



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1-7, 2015

 **COLAB** **6th** 
San Luis Obispo County **ANNUAL**

**DINNER &
FUNDRAISER**

BEN SHAPIRO

Keynote Speaker

Shapiro, a provocative and biting national political commentator, is editor at large of *Breitbart News*, hosts the daily radio show *Morning Answer* and is a *New York Times* best selling author.

Thursday, March 26th

Alex Madonna Expo Center

5:15 pm Social Hour, No Host Cocktails

6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner including Wine

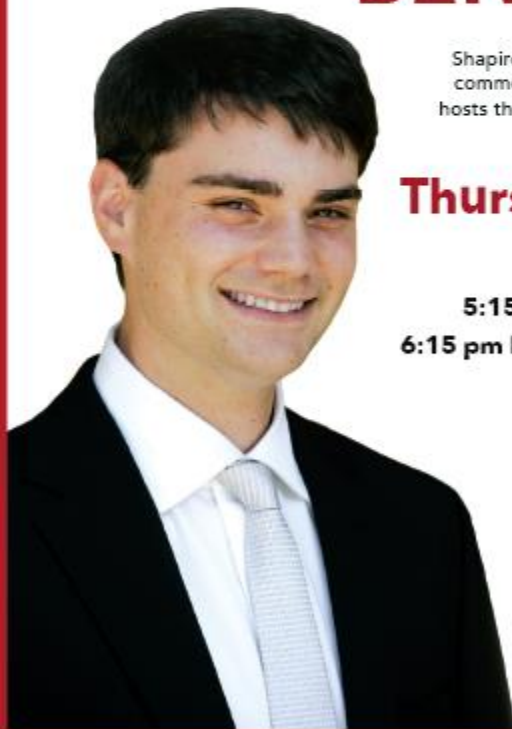
\$125 per person / \$1,100 per table of ten
Reserved seating for Tables of Ten

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COLAB SLO, PO Box 13601
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

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

Cocktail Attire Optional



CALL 805 548-0340 –RESERVE YOUR TABLE/TICKETS

FEBRUARY 3, 2015
BOARD ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE
CHAIRMAN TO BE DONE OVER
(AFTER 1:30 PM)

PASO DISTRICT DISCUSSION RAISES
MANY QUESTIONS

APCD ELECTS ADAM HILL CHAIRMAN
(NORTH COUNTY REPS MECHAM, FONZI,¹ AND HAMON
SUPPORT HIM)

LAS PILITAS QUARRY HEARING CONTINUES
ON THURS, FEB. 5TH

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, January 27, 2015 (Completed)

Item 23 - Discussion of Paso Robles Basin Water District Formation and Consideration of District Formation Topics. Districts 1 and 5. The Board conducted a hearing, which took most of the afternoon. Some of the speakers represented various organizations involved in water management in the Paso Basin. Others spoke on behalf of themselves. Key concerns:

- a. Atascadero Mutual Water Company representatives and customers are opposed to being included in the proposed water management district.
- b. Similarly, the Templeton Community Service District is opposed to being included in the proposed district.
- c. The City of Atascadero is opposed to being included in the district.

¹ Ms. Fonzi actually abstained. The effect of that abstention was the same as a yes vote on the ultimate outcome.

- d. Approximately 400 basin overlayers who have joined the Quiet Title adjudication/legal action are opposed to being included in the district.
- e. Various private citizen overlayers, including some farmers and ranchers, are opposed to the formation of the district.
- f. The proponents/developers of the proposed District (PRAAGS) supported its formation and broad geographic boundaries.
- g. The Paso Robles Wine Alliance supports formation of the district.
- h. The Paso Robles Basin Citizens Water Advisory Committee (a County-created, County-staffed, and County-funded “advisory” committee) supports the use of the County’s boundary description for the Basin and creation of the district.
- i. Conspicuously absent from the discussion were the Homebuilders, Realtors, land developers, major agricultural organizations, agricultural supply and support companies, chambers of commerce, trucking companies, building supply and material companies, and others who will be profoundly economically impacted over the years as the functions and powers proposed for the district (in the absence of compensating programs) severely limit growth of agriculture and home development. See last week’s Weekly Update for a summary of the powers at the link:

http://www.colabslo.org/prior_actions/WEEKLY_UPDATE_Jan_25-31_2015.pdf

Then scroll to page 5.

