

Thinking Ahead

by Earl P. Holt III

As surely as night follows day, California's state government is going to reach a point where it can no longer honor its financial commitments. Legerdemain and the Biden Administration have bought it time with other peoples' money, but the end-game is inevitable. States cannot legally declare bankruptcy, but certain **BLUE** states are more than capable of achieving insolvency, and California is well on its way thanks to the most incompetently run state government in the nation.

California is currently warning residents of impending "*brown-outs*" this *Memorial Day Weekend* of 2022, because California anticipates a shortfall of **1.5 Giga-Watts** during its current warm spell. For decades, the state has enacted many mindless and destructive laws that compel state agencies and citizens to adopt or convert to "**green**" or **soft energy sources**: these have proved wholly inadequate to meet the electricity demands of a large and populous state, which must now "*import*" 25% of its electricity from other states, giving it the most expensive electricity rates in the nation.



Wind-Powered Vehicle

The California state legislature recently passed a new state **Minimum Wage** of \$22 per hour (with cost-of-living increases) beginning in 2023 for all restaurant chains in the state with more than 1000 locations. This will force many marginally-profitable franchises to go out of business, impacting both jobs and state tax revenues. The bill will also give economists another opportunity to demonstrate that raising a minimum wage by fiat merely "**disemploys**" large numbers of people who don't contribute enough value to justify the new wage.

In 2020, California enacted **Assembly Bill 5** requiring "*common carriers*" to hire only full-time drivers rather than contract drivers to haul their rigs. It also mandated that all must convert at least 11% of their fleets to electric vehicles by January 1st of 2021. As a result, an estimated 100,000 small trucking firms either closed-up shop or moved out of state by the end of 2021. That's why there was such an enormous backlog of containers and container ships at the ports of Los Angeles and San Diego in the fall of 2021.

All this insanity follows the early 1990s, when California's state government prohibited county fire departments from cutting what are referred to as "**fire-breaks**," which thwart the spread of wildfires across a *clear-cut* area. Although originally enacted to protect the *Kangaroo Rat*, since then the state has been plagued by increasingly large and seemingly endless wildfires. These have caused untold damage in terms of life, property, flora and fauna, including the Kangaroo Rat, itself.

Everyone with a brain predicted these laws would be catastrophic, but the dilettantes and morons in state government -- who fancy themselves to be "*environmentalists*" -- refused to listen. California has routinely welcomed illegal aliens, but driven away employers, taxpayers, and freedom-loving residents who refuse to live under a socialistic state government. As a result, the state of California is headed for disaster, and the state's abominable mismanagement is its primary cause.



California State Assembly

When California eventually becomes insolvent, the federal government should refuse to provide assistance without some profound and essential concessions from the state to help facilitate reform. First, should be the **RESIGNATION OF EVERY STATEWIDE, ELECTED OFFICIAL**. These are the idiots responsible for much of the state's mismanagement, and there's no point in bailing it out while the same crooks and imbeciles remain in office. They should also be barred from running for public office again as an additional precondition for federal assistance.

While waiting for the election of new statewide officeholders, the Treasury Department should appoint capable and honest private citizens to collect its revenues, pay its bills and veto its more ridiculous spending initiatives. Doubtless, California annually transfers billions of dollars to its supporters in the form of state contracts, all of which have contributed to its financial woes. These should be eliminated with the stroke of a veto pen, another precondition for federal assistance. (see list: "[All California State Agencies.](#)")

Another concession should require California's cities and counties to renounce their role of providing "*sanctuary*" for illegal aliens, many of whom are criminals. A large population of illegal aliens helps contribute to California's financial woes, and legal taxpayers should not be obligated to support them. Any failure to abide by this or any other precondition should mean an end to federal assistance in all its forms.

This has been a long time in coming, and it took a lot of incompetence, corruption and mindlessness to achieve. California should not obtain relief from its current predicament without some draconian concessions.



CA Joint Committee on the Environment