



EVRWP NEWS

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT ?????

Monday, January 12, 2026 | Vol. 6

FOLLOW THE MONEY!!

ESSAYLI INDICTS TWO MEN IN CALIFORNIA FRAUD SCHEME

You may all recall a few weeks ago, our newsletter reported on the extent of the fraud in California. A recently published report from California's nonpartisan State Auditor had exposed "fraud and massive spending with questionable outcomes" in various State programs to the tune of \$76+ BILLION. We were shocked at the amount! Well, it appears that the Feds have finally stepped in and just indicted two real estate executives for "allegedly bilking taxpayers out of millions by pocketing funds intended for homeless housing". Can you believe it? YES!!

The recent indictments of these two men are represented as being just the "tip of the iceberg". Our own First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli, appointed by Trump, reports that agencies have "uncovered wrongdoing on **a staggering scale** as he blasted Democrats as 'colossal failures' for letting corruption fester for years". Essayli went on further to say, "We followed the money and very quickly we uncovered massive amounts of fraud".

As these investigations continue, Essayli has said to expect more indictments. We can hardly wait!!

SENATOR WEINER “WITHDRAWS” SB-222

Well, isn't that interesting? By completely gutting and amending SB-222 and re-setting it for hearing on Tuesday, January 6th, Senator Weiner has in effect withdrawn SB-222, which would have held the oil and petroleum industry responsible for climate change and allowed civil action against them for losses during a disaster, such as the recent Palisades wildfire dubbed by the Democrats as a “climate disaster”. At least for now, this type of legislation has died....but we will keep an eye on it!!

As you know, the legislative committee for EVRWP was following this legislation due to its egregious nature. We already have TWO refineries that are set to leave the State in 2026, Valero in Northern California, and Phillips 66 in Southern California. By holding petroleum companies responsible for the recent fires and future “climate disasters”, this bill could have driven more petroleum companies out of the State.

As you may be aware, Chevron has already relocated their corporate headquarters in 2024 from California to Texas, citing “the states stringent regulations and business environment as significant factors in its decision”. Phillips 66 cited “high operational costs and regulatory pressures” for closing its refinery in Los Angeles. And Valero, whose refinery is located in Benicia near San Francisco, is set to close due to “complex regulations and the inability to generate profit compared to other regions”.

And you will never believe what our own Governor Newsom just announced. Of course, as you know, we believe he has plans to run for President in 2028, and you can bet the closure of these two refineries would hurt his prospects if gas prices rise significantly in California. On Wednesday, January 7th, it was reported in a statement from Governor Newsom's office the following: “We're in ongoing discussions with Valero to evaluate options for continued operations at the Benicia refinery and I appreciate the company planning responsibly, including planning for imports of refined products to supply the market in the meantime”.

Interesting that SB-222, which was completely gutted and amended, and thereby effectively withdrawn, coincided with Newsom's recent statement. Will Valero change its mind and stay in California? We shall see what happens.

Can you believe it? YES!

This article was authored by Carol Emmons, opinion editor for Can You Believe It?