Board Refuses To Do Its Job: The purpose of having the item on the agenda was to request that the Board of Supervisors provide direction to the staff about what functions, powers, and services should be included in the County application to the Local Formation Commission (LAFCO) for the creation of a Paso Robles Water Basin Management District. The problem was that the structure and content of the Board letter did not provide the information that the Board needed to make such determinations.

The powers and functions were listed in an attachment contained in a LAFCO report, which summarized them in an 8-page table. Also please see last week’s Weekly Update, at the link noted above for access to this table

One problem was the staff provided no interpretation or explanation of the meaning of the very complex and technically worded provisions.

Staff did not provide any recommendations for which ones should be included or even an explanation of which ones are permissive and which ones are obligatory under state law.

The Board refused the request of Arnold and Compton to go through the provisions one by one. Excuses such as, “LAFCO will decide ...,” “Which ones do you have questions on?” and “We have to move this along” were used to justify the refusal to have a rigorous examination of each potent section of the enabling legislation AB 2453.

Instead, the issue was partially deflected by the artifice of directing the staff to prepare an analysis of the impact of SB 1168 and its companion bills on the provisions of AB 2453, which had been adopted in an apparent vacuum and which were proceeding in parallel through the same committees at the same time at the State legislature. There is nothing wrong per se with doing such an analysis, but the more important base line analysis is: **What do each of the AB 2453 sections mean, what is their impact, and do Board members support them?** The substitute assignment in this context is a red herring.



Clearly, the pro-district authority Board members (a kind of Board majority for water matters- Gibson, Hill, and Mecham) prefer that alternatives not be discussed, let alone analyzed – for example, County management of the basin, Quiet Title Adjudication, or separate groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs). Arnold’s attempt to bring such a discussion up was met with derision led by Gibson.

In the end the County Administrative Officer was directed to return with the aforementioned analysis in 90 days. It was not clear if the review and explanation of each of the powers would be completely prepared. The staff was also directed to bring back a fully prepared application for action by the Board and possible submission to LAFCO.

Supposedly, there will be some form of prospective operating budget information for the district and an explication of the various ways to fund it (taxes, parcel fees, water extraction fees, or whatever).

At this point the duty of the Board is for the members carefully to go through the attachment entitled Formation Guide, which details powers and functions of the proposed AB 2453 Paso Basin Water Management District and ascertain if they support each of the provisions. That review should be in public session, not a private separate discussion in each member’s office. Last Tuesday they refused to do that basic work. (Note: Arnold and Compton were willing but were lured into the less relevant red herring compromise.) They could easily do this work during the 90-day period assigned for staff work.

Boundaries: There are complicated issues involving the Boundaries of the proposed district. Ultimately LAFCO must set the boundaries. As noted above, a number of communities do not want to be included in the district.

a. Among these, Atascadero and Templeton are asserting that the aquifer which underlies their community is an entirely separate basin from the Paso Robles Basin.

b. The State of California Department of Water Resources has drawn a map which is different from the map that the County has been using over the decades for its water studies.

c. SB 1168 and its companion bills (collectively the California State Groundwater Management Act [SGMA] of (2014) requires that the entire basin be managed comprehensively in terms of planning for and achieving sustainability.

d. For whatever reason, the State and the County have not included the overall basin watershed as part of the basin. It does not seem to make sense to exclude water that flows into the basin on its periphery.

e. According to the staff, the State Department of Water Resources might consider revising its boundary map for the basin. The problem is that this could take several years. Apparently the same issue exists around the state with regard to other basins subject to SB 1168.

f. Notwithstanding these issues and given its desire to expedite formation of the district, the staff, at the behest of the new board water majority, has recommended that one district which conforms to the state definition of the boundaries be created. This would help secure its approval of SB 1168. Atascadero and Templeton would be promised that once it is formed, they could petition to go through a LAFCO detachment process where they would be carved out of the district. The feasibility of this action would be dependent on DWR agreeing that the Atascadero Sub Basin is a truly separate basin from the Paso Basin. It would also be dependent on at least 4 of the 7 LAFCO commissioners voting for it on a political basis. Other considerations related to detachment include:

Who will fund the cost of the LAFCO detachment application and process?

