

COLAB

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

March 2014 Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3



THE COALITION OF LABOR,
AGRICULTURE, AND BUSINESS

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

5th Annual DINNER FUNDRAISER 2014

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Alex Madonna Expo Center, San Luis Obispo

5:15 pm - Social Hour, No Host Cocktails
6:15 pm - Filet Mignon Dinner including Wine

\$125 per person / \$1100 per table of ten
Reserved seating for Tables of Ten

For tickets, mail your check to:
**COLAB, PO Box 13601,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406**

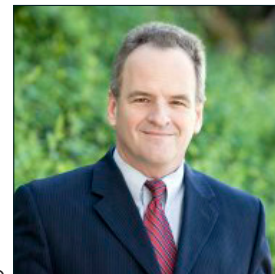
For more information call: **(805) 548-0340**
or email to colabslo@gmail.com

**Remember to bring your ticket to enter in the
door prize drawing!**

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Sam Blakeslee

The Honorable Dr. Sam Blakeslee founded the Institute for Advanced Technology and Public Policy at Cal Poly in 2012. With a portfolio of experience as a scientist, business owner and legislator, his goal is to bring these diverse worlds together with cross-disciplinary thinkers at Cal Poly to solve some of the most complex public policy challenges facing society today. Blakeslee was elected to the California State Assembly in 2005 and later to the State Senate. Elected by his fellow legislators, Blakeslee served as Assembly Minority Leader. In this role, he was a member of the "Big 5" with responsibility for negotiating the state budget and major policy initiatives. In 2009 and 2012, the Sacramento Bee identified Blakeslee as one of "Sacramento's Most Bipartisan Legislators."



Come join us in the celebration!

**Cocktail Attire Optional
(We still love those jeans too!)**

FOUNDING DIRECTOR SAM BLAKESLEE

Sam Blakeslee founded the Institute for Advanced Technology and Public Policy at Cal Poly in 2012. With a portfolio of experience as a scientist, business owner and legislator, his goal is to bring these diverse worlds together with cross-disciplinary thinkers at Cal Poly to solve some of the most complex public policy challenges facing society today.

Dr. Blakeslee graduated from San Luis Obispo High School and attended Cuesta College. He first worked in construction, then attended U.C. Berkeley where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in geophysics. He was awarded a Ph.D. from U.C. Santa Barbara for his work in seismic scattering, micro-earthquake studies and fault-zone attenuation. As a strategic planner and senior research scientist with Exxon, he received a patent for his innovative work in geologic imaging.

Blakeslee is also a successful business owner, operating a multi-branch investment and financial planning firm with \$700 million of assets under management. Blakeslee is a Certified Financial Planner, General Municipal Securities Principal (Series 53), General Securities Principal (Series 24) and a General Securities Representative (Series 7). Blakeslee was elected to the California State Assembly in 2005 and later to the State Senate. Elected by his fellow legislators, Blakeslee served a term as Assembly Minority Leader. In this role, he was a member of the "Big 5" with responsibility for negotiating the state budget and major policy initiatives. He also served and held leadership positions on a variety of legislative committees focusing on agriculture, energy, banking, environmental quality,



education and other fields. He successfully authored dozens of bills to evolve and reform policy related to energy, the environment, health care, job creation, lobbying reform, public and worker safety, veterans' affairs and other areas of concern.

While serving in Sacramento, Blakeslee founded and chaired the Task Force on Energy, the Environment and the Economy known as "E3." The group developed strategies to bridge the divide between the environment and the economy by applying emerging technology. This work fueled Blakeslee's conviction that advanced technology can

be a critical tool in evolving public policy to better meet the needs of the modern world.

During the course of his career, Blakeslee has been active in civic and community life. He has been a Board member with the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, the Central Coast Natural History Association, the Wildlife Conservation Board and Saint Joseph High School in Santa Maria. He also served two terms as a Trustee of Cuesta College. In 1999, Blakeslee authored the DREAM Initiative, a San Luis Obispo County ballot initiative that created a long-term vision for the future of PG&E's 12-mile scenic coastline known as the Diablo Canyon Lands.

