



Summary of Recent Media Coverage

November 2013 - January 2014

Below is a brief sampling of recent media stories featuring the California Film Commission and/or the state's Film/TV Tax Credit Program. Links to many of the clips are available on the CFC website's "In the News" section at http://film.ca.gov/2013_InTheNews.htm.

Outlet: The Wall Street Journal

Headline: **Hollywood Hired Hands See Greener Pastures Outside California**

The logo for The Wall Street Journal, consisting of the words "THE WALL STREET JOURNAL." in a serif font.

Date: 01/30/14

Excerpt:

California, too, offers credits, but they are more modest. The state's theory is that the industry needs less incentive to stay in an area where crew members and production infrastructure are already in place. Even so, many in the industry argue the state's program needs to be more generous to attract business back to California.

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304419104579327070903007630?mod=WSJ_hp_RightTopStories

Outlet: Los Angeles Business Journal

Headline: **New Magazine Pages Film, TV**

Date: 01/27/14

The logo for the Los Angeles Business Journal, featuring the words "LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL" in white serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

Excerpt:

The California Film Commission - a state-run economic development office in Hollywood - is hoping to create a competing narrative. Last week, the commission unveiled a 100-page glossy magazine, LOCATION CALIFORNIA, at the Sundance Film Festival that highlights the diversity of filming locations in the state and the benefits of keeping productions local.

<http://origin.misc.pagesuite.com/pdfdownload/d4f563fe-dd69-4c9a-89f5-c2e03f04ac2d.pdf>

Outlet: Long Beach Press-Telegram (editorial)

Headline: **Time for California to Say 'Action!' on Fighting Runaway Production**

Date: 01/20/14

The logo for the Press-Telegram, featuring the words "Press-Telegram" in white serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

Excerpt:

California can improve its response to the incentive programs its rivals have used to lure away producers. And the state can do this without going crazy financially. At stake is

nothing less than the way of life of people employed in what has been the region's signature industry, which is said to directly or indirectly account for a half-million jobs in L.A. County.

<http://www.presstelegram.com/opinion/20140120/time-for-california-to-say-action-on-fighting-runaway-production-editorial>

Outlet: The Economist
Headline: **Best State in a Supporting Role**
Date: 01/18/14



Excerpt:

Finally in 2009, after a beloved sitcom fled to New York, the state approved the "Ugly Betty bill", which appropriated \$100m a year to pay for tax credits worth up to 25% for productions, including some types of television, with budgets under \$75m (thus excluding blockbusters). Demand for the credits, assigned by lottery, far outstrips supply.

<http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21594301-should-california-hurl-more-money-its-footloose-film-industry-best-state>

Outlet: Santa Clarita Valley Signal
Headline: **Supervisors Agree to Make L.A. County More Film Friendly**
Date: 01/14/14



Excerpt:

This particular policy effort began in July 2012 when the board directed the county Chief Executive Office to revise the county's film practice to match the California Film Commission's Model Film Ordinance, as well as take into account recommendations on best practices to accommodate filming activity.

<http://www.signalscv.com/section/36/article/112460/>

Outlet: The Hollywood Reporter
Headline: **L.A. Feature, TV Production Down Dramatically in Past Two Decades**
Date: 01/14/14



Excerpt:

The report credits the small uptick since 2009 to the introduction of California's Film & Television Tax Credit program, which makes \$100 million available to qualified productions each year. Those that have received incentives include The Call, starring Halle Berry, the MTV series Teen Wolf and the upcoming Warner Bros. movie based on the cable TV series Entourage. While California's annual tax incentives are lower than those offered by such states as New York, Louisiana and Georgia, the report says without it, things would have gotten worse instead of better.

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/filmla-report-feature-tv-production-670619>

Outlet: Los Angeles Daily News
Headline: **L.A. Film Production Dropped by 50%
Since 1996**
Date: 01/14/14



Excerpt:
California Film Commission Executive Director Amy Lemisch said the report indicates the film and television industries themselves are still healthy — they're just contributing less to the California economy.

<http://www.dailynews.com/business/20140114/la-film-production-dropped-by-50-since-1996>

Outlet: KPCC-FM
Headline: **Report: On-location Film Production
in LA is Moving Elsewhere**
Date: 01/14/14



Excerpt:
Amy Lemisch, executive director of the California Film Commission, said the findings in FilmL.A.'s report weren't a surprise... She said under the current California Film and Television Tax Credit Program, there have been 270 participating projects over the course of five years, contributing \$4.75 billion in direct spending the state. "Each production supports hundreds of workers plus sometimes thousands of individual small businesses," Lemisch said.