Will an EIR be required? Who will fund the EIR?

At this point it is assumed that the new district would contract with the County for its engineering, management, financial, legal, and inspectional/enforcement, and other functions. An alternative would be that if a separate Atascadero/Templeton water management district is created, and if a new Paso Management District were also created, the new Paso District could contract with the new Atascadero/Templeton District for those services. This might give basin residents more confidence in the new Paso District.

Financing: The Board was supposed to give guidance about the prospective district annual operating costs (budget) and the means of financing that budget. The problem, as we noted last week, was that the staff did not have any information on these matters for the Board to consider.

(c) A plan for financing the proposed Water District. **Note: The staff report contained no draft plan for financing the district.**

3. *Funding Mechanism.* Pursuant to Government Code Section 56886, LAFCO typically conditions a change of organization on approval of a funding source. The LAFCO application must contain anticipated costs to fund the Water District and a preliminary funding plan. **Note: The staff report contained no draft information on the anticipated funding costs and plan. In fact the staff report tellingly states:**

Staff is currently working with a government finance consultant, NBS, to explore potential funding mechanisms, including, without limitation, a special tax, a property-related fee and a regulatory fee. The approval process will vary depending on the mechanism selected, which at the time of this report, appears to be either a property-related fee or special tax. It is anticipated NBS will have a draft report prior to the meeting, allowing staff to present a pro/con analysis of the viable funding mechanisms and obtain direction from your Board if a specific funding mechanism is desired. **NOTE: Apparently NBS was not ready, as no information was provided, at least in public.**

a. NBS is a consulting firm hired by the County to assist in its preparation of the LAFCO application. NBS appears to specialize in special district financing, rate studies, Proposition 218 elections, and related subjects. NBS reports that it has 3 water districts, 8 counties, and a number of cities as former or current clients. The water districts all appear to be water utility purveyors, not water management districts. We do not recall a contract with NBS appearing on the Board agenda for approval. It may be that the amount is below the level at which Board approval is required. It is not known if there are other consultants assisting on matters, such as boundaries or legal issues. It would seem that given the immense policy controversy involved in the Paso Basin water management issue, this one would have a little more transparency.

b. Financing the various consultants, application preparation costs, boundary survey, ballot question preparation, and election:

On this score the staff report states:

\$350,000 from Flood Control District reserves has been allocated to fund the application process through this fiscal year.

1). We pointed out to the Board that we did not recall Board approval of a Budget transfer from reserves to this project. It turns out that the \$350,000 was actually placed in the County Flood Control budget as part of the 2014-15 budget adoption process, and therefore didn't need a transfer.

2) It never occurred to us that the Board would have adopted funding to carry out its activities as applicant to LAFCO for formation of the district in the spring of 2014. After all, the Board and staff claim that the provision in AB 2453 that allows the BOS to act as applicant before LAFCO was supposedly a complete surprise which popped up in late September. We have asked

repeatedly where the idea came from. **Why would legislative staff in Sacramento include such special legislation if it had not been asked to do it?**

Who from County Government asked for this? It was never discussed in the open at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

3) The Budget development process is instructive on this point. The 2nd account line on the Budget excerpt chart on the next page (8) is titled “**AB 2453 District Formation**”:

Note: The Budget shows that \$191,324 was spent by the County on district formation activities in FY 2013-14. COLAB has requested that the County provide the detail of those expenditures.

Note: For FY 2014 -15, the staff originally requested \$212,851 for AB 2453 District Formation. Subsequently, and between the preparation of the proposed budget and adoption, the amount was increased to \$350,000 (the amount which CAO Buckshi has stated is the cost for the County to act as applicant). But the Board and staff say that the idea of the County acting as applicant was a surprise, which was not “discovered” in the final amended AB 2453 until late September, 2014.

