



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO WEEK OF MAY 28 - JUNE 3, 2017

THIS WEEK

NO SUPERVISORS MEETING

LAST WEEK

MORE GROUNDWATER AGENCIES FORMED

**GIBSON MOBILIZING CITY COUNCILS AGAINST
BOARD MAJORITY ON SGMA FUNDING
(SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS)**

**PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUES SMALL
SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT ON ORCUTT ROAD
(THEY WORRIED THAT IT WILL SPOIL VIEW FROM A TRAIL)**

**PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS SOME
HELP FOR 2ND HOUSING UNITS – PER STATE LAW**

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

(SEE PAGE 6)

LURING THE CITIES INTO THE GIBSON - HILL SWAMP

By Michael F Brown

HONORING ALL OUR MEMORIES

By Andy Caldwell

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, May 30, 2017

May 30th is the day after a national holiday (Memorial Day), and the Board will not be meeting. The holiday is observed on Monday, May 29th, which means that the County is closed and the staff is not around to brief the Board on agenda items. Enjoy the brief respite.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED AND SACRIFICED



THINK OF THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY



WILL YOU SERVE HERE?



LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, May 23, 2017 (Completed)

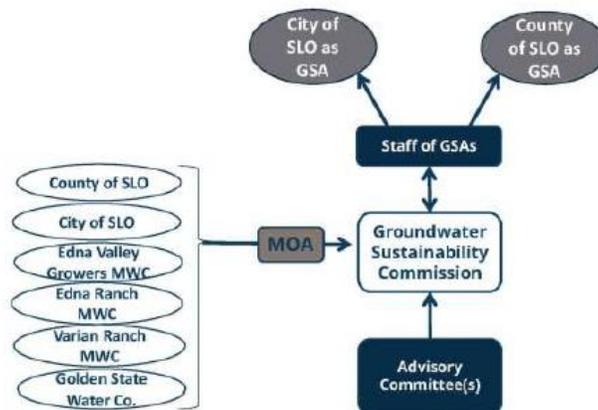
Item 23 - Formation of the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

The Board unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding between SLO County and a number of other jurisdictions to form a Cuyama Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency per State Groundwater Management Act SGMA requirements. There was no controversy.

Member	Voting Weight per Member	Number of Directors	Voting Weight per Director
Cuyama Basin Water District	33.335%	5	6.667%
Cuyama CSD	11.111%	1	11.111%
Santa Barbara Co. Water Agency	22.222%	2	11.111%
County of San Luis Obispo	11.111%	1	11.111%
County of Kern	11.111%	1	11.111%
County of Ventura	11.111%	1	11.111%
TOTAL	100%	11	100.001%

Item 24 - Formation of the San Luis Obispo Valley Basin (Edna Valley) Groundwater Management Agency (GSA). The Board unanimously approved the formation of this GSA. This one has a slightly different structure than some of the others because the County and City of SLO are the only governments overlying the basin.

Therefore the structure is as depicted in the diagram below:

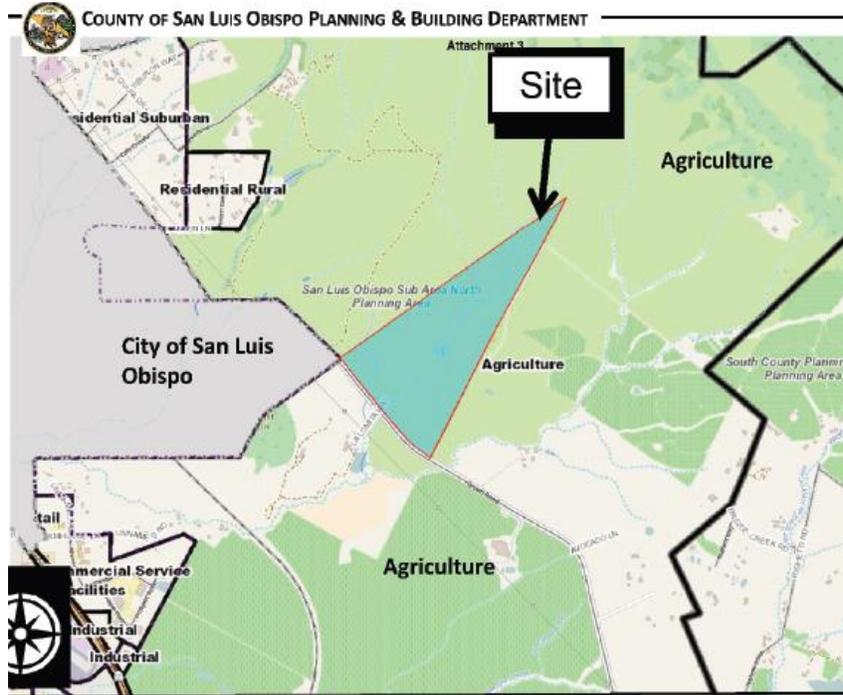


Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, May 25, 2017 (Completed)

