



COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

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WHAT YOU THOUGHT IS TRUE: UC AND CSU ARE INDOCTRINATION CENTERS

One of the more alarming aspects of the contemporary California scene is the accelerating left orientation of its voters and elected and appointed leaders. In recent years, one expression of this trend has been the adoption of the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) and the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Act (SB 375). In places such as Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County, some of the city governments and both County governments have enthusiastically embraced these laws and a series of derivative policies designed to limit suburban living and force most future development into existing urban centers. This has been done in the name of global warming and climate change in an effort to ostensibly reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂). This vast scheme of physical and social engineering has been joined to the State's existing left governing majority predilection for heavy handed government regulation, plush public employee salaries and benefits, unsustainable public pension costs, and ever increasing taxes, fees, and debt. Further intensifying these unaffordable job killing encumbrances are \$100 billion high speed rail systems, State and county wildlife corridors, large government subsidized industrial scale solar energy plants (which are raising electric bills), suspension of vital water deliveries to farms, and the planned phase-out of fossil fuels and nuclear energy. This policy syndrome is characterized as environmental socialism.

An important question is why are Californians (and particularly those in the affluent coastal population centers and their even more affluent suburbs) so susceptible to the irrational and decadent policies of environmental socialism. Over the years many theories have been posited. These have ranged from the salubrious mind relaxing effects of the State's year round benign weather, the legacy of late 19th and early 20th century progressivism, and a belief that several generations of citizens were spoiled by the vast gains in California's standard of living that occurred during its "golden age" from the end of World War II to the early the 1970's.¹

Over the past several decades, one frequently expressed opinion (particularly with respect to State and local government staffers and elected officials) is that the State's politicized public higher education system has indoctrinated a cadre of leftist apparatchiks who believe in and carry out the enviro-socialist agenda. At the same time it has nurtured a generation of citizens who are incapable of recognizing the danger and reacting.

It turns out that this is exactly what has happened. In April 2012 The California Association of Scholars (CAS, a division of the National Association of Scholars) published a devastating report confirming this very problem and sent it to the Board of Regents of the University of California demanding that they take corrective action. The CAS Board of Directors includes prominent scholars from The UCLA Medical School, UC Santa Cruz, Sanford University, Claremont McKenna College, UC San Diego, California State University East Bay and others. The 81 page report is ominously entitled: **A Crisis of Competence: The Corrupting Effect of Political Activism in the University of California.**² The report is direct and pulls no punches:

"This report is concerned with the corruption of the University of California by activist politics, a condition which, as we shall show, sharply lowers the quality of academic teaching, analysis, and research, and results in exactly the troubling deficiencies that are being found in studies to which we have referred." (The authors cite a number of prominent recent studies about "the failure of higher education to provide measurable gains in general skills, analytical ability, writing, reasoning, and general knowledge.")

¹ Starr, Kevin; *Golden Dreams: California in an Age of Abundance, 1950-1963*; Oxford University Press US, July 2009

² National Association of Scholars, *A Crisis of Competence*, 2012

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A Cause of Our Political, Economic and Cultural Disintegration

"When individual faculty members and sometimes even whole departments decide that their aim is to advance social justice as they understand it rather than to teach the subject that they were hired to teach with all the analytical skill that they can muster, the quality of teaching and research is compromised."

The report states that, with respect to the political orientation of the faculty, *"There are six major findings...that show something far more disturbing than the traditional preponderance of liberals among university faculty:*

1. The extent of the tilt to the left has been growing and has now reached a magnitude not remotely matched in the past. In some areas it is so extreme that it amounts to virtual exclusion of any but left- of-center faculty members.

2. The kind of leftism has also become considerably more extreme.

3. The more that politics is relevant to a field of study (the most obvious cases being those of political science and sociology) the greater the preponderance of left-of-center faculty members and the more complete the exclusion of any by left-of-center faculty members. The point is worth emphasis: exactly where programmatic concerns would most suggest a need for a wider range of voices, that range is most likely to be absent. This pattern is strongly suggestive of a conscious intent in the hiring process.