COLAB requested last Thursday that the County provide the account detail for each fiscal year, because it may shed light on the larger issue. Obviously, the actual expenditures for FY 13-14 should be readily available in the expenditure detail for that completed fiscal year. Unless the County is using plug numbers for the other years, it should have back-up detail. **As of this writing we have not received a response.**

The Final Budget states:

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Fund 19). A separate fund has been created to account for these efforts. The budget covers efforts related to ongoing coordination with the Paso Basin Advisory Committee and other County Departments, amending the AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan, evaluating supply options and participating in the process for formation of an independent management structure for the Basin.

The portion highlighted in yellow above relates to the County acting as applicant.

All this suggests that some County officials had foreknowledge (in at least May and June 2014) and/or were active participants in seeking the Legislature to include the provision that the County could act as applicant. At no time did the Board as a whole consider such a policy in public. Reportedly, legislative staffers in Sacramento were sending all amendments to the bill to each Supervisor separately as they occurred.

SUMMARY OF FINANCING REQUIREMENTS (7)	ACTUAL COST 2012-13 (8)	ACTUAL . . X ESTIMATED . . . COST 2013-14 (9)	ESTIMATES REQUEST . . . X RECOM'D . . X 2014-15 (10)	APPROVED/ ADOPTED BY BOARD 2014-15 (11)	FUND IDENTIFICATION OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND (12)
(5XXXXXX)					
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS (*) 458RFC1910	16,218	53,941	53,346	53,346	
AB2453 DISTRICT FORMATION (*) 458RFC1920	0	191,324	212,851	350,000	
ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS (*) 458RFC1930	29,258	65,344	92,940	795,945	
PUBLIC OUTREACH (*) 458RFC1940	956	4,637	108,376	32,941	
GROUNDWATER MODEL (*) 458RFC1950	122,780	166,972	20,898	42,604	
GROUNDWATER MGMT PLANNING (*) 458RFC1955	0	6,142	44,115	0	
ANNUAL REPORT (*) 458RFC1960	560	20,420	28,284	28,284	
SALT & NUTRIENT MGT PLAN (*) 458RFC1970	9,528	848	898	5,939	
COORDINATION WITH PLANNING DEP (*) 458RFC1980	0	119,088	285,685	336,983	
ACCOUNTING & ADMIN (*) 458RFC1990	547	3,531	945	1,081	
COUNTYWIDE OVERHEAD (*) 458RFC19100	2,755	(807)	92	3,733	
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS (5500020)	182,602	631,440	848,430	1,650,856	

(*) The 14-15 requested amount in columns 10 represent new funding which will be adjusted in the Final Budget to include variances from the prior year.

Note: Separately from the instant issue, the Budget shows (on line 3) that the County intends to expend \$795,945 on “Alternative Analysis.” Alternatives to what? Also note the large allotment (\$ 336,983) for “Coordination with the Planning Department”. Are water district assessments being used to fund extra planners?

Public Testimony Amplifies the Question: During the public comment on this item, a Creston area citizen (Greg Grewal), who is a member of the Paso Basin Citizens Advisory Committee, testified that he raised these questions with staffers who were the shepherds of AB 2453 in the offices of State Representative Katcho Achadjian, State Senator Fran Pavley, and the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

Grewal telephoned and spoke to Tiffany Ryan, Legislative Director in Achadjian’s office, on January 26, 2015. He asked her if she knew how it came to be that the provision for the San Luis Board of Supervisors to be the Applicant to LAFCO had been included in the AB 2453. She indicated to him that several Supervisors and representatives of PRAGGS had requested it. A second call on January 29th was made to inquire about which Supervisors had requested the provision. She reportedly stated that all Supervisors were informed of changes as they were incorporated. Grewal asked her if any of them responded in writing. She thought some did. He asked if he could have copies. She said she did not know because they might be considered confidential. She said she would check and report back. When she called back, she said that they could not be divulged. Maybe in Sacramento, but at the County level this correspondence is a public record.