<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/economy/2014/01/14/15584/report-on-location-production-in-l-a-is-moving-els/>

Outlet: Los Angeles Times
Headline: **Location Filming in L.A. Down Sharply
in Last 20 years, Report Says**
Date: 01/14/14



Excerpt:
A coalition of industry groups is mobilizing to support new legislation, expected to be introduced later this month, that would extend and expand California's film and TV tax credit, which is due to expire in 2017. California allocates \$100 million annually, but proponents are seeking to at least double the funding levels to better compete with rivals, while removing various restrictions that limit who can qualify for the subsidies.

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/envelope/cotown/la-et-ct-on-location-20140114.0.7107787.story#axzz2qSFhYCIW>

Outlet: Los Angeles Times (cartoon)
Headline: **Runaway Production Leaves California
in the Lurch**
Date: 01/08/14



Excerpt:

Lawmakers in Sacramento are now mulling over a plan that would extend the current \$100-million movie industry tax credit program that is set to expire on July 1, 2017. There is debate about whether the tax deal for filmmakers actually boosts the state economy -- supporters and opponents each point to studies that claim to bolster their opposite positions -- but there is no argument about the problem.

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/envelope/cotown/la-et-ct-horsey-runaway-production-20140108,0,192884.story?track=rss#axzz2pgrwY66j>

Outlet: Pasadena Star-News
Headline: **Sacramento Weighs More Film Industry
Tax Breaks to Keep Movie, TV Production
In State**
Date: 01/06/14



Excerpt:

The MTV series "Teen Wolf" is set in Northern California, but filmed in Atlanta for its first two years to take advantage of Georgia's generous filming tax subsidy. When the show won a \$10 million tax break from California in 2012, it relocated to Los Angeles.

<http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/business/20140106/sacramento-weighs-more-film-industry-tax-breaks-to-keep-movie-tv-production-in-state>

Outlet: Los Angeles Daily News
Headline: **Hollywood Producers Explain Why TV, Film
Production Leaves L.A.**
Date: 01/04/14



Excerpt:

Amy Lemisch, executive director of the California Film Commission, which administers the incentive program, understands why it's a problem. "Productions need to plan in advance, and they need the certainty that the incentives are going to be available," Lemisch acknowledged.

<http://www.dailynews.com/business/20140104/hollywood-producers-explain-why-tv-film-production-leaves-la>

Outlet: San Jose Mercury News
Headline: **Hollywood Struggles Against New Film Meccas**
Date: 12/27/13



Excerpt:
The tax incentives race is destined to accelerate next year. State incentives in California—home to "Star Wars" pioneer Industrial Light & Magic—are too small to accommodate big-budget movies. Democratic Assembly member Raul Bocanegra is preparing a bill to expand their scope, but it could take months to get through committees, says his chief of staff, Ben Golombek.

http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_24801453/hollywood-struggles-against-new-film-meccas

Outlet: Los Angeles Times
Headline: **For 'Mr. Banks,' Simi Valley Works as Australian Outback**
Date: 12/18/13



Excerpt:
The studio had another incentive to film locally. It received a \$2.4-million film tax credit for the production, which employed a cast and crew of 700 people, who worked all over the region.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-et-ct-onlocation-saving-mr-banks-shoot-simi-valley-20131218,0,280256.story#axzz2nr2ygDz6>

Outlet: Variety
Headline: **Will Ferrell's 'Daddy's Home' Gets California Film Tax Credit**
Date: 12/12/13



Excerpt:
It's not uncommon for waiting list projects to wind up with the credit. A year ago, 28 projects were initially announced but 75 projects ultimately were cleared for the tax credit allocation as some projects dropped out of the program due to scheduling delays or other production-related issues, clearing the way for projects on the waiting list.

<http://variety.com/2013/film/news/will-ferrells-daddys-home-gets-california-film-tax-credit-exclusive-1200946262/>

Outlet: Variety
Headline: **Advocates of Tax Credits Talk of Hurdles to Expanding California's Incentive Program**
Date: 11/19/13



Excerpt:

Also on the panel was Amy Lemisch, executive director of the California Film Commission, who noted that areas in the state outside of the L.A. region have seen a particular drop in production over the past decade, with other states offering more generous incentives for producers to trek to their borders.

