



Summary of Recent Media Coverage

August - October 2013

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 Guardian
Headline: **Hollywood struggles to halt an exodus of film-makers**
Date: 10/26/13

The logo for The Guardian, featuring the words "the guardian" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Excerpt:

Recent releases confirm the trend. Iron Man 3, shot in North Carolina; The Lone Ranger, New Mexico; The Great Gatsby, Australia; Gravity, England. England will also host Disney's reboot of the Star Wars franchise... A California Film Commission report bewailed the industry's "pronounced erosion".

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/26/hollywood-struggles-to-halt-film-exodus>

Outlet: Variety
Headline: **Los Angeles Plays Itself in Pierce Brosnan's 'How to Make Love Like an Englishman'**
Date: 10/22/13

The logo for Daily Variety, featuring the word "DAILY" in a small box and "VARIETY" in a large, stylized green font with a banner-like effect. Below it, "LOS ANGELES NEW YORK" is written in a smaller font.

Excerpt:

Momentum has been gaining to improve the California Film and Television Tax Credit Program, which is far smaller than rival incentive programs in other states with a \$100 million annual limit in credits and exclusion of features with budgets over \$75 million. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti recently appointed Tom Sherak as film czar to address the runaway issue and several state legislators have announced plans to increase the scope of the incentive program.

<http://variety.com/2013/film/news/los-angeles-plays-itself-in-pierce-brosnans-how-to-make-love-like-an-englishman-1200752655/>

Outlet: Orange County Register
Headline: **Editorial: Hooray for Hollywood tax incentives**
Date: 10/16/13



Excerpt:

That is why we wholeheartedly support efforts by Assemblyman Mike Gatto, D-Burbank, and state Sen. Kevin de Leon, D-Los Angeles, to pass a new package of film and television production tax incentives when the current system expires... It's crucial for opponents of tax incentives to note that such measures make the public money. Every dollar the state spends on tax credits earns \$1.16 back for California's coffers, according to economist Christine Cooper at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/tax-531486-california-jobs.html>

Outlet: Backstage
Headline: **Calif. Officials Plot Ways to Stem Runaway Production Via Tax Incentives**
Date: 10/16/13



Excerpt:

During her testimony, Amy Lemisch, executive director of the California Film Commission, pointed out that the state's share of network one-hour TV series has dropped by almost two-thirds, from 89 percent of all network one-hour production in 2005 to 37 percent of network production in 2012, according to the CFC. Most of those productions went to New York, which doles out \$420 million annually in entertainment industry tax incentives.

[http://www.backstage.com/news/calif-officials-plot-ways-stem-runaway-production-tax-incentives/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+backstage%2FNews-Features+\(Backstage+-+News%26Features\)](http://www.backstage.com/news/calif-officials-plot-ways-stem-runaway-production-tax-incentives/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+backstage%2FNews-Features+(Backstage+-+News%26Features))

Outlet: BiaJournals.com
Headline: **Hollywood lobbies Sacramento for more tax incentives**
Date: 10/10/13



Excerpt:

California's current program, extended just over a year ago by Gov. Jerry Brown, allocates \$100 million per year through July 1, 2017. Amy Lemisch, executive director of the California Film Commission, reported that the state has distributed \$600 million in tax incentives since its creation in 2009, creating 51,000 jobs and \$4.75 billion in economic activity.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/losangeles/news/2013/10/10/hollywood-lobbies-sacramento-for-more.html>

Outlet: Backstage
Headline: **Calif. Tax Credit 'Can't Stop' TV Migration to NY**
Date: 10/9/13

BACK STAGE

Excerpt:

We have lost market share everywhere," Amy Lemisch, executive director of the California Film Commission said Wednesday at a special hearing in Los Angeles of the state Assembly committees that oversee the Film and Television Tax Credit Program. "The most dramatic was network. I pointed that out specifically because network is not an eligible type of production in the program." Lemisch said halting runaway television production -- which is usually more rooted than film -- isn't as easy as tweaking the incentive program.

<http://www.backstage.com/news/calif-tax-credit-cant-stop-tv-migration-ny/>

Outlet: The Hollywood Reporter
Headline: **Hollywood Petitions California Legislators for More Film and TV Tax Incentives**
Date: 10/9/13

The Hollywood Reporter

Excerpt:

Amy Lemisch, executive director of the California Film Commission, noted the \$100 million in tax credits allocated each year to retain movie and TV productions is all spent in one day, with many of the eligible projects left on a waiting list or unfunded. "It's not an effective way to run an economic development program," said Lemisch.

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/hollywood-petitions-california-legislators-more-646334>

Outlet: TheWrap
Headline: **Hollywood and its Allies Press Legislators to Boost Tax Credits**
Date: 10/9/13

THE WRAP
Covering Hollywood

Excerpt:

California Film Commission Executive Director Amy Lemisch testified that since the tax incentive program was created in 2009, \$600 million in incentives have been allocated so far. That has led to 51,000 jobs being created and \$4.75 billion in economic activity, according to the film commission.

She pointed to last year's Best Picture Oscar winner "Argo," a tax credit recipient which brought more than \$46 million in wages and other income to the Los Angeles area where it filmed.

<http://www.thewrap.com/tax-credits/>

Outlet: Deadline.com
Headline: **Politicians Eye Major Upgrade To California
Film/TV Tax Credit**
Date: 10/9/13



Excerpt:
"The UK is killing us in terms in getting our tentpole movies shooting there," said California Film Commission Executive Director Amy Lemisch. She also noted how Vancouver and incentive-rich states such as Georgia and North Carolina are getting the bulk of the blockbuster business.

