

COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19 - 25, 2017



THANKSGIVING

The Mayflower carried 102 passengers and about 40 crew members crammed into a 150-foot ship. In addition, passengers brought furniture, books, clothing, food and drink for the crossing, seeds, livestock, and even a printing press. It was a very tight fit. (The Pilgrims were eventually to live on board the Mayflower for 8 months.)

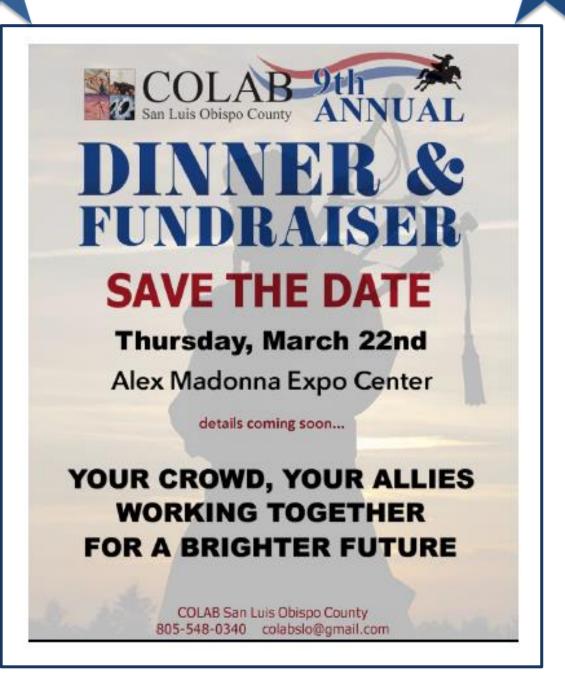
The crossing was as bad as had been feared. Many storms shook the ship. Back in Holland, William Brewster (an elder of the church and Bradford's mentor) had been hunted down by English authorities for printing books critical of the Church of England and King James. The authorities did not find Brewster, who was in hiding, but smashed the fonts for his printing press so he could not do any more printing. Now, as the Mayflower was tossed in the ocean, her main beam began to crack. The giant screw from Brewster's press was fitted into position under the beam and bolstered it, keeping the ship from cracking apart! (Bradford had brought the press with him to Holland when he escaped England.) John Howland, a servant of John Carver, was swept overboard in a storm. Miraculously, he was caught in a halyard underwater and was dragged back onto the ship before he drowned.

Bradford makes frequent mention of the importance of the Pilgrims' faith in helping them through their many trials, and it is not hard to see how this small band of faithful would need to rely on their god and each other to survive such harrowing times. ¹

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¹ The Mills, McLaughlin, Ruth Family Pages; 1999 – 2008. Note: Of the 102 passengers, 45 died in the first winter.





THIS WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

LAST WEEK

FY 2017-18 FIRST QTR. FINANCIAL REPORT CONFIRMS SALARY AND BENEFITS UNDERFUNDING

FY 2018-19 FEE INCREASES VERY MILD (SOME GO DOWN - ADOPTED 3/2)

RECOMMENDED CPUC DECISION ON DIABLO NOT GOOD - COULD FORCE IT TO CLOSE SOONER THAN LATER/NO STRATEGY YET FROM BOARD

APCD HEARING BOARD BEGINS PROCEEDINGS ON DUNES RECREATION – MORE TO COME AT AS YET UNSCHEDULED SESSIONS

(OUTGOING APCD DIRECTOR LARRY ALLEN WAS TRUE TO FORM-DEFENSIVE AND ARROGANT)

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

(SEE PAGE 9)

LET DOWN AT THE TOP

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, November 21, 2017 (Not Scheduled)

No meeting was included in the master 2017 schedule for Tuesday, November 21st.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

BRUCE GIBSON - "THE BUDGET IS NOW A ZERO SUM GAME."

NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY TESTIMONY: "THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF JOBS IN THIS COUNTY, BUT NOT THE KINDS OF JOBS THAT PAY THE RENT."

Meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 (Completed)

Item 21 - First Quarter FY 2017-18 Financial Report. The Board received the report. Questions involved the golf program deficit and revenue shortfalls in Behavioral Health. The Board did not react to the salary presentation issues below.

