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Northern California: Patchy coastal clouds in the morning, otherwise ample sunshine. Highs 60s in coastal areas, 70s to near 80 in the Central Valley. Weather map, Page C21.

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After Epic Battle, Obama Claims the Nomination

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NEWS ANALYSIS Next on Agenda Is Clinton's Role

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

Senator Barack Obama heads into the general election with obvious advantages: He is a Democratic candidate running in a sour atmosphere for Republicans, in a contest where voters are hungry for change and coming out of a campaign in which he filled arena after arena with supporters.

Yet while he would like to shift his attention fully to the onslaught already coming from Senator John McCain and the Republicans, Mr. Obama still has problems in his own party that may overshadow everything else addresses them: How to

First Black to Lead the Ticket for Major Party

By JEFF ZELENY

Senator Barack Obama claimed the Democratic nomination on Tuesday evening, prevailing in an epic battle with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, a campaign that has drawn millions of voters from across America to the nation's capital in Washington.

A last-minute Democratic superdelegate split results in Montana, pushed Obama over the 270-vote threshold needed to be nominated at the national convention.

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