Lawmakers Question Effectiveness of Cap-And-Trade Program

By Madlen G Gregorian
From California Black Media (CBM)—California’s cap-and-trade program is under scrutiny from state lawmakers who are concerned revenue collected from the program isn’t finding its way to disadvantaged communities.

The program, signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006 as part of California’s landmark environmental bill AB 32, is supposed to help lower harmful greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in California to 1990 levels by the year 2020.

Assemblyman Adam Gray (D-Merced), who sought a state audit of cap-and-trade in 2014, says he wants to evaluate the efficiency of the program.

“Until we get some real clear answers on what metrics we’re using in advance of spending money, and if it’s going to be effective, it’s going to be hard to persuade a lot of folks in our region and other parts of the California legislature to continue to just keep on blindly hand over pots of money,” said Gray.

Supporters of the initiative forecasted the law would benefit California by combatting harmful greenhouse gases, while creating jobs and generating revenue for some of the state’s poorest communities. Under cap-and-trade, the state sets limits on emission levels, then holds quarterly auctions for high-end polluters who are free to buy and sell GHG allowances on the open market.

The first auction took place in November 2012 where CARB raised $290 million.

That same year, lawmakers introduced legislation requiring 25 percent of funds collected from cap-and-trade be allocated to infrastructure projects within disadvantaged communities, with at least 10 percent being spent within those communities.

Senator President Pro Temp Kevin De Leon, who introduced the legislation, says the bill wasn’t perfect, but wants to ensure climate change dollars will go to the most polluted communities.

Please see Trade, page 6

Over 500 Attends the Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation’s 4th Annual Mobile Retail and Food Truck Expo

By Gloria Zuurveen
L O S A N G E L E S — It was hot on Saturday, August 13 but it wasn’t too hot for more than 500 people who showed up early at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College campus for the 4th Annual Mobile Retail and Food Truck Expo given by a collaborative partnership between Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation (VSEDC), City of Los Angeles Business Source South Los Angeles Region and Kareem Cart Commissary and MFG. Co.

The event began with a tribute to honor the legacy and the work of Marva Smith Battle-Bey, the founder of Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation. Ms. Battle-Bey, a nationally recognized expert in the field of economic development was a visionary leader and committed individual who made economic development and access to capital for the most underserved her life’s work. Leaving a legacy and organization that only she could have built, Marva’s spirit was on display through dedicated and committed staff who continues to build on the foundation laid by Ms. Smith Battle-Bey.

The event also featured 105 food trucks and retail vendors with a mix of old and new.

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Hello Reader,

We are still here and for that we should be so grateful. I know that I am. How much of the election news have you had enough of? It is brainwashing people and many don’t even realize that they are being manipulated and control by your viewing habits. Here we have in our country statistics on just about everything yet, it is amazing that after all these long, long years of post Jim Crowism we still find ourselves still having the same conversation from the days of old. Something is wrong with this picture. Here you have two presidential candidates who are seemingly trying to win and it appears that Clinton is letting down her hour before election day and that even with Omarosa working for Donald Trump as his African American outreach person we are still not hearing how Trump is trying to add a few of our voices to this conversation. It appears that unless we do something drastic before election day, we are up a creek without a paddle. Pray!

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. (President and CEO of the NNPA)

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) salutes the first class of the Discover the Unexpected (DTU) NNPA Journalism Fellowship program and congratulates the students on taking the next successful step in their professional careers.

The NNPA and Chevrolet offered students from the Howard University School of Communications the unique apprentice opportunity to work at NNPA member newspapers in Chicago, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Detroit.

As the NNPA member newspapers shared the legacy of the Black Press with the students, the journalism fellows were able share their knowledge and: cynical and recommended a number of strategic choices for reaching a younger audience.

Black-owned newspapers are not opposed to the digitalization of our content or to the digital distribution of the trusted, vibrant, pro-black-owned periodicals. The ominous headline stated, “It will take Black families 228 years to earn what White households make today.” This is only 17 years shorter than the institution of slavery in the United States routinely communicates to their constituents and supporters. The future may be challenging, but the opportunities to soar with success and progress are much greater.

Social media has increased the instantaneous awareness and involvement of our citizens. It is driven by black-owned newspapers are content rich. As various social media platforms become additional distribution vehicles for Black-owned newspapers, the small value proposition of Black-owned print and digital media will increase correspondingly.

We are living at a time when candidates to be President of the United States routinely communicate to their constituents and supporters through Twitter, Facebook, Google and Instagram. The national and global media cycles are now ten seconds. We are living in a world market demand from millions of people across the United States and throughout the world for more in-depth and detailed news accounts of what is happening in a rapidly changing and challenging world.