4. Younger faculty members are more solidly left-oriented than older faculty members, which means that the extent of the tilt continues to grow as retirements replaced by new appointments increase the imbalance.

5. College faculty members have become far more likely to admit that activism is a goal of their teaching.

6. The public is alarmed about the professoriate's radical leftism to a degree that has not been true in the past.

There is a good chance that some of your county supervisors, city council members and planning commissioners are products of this corrupted system. It is almost certain that many local staff members have at least one degree from a University of California or California State University Campus. The planners, staff

attorneys, administrators, fiscal specialists, and all the others have been indoctrinated with radical social, environmental, and anti-capitalist/anti-private property dogma. Is it any wonder that these "public servants" are generating climate action plans, "smart growth regulations," impossible environmental requirements, and are adopting more fees and taxes?

This serious and debilitating condition is an important underlying cause of our current political, economic and cultural disintegration. It calls for citizens to awake and take action. As Boston University Sociology Professor Brigitte Berger predicted in 1994 when writing about the dangers of the politization of universities: *"And the third danger relates to a fundamental relativization, if not rejection, of the unique civilizational achievements of the Western university itself. If these dangers are left unchallenged ...and become the new reality of academic life, (they) will lead to the final undermining of the modern university, the retribalization of American society, and thereby to a repeal of the principles on which this nation is founded; and finally as the first two combine and take on dynamics of their own, a massive delegitimization of Western civilization itself is sure to follow."*³

It's not just our housing choices and jobs which are at risk. It's our country.

³ Berger , Brigitte in Our Country Our Culture, Partisan Review Press, 1994

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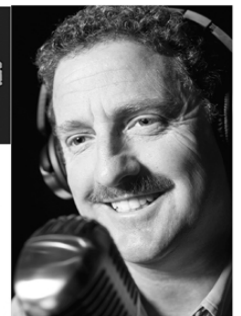
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CALIFORNIA DECLARES WAR ON SUBURBIA¹

Recently, nationally renowned author and speaker Wendell Cox appeared on the Andy Caldwell Radio Show. Cox is an international demographic, urban policy, and transportation consultant. He is a visiting professor at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris and served several terms on the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and the Amtrak Reform Council. He is author of "The War on the Dream: How Anti-Sprawl Policy Threatens the Quality of Life."² During his conversation with Andy, Cox skewered "smart growth" with comments such as "smart growth means dumb no growth," "people are overdosing on doctrine," and "you are dealing with people driven by ideology." He further characterized smart growth as a "false religion." He pointed out that "economic illiterates are leading the State" and that "California is one of the most misgoverned pieces of real estate on the planet." Cox concluded: "the California dream is on the way out." Quoted below is the web version of a recent article by Wendell Cox that has been widely circulated and reported on, nationally. It perfectly describes the impacts of current policy.

It's no secret that California's regulatory and tax climate is driving business investment to other states. California's high cost of living also is driving people away. Since 2000 more than 1.6 million people have fled, and my own research as well as that of others points to high housing prices as the principal factor.

The exodus is likely to accelerate. California has declared war on the most popular housing choice, the single family, detached home—all in the name of saving the planet.

Metropolitan area governments are adopting plans that would require most new housing to be built at 20 or more to the acre, which is at least five times the traditional quarter acre per house. State and regional planners also seek to radically restructure urban areas, forcing much of the new hyperdensity development into narrowly confined corridors. .

In San Francisco and San Jose, for example, the Association of Bay Area Governments has proposed that only 3% of new housing built by 2035 would be allowed on or beyond the "urban fringe"—where current housing ends and the countryside begins. Over two-thirds of the housing for the projected two million new residents in these metro areas would be multifamily—that is, apartments and condo complexes—and concentrated along major thoroughfares such as Telegraph Avenue in the East Bay and El Camino Real on the Peninsula.