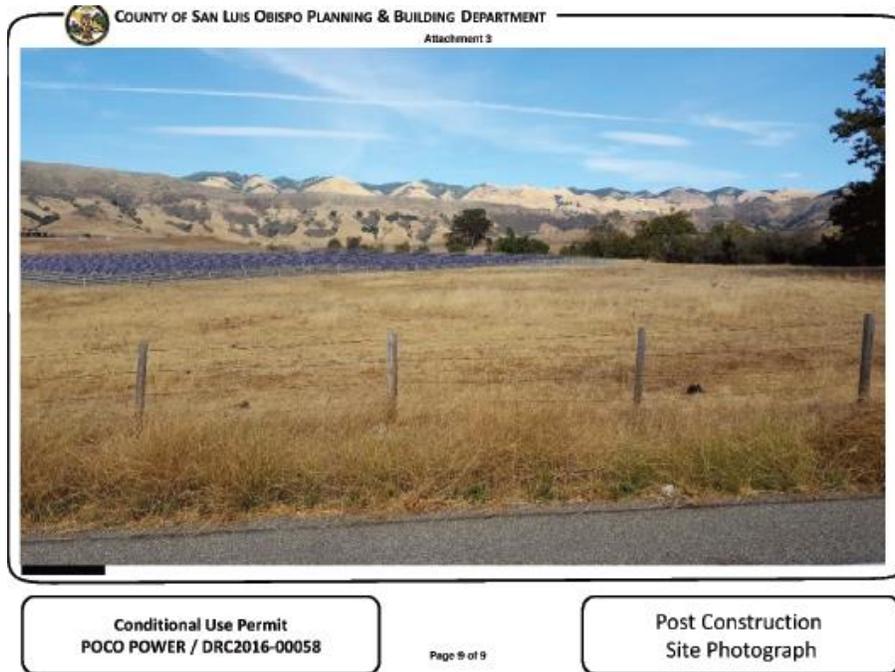
Item 5 - Hearing to consider expansion of an existing solar site from 1.5 acres to 11 acres and installation of a 3000 megawatt array. The Commission voted 3/0 to continue the item to its meeting of July 13, 2017. Apparently there is a trail that goes up a hill nearby, and they are worried that the view of the solar array will degrade the public trail experience in terms of the County’s “visual resources rules.” The staff has been sent off to study the matter and report back.

The project is located on Orcutt Road just south east of San Luis Obispo. The Commission had already imposed 30 burdensome and expensive conditions related to various species on the site, glare, decommissioning, and required that a portion of the property be put under a permanent open space easement on the site or an equivalent site elsewhere, etc. Given the location of the

property on the edge of a growing urban area, their requirement seems extreme for both the property owner and the future public interest. After all, everyone says we need housing, right?



The picture below shows a simulation of the view of the solar array from Orcutt road. It is set far back from the road itself.



Item 6 - Amending County Rules Regulating Secondary Dwelling Units to Conform with State Statute. The Commission voted 3/0 (2 members were absent) to eliminate 2 restrictions on secondary dwelling units in accordance with State law.

The State Legislature and Governor are beginning to realize that the overall architecture of State and local land use regulation has created a housing catastrophe. The Legislature is blaming the cities and counties for the problem, even though it created the enabling legislation that allowed the localities to double down on the situation and deprive the upcoming generations of owning or renting a decent home at a reasonable cost in terms of the economy and incomes. It is estimated that there are around 103 Bills pending in the current session of the Legislature related to this issue.

The specific issue in this instance pertains to current County requirements for secondary dwelling units located on the same property as the main home. Currently, County ordinances require that the owner reside in the main house and that the driveway to the secondary unit be paved. The Legislature figured out that these types of restrictions were simply arbitrary tools to prevent the construction or habitation of secondary units. The Commission recommended elimination of these requirements to the Board of Supervisors.

There are many other arbitrary barriers that should also be removed. The Board of Supervisors has directed that the Planning Department work on these as a priority project.

The Board needs to set some tough time deadlines and tell executive management to get it done or they will be replaced. COLAB pointed out that the Commissioners, staff, Board of Supervisors, and everyone else involved needs to change their mindset about planning and zoning. They are driving our children and grandchildren out of the State. How can young families with a few children afford old worn out 1950's and '60's apartments for \$3,500 per month? This is what the State and the cities and counties have wrought by their acquiescence to the Enviro-Socialists.