Dr. Ben F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertising sales and partnership proposals at: dr.behavior@nnpa.org and other professional communications at http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/dr-bfc.

By James Clingman

Yet another “shocking” report, “Black Families 228 Years to Earn What White Households Make Today” came out last week. It was featured in mainstream newspapers, small hometown newspapers, and online newspapers. The headline stated, “It will take Black families 228 years to earn what White households make today.” Say what? Is it possible? No, they did not suffer 245 years of enslavement. Ethiopian suffers, we know that one truth can and should be used by our people today, with our tremendous cache of intellectual and financial resources, as an incentive to work even harder on elevating our society to a higher level of performance.

We don’t need “pleaders” we need authentic, fearless, unapologetic, honest leaders, who will not succumb to fore-bearing statistical “revelation” but will provide the “education.” Black people must have in order to take control of their lives and careers. It is time that we use the resources we already have. While we are wringing our hands about being 228 years behind in wealth, and some of us truly believe that politicians can and will start looking around, other groups are running right past us, not worrying about the intrinsic value of our lives. The proof of that is, “the defining challenge of our time…” Of course he was not talking about the wealth divide.

Elevation vs. Revelation

Today this is only 17 years shorter than the institution of slavery in the United States, which lasted 245 years. For Latinos, it will take 245 years. Notice the last sentence in the above paragraph, Black folks. Compare 228 years to 84 years and ask yourself, “How is that possible?” No, they did not suffer 245 years of enslavement. Ethiopian suffers, we know that one truth can and should be used by our people today, with our tremendous cache of intellectual and financial resources, as an incentive to work even harder on elevating our society to a higher level of performance.

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Teacher Diversity Gap Not Easily Closed, Report Warns

By Madeline Will
From EdWeek.org

The path toward reaching a diverse teacher workforce is much steeper than has been previously acknowledged, a new report published by the Brookings Institution concludes.

Students of color make up about half of all public school students, yet just 18 percent of teachers are of color. Efforts to increase the diversity of the teaching profession have been heralded by the U.S. Department of Education and taken up by school districts across the country. But researchers and analysts from the Brown Center on Education Policy and the National Council on Teacher Quality found that the chances of significant progress in this realm are realistically very slim, even looking forward nearly 50 years.

The researchers found that, at the current rate, the difference in proportion between black and Hispanic teachers and black and Hispanic students (currently 18 percent) will only shrink by two percentage points by 2060. Hispanic parity will only shrink by 0.6 percentage points.

And if school districts simply focus on retaining black and Hispanic teachers—a commonly discussed strategy, since teachers of color have lower retention rates than white teachers—and achieve the same pass rate for students of color as for white teachers, the black diversity gap will only shrink by two percentage points by 2060. The Hispanic diversity gap will only shrink by 0.6 percentage points.

To truly fix the problem, the researchers write, the leaky teacher pipeline needs several significant patches. Students of color already complete college at lower rates than white students. And minority students tend to demonstrate lower college graduation rates among Hispanic students (currently 18 percent) will actually increase by four points.

If all strategies were combined—and black and Hispanic prospective teachers go through the pipeline at the same rate as white people—there would be parity between black teachers and black students by 2044. Hispanic parity would be close to being achieved by 2060.

U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. issued a statement on Thursday saying that students of color benefit from having teachers of color who serve as positive role models. "But we also know that society benefits when all students, regardless of their background, grow up seeing diverse adults in positions of authority. We must do more to support teachers of color at all points across the teacher pipeline so students today can benefit from and become the teachers and mentors of tomorrow."

The authors offer the caveat that, in their own view, the end goal should not be that every student is taught by a teacher of the same race but that all students should learn from teachers who are of color and represent different races and ethnicities. Also, the report does not go into the issue of teacher quality—and the authors argue that hastily lowering standards to diversify the teacher workforce is not constructive.

Ultimately, district-level retention and hiring strategies alone are not enough to achieve parity, the report concluded. Boosting the college graduation rate of students of color and persuading them to consider a career in teaching would be more effective, the authors said—so making the teaching profession more attractive to potential teacher candidates, through salary increases and better working conditions, could go a long way.

"Achieving a diverse teacher workforce must be a long-term policy goal with a suite of long-term strategies put in place to help minorities succeed at the same rate as white students. We encourage our students to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, while we encourage our students to strive for academic excellence."

God Bless you all,

Rich Frazier
School Principal
Research: Few Pastors Asked to Perform Same-Sex Weddings, Less Than Half Allow LGBT to Serve in Church

By Bob Smietana

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — More than 100,000 same-sex couples have tied the knot since the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriages nationwide last year.

