 4059 Innovator Drive, Unit 7102, Sacramento, CA 95834. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 6, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
BEAUTY 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08957 Gurmeet Singh, 7409 Twin Acre Way, Sacramento, CA 95829 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "G.S.S. Trucking" 7409 Twin Acre Way, Sacramento, CA 95829. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 26, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
TRUCKING 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08763 Albert Chang and Sasha Ren, 2108 N Street, Suite N, Sacramento, CA 95816 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Bluezone Aviation" 2108 N Street, Suite N, Sacramento, CA 95816. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 19, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
BLUEZONE 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08856 Jessica Sapno, 12084 Agen Circle, S, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Treats by Jess" 12084 Agen Circle, S, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 21, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
TREATS 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08827 Melissa Lynn Maddern, 106 Austin Drive, Folsom, CA 95630 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Peaceful Melissa Yoga" 106 Austin Drive, Folsom, CA 95630. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 21, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
PEACEFUL 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08860 Olivia Beauty LLC, 443 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Flywheel Group/Olivia Supply" 7509 Madison Avenue, #101, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 21, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
FLYWHEEL 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08584 Jazmin Gonzalez Andres, 6047 Main Avenue, #32, Orangevale, CA 95662 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Jazz Custom Cleaning" 6047 Main Avenue, #32, Orangevale, CA 95662. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 13, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
JAZZ 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08885 Sabir Yousafzai, 7949 Carraway Drive, Antelope, CA 95843 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Aria Tax and Accounting Services" 2100 Watt Avenue, Suite #160, Sacramento, CA 95825. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 22, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
ARIA 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08930 Jaime Palmer, 400 Bannon Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "DUNIQUE Graphic Designs" 6020 Rutland Drive, B4 59, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 25, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
DUNIQUE 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09051 Tammy Schmitt, 5004 Meadow Pass Way, Antelope, CA 95843 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Lilac Massage Therapy" 5004 Meadow Pass Way, Antelope, CA 95843. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 3, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
LILAC 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08740 Vitali Klimov, 6424 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Rio Linda, CA 95678 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Vitcomm Tech" 7046 34<sup>th</sup> Street, North Highlands, CA 95660. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 19, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
VITCOMM 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09047 Aliya Alizai, 5027 El Camino Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Alizai Cloths & Tailor" 5027 El Camino Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 3, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
ALIZAI 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09002 Consuelo Jaime, 378 Morrison Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95838 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Best One Handyman" 378 Morrison Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95838. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 27, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
HANDYMAN 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08419 Brisenos Master Gardens Inc., 2739 Xavier Street, E. Palo Alto, CA, 94303 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Brisenos Master Gardens" 2739 Xavier Street, E. Palo Alto, CA, 94303. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 6, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
BRISENOS 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08357 ES Cal II LLC, 9350 S Dixie Highway, Suite 950, Miami, FL 33156 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Bergamo Montessori School" 8110 Pocket Road, Sacramento, CA 95831. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 5, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
SCHOOL 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09130 Inspiring Beginnings Childcare Center LLC, 899 Maple Grove Way, Sacramento, CA 95834 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Inspiring Beginnings Childcare Center" 924 San Juan Road, Sacramento, CA 95834. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 5, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
INSPIRING 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08981 Consulting Cafe LLC, 1401 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "SmartFile" 1401 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 27, 2024  
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025  
SMARTFILE 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08288 Bell Time Global, LLC, 2004 Robert Way, Sacramento, CA 95825 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Sourced Botanicals" 4370 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite H, Sacramento, CA 95822. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 1, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
BOTANICALS 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09230 RKP Investments CHCVW LLC, 9819 Cranleigh Drive, Granite Bay, CA 95746 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Citrus Heights Car Wash" 7742 Auburn Boulevard, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 10, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
CITRUS 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09092 Innovating My Insurance Inc. 525 Cantera Court, Roseville, CA 95747 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "My Innova Insurance Services" 7777 Greenback Lane, #106, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 5, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
INNOVA 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09135 Haqui LLC, 2108 N Street, Suite N, Sacramento, CA 95816 is do-

