

supply and demand. If there are more buyers than sellers in the bond market, rates go down. Conversely, if there are more sellers than buyers, rates go up. The concern now is that the Fed's \$4.8 trillion bond portfolio is 30 percent of the entire bond market. If the Fed were to start selling off their portfolio it would have the opposite effect of QE2 and drive rates up.

Home values are also influenced by the law of supply and demand. Many buyers exited the market when rates spiked unexpectedly in 2013, and the effect was a slowing of the rapid appreciation rates seen in 2012 and the first half of 2013.

CAR is reporting that the year-over-year median price for a single-family home rose 7.4 percent in April when compared to April 2014. In April 2014, home values were reported to have increased 11.6 percent YOY, and in April 2013 home values increased 28.9 percent when compared to April 2012.

So what will happen next is everybody's question. Will the Fed start putting the brakes on the economy to slow it down and make sure we don't see rapid inflation? Certainly many in the bond

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ming pools.

What is the San Juan Capistrano case? How does it relate to tiered water rate structures?

A group of ratepayers in San Juan Capistrano challenged the city's tiered water rates structure. The ratepayers argue that the amount they were being charged does not correspond with the actu-

provide revenues that cover their costs while incurring the least amount of revenue risk.

My model of the customer-level demand for water can be used to design tiered price schedules that achieve a range of policy goals for the utility. For example, given an average cost per gallon, my model could be used to design tiered price schedules for different types of customers — households with a

even stronger incentive for utilities to take steps to do so.

There's plenty of low-hanging fruit, such as online surveys, that can provide utilities with data that they can feed into my model to better estimate water consumption for any given price schedule. A utility's rates can then be better correlated with the cost of service to withstand court challenges like the recent one.

CHILDREN

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The report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation says California has almost 57,000 foster kids, and only 83 percent of them are in family-like settings.

Director of Research for Children Now, Jessica Mindnich, said the institutional feeling of group homes makes it hard for children to feel connected.

"All children need a stable, loving home," Mindnich said.

"They need those lifelong connections, people who are there to support them emotionally and when children enter the foster care, that stability is often disrupted."

The report praises California's Continuum of Care Reform Project, which looks for ways to improve the system. They have launched initiatives to keep kids out of foster care in the first place, by assisting families in crisis addressing the stressors that can lead to child neglect.

Mindnich said financial prob-

lems often are a factor.

"A lot of times that coincides with poverty," she said. "Can't afford child care, diapers, formula. So, making sure families are tapped into all the resources they need to help provide those basic needs for children."

The report also looked at best practices around the nation. For example, Washington, D.C., has a rapid response team that can certify relatives' homes very quickly to minimize disruption in kids' lives when they have to be removed from their parents' care.



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PUBLIC MEETING

MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
May 2015 MEETING



The Department of Navy (DON) invites interested members of the public to attend updates and presentations with members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) made up of representatives from the local community, Navy, Federal and State regulatory agencies. The DON encourages the public to keep informed about the environmental cleanup at Former Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINS), Vallejo, California.

May 2015 Featured Topics

Proposed Plan/Draft Remedial Action Plan,
Installation Restoration Site 17 (IR-17) and Building 503

Eastern Early Transfer Parcel (EETP)
Update and Path Forward - 2015



Date: Thursday, May 28, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:25 p.m.

Location: Mare Island Conference Center
375 G St., Vallejo, CA

Ask questions and voice your concerns. You Can Make a Difference!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Navy BRAC Web Page: <http://www.brac.gov>
Mare Island Environmental Web Page: <http://www.marisland.org>

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