



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO WEEK OF JUNE 10 - 16, 2018

THIS WEEK

BUDGET REVIEW WEEK

**PLANNING COMMISSION DEALS WITH YET
ANOTHER COASTAL COMMISSION INTRUSION**
(SEPARATE FROM LAST WEEK'S COASTAL BOS ITEM)

LAST WEEK

**SUPERVISORS REJECT COASTAL COMMISSION
BLACKMAIL UNANIMOUSLY**

**WATER BASIN BOUNDARY MODS APPROVED
UNANIMOUSLY**
(LOS OSOS AND SANTA MARIA BASINS)

**COUNTY ANNEXATION APPLICATION OF
CAYUCOS FIRE DISTRICT APPROVED
UNANIMOUSLY**

WHO SAYS THE SUPES DON'T AGREE?

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 14

Climate Change Has Run Its Course

**Its descent into social-justice identity politics is the last gasp of a
cause that has lost its vitality**

By Steven F. Hayward

**Nope, no blue wave in California. GOP actually better
poised for gains because of the Trump wave**

By Monica Showalter

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

(SEE PAGE 18 FOR DETAILS AND VDH'S AMAZING SPEECH)

Victor Davis Hanson Wins Edmund Burke Award For Defense of Western Civilization



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Special Board of Supervisors Meetings of Monday, June 11, and Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Item 2 - Budget Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Recommended Budget. The County's Recommended and Supplemental Budget documents can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/budget>.

The Board will not be considering regular business items, land use matters, or consent calendar items. Instead it will focus on reviewing the Proposed Fiscal Year 2018-19 Annual Operating Budget. The Budget is the most significant tool for setting County policy. In past years the Board's public review of the entire 800+ page document has been completed in 3 hours or less. The Wednesday session is generally focused on funding requests from various community benefit not-for-profit organizations.

Significantly, and except for the segment on the not-for-profit agency requests, the public has been virtually absent during the annual Budget hearings for the past 6 years.

1. Overall the Budget is balanced for one fiscal year. However the ability to balance is partially dependent on running an employee vacancy rate of around 7% to cover the costs of negotiated and pending labor contracts. While the number of authorized employee positions is slightly increased, hundreds will be vacant at any given time.

2. The official Budget is presented as \$622.2 million; however there are revenues and expenditures which are not included. Thus the full financial picture totals \$738 million per the table below:

State Controller Schedules		San Luis Obispo County				Schedule 1	
County Budget Act		All Funds Summary					
January 2010		Fiscal Year 2018-19					
Fund Name	Total Financing Sources				Total Financing Uses		
	Fund Balance Available as of June 30, 2018	Decreases to Obligated Fund Balances	Additional Financing Sources	Total Financing Sources	Financing Uses	Increases to Obligated Fund Balances	Total Financing Uses
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Governmental Funds							
General Fund	\$30,526,617	\$0	\$491,129,099	\$521,655,716	\$520,960,569	\$695,147	\$521,655,716
Special Revenue Fund	554,044	4,483,189	67,982,936	73,020,169	68,722,235	4,297,933	73,020,168
Debt Service Fund	4,326,884	83	19,447,700	23,774,667	13,799,116	9,975,551	23,774,667
Capital Projects	0	0	3,727,000	3,727,000	3,727,000	0	3,727,000
Total Governmental Funds	\$35,407,545	\$4,483,272	\$582,286,735	\$622,177,552	\$607,208,920	\$14,968,631	\$622,177,551
Other Funds							
Enterprise Fund	\$0	\$3,060,189	\$18,093,834	\$21,154,023	\$21,154,023	\$0	\$21,154,023
Internal Service Fund	0	8,192,832	61,118,071	69,310,903	69,200,884	110,019	69,310,903
Special Districts	3,634,266	5,716,290	16,106,147	25,456,703	19,071,572	6,385,131	25,456,703
Total Other Funds	\$3,634,266	\$16,969,311	\$95,318,052	\$115,921,629	\$109,426,479	\$6,495,150	\$115,921,629
Total All Funds	\$39,041,811	\$21,452,583	\$677,604,787	\$738,099,181	\$716,635,399	\$21,463,781	\$738,099,180

Note that in addition to the formal budget there are enterprise funds, internal service funds, and the budgets of the county dependent special districts and service areas. It is not clear why these are not simply presented in the same way as the County departments, which in most cases are actually administering them as part of their normal work.

3. As noted above, the Budget as presented is summarized in the tables below:

Financing Sources and Uses Summary

Description	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Final	2018-19 Recommended
Financing Sources				
Taxes	181,682,249	190,477,203	192,148,046	204,966,417
Licenses and Permits	10,394,261	11,349,270	10,262,547	10,679,550
Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties	4,809,244	4,245,881	5,111,189	5,122,351
Revenue from Use of Money & Property	4,277,317	4,789,471	2,516,634	2,585,999
Intergovernmental Revenues	254,567,637	243,182,942	253,354,649	272,009,700
Charges for Services	31,157,927	33,936,446	30,328,679	32,425,695
Other Revenues	28,917,151	37,050,514	25,981,326	31,208,699
Fund Balance	0*	0*	44,882,194	35,407,545
Use of Reserves & Designations	0*	0*	8,207,846	4,483,272
Other Financing Sources	41,097,040	51,426,638	38,480,237	23,288,323
Decreases to Fund Balance	0		0	0
*cancellation of reserves and designations and use of fund balance included in Other Financial Sources				
Total Financing Sources	556,902,826	576,458,365	611,273,347	622,177,551
Uses of Financing by Function				
Land Based	64,256,140	55,114,832	62,047,960	67,776,455
Public Protection	136,028,853	145,171,279	155,339,609	163,559,366
Health and Human Services	195,122,218	204,443,504	223,207,511	237,348,981
Community Services	20,429,716	20,767,102	21,048,017	20,219,553
Fiscal and Administrative	24,473,162	25,275,452	27,266,745	28,277,394
Support to County Departments	28,586,088	29,752,611	31,859,750	33,703,748
Financing	43,684,362	50,751,074	39,546,774	23,176,858
Capital and Maintenance	35,083,342	18,114,997	8,697,944	7,739,185
Contingencies			24,875,323	25,407,380
Reserves & Designations			17,383,714	14,968,631
Increases to Fund Balance	9,238,945	27,067,514		
* reflected in individual State functional areas				
Total Financing by Function	556,902,826	576,458,365	611,273,347	622,177,551
Uses of Financing by Type				
Salary & Benefits	257,076,607	269,642,309	290,142,421	306,772,044
Services & Supplies	150,650,065	159,661,464	175,763,745	182,610,128
Other Charges	107,022,572	115,981,971	110,143,364	96,804,947
Fixed Assets	54,036,218	28,966,861	18,427,830	22,165,104
Transfers	(21,120,074)	(24,861,723)	(25,463,049)	(26,550,683)
Increases to Reserves/Designations	0*	0*	17,383,714	14,968,631
Increases/(decreases) to Fund Balance	9,238,104	27,067,513	0	
Contingencies	0*	0*	24,875,323	25,407,380
*use of reserves and designations and contingencies are included in individual financing types				
Total Financing by Type	556,902,826	576,458,365	611,273,347	622,177,551

How much is regular salary, OT, Temp, and benefits?

