

## Today's Top Story - August 31 2017

**Why Blow Up a Good Deal on Equal Pay?**

What's wrong with gathering more data about employee salaries, especially in the fight for workplace pay equity? Plenty, when the real motivation is to drive more workplace litigation. *Jennifer Barrera and Kara Bush in The Sacramento Bee*

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## Public Affairs/Politics:

**Governor, Legislative Democrats At Odds Over Inclusionary Housing For Rental Units**

Although Gov. Jerry Brown and Democratic legislative leaders have reached agreement on three key bills that seek to reduce California's high housing costs, they're still working to flesh out the rest of the package. *Capital Public Radio*

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## Human Resources/Health and Safety:

**EEO Reporting: Requirement to Collect Pay Data by Race and Gender Halted**

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on Tuesday issued an immediate stay of a rule that would have required private employers with more than 100 employees to report how much they pay employees by race, ethnicity and gender on their EEO-1 reports. *HRWatchdog*

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# 2017 LIST

## Economy:

**Assembly Republicans Want to Close 'Loophole' for Local Tax Proposals Written by Citizen Groups**

The announcement comes on the heels of a California Supreme Court ruling on Monday that local ballot initiatives imposing new taxes for specific purposes may need only a simple majority of voters to approve. *Los Angeles Times*

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## Environmental/Agriculture:

**California's Goal: An Electricity Grid Moving Only Clean Energy**

California lawmakers are considering a future without the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity, a step that would boost the renewable energy industry and expand the scope of the state's battle against global warming. "It's a more expensive, less flexible approach to reducing emissions," said Loren Kaye, president of the California Foundation for Commerce and Education, a think tank affiliated with the California Chamber of Commerce. He said ratepayers will end up covering the cost in their utility bills. *Los Angeles Times*

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## International:

**Trump has Leverage Over Mexico and Canada as NAFTA Talks Start**

Canada and Mexico would like nothing more than to sideline the United States and create a bilateral trade agreement that excludes their suddenly unreliable neighbor. *McClatchy DC*

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## Infrastructure/Education:

**California Legislative Leaders Pitch Big Spending for Water and Parks Improvements for the 2018 Ballot**

Rendon and Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) said they're negotiating details of a measure that, if approved by voters next year, would spend billions to build and maintain parks and water infrastructure. Gov. Jerry Brown also has agreed to support a water and parks bond. *Los Angeles Times*

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## Opinion/Editorial:

**State Supreme Court has Made it Easier to Raise Taxes, or Did it?**

The state Supreme Court this week issued a much-anticipated ruling that will make it much easier for local tax increases to be enacted. Or maybe not. *Dan Walters in Calmatters.org*

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