Further inquiries are pending with Dennis O’Connor of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, since that Committee had to clear all provisions. It will be interesting to see on which dates they approved the changes.

Inappropriately, Bob Brown of the PRAAGS Board leveled a personal attack on Grewal and essentially called him a liar from the public speaker’s lectern during the public comment period. Grewal raised a point of order and requested that he be allowed to defend himself and clear

himself from Brown's accusations. Chairman Mecham refused Grewal's request, in contradiction with normal parliamentary procedure. Grewal maintained a record of the names, position titles, offices, and dates and times of the state legislative staffers with whom he spoke.

Again, all this suggests that some County officials may well have had foreknowledge and were active participants in requesting the Legislature to include the provision that the County could act as applicant. At no time did the Board as a whole consider such a policy in public. After all, if the County was not going to be the applicant for the district, why would it formally appropriate \$350,000 in June 2014 (3 months before the possibility was included in AB 2453)? If the process was going to be the normal petition process, it would be the applicants who would be responsible for bearing the cost. Who knew?

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
(SCHEDULED)**

**PLAN TO ATTEND FEBRUARY 3, 2015 BOARD MEETING AND SUPPORT THE
ELECTION OF DEBBIE ARNOLD AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD FOR 2015.
ACTION AFTER 1:30 PM**

Item 26 - Election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2015.

Typically the Vice-Chair becomes Chair in the subsequent year. On January 5th the Board appointed Supervisor Mecham as Chairman and Supervisor Adam Hill as Vice-Chairman, in a rushed vote that violated the California Open Meeting Law (Brown Act). As a result, the vote has to be done over. This presents an opportunity for the public to become involved and support Supervisor Arnold for Vice-Chair. She could become Chair in 2016 and will conduct County business openly and transparently. Please see Weekly Update for all the details at the link:

http://www.colabslo.org/prior_actions/WEEKLY_UPDATE_Jan_18-24_2015.pdf

Contact these Supervisors and ask them to vote for Supervisor Arnold for Vice-Chair:

Contact info

Supervisor Frank Mecham

fmecham@co.slo.ca.us

[805-781-4491](tel:805-781-4491)

Vicki Shelby/leg aide

vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

[805-781-4491](tel:805-781-4491)

Supervisor Lynn Compton

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Jocelyn Brennan/leg aide

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[805-781-4337](tel:805-781-4337)

Supervisor Debbie Arnold

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[805-781-4339](tel:805-781-4339)

Jennifer Coffee/leg aide

district 5@co.slo.ca.us
[805-781-4339](tel:805-781-4339)

Item 2 - Monthly Drought Report. The drought persists, and it is not expected that there will be sufficient rain in February and March to provide meaningful relief. The statistical probability is too small.

In the big picture, the drought supports more restrictions, regulatory controls, the following of land, and the weakening of property rights, and promotes the so-called “smart growth” doctrine of land use and a more regimented spatial organization of society. We live next to the Pacific Ocean and possess the technology and resources to use ocean water. Government leadership of the Federal, State, and County Governments has **not only not moved** to take the steps to develop this asset, but has generally opposed it. Instead they have promoted a program of ultimate societal and economic decline based on a limited resource model.

Item 6 - Submittal of the County of San Luis Obispo’s audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Clerk’s Filed), Single Audit Report (Clerk’s Filed), Agreed-Upon Procedures Report for the Los Osos Landfill Financial Means Test Certification, and required communications letter for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014. All Districts. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is one of the most important information and disclosure documents issued by governments.

The CAFR is a valuable and educational tool for those who wish to understand the County and its financial policies. Readers may feel that it is some sort of specialized accounting technical document that is too difficult to understand. It does contain a certain amount of technical detail, but it also contains many useful tables and charts which are very clear.

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/AC/Digital/2013-14CAFR.pdf>

The County is always crowing about its low debt. The two tables on the following pages illustrate the debt picture. The first one shows the debt attributable to government operations. The second shows the debt for business type operations – mainly water and sewer utilities.