Background: The cat is already out of the bag on this one. As we explained last week, the County does not include estimates for salary and benefit increases in the proposed budget. Usually they don't admit this sleight of hand until the 3rd quarter report in May. At that point they must request a series of transfers from salary accounts that are under running their budgets due to vacancies. In addition they must transfer funds from general fund contingency accounts to the extent that sufficient funds have not accumulated in the underrunning salary accounts. This in turn understates the true cost of the proposed and adopted budgets and masks the impact of salary and benefit increases.

Item 22 - 2018 Fee Increases. The Board approved the fee increases on a vote of 3/2 (Arnold and Compton dissenting).

Background: The good news is that the number of proposed fee increases in areas of concern to COLAB members are limited. In fact there are no increases proposed by the Agriculture Commissioner, and some fees are being lowered. Planning and Building is not raising any fees and is lowering 10. However, it is adding 5 new fees. Public Works is increasing 24.

Item 27 - Mosquito Control Options. The Board received report that detailed several program and cost options. Because of known and potential budget shortfalls in FY 2018-19, the Board did not make any decisions, but deferred consideration to February 2018 when an updated financial report will be presented.

Background: The County does not have a mosquito control program. Reportedly, most counties are served by independent vector control districts, which deal with mosquitos, flies, rats, roaches, certain avian species, ticks, and other pests that spread infectious diseases. These may be spread by the pests themselves or in some cases by insects (such as fleas hosted by rats), which bite or otherwise infect humans and domestic animals that have frequent contact with humans. Bubonic plague, Zika Virus, Lyme Disease, Bird Flu, West Nile Virus, Hanta Virus, and a variety of tropical diseases are among the risks.

Of course Gibson's first thought was: Lets' impose a new fee to pay for it all. Given a county employee vacancy rate of 8%, you would think they could squeeze a few positions out of the slush.

San Luis Obispo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, November 16, 2017 (Completed)

Item A-2: Status Report Cayucos Fire Protection District. The District is no longer financially viable because its sliver of the property tax pie is no longer keeping up with costs. Additionally, fewer people are signing up as volunteer firefighters. It has petitioned LAFCO for dissolution.

The LAFCO Board had a lengthy discussion. At some point the County will have to consider taking over the service, which could be expensive. According to LAFCO staff, State law does not require counties to provide fire service. Thus Cayucos residents, businesses, and property owners could be on their own.

As Supervisor Compton pointed out, other special districts may soon be facing costs that outstrip revenues.

We have pointed out in the past that the California Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) rate increases could threaten the existence of many marginal districts, which in turn could put pressure on the County budget and supervisors.

The County budget staff should conduct some long range assessment and planning in this one.

Item A-4: Study Session – Proposed San Luis Ranch Annexation to the City of San Luis Obispo. The proposed annexation seems to be moving forward smoothly. It meets all the legal requirements. The County and City may tussle over the division of sales taxes and property tax. There is a formula which was adopted back in 1996 for all annexations. At this point SLO and the cities may be thinking of a revision.

The proposed annexation is shown on the map below:



San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Hearing Board Meeting of Monday, November 13, 2017 (Completed)

Item 17-01: SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT VS. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION- OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION. This item is not a meeting of the APCD Board but a subcomponent Hearing Board, which considers appeals from individuals, businesses, and other entities that disagree with APCD applications of regulations, violation orders, or fines.

It is significant because it results from the issuance of a violation order against the State Parks Off -Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD). The violation asserts that the OHMVRD has willfully violated the APCD Dunes Dust Regulatory Rule 1001 by ignoring the rule, failing to complete dust mitigation plan, failing to install dust migration measures on promised schedules, and thereby endangering public health of downwind residents of the dunes riding area.

The proceeding looked somewhat like a trial but was not as strict or formal. Witnesses made presentations and were cross-examined. Documents were submitted either supporting or refuting the validity of the violation order.

A red shirted, surly, and disrespectful audience of downwind residents, primarily from the Trilogy planned housing and golf community clapped, booed, and otherwise agitated during the entire meeting. Many of these 60- to 70-year old plus upper middle class "Depends Generation" urban refugees are the same people who were opposed to the Phillips 66 rail spur project. They had received extensive training and support from out-of-county Bay Area radical groups opposed to fossil fuels, capitalism, and rule of law. In effect they have become somewhat radicalized themselves and learned the mantra of radical left organizing and agitation techniques. As boomer generation survivors, many may be reliving their college protest "glory days" of 50 years ago.

