



# **COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO WEEK OF MARCH 25 - 31, 2018**

**THANKS TO THE COMMUNITY FOR YOUR  
TREMENDOUS SUPPORT OF COLAB'S  
DINNER/FUNDRAISER LAST WEEK**



**A LARGE, ENTHUSIASTIC, AND GENEROUS CROWD FILLED THE  
MADONNA INN EXPO CENTER**

**PAGEANTRY**



**FABULOUS AUCTION ITEMS**





YETI COOLERS ARE APPROVED FOR BEAR RESISTANCE



**GREAT RAFFEL PRIZES - MADONNA INN CAKES - AND STEAKS**



**SIT DOWN DINNER WITH WINE**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO KEYNOTER BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN  
JOHN PESCHONG**



**THIS WEEK**

**NO REGULAR BOS MEETING**

**SPECIAL BOS MEETING ON MARCH 27**  
(HEALTH AGENCY DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS)

**APCD MEETING BUT NO BIG POLICY ITEMS**

**LAST WEEK**

**PROTEST SHUTS DOWN BOARD FOR ½ DAY**

**MOSQUITO PROGRAM PENDED TO  
BUDGET TIME**

**APCD HEARING BOARD REJECTS DEAL &  
SAYS COME BACK WITH A STIFFER PROGRAM**

**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH**  
SEE PAGE 9

**GOODBYE CALIFORNIA**

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

**THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**No Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 (Not Scheduled)**

March 27<sup>th</sup> is a 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday and the Board does not normally meet.

**Special Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 27, 2018 (Added)**

**Item 1 - PERSONNEL (Government Code section 54957). It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session to: (1) Consider Public Employee Appointment for the Position of County Health Agency Director.** It is not known at what stage the process has reached, but this could be Board interviews of finalists.

**San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District APCD Meeting of Wednesday, March 28, 2018 (Scheduled)**

There do not appear to be any items of major policy concern on this agenda.

**LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 20, 2018 (Completed)**

**Protest Shuts Down Board Meeting for ½ Day**

A small group protesting the County Jail death of Andrew Holland shut down the Board meeting. After being allowed 10 minutes to stand in front of the dais with a mock dead body representing Andrew Holland, they refused a request to leave or simply to speak at open public comment. At that point the meeting was recessed until 1:30 PM when it resumed.



Will the demonstrations recur and will the demonstrators leave peacefully or attempt to interfere with the conduct of the public's business? The ability of any group to disrupt an elected public body thereby preventing its legal operation is ultimately a threat to democracy by imposing force, even if it is under the guise of a peaceful demonstration.

Does this group get special treatment since they represent the SLO Progressive Left Coalition? What if the Tea Party comes and shuts the meeting down? How many times are allowed? How long are the shutdowns allowed?

It is not known if they hoped to be arrested and removed from the Board Chambers for the purpose of generating media coverage. It has been reported that Supervisor Hill engaged in some sort of conversation with a protestor concerning whether they wished to be arrested.

The protesters were demanding the resignation of Sheriff Ian Parkinson. Various organs of the progressive left, including San Luis Obispo Mayor Heidi Harmon, the San Luis Obispo Tribune, and some candidates, have attacked Parkinson and accused him of either being personally responsible for the death or responsible for the management system which allowed it to occur. Former County Administrator David Edge joined the fray, when he showed up for last week's public comment period and criticized the County and the Sheriff in strong terms. He seemed particularly offended that San Luis Obispo County and the Holland tragedy were making the international news. He was fired in 2009 after the County spent \$100,000 for an investigation of him, his Assistant CAO Gail Wilcox, and others.

After Edge was fired, Wilcox was fired for a personal conflict of interest with the Executive Director of the Sheriffs' Union with which she was conducting labor negotiations. She retaliated by claiming Edge had sexually harassed her.

The results of that investigation were widely published with the approval of the Board of Supervisors – Edge's alleged fault: advising Wilcox on appropriate dress and techniques for dating. According to the investigation, Wilcox encouraged the advice .

In the end it was reported that the County paid Wilcox \$250,000. Edge did not actually have an affair with Wilcox. Gibson is still here and running for a 4<sup>th</sup> term..

**Item 22 - Request to amend the County General Plan and Titles 22 and 23 of the County Code to bring the Extractive Resources Area (EX and EX-1) combining designations into alignment with mineral designations of state and/or regional significance as identified by the State Mining and Geology Board pursuant to Special Report 215.** The Board considered the somewhat confusing item and sent it back for more work.