But for preachers, being asked to do a same-sex wedding remains rare.

A new survey by Nashville-based LifeWay Research found 11 percent of Protestant senior pastors have been asked to perform a same-sex wedding.

Baptist pastors (1 percent) are the least likely to say they were asked to perform a same-sex wedding. Presbyterian/Reformed pastors (26 percent) are most likely.

Overall, pastors who identify as mainline were three times as likely to have been asked than evangelical pastors (18 percent vs. 6 percent). Pastors 55 and older (14 percent) are twice as likely to have been asked than those 54 and younger (7 percent).

"Most couples, if they want a church wedding, will ask a pastor they know or who they think will support them," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. "For same-sex couples, this appears to be an older Presbyterian pastor."

Churches split over role of LGBT people

The survey of 1,000 Protestant senior pastors also asked about the role of LGBT people in the church, which remains a contentious issue for many denominations. Fewer than half of Protestant senior pastors say their church allows LGBT people to serve, even in limited roles, LifeWay Research found.

When asked where LGBT people can serve, 34 percent of senior pastors say "nowhere." Thirty percent say "anywhere." Fifteen percent aren’t sure or haven’t discussed the issue.

About half (51 percent) of mainline pastors say LGBT people can serve anywhere. By contrast, only 18 percent of evangelical pastors say the same.

Among denominational traditions, Presbyterian/Reformed pastors (66 percent) are most likely to say LGBT people can serve anywhere, followed by Methodists (49 percent) and Lutherans (42 percent). Baptists (8 percent) and Pentecostals (13 percent) are least likely.

Pentecostal (58 percent) and Baptist pastors (54 percent) are most likely to say LGBT people are not allowed to serve. Methodist (5 percent) and Presbyterian/Reformed pastors (14 percent) are least likely.

Serving often allowed in the background

Pastors seem most comfortable allowing LGBT people to serve in the background.

Forty-four percent of all pastors in the survey say LGBT people can serve in "helping or serving roles." Fewer say they can lead public worship (32 percent), teach publicly (32 percent) or hold public leadership roles (33 percent).

Many mainline pastors (64 percent) say LGBT people can fill helping or serving roles. They are more divided over whether LGBT people can lead worship (54 percent), teach (54 percent) or hold leadership roles (55 percent). Fewer evangelical pastors say LGBT people can lead worship (19 percent), teach (20 percent) or hold leadership roles (21 percent). A third (35 percent) say LGBT people can fill helping or serving roles.

A previous LifeWay Research study found most Protestant pastors believe same-sex marriage is morally wrong. So it’s no surprise few are asked to perform such ceremonies, McConnell said.

There’s less consensus about the roles LGBT people can play in church.

"More pastors are open to LGBT people serving in their church than being married there," he said.
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Back To School With Diabetes: 5 Steps To Keep Your Child Safe at School

Also, many states have laws in place that include additional safeguards to ensure your child has what he or she needs to be safe and healthy. Discrimination can come in many forms - such as not providing your child with access to diabetes care so he or she may safely partici-
pate in extracurricular activities or field trips, and not allowing self-
management during the school day.

According to the American Diabetes Association, there are nearly 210,000 children living with diabetes. According to the American Diabetes Association, about 10% of all school-aged children with diabetes are not receiving care for their diabetes.

1. Know your rights. Get guidance from the Association's legal advocates. If you don't feel comfort-
able or if you want help with develop-
ing a written plan, contact the Ameri-
can Diabetes Association.

2. Have a written plan. Do you have a Diabetes Medical Man-
agement Plan in place for your child? If not, this is a perfect time to ask your child's health care provider to develop one. Even if you already have a plan, it needs to be reviewed and updated so the school has the correct information.

3. Get to know the school nurse or health coordinator. The school nurse or school health coordi-
nator is usually the one providing diabetes care for your child. Be sure your child is comfortable with the school nurse and that he or she has a good line of communication with the diabetes care team at your child's school. Provide the necessary sup-
plies, including insulin, glucagon, a "low box" (with glucose tablets or juice boxes) and food, and make sure these supplies are in an accessible location.

4. Make sure staff receives diabetes training. While the school nurse should always be the main point of contact for your child's dia-
betes care during the school day, there will undoubtedly be times when the nurse is not immediately available or not on the premises. It's very im-
portant that additional school staff is trained by a school nurse or other qualified health professional with expertise in pediatric diabetes to pro-
vide assistance.

Lawmakers Question Effectiveness of Cap-And-Trade Program

"There's a feeling that..." remarked Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D-Oakley) praised CARB for their work on the programs, but called for more transparency on how taxpayer dol-
lars will be spent, including the benefits of each program.