From a countywide standpoint this group is committed to defeating the reelection of 4th District Supervisor Lynn Compton and tipping the Board of Supervisors back to a progressive left majority. They are heavily coached and encouraged by Supervisors Hill and Gibson. Accordingly their presence and action have a bearing on the entire County policy and future Board policy, SLOCOG policy, LAFCO policy, and APCD policy.

There is overlap between the leadership of the "Trilogy group," SLO County Progressives, and the regular Democratic Party Organization.

The Hearing Board was unable to finish in one day and has a substantial list of witnesses still to come. The session was continued to an as yet unspecified date.

The actual violation order calls for a 4-tier set of actions against State Parks (a list of choices arrayed by increasing severity from which the Hearing Board could choose if it finds the Parks Department guilty). These all pertain to the County owned La Grande tract which provides access to the entire riding area. Restrictions would reduce the riding area and the more severe versions (C and D below) might forestall access under some conditions. Larry Allen indicated

that the public would be allowed to transit the La Grande tract to reach the remainder of the riding area, but the actual wording of options C and D might be interpreted otherwise – particularly if a left Board of Supervisors is reinstalled and dominates the APCD Board.

- a. Fence off and prohibit vehicle traffic on a minimum of 100 acres that cumulatively encompass the most emissive areas within emission zones 1, 2, 3, and 4 as shown on the attached ARB modeling domain maps; a map of the proposed fencing areas shall be provided to the APCO for approval prior to installation. The fencing shall remain in place and be maintained until:
- i. A Particulate Matter Reduction Plan, as required by Rule 1001 and this Order, has been prepared by OHMVR and formally approved by the APCO; and
- ii. Dust control measures are in place that provide emission reductions equivalent to those provided by the 100 acres of fencing specified above, as determined by the APCO.

Over a timeframe of several months to a year, implementation of Option "a" will likely reduce, but not abate, the nuisance caused by operation of the ODSVRA. Thus, the Board may wish to consider requiring the Option "b" alternative below:

b. Fence off and prohibit vehicle traffic on a minimum of 200 acres that cumulatively encompass the most emissive areas within emission zones 1, 2, 3, and 4 as shown on the attached ARB modeling domain maps; a map of the proposed fencing areas shall be provided attached ARB modeling domain maps; a map of the proposed fencing areas shall be provided to the APCO for approval prior to installation. The fencing shall remain in place and be maintained until:

A Particulate Matter Reduction Plan, as required by Rule 1001 and this Order, has been prepared by OHMVR and formally approved in writing by the APCO; and

ii. Dust control measures are in place that provide emission reductions equivalent to those provided by the 200 acres of fencing specified above, as determined by the APCO.

Over a timeframe of several months to a year, implementation of the Option "b" alternative should further reduce, but likely not abate, the nuisance caused by operation of the ODSVRA. Thus, the Board may wish to consider the option "c." alternative below:

- c. c. Require Respondent to annually prohibit camping and offroad vehicle riding on the Le Grande tract portion of the ODSVRA from February 1 through June 30 each year. This prohibition shall remain in place until:
- i. A Particulate Matter Reduction Plan, as required by Rule 1001 and this Order, has been prepared by OHMVR and formally approved in writing by the APCO; and
- ii. Dust control measures are in place that provide emission reductions equivalent to those achieved by prohibiting camping and offroad vehicle activity on the Le Grande tract from February through June each year, as determined by the APCO.

Implementation of the Option "c" alternative is expected to considerably abate the nuisance caused by operation of the ODSVRA during the months it is closed. It will not, however, abate the nuisance during the months it is open to riding, particularly during the fall months of September and October, when high winds and associated dust emissions also typically occur. Thus, the Board may wish to consider the option "d" alternative below:

d. Require Respondent to prohibit all camping and offroad vehicle riding on the Le Grande tract portion of the ODSVRA. This prohibition shall remain in place until:

iii. A Particulate Matter Reduction Plan, as required by Rule 1001 and this Order, has been prepared by OHMVR and formally approved in writing by the APCO; and iv. Dust control measures are in place that provide emission reductions equivalent to those achieved by prohibiting all camping and offroad vehicle activity on the Le Grande tract, as determined by the APCO.