ing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Tiny Terras/ Haqui" 2108 N Street, Suite N, Sacramento, CA 95816. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 5, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
TINY 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09303 Sean Shokouh, 6858 Mariposa Avenue, Citrus heights, CA 95610 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "JDMPalace/JDMP Motors/JDMP Management" 6858 Mariposa Avenue, Citrus heights, CA 95610. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 12, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
JDMP 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09306 Grace O. Jackson 6220 Sampson Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95824 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Fashionez By Gracious" 6220 Sampson Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95824. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 12, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
GRACIOUS 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09169 Cesar Julian Montoya Segura, 2114 Pinetree Court, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Phoenix Films And Photos" 2114 Pinetree Court, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 6, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
PHOENIX 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09172 William Bixler, 5051 Hillard Street, Sacramento, CA 95822 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Sacramento Geotechnical Testing Services" 5051 Hillard Street, Sacramento, CA 95822. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 6, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
GEOTECH 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09141 Luis Medrano, 8724 El Verano Avenue, Elverta, CA 95626 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Medrano's Hauling" 8724 El Verano Avenue, Elverta, CA 95626. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 6, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
MEDRANOS 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09295 CarePoint Healthcare, Inc. 5006 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite 101, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "CarePoint Healthcare" 5006 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite 101, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 12, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
CAREPOINT 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09062 Alvarez Legacy Ventures Inc., 10736 Gembuck Lodge, San Antonio, TX 78245 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "The Crazy Blaze" 10360 Rockingham Drive, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 4, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
BLAZE 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09203 Resham Singh Uppal, 3700 Catalan Sea Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95834 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "RS Uppal Trucking," 3700 Catalan Sea Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95834. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 9, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
UPPAL 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08426 Hollie Morris, 2715 D Street, #4, Sacramento, CA 95816 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Midnight Sun Lashes" 3010 Freeport Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 6, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
MIDNIGHT 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08988 Its Just a Poke LLC, 3400 Cottage Way, Suite G2 #27095, Sacramento, CA 95825 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Its Just a Poke Sacramento" 2031 K Street, Unit B, Sacramento, CA 95811. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 27, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
POKE 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09070 Felicia Williamsoney, 9905 Diamonte Way, Sacramento, CA 95829 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Culinary101Supplies.com" 9905 Diamonte Way, Sacramento, CA 95829. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 4, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
CULINARY 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08956

Karena Brown, 5420 Kohler Road, #41055, Sacramento, CA 95841 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Because Soaps/Because Bath and Body" 4771 Clothier Way, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 26, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
BECAUSE 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09129 Golden Republic Inc, 1007 Taber Street, West Sacramento, CA 95605 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Golden Republic Realty" 3810 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95817. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 5, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
GOLDEN 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08690 Kepha Health Care, 1401 21<sup>st</sup> Street, #10142, Sacramento, CA 95811 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Unique Virtual Care" 1401 21<sup>st</sup> Street, #10142, Sacramento, CA 95811. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 18, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
UNIQUE 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08867 King's Casino Management Corp., 7727 Herschel Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Stones Gambling Hall/The Tavern at Stones Gambling Hall/The Saloon at Stones Gambling Hall/ Sammy's Restaurant + Bar/ Sammy's Restaurant + Bar/ Pin High" 6510 Antelope Road, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 21, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
STONES 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08833 Mehta & Mehta Medical Consultants Inc, 1320 Cornerstone Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 96762 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "PrimeLifeMD/Prime Lyfe MD" 5170 Golden Foothill Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 21, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
PRIMELYFE 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08967 HRBVR Inc., 2532 Landwood Way, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Cap City Pools" 2532 Landwood Way, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 27, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
CAP 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09242 Heinbo Three Corporation, 7016 Canevalley Circle, Citrus Heights, Ca 95621 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "H3 Landscaping" 7016 Canevalley Circle, Citrus Heights, Ca 95621. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 10, 2024  
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025  
H3 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09263 Viktor Dimitrov, 2412 Cathay Way, Sacramento, CA 95864 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Apex Construc Co" 2412 Cathay Way, Sacramento, CA 95864. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 11, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
APEX 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09402 Capitol Driving School LLC, 5045 College Oak Drive, Suite B, Sacramento, CA 95841 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Capitol Driving School" 5045 College Oak Drive, Suite B, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 17, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
CAPITOL 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09401 Reflective Empowerment, 7317 Walnut Road, Fair Oaks, CA, 95628 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Conduits For Change" 7317 Walnut Road, Fair Oaks, CA, 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 17, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
CONDUITS 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09245 Prisca A. Mutayabarwa, 6437 Brando Loop, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Neema Bright Star" 6437 Brando Loop, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 10, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
NEEMA 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08431 Tia J King, 9140 Blue Point Lane, #3, Sacramento, CA 95826 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Elite 82 Hair Studios" 1440 Ethan Way, Suite 14, Sacramento, CA 95825. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November

6, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
ELITE 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09318 Heravi's LLC, 5522 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95841 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Caviz Auto Parts/Cariz Auto" 5522 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 13, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
CAVIZ 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08673 Michael LeVangie, 11334 Sutters Fort Way, Gold River, CA 95670 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Antaeus Law" 2021 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95811. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 15, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
ANTAEUS 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08924 Yuliya Dereviaga, 6516 Mauana Way, Citrus Heights, 95610 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Quantum Aesthetics/Quant Aesthetics" 7840 Madison Avenue, Suite 130, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 16, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
QUANTUM 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08924 T Street, LLC, 6254 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95823 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "City Creek Assisted Living" 6254 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95823. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 25, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
CITY 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09389 Roohullah Qadiry, 2904 Marconi Avenue, Apt 04, Sacramento, CA 95821 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Thrive Protection Services" 2904 Marconi Avenue, Apt 04, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 17, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
THRIVE 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09027 Wendi Weston, 9335 Defiance Circle, Sacramento, CA 95827 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Wander with Wendi" 9335 Defiance Circle, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 2, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
WANDER 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09094 Pavo Real Loco LLC, 4713 Good Court, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Pavo Real Loco" 2223 Marie Way, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 5, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
PAVO 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08899 Elevated Home Services LLC, 1636 I Street, Rio Linda, CA 95673 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Elevated Home Services" 1636 I Street, Rio Linda, CA 95673. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 22, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
ELEVATED 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09433 Anthony Ibrahim, 12293 Paleo Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Laundromat Solutions" 12293 Paleo Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 18, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
LAUNDROMAT 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08471 Sarah R Blackledge, 50 Iron Point Circle, Suite 140, Folsom, CA 95630 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Josephine Estelle Jewelry" 50 Iron Point Circle, Suite 140, Folsom, CA 95630. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 7, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
JOSEPHINE 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09476 Jill Mason, 2529 Sierra Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95825 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Slate Creatives" 2529 Sierra Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95825. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 19, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
SLATE 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09481 Pearl Investment Co. LLC, 931 Hartz Way, #200, Danville, CA 94526 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Wind Chase Apartments" 9745 Old Placerville Road, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 19, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
WIND 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09482 High Roads Pavement Services, 10308 Placer Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "A-1 Advantage Asphalt & Concrete" 10308 Placer Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 19, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
A-1 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09351 Wolfe Heights Estates, LLC, 8801 Folsom Boulevard, #260, Sacramento, CA 95826 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Alfonz Cellars" 9351 Rogers Road, Sacramento, CA 95829. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 16, 2024  
Publish: Dec 27, Jan 3, 10, 17, 2025  
ALFONZ 1-17-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09508 Abdul Wahid, 1961 Howe Avenue, #5, Sacramento, CA 95825 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "National Union Security Services" 1961 Howe Avenue, #5, Sacramento, CA 95825. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 20, 2024  
Publish: January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025  
NATIONAL 1-24-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09334 Jim P Armenta, 1949 Kilchoan Way, San Jose, CA 95122 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Elegant Home Realty" 6137 Watt Avenue, #1, North Highlands, CA 95660. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 13, 2024  
Publish: January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025  
ELEGANT 1-24-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09417 KC Bio Investments Inc, 64 Pineacre Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Niles Biological" 9296 Elder Creek Road, Sacramento, CA 95829. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 17, 2024  
Publish: January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025  
NILES 1-24-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09513 DPSK Inc, 6431 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95831 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Elk Grove Shell/ Greenhaven Shell/Campus Shell"







