



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
WEEK OF MARCH 29- APRIL 4, 2015

**NO BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
TUESDAY MARCH 31, 2015**

**SLOCOG MEETING CONTAINS IMPORTANT
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
(FUTURE STATE DRIVING MILEAGE TAXES AND MORE)**

COLAB DINNER FUNDRAISER FILLS EXPO CENTER



BEN SHAPIRO¹

On Thursday evening an exuberant and splendid crowd filled the Madonna Expo Center and enjoyed a festive and informative evening topped off with an address by national Breitbart News

¹ Event photos by Sue Schimandle suesfoto@att.net

editor, author, and media host Ben Shapiro. Mr. Shapiro's laser clear commentary debunking the current dominant public policy and advancing contrasting alternatives was interrupted by repeated applause. One of Ben's segments containing a pointed analysis of the logical and legal fallacies of the social equity movement was stunning in its simplicity and power. It was crystal clear why this up and coming national figure was summa cum laude at UCLA and tops in his Harvard Law class.

A huge thanks goes to all those who attended the event and made it the largest ever.

Also we are so grateful to our members, all those who worked at the dinner, those who donated auction items and wine, and to those who bid for and/or purchased auction items contributing mightily to the continuation of COLAB's work.

The comradery of the evening and expressions of support by so many people are truly inspiring and gratifying.



DURING THE AUCTION



ONWARD!

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 24, 2015 (Completed)

Item 16 - Monthly Drought Report. The staff presented an extensive verbal report backed up by PowerPoint slides. The gist was that there is enough water in local reservoirs plus reserved State water in the California Water Project for the County to get through 1 or 2 more years of drought. There was also a presentation of the use of tertiary sewer treatment water for ground injection in Cambria. The small aquifer underlying Cambria is severely depleted and the injected water will help stabilize it. Bruce Gibson is a big hero among the Cambrians for helping to remove barriers to this project.

As we have noted previously, the County is gradually knitting together various water systems (through inter-ties and other means) throughout the County to be prepared to move water from one area to the other as emergencies occur. Nacimiento water and/or Paso Basin water provide the source for some of this. Ironically the Paso Basin residents and landowners themselves are under a moratorium.

There was also a presentation about the dying Cambria pine forest, which is a function of the drought plus the drought weakened trees being vulnerable to bark beetles and other pests. It is possible that 40% of the forest has died. The dead and dying trees constitute a severe fire hazard.

Background: There is nothing much new here. Obviously, the winter rainy season did not produce enough storms to substantially impact the drought. The report contains the requisite hand wringing and statistics. As we have noted in the past, Attachment 6, entitled County Water Systems - One Year Look Ahead by Wade Horton provides the best description of future problems and potential solutions. It's well worth a look at the link:

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/4481/QXR0YWNoWVudCA2IC0gQ291bnR5IFdhdGVyIFN5c3RlbXMgT25lIFllYXIgTG9vay1BaGVhZC5wZGY=/12/n/41770.doc>

Item 22 - Amend the Land Use Ordinances to Promote Smart Growth Higher Density Housing by Eliminating Mini Storage Facilities from the Residential Multi Family (RMF) zone. The changes were approved 4/1 with Arnold dissenting on the inclusion of the storage facilities in new projects.

Background: The County's overall smart growth strategy relies, in part, in promoting residential projects with densities of from 20 to 38 dwelling units per acre. Templeton, Nipomo, Oceano, and San Miguel are the target communities.

A problem is that historically the RMF Zone has included mini-storage facilities as a permitted use. In recent years important pieces of land which could have been used for higher density residential have had mini-storage facilities built on them. This of course undermines the County's smart growth stack-and-pack densification strategy. Accordingly, the proposed action here is to amend the relevant ordinance sections and plans in order to eliminate this situation.

Item 23 - Consideration of a request for authorization to process a Specific Plan, General Plan and Land Use Ordinance Amendment (LRP2014-00016 – Black Lake Golf Resort, LLC) to amend provisions of the Black Lake Specific Plan that would increase the residential density allowed under the current specific plan, expand the list of allowable uses, and allow for resort development. The site is in the Black Lake Village Reserve Line in the South County Inland subarea of the South County Planning Area. District 4.

The item was continued at the request of the applicant. There is considerable opposition from the current Black Lake Village Residents. The applicant is going to meet with them and explore whether there is any possibility of a compromise. Questions include water supply, blowing dust from the dunes, traffic, views, and density.

Background: The request by the Black Lake Village developer is for the Board to determine if it would allow an application for modifications to the development's adopted plan to proceed. This is not a request for actual approval of plan amendments at this time. It is a request to see if the Board would even consider it after the normal analysis, CEQA, etc., process.

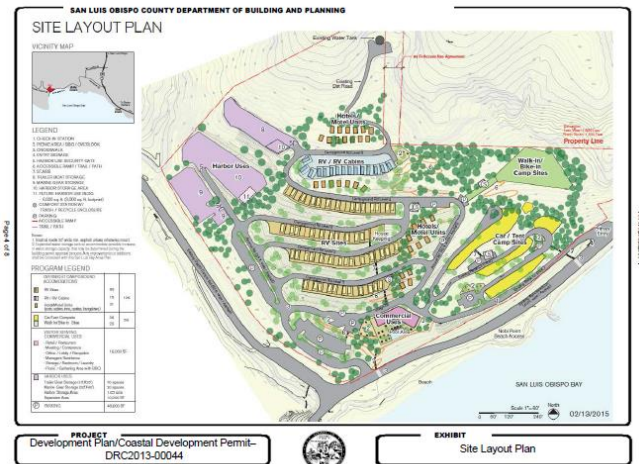
The proposed project contains more homes, a hotel, and retail.