For its part, the Southern California Association of Governments wants to require more than one-half of the new

housing in Los Angeles County and five other Southern California counties to be concentrated in dense, so-called transit villages, with much of it at an even higher 30 or more units per acre.

To understand how dramatic a change this would be, consider that if the planners have their way, 68% of new housing in Southern California by 2035 would be condos and apartment complexes. This contrasts with Census Bureau data showing that single-family, detached homes represented more than 80% of the increase in the region's housing stock between 2000 and 2010.

The campaign against suburbia is the result of laws passed in 2006 (the Global Warming Solutions Act) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and in 2008 (the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act) on urban planning. The latter law, as the Los Angeles Times aptly characterized it, was intended to "control suburban sprawl, build homes closer to downtown and reduce commuter driving, thus decreasing climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions." In short, to discourage automobile use.

If the planners have their way, the state's famously unaffordable housing could become even more unaffordable. Over the past 40 years, median house prices have doubled relative to household incomes in the Golden State. Why? In 1998, Dartmouth economist William Fischel found that California's housing had been nearly as affordable as the rest of the nation until the more restrictive regulations, such as development moratoria, urban growth boundaries, and overly expensive impact fees came into effect starting in the 1970s. Other economic studies, such as by Stephen Malpezzi at the University of Wisconsin, also have documented the strong relationship between more intense land-use regulations and exorbitant house prices.

The love affair urban planners have for a future ruled by mass transit will be obscenely expensive and would not reduce traffic congestion. In San Diego, for example, an expanded bus and rail transit system is planned to receive more than half of the \$48.4 billion in total highway and transit spending through 2050. Yet transit would increase its share of travel to a measly 4% from its current tiny 2%, according to data in the San Diego Association of Governments regional transportation plan. This slight increase in mass transit ridership would be swamped by higher traffic volumes.

¹ A version of this article appeared April 7, 2012, on page A13 in some U.S. editions of *The Wall Street Journal*, with the headline: California Declares War on Suburbia.

² iUniverse, Inc. New York, Lincoln, Shanghai ; 2006

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A Future Ruled By Mass Transit Will Be Obscenely Expensive

Higher population densities in the future mean greater traffic congestion, because additional households in the future will continue to use their cars for most trips. In the San Diego metropolitan area, where the average one-way work trip travel time is 28 minutes, only 14% of work and higher education locations could be reached within 30 minutes by transit in 2050. But 70% or more of such locations will continue to be accessible in 30 minutes by car.

Rather than protest the extravagance, California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris instead has sued San Diego because she thinks transit was not favored enough in the plan and thereby violates the legislative planning requirements enacted in 2006 and 2008. Her predecessor (Jerry Brown, who is now the governor) similarly sued San Bernardino County in 2007.

California's war on suburbia is unnecessary, even considering the state's lofty climate-change goals. For example, a 2007 report by McKinsey, co-sponsored by the

Environmental Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council, concluded that substantial greenhouse gas emissions reductions could be achieved while "traveling the same mileage" and without denser urban housing. The report recommended cost-effective strategies such as improved vehicle economy, improving the carbon efficiency of residential and commercial buildings, upgrading coal-fired electricity plants, and converting more electricity production to natural gas.

Ali Modarres of the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs at California State University, Los Angeles has shown that a disproportionate share of migrating households are young. This is at least in part because it is better to raise children with backyards than on condominium balconies. A less affordable California, with less attractive housing, could disadvantage the state as much as its already destructive policies toward business.



THE IDEAL COMMUNIST CITY: “SMART GROWTH” PRECURSOR?