COLAB IN DEPTH

IN FIGHTING THE TROUBLESOME, LOCAL DAY-TO-DAY ASSAULTS ON OUR FREEDOM AND PROPERTY, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE LARGER UNDERLYING IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC CAUSES AND FORCES

LURING THE CITIES INTO THE GIBSON - HILL SWAMP

By Michael F Brown

First District Supervisor Bruce Gibson has launched a stinky political swamp gas attack on the 3-member Board majority, Supervisors Arnold, Compton, and Peschong. Gibson sent a letter to the Mayors of the County's seven cities exhorting them to engage their respective city councils in an effort to disrupt the County's FY 2017-18 Budget adoption process, which takes place on June 12-14, 2017.

As background, remember that voters (almost 80%) of the unincorporated Paso Basin combined last year to defeat the formation of the ill-fated AB 2453 Water Management District, which was vigorously supported by Supervisors Gibson and Hill. After the defeat, the two promised retribution, suggesting that they would induce the State Department of Water Resources to take over the basin management and have it impose harsh regulations and steep fees on the errant overlies. It turned out that the State has no desire to manage local water basins, and that a locality (city or county) would have to willfully and flagrantly refuse to manage a basin for the State to actually take over.

As a result, the two vindictive Supervisors switched their strategy to a force play in which they would have the County compel unincorporated area residents, who do not reside within an existing or newly formed water management district, to tax themselves to pay the costs of the County managing their groundwater obligations under the State Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). Hill and Gibson schemed that if the people refused to vote in a new tax, they could punish them by forcing them into the clutches of the State bureaucrats.

Supervisors Arnold, Compton, and Peschong said, wait a minute, the County's long existing Flood Control/Water District already has groundwater management authority and now has to comply with mandated and unfunded SGMA compliance requirements. Moreover the County water district has been taxing unincorporated rural overlies for years and has provided them little or no benefit. They reasoned, let the District conduct and fund the planning (a 2-year exercise) for meeting State SGMA requirements. If there are costs to implement the plans such as building dams, spreading basins, building pipelines, or enforcing rationing, then hold a funding vote based on the specific costs in an approved plan.

Gibson and Hill contrived the specious presumption that all city residents and independent water district residents might be paying for SGMA planning through their monthly water bills. Since the County Water district is funded by a small sliver of the property tax paid by everyone, Hill and Gibson leaped to the proposition that that these largely urban dwellers would be double taxed. Accordingly, Gibson is now attempting to stir up the seven city councils to oppose inclusion of funding for SGMA planning for unincorporated areas that are not served by a water management district. These funds are included in the proposed draft FY 2017-18 Annual Budget.

The fact is that the urban residents are paying for actual water, in their water bills. City water departments and independent water districts may incidentally use a small portion of their water

revenues to fund long range water planning. SGMA is a form of long range strategic water planning.

Gibson's false reasoning political ploy is based on his theory that rural residents on wells are not paying for their water since they do not pay bills to a water utility. The fact is that they pay for their water by drilling wells, maintaining wells, and paying energy costs for pumping. They too are already taxed by the County Water District for strategic water planning, which now includes SGMA.

What difference does it make, in this case, if you pay for your water in a monthly utility bill or in the form of the costs of developing and operating your own well?

Gibson further asserts that new budget appropriations for SGMA planning by the County will erode other services as the new funding will displace existing or increased funding for other services such as "public safety, affordable housing, homeless services, and mental health and addiction programs." Of course the County already has a special tax on construction of market rate homes to fund affordable housing. It will put \$11.7 million of General fund dollars, mostly unrequired overmatch, into the \$69.7 million Behavioral Health Department budget which is supposed to be primarily funded by Med-Cal and other Federal and State tax dollars, which you annually pay in your income taxes and sales taxes.

In fact the new Proposed FY 2017-18 Budget is already on the street and shows increases in the very General Fund areas that Gibson said would be shorted.

- Fire Department, up \$1,355,000
- District Attorney, up \$700,000
- Probation, up \$562,000
- Behavioral Health, up \$292, 000
- Social Services, up \$1,575,000
- Public Health, up \$762,000

Remember, these are new dollars which come from the property tax, general sales tax, and transient occupancy tax. Gibson didn't mention that the new Budget contains \$12.4 million in salary and benefit increases. Apparently he doesn't think these erode the County's ability to provide services.