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday March 31, 2015 (Not Scheduled)

March 31st is Cesar Chavez Day. The next meeting is Tuesday April 7, 2015

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 26, 2015 (Completed)

Item 3 - Hearing to consider a request by PORT SAN LUIS HARBOR DISTRICT for a Development Plan/Coastal Development Permit to develop the 32-acre Harbor Terrace site pursuant to the goals and criteria set forth in the Harbor Terrace Planning Sub-Area of the San Luis Bay Area Plan. The project would include a range of low-cost overnight accommodations including 80 recreational vehicle (RV) sites, 15 RV/RV cabins, 35 car/tent campsites, 21 walk-in/bike-in campsites, and 31 cabin/bungalow/yrurt-type units. The project will also include 16,000 square feet of visitor serving commercial uses, harbor uses (e.g. trailer boat storage, marine gear storage, harbor storage area, expansion area and 6,000 square feet for future harbor use building), restrooms, and 48,000 square feet of parking. Additional features include on-site paths between parking areas and campsites; an accessible ramp between the commercial use and pool area and the proposed crosswalk across Avila Beach Drive; a check-in station near the primary entrance, and trash and recycling enclosure within a screening wall and swinging doors. After considerable discussion by the Commission and some tweaking, the application for the project was approved.



San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments Meeting of Wednesday, April 1, 2015 (Scheduled)

Item A-3: Draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); Addendum to the 010RTP/Preliminary Sustainable Communities Strategy Environmental Impact Report; 2014 Regional Transportation Plan - Sustainable Communities Strategy Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination.

There doesn't seem to be much about sustainable communities in this item other than the title. Most of the lengthy write-up discusses minor changes to the Project EIR resulting from comments of the public and other jurisdictions.

Much of the content involves requirements for dust control, noise prevention, environmental protection, etc., etc., on the projects which are ultimately funded as part of the Regional Transportation Plan.

One interesting sidelight component is a goal to begin to remove billboards on 101 in the segment from the Cuesta Grade to Pismo Beach. Would billboards, which have been there since our childhood, be considered historic and cultural resources which should be preserved under CEQA or other laws? After all, the electronic red neon vacancy/no vacancy bar on the Apple Farm billboard has been there for generations.

Item B-3: California Transportation Plan. A copy of the Draft Plan is presented in item 3. The Plan covers the period from now until 2050. The plan is keyed to force people out of their cars by requiring stack-and-pack housing and imposing fees and taxes on driving. One telling section states:

The economic impact analysis of the CTP 2040 focuses on the VMT reduction strategies described in Alternative 2. Pricing strategies target motorists by imposing additional costs for utilizing the roadway transportation system. The increased cost is offset by making active transportation modes a viable substitute to vehicle travel through capacity and network improvements.

Note: VMT is vehicle miles traveled.

Another contains the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Agenda 21 standard symbol for enviro-socialism. This is significant because this doctrine is incorporated here as driving California transportation and land use public policy. Of course those who mention it are labeled as conspiracy theorists and told that it doesn't exist.

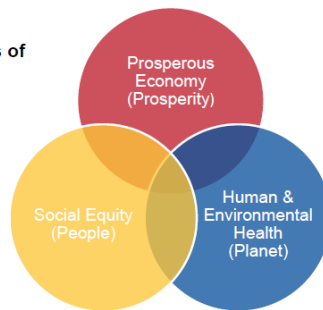
Just exactly how does Cal Trans or the whole State government, for that matter, propose to enforce social equity? Perhaps you should be required to give your spare bedroom to a homeless person.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

California Transportation Plan

CTP 2040 – The Next 25 Years

Key to this vision is the 3 Es of sustainability:



Note that the chart states that “the 3 E’s of sustainability are key to the vision.” It appears that the item is included for information purposes and that no action is contemplated or required. The SLOCOG Board should pass a Resolution repudiating “social equity and sustainability” doctrines embedded in the Plan and send it to our State Assemblyman, Senator, the Governor, and the State Secretary of Transportation.

Item D-8: State Legislative Update. This item provides a brief update on some bills of interest. One, which has not yet been assigned a number, would begin the process of taxing drivers on a per mile basis:

The lack of adequate funding continues to be the major issue of concern, exacerbated by a 23% decline in Highway Users Tax (HUTA) allocations due to the reduced price of fuel. A number of proposals to address the funding shortfall have been announced, of which the most important was introduced by Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (bill yet to be published) which would provide \$2 billion a year over five-years (\$10 billion total) to maintain and improve state highways. The draft proposal includes:

- \$1 Billion per year in truck weight fees used for transportation instead of general bond debt.
- \$200 million per year by accelerating repayment of transportation loans, and.
- \$800 million per year by establishing a new Road User Charge.

Speaker Atkins has said that the Road User Charge would amount to about a dollar a week for most drivers (about \$52 a year) which could potentially be charged as part of insurance plans or vehicle registration. She also noted that the funding would be used to backfill truck weight fees.

Senator Anthony Cannella (Vice Chair of the Transportation & Housing Committee) has said he supports a similar plan to provide additional funding for transportation. He has stated that “California individuals and businesses rely on our vast highway system and mass transit every single day – it is imperative we continue to invest in our transportation infrastructure to ensure California remains competitive in our rapidly growing global economy.” Staff will return to the Board to present with more information on the Atkins and other proposals when a bill has been introduced