



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8-14, 2015

 **COLAB** ^{6th} **ANNUAL**
San Luis Obispo County 
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

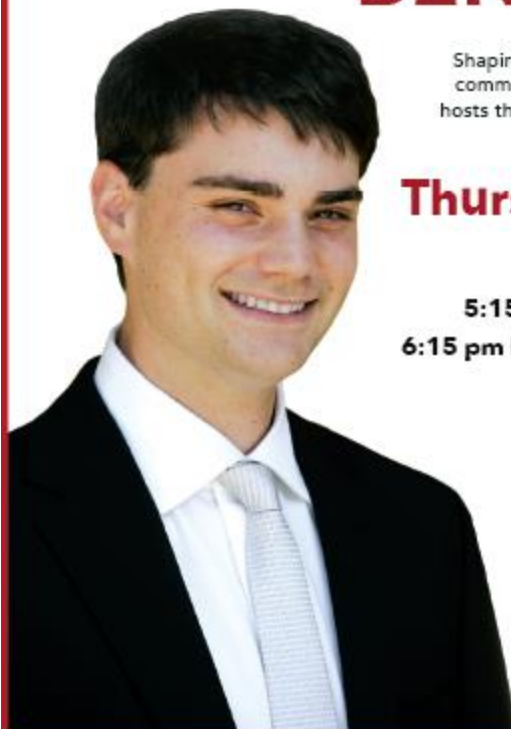
\$125 per person / \$1,100 per table of ten
Reserved seating for Tables of Ten

For tickets, mail your check to:

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

**SUPERVISORS ELECT DEBBIE ARNOLD CHAIR
AND LYNN COMPTON VICE-CHAIR ON 3/2
RE-DO VOTE**

**TRIBUNE/GIBSON SHILL TOM FULKS ATTACK
COLAB**

**BOARD SCUTTLES AG. WATER OFFSET
ORDINANCES 3/2 VOTE
(CUTS BACK MAKING THE PASO MORATORIUM PERMANENT)**

LAS PILITAS QUARRY DENIED

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

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

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 had to be done over. During the period between January 5 (when Supervisor Mecham was elected Chairman and Supervisor Hill was elected Vice-Chairman. During the time interval between January 5th and February 3rd (the date scheduled for the re-vote) a large public initiative built up supporting Supervisor Debbie Arnold for Vice-Chair in lieu of Supervisor Hill. Constituents supported Arnold for her open and perceptive approach to the issues and her gracious manner in dealing with the public. There was also a feeling that Supervisors Mecham, Hill, and Gibson had already served as chairman at least once and that Ms. Arnold should have a shot. Additionally Supervisor Hill's erratic behavior and vilification of citizens and groups with which he disagrees caused many people to feel that he would be an inappropriate representative as the County's chief elected official if he acceded to Chairman in 2016 (the Vice-Chair usually becomes Chair in the subsequent year). By the time of the February 3rd Board meeting, considerable tension had built up over the issue.

In a surprise development and in front of a nearly full Board of Supervisors Chambers, Supervisor Mecham kicked off the discussion of the item with a preemptive statement:

I will step aside and nominate Supervisor Arnold for Chair and Supervisor Compton for Vice-Chair. He proceeded to explain his decision:

Over the last couple of weeks the only thing that's has been on my mind is the controversy and the anger and the polarization that we see .We've got to get rid of that. We're supposed to be here to solve problems, we ask for you to help provide input for solutions to those problems. We're not asking for you to be here just to tell us what a bunch of rotten no-goods we are and that we don't listen to anybody. Sometimes you say we don't listen, I think it's we don't agree. There's a difference, but I'm hoping that by this change and by this rotation process that this solves the problem, then we can move on.

There was considerable public comment expressing admiration and thanks for Mecham's demonstration of servant leadership as well as support for the election of Arnold and Compton.¹ Gibson was not happy and stated that the action, although well intended, would not solve the problem (presumably the anger and polarization noted by Mecham). Clearly Gibson was blaming groups and individuals who disagree with his overall strategy of strategic growth, expropriation of water rights, and government expansion for fomenting the anger and polarization

