

A little-known tale of the new green economy: Photovoltaic installers vs. the electrical workers. Also, AB 32 — does it remain in force or will it get stopped at the ballot box? Plus, Craig Lewis on renewable energy and John Garner on the farmers' smart use of water.

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Erika Kelton on the critical role of tax whistleblowers and Chuck Pattillo on the cost-efficiency and quality of the Prison Industry Authority.

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The Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes looks at the fiscal operations of redevelopment agencies, and comes up with problems — including \$1.3 billion in discrepancies.

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The private sector pays better than the government? Hard to believe, given the Great Recession and cuts in the public workforce, but that's the finding of a new story.

Corps values



Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado poses with members of the California Conservation Corps at his inauguration on Monday.

GOP majority marks new lineup on State Lands Commission

T-Ridge off the table — for now — but other issues loom

JOHN HOWARD | CAPITOL WEEKLY

Water Commission could be a conundrum for Guv

Senate has little incentive to confirm Schwarzenegger's nominees

MALCOLM MACLACHLAN | CAPITOL WEEKLY

When Paul Rodriguez announced last week, prematurely, that he had been appointed to the California Water Commission, he may have inadvertently tipped off environmentalist and Senate Democrats to get ready for battle.

The Commission has been inactive for years, but it is poised to become a major player again if voters approve an \$11.1 billion water bond in November. The governor gets to appoint all nine slots to the Commission, which would suddenly be in control of \$3 billion of that money.

But those appointments would need to be approved by the Senate. While Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's press office confirmed that he was talking to potential nominees, they would likely face a tough road. If Democrat Jerry Brown maintains or expands his slight lead in the polls over likely Republican nominee Meg Whitman in the race for governor, Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, would appear to have little incentive to confirm anyone Schwarzenegger appoints.

"That presumes that we have some strong incentive at the moment," said Nathan Barankin, Steinberg's communications director, when asked about this scenario. "Traditionally in the last year of a governor's time in office, we're very cautious about appointments."