The estimated actual column should go here.

Each section presents a separate data view of the same information. The top 3rd displays the sources/revenues. The middle 3rd shows expenditures by major function. The bottom 3rd shows the data by character of expenditure. The reader will note that they all add up to the same totals.

Similarly, another data view by fund (separated restricted accounting groups) is also presented.

Authorized Funding Levels by Fund

Fund Name	FY 2017-18 Adopted	FY 2018-19 Recommended	% Inc/Dec
General Fund	\$ 510,067,063	\$ 521,655,716	2.27%
Automation Replacement	\$ 4,168,176	\$ 850,279	-79.60%
Capital Projects	\$ 2,586,763	\$ 3,727,000	44.08%
Community Development	\$ 4,273,554	\$ 4,271,232	-0.05%
Debt Service	\$ 2,611,294	\$ 2,646,423	1.35%
Driving Under the Influence	\$ 1,336,947	\$ 1,447,985	8.31%
Emergency Medical Services	\$ 801,000	\$ 801,000	0.00%
Fish and Game	\$ 22,715	\$ 22,715	0.00%
General Government' Building Replacement	\$ 9,619,583	\$ 4,876,163	-49.31%
Library	\$ 10,715,493	\$ 10,646,537	-0.64%
Organizational Development	\$ 1,200,109	\$ 1,044,269	-12.99%
Parks & Recreation	\$ 10,804,943	\$ 9,430,687	-12.72%
Pension Obligation Bonds	\$ 13,795,774	\$ 21,128,244	53.15%
Public Facilities Fees	\$ 3,289,719	\$ 2,094,476	-36.33%
Road Impact Fees	\$ 5,385,775	\$ 1,516,100	-71.85%
Roads	\$ 30,587,142	\$ 36,015,118	17.75%
Tax Reduction Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Wildlife and Grazing	\$ 7,308	\$ 3,608	-50.63%
Total	\$ 611,273,358	\$ 622,177,552	1.78%



The estimated actual column should go here.

Again, note that this view adds to the same total as the others. The large increase in the Roads Fund is due to a \$6.1 million infusion from SB 1. This is partially offset by a reduction of \$1 million in the general fund contribution to roads from \$7.5 million to \$6.5 million.

3. A major omission is that there is no column displaying the data for the estimated actual budget at the end of the FY 2017-18 current fiscal year, June 30th. The final or adopted FY 2018 budget is \$576 million. Where is it ending up? Did the staff spend more or less? And how does that relate to the requested \$622 million for next fiscal year? Interestingly the data is presented at the Departmental level in the budget detail but not in the grand totals.

4. Generally the program content of the Budget is pretty much on line with the current and past years. New program emphasis is being placed on jail medical programming, community mental health, coordination of jail mental health services with community mental health services, an expanded mosquito abatement program, and absorption of the dissolving Cayucos Fire District.

5. Risks include a possible \$6 million unbudgeted increase in indigent health care costs due to potential changes in the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care), increased County cost share for the In Home Supportive Services Program, and increased County cost share for the Foster Care Program.

6. Another major realized threat is the impending closure of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant in FY 2024/25. In this regard the CEO's Budget Message states in part:

Current efforts related to the planned decommissioning of the plant include:

- The County is supporting Senate Bill 1090 – Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (Senator Monning/Assemblyman Cunningham) which would require the California Public Utilities Commission to approve an \$85 million community impact mitigation settlement, as well as other initiatives to mitigate the economic impacts of the Diablo Canyon's closure.
- Participation on PG&E's engagement plan to determine a future use of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant land.
- Working with community partners and stakeholders to gauge and mitigate economic impacts.

Given the ultimate loss of \$8 million in annual general fund unitary property tax, several million in other earmarked portions of the tax, huge losses in school taxes, and the loss of \$1 billion annually in economic base activity, you would think this issue would receive more prominence as a full blown project of the highest priority. The County is hoping to receive about \$350,000 towards supporting such a project as one component of SB 1090 if it is ultimately approved.

The program detail write-up for the Administrative Office does in fact state that a key task for FY 2018-19 is:

Continue to provide leadership related to the closure of Diablo Canyon Power Plant by monitoring the progress of Senate Bill (SB) 1090, participating on the PG&E Community Engagement Panel, and working with community partners to identify, plan for, and begin mitigating the negative economic impacts of plant closure.

It does not appear that any 100% dedicated staff or funding is budgeted for this vital project. There is no complimentary project in Planning and Building that will have to be a critical piece of this work, because both the reuse of the Diablo site and the replacement business growth and in-location will have major land use, planning, resource, environmental, and capital investment aspects that will have to be coordinated.

To some degree this will also be true for County Counsel, Assessor, Auditor- Controller, Workforce Investment Program, and Public Works.

7. At the same time there will be a ballot measure in November 2018 with the ultimate goal of banning the oil industry in San Luis Obispo County. Similarly the APCD has entered into a stipulated settlement agreement with the State Parks Department that will begin to substantially reduce the riding area in the Oceano Dunes Park. Supervisors Hill, Gibson, and candidate Paulding (at this writing the election results are still not known) are calling for much more robust and aggressive regulation. A shut down or severe curtailment could have a huge negative impact on the 5 Cities economy.

The County government has no internal economic development department but contracts with the Economic Vitality Corporation (EVC) instead. The EVC receives only about \$150,000 per year from the County Budget.

At this point the economic development issue needs to be raised to a strategic policy level that is funded, staffed, and assisted by a proven recognized national strategic economics planning firm to bring a comprehensive imaginative analysis to the Diablo/economic development issue.

8. Finally, one of the most important tables in the entire Budget is relegated to page 529 in the back of the book. It contains the true local discretionary revenues over which the Board actually has real policy control.