Blakeslee has been recognized for his bipartisan leadership skills by many different organizations over the years. He earned Legislator of the Year awards from the California Police Chiefs and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. He has been singled out for his dedication to the environment with a Climate Hero

Award from the consumer group CALPIRG, a Public Service Award from the American Institute of Professional Geologists, the Rhodes Leadership Award from the League of Women Voters, and recognition for support by the Partners for the Conservation of the Los Osos Coastal Dunes. He has also earned awards for advocacy from organizations representing seniors, the disabled, physicians and dentists and cattle ranchers.

In 2009 and 2012, the *Sacramento Bee* recognized Blakeslee as one of "Sacramento's Most Bipartisan Legislators." This distinction reflects Blakeslee's drive to balance the needs and interests of diverse constituents and craft solutions to thorny issues that help solve problems for all. Now serving pro bono as the Founding Director of Cal Poly's Institute for Advanced Technology and Public Policy, Blakeslee is applying his skills in bringing experts together to focus on developing practical strategies for real-world challenges. <http://www.iatpp.calpoly.edu/>

THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW

The only local talk show to cover the entire Central Coast!

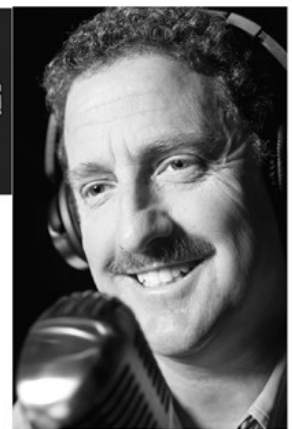
Central Coast Government watchdog, taxpayer, business and traditional values advocate Andy Caldwell interviews leaders and scholars on a variety of local, state and national issues.

Andy is Live Monday Thru Friday 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Call in 1-888-625-1440

Visit www.theandycaldwellshow.com for more information

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THE MYTH OF 'SETTLED SCIENCE'

By Charles Krauthammer

I repeat: I'm not a global warming believer. I'm not a global warming denier. I've long believed that it cannot be good for humanity to be spewing tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. I also believe that those scientists who pretend to know exactly what this will cause in 20, 30 or 50 years are white-coated propagandists.

"The debate is settled," asserted propagandist in chief Barack Obama in his latest State of the Union address. "Climate change is a fact." Really? There is nothing more anti-scientific than the very idea that science is settled, static, impervious to challenge. Take a non-climate example. It was long assumed that mammograms help reduce breast cancer deaths. This fact was so settled that Obamacare requires every insurance plan to offer mammograms (for free, no less) or be subject to termination.

Now we learn from a massive randomized study — 90,000 women followed for 25 years — that mammograms may have no effect on breast cancer deaths. Indeed, one out of five of those diagnosed by mammogram receives unnecessary radiation, chemo or surgery.

So much for settledness. And climate is less well understood than breast cancer. If climate science is settled, why do its predictions keep changing? And how is it that the great physicist Freeman Dyson, who did some climate research in the late 1970s, thinks today's climate-change Cassandras are hopelessly mistaken?

They deal with the fluid dynamics of the atmosphere and oceans, argues Dyson, ignoring the effect of biology, i.e., vegetation and topsoil. Further, their predictions rest on models they fall in love with: "You sit in front of a computer screen for 10 years and you start to think of your model

as being real.” Not surprisingly, these models have been “consistently and spectacularly wrong” in their predictions, write atmospheric scientists Richard McNider and John Christy — and always, amazingly, in the same direction.

Settled? Even Britain’s national weather service concedes there’s been no change — delicately called a “pause” — in global temperature in 15 years. If even the raw data is recalcitrant, let alone the assumptions and underlying models, how settled is the science?