Ominously, readers may remember that Gibson's statement comes just two days after Gibson paid propagandist and former campaign manager Tom Fulks launched an attack on COLAB in a Sunday, February 1, 2015 "Commentary" article published by the San Luis Obispo Tribune. He characterizes COLAB and other Gibson critics in the vilest terms including references to the Ku Klux Klan. Clearly the Fulks' piece, and the Tribune's willing descent into the gutter by publishing such screed, was an attempt to scare Arnold supporters away from the Board meeting. Similarly and simultaneously, it is an attempt to scare people away from COLAB's Annual Dinner/Fundraiser which has been advertised in recent days. Gibson has paid Fulks at least \$16,000 over the past 2 years in connection with his re-election campaign for 2nd District Supervisor.² A Tribune Editor took pains in her own paper to explain that Fulks was not on the payroll and that he possessed professional credentials as a liberal commentator. Perhaps they are embarrassed. The Tribune didn't need to pay Fulks. Gibson already did. She indicated that Fulks would be a regular (2x per month) and that to provide balance, campaign and issue strategist John Peschong would provide counter balancing opinion.

The advertisement to the right came out a few weeks before Fulks' Tribune "Commentary".



¹ Servant leadership is both a leadership philosophy and set of leadership practices. Traditional leadership generally involves the accumulation and exercise of power by one at the "top of the pyramid." By comparison, the servant-leader shares power and puts the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible.

² Source: Gibson's 2013 and 2014 Schedule E California Form 460 Campaign Expenditure Reports .

We thought that the Letter to the Editor of the Tribune displayed below nailed it pretty well:

More name-calling

By A.B. Solomon

Cambria February 6, 2015

Poor little [Tom Fulks is really upset](#) with the big, bad wolf, the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB), and because Fulks promised in a previous commentary not to resort to name-calling, so as not to feel the wrath of the older white male reader, I believed him.

Boy was I wrong! In his commentary Feb. 1, he used the following phrases: “hooded goon,” “wearing hoods,” “hood of secrecy,” “a brutish, ‘Lord of the Flies’ cancer,” “online louts,” “fling the poo,” “hyenas to rotten meat,” “bilious hair-balls,” “ugly public mosh pit” and lastly “ideological claptrap.” Fulks’ use of the above phrases is not only appalling, but is demonstrative of yellow journalism at its worst. Oh by the way, I’m not a member of COLAB, or a developer.

Don’t Get Mad - Organize More!

Item 19 - Report on the status of the development of a Countywide Water Conservation Ordinance (Countywide Water Program) authorized for processing by the Board on March 4, 2014 and May 20, 2014, including discussion and consideration of the scope of specific program components. Over the past year the Board of Supervisors has given the County staff and/or consultants (particularly the Planning Department and the Public Works Department) a number of assignments related to water management issues. Among these was a \$150,000 contract issued to the Las Tablas Regional Conservation District (the RCD) to prepare agricultural water offset program for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (the basin). This action was follow-on to the so-called Paso Basin Urgency Ordinance (the moratorium). By law, the moratorium expires in August 2015 and may not be renewed. Thus, the then Board majority was seeking ways to make various aspects of the moratorium permanent. One portion was the establishment of a program regulating how much water farmers and ranchers could pump, under what circumstances they could drill new or expanded wells, how close new wells could be to existing wells, and a multitude of other complex and burdensome features.

It also contained a very complex provision for landowners to sell and buy water offsets as a commodity. Farmer x who needs 25 new acre-feet of new water could buy the 25 acre-feet from landowner y, who would enter into a contract with the County to cease using (extinguish) 25 acre-feet of water. The long-range property rights and economic issues were complex and appalling.

The RCD produced a very competent technical report in late October that contained the program elements and considerable technical data illustrating how the program would work. One problem was that the RCD report warned the Board that some of the measures might be illegal and might violate various State water rights provisions. The report cautioned the County to hire expert outside water counsel to review the program before attempting its implementation.

During the October hearing on the proposed program virtually all agricultural organizations, various citizen groups, and COLAB stated their opposition. In the end the Board continued its consideration off-agenda with no date certain for its return. Prudently the County Executive Officer agenda'd the matter on February 3rd and asked the Board if they wanted to continue to work on it or abandon it. There was more testimony from the Cattlemen, Farm Bureau, Grower Shippers, Paso Robles Wine Alliance, and COLAB (as well as private individuals) that the program should be ditched. There were also other programs under consideration. The final action was as follows:

1. **Agricultural Water Offset Program** - abandoned on a vote of 3/2 with Hill and Gibson voting to move forward with a program.
2. **Cash for Grass Removal Program** - sent back to staff for more work. Approved 3/2 with Arnold and Compton voting to abandon it entirely.
3. **Mandatory Ag. Wastewater Management** - Ordinance abandoned. Allow farmers to self-manage. Also it was recognized that they are already heavily and expensively regulated by the State in this regard. Vote to self-regulate 3/2, Hill and Gibson dissenting.
4. **Mandatory Retrofit on Sale of Homes and Other Water Using Facilities** - abandoned 4/1, Gibson dissenting.
5. **Require major new Water Supply Studies in connection with any new Subdivisions.** Abandoned 4/1 with Gibson dissenting. The issue is already covered by CEQA.