	FY 2017-18 Adopted	FY 2017-18 Estimated	FY 2018-19 Requested	FY 2018-19 Recommended	Change from FY 2017-18
Taxes	\$180,699,790	\$184,278,498	\$190,922,972	\$190,925,972	\$10,226,182
Licenses, Permits, and Franchises	\$3,151,100	\$3,151,100	\$3,151,100	\$3,151,100	\$0
Revenue from Use of Money & Property	\$1,954,000	\$1,780,853	\$1,781,000	\$1,781,000	\$(173,000)
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$1,988,325	\$1,988,945	\$1,988,925	\$2,007,925	\$19,600
Charges for Current Services	\$2,138,009	\$2,139,470	\$2,103,500	\$2,103,700	\$(34,309)
Other Revenues	\$1,205	\$1,237	\$1,205	\$1,205	\$0
Interfund	\$285,000	\$285,000	\$285,000	\$285,000	\$0
Total Revenue	\$190,217,429	\$193,625,103	\$200,233,702	\$200,255,902	\$10,038,473
Services and Supplies	\$5	\$(5)	\$5	\$5	\$0
Gross Expenditures	\$5	\$(5)	\$5	\$5	\$0
General Fund Support	\$(190,217,424)	\$(193,625,108)	\$(200,233,697)	\$(200,255,897)	\$(10,038,473)

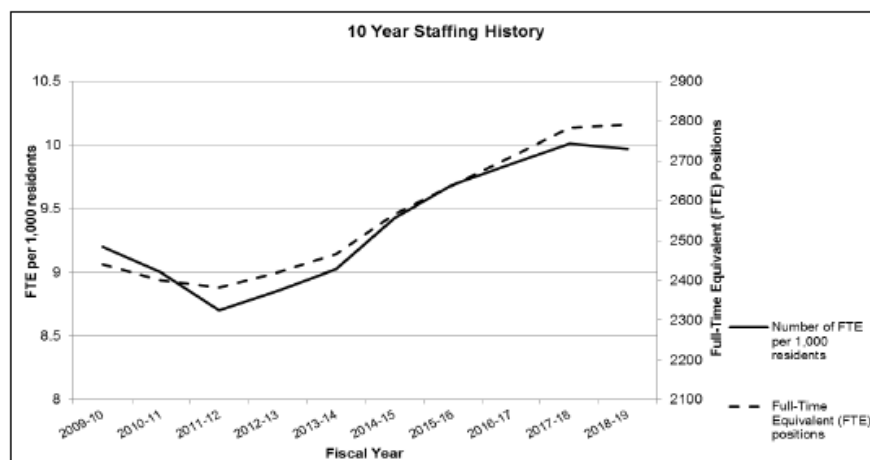
Thus out of the total \$622 million budget this is the revenue which is not earmarked by law for a specific purpose. Instead, most of it is used for public safety, unfunded mental health priorities, required local match on the large State/Federal safety net programs, and policy and support programs such as the Board itself, County Counsel, Auditor Controller, CEO, etc.

Note here, that the estimated FY 17-18 actual column is included. The reader can see that, for example, taxes were budgeted at \$180.7 million but are coming in at \$184.3million, an unexpected growth of \$3.6 million. The staff then recommends an increase of \$10.2 million from the FY 17-18 adopted, an increase of \$6.4 million from the FY 17-18 actual. The accompanying write-up describes the reasons for the increases.

- Current and Secured Property Tax is budgeted at \$117.8 million, which is \$7.4 million or 7% higher than FY 2017-18 adopted levels. Housing sales and prices are continuing to increase, reflecting a market that is trending upward. Current and Unsecured Property Tax for items such as vessels, airplanes, and farm equipment is budgeted at \$2.6 million, less than 1% lower than FY 2017-18 adopted levels.
- Property Tax in Lieu of Vehicle License Fee (VLF) revenue is budgeted at \$36.3 million, which is \$2.2 million or 7% higher than FY 2017-18 adopted levels. This revenue source is part of the "VLF Swap" whereby counties receive additional property tax from the State in lieu of VLF revenue.
- Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) (commonly referred to as the bed tax charged on lodging businesses) is budgeted at \$10.1 million, which is \$293,550 or 3% higher than FY 2017-18 adopted levels. Although FY 2018-19 is anticipated to represent the seventh year of consistent growth and is reflective of a healthy economy, the rate of growth in this revenue category is slowing compared to recent years).
- Unitary Taxes (the Property Taxes on utilities such as power plants as well as pipelines throughout the County) are budgeted at \$7.3 million, which is \$293,700 or 4% higher than FY 2017-18 adopted levels.
- Sales and Use Taxes are budgeted at \$11.1 million, which is \$23,157 or less than 1% lower than FY 2017-18 adopted levels.
- Property Transfer Tax is budgeted at \$2.8 million, which is \$115,000 or 4% higher than FY 2016-17 adopted levels. As the local housing market improves, the volume of the Property Transfer Tax filings increases and yields more revenue for the General Fund.
- Supplemental Property Taxes are budgeted at \$2.2 million, flat with FY 2017-18 adopted levels.

These sources lie at the heart of the ability of the County to function. For this reason, and as we have repeatedly noted, the staff should prepare a five-year forecast of these revenues and the related expenditures going forward as both tables and a graph. In this way the Board can assess whether these revenues are likely to grow sufficiently to fund the base budget. Moreover and especially if not, it cannot make budget decisions today that are informed by their potential impact in the future without the chart.

Of course Diablo will be closing in FY 24/25, in just 6 years. How would that analysis look in that year? There is much more to this important Budget but not enough space here to report it all.



Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, June 14, 2018 (Scheduled)

Item 4 - Coastal Commission Puts Kibosh on Flood Hazard Ordinance Update. The County updated its flood hazard plan and maps to conform to FEMA requirements. This was important for property owners to be able to be eligible for flood insurance. The portion of the update that lies in the coastal zone had to be submitted to the Coast Commission for approval.

You guessed right! The Coastal Commission wrote back and said the update is “inconsistent with the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance and the Coastal Plan.” **Yikes – now what?** The County staff worked for several years with FEMA and got them to agree that the County could manage the FEMA requirements for the updates through the Building Code and would not have to change the Coastal Ordinances and Plans.

The County will now withdraw its application to the Coastal Commission and maintain its existing Plan and ordinances. Wonder how much this wasted in aggravation , dollars, and staff time over the years.

This item will eventually be on the Board of Supervisors agenda for final action once the Planning Commission is done with it.

Policy Impact: In the big picture, a great deal of government expense is due to friction and conflict between various government agencies. This actually saps dollars from services and capital investments such as roads.

The County should track the costs of administrative projects such as this so as to be able to demonstrate the problem to legislators and voters.

LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, June 5, 2018 (Completed)

Item 33 - Addition of Fire Protection to County Service Area 10 – Cayucos. The Board unanimously approved the submittal of an application to LAFCO for the addition of Fire Protection and Emergency Services as functions of County Service Area 10 – Cayucos.

Background: As we reported earlier in the year, the Cayucos Fire District was financially failing, and it became necessary for the County to take it over and for LAFCO to dissolve the distressed Fire District.

This Board item formalized the County's application to LAFCO for the County to take over the old Fire District's functions and to add them to County Service District 10, which currently provides drinking water to Cayucos. The County will expand its contract with Cal Fire to provide the actual services.

The County will be picking up about \$905,000 of new general fund expenditures in the first year of operation, or a total of about \$2.15 million over the first 3 years.

Significant Policy Impacts: From a political standpoint the outcome shows that the Board was willing to support a serious need in one supervisorial district whose representative is not a member of the Board majority. Supervisor Gibson, who represents Cayucos, should remember this when the Board is considering funding for SGMA Plans in the Paso Basin.

The inability of the Fire District to support itself financially is the harbinger of future government collapse in the rest of the County and the State in general. The cost of government employees' salaries, pensions, and health insurance combined with relentless program expansion is outstripping the ability of the natural growth of the economy. The Five Cities Fire Authority and the Templeton Fire District are facing a growing budgetary gap. The City of San Luis Obispo is talking about yet another special sales tax to cover its pension obligations (disguised as a capital program tax).

Remember that this distress is taking place against a background of full employment, growing government revenues, and a burgeoning economy. What happens when things turn down?

Please see the tables on the next page below and note the County's new general fund support.

Item 38 - Proposed Boundary Modification of the Los Osos Water Basin. The Board unanimously voted to authorize the application to the State to modify the Basin Boundary.

Background: This is a smart item under which the County will request the State to decrease the boundary of the Los Osos Water Basin to conform with the actual hydrological boundaries. This will save the County money, as well as the overlying owners' trouble and money in connection with compliance with the State Groundwater Management Act.

Decades ago the State mapped the basin without a detailed study. State regulations permit the process. There is no guarantee the State will agree.

See the PowerPoint for details.

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/8748/Qk9TX0xPIEJCTVJfRmluYWwgUG93ZXJQb2ludCBQcmVzZW50YXRpb24gcmVkJnBkZg==/12/n/94282.doc>

Item 39 - Proposed Boundary Modification of the Santa Maria Water Basin. The Board unanimously approved the application for the boundary change. SLO Progressive leader Charles Varney showed up and said the whole thing was a ploy for oil companies to contaminate the water tables of both the Santa Maria Basin and the Edna Valley basin with produced water and hydrocarbons from the Price Canyon Oil Field. A staffer pointed out that the oil and injected water is thousands of feet below the aquifer.

This action was similar to item 38 above and is complicated because the basin lies in both SLO and Santa Barbara Counties, as well as under several cities and water districts. The counties and cities are cooperating and San Luis Obispo County is taking the lead.

See a great PowerPoint at the link below for the full story.

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/8738/QkJNUiBTTUIgUHJlc2VudGF0aW9uX0JPUyBGTKwgcmVkJnBkZg==/12/n/94287.doc>

Item 41 - Coastal Commission Blackmail Dictates Conditions for Update County's Local Coastal Plan and Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Board unanimously rejected the Coastal Commission's attempt to force it to adopt stricter and unworkable land use restrictions.

Background: This is an arcane but important matter, as it relates to California Coastal Commission assault on local control. There are a number of moving parts to this issue. To keep it as brief and simple as possible:

1. In 2014 the County, primarily at the behest of former Supervisor Frank Mecham, made amendments to a component of its scheme of land use regulation known as the Resource Management System (RMS), which is the operative component of the RMP. Mecham wanted to make it less burdensome and costly.
2. The RMS is a component of the County's Land Use Plan (LUP), which provides a measurement system to assess the availability of water, road and highway capacity, air quality, wastewater disposal capacity, and so forth. The data is collected for both the unincorporated County and all the cities and special districts. There is a 3-tier rating system in which level 3 is bad and no one can develop anything.
3. Another Component of the County's LUP is the State-required Local Coastal Program. Any changes in the LUP that are in the State-defined Coastal Zone must be in congruence with the Local Coastal Program.

4. A jurisdiction's Local Coastal Program must be approved by the California Coastal Commission as being in conformance with the Coastal Act.
5. Accordingly, and after the Board approved the changes in the RMS, they were forwarded to Coastal Commission for review and potential approval.
6. After sitting around the Coastal Commissions' Office for a few years, the Commission staff responded on February 7, 2018, and stated that the housekeeping and clean up provisions were OK, but they didn't like certain wording and especially wanted much of the wording to be mandatory, using the word "shall." The staff would only recommend Commission approval if the County agreed to the changes, which are detailed in a 15-page letter commenting on the County's original 87-page submittal.
7. The Board had already beefed up the RMS in 2014 including adding highway interchange capacity and parks availability to the other criteria such as water and sewer availability.
8. The matter here before the Board of Supervisors concerned whether they submit to and agree to the Coastal Commission blackmail, or forget years of work and costs and walk away. The County staff recommended rejection of the Coastal Commission dictate. The Commission's demands, if adopted, will make building homes, installing utilities, siting public facilities, and everything else more difficult and more expensive than they already are.

There is a PowerPoint summarizing the process and some of the conflicts at the link:

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/8707/QXR0YWNoZWVudCAxIC0gUG93ZXJwb2ludCBQcmVzZW50YXRpb24ucGRm/12/n/93785.doc>

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, June 6, 2018 (Completed)

Note Item B-3, below, is the most important long-range policy document currently under consideration in San Luis Obispo County from the standpoint of overall future development, land use, and lifestyles.

Item B-3: Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The SLOCOG Board voted 8/3 to ultimately promise the State that SLO county (the County and its 7 cities through their land use controls) will adopt and maintain land use plans which favor compact development and life styles. County Supervisors Arnold and Peschong dissented. Atascadero Mayor Tom O'Malley said he didn't necessarily oppose it but needed more explanation. Supervisor Compton was absent.

Background: This item is an update for the SLOCOG Board on the development of the RTP. The RTP is in reality the key means to implement State master planning at the local level, forced stack-and-pack housing, pushing people out of their private vehicles, and generally ending “suburban sprawl.” All this is being undertaken in the name of reducing CO₂ emissions, principally from cars involved in the daily commute.

Each county must have an approved RTP in order to be able to receive Federal and State transportation money.