"We have to be able to explain to our constituents that they're getting value," said the chair of the Assembly's Trans-
portation committee. "I've got to know how much it costs and if it's performing well. We can actually partner in saying, let's go somewhere else on this one. Let's double up on another program."
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Please RSVP by August 22, 2016 with:
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THE CALIFORNIA BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Garcetti Presses to End Overdevelopment as Leonardo DiCaprio Backs Neighborhood Integrity Initiative

Working-class Latinos, Westside homeowners, Valley renters, South Los Angeles citizens and major film stars joined together recently in asking Mayor Eric Garcetti to reform the city’s rigged development system that is paving over cherished neighborhoods and has created a serious luxury housing glut and massive gridlock, while destroying thousands of units of affordable housing.

Leonardo DiCaprio, Kirsten Dunst, Joaquin Phoenix, Chris Pine and Chloe Sevigny added their voices to those of former Mayor Richard Riordan, Skid Row Rev. Alice Callaghan and tens of thousands of Los Angeles residents supporting the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, which will give residents a much greater say in what Los Angeles becomes.

In a private meeting with Mayor Eric Garcetti underway 1 pm today, leaders of communities from east, west, south and north sectors of Los Angeles, rich and poor, middle-class and working-class, urged Mayor Garcetti to take the lead — as he promised last spring.

If he does not propose major and immediate reform, in just over a week, the Coalition to Preserve LA, sponsors of the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative aiming for the March 2017 ballot, will submit far more signatures than needed to qualify for the ballot.

Below is the letter and signatures to the letter, presented today to Mayor Garcetti:

August 17, 2016

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

We appreciate that you agree with us that our city’s planning process is broken and out of control. As you know, for far too long, greed has fueled corruption, which has produced runaway development, and now stalling gridlock.

This planning process does not serve the people of Los Angeles because it’s not designed to. It is designed to serve powerful lobbyists and for-profit developers at the expense of the rest of us. And we pay the price.

That’s why we support the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative. We have been playing by the rules of a rigid system for a generation, only to see luxury housing proliferate, gridlock calcify, homelessness spike, open space destroyed and middle-class homeowners get squeezed out of our city.

The time has come to take back our city for our communities and our families and before the fundamental character of our city is lost forever.

While we deeply believe in the purpose and the policies represented in the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, we also believe that complicated issues like zoning policies and urban planning are best resolved in the context of a comprehensive plan with public engagement. That’s their job. That’s the reason we write to you today.

Thank you for your grassroots campaign we have collected the requisite amount of signatures to qualify for the March 2017 ballot, the same ballot on which you and your council colleagues will stand for reelection.

On August 24th we plan to turn in our signatures.

We believe our city is about to cross a Rubicon after which the character of our neighborhoods will be drowned out by unrelenting development and lost forever in a sea of unaffordable luxury housing and gridlock. We have no choice but to act now.

But we would welcome your leadership on this pressing issue, and we remind you that, in reaction to our citizen initiative movement, you promised to be that leader. You said that you want to fix the broken system in City Hall, yet you have done nothing of note to achieve that goal, and time is running out.

Before our August 24th signature completion, we urge you to announce your mayoral plan to transform the fundamental nature of our rigid system. Our tens of thousands of supporters expect your commitment to include:

- Developers and their special interest lobbyists must no longer be permitted to choose the consultants who literally write Environmental Impact Reports for their own developments. This obvious conflict of interest must be banned so that the actual environmental impact — not a consultant’s self-interested twisting of traffic, health, parking, open space and development — is used to determine projects, and that technical expertise is not lost.

- There must be a clear and transparent process, including fast-tracked deadlines, for crafting the new Los Angeles General Plan that empowers the people to chart the future of our city, clashing the undue influence of developers and their lobbyists over the Los Angeles River, neighborhood character, masonryization, small lot subdivisions and other crucial public concerns.

Spot zoning exceptions to the General Plan, which currently allows wildly inappropriate mega-developments in new urbanized areas, must become the rare exception to the rule, rather than routine, as it is today.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The People of Los Angeles

Source: PreserveLA.org

Leonardo DiCaprio

- Ex parte communications between developers and city elected officials or members of the City Planning Commission — also known as backroom meetings — must be eliminated. Just as we have seen with the California Coastal Commission, ex parte communications give developers an all-access pass to our government officials while regular people with a much bigger stake in their communities wait in line at long meetings for one minute of public comment. We are better than that.

It is our hope that we can put aside special interest politics and rally around a shared vision for our collective future that serves all the unique neighborhoods and communities of Los Angeles.