# Slater Completes Consensus All-American Campaign



Hornet senior Jackson Slater (No. 76) was named to the AFCA FCS All-America team, it was announced on Dec. 20. Photo by Sacramento State Athletics

## Sacramento State Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento State offensive lineman Jackson Slater became the first Hornet to be a consensus first team All-American as he was named to the AFCA FCS All-America team, it was

announced on Dec. 20. The honor follows Slater being named to the first team of the Associated Press, Stats Perform and FCS Central.

A four-year starter, Slater entered the lineup in the fourth week of the 2021 season and did not leave the group for the next 44 games. During his

time with the team, Sacramento State won a pair of Big Sky Conference titles and made three NCAA FCS Playoff appearances.

The Bellevue, Wash., native became just the fifth player in school history, and the first offensive lineman, to earn three first team all-Big Sky honors.

Later this winter, he will take part in the East-West Shrine Bowl in Arlington, Texas.

Slater joins running back Charles Roberts (1998), wide receiver DeAndre Carter (2014), linebacker Darnell Sankey (2015), tight end Marshel Martin (2022), safety Marte Mapu (2022) and running

back Cameron Skattebo (2022) as the only Sacramento State players to be recognized as an All-America by the AP, Stats Perform (formerly the Sports Network) and the AFCA in the same season. However, Slater is the first to be named to the first team by each organization in the same season. ★

# Brennan Marion Named Hornet Football Coach



On Dec. 20, Brennan Marion was announced as the 13th head football coach in Sac State history. Photo by Sacramento State Athletics

## Sacramento State Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento State Director of Athletics Mark Orr announced on Dec. 20 that Brennan Marion has been appointed as the 13th head football coach in school history.

One of the top offensive coordinators in the country, Marion comes to the Hornets after spending the last two seasons at UNLV. Under his watch, the Rebels had great success, posting a 19-8 overall record and qualifying for a pair of bowl games. This season, UNLV ranked 14th in the FBS with a school-record setting average of 36.2 points per game. The team's average of 251.2 rushing yards per game would also be the most for the school in over 45 years. For his efforts, Marion was named one of five finalists for the Football Scoop Offensive Coordinator of the Year.

"I'm truly honored by the heartfelt welcome from President Luke Wood and Director of Athletics Mark Orr to be the program's next head football coach," Marion said. "Sacramento State is fully invested in becoming a nationally known football program, and I've always relished the opportunity to build and create. My family and I can't wait to serve the student-athletes of this program and the Sacramento community. As a university, we're going to write history and work tirelessly to build something that the community will be proud of for generations to come."

In UNLV's "Go-Go" offense, five UNLV offensive players earned either first or second team all-Mountain West this fall. That includes wide receiver Ricky White III, who became the first player in school history to post two 1,000-yard seasons, and Hajj-Malik Williams, who became just the second Rebel quarterback since 1996 to be named either first or second team all-league.