SLOCOG has modeled 4 scenarios ranging from more spread-out traditional housing to dense urban housing. It is leaning toward scenario 3, which would posit that 30% of future housing would be single-family on lots and 70% would be denser.

COLAB disagrees with this plan, but it will be up to the SLOCOG Board members, 5 County Supervisors and 7 city councilors to decide in September.

Scenario Development, Measures Performance, and Initial Results

To develop multiple future land use scenarios, staff use the SLOCOG Regional Land Use Model (RLUM). The RLUM was built using ArcGIS and CommunityViz Scenario 360 software. This decision-support and interactive analysis tool provides the ability to view, analyze and understand land use impacts. Staff developed four 2035 growth scenarios (S1, S2, S3, and S4) based on the approved frameworks and offers results and comparisons of these scenarios for review and consideration. A single growth scenario is necessary to further refine and develop into the preferred scenario for the Sustainable Communities Strategy chapter and will serve as the development basis for the single 2045 scenario. Based on the 2050 RGF, the region expects the addition of 36,000 new people, 15,400 new homes, and 14,200 new jobs. Scenarios 1 and 2 used a distribution identified in the 2050 RGF. Scenarios 3 and 4 altered the 2050 RGF distribution in favor of an improved Jobs Housing Balance (JHB). Housing distribution targets varied between scenarios:

S1- 80% to larger, 20% to compact;

S2- 30% / 70%;

S3- 30% / 70%;

S4- 80% / 20%.

The full report can be accessed at the link below and is well worth reading.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d3nl4jr2qzbqsi6/AAAmuOzZQQddAdOsnCpwwHRSa/June%202018/Agendas%2026%20Reports?dl=0&preview=B-3+2019+RTP+Scenario+Comparisons+and+Investment+Review.pdf> \

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

Climate Change Has Run Its Course

Its descent into social-justice identity politics is the last gasp of a cause that has lost its vitality

By Steven F. Hayward

Climate change is over. No, I'm not saying the climate will not change in the future, or that human influence on the climate is negligible. I mean simply that climate change is no longer a pre-eminent policy issue. All that remains is boilerplate rhetoric from the political class, frivolous nuisance lawsuits, and bureaucratic mandates on behalf of special-interest renewable-energy rent seekers.

Judged by deeds rather than words, most national governments are backing away from forced-marched decarbonization. You can date the arc of climate change as a policy priority from 1988, when highly publicized congressional hearings first elevated the issue, to 2018. President Trump's ostentatious withdrawal from the Paris Agreement merely ratified a trend long becoming evident.

A good indicator of why climate change as an issue is over can be found early in the text of the Paris Agreement. The "nonbinding" pact declares that climate action must include concern for "gender equality, empowerment of women, and intergenerational equity" as well as "the importance for some of the concept of 'climate justice.'" Another is Sarah Myhre's address at the most recent meeting of the American Geophysical Union, in which she proclaimed that



climate change cannot fully be addressed without also grappling with the misogyny and social injustice that have perpetuated the problem for decades.

The descent of climate change into the abyss of social-justice identity politics represents the last gasp of a cause that has lost its vitality. Climate alarm is like a car alarm—a blaring noise people are tuning out.

This outcome was predictable. Political scientist Anthony Downs described the downward trajectory of many political movements in an article for the *Public Interest*, “Up and Down With Ecology: The ‘Issue-Attention Cycle,’” published in 1972, long before the climate-change campaign began. Observing the movements that had arisen to address issues like crime, poverty and even the U.S.-Soviet space race, Mr. Downs discerned a five-stage cycle through which political issues pass regularly.

The first stage involves groups of experts and activists calling attention to a public problem, which leads quickly to the second stage, wherein the alarmed media and political class discover the issue. The second stage typically includes a large amount of euphoric enthusiasm—you might call it the “dopamine” stage—as activists conceive the issue in terms of global peril and salvation. This tendency explains the fanaticism with which divinity-school dropouts Al Gore and Jerry Brown have warned of climate change.

Then comes the third stage: the hinge. As Mr. Downs explains, there soon comes “a gradually spreading realization that the cost of ‘solving’ the problem is very high indeed.” That’s where we’ve been since the United Nations’ traveling climate circus committed itself to the fanatical mission of massive near-term reductions in fossil fuel consumption, codified in unrealistic proposals like the Kyoto Protocol. This third stage, Mr. Downs continues, “becomes almost imperceptibly transformed into the fourth stage: a gradual decline in the intensity of public interest in the problem.”

While opinion surveys find that roughly half of Americans regard climate change as a problem, the issue has never achieved high salience among the public, despite the drumbeat of alarm from the climate campaign. Americans have consistently ranked climate change the 19th or 20th of 20 leading issues on the annual Pew Research Center poll, while Gallup’s yearly survey of environmental issues typically ranks climate change far behind air and water pollution.

“In the final stage,” Mr. Downs concludes, “an issue that has been replaced at the center of public concern moves into a prolonged limbo—a twilight realm of lesser attention or spasmodic recurrences of interest.” Mr. Downs predicted correctly that environmental issues would suffer this decline, because solving such issues involves painful trade-offs that committed climate activists would rather not make.

A case in point is climate campaigners' push for clean energy, whereas they write off nuclear power because it doesn't fit their green utopian vision. A new study of climate-related philanthropy by Matthew Nisbet found that of the \$556.7 million green-leaning foundations spent from 2011-15, "not a single grant supported work on promoting or reducing the cost of nuclear energy." The major emphasis of green giving was "devoted to mobilizing public opinion and to opposing the fossil fuel industry."

Scientists who are genuinely worried about the potential for catastrophic climate change ought to be the most outraged at how the left politicized the issue and how the international policy community narrowed the range of acceptable responses. Treating climate change as a planet-scale problem that could be solved only by an international regulatory scheme transformed the issue into a political creed for committed believers. Causes that live by politics, die by politics.

Steven Hayward is a senior resident scholar at the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. This article first appeared in the Wall Street Journal of June 5, 2018.

Nope, no blue wave in California. GOP actually better poised for gains because of the Trump wave

By Monica Showalter

Well, the big blue wave didn't turn out quite as Democrats thought it would.

The press is reporting they avoided panic, given that most of their candidates secured spots on the top-two on the November midterm ballot. Whoop-de-doo. That's not a blue wave, and it's certainly not victory. Instead, what we saw were signs of Republican strength in a state written off as solid blue, with bigger than expected margins for the GOP that all the Trump-haters out there in the establishment could forecast. We also saw a significant rejection of Democratic Party organizational favorites, which is a sign that voters are tired of their lockstep voting practices. A third thing we notice is that heavy television spenders, such as Paul Kerr and Sarah Jacobs, didn't make it. This, remember, was what Hillary Clinton did instead of going to Wisconsin. It still fails.