You have a deep connection to the history of Los Angeles. Your story in many ways is the story of our city. You literally embody many of the diverse cultures and communities that make our city so special.

As citizens and as voters, we call upon you to commit these next several days to proposing a fair-reaching solution that will shape the landscape and define the character of Los Angeles for the 21st Century.

Meanwhile, we are reaching for our August 24th deadline, when we will submit far more than our required 62,000 signatures, and the people of Los Angeles will decide.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The People of Los Angeles

Source: PreserveLA.org

Over 500 Attend the Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation’s 4th Annual Mobile Retail and Food Truck Expo

(Continued from page 1)

striving to be entrepreneurs. This year there were added value in that knowledgeable speakers and experts served on panels and facilitated workshops with enthusiasm that inspired many who attended a variety of workshops such as “Access to Capital: Financing your business by Sal Mendoza of City National Bank and others in financing: How to Start Your Business in a Day with the New LA City Business Portal by Frank J. Aguierre; Starting your Food Truck Business with Leonardo DiCaprio’s fresh potato chips; by Hesham Kareem Settial, Owner of Kareem Carts and Creating Magic in Your Marketing by Frank Sut]

Photo courtesy: VSEDC

Jack Row: Adam Dominguez, Ruendo Chavez, Terry Guabantan, Leslie Elliott, Angela Campbell, Ron Edwards Front Row: Fernando Borja, Andrea Jackson, Pamela Bizzell, Sarah Moore, Rochelle Molson

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Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant’s Queen Princess Mapp and Court is Celebrated with a Packed House

(Los Angeles, CA) Actress Lisa Ruffin’s 23rd Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant held recently at the Barnsdall Gal- lery Theatre was a crowning with all its glory. Princess Mapp was crowned the 2016 Queen and her court includ- ed; first place Nasern El Shabaz, second Trinity Par- ish, third Maylah Taylor and fourth place winner Octavia Carey.

Reality Stars Sherre Fletcher (Hollywood Exes) and Claudia Jordan (The Real Housewives of Atlanta) was the pageant’s host and Actor James Pickens Jr. (ABC’s Grey’s Anatomy) made a special guest appearance.

This year’s Celebrity Judges included Actress Ella Joyce (Roc), Olympic Gold Medalist Althea Moses, Miss USA 2002 Shauntay Hilton,

Reality Stars Sherre Fletcher (Hollywood Exes) and Renee Lawless (The Haves and the Have Nots) and other VIPs invited guests were in attendance to support and inspire these lovely young girls. The Little Miss African Pageant (LMAA) is first and foremost an educational program whose mission is dedicated to the intel- lectual success of your Afri- can American girls.

"Within each girl, is the promise of unlimited pos- sibilities, and the pageant is a vehicle for bringing that po- tential to the forefront." Says Lisa Ruffin.

For the past 23 years, dozens of girls between the ages of 6-12 years old have participated in this program, hundreds of scholarships have been awarded, and last- ing memories have been cre- ated for these young Aca- demic and intellectual prin- cess. While some of them come from strong supportive families, the majority of them come from under-served, sin- gle family homes. The pag- eant provides an early intro- duction to the arts and train- ing in public speaking, while promoting individual creativ- ity and stimulating a height- ened cultural understanding. For more information visit our website: www.littlemissafricanamerican.org.

Lisa Ruffin is a multi-talented performer and chro- noter Carnegie Mellon Uni- versity at age sixteen then went on to New York to com- plete her education at The Juilliard School of Music. The first video she choreo- graphed, “Joanna” won an American Music Award. Her choreography credits include, UPN’s “Moeshii”, and “The Steve Harvey Show”. Lisa is the youngest African Ameri- can woman to choreograph a Broadway Stage production, “Up Close and Personal” at the Lunt Fontaine Theatre. Among many other achieve- ments, she has also per- formed on Broadway, and had 2 Billboard Top 20 R&B hit record. Her acting credits include, "Him and Us", "Seth", "The Raven", and her very memorable role as “Deena” on the long running soap “All My Children”. Lisa has made appearances on The David Letterman Show and Saturday Night Live, and has graced the covers and interi- ors of respected magazines such as Essence, Ebony and Black Enterprise. She had numerous commercials, in- cluding her “Secret” commer- cial, directed by award win- ning director, Jessica Yu. Lisa has been a national judge& Choreographer for the NAACP’s ACT-SO com- petition. Lisa created an non- profit, educational program called Little Miss African American Scholarship Page- ant, for young girl’s 6-12 years. They are celebrating their 23rd year of teaching how to create beauty and be Presidents of everything.

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