"I'm thrilled to announce Brennan Marion as our next head football coach,"

Mark Orr said. "Coach Marion is the perfect fit for our football program, our department, our university and our community. His demonstrated success in recruiting promising student-athletes and maximizing their talents will help us return our football program to winning conference championships. I'm confident Coach Marion possesses the dynamic ability to cultivate impactful relationships with internal and external constituents surrounding Hornet football. He will lead the student-athletes in our program to reach and surpass their aspirations of achievement both on and off the field."

Following the 2023 season, Marion earned the Mountain West Wire Coordinator of the Year honor and was a nominee for the prestigious Broyles Award in just his first season at UNLV. During the season, the team scored 40+ points in a school-record six games and had 24 points in a school-record 10 straight games. The Rebels finished sixth in the FBS in third-down conversions (49.3 percent), tied for eighth in red-zone offense (93.1 percent) and 22nd in scoring (34.4 ppg).

UNLV was the Mountain West regular season co-champion and boasted a first team All-American in wide receiver Ricky White III, a Mountain West Freshman of the Year in quarterback Jayden Maiava and a rookie who led the nation among all freshmen in rushing touchdowns with 12 in Jai'Den Thomas as part of a school-record 39 overall rushing scores.

Marion coached 2021 Biletnikoff Award winner Jordan Addison at Pittsburgh. The nation's top wideout

was a consensus first team All-American after setting a school single-season record with 100 catches for 1,593 yards and an FBS-leading 17 touchdowns. He would become a first round NFL Draft pick by the Minnesota Vikings.

UNLV was Marion's second stop in the Mountain West as he served as wide receivers coach at Hawaii in 2020. On the islands, he oversaw the development of all-Mountain West receiver Calvin Turner who was named the New Mexico Bowl Most Outstanding Offensive Player after compiling 252 all-purpose yards and scoring two touchdowns in the Rainbow Warriors' 28-14 win over Houston.

In 2019, Marion was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at William & Mary, where he dramatically improved the Tribe's production in every major statistical category. William & Mary nearly doubled its scoring average while its total offensive output increased by almost 100 yards per contest.

Marion's first NCAA Div. I coaching opportunity came at Howard, where he posted two exceptional seasons (2017-18) as the Bisons' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. In 2017, quarterback Caylin Newton was named the MEAC Rookie of the Year after becoming the first freshman in conference history to surpass 3,000 yards of total offense (3,185). Marion's offense sparked Howard to a 7-4 record in 2017, including a memorable 43-40 win over UNLV — the largest upset in college football history.

Marion also coached the running backs at Oklahoma Baptist in 2016 and spent the 2015 season as an offensive quality control assistant at Arizona State.

A 2009 graduate of Tulsa, Marion was a record-setting receiver for the Golden Hurricane. In two seasons at Tulsa (2007-08), he compiled 2,356 yards on 82 receptions with 19 touchdowns. He was a two-time all-Conference-USA selection and the 2007 C-USA Newcomer of the Year. Marion set NCAA records for yards per catch in both a season (31.9 in 2007) and a career (28.7).

Prior to Tulsa, he was a standout at De Anza junior college. In 2006, he led California's junior colleges with 1,196 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns on 60 receptions. Following his collegiate playing career, Marion signed free agent contracts with the NFL's Miami Dolphins, as well as the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes.

A native of Greensburg, Pa., Marion was a four-year letterman in three different sports (football, basketball and track) at Greensburg Salem HS. Marion has three children, Mariah, Brennan and Melrose. ★

# UC Davis Football Players Named All-Americans

## UC Davis Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - With the 2024 season in the review mirror, UC Davis football's postseason accolades continue to roll in as Walter Payton Finalist senior running back Lan Larison along with Buck Buchanan Award finalist redshirt junior David Meyer and junior Rex Connors were all named American Football Coaches Association FCS Coaches All-Americans.