Gibson's claim that the funding of SGMA planning will hurt the homeless and housing programs funded by the general fund is ludicrous. Except for some token grants to private not-for-profit social service agencies, the County relies almost entirely on Federal Funds for its homeless and related housing programs. As the budget document point outs in its Community Development Department presentation:

MISSION STATEMENT

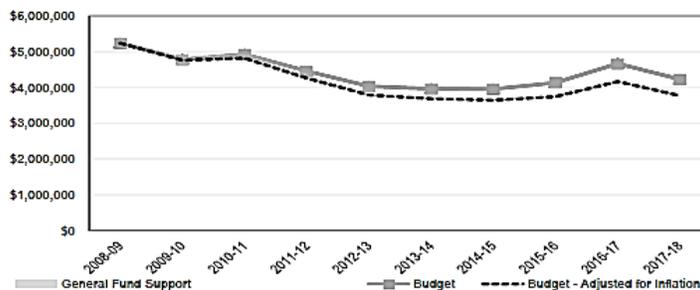
The mission of Community Development is to enhance the quality of life for San Luis Obispo County through programs that provide affordable housing, shelter and services for the homeless, economic development opportunities, and public improvements to benefit the communities that we serve.

Note that, per the chart below, the County is investing zero General Fund dollars in these programs, now and historically. They are primarily funded by Federal taxes.

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

	FY 2017-18 Recommended	Change from FY 2016-17 Adopted	% Change
Expenditures	\$4,229,972	\$(441,367)	(9)%
Revenue	\$4,229,972	\$(441,367)	(9)%
General Fund Support	\$0	\$0	0%
Staffing Levels	0.00 FTE	0.00 FTE	0.00 %

Ten Year Budget History



By way of trivialization, Gibson's letter states that based on his \$2 million price estimate for SGMA planning, the cost to city residents would be \$7.14 per capita for the first year. This is less than the price of 2 Starbucks Café Lattes (\$4.25 apiece).

For whatever reason the fake principle, which he is now

asserting, was not an issue for Gibson when the County expended \$1 million dollars of its Water District funding to attempt to force the AB 2453 water district upon residents of the Paso Basin. Nor did he complain when the County contracted in 2004 to pay \$1.2 million per year in debt service for unallocated Nacimiento aqueduct water which was being held on behalf of contracting cities and water utility districts. It is estimated that over 12 years, and prior to the cities and districts contracting for the unused water allocations, the County paid \$14 million out of the County Water District Budget. Similarly rural unincorporated residents have paid for construction and operation of the Central Coast Aqueduct from which they do not receive any benefit. Worse yet, how many County Water District and General Fund dollars has the County expended in legal fees and experts on attempting to defeat its own citizens who are defending their constitutional water rights through the Paso Robles Water Basin Quiet Title Acton? It could end up amounting to hundreds of thousands or more.

Gibson's whole effort is a cheesy red herring charade. Hopefully the city councils will not be suckered into the Gibson-Hill swamp.



HONORING ALL OUR MEMORIES

By Andy Caldwell

Holidays are the occasion to celebrate our bonds, values, and history. Memorial Day began in the aftermath of the Civil War as Decoration Day, a day to decorate the graves of those who died in the war. Unfortunately, we are living in a time when our bonds are breaking, our values are disappearing and we are abandoning our history. Nowhere is this more evident than in the South, where Civil War monuments are being removed.

The muddled politically correct mindset in America these days contends these monuments serve as a form of celebration and respect of the leaders who defended the institution of slavery. Whereas there is certainly some truth to this shallow perception, the monuments represent something more important than all that. Whether they wore blue or gray, they were all Americans. Regardless, removing the monuments will not clear our collective conscience concerning slavery, but their presence serves as a reminder of the cost of eliminating slavery and preserving the union.

Every time I visit Washington, D.C., one of the highlights is visiting the Lincoln Memorial. Like many Americans, I consider Lincoln to be one of our greatest presidents. One key to appreciating and understanding his greatness has to do with his world view, which was shaped by his faith.

Therein lies the relevance of the words inscribed on the inside wall of the memorial, the text of the Gettysburg Address and Lincoln's second inaugural address.

One controversy that ignited the Civil War had to do with whether the institution of slavery would be expanded into new territories of the United States. The bigger issue was whether states were free to leave the union due to the overreach of the federal government. Yet, there was another reason for the war that President Lincoln surmised. This had to do with his faith in the provident justice of God as it relates to the affairs of men and the destiny of nations.

If you read the second inaugural, it has to do with Lincoln's suspicion that the blood spilled in the Civil War was God's retribution and comeuppance to a nation that had spilled the blood of slaves. Moreover, he perceived the cost of the war served to nullify the wealth that had been accrued by the sweat of slaves. Finally, and most importantly, it was in the heart of this president to achieve a lasting peace and bind up the nation's wounds by way of caring for all of those who bore the battle, their widows and orphans, with malice toward none and charity for all.