The County will be adding to and modifying areas designated as required protecting mineral resources. Areas so designated are to be protected from encroaching development such as housing, which might make extraction of the material (like gravel) infeasible. Examples from the report include:

## EX-1 – Extractive Resources

- Established as part of SR 162 mineral classification as a less restrictive alternative to EX.
- Used for areas with significant mineral resources.
- Mineral resources are evaluated with discretionary development projects only.

### Examples

- La Panza Granitics
  - Salinas River
- Santa Maria River

## EX – Energy and Extractive Resources

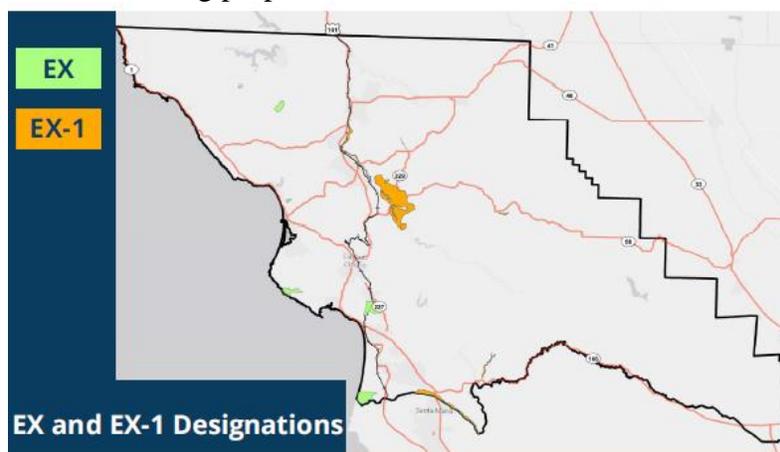
- Used for existing energy facilities and major extraction facilities.
- Requires Minor Use Permit for non-extractive uses (e.g. single-family residence).
- Requires a geologic report.

### Examples

- Price Canyon oil field
- Lime Mountain mine

**The following questions were never answered at the meeting:** Is this good or bad?

- a. How is this different from the current situation and rules?
- b. How does it affect the owners of land with mineral resources?
- c. How does it affect the owners of land with developed mineral resources?
- d. How does it affect the owners of abutting lands?
- e. How does it affect non-abutting properties in the area?



**Item 23 - Request to consider options for reinstating a Health Agency mosquito control program and provide direction to staff as necessary.** Because of budget uncertainty and questions about the relative extent and seriousness about mosquito infestation, the Board postponed further consideration of this issue until Budget review and adoption time in June.

**Background:** Last year the Board considered options for reviving a mosquito control program which had lapsed in the recession as the County reduced costs. Concerns about Zika Virus and West Nile Virus may have led to the consideration.

In November of 2017 the Board received a staff report on service level options and costs. At that time it determined to pend the matter until it received an updated FY 2018-19 Budget forecast, which it reviewed in February. The issue was brought back for further consideration.

The Budget news has not been good, what with the approval of the shutdown of Diablo, the denial of the Diablo shutdown \$85-million community mitigation package by the California Public Utilities Commission, closing and budget stressed fire districts, relentless wage and pension cost pressure, nasty lawsuit losses, housing shortages, middle class flight to other states, proposals to destroy the oil industry in the County, and pressure to further limit or shut down the Oceano Dunes Riding Area.

**Item 28 - Authorize the Office of County Cannabis Hearing Officer to conduct nuisance abatement hearings under Chapters 22.74 and 23.10 for nuisances related to cannabis activities; and modification of procedural requirements for nuisance abatement under Chapters 22.74 and 23.10 related to cannabis activities and modification of procedural requirements for administrative fines under Chapter 1.05 related to cannabis activities; 2) adoption of a resolution directing staff regarding extension of the temporary abeyance of enforcement actions against qualified registrants under Ordinance No. 3334 on specific conditions; and 3) approval of 6 Cannabis Hearing Officer contracts in a cumulative amount not to exceed \$125,000.** The Board approved the item and appointed contract hearing officers.

**Background:** The County adopted its marijuana regulatory ordinance and is now beginning one aspect of implementation. Code Enforcement staff are filing complaints on illegal grows and other businesses on the basis that they are a public nuisance and/or are in violation of the County's regulatory ordinances.

For the system to work there has to be an appeal process staffed by hearing officers qualified to make determinations on the validity of the appeals. The hearing officers will not be County employees. Instead they will be hourly paid contract attorneys and paralegals. After a competitive selection process, the staff is recommending six individuals with mediation and regulatory experience. The attorneys will be paid \$225 per hour and the paralegals \$75 per hour.