The nod makes Larison a six-time All-American (named twice a first team All-American by the Associated Press) and Connors a five-time All-American this season having earned nods from Stats Perform, FCS Football Central, the Associated Press and Phil Steele. While not to be undone, the award means Meyer is now a four-time All-American earned recognition by Stats Perform, FCS Football Central and Phil Steele.

Larison (running back) was named to the first team while Connors (defensive back) and Meyer (linebacker) earned second team nods.

The Aggie running back led the nation in all-purpose yards finishing with 2,387 all-purpose yards. His 847 receiving yards and 62 receptions led all running backs in the country and he finished third in the nation with 1,465 rushing yards. Larison also found the endzone 23 times, second-most in the country, crossing the goal line 17 times on the ground (sixth in the nation) and six times through the air (first among running backs) in the nation.

During the season the preseason All-American earned multiple Big Sky and national player of the week awards, he was named first team All-Big Sky Conference and this marks the second-straight season Larison has earned post-season All-American honors.

In only 11 games played, the first team All-Big Sky conference honoree made his presence felt on each snap racking up an impressive 115 total tackles, setting a program record with 74 solo tackles in the season. Connors added six pass break ups, snagging a pair of interceptions and he had at least 11 tackles in six games and had a team-high 16 total tackles in the Aggies NCAA Division I Championship Quarterfinal game at No. 4 South Dakota.

He finished seventh in the nation in total tackles per game (10.5) and led the nation in solo tackles per game, averaging 6.7 over 11 games. And three times during the season, the Aggie defensive back and first time All-American had at least 10 solo tackles in a game, including back-to-back games of 11 solo tackles (vs. Idaho) and 10 solo tackles at Portland State.

The team leader in tackles with 122, Meyer made the trip up from Cal Poly via graduate transfer and his impact was felt immediately among the Aggie linebacking corps. His 122 total tackles ranks him second all-time in program history, and he comes only the fourth Aggie in history to reach the century mark in total tackles during a single season.

Meyer originally set the solo tackles record, setting the record and holding it for one game after getting his 64th solo tackle of the season against No. 12 Illinois State in the second round of the NCAA Division I Championships. But he was passed, by just one solo tackle, by teammate Rex Connors who wrestled the record away from his teammate in the Aggies quarterfinal match up at No. 4 South Dakota.

He finished 11th in the nation in solo tackles per game (6.7) and his 8.7 tackles per game ranked him 30th among the nation's best. The Aggie linebacker was named first team All-Big Sky Conference, earned a pair of Big Sky defensive player of the week honors and a national defensive player of the week nod following his performance against Northern Colorado. ★



# Average California Farm Loses \$19,734 per Year to Natural Hazards

Trace One News Release

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (MPG)** - High grocery prices have been a defining economic story in recent years, driven by a combination of factors including pandemic-related supply chain breakdowns and labor shortages. However, an increasingly critical driver of food price inflation has been the impact of natural disasters—such as droughts, floods, and hurricanes—on the nation’s agricultural output.

In Florida, a devastating combination of hurricanes and disease has sharply reduced orange harvests over the past several years, leading to soaring costs for citrus. Prolonged droughts in critical agricultural regions like the Midwest and California have curtailed the supply of grains, contributing to higher prices. In Texas, episodes of extreme heat have stressed livestock, decreasing productivity and raising costs for dairy and meat products.

The increased frequency of natural hazards has created a challenging environment for farmers. However, the effects of climate- and weather-related disasters are not uniform, varying greatly depending on location. To pinpoint where these events are having the greatest impact on farmers and the nation’s food supply, researchers at Trace One—a company specializing in regulatory compliance for the food and beverage industry—conducted an in-depth analysis of the latest data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Here’s what they found.

## Annual Agriculture Loss Due to Natural Hazards

Drought is the most common cause of economic loss in the agriculture industry.

According to estimates from FEMA, natural hazards cause an average of \$3.4 billion in agricultural losses annually, with drought being the single largest contributor. Drought alone accounts for more than half of these losses, averaging \$1.8 billion per year. The financial impact of drought underscores its threat to farmers, particularly in regions reliant on water-intensive crops.

