

# California: Tarnished Gold

by Earl P. Holt III

For decades following World War II, California attracted many Americans searching for a better life. It was a destination with boundless employment opportunities, an excellent state university system, an extremely varied geography, space in abundance, and seemingly endless sunlight, beaches and ocean vistas. Americans flocked to its blessings, and it grew dramatically: between 1960 and 2010, it experienced population growth of almost 150 percent.

Now, the "*Golden State*" has lost its luster, along with its impressive population growth. For the last 20 years, more people have fled California than migrated there. Since 1990, California has lost almost four million residents through net, out-migration. This exodus has primarily benefitted southern states like Texas, and some of its immediate neighbors like Nevada and Arizona. Even states that are nearly as poorly run as California have benefitted, such as Oregon, Colorado and Washington. Joining the exodus, Elon Musk, will have moved all of his companies out of California and relocated them in Texas by the end of next year.

**It doesn't take an economist to recognize the cause of California's exodus: it is the most poorly-run state in America, and appears determined to commit suicide. What used to be the "*Golden State*" is now *The Land of Fruits & Nuts*. It is a one-party state dominated by Marxist "*Democrats*," most of whom are bigger fools and incompetents than "*Mad King*" Ludwig II of Bavaria. Its *General Assembly* resembles the bar scene from the film *Star Wars*, and its legislators reside in an echo-chamber where facts, evidence, logic and reason play no role. Most statewide elected officials seem to view their office as an opportunity to impose their Marxist ideology on everyone else.**



***California State Assembly, in Session***

For example, California appears hell-bent on transferring wealth to blacks who have never been slaves, using funds provided primarily by white people who never *owned* slaves. A ***California Reparations Task Force*** was appointed in 2020 by California's reptilian Governor, Gavin Newsome, who endorsed this insane idea out of sheer cowardice. Apparently, no one on the *Task Force* had enough brains to multiply 2.2 million black beneficiaries by the \$360,000 amount proposed per nigra, a total of \$792 Billion or more than 20 percent of the retail value of California's entire economy in 2023.

**In addition to undeserving blacks who will receive a windfall, the real beneficiaries of reparations to blacks for "*slavery*" will be illegal arms dealers, liquor store owners, the Mexican drug cartels, extremely high-end auto dealers, and expensive jewelry stores. Every spook in California is going to do what they always do when they get "*n\*gger-rich*": they'll squander their newfound wealth on expensive "*bling*" to show off to all the other doltish and envious nigras with low IQs.**

Similarly, San Francisco and Los Angeles have the largest populations of **homeless** people in the known universe. Only a couple of years ago

during the COVID scamdemic, the City of San Francisco paid that city's most luxurious hotels to house its homeless loons and drug-addicts, and then indulged these "*guests*" with room service, alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana and even heroin "*for those who wish to keep using.*" After spending \$100 Million, city officials were astonished to find growing numbers of filthy vagrants arriving from parts unknown and demanding to know where their hotel room was?

In the film *Dirty Harry*, the slimy Mayor of San Francisco arrogantly proclaimed that "*San Francisco does not pay criminals not to commit crimes.*" Then, of course, for the duration of the movie he attempted to do exactly that. Recently, in an example of life imitating art, California cities like Fresno and Richmond have actually adopted this mindless "*crime-fighting measure,*" an arrangement that San Francisco officials are reportedly giving serious consideration. California's imbecilic politicians cannot understand that it will never work to pay blacks not to commit crimes, because crime is too deeply imbedded in their DNA.

The "*environmentalist lobby*" dictates California's **environmental legislation**, often to the profound detriment of the state's population. Its policies are usually adopted to appease extremists, most of whom wouldn't know a B.T.U. from their butts. Thus, 34 percent of the state's electrical needs are supplied by so-called "*green energy*" -- such as wind, solar and hydroelectric power -- instead of more reliable sources like nuclear energy or fossil-fuels. *Green energy* is not a viable alternative to nuclear or fossil fuels, but California's elected officials have committed its residents to a fateful reliance on it into the foreseeable future.

Hence, California often experiences "*rolling blackouts*" during periods of extended hot weather. Its residents also endure the most expensive electricity rates in the nation, because California must import additional electric power from other states through endless miles of transmission lines. As a result, its electricity rates are about two-thirds higher than the national average. California's reliance on *green energy* sources is

largely responsible for its outrageously expensive electricity rates, and the profound shortages of power causing those “rolling blackouts.”



***California Joint Committee on the Environment***

Moreover, for three decades, California has experienced destructive wildfires that were nearly impossible to contain and burned thousands of homes and hundreds of millions of trees. These disasters are a direct consequence of misguided "**environmental legislation**" by California state officials. Prior to 1990, county fire departments throughout California routinely cut and maintained what are called "**FIRE-BREAKS**" every few miles through heavily forested areas, usually below high-tension power lines. These were a safeguard to help contain forest fires and discourage their spread across each *break*. However, in 1992 "*environmentalists*" convinced insipid state legislators that firebreaks interfered with the Kangaroo Rat's natural habitat. Subsequent regulations and legislation barred county fire authorities from cutting any more fire-breaks.