**Air Pollution Control District (APCD) of San Luis Obispo County Hearing Board Meeting of Wednesday, March 21, 2018, City of San Luis Obispo Council Chambers, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, 9:00 AM (Continued)**

**Agenda Item - Petition 17-01: Petition of the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control Officer for issuance of an Order of Abatement against California State Department of Parks and Recreation - Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division for alleged public nuisance of dust resulting from activities at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (California Health and Safety Code section 41700 and Hearing Board Rule 402): Continued public hearing and possible action on the Petition, including consideration of a proposed stipulated order.** The Hearing Board spent most of the day hearing from the public under public comment. Most of the speakers were from the Nipomo Mesa area, were complaining about the dust, and would like to see the riding shut down or severely restricted. Speakers from various riding and camping constituencies also appeared.

In a new development, the State Parks and the APCD Director (called the Air Pollution Control Officer) have announced a proposed settlement under which State Parks would reduce the riding area by 100 acres immediately and make further reductions reaching 30% by 2023. Apparently the actual APCD Board of Directors does not get involved in violation proceedings.

In the end the Hearing Board rejected the deal and directed APCD staff and the State Parks Department to go back and work out a more rigorous schedule and stronger dust reduction plan than was proposed. It is likely that the new deal will have to contain more restrictions on the area allowed for riding as well as restrictions on windy days. The next meeting will be on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup> in the Board of Supervisors meeting room.

A representative of the County Public Health Commission asserted that the dust is a health problem and cited a number of studies to back up his points

**Background:** This item was a continued hearing from November 17, 2017 and January 30, 2018. Actually, on January 30, 2018 and as a last minute surprise, the Hearing Board did not conduct the scheduled proceeding. Instead it received a presentation from State Parks on some measures that it proposes to take in 2018 to reduce dust and to test some potential future dust reduction methods. Accordingly the actual violation proceeding was continued to this March 21st meeting.

The January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was to have been a continuation of the proceeding, which began on November 13, 2017. Back in November, the Hearing Board was unable to finish in one day and had a substantial list of witnesses still to come. This item was not a meeting of the APCD Board, but was a subcomponent Hearing Board, which considers appeals from individuals, businesses, and other entities that disagree with APCD applications of regulations, violation orders, and fines.

**Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) meeting of Thursday, March 22, 2018, Santa Barbara County Administration Building, 105 E. Anapamu Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Auditorium, 9:00 AM (Completed)**

**Item 4 - Surface Water Quality Conditions and Agricultural Discharges in the Central Coast Region.** The report is not good and could lead to further regulation. It states in part: *As staff will discuss in this report, overall water quality data in agricultural areas do not indicate that surface water quality conditions are improving in terms of achieving water quality objectives and protecting beneficial uses. Furthermore, a significant amount of water quality degradation due to agricultural discharges continues to occur in these areas.*

SEE THE FULL AGENDA ITEM ON THE LINK:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2018/march/item4/item4\\_stfrpt.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2018/march/item4/item4_stfrpt.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**

## **GOODBYE CALIFORNIA**

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

The last three weeks I have traveled about, taking the pulse of the more forgotten areas of central California. I wanted to witness, even if superficially, what is happening to a state that has the highest sales and income taxes, the most lavish entitlements, the near-worst public schools (based on federal test scores), and the largest number of illegal aliens in the nation, along with an overregulated private sector, a stagnant and shrinking manufacturing base, and an elite environmental ethos that restricts commerce and productivity without curbing consumption.

During this unscientific experiment, three times a week I rode a bike on a 20-mile trip over various rural roads in southwestern Fresno County. I also drove my car over to the coast to work, on various routes through towns like San Joaquin, Mendota, and Firebaugh. And near my home I

have been driving, shopping, and touring by intent the rather segregated and impoverished areas of Caruthers, Fowler, Laton, Orange Cove, Parlier, and Selma. My own farmhouse is now in an area of abject poverty and almost no ethnic diversity; the closest elementary school (my alma mater, two miles away) is 94 percent Hispanic and 1 percent white, and well below federal testing norms in math and English.

Here are some general observations about what I saw (other than that the rural roads of California are fast turning into rubble, poorly maintained and reverting to what I remember seeing long ago in the rural South). First, remember that these areas are the ground zero, so to speak, of 20 years of illegal immigration. There has been a general depression in farming - to such an extent that the 20- to-100-acre tree and vine farmer, the erstwhile backbone of the old rural California, for all practical purposes has ceased to exist.