Over a timeframe of several months to a year, implementation of the Option "d" alternative is expected to substantially abate the nuisance caused by operation of the ODSVRA

The Friends of the Dunes and others who support the ODSVRA might well consider the situation of Supervisor Compton and her reelection. Similarly, businesses in the 5 cities and even SLO, which are beneficiaries of the dunes visitors and the \$160 million annual direct expenditure component, should be vigilant and active in this regard.

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

SEE THE ABSOLUTELY SCATHING CRITIQUE OF THE CULTURAL ELITES IN THE HANSON ARTICLE BELOW

HARVEY WEINSTEIN AS ARCHETYPE

LET DOWN AT THE TOP BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Our Baby Boomer elites, mired in excess and safe in their enclaves, have overseen the decay of our core cultural institutions.

Since the Trojan War, generations have always trashed their own age in comparison to ages past. The idea of fated decadence and decline was a specialty of 19th-century German philosophy.

Nonetheless, the so-called Baby Boomers have a lot to account for — given the sorry state of entertainment, sports, the media, and universities.

The Harvey Weinstein episode revealed two generational truths about Hollywood culture.

One, the generation that gave us the free-love and the anything-goes morals of Woodstock discovered that hook-up sex was "contrary to nature." Sexual congress anywhere, any time, anyhow, with anyone — near strangers included — is not really liberating and can often be deeply imbedded within harassment and ultimately the male degradation of women.

Somehow a demented Harvey Weinstein got into his head that the fantasy women in his movies who were customarily portrayed as edgy temptresses and promiscuous sirens were reflections of the way women really were in Los Angeles and New York — or the way that he thought they should be. It was almost as if Weinstein sought to become as physically repulsive and uncouth as possible — all the better to humiliate (through beauty-and-the-beast asymmetry) the vulnerable and attractive women he coerced.

Two, Weinstein reminded us, especially in his eleventh-hour medieval appeals for clemency by way of PC attacks on the NRA and Donald Trump, that mixing politics with art was, as our betters warned, always a self-destructive idea.

Hollywood ran out of original thought about three decades ago, and the people noticed and so keep avoiding the theaters. How many times can a good-looking, young, green progressive crusader expose a corporate pollution plot, or battle a deranged band of southern-twangy Neanderthals, South African racists, or Russian tattooed thugs, or a deep-state CIA cabal in sunglasses and shiny suits? How many times can the nth remake of a comic-book hero be justified by updating him into a caped social-justice warrior from L.A.? Ars gratia politicorum is suicide.

The ruling generation in Hollywood is out of creative ideas mostly because it invested in political melodrama rather than human tragedy. It cannot make a Western, not just because Santa Monica's young men long ago lost the ability to sound or act like Texans in 1880, but because its politics have no patience with the real world of noble people who are often doomed, or flawed individuals who are nevertheless defined by their best rather than worst traits, or well-meaning souls who can cause havoc, or courageous men who fight for bad causes.

Political correctness has become Maoist: All art must serve progressive struggle, defined in Hollywood as good race and gender warriors pitted against bad racists and sexists. The result is monotony and boredom. All the cleavage, flexed biceps, cheap obscenity, rap-music scores, and car crashes cannot hide that lack of an idea.

This generation's NFL apparat, the ESPN commentariat, and the higher-education administrative cadre also reveal generational symptoms of exhaustion. They all have forgotten their original mission: respectively, athleticism; sports commentary; and inductive thinking, civic education, and disinterested inquiry. Instead, given their money and adulation, sports and colleges puffed themselves up as Olympians who from high could sermonize and implicitly insult their own patrons (fans, viewers, students, and alumni).

Being ideologically correct was felt to bring more career dividends than being ethical, autonomous, or knowledgeable. It is hard to imagine that NFL commissioner Roger Goodell brings either wisdom or even common sense to his job. Thousands of everyday Americans could have just as easily destroyed the NFL for far less than Goodell's tens of millions in compensation over the years.