Asked about the outlook for expanding the program, Lemisch said, "I'm not sure. I'm really not. It's a tough road ahead in terms of 2014 legislation and I'd rather not speculate."

<http://variety.com/2013/biz/news/advocates-of-tax-credits-talk-of-hurdles-to-expanding-californias-incentive-program-1200861721/>

Outlet: Los Angeles Daily News (editorial)
Headline: **Raising Film, TV Tax Credits Would Help a Cast of Thousands**
Date: 11/19/13



Excerpt:

The focus needs to be on the Southern California workers who depend on movie and TV production for their livings. Entertainment is said to account for a half-million jobs in Los Angeles County. By a count late last year, runaway production has cost 90,000 jobs and \$3 billion in wages in the past decade.

<http://www.dailynews.com/opinion/20131119/raising-film-tv-tax-credits-would-help-a-cast-of-thousands-editorial>

Outlet: Backstage
Headline: **Teamsters Leader Elected to Head Calif. Film Commission**
Date: 11/15/13



Excerpt:

"Steve is a passionate advocate who has devoted his career to helping support film and TV production jobs in California," Amy Lemisch, executive director of the California Film Commission, said in a statement. "He's also an exceptionally strong leader with the experience, expertise and determination to get things done."

<http://www.backstage.com/news/teamsters-leader-elected-head-california-film-commission/>

Outlet: Fox & Hounds (op-ed)
Headline: **Our Industry and Our Jobs**
Date: 11/15/13



Excerpt:

The answer is straightforward. Significantly increase the amount of resources in the California Film Tax Credit and change the regulations to allow more productions to be eligible. Unless we take "Lights, Camera, Action!" now, the job losses our state has seen in manufacturing, aerospace and other industries will have a gruesome sequel featuring the entertainment industry in "Bygone California."

<http://www.foxandhoundsdaily.com/2013/11/industry-jobs/>

Outlet: Variety
Headline: **'Star Wars' London Shoot Irks California Film Commission Topper**
Date: 11/13/13



Excerpt:

Six months after the new "Star Wars" shoot was set for London, California Film Commission chief Amy Lemisch is still steamed about it. "I have a giant list of major projects that California has lost because we can't compete on incentives and 'Star Wars' is at the top," Lemisch said at the FilmL.A. exhibit at the American Film Market. 'Star Wars' would have been worth hundreds of millions of economic activity in California."

<http://variety.com/2013/biz/news/star-wars-london-filming-1200806738/>

Outlet: KPCC-FM
Headline: **Hollywood Conference Focuses on Saving Local Film and TV Jobs**
Date: 11/12/13



Excerpt:

"We just need a bigger pot of funds," said Amy Lemisch, who heads the California Film Commission.

Three Los Angeles-area state legislators told the conference they're working on enlarging that pot, but that can be a tough sell in Sacramento.

<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/economy/2013/11/12/15176/hollywood-conference-focuses-on-saving-local-film/>

Outlet: Variety
Headline: **Steve Dayan Elected Chairman of California Film Commission**
Date: 11/08/13



Excerpt:
Steve Dayan, recently elected as secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 399, was chosen as the chairman of the California Film Commission for its 2014 term.

Dayan was chosen at a meeting of the commission at SAG-AFTRA headquarters in Los Angeles on Friday. Also elected were Hilary Rice Armstrong as vice chair and Lindy DeKoven as secretary.

<http://variety.com/2013/biz/news/steve-dayan-elected-chairman-of-california-film-commission-1200810292/>

Outlet: DNA (India)
Headline: **Tinseltown Loses Its Allure for Filmmakers**
Date: 11/03/13



Excerpt:
In a recent report, the California Film Commission concluded that "many film industry workers report devastating income losses due to the large number of feature films and TV series relocating". It added: "Once the epicentre for entertainment production, California can no longer assume this leadership position."

<http://www.dnaindia.com/entertainment/report-tinseltown-loses-its-allure-for-film-makers-1913006>

Outlet: Los Angeles Times
Headline: **Entertainment Execs Ask Lawmakers to Bolster State Film Tax Credit**
Date: 10/09/13



Excerpt:
"To put it bluntly, this is our signature industry here in California, and we must make sure that we do everything possible to retain one of the pillars of our economy," said Raul Bocanegra, (D-Los Angeles), who chairs the Assembly Committee on Revenue & Taxation.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2013/oct/09/entertainment/la-et-ct-state-tax-credits-20131009>