With contested races, we can expect a lot more ads flooding our airwaves as the November midterms approach. We can also expect Democrats to fight hard, given that California is the linchpin of their master plan to retake Washington.

But there are more bright spots on the Republican side than the Democratic. For one thing, they have opposition, something they never expected. California, remember, is supposed to be the solidest of all blue states. Yeah, sure. And two, President Trump is popular. This election shows

that he has coattails, and voters aren't ready to give up on the Trump experiment, which is actually going so well.

Three, and this is a goody, with Republicans on the ballot, Democrats will have to fight an issues campaign. Advantage, Republicans. It means that Democrats in both state and federal races are going to be pinned down and forced to answer questions they don't want to answer about illegals, the gas tax (very potent), Obamacare, the GOP tax cut, green excesses, the high cost of housing, the bums ruining the quality of life in cities, and the bullet train. Once Democrats reveal their true positions, they aren't going to find themselves at an advantage. It certainly isn't going to help the large numbers of moderate-type Democrats who were in some of the top-two spots in the downwind races (they will squirm), and it really won't help the Bernie Sanders-style leftists in similar spots, who will be completely open about their positions.

Here are some more reasons for optimism from various races:

Governor's race: Democrat Gavin Newsom and Republican John Cox. First good thing: Antonio Villaraigosa, who was running on a cater-to-illegals identity-politics ticket, didn't make it. The great Latino wave everyone keeps seeing out there as taking over still hasn't happened. Good thing, because maybe he will have to run on issues instead of appealing to ethnic solidarity. Then there's the fact that he was beaten by Republican Cox. Yes, the analysts say Cox can't possibly win, given that Democrats outnumber Republicans two-to-one on voter registrations. But Cox, who embraced President Trump openly and won his endorsement, came out strong in his second-place finish. He wasn't supposed to place at all. When he started out, the analysts said there was no chance. He's still got a bank of Republicans to take votes from, from the candidacy of Travis Allen, and if he energizes them, they will come.

Among the high Democratic registration numbers, there are disgruntled Democrats, particularly about the illegals. Cox has a chance, and in the Age of Trump, there can be surprises.

Here's another thing: Newsom is no prize. He seems to have an enthusiasm deficit, given that only "hundreds" showed up to his victory party. Matt Drudge is already running unflattering pictures of him on his front page, and he looks like a wimp. Newsom started his campaign early, and apparently that was his only advantage.

Senate: Looks as though it will be Dianne Feinstein and extreme leftist Kevin de León. It probably was a case of Republicans wanting to keep de León at bay, given that he's another part of the extreme-left California statehouse machine. Republicans for a long time have been sighing and voting Feinstein, and they probably did it this time, too. Silver lining: A total unknown Republican named James Bradley, with supposedly no chance to win, did place a very close third to de León. I know I never heard of him, and I had several Republicans to choose from on the ballot. That Bradley did as well as he did does show strength.

Ed Royce's seat, Orange County: [Young Kim](#), a Korean-American Republican endorsed by the retiring Royce, a popular congressman nobody wanted to see go, handily took the first spot. Yes, indeed, there is an Asian wave, and much to Democrats' surprise, it's led by Republicans, just as I [suspected](#).

Devin Nunes: [Beat his challenger](#) Andrew Janz, a political novice, handily on the tallies and will face him again in November. With numbers like his, so much for the canard that Nunes is no longer in a safe seat, as cognoscenti such as Larry Sabato forecasted.

Dana Rohrabacher's seat: Dana, of course, by a huge margin. Voters love the guy. Surfin' congressman, can't beat it. Two Democratic unknowns split the ballot, with half each of what Rohrabacher got. He will have a fight on his hands if the Dems unite, but cripes, he's done so well, why are voters going to change?

[Darryl Issa's seat](#), San Diego County: Lots of obnoxious characters in this one, with saturation advertising. Neither of the top two culprits, Sarah Jacobs and Paul Kerr, made it. They were the Democratic Party's darlings, with all the loud, noisy endorsements. Voters rejected that. Instead, it was an unknown lefty lawyer named Mike Levin who took the second slot, despite Jacobs trying to convince voters she too is a left-wing extremist in her ads. Voters who want that will go for a left-wing lawyer every time, not a novice with Daddy's cash. And in the first place? In this district everyone said was a goner in the blue wave quest? Republican Diane Harkey, someone I have never heard of, but hey, Year of the Woman, right, Democrats?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Victor Davis Hanson wins Edmund Burke Award

By Clifton B. Parker

Victor Davis Hanson has won the 2018 Edmund Burke Award, which honors people who have made major contributions to the defense of Western civilization.

The honor is given annually by *The New Criterion*, a monthly journal of the arts and intellectual life. Edmund Burke was an 18th-century Irish political philosopher who is credited with laying the foundations of modern conservatism.

Hanson, the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, studies and writes about the classics and military history. He received the sixth Edmund Burke Award for Service to Culture and Society in April.

“I was honored to receive the award because Edmund Burke is often identified as both a defender of republican values and traditions and a foe of both autocracy and the radical mob rule of the French Revolution. I grew up on a farm and still live there most of the week. I’ve learned over a lifetime from rural neighbors and friends that agrarianism can inculcate a natural conservatism that I think Burke and others saw as an essential check on radicalism and an independence necessary to resist authoritarianism,” Hanson wrote in an email.

Hanson is also the chairman of the Role of Military History in Contemporary Conflict Working Group at the Hoover Institution.

Background:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, April 26, 2018—Last night Victor Davis Hanson was honored by *The New Criterion* with the sixth Edmund Burke Award for Service to Culture and Society at a gala dinner at the Metropolitan Club in New York City. The Edmund Burke Award honors individuals who have made conspicuous contributions to the defense of civilization. Through his exemplary career as a scholar and writer, Victor Davis Hanson has embodied the spirit of this award, asserting the critical importance of the liberty we cherish in the West. His insight and candor make him an invaluable voice in the ongoing struggle for civilization.

In his opening remarks, Roger Kimball, the editor and publisher of *The New Criterion*, said “Victor cuts across the chattering static of the ephemeral, bringing us back to a wisdom that is as clear-eyed and disabused as it is generous and serene.”