The NFL always had to be careful to square its self-created circle of enticing viewers to watch brutal gladiatorial games in an age when few have ever turned a live chicken into an evening meal. In a society where racial quotas and proportional representation are institutionalized as "diversity" and "inclusion," the NFL was an odd exempt meritocracy of nearly 80 percent African-American players (or, in PC lingo, an exclusionary league that did not "look like" America).

In age when nearly everyone does his own Internet, video game, and minor sport thing, the NFL still assumed that millions would celebrate a national collective event on perpetual communal Sundays. Instead of being aware of its own inconsistencies and fragilities, the NFL bureaucracy rammed its extraneous agendas down the throat of America, as if twentysomething, half-educated multimillionaires were the moral superiors to those who paid their salaries. Politics are destroying the NFL.

Ditto ESPN — the now-ossified sports-commentary network. Viewers do not demand graduate-school analyses from their sports commentators. They wanted some bruised ex-gladiators who knew the blood and smell of the arena to give them some firsthand insight into sports heroics. Instead, our generation of ESPN executives gave the worst of both worlds: nerds and failed pundits masquerading as Socratic sportscasters expounding cosmic theories about social justice, side by side with ex-jocks poorly mimicking them. No one should have to pay to watch that. Entertainment can be many things — if it is not grating.

The problem with a dying media is not just new social media, the Internet, or 24-hour cable news. Those are just accelerants. The culprit is mostly politically driven ignorance. Today's journalists graduate with majors that confer thinly disguised degrees in different sorts of activism.

But -isms and -ologies come at a cost of shorting literature, history, or fact-based knowledge of any sort, so today's journalistic doyens have few referents either of the past or in the abstract in general. The result is that every passing psychodrama becomes the most important in history. "Watergate" is a name dropped daily, but few journalists know anything about the genesis or nature of that scandal, the same way that referencing "Ferguson" omits its fraud and fantasies that even Eric Holder's Justice Department was forced to concede.

In the 1950s, the university had evolved beyond being a bastion of eccentricity, nonconformity, and free expression, as tweedy scholars and old-style elbow-patched liberal academics were displaced by hip voices railing against supposedly clueless straight culture.

America thought it could live with that — even at the price of watering down the curricula with - studies activist courses — because free speech was for everyone, at least in theory. But tenured radical professors eventually became sixty-something administrative bureaucrats and are now being devoured by the very radical offspring they have sired. We lament political correctness and Stalinism on campuses, but the real crime is the ignorance that empowers it.

The unspoken fuel that drives so many protests on campus is the self-awareness that so many students simply cannot do traditional college work and desire weaker courses, personal exemptions, and time off. A sense of student inferiority naturally leads to demands for everything but a more comprehensive education. The result of politicizing mediocrity is the classic toxicity of youthful ignorance and arrogance. Twenty-somethings brag about tearing down the statue of Robert E. Lee without a clue what Gettysburg was. Disrupting a conservative lecturer on campus is the current generation's version of cramming phone booths and swallowing goldfish.

Orwellian administrative language, sanctioned from those who should have known better, masks an anti-democratic reality of which even its adherents are ashamed. "Safe spaces" mean segregation. "Affirmative action" is synonymous with implicit racial quotas. "Theme houses" are race-based apartheid living quarters. "Trigger warnings" are censorship. "Student loans" are paramount to indentured servitude for over a decade. And "diversity" ensures monotony and orthodoxy in thought and expression.

University overseers managed to ensure that the B.A. degree is no longer necessarily proof of

education in science, math, language, history, or philosophy. Private employers see elite colleges, at best, not necessarily as places where job applicants were educated or trained, but rather where they were once prescreened by colleges, on the basis of high-school test scores and GPAs. So they hire college graduates by brand names, because earlier, as incoming students, they were once admitted to, rather than graduated from, a good college on some sort of objective basis. Employers write off what followed later as either a wasted four years or irrelevant.

What caused this societal meltdown among our Boomer custodians?