But even worse than the pretense of settledness is the cynical attribution of any politically convenient natural disaster to climate change, a clever term that allows you to attribute anything — warming and cooling, drought and flood — to man’s sinful carbon burning.

Accordingly, Obama ostentatiously visited drought-stricken California last Friday. Surprise! He blamed climate change. Here even the *New York Times* gagged, pointing out that far from being supported by the evidence, “the most recent computer projections suggest that as the world warms, California should get wetter, not drier, in the winter.”

How inconvenient. But we’ve been here before. Hurricane Sandy was made the poster child for the alleged increased frequency and strength of “extreme weather events” like hurricanes.

Nonsense. Sandy wasn’t even a hurricane when it hit the United States. Indeed, in all of 2012, only a single hurricane made U.S. landfall. And 2013 saw the fewest Atlantic hurricanes in 30 years. In fact, in the last half-century, one-third fewer major hurricanes have hit the United States than in the previous half-century.

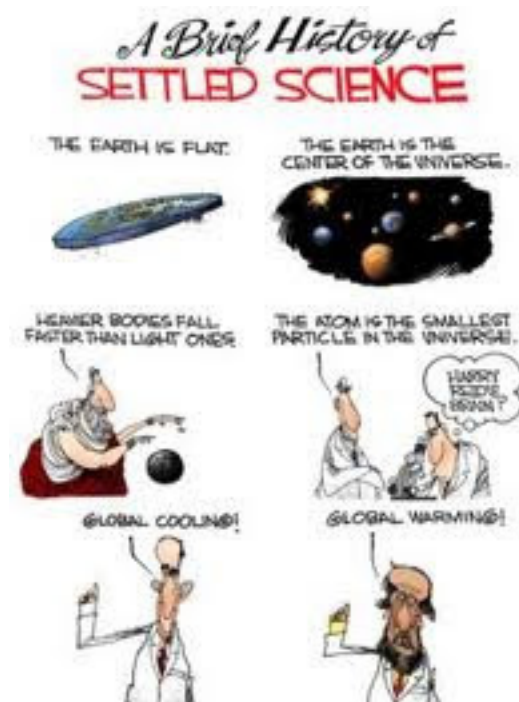
Similarly tornadoes. Every time one hits, the climate-change commentary begins. Yet last year saw the fewest in a quarter-century. And the last 30 years — of presumed global warming — has seen a 30 percent decrease in extreme tornado activity (F3 and above) versus the previous 30 years. None of this is dispositive. It doesn’t settle the issue. But

that’s the point. It mocks the very notion of settled science, which is nothing but a crude attempt to silence critics and delegitimize debate. As does the term “denier” — an echo of Holocaust denial, contemptibly suggesting the malevolent rejection of an established historical truth.

Climate-change proponents have made their cause a matter of fealty and faith. For folks who pretend to be brave carriers of the scientific ethic, there’s more than a tinge of religion in their jeremiads. If you whore after other gods, the Bible tells us, “the Lord’s wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit” (Deuteronomy 11).

Sounds like California. Except that today there’s a new god, the Earth Mother. And a new set of sins — burning coal and driving a fully equipped F-150.

But whoring is whoring, and the gods must be appeased. So if California burns, you send your high priest (in carbon-belching Air Force One, but never mind) to the bone-dry land to offer up, on behalf of the repentant congregation, a \$1 billion burnt offering called a “climate resilience fund.” Ah, settled science in action.



CALIFORNIA IN AN AGE OF SCARCITY

By Michael F. Brown

American historian and former California State Librarian, Kevin Starr, has written a great multi-volume history of California, collectively entitled *Americans and the California Dream*. In one of the volumes, "California in the Age of Abundance," Starr details the history of the growth of affluence within the state from 1950-1963.