The gala dinner benefited *The New Criterion*, an influential monthly review of the arts and intellectual life, and the award, which was first presented to Dr. Henry Kissinger in 2012, gives homage to the inspiration provided by



Edmund Burke, the eighteenth-century political philosopher. Previous honorees have also included Donald Kagan (2014), Charles Murray (2015), Ayaan Hirsi Ali (2016), and Philippe de Montebello (2017). Supporters of the 2018 gala included Henry & Nancy Kissinger, The Blavatnik Family Foundation, Heather Higgins, Virginia James, and Thomas D. Klingenstein.

Dr. Hanson's Award Acceptance Speech: Note that COLAB has highlighted the portions in yellow :

Populism is today seen both as a pejorative and positive noun. In fact, in the present age, there are two sorts of populism. Both strains originated in classical times and persisted in the West until today.

One in antiquity was known as the base populism. It involved the unfettered urban “mob,” or what the Athenians disapprovingly dubbed the *ochlos* and the Romans disparagingly called the *turba*. Such popular movements were spearheaded by the so-called *demagogoi* (“leaders of the people”) or in Roman times the more radical popular tribunes.

These were largely urban movements. Protesters focused on the redistribution of property, radical democratization, taxes on the wealthy, the cancellation of debts, vast increases in public entitlements, and civic employment. The French Revolution and European upheavals of 1848 reflect some of the same themes. Today, Occupy Wall Street, Antifa, Black Lives Matter, and the Bernie Sanders phenomenon all stand in the same current. Often, urban intellectuals, aristocrats, and elites—from the patrician Roman Republican street agitator Publius Clodius Pulcher and the Jacobin Maximilien Robespierre, to present-day billionaires like George Soros and Tom Steyer—have sought to assist the urban protesters. Perhaps these gentleman-agitators thought they could offer money, prestige, or greater wisdom, thereby channeling and elevating shared populist agendas.

The antithesis to such radical populism was likely thought by ancient conservative historians to be the “good” populism of the past—and what the contemporary media might call the “bad” populism of the present: the push-back of small property owners and the middle classes against the power of oppressive government, steep taxation, and internationalism, coupled with unhappiness over imperialism and foreign wars and a preference for liberty rather than mandated equality. Think of the second century B.C. Gracchi brothers rather than Juvenal’s “bread-and-circuses” imperial Roman underclass, the American rather than the French Revolution, or the Tea Party versus Occupy Wall Street.

The *mesoi*, or “middle guys,” both predated and remained somewhat at odds with contemporary radical Athenian democracy. Yet these agrarian property-owning classes were also originally responsible for the Greek city-state and thus for Western civilization itself. The Jeffersonian idea of preserving ownership of a family plot, and passing on farms through codified inheritance laws and property rights, were the themes of the constitutions of the early polis. The citizen—neither a peasant nor a subject—remained rooted to a particular plot of ground, and thereby enjoyed the

tripartite rights of citizenship: military service, voting rights in the assembly, and the ability to be self-supporting and autonomous. The mesoi, then, lent stability to otherwise often volatile consensual politics.

Edmund Burke is often referenced as the archetypical sober and judicious conservative. Despite the difficulty of finding a systematic political orthodoxy in Burke's vast body of largely forensic speeches and pamphlets, we are told that Burke serves as a model of modern conservatism in our own uncertain age. Burke, of course, saw through the French Revolution, while earlier having appreciated elements of the American cause. It is also understandable that Burke can be sourced to refute the current dangerous relativism of the radical Left, while defending classical liberalism from the excesses of populist nationalists and mindless mobs on the right.

But Burke often emphasized the stability of the property-owning middle classes and their custodianship of custom and tradition: the "unchanging constancy" that Burke argued ensures that "in what we improve we are never wholly new; in what we retain we are never wholly obsolete." An ample property-owning class serves as a bulwark against confiscatory anarchy and revolutionary nihilism, as well as the excesses of monarchial and aristocratic insider and client autocracy. Likewise, that keen observer of early-nineteenth-century Americanism, the French nobleman Alexis de Tocqueville, in his *Democracy in America*, saw America's unique strength in the populist influence of a nation of small agrarians. Such property owners were suspicious of both hereditary aristocracy and monarchy, and yet were economically autonomous enough to resist radical calls for government-enforced equality.

Yet somehow the contemporary conservative movement and the Republican Party have confused a traditionally destabilizing populism with the ancient restorative populism, or clumsily feared both equally.

Obviously, we are no longer, as was true at our founding, a nation largely composed of yeomen farmers. But in modern terms, the ownership of a house, a business, or perhaps even a retirement savings plan is the equivalent of Burke's stewardship of property and tradition. Ancient American ideas like the right to bear arms and an end to inheritance taxes still reflect Tocqueville's interest in maintaining the viability of a large middle class suspicious of both rich and poor. But in our modern context, the trajectory of contemporary Republicanism has been largely to downplay culture, especially the effects of globalization and de-industrialization on traditional small communities of property-owning citizens. That neglect led to startling political repercussions in 2016.

Illegal immigration and open borders were accepted as an unpreventable—or even an almost natural occurrence, with largely positive results for both the Left and Right. In collective fashion liberals championed the poor arriving on their own terms from Central America and Mexico in expectation of their permanent political support. They sought and received the changing of the Electoral College demography of the American Southwest.

Many Republicans, foolishly, either wished for cheap labor or deluded themselves into thinking that amnestied impoverished illegal immigrants would soon vote for family-values conservatives. Neither party worried much about the insidious destruction of immigration law,

much less how federal laws that were otherwise applicable to most Americans could be arbitrarily ignored by a select few or how wages of entry-level workers were driven down by imported labor. Few conservatives raised the objection that mass influxes of illegal aliens, mostly non-diverse, poorly educated, and without skills, were difficult enough to assimilate quickly under the old culture of the melting pot, but even more so now, given the current paradigm of the tribal salad bowl.

There was a similar consensus across party lines to embrace globalization. It was seen not just as an inevitable result of Western cultural dominance and technological supremacy, but rather as something almost morally and culturally enriching. Internationalism and open borders would give way to a positive globalized sameness—even as such homogenization left millions of Americans between the coasts with stagnant wages, or lost jobs, or a sense of alienation from the centers of power in bi-coastal America.

