

THE SOURCE



SERVING UP THE LATEST CALIFORNIA RESTAURANT NEWS

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



Environmentalists to California restaurants: Drop lawsuit over Berkeley gas ban

The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations released a letter last week, asking the California Restaurant Association to drop its lawsuit against the City of Berkeley. That lawsuit, filed in November, takes issue with a ban on natural gas infrastructure. In an emailed statement, Jot Condie, president and CEO of the California Restaurant Association, said that while his organization supports California's climate goals, declining to sue over the Berkeley

ordinance would amount to “malpractice.”

Further, Condie notes: “Perhaps most surprising is the Sierra Club’s apparent expectation that the California Restaurant Association should stand idly by while one of the most important tools of a chef and a restaurant kitchen is taken away: it would be malpractice for us not to pursue this litigation. While we support California’s climate goals, we believe those goals can be reached more reasonably and by consideration of a more balanced approach.”

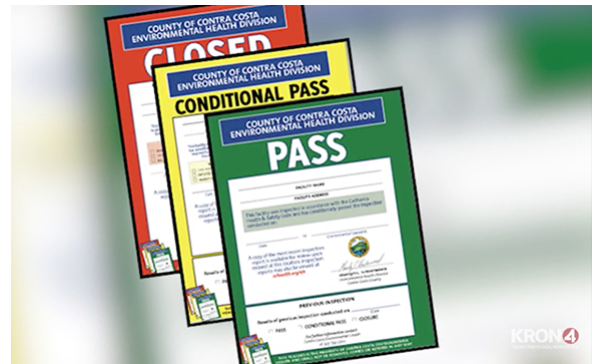
FULL STORY



Access v. Abuse: Crema Coffee in San Jose closes due to ADA lawsuit

Another small business has fallen victim to a predatory lawsuit. The law that is credited with upholding the rights of disabled individuals continues to be used – by unscrupulous attorneys – against small businesses.

[Read more](#)



San Francisco rolling out new color-coded food placarding system for restaurants

A color-coded placarding system in San Francisco is meant to help customers see if their favorite restaurant passed its food safety inspection. It will go into effect this spring.

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INDUSTRY NEWS



Opinion: What's behind the closure of ROC United's new restaurant?

Michael Saltsman, of the Employment Policies Institute, examines how a restaurant business based on unrealistic models failed to succeed. The union-affiliated Restaurant Opportunities Center couldn't make the policies it promotes work in real life.

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Frequent employee turnover costs your business time, money and employee morale. Invest in helping employees learn and feel engaged and you'll be rewarded with better retention and a happier staff.

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Protect your customers' to-go orders from snackers

If you're a CRA member, we have a free roll of stickers for you to use now to seal your to-go orders. Contact Kim Joy to make sure your customers receive safe food.

[Email Kim](#)

CRA NEWS



Passport Foods: Ahead of the cultural cuisine curve

The impressive upward trending for multicultural cuisine continues, and ahead of the curve remains an early category innovator, Passport Foods. Launched in 1978, Passport has earned industry-wide recognition as a pioneering force in the creation and distribution of quality ethnic cuisine.

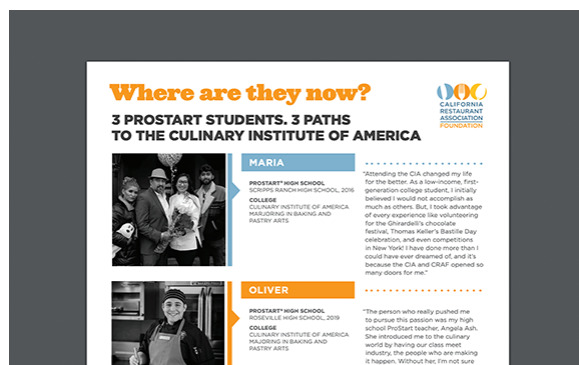
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News You Need to Know: Initiative would raise taxes on commercial properties

An initiative on the November ballot would raise taxes on commercial and industrial property by requiring reassessment at current market value every three years. This initiative would dismantle Prop 13's property tax protections. It isn't just owners of commercial properties who stand to be impacted; rising costs can be passed along to those who lease their properties as well.

[Watch now](#)



CRAF: Where are they now? Three ProStart students; three paths to the CIA

Maria, Oliver and Marcus all took part in the CRA Foundation's ProStart program and all have now enrolled at The Culinary Institute of America. Find out how these future chefs got the start they needed to succeed in a prestigious culinary program.

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