On the western side of the Central Valley, the effects of arbitrary cutoffs in federal irrigation water have idled tens of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land, leaving thousands unemployed. Manufacturing plants in the towns in these areas - which used to make harvesters, hydraulic lifts, trailers, food-processing equipment - have largely shut down; their production has been shipped off overseas or south of the border. Agriculture itself - from almonds to raisins - has increasingly become corporatized and mechanized, cutting by half the number of farm workers needed. So unemployment runs somewhere between 15 and 20 percent.

Many of the rural trailer-house compounds I saw appear to the naked eye no different from what I have seen in the Third World. There is a Caribbean look to the junked cars, electric wires crisscrossing between various outbuildings, plastic tarps substituting for replacement shingles, lean-tos cobbled together as auxiliary housing, pit bulls unleashed, and geese, goats, and chickens roaming around the yards. The public hears about all sorts of tough California regulations that stymie business - rigid zoning laws, strict building codes, and constant inspections - but apparently none of that applies out here.

It is almost as if the more California regulates, the more it does not regulate. Its public employees prefer to go after misdemeanors in the upscale areas to justify our expensive oversight industry, while ignoring the felonies in the downtrodden areas, which are becoming feral and beyond the ability of any inspector to do anything but feel irrelevant. But in the regulators' defense, where would one get the money to redo an ad hoc trailer park with a spider web of illegal bare wires?

Many of the rented-out rural shacks and stationary Winnebagos are on former small farms - the vineyards overgrown with weeds, or torn out with the ground lying fallow. I pass on the cultural consequences to communities from the loss of thousands of small farming families. I don't think I can remember another time when so many acres in the eastern part of the valley have gone out of production, even though farm prices have recently rebounded. Apparently it is simply not worth the gamble of investing \$7,000 to \$10,000 an acre in a new orchard or vineyard. What an anomaly - with suddenly soaring farm prices, still we have thousands of acres in the world's richest agricultural belt, with available water on the east side of the valley and plentiful labor, gone idle or in disuse. Is credit frozen? Are there simply no more farmers? Are the schools so bad as to scare away potential agricultural entrepreneurs? Or are

we all terrified by the national debt and uncertain future?

California coastal elites may worry about the oxygen content of water available to a three-inch smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, but they seem to have no interest in the epidemic dumping of trash, furniture, and often toxic substances throughout California's rural hinterland. Yesterday, for example, I rode my bike by a stopped van just as the occupants tossed seven plastic bags of raw refuse onto the side of the road. I rode up near their bumper and said in my broken Spanish not to throw garbage onto the public road. But there were three of them, and one of me. So I was lucky to be sworn at only. I note in passing that I would not drive into Mexico and, as a guest, dare to pull over and throw seven bags of trash into the environment of my host.

In fact, trash piles are commonplace out here - composed of everything from half-empty paint cans and children's plastic toys to diapers and moldy food. I have never seen a rural sheriff cite a litterer, or witnessed state EPA workers cleaning up these unauthorized wastelands. So I would suggest to Bay Area scientists that the environment is taking a much harder beating down here in central California than it is in the Delta. Perhaps before we cut off more irrigation water to the west side of the valley, we might invest some green dollars into cleaning up the unsightly and sometimes dangerous garbage that now litters the outskirts of our rural communities.

We hear about the tough small-business regulations that have driven residents out of the state, at the rate of 2,000 to 3,000 a week. But from my unscientific observations these past weeks, it seems rather easy to open a small business in California without any oversight at all, or at least what I might call a "counter business." I counted eleven mobile hot-kitchen trucks that simply park by the side of the road, spread about some plastic chairs, pull down a tarp canopy, and, presto, become mini-restaurants. There are no "facilities" such as toilets or washrooms. But I do frequently see lard trails on the isolated roads I bike on, where trucks apparently have simply opened their draining tanks and sped on, leaving a slick of cooking fats and oils. Crows and ground squirrels love them; they can be seen from a distance mysteriously occupied in the middle of the road.

At crossroads, peddlers in a counter-California economy sell almost anything. Here is what I noticed at an intersection on the west side last week: shovels, rakes, hoes, gas pumps, lawnmowers, edgers, blowers, jackets, gloves, and caps. The merchandise was all new. I doubt whether in high-tax California sales taxes or income taxes were paid on any of these stop-and-go transactions.

The highlighted paragraphs are ways in which at least some of the nearly 47% of U.S. non tax payers are able to get by.