Other significant contributors to agricultural losses include hurricanes, which cause \$471 million in annual losses, along with flooding (\$424 million) and cold waves (\$278 million). Events such as hailstorms, strong winds, and heat waves collectively add hundreds of millions in losses to the yearly toll. While less frequent,



Drought is the most common cause of economic loss in the agriculture industry. Image by Siggy Nowak from Pixabay

disasters like tornadoes, wildfires, and winter weather also contribute economic strain in certain regions.

## Expected Annual Losses by Region

California farms are facing the largest losses due to natural hazards.

Natural disasters impacting agriculture vary significantly across U.S. regions due to differing climates and geographic vulnerabilities. Drought is a persistent challenge on the West Coast, particularly in California, as well as the Southwest and parts of the Southern Plains, where water scarcity hampers crop yields and livestock production. Hurricanes have the most severe impact in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, where states like Florida and North Carolina frequently experience storm surges and high winds that devastate crops and infrastructure. Riverine flooding is most problematic in the Mississippi River Basin and its extensive tributary networks, as well as in the Pacific Northwest. Cold waves are most prominent in the Midwest and Mountain West, where freezing temperatures can damage crops and livestock operations.

Taken together, California leads the nation in agricultural losses due to natural hazards, with farms in the state incurring an estimated \$1.2 billion in losses annually. This figure dwarfs losses in other states, with drought being the most significant hazard affecting California’s vast agricultural sector. On a per-farm basis, California reports an average loss of \$19,734—the highest of any

state—reflecting its reliance on high-value crops such as fruits, nuts, and vegetables, which are particularly vulnerable to water shortages.

By comparison, Texas, which ranks second, faces an expected annual loss of \$199 million, with droughts again being the primary driver. Iowa, North Carolina, and Florida round out the top five, each suffering from a combination of droughts and hurricanes, though with lower total and per-farm losses than California.

At the county level, California continues to dominate the rankings, with Santa Barbara County reporting the largest expected losses at \$238 million annually. Drought is the principal hazard here, impacting high-value crops like strawberries, vegetables, and wine grapes. Other California counties, such as Yolo, Napa, Sutter and Colusa, also rank highly, with annual losses ranging from \$68 million to \$112 million. These counties experience some of the highest loss rates per farm, with those in Santa Barbara County and Yolo County losing an estimated \$175,120 and \$140,459 each year, respectively.

## Here is a summary of the data for California:

Total expected annual loss: \$1,245,887,089  
 Expected annual loss per farm: \$19,734  
 Expected annual loss rate: 2.19%  
 Total farms: 63,134  
 Total agriculture value: \$56,797,402,704  
 Worst natural hazard for agriculture: Drought

For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:

Total expected annual loss: \$3,380,082,197  
 Expected annual loss per farm: \$1,779  
 Expected annual loss rate: 0.69%  
 Total farms: 1,900,487  
 Total agriculture value: \$488,704,132,158  
 Worst natural hazard for agriculture: Drought

## Methodology

The data used in this study is from FEMA’s National Risk Index and the USDA’s Census of Agriculture. To identify locations where natural hazards have the greatest impact on the nation’s food supply, researchers at Trace One analyzed and ranked locations based on their average annual economic loss (expected annual loss) in 2024 dollars within the agricultural sector. This metric accounts for damages caused by natural hazards such as cold waves, hail, heat waves, hurricanes, riverine flooding, strong winds, tornadoes, wildfires, and winter weather events, using data collected since 1996. In the event of a tie, locations with greater expected annual losses per farm were ranked higher. The analysis also incorporated the expected annual loss rate, calculated as the expected annual loss divided by the total annual value of the agricultural sector for each location. Additionally, researchers identified the worst natural hazard for agriculture in each location, which is the hazard contributing the largest share of the expected annual loss. ★

# A California Child Tested Positive for Bird Flu



A flock of geese takes off on a flooded-out field at the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge on Nov. 1, 2023. A strain of bird flu circulating in California has infected thousands of cattle and several dozen people. Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

By Kristen Hwang, CALMatters.org

An Alameda County child with mild upper respiratory symptoms tested positive for bird flu, state public health officials announced on Nov. 19. The potential infection is the first known case in California that does not appear to have originated from contact with infected cattle.

