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EAST BAY RAY AND THE KILLER SMILES - s/t Podcast Played
{MVD} Ya know who RAY is right? The guitarist from a little known apolitical pop-punk band called DEAD KENNEDYS - remember?? This is the debut from his new project that also includes the recent Fake Kennedys vocalist Skip McSkipster. Obviously, the comparisons with DKs are unavoidable - especially on the likes of 'You're Such A Fake', 'The Last Time You Failed' and 'Area 51' all of which groove on 'Moon Over Marin' or '...Uber Alles'-esque riffs. Elsewhere there's a bit of Alt. Country drawl on 'The Heart Is Something', a damaged Reggae bop in 'Safe And Sound' and a blues-based rockabilly romp in 'Lipstick Cherry Red' and closer '16 Tons'. McSkipster's vocals have a really broad range here, mixing Scott Reynolds quasi-jazz jams with the vocal gymnastics of FAITH NO MORE's Mike Patton. It's produced in sparkling clarity by BUTTHOLE SURFER Paul Leary and packaging is, to say the least, minimal. A definite grower but decidedly formulaic when compared with Ray's ex-band mate and rival, Jello Biafra's mind-blowing GUANTANAMO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE project. (13.11.11)