This extremely readable, colorful, and nostalgic history describes how millions of families came to California during and after World War II. The fathers in these families were able to obtain head of household jobs in the state's burgeoning aerospace, energy, agriculture, and service industries. In turn these jobs enabled millions of families to achieve the American dream of the freestanding home with a yard and privacy. Often as these families advanced in their careers, they were able to live in progressively better homes with amenities such as fireplaces, multi-car garages, more than one bathroom, a bedroom for each child, custom kitchens, swimming pools, and landscaping. Their children were able to attend what were then some of the finest public schools in America. Some, such as Lowell High School in San Francisco, Berkeley High School, Los Angeles University High School, Santa Monica High School, and many others, were famous for providing curricula with an array of courses of sufficient rigor to enable their graduates to compete successfully for admission to UC Berkeley, Stanford, UCLA, USC, the national service academies and ivy league colleges. In addition to the standard mathematics, English, social studies, and hard science courses, these schools also offered Latin, astronomy, extensive arts and music programs, and all intermural and competitive varsity sports.

In turn, their graduates could attend Berkeley, UCLA, Cal Poly and a host of other schools for virtually no tuition

and very limited other fees. For example, in 1962 the registration fee for as many units as a student could bear at Berkeley was \$75 per semester (The Incidental Fee), which included tuition, health clinic fees, and access to all athletic events. Much of this was funded with the state's phenomenal economic growth, which included dedicated royalties from its mineral wealth.

Now, fifty years after the end of that era as delineated by Starr, instead of living in an era of abundance, we are told by our State and local officials that we must live in a new era of scarcity. The fact is that this scarcity has been caused by and imposed by those very governments (particularly the State of California) which now try to limit economic growth even further, thereby intensifying and prolonging the current age of scarcity. Ironically, the generation that benefited most from California's age of abundance is the generation that has done the most to kill the dream. Current and former Governor Jerry Brown is certainly the most iconic representative of this phenomenon. Born in the 1930s and educated in the '50s and '60s (including graduating from Berkeley), Brown and his political comrades developed, defended, and installed most of the policies that have denied those very benefits to the current generation which he and his cohorts have themselves enjoyed.

Among the key drivers of this politically imposed Age of Scarcity are:

1. Brown's leadership and the legislature's adoption in the 1970s of the Meyers-Miliias-Brown Act (MMBA), which enabled state employees, municipal and county workers, and public school teachers to organize unions and compel all public jurisdictions to engage in mandatory collective bargaining over salaries, benefit (especially pensions), and conditions of work (especially hours, sick time, and attendance). As soon as unions

realized that mandatory collective bargaining meant a constant ratcheting up, they set up political action committees and entered the field of electoral politics. Since they were able to raise millions from state mandated compulsory dues, eventually they were able to become the dominant political interest group in the State and many of its local jurisdictions. In effect, by electing their members and friends to the state legislature, school boards, and city and county boards, they effectively placed themselves on both sides of the bargaining table. In turn, this has meant that over the decades from the 1970's to the present, an ever-growing percentage of government budgets has been shifted from capital investment to recurring annual expenditures for salaries and benefits. As a result, the State and its local governments have not kept up with the state's population growth in terms of roads, bridges, reservoirs, aqueducts, university campuses, local public school buildings, parks, and other facilities. The resulting infrastructure deficit is now in the hundreds of billions.

Similarly the cost of staffing of public colleges and universities has risen geometrically over the decades. Meanwhile, the State has less and less money to fund those costs, and as a result tuition costs have risen from the \$75 per semester noted above to \$12,192 system-wide for resident undergraduates for the school year 2013-14 (source: universityofcalifornia.edu/paying-for-uc). Moreover and since capital budgets have been starved, there are not enough buildings and universities to serve the state's growing population. As a result, places are limited, and competition for admission means that only those with the highest grade averages and test scores can be admitted. They also need the money to pay the much higher admission cost. (Scholarships are limited, and most students have to fend for themselves.)