Globalization without concern over its cultural effects was most un-Burkean, given its unchallenged assumptions that unfettered trade, outsourcing, and offshoring were to be welcomed as organic processes, certainly inevitable and thus ultimately moral for all Americans. An outsider might have remarked that writing off large swaths of the American interior as lost was among the most radical developments in American history. **Did any bi-coastal Americans think that by de-industrializing and deprecating the value of traditional hard work there would be no cultural consequences, given the historic roles of the middle classes as custodians of American values?**

Our popular culture reflected these new norms. Coastal winners were seen on sitcoms and in psychodramatic movies as smart, cool, upwardly mobile, and anointed, often even proudly neurotic and self-absorbed as they navigated hip restaurants, on-and-off-again hook-ups, and office melodramas. In contrast, the working classes in the interior seemed to be portrayed as near opposites, as aboriginal people worthy of caricature, who still insisted that Sarah Palin would have been a great Vice President. In reality TV's *Deadliest Catch*, *Ice Road Truckers*, *Duck Dynasty*, or *Ax Men*, they shuffled about with rural accents and in bib overalls. Most had short tempers and were too eager to swear and fight. Lots of broken-down and often dangerous equipment, along with shacks and trailers, provided the film backdrops and sets.

Republicans had also come to believe in a holistic market that would adjudicate culture and values. A community's lost aluminum smelters and fertilizer plants de facto proved that they should be lost, given the gospel that globalized rules of capital and labor always favored the most efficient—efficiency judged by lowest cost of production, without much regard for the larger ripples of culture. What was lost to the fading middle classes in good wages would supposedly be made up by cheaper imported consumer goods.

When, during the 2016 campaign, a crass Manhattan billionaire real estate developer began campaigning in terms of the first personal plural pronoun—*our* miners, *our* workers, *our* farmers—few emulated him. Most rivals were convinced apparently that he would prove as irrelevant as those to whom he appealed. Yet, again in Burkean terms, assembly-line workers, clerks, miners, loggers, fabricators, welders, and builders had been the traditional bulwarks of

thousands of American communities. Their loss of viable livelihoods—at a time when their products were often highly coveted—was a radical prescription for cultural suicide. So into this conundrum came Donald Trump, as a sort of self-described fixer, loudmouth, nationalist populist, or perhaps even a tragic hero of sorts. Of course, the very word “heroic” in conjunction with the name Trump appalls half the country, as do terms such as “nationalist” and “populist.” Nonetheless, one way of understanding both Trump’s personal excesses and his appeal to red-state America is that his not being traditionally presidential may have been valuable in bringing long-overdue changes in foreign and domestic policy—and in rediscovering the middle-class populists hidden beneath the nose of the Republican Party.

The billionaire Trump was able to connect with red- and purple-state voters in a way past Republican candidates had not—and not just in terms of his signature and unorthodox focus on issues such as trade, globalization, and illegal immigration. Trump, the person, mattered just as much. Throughout Trump’s invectives a number of messages were implicit. One, Trump, by his manner of speaking, his temperament, and his vulgarity, was not embedded in the existing establishment or Washington power structure, and thus in theory he was not beholden to it in either the way he spoke or acted.

Two, like Homer’s Achilles, or Sam Peckinpah’s Wild Bunch, he was a disruptive force who could end a common threat (in the mythological fashion of “man-slaughtering” Hector or General Mapache’s *federales*) by the use of skill sets unavailable to, or felt to be unattractive by, his benefactors. Whether concerning the missiles of Kim Jong-un or the overreach of the federal government, Trump supporters wanted someone to try something different.

Three, Trump’s own history and brand ensured he would not be able to partake fully of, or be accepted by, the restored society he sought to salvage, given his own distance from those he championed. Certainly, Trump’s own randy past, excessive appetites, and high-stakes financial dealings made him somewhat unappealing to those in York or Merced. But, ironically, his constituents thought he was nevertheless a champion who at a distance could be turned loose on their behalf against those they had grown to despise.

So Trump was a populist nemesis visited upon the hubris of the coastal culture. When he took on “fake news,” when he tweeted over the “crooked” media, when he railed about “globalists,” when he caricatured Washington politicians—and ranted non-stop, shrilly, and crudely—a third of the country felt that at last they had a world-beater who wished to win ugly rather than, as in the case of John McCain or Mitt Romney, lose nobly. As a neighbor put it to me of Trump’s opponents, “They all have it coming.”

The targets of Trump’s ire never quite understood that the establishment’s attacks on him, and their own entitled appeals to their greater sensitivity, training, experience, education, morality, class, and authority, were precisely the force multipliers that made Trumpism so appealing.

In 2016, pundits and experts had focused mostly on the populism of the race, class, and gender brand, and its would-be champions Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, who sought to channel the new identity, youth, and feminist politics for their own advantage.

All had forgotten that there was also another populist tradition, lying dormant. It was a quieter but far more potent bomb just waiting to blow up—if someone ever would be so uncouth and angry enough to detonate it.

STOP The Oil & Gas SHUTDOWN In San Luis Obispo County

For Immediate Release: May 1, 2018

Contact: Aaron Hanke | 805.538.2133

The Committee to Stop the Oil and Gas Shutdown in San Luis Obispo County calls initiative deceptive and damaging.

San Luis Obispo, CA— The committee to Stop the Oil and Gas Shutdown in San Luis Obispo County responded to the submission of signatures for a ballot measure that would have a detrimental effect on our local community.

The statement below can be attributed to Aaron Hanke, spokesperson for the coalition:

“Proponents of the anti-oil and gas initiative seek to portray their measure as a ban on hydraulic fracturing. But what the initiative would actually do is shut down all oil and gas production in the county over the next several years.

“Here in San Luis Obispo County, oil and gas production has been safely operating for decades and is highly regulated by at least 30 local, state and federal entities. In fact, only 5% of county lands are designated for oil and gas extraction and there is no hydraulic fracturing in San Luis Obispo County and no plans to do so. This initiative is unnecessary and goes too far.

“This overreach would hurt our community. Two hundred and sixty local and mainly blue-collar workers and families from diverse backgrounds who are reliant on the oil and gas industry would be

threatened with losing their jobs, and millions in state and local taxes used to fund local schools as well as police and fire would also be lost. With the impending closure of Diablo Canyon, the last thing residents in San Luis Obispo County need is the loss of more middle-class job opportunities.

“In addition, every drop of oil that we do not produce locally would have to be imported from somewhere else. As long as we need oil and gas to meet our energy needs, it's better for our state and for our community to continue to allow local producers to help meet our state's energy needs in the right, responsible way under the strictest global environmental regulations in the world. Rather than banning oil and gas production in the county, we should strive to be energy independent as we transition to a greater reliance on alternative energy sources.

“For over one hundred years, companies have responsibly produced oil and gas in San Luis Obispo County. If passed, the measure would have serious adverse economic impacts on our county.”

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DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM

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



**AUTHOR & NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COMMENTATOR BEN SHAPIRO
APPEARED AT A COLAB ANNUAL DINNER**

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