State health officials are waiting for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to confirm the test result, as of press time.

Public health investigators suspect the infection may have originated from wild birds, which are the main carriers of bird flu, according to a statement from the California Department of Public Health. The agency did not disclose information describing the child’s interactions with wildlife.

The child displayed mild respiratory symptoms and tested positive for multiple viruses, according to Austin Wingate, a spokesperson for the Alameda County health department.

Doctors did not initially suspect bird flu. Officials detected

it through routine influenza subtyping, Wingate said. Family members tested negative for bird flu, but they had other viruses.

Officials are working to notify and test close contacts of the child, which include individuals at a daycare the child attended.

“We want to reinforce for parents, caregivers and families that based on the information and data we have, we don’t think the child was infectious – and no human-to-human spread of bird flu has been documented in any country for more than 15 years,” said state Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás Aragón.

Aragón emphasized the risk to the general public remains low. People can become infected through close contact with infected animals, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Dairy and poultry workers and people who work with wildlife face the greatest risk of contracting the virus.

Some infectious disease experts are concerned about what this case could signal about the wider bird flu outbreak sweeping the country, which started in 2022.

“We’re seeing the numbers go up, the number of infected farms, the number of farm workers, we now have this child. All of these signs to me suggest that things are going in the wrong direction, not the right direction,” said Sam Scarpino, an epidemiologist with Northeastern University in Boston who is not involved in the California disease investigation.

## Cases spreading in Central Valley dairies

The case comes as California grapples with the country’s largest bird flu outbreak among cattle and farmworkers. There are 26 confirmed human cases of bird flu primarily in the Central Valley where the virus has swept through 335 herds, according to state health and agriculture officials. Workers in the dairy industry have contracted the virus through close contact with infected cows.

The state health department has distributed more than 3 million pieces of personal protective equipment to farmworkers. It has also secured 5,000 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine for farmworkers from the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention.

The federal government has a small stockpile of bird flu vaccines, but they have not been distributed. Instead, health officials encourage people to get vaccinated for influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus to help prevent co-infections like the child had.

“We want to make sure in general that we promote people getting up to date on vaccines and protecting themselves from seasonal illness, from seasonal flu,” said Dr. Erica Pan, the state’s top epidemiologist, in a previous interview with CalMatters.

Scarpino said California has done a good job of testing farmworkers compared to other states where sick cattle have infected humans, contributing to its relatively high number of confirmed cases, but surveillance efforts across the board need to be increased.

As seasonal flu rates increase, it will become harder for public health laboratories to detect rare viruses, such as H5N1, the bird flu, Scarpino said.

## Bird Flu Present in California Sewage

The bird flu virus has appeared in 17 wastewater systems in California, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Positive detections appear primarily in Northern California, including in Alameda, San Francisco, Sonoma, Contra Costa and Sacramento. Wastewater surveillance cannot determine the source of the virus, but infections among wild waterfowl can contribute to its presence.

Maurice Pitesky, a researcher at UC Davis who studies bird flu in waterfowl, said it’s rare for the virus to jump from birds to humans but it has happened before. The virus is endemic among wild birds, Pitesky said, and has also been detected in other mammals in California, including bobcats, skunks and mountain lions.

“As the virus further evolves within a mammalian host — whether it’s dairy cows or felines or all the species that it has affected — it will continue to adapt,” Pitesky said. “As it adapts more and more, it has more potential to cause even more problems.” ★