2. Another imposition of restrictions that have grown since the 1970s is in the whole field of land use controls and environmental regulation. The prejudice against "urban sprawl," which arose first among academicians, radical nostalgists, the wealthy, and other elites during the 1960s, has now been adopted as incontrovertible by the

State government and many localities. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Coastal Act, the expansion of the writ of the State Fish and Wildlife Department, burgeoning subdivision requirements and exactions, and the proliferation of an indoctrinated class of government bureaucrat planners combined with the restriction of available land has driven home prices far beyond the reach of the current rising generation of Californians. This is yet another example of government created scarcity.

3. Beginning in 2008, the State and, by mandate, its cities and counties have embraced the doctrine of climate "science" in order to justify a whole new layer of land use, industrial, and agricultural restrictions which are being imposed to forestall the increase of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. This initiative, which is really a political movement to expand the role of government and its encroachment into the core of what used to be private property rights, is further limiting land for homes, the growth of jobs, and freedom of choice in living modes and transportation. In addition, and even more disturbing, in its infatuation with the empty promise of solar and windmill energy alternatives, it is sabotaging the economically viable proven electric production, especially nuclear energy plants, and thus causing higher costs for electricity. These higher electricity costs impact every other aspect of economic life, especially other manufacturing costs and the cost of pumping and moving water around the state. As we have seen in the current drought, the scarcity of water is exacerbated by the high cost of pumping and moving water, and ironically and tragically, that scarcity is being used to justify even further restrictions and economic closures.

If some alien force or invader had wanted to design a way to destroy a society, they could not have embedded a better set of cyclical forces to generate scarcity, which in turn demands even more controls. A fundamental question is at what point do these controls become so pervasive that they not only begin to eliminate private property, but annihilate human rights.

CALIFORNIA WATER ACTION PLAN: GET RID OF YOUR TREES (AND POOL)

By Michael F. Brown

State officials are planning further major crop-reducing restrictions on the use of water by agriculturalists and yard-killing restrictions on urban residents. They believe the current drought is caused by climate change and will be permanent. The excerpt from the recently issued January 27, 2024 **California Water Action Plan** (the Plan), quoted below, summarizes the underlying policy rationale.

Population growth and climate change further increase the severity of these risks – The state’s population is projected to grow from 38 million to 50 million by 2049.¹ The effects of climate change are already being felt and will worsen. The Sierra snowpack is decreasing, reducing natural water storage and altering winter and spring runoff patterns. This is most likely the result of higher temperatures and may also be related to air pollution that deposits fine particulate on the surface of snow, changing its reflectivity and causing it to absorb more heat and melt faster. Higher river and ocean water temperatures will make it harder to maintain adequate habitat for native fish species. Higher ocean temperatures will alter the already changing weather patterns. Sea level rise threatens coastal communities and islands in the Delta. Sea level rise also amplifies the risk that the pumps that supply cities and farms with Delta water will be inundated with seawater in a large earthquake or storms that breach levees. The strategies identified in this action plan will help protect our resources from more frequent and more severe dry periods which threaten the health of our natural systems and our ability to meet our diverse water supply and water quality needs.

The Plan is light on details and instead contains 10 broad policy initiatives, the contents of which are to be detailed

in the future. (They will have to pass the law so we can find out.) We would expect each of the goals to metastasize into new restrictions on the one hand and proposals for new projects and concomitant new taxes on the other.

1. *Make conservation a California way of life;*
2. *Increase regional self-reliance and integrated water management across all levels of government;*
3. *Achieve the co-equal goals for the Delta;*
4. *Protect and restore important ecosystems;*
5. *Manage and prepare for dry periods;*
6. *Expand water storage capacity and improve groundwater management;*
7. *Provide safe water for all communities;*
8. *Increase flood protection;*
9. *Increase operational and regulatory efficiency;*
10. *Identify sustainable and integrated financing opportunities*

MUNICIPAL PURVEYORS ARE ALREADY SUPPOSED TO BE PHASING IN 20% REDUCTIONS.