Other Discussion: The passage of SB 1168 (the groundwater sustainably act) and its interaction with AB 2453 (the County's legislation to enable the creation of a Paso Basin Water Management District) has created multiple new complexities and confusion.

It is a bureaucrats' and lawyers' paradise.

**San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, February 10, 2015
(Scheduled)**

Item 7 - Submittal of a resolution approving: 1) the July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of San Luis Obispo and the San Luis Obispo County Employees' Association (SLOCEA) Trades, Crafts, and Services Unit (BU02); and 2) amendments to the San Luis Obispo County Employees Retirement Plan Appendices. This is a 2-year contract (retroactive to July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30,

2016. It adds a new \$305,000 in costs for the remainder of FY 2014-15 and will add a new total of \$698,000 recurring by its end in 2016.

Item 13 - County 2015 Legislative Program. The item has been withdrawn for now.

Item 22 - Water Retrofit on Sale Ordinance Amendments for Los Osos. The items cover urinals, toilets, and showerheads.

Item 23 - Expanding the Los Osos Retrofit on Sale Ordinance outside the Prohibition Zone and into the rest of the Basin.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, February 4, 2015 (Completed)

Item B-3: SLOCOG 2015 Legislative Program. COLAB requested that the SLOCOG require its staff to place a standing item on its monthly agenda detailing which legislation it supported or opposed during the preceding interval. The staff indicated that they report when they think that they have something important to report, which obfuscates the issue. The staff is interacting with California State Association of County's lobbyists, League of Cities lobbyists, and the California Association of Councils of Government lobbyists and is accepting and/or providing support for positions on various bills. This activity should be reported. The Board went along with the staff obfuscation.

COLAB also pointed out that the Leg. Program contained implied support for the State's Cap-and-Trade carbon tax. The SLOCOG and its member cities and the County are desperate for road money because all their revenue is consumed in salaries, pensions, and other benefits. COLAB pointed out that the Carbon tax will have vast negative impacts on the economy as the tax raises costs for trucking, electric generation, and manufacturing. (Blank stares.)

Finally COLAB noted that the Program contained the usual rhetoric about smart growth, getting people out of their cars, and socially engineering society into new government-compelled spatial patterns of living. At this point Paso Robles Mayor Pro-tem Fred Strong launched a peroration that COLAB was wrong and that younger generations actually prefer to live denser housing that is closer to work, and to drive less. He must have forgotten about the EVC Housing Survey, which showed that about 95% of both employers and employees in SLO County want to ultimately live in a freestanding house with privacy and a yard. A recent survey by the real estate industry shows this to be true nationally as well. If you are a \$490,000 per year 27-year old software engineer and corporate attorney couple, a high tech condo in San Francisco's South of Market area across from AT&T Park is way cool. When the twins come they move to Petaluma or Glen Ellen and have a ski lodge house in Martis Camp (up the hill from Tahoe) and drive there in a big honking Mercedes SUV).

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

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. The Commission voted 3/2 to deny the permit. Commissioners Irving, Meyer, and Topping voted to deny the project. Commissioners Harrison and Campbell wanted to approve the project. It is not known at this writing if Las Pilitas Resources will appeal to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Irving seemed somewhat sympathetic to the project but found the truck traffic issues too negatively impactful on neighbors and the unincorporated Town of Santa Margarita. He suggested that the applicants find a different route. This might require acquiring right of transit across the property of a competing quarry. Commissioner Topping found the truck traffic too heavy and the “negative impacts on the community quite evident”. Commissioner Meyer had problems with both the EIR and the project.

The applicant has spent 4 years and at least hundreds of thousands of dollars preparing the application, an EIR, a revised EIR, and all kinds of special studies. If they can't use the site for a quarry, would the County allow luxury town houses or a resort? It's zoned for a quarry but if a quarry is not allowed, what can the owners use it for? Will future industrial facilities be allowed anywhere in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County?