San Luis Obispo County's "Strategic Growth Principles" document issued on August 31, 2011 states in part *"Strategic growth is a compact, efficient and environmentally sensitive pattern of development that provides people with additional travel, housing and employment choices. It focuses future growth away from rural areas and limited resources, closer to existing and planned job centers and public facilities where sustainable resources are available."*

As a consequence the County has determined that the creation of more single-family freestanding houses on individual lots is economically and environmentally inimical to public health and safety as well as the efficient provision of government services. Accordingly, the way people live needs to be reengineered. Some specific characteristics of future County communities call for:

- *Inter-connected street systems, bicycle and pedestrian ways.*
- *Neighborhood areas that can accommodate a variety of housing types that is affordable to all income groups, which are located close to focal points serving daily needs.*
- *Compact building design.*
- *Preserve open space, scenic natural beauty and sensitive environment areas.*

- *Avoid establishing or expanding Residential Rural and Residential Suburban areas outside urban and village reserve areas.*
- *Plan for most future development to be within existing and strategically planned cities and communities.*
- *Plan communities with schools, parks, public spaces, transit stops, and commercial districts located as focal points within convenient walking distances of neighborhoods.*

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This article was prepared by Mike Brown, Governmental Affairs Director of the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business of San Luis Obispo County. Brown has 42 years of state and local government experience.

Low-rise Housing Can Be Enjoyed By Those Who “Deserve” It

It turns out that these are not such new or unique ideas, and others have attempted to promulgate similar dogma. Consider the following quote from a 1968 planning text “The Ideal Communist City,” which excoriates suburban living as a “traditional retreat of the leisured minority at the top of the bourgeois society.”¹

Ideal conditions for rest and privacy are offered by the individual house situated in the midst of nature. But this is an expensive kind of well-being. To give one family the comforts of life in the heart of nature, the costs of construction must be paid, as well as the cost of a series of individual services, from the refrigerator to the laundress to the automobile. The villa is the traditional retreat of the leisured minority at the top of the bourgeois society. The attempt to make the villa available to the average consumer means building a mass of little houses, each on a tiny piece of land. This method entails a minimum of domestic services, costly shared services, and transportation to meet individual needs. The mass construction of individual houses, however, destroys the basic character of this type of residence. There is no longer the possibility of isolation in nature. What results is a chaotic and depressing agglomeration of dwellings covering enormous stretches of land. This is obvious, for example, in the case of some new American cities and suburbs. At the same time, given the conditions of social equality and the increasing growth of demand for housing in our country, the search for a future kind of residential model leads logically to high-rise structures.

Note: These are same objections to suburban and rural living that we hear all the time from the County and its enviro-socialist majority leaders:

- It’s too costly.
- It’s too inefficient to provide government services to it.
- The results are chaotic and depressing.
- It destroys the rural environment.

Of course the Soviets had not thought of the CO2 “apocalypse” in 1968 as a tool of collectivization and destruction of capitalism and private property. One might note that contemporary Russia, Ukraine, and the other former Soviet “Republics” are some of the worst polluters on the planet due to their inefficient economies with a heritage of collectivist and “equitable” state ownership and economic planning. They are paleotechnic societies based on coal, government provided medical care, mass transit, large government sponsored energy projects, extreme regimentation, and all the rest. It’s not clear why living in a single-family, freestanding home compels the bourgeois homemaker to hire a laundress. No doubt, 1968 Soviet Society was incapable of producing washing machines, refrigerators, or automobiles in sufficient quantity to provide

even one per household. At least the Soviets were honest enough to recognize that it would be necessary to build up, if not out.

The Soviet smart growth manual continues and reinforces its bias against suburban and rural living. It also proposes a solution:

Monotonous stretches of individual low-rise houses can be replaced by concentrating a number of people in a relatively small space and the creation of an efficient system of services. Moreover, even with high density, considerable green spaces can be provided for the development of gardens and parks. Bilateral orientation of apartments combined with the high-rise-building concept assures great privacy for each unit and large sweeping views. Proper site planning of high-rise buildings among green areas can make it possible to place low-rise children’s institutions as near as possible to home. The real advantages of low-rise structures can then be enjoyed by our society, but according to different precepts from those of bourgeois society, that is, not by whoever can pay the most but by those who deserve housing and services.