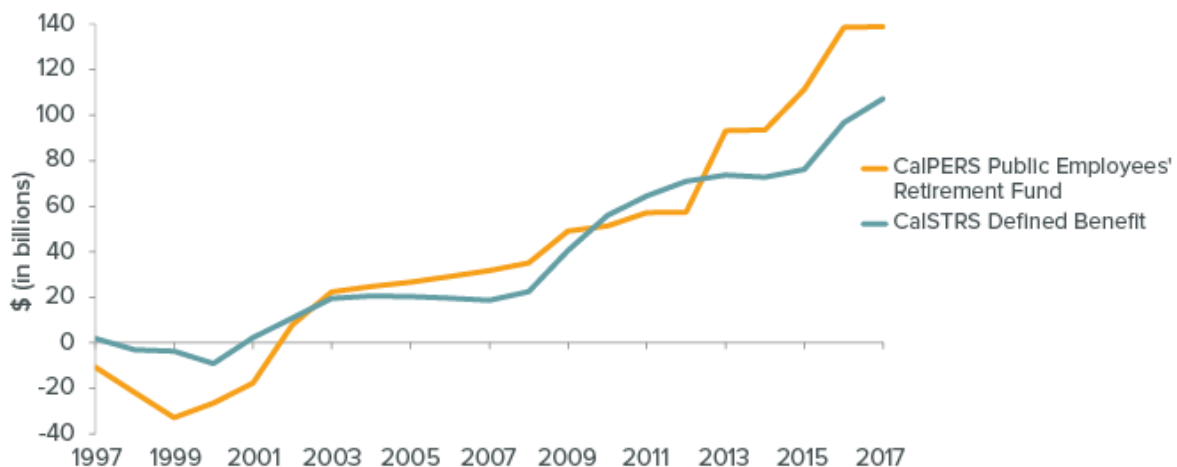
Then in 2016, California foolishly enacted additional laws (Title 14, **California Code of Regulations**,) that prevented anyone from removing dead trees from forested areas on their property. By ending fire-breaks and enacting this law, they created a **statewide tinderbox**. The disastrous fires that have since plagued California are the handiwork of wacko environmentalists and their enablers in Sacramento. The latter have protected neither man, nor property, nor beast, nor woodlands, and they have helped destroy over 200 million trees and much of the wildlife that inhabited those areas, including the *Kangaroo Rat* itself.

Further incompetence among California's elected officials was exposed by the **supply-disruption** of container ships in Long Beach and L.A. Ports in 2020. Effective January 1st of 2020, as a legislative gift to the *Teamsters Union*, small, independent, and family-owned trucking companies were prohibited under **Assembly Bill 5** from using independent contractors to drive their rigs. The law also required **ALL** trucking companies in California to hire **EXCLUSIVELY full-time employees** as drivers. In addition, **AB 5** required an 11% **fleet conversion** to electric vehicles by January 1st of 2020. In less than one year, it created a shortage of eligible rigs in California, because 100,000 independent and family-owned companies closed or moved out-of-state rather than be compelled to unionize and purchase electric trucks.

This gift to the labor unions from California officials created a profound supply disruption across the nation. Container ships were NOT sitting idle and clogging those ports because their owners were cavalier about unloading their cargos: thanks to **AB 5** they were sitting idle because there were no longer enough eligible drivers and rigs to haul away their merchandise. Rather than acknowledge the idiots in state government as the cause, cowardly Port Authorities merely passed on the blame for this debacle to the shipping companies by fining them thousands of dollars per day. That's why many of those cargo vessels have abandoned L.A. and Long Beach for ports in better managed locales.



California is the *national poster-child* for **fiscal irresponsibility** because it has alarmingly mismanaged the state's finances using legerdemain and smoke and mirrors. It has spent something like \$22 Billion in the last decade attempting to end homelessness, only to see their numbers increase. The **California State Employees Retirement System** (CalPERS) has "*underfunded*" liabilities in amounts close to \$140 Billion, while its state teachers pension fund (CalSTRS) is underfunded by about \$107 Billion. To finance its annual budget deficits, California has borrowed hundreds of billions from CalPERS and CalSTRS. Then, as California's tax base fled to seek refuge in better managed states with lower taxes, California's response has been to impose yet **higher tax rates** on those unfortunate or foolish enough to remain.



Some of the most **restrictive gun laws** in America are also found in California, especially in Los Angeles and San Francisco. After effectively disarming their own residents, at the beginning of the COVID-19 scamdemic many of these city and state officials didn't hesitate to release many violent and dangerous criminals from state prisons and county jails. This exposed their greater concern for the wellbeing of violent felons than for law-abiding citizens, who were often harmed and

sometimes murdered by dangerous criminals their elected officials released from jail under the pretense of "*justice reform.*"

In sum, certain California cities pay criminals not to commit crimes, others warehouse lunatics and drug-addicts in luxury hotels, and the state's law-abiding citizens have largely been disarmed with strict gun-control measures. Many cities and counties have de-funded their police, *sprung* dangerous felons from incarceration, and "*de-criminalized*" theft of less than \$1,000. Meanwhile, the state is at the mercy of radical environmentalists and state officials who interpret their oath of office as spending like 12 year-olds with no financial constraints.

Anyone with a brain could have predicted these laws and policies would be catastrophic, but the dilettantes and morons in California's state government refused to listen. California has welcomed illegal aliens, but driven away employers, taxpayers, and freedom-loving residents who refuse to live under a socialistic state government. As a result, California is headed for disaster, and the state's gross mismanagement is its primary cause. **Is it any wonder why there's a profound shortage of U-Haul, Penske or Ryder rental trucks in California?**