In two supermarkets 50 miles apart, I was the only one in line who did not pay with a social-service plastic card (gone are the days when "food stamps" were embarrassing bulky coupons). But I did not see any relationship between the use of the card and poverty as we once knew it: The electrical appurtenances owned by the user and the car into which the groceries were loaded were indistinguishable from those of the upper middle class.

By that I mean that most consumers drove late-model Camrys, Accords, or Tauruses, had iPhones, Bluetooths, or BlackBerries, and bought everything in the store with public-assistance credit. This seemed a world apart from the trailers I had just ridden by the day before. I don't editorialize here on the logic or morality of any of this, but I note only that there are vast numbers of people who apparently are not working, are on public food assistance, and enjoy the technological veneer of the middle class. California has a consumer market surely, but often no apparent source of income. Does the \$40 million a day supplement to unemployment benefits from Washington explain some of this?

Do diversity concerns, as in lack of diversity, work both ways? Over a hundred-mile stretch, when I stopped in San Joaquin for a bottled water, or drove through Orange Cove, or got gas in Parlier, or went to a corner market in southwestern Selma, my home town, I was the only non-Hispanic - there were no Asians, no blacks, no other whites. We may speak of the richness of "diversity," but those who cherish that ideal simply have no idea that there are now countless inland communities that have become near-apartheid societies, where Spanish is the first language, the schools are not at all diverse, and the federal and state governments are either the main employers or at least the chief sources of income - whether through emergency rooms, rural health clinics, public schools, or social-service offices. An observer from Mars might conclude that our elites and masses have given up on the ideal of integration and assimilation, perhaps in the wake of the arrival of 11 to 15 million illegal aliens.

Again, I do not editorialize, but I note these vast transformations over the last 20 years that are the paradoxical wages of unchecked illegal immigration from Mexico, a vast expansion of California's entitlements and taxes, the flight of the upper middle class out of state, the deliberate effort not to tap natural resources, the downsizing in manufacturing and agriculture, and the departure of whites, blacks, and Asians from many of these small towns to more racially diverse and upscale areas of California.

Fresno's California State University campus is embroiled in controversy over the student body president's announcing that he is an illegal alien, with all the requisite protests in favor of the DREAM Act. I won't comment on the legislation per se, but again only note the anomaly. I taught at CSUF for 21 years. I think it fair to say that the predominant theme of the Chicano and Latin American Studies program's sizable curriculum was a fuzzy American culpability. By that I mean that students in those classes heard of the sins of America more often than its attractions. In my home town, Mexican flag decals on car windows are far more common than their American counterparts.

I note this because hundreds of students here illegally are now terrified of being deported to Mexico. I can understand that, given the chaos in Mexico and their own long residency in the United States. But here is what still confuses me: If one were to consider the classes that deal with Mexico at the university, or the visible displays of national chauvinism, then one might conclude that Mexico is a far more attractive and moral place than the United States.

So there is a surreal nature to these protests: something like, "Please do not send me back to the culture I nostalgically praise; please let me stay in the culture that I ignore or deprecate." I think the DREAM Act protestors might have been far more successful in winning public opinion

had they stopped blaming the U.S. for suggesting that they might have to leave at some point, and instead explained why, in fact, they want to stay. What is it about America that makes a youth of 21 go on a hunger strike or demonstrate to be allowed to remain in this country rather than return to the place of his birth?

I think I know the answer to this paradox. Missing entirely in the above description is the attitude of the host, which by any historical standard can only be termed "indifferent." California does not care whether one broke the law to arrive here or continues to break it by staying. It asks nothing of the illegal immigrant - no proficiency in English, no acquaintance with American history and values, no proof of income, no record of education or skills. It does provide all the public assistance that it can afford (and more that it borrows for), and apparently waives enforcement of most of California's burdensome regulations and civic statutes that increasingly have plagued productive citizens to the point of driving them out. How odd that we over-regulate those who are citizens and have capital to the point of banishing them from the state, but do not regulate those who are aliens and without capital to the point of encouraging millions more to follow in their footsteps. How odd - to paraphrase what Critias once said of ancient Sparta - that California is at once both the nation's most unfree and most free state, the most repressed and the wildest.

Hundreds of thousands sense all that and vote accordingly with their feet, both into and out of California - and the result is a sort of social, cultural, economic, and political time-bomb, whose ticks are getting louder.

*Victor Davis Hanson is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, the editor of "Makers of Ancient Strategy: From the Persian Wars to the Fall of Rome", and the author of "The Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern." Dr. Hanson has appeared at a number of local COLAB events.*



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(Revised 2/2017)