It is frightening how similar the ideas in this paragraph are to current County justifications for its overarching “smart growth” initiatives:

- *Individual low rise houses can be replaced* (The county seeks to avoid creating more)
- *Concentrate people in a relatively small space.*
- *Create efficient system of services.*
- *Provide green spaces.*
- *“Low rise structures can be enjoyed by our society...by those who deserve housing and services”.*

One question is who gets to decide who “deserves” the better “housing and services.” As we noted in last month’s COLAB Newsletter, many of the most prominent smart growth proponents live in large single-family houses in suburbs or rural areas. Russian President Vladimir Putin’s country house is shown below. It looks like it’s on a Santa Ynez Valley hilltop. (It should be noted that Santa Barbara County would never permit a house this large in the Valley, let alone with the extensive grading and a helipad.) Uber-global warming/sustainability guru Al Gore’s house is also displayed.

¹ Alexei Gutnov, A. Baburov, G. Djumenton, S. Kharitonova, and S. Sadovskij, *The Ideal Communist City*; Moscow University.; press incorporated, 1968.

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Your House: An Example of “Bourgeois 19th Century Naturalism”?



Vladimir's House



Al's House



Stalin's Smallest Country House. One of Many.



Russian Smart Growth Village (NUS)

The New Unit of Urban Settlement (NUS): The key recommendation of the “Ideal Communist City” was for the creation of a new model of dense urban development called the “New Unit of Settlement” or “NUS”. The picture to the right above shows a NUS built in the 1980's. Just like their counterpart American global warming solutions leaders, the Russian bosses are in the more “deserving class” and don't live in a NUS. The fundamental principles governing the NUS are:

1. *Equal mobility for all. Residential sectors are at equal walking distance from the center and from the forests and parks surrounding them.*
2. *Distances are planned on a pedestrian scale. No home is so remote from the center or from the park area that it cannot be reached by a reasonably short walk.*
3. *Elimination of danger from vehicular traffic. Rapid public transportation operates outside the pedestrian area yet is linked centrally with NUS. (Its circuits carry people from home to work and from home to home.)*
4. *Green belts. Every sector is surrounded on at least two sides by open land.*

5. *The spatial isolation of apartments in high-rise residential blocks allows the concentration of very large populations in a single large space.*

The authors' elaboration below is informative in that it suggests not only that the NUS be utilized in the Soviet Union, but that it be adopted as a worldwide form. This seems to be a precursor to the current international efforts to reshape living patterns in the name of global warming. Agenda 21 and the work of International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (whose work formed the template for San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and many other jurisdiction's greenhouse gas assessments and Climate Action Plans) are examples.

This book was initiated by the architecture-faculty of the University of Moscow in the late fifties. For the 1968 edition the material was enlarged and revised by the authors, a group of young urbanists, architects, and sociologists, who represent a renewal of ideas that are taking place in Soviet Russia, especially in fields concerned with the organization of the physical environment. Their work is particularly original in its general assumptions, method of inquiry, and choice of models. The authors turn away from the proposition that the city should attempt to restore the habits and appearance of the countryside. This proposition adapted from the bourgeois naturalism of the nineteenth century, contradicted the ideological foundations of communism. By contrast, what is proposed in this book is world-wide urbanization. The authors design concept, the New Unit of Settlement, incorporates countryside with city, conceiving both as a communication network, uniformly intense and diffused.

Unlike Western architectural "revivals," which consistently turn toward the past and are pseudo-innovative, the Soviet heritage suggests the idea of a "revolutionary tradition" as the model for urban planning.

Soon, if the enviro-socialists, maintain control, you too can move to a New Unit of Settlement. Even if you escape, this is the world planned for your children and grandchildren. After all, you don't want to undermine global greenhouse gas reduction efforts by adhering to the obsolete “bourgeois naturalism of the nineteenth century.” You don't want to contradict the ideological foundations of communism. Instead you want to embrace the new doctrine of “world-wide urbanization” and the idea of “a revolutionary tradition as the model for urban planning.” Or do you?

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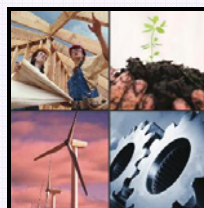
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