To implement the Plan, the State will add to the requirements already contained in a law which the Legislature approved in 2009 (SBX77) – entitled The Water Conservation Act of 2009. Note that language in the act requires a 20% water reduction by urban users by 2020. This requirement was set 5 years ago and thus well before the current drought. The Governor and thousands of other elected and appointed officials are currently calling (and in many cases setting requirements) for 20% reductions. We wonder what they were doing about the 20% reduction requirement, which

has been law for 5 years. In part that existing law states:

10608. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Water is a public resource that the California Constitution protects against waste and unreasonable use.

(b) Growing population, climate change, and the need to protect and grow California's economy while protecting and restoring our fish and wildlife habitats make it essential that the state manage its water resources as efficiently as possible.

(c) Diverse regional water supply portfolios will increase water supply reliability and reduce dependence on the Delta.

(d) Reduced water use through conservation provides significant energy and environmental benefits, and can help protect water quality, improve streamflows, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(e) The success of state and local water conservation programs to increase efficiency of water use is best determined on the basis of measurable outcomes related to water use or efficiency.

(f) Improvements in technology and management practices offer the potential for increasing water efficiency in California over time, providing an essential water management tool to meet the need for water for urban, agricultural, and environmental uses.

(g) The Governor has called for a 20 percent per capita reduction in urban water use statewide by 2020.

(h) The factors used to formulate water use efficiency targets can vary significantly from location to location based on factors including weather, patterns of urban and suburban development, and past efforts to enhance water use efficiency.

- (i) Per capita water use is a valid measure of a
- (ii) water provider's efforts to reduce urban water use within its service area. However, per capita water use

is less useful for measuring relative water use efficiency between different water providers. Differences in weather, historical patterns of urban and suburban development, and density of housing in a particular location need to be considered when assessing per capita water use as a measure of efficiency.¹

One question is: What if a particular water supplier has already achieved 20% reduction (or some portion thereof) since 2009. Another question is: What new more stringent standards are likely to be imposed now? The paragraph quoted from the Plan, below, states that the 20% standard will probably be increased. There are separate measurement requirements for agricultural water providers, but these do not contain actual targets – probably because of Constitutional rights of overlayers to beneficial use of water.

Expand Agricultural and Urban Water Conservation and Efficiency to Exceed SBX77 Targets

The administration will expand existing programs to provide technical assistance, shared data and information, and incentives to urban and agricultural local and regional water agencies, as well as local governmental agencies, to promote agricultural and urban water conservation in excess of the amounts envisioned by SBX77. We will work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify and remove impediments to achieving statewide conservation targets, recycling and stormwater goals; to evaluate and update targets for additional water use efficiency, including consideration of expanding the 20



The end of this?

percent by 2020 targets by holding total urban water consumption at 2000 levels until 2030, achieving even greater per capita reductions in water use.

Hearings will take place in Sacramento to formulate legislation to make the existing law more strict. Realtors, homebuilders, agriculturalists, and those interested in preserving their property values should take note. Imagine if the State suddenly outlaws California residents' multi-billion dollar investment in residential landscaping. Should realtors start disclosing the fact that the lawns, flowers, and trees, which are part of a property, may soon become de facto illegal? How about putting water in the pool?



A sustainable yard.

Workshops to Develop Input on Groundwater Legislative Proposal

Ideas, Proposals & Feedback

Monday, March 24, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.

Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

AND

Proposed Solutions

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.

Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 – \$249 \$ _____ **Voting Member: \$250 - \$5,000** \$ _____

Sustaining Member: \$5,000 + \$ _____

(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)

General members will receive all COLAB updates and newsletters. Voting privileges are limited to Voting Members and Sustainable Members with one vote per membership.

MEMBER INFORMATION:

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For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.

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Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

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All applications are subject to review and approval by the COLAB Membership Committee and Board of Directors.
Applications that are not accepted will have the dues or donations promptly refunded.