

## FACT SHEET

A VERY BRIEF  
HISTORY

**The Center for Investigative Reporting** is the nation's oldest non-profit investigative reporting group.

#### WHO CONDUCTS INVESTIGATIONS?

Staff and freelance reporters conduct investigations in a variety of beats, from money and politics to public safety and higher education. Our video, radio and multimedia producers create stories for television, radio and online. Our data team sifts through massive amounts of information to tell important stories at the global and local levels. CIR staff members have won the George Polk Award, Pulitzer Prize and Sigma Delta Chi Award, among other honors.

#### WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF CIR'S REPORTING?

CIR investigations have changed laws, sparked federal legislation, led to policy change at all levels of government, prompted public interest lawsuits, triggered reforms in corporate practices and prompted a major United Nations resolution. Stories expose injustice and jump-start positive change in policy and communities.

#### WHO FUNDS THE ORGANIZATION?

CIR is funded through several foundations, individual donors and content sales. Major funders include The California Endowment, The James Irvine Foundation, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

**California Watch** is a project of the Center for Investigative Reporting that is focused on state and local issues. It is the largest investigative reporting organization in California.

#### HOW DOES CALIFORNIA WATCH DIFFER FROM CIR?

All California Watch projects are also projects of CIR. Staff, resources, ideas and organizational philosophy are shared. Each has its own website and network for distributing projects.

#### WHO PARTNERS WITH CALIFORNIA WATCH?

California Watch works with a variety of media partners – known as the California Watch Media Network – to distribute its content in different areas and communities throughout the state. Members of the network include The Bakersfield Californian, The Fresno Bee, The Orange County Register, the San Francisco Chronicle, U-T San Diego, KQED and KGO in San Francisco, KABC in Los Angeles, and KXTV in Sacramento.

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#### 1977

CIR is founded in downtown Oakland by Lowell Bergman, Dan Noyes and David Weir.

#### 1979

CIR's first story for national television airs on "20/20."

#### 1981

CIR publishes its first book, which is eventually translated into 10 languages.

#### 1990

CIR produces its first television documentary, which airs on "Frontline."

#### 1997

CIR wins an Emmy Award for an investigation into the cheap-guns industry that airs on "Frontline."

#### 2009

California Watch launches.

#### 2012

CIR receives MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions; California Watch wins the George Polk Award for medical reporting and the Scripps Howard Award for public service.

