



GOODS AT HIGH RISK FOR FORCED LABOR THAT ARE PROCURED THROUGH CALIFORNIA PUBLIC CONTRACTS

WHY CALIFORNIA IS LIKELY CONTRACTING WITH ENTITES THAT PROFIT FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING, FORCED LABOR OR CHILD LABOR

From 2022-23, the State of California spent \$18.98 billion on purchasing and contracts.¹ With its almost 20 billion in government contracts annually, the below data demonstrates that in almost 4000 contracts California could be contracting for products produced with forced labor and child labor, including, but not limited to garments, electronics, and agricultural products.

GOODS PRODUCED BY CHILD LABOR OR FORCED LABOR

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) annually releases a report referred to as the “List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor.”² This list is also known as the [TVPRA List of Goods](#) which identifies goods and raw materials that are produced with significant risk of child labor or forced labor in various countries.³ The 2024 list spans a wide variety of sectors such as agriculture, mining, textiles, and manufacturing.⁴

In comparing the “2024 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor” to the contracts awarded by the State⁵ it is clear that California utilizes goods and materials that are known to be linked to child labor or forced labor practices. The chart below demonstrates that 3,879 California contracts for commodities identified as commonly using exploited labor.

TYPE OF GOODS	NUMBER OF CALIFORNIA CONTRACTS FOR SPECIFIED COMMODITY	DESCRIPTION OF FORCED LABOR/CHILD LABOR FOUND IN PRODUCTION OF SAID GOOD
Manufactured Goods		

Garments

Uniforms: **1,378**
 Clothing: **489**

Garments: Produced with forced labor in countries like China and Burma (Myanmar), particularly in the garment industry.

¹ Department of General Services (DGS), Consolidated Annual Report 2022-2023, *available at* <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/-/media/Divisions/PD/OSDS/Certification/CAR/Final-FY2223-Consolidated-Annual-Report22924.pdf>

² Bureau of Int'l Labor Affairs (ILAB), “2024 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor,” DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (2024), *available at* https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ilab/child_labor_reports/tda2023/2024-tvpra-list-of-goods.pdf

³ *Id.* at Note 3.

⁴ *Id.* at Note 3

⁵ In utilizing the public resource “[Vendor List by Commodity](#)” one can search for commodity types contracted for by region. Utilizing this list to search for contracts awarded for high-risk commodities reveals that California does utilize public funds for goods and materials that are were produced or extracted using exploited labor. The Vendor Commodity list can be found using this link

<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjojZWUwZTZiNmQtY2ExOS00N2I2LWJjNmItZDFjMDI4Y2Q2NmU4IiwidCI6IjA3NTk3MjQ4LWVhMzgtNDUxYi04YWJLWE2MzhIZGRiYW4MSJ9>

Electronics

Phones: **777**
Computers: **1,051**

Electronics: Forced labor is prevalent in China, particularly in the production of electronics and related components like solar cells.

Agricultural Products

Cocoa**111**

Cocoa: From Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, significant portions of the world's cocoa are produced with child labor and forced labor.

Coffee**386**

Coffee: Produced in several countries like India, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic, often using child labor.

Cotton**24**

Cotton: Produced in several countries like India, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic, often using child labor.

Mining and Raw Minerals

Copper**99**

Cobalt, Copper, and Gold: Notably from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), these minerals are linked to child labor and forced labor.

Gold**26**

Cobalt, Copper, and Gold: Notably from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), these minerals are linked to child labor and forced labor.

Cobalt**20**

Cobalt, Copper, and Gold: Notably from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), these minerals are linked to child labor and forced labor.

Products that use manganese

Batteries: **771**
Fungicides: **125**

Lithium and Manganese: Found in countries like Zimbabwe and Zambia, and used in global industries like electric vehicles and batteries.

Products that use lithium

See goods listed under electronics

Lithium and Manganese: Found in countries like Zimbabwe and Zambia, and used in global industries like electric vehicles and batteries.

CONCLUSION

If the State is awarding contracts for these high-risk goods and materials, then measures should be implemented which ensure that public funds are not being utilized to perpetuate human trafficking or forced labor in their production. Given the complexities and lack of transparency in global supply chains, one way California can prevent human trafficking is by updating its procurement policies to have specific guidance for companies that prevent trafficking in supply chains, including with subcontractors. An overview of this policy proposal and its impact can be found [here](#).

By prioritizing ethical supply chain practices, California can help lead the way in combating human trafficking and forced labor, ensuring that its procurement practices support ethical law-abiding businesses, workers' rights and our collective social responsibility.

ABOUT THE SUNITA JAIN ANTI TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Policy Initiative (SJI) is an evidence-based and survivor-informed think tank based out of Loyola Law School. SJI intentionally works towards systemic change and filling the gaps in human trafficking prevention by focusing its policy advocacy on the intersectionality of 5 pillars: Government Accountability, Racial Justice, Immigrant Justice, Climate Justice and Economic Justice.

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