

Department of Economics presents

David S. Saurman

## Provocative Lecture Series 2019



### Marc Joffe, MPA

Sr. Policy Analyst, Reason Foundation

#### **“Bringing Fiscal Sanity to California Infrastructure Policy”**

California high-speed rail is just the latest in a series of public infrastructure projects that have exceeded budgets, blown through deadlines, and failed to deliver promised benefits. Marc will discuss his research on the bullet train and other California projects and offer politically feasible policy suggestions that could improve the state’s infrastructure without bankrupting governments and taxpayers.

- Shifting risk from taxpayers to private companies, instead of letting contractors operate on a “cost plus” basis
- Privatizing existing assets as a way of paying down unfunded pension liabilities
- Improving existing facilities where possible instead of building brand new ones

Marc Joffe is a senior policy analyst at Reason Foundation. After a long career in the financial industry, including a senior director role at Moody's Analytics, Joffe's research now focuses on sovereign and sub-sovereign credit risk and fiscal sustainability. His financial research has been published by the California State Treasurer's Office, UC Berkeley, the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, and the Macdonald-Laurier Institute among others. Joffe is a regular contributor to *The Fiscal Times* and his op-eds have also appeared in *The Guardian*, *Bloomberg View* and *RealClearMarkets*. He has an MBA from New York University and an MPA from San Francisco State University.

Tuesday,  
November 19th

Student Union  
Theater

5:15–6:45p.m.

Free and open  
to the public

The Department of Economics invites students, faculty, and the general public to consider intellectual arguments on controversial topics. Presenters are noted for outstanding scholarship and public speaking ability. This series fosters the tradition of higher education to challenge ideas and develop critical thinking in an environment of respect for intellectual discourse. Our goal is that you engage critical thinking skills to reach your own informed position on controversial issues. We invite you to attend, relax, ponder, and enjoy the thought process. For more information or to be added to our events list, please contact: [Justin.Rietz@sjsu.edu](mailto:Justin.Rietz@sjsu.edu)