Instead of a malicious, furtive purging of our history, we would be better off rekindling a spirit in, and of, America that espouses values and embodies charity for all. Moreover, how about returning to the faith of Lincoln? It was his faith that helped him understand the signs of the times by way of the wisdom and manifest will of God, who holds the destiny of nations in his hand.

Andy Caldwell is the Executive Director of COLAB of Santa Barbara County and host of The Andy Caldwell Show, weekdays from 3-5 p.m., on News-Press Radio AM 1290. This article first appeared in the Santa Barbara News Press of May 25, 2017.

A FURTHER NOTE



Winslow Homer, Prisoners from the Front - Confederate soldiers interrogated by Union officer.

The painting is in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. Homer, a northerner who subsequently became one of America's greatest artists, covered the Civil War as a reporter/illustrator for Harpers.

CARETAKERS OF MEMORY OF THOSE WHO PERFORMED THEIR DUTY

Former Virginia Senator James Webb, one of the most decorated Viet Nam War Veterans, and author of a number highly successful fiction and non-fiction best sellers elegantly and poignantly wrote of his great, great uncle William John Jewell who died at the battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. It is a magnificent distillation of why we should honor all veterans and their memorials.

Another Big Moccasin Gap native who had probably never seen a slave, Jewell served in Company D of the Davis Rifles of the 37th Regiment, Virginia Infantry, under the leadership of the incomparable Gen. Stonewall Jackson. This regiment was drawn exclusively from Scott, Lee,

Russell, and Washington Counties in the southwest corner of the state. The percentage of mountaineers who were slaveholders was approximately zero. Many of them were not even property owners. Few had no desire to leave the Union. But when Virginia seceded, the mountaineers followed Robert E Lee into the Confederate Army.

Webb goes on in his narrative to report that, of the 1,490 men who enlisted in the 37th Regiment, only 37 stood in the ranks when General Lee surrendered at Appomattox – Company D had no soldiers left. Webb then directly addresses the issue of honor and memorials.

The lesson regarding William John Jewell’s death, plus the hundreds of thousands of others in this war, is far more complex than those who simplify his service into racial slogans wish to make it. He and his fellow soldiers took an oath and then honored the judgement of their leaders, often at great cost. Intellectual analyses of national policy are subject to constant reevaluation by historians as the decades roll by, but duty is a constant, frozen in the context of the moment it is performed. Duty is action taken after listening to one’s leaders and weighing risk and fear against the powerful draw of obligation to family, community, nation, and the unknown future. We, the progeny who live in that future, were among the intended beneficiaries of those frightful decisions made so long ago. As such, we are the caretakers of the memory, and reputation, of those who performed their duty – as they understood it – under circumstances too difficult for us to ever fully comprehend. No one but a fool – or a bigot in their own right – would call on the descendants of those Confederate veterans to forget the sacrifices of those who went before them or argue that they should not be remembered with honor. ¹



ANNOUNCEMENTS

¹ Webb, James ;Born Fighting , Broadway Books, NY. , 2004.

Carrizo Planning Area
Community Resource Group

&



INVITE YOU TO A CANNABIS WORKSHOP WITH GUEST SPEAKERS

MAY 30TH, 2017 5PM TO 8 PM

Join SLOCCBA and Carrizo Planning Area Community Resource Group for a Cannabis Workshop. We will help you write letters or emails to the county officials. Learn more about the new cannabis ordinance and ask questions to our guest speakers.



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
PLANNING & BUILDING



DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE

DEPARTMENT OF
BUILDING &
PLANNING

ATTORNEY
ALAN G. KAROW

BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS
MRS. DEBBIE
ARNOLD

SLOCCBA

LOCATION

13080 Soda Lake Rd
California Valley Ca
93453

Call (805) 458-3222
for more information

**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

Streaming Live on www.am1440.com and www.newspress.com

AM1440
KUHL® the information station

AM 1290
Santa Barbara News-Press Radio

**SUPPORT COLAB!
PLEASE COMPLETE THE
MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM
ON THE NEXT PAGE**

Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business
San Luis Obispo County
"Your Property – Your Taxes – Our Future"
PO Box 13601 – San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 / Phone: 805.548-0340
Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

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:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio Internet Public Hearing Friend

COLAB Member(s) / Sponsor(s): _____

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.
I would like to contribute \$ _____ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.
Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.
Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check Visa MasterCard Discover Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: ___/___ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

(Revised 2/2017)