<http://www.deadline.com/2013/10/california-film-tv-tax-credit-plan/>

Outlet: Daily Journal
Headline: **Bringing TV, film production back to California**
Date: 10/7/13



Excerpt:
"California tax credits don't have to match out-of-state credits to be competitive," says Amy Lemisch, executive director of the California Film Commission, "because California offers many other advantages including skilled crews, studio facilities, production infrastructure and access to a great talent pool."

However, while producers may prefer to shoot in California, because of the limited accessibility to and limited resources of the program, producers look elsewhere for some form of tax credit or incentive program to help cover production costs. "That's the current business model," Lemisch adds, "and there's no way around it."

<http://www.dailyjournal.com/public/pubmain.cfm?logout=&seloption=&eid=&vid=&CFID=3483770&CFTOKEN=42953360> (subscription required)

Outlet: Los Angeles Times
Headline: **Lawmakers to offer new plan for TV
and film production tax breaks**
Date: 10/4/13



Excerpt:
"I view this as a rather new product with different ideas," said Gatto, who serves on the California Film Commission, which allocates the tax credits. Those new proposals include a tiering system that would give the maximum credit to productions that pay wages to California residents, and incentives to build sound stages and post-production facilities.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/political/la-me-pc-film-tax-credits-20131003,0,1768371.story>

Outlet: Patch.com
Headline: **Movie, TV Production Could Be Lucrative
In Riverside County**
Date: 9/24/13



Excerpt:

The committee sought recommendations from entertainment industry representatives and proceeded to draft proposed changes that had to be vetted by the California Film Commission... In 2009, the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program went into effect. However, there's a backlog of companies applying for the 20-25 percent credits for labor. The program is limited to \$100 million in credits annually.

<http://murrieta.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/movie-tv-production-could-be-lucrative-in-riverside-county-murrieta>

Outlet: Los Angeles Times
Headline: **Kevin Hart filming comedy in L.A. with
help of state tax break**
Date: 9/11/13



Excerpt:

Originally set in Chicago, the script was rewritten for Los Angeles, an unusual reversal of fortune for a city that increasingly is accustomed to seeing filmmakers take their business to New York, Atlanta, Toronto and other cities that have more generous tax credits — and often play the part of L.A.

The change in venue was made possible after producers won a piece of the annual "lottery" that California uses to allocate film tax breaks. Screen Gems was approved for a \$2.8-million tax credit for the film, according to the California Film Commission, a significant savings for a movie with a budget of less than \$20 million.

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/envelope/cotown/la-fi-ct-onlocation-20130911,0,2998607.story#axzz2iLbqnmn>

Outlet: The Guardian
Headline: **LA mayor declares state of 'emergency'
over loss of film and TV business**
Date: 8/27/13



Excerpt:

California's current incentive programme is not available to films with a budget higher than \$75m, which rules out most Hollywood blockbusters. A recent report by the California Film Commission suggests the loss of such productions has had the most damaging effect on the state's infrastructure.

<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2013/aug/27/la-mayor-state-emergency-film-tv>

Outlet: KPCC-FM
Headline: **Is the Los Angeles film and television industry really in a state of emergency?**
Date: 8/28/13



Excerpt:

Since 2009, the California Film Commission has offered \$100 million a year in incentives to film and television productions, but that's less than a quarter of what New York has offered... The Commission's executive director, Amy Lemisch, says that 10 years ago, two-thirds of studio feature films were filmed at least in part in California, but by last year, that number was less than a third, 30 percent. "The California Film and Tax Credit program works, and it has helped keep many film and TV projects in state," Lemisch says. "But we still have a lot of work to do."

Outlet: Los Angeles Daily News
Headline: **State of emergency over runaway production**
Date: 8/27/13



Excerpt:

California has had a \$100 million per year incentive program to retain productions, but it is dwarfed by states such as New York, which has a \$420 million incentive program, and others where production costs are much lower. The California Film Commission has said the state continues to experience an erosion of the industry, with network television dramas and feature films among the most frequent to move elsewhere.

<http://www.dailynews.com/government-and-politics/20130827/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-declares-state-of-emergency-over-runaway-production>

Outlet: Variety
Headline: **L.A. Mayor Declares State of 'Emergency' As Movie, TV Production Flees Hollywood**
Date: 8/26/13



Excerpt:

The California Film Commission recently released a sobering report concluding that the state "continues to experience a pronounced erosion of this signature industry." Although the state's incentive program has recaptured lower-budgeted features, TV movies and basic cable dramas, California is losing out big on network TV dramas and feature films. Many local businesses that support production have closed or been forced to lay off workers, and the trade unions report high levels of unemployment among their California members, according to the study.

http://variety.com/2013/biz/news/l-a-mayor-declares-state-of-emergency-as-movie-tv-production-flees-hollywood-1200589182/?utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weeklyonline

Outlet: Variety
Headline: **'Bunheads' Loss Gives Tax Credits
For 5 Films, 2 TV Movies**
Date: 8/14/13



Excerpt:
Producers submitted 380 applications for the state's latest round of California's Film and Television Tax Credit — up 18% from last year's 327 submissions.

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/bunheads-loss-gives-tax-credits-for-5-films-2-tv-movies-exclusive-1200578289/>

Outlet: Variety
Headline: **California Seeing 'Profound Erosion'
of Production**
Date: 8/06/13



Excerpt:
Runaway production has produced a "profound erosion" of California's film and TV production, according to a report from the state's film commission.

The report, released Tuesday, asserted that the state's four-year-old incentive program — which provides \$100 million in tax credits annually and is administered by the commission — isn't large enough to reverse the trend.

http://variety.com/2013/film/news/california-seeing-profound-erosion-of-production-1200574785