Combined, they total \$531,097,000. (That is principal only). Interest payments will constitute another \$370,000,000.

Continued on next page.

10. BONDED INDEBTEDNESS AND LONG TERM DEBT

Changes in Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended June 30, 2014 (in thousands) is as follows:

<u>Governmental Activities</u>	Beginning Balance July 1, 2013	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance June 30, 2014	Due within one year
Bonds and notes payable:					
Certificates of participation	\$ 25,662	\$ -	\$ 1,022	\$ 24,640	\$ 1,040
Unamortized discount on COP	(99)	-	(4)	(95)	-
Unamortized premium on COP	1,329	-	89	1,240	-
Pension Obligation Bonds	115,624	-	4,390	111,234	5,030
Total Bonds and notes payable	<u>142,516</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,497</u>	<u>137,019</u>	<u>6,070</u>
Other liabilities:					
Compensated absences	25,860	15,345	15,019	26,186	17,570
Landfill post-closure costs	4,151	602	539	4,214	405
Self insurance	18,832	4,485	5,001	18,316	3,487
Total other liabilities	<u>48,843</u>	<u>20,432</u>	<u>20,559</u>	<u>48,716</u>	<u>21,462</u>
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 191,359</u>	<u>\$ 20,432</u>	<u>\$ 26,056</u>	<u>\$ 185,735</u>	<u>\$ 27,532</u>
<u>Business-Type Activities</u>					
Bonds and notes payable:					
Certificates of participation	\$ 17,920	\$ 1,062	\$ 725	\$ 18,257	\$ 743
Unamortized premium on COP	492	-	33	459	-
State notes	34,399	13,654	1,524	46,529	1,569
Revenue bonds	190,389	-	3,219	187,170	3,357
Unamortized premium on Revenue Bonds	5,945	-	213	5,732	-
General obligation bonds	9,890	-	360	9,530	375
Unamortized premium on General obligation bonds	1,015	-	56	959	-
Assessment bonds	39,527	38,119	1,208	76,438	1,244
Total bonds and notes payable	<u>299,577</u>	<u>52,835</u>	<u>7,338</u>	<u>345,074</u>	<u>7,288</u>
Other liabilities:					
Compensated absences	297	137	146	288	171
Total other liabilities	<u>297</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>171</u>
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>\$ 299,874</u>	<u>\$ 52,972</u>	<u>\$ 7,484</u>	<u>\$ 345,362</u>	<u>\$ 7,459</u>

Data is reproduced from pages 79 and 80 of the CAFR.

Item 10 - Two-Year Labor Contract with the San Luis Obispo County Employees Association. The two-year contract is retroactive to July 1, 2014 and ends on June 30, 2016. This means that the County will begin negotiating a new contract next January. The costs are summarized in the Board letter:

The 2.3% general wage adjustment, retroactive to the pay period including July 1, 2014, will increase the County's costs by approximately \$2,649,288 for FY 2014-15. The 2.5% general wage adjustment effective the pay period including July 1, 2015 will increase the County's costs by an additional approximately \$2,954,731 for FY 2015-16. The July 1, 2015 additional out of market adjustment pool of 0.3% of payroll will cost an additional \$353,507, for a total cost of approximately \$3,308,238 for FY 2015-16.

Total annual County costs are approximately \$5,957,526. Departmental savings will be the primary source of funding for unbudgeted expenditures associated with the compensation increases included in the attached MOUs. To the extent departmental savings are not available to cover the amount, staff will recommend that your Board authorize a transfer of the deficient amount out of General Fund Contingencies and/or reserves to the departmental operating budgets, as needed, as part of the third quarter report. The third quarter is when many such year-end adjustments are made.

The covered employees include:

BU01 Public Services Unit 873 Employees

BU05 Supervisory Unit 199 Employees

BU13 Clerical Unit 392 Employees

TOTAL 1464 Employees

As noted in the write-up quoted above, the total cost of the contract over its life is \$5.9 million. This means the contract will increase salaries by about \$4,030 per employee on average between now and June 30, 2016. Readers may recall that these were among the employees who received the \$1,000 one-time payment for "health insurance costs" last December. Ominously, the contract requires the County to conduct comparative wage surveys to determine if any groups of the employees are below averages of comparative counties.