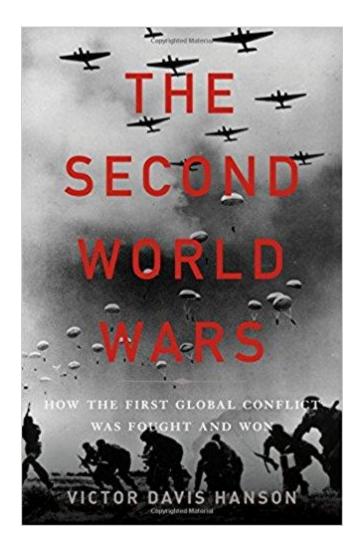
It was not material want. Our inheritance ensured we were the most affluent and leisured generation in history. Rather, excess led to hubris. We masked incompetence with snazzy technology and the elite's ability to travel and acquire at will — and to sound hip and "with it" in speech and diction.

Our generation also, inevitably, became divorced from both nature and the muscularity of the physical, desperate ordeal of surviving. The result was a vicarious romance about the wild and an ignorance of and disdain for those who must fight the wild to produce our food, wood, steel, concrete, and fuel. The result, again, is a vicarious life. Silicon Valley grandees pontificate about open borders, "undocumented migrants," and "sanctuary cities," but beneath their noses are streets lined with tightly parked Winnebagoes in which thousands of poor Mexican nationals sleep, live, eat, and prep for another day servicing the masters of the universe. To suggest that the geography of the Bay Area is still vast and its open spaces ripe for affordable housing is the heresy of "how dare you even suggest getting near my Portola Valley estate"?

Our culture and financial elite are primarily a coastal tribe, cut off from both the poor and the material conditions that face the poor. They find penance and exemption for their privilege in loud but empty virtue-signaling and in easy contempt for the supposedly grasping middle class. But what we wanted from them was excellence, competence, and leadership; yet they had neither the education nor character for any of that.

It is hard to destroy the NFL or to discredit a liberal-arts degree from Yale, or to turn NBC or CNN into a bastard of Pravda or to make the Hollywood of John Ford, Frank Capra, and Alfred Hitchcock into that of George Clooney. But we managed it — and more still to come before we are through.

Victor Davis Hanson is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the author of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won, released in October from Basic Books. Hanson has appeared at COLAB events in SLO County. This article first appeared in the November 14, 2017 National Review. His new book is a colossal distillation and breaks new ground on the underlying causes and the conduct of the war itself. Note: This is not a paid endorsement.



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Open Letter to President Donald J. Trump and California's Congressional Delegation

November 14, 2017

Dear President Trump and Members of California's Congressional Delegation: Homeownership has been and will always be the foundation of opportunity for Americans across our great nation. It provides wealth and opportunity and sustains communities where families live, work and contribute to society.

Despite these undeniable benefits, Congress is considering legislation that would punish homeowners, eliminate the financial benefits for homebuyers and leave hundreds of thousands of people across California much worse off than they are today. If the goal of Tax Reform is to help middle-class Americans keep more of their hard-earned money, this proposal fails miserably.

Tax Reform shouldn't hurt Californians, but the House of Representatives proposal does, in a big way. It eliminates important incentives that help first-time homebuyers by capping the Mortgage Interest Deduction, limiting property tax deductibility and changing capital gains exemptions. From the Oregon border south to San Diego, working Californians take a beating.

How could any member of the California Congressional Delegation think this plan is good for the Golden State?

The average California house costs two-and-a-half times the national average, and housing supply projections show the state will be nearly 3 million houses short by 2020. Only 32 percent of California families are able to purchase a median-priced home. With homeownership already a stretch, or out of reach altogether for so many Californians, now is NOT the time to make owning a home more difficult.

The California Association of REALTORS® represents nearly 200,000 men and women who work to help people achieve the American Dream of homeownership. We will fight to protect policies that help people build wealth so that they can send their children to college, pay for health insurance or start a small business.

Homeownership does all these things, and more. It gives people a sense of community, helps them plant roots and makes for a stronger and more prosperous society. Taking these opportunities away ignores the values of our nation and puts our economic future at risk

The objectives behind the House tax plan may be well-intended, but put at risk one of the cornerstones of America's society. Homeowners, families hoping to someday buy their first home, small business owners and REALTORS® must call their congressional representatives to urge them to reject this misguided proposal. The effects would be catastrophic. We urge Congress to do the right thing.

Steve White President

California Association of REALTORS®



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VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB MIXER



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM

See the presentation at the link: https://youtu.be/eEdP4cvf-zA

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

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Card Number: Exp Date:/ Billing Zip Code: CVV:
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(Ravised 2/2017)