Market Wage Surveys

- The parties agree to meet by 9/1/2015 to discuss and survey parameters.*
- Either party may present additional data as they see fit during negotiations.*

Next fall the Board will be back with fee increases to cover some of the increased costs.

Item 18 - County Annual Report. Log on at the link below and tell us what you think.

<http://slocountyannualreport.com/>

Item 25 - Review of the Board of Supervisors' Rules of Procedure. This item was generated by the discussion of the rotation of Supervisors through the positions of Chairman

and Vice-Chairman resulting from the exclusion of Supervisor Arnold from consideration. Interestingly, the current Rules only say that they will elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. There is nothing about the informal rotation system.

At the first special or regular meeting of the calendar year, a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected by majority vote of the Board and such Chairperson shall preside for one year. In their absence or inability to attend, a Chairperson protem shall be selected by the members present.

Presumably this will come up during the discussion. This item immediately precedes the item on the re-vote for Chairman and Vice-Chairman, discussed elsewhere in this update. The staff has recommended a few minor technical updates, but has wisely left the issue of the rotation to the Board itself. A risk is that this item could be used to confuse and dilute the larger issues implicit in the following item – vote on a Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman.



**Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of Wednesday, January 28, 2015
(Completed)**

Item A-1: Adam Hill Elected Chairman of the APCD. Hill was nominated by SLO Mayor Jan Marx. Compton was nominated by Arnold. Gibson was incensed that the issue was contested and said so. The vote was 7-4-1 to elect Hill, with Arnold, Compton, Waage, and Harmon dissenting. Atascadero Councilwoman Roberta Fonzi abstained. She is reported to have been quoted in a KPRL radio interview as saying that she didn't want to tick Hill off because she needed him to compromise on some future unspecified issues.

Frank Mecham stated that he was going to “support Hill because he worked well on financial issues and represents part of the South County.” Noah Smuckler was elected Vice-Chairman over Ed Waage. This was a bad day for the APCD and the County in general. Institutional stability and symbolic collegiality triumphed over policy substance. These “leaders” will apparently tolerate Hill’s nasty and bizarre behavior. Had North County representatives Mecham, Hamon, and Fonzi voted the interests of their constituents and likeminded people in the South County, Compton would have been elected.

Item C-7: APCD 2015 Legislative Program. The APCD Board rejected the proposed 2015 Legislative program on a 7/5 vote. COLAB and others opposed specific provisions including:

7. *Support legislation that retains and/or strengthens requirements for zero, ultra-low and low emission vehicles and encourages development of advanced hybrid, electric and fuel cell vehicles.*

9. *Support legislation that increases the viability of walking, biking, public transit and other transportation alternatives to private vehicle travel.*

10. *Support legislation that assists local businesses in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to meet state and federal requirements.*

The program text also authorizes the Executive Committee and staff to endorse or oppose Legislation between meetings of the full APCD Board.

Gibson and SLO Mayor Marx were incensed on this one. There was more rhetoric about the same people coming and complaining. Ironically Marx was critical of speakers whom she characterized as “ideologues and climate change deniers.”

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, February 5, 2015 (Scheduled)

Item 5 - Continued hearing to consider a request by LAS PILITAS RESOURCES, LLC for a Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan, DRC2009-00025 to allow mining and the phased reclamation of 41 acres on an approximately 234 acre site. There is no new information in the write-up, which states:

On January 8, 2015, the Planning Commission continued the hearing to February 5, 2015 for the Las Pilitas Quarry Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan. Public testimony was heard throughout the meeting and after all comments were received public testimony was closed. No action on the project was taken on January 8, 2014. The Planning Commission will reconvene and continue hearing the item on February 5, 2015.

Our guess is that the Commission will go through the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in some detail. Public testimony was closed. It may be that the time consuming review will require yet another hearing or at least another hearing for deliberations and a vote.