



## COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF DECEMBER 11 - 17, 2016



COLAB  
San Luis Obispo County

8th  
ANNUAL



# DINNER & FUNDRAISER

## SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday, March 30th**

**Alex Madonna Expo Center**

details coming soon...

**How The New Board  
Can Reform  
San Luis Obispo County**

COLAB San Luis Obispo County  
805-548-0340 colabslo@gmail.com

## **THIS WEEK**

**HIGH COST ENERGY LOAN RACKET  
TO BE EXTENDED**

**SLO COUNTY'S STATE BUFFER WATER TO  
KEEP MONTECITO AND SANTA BARBARA  
GREEN?**

## **LAST WEEK**

**STAFF TRIP TO COPENHAGEN APPROVED 5/0**  
**DANES HOPE TO SELL CALIFORNIANS THEIR WATER**  
**TECHNOLOGY – COUNTY SENDING STAFF**  
**-SORT OF LIKE THE “FREE” TIME SHARE VISIT-**

**BOARD APPROVES MULTARI AS 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT  
PLANNING COMMISSIONER**

**HOUSING IN LIEU TAX DOUBLED**  
**(ARNOLD AND COMPTON VOTE NO)**  
**HILL WANTED 5 TIMES MORE!**

**BOARD RAISES REJECTED 3/2**  
**(ARNOLD, COMPTON, AND MECHAM REJECT RAISE)**

**COULD PRESIDENT TRUMP SAVE DIABLO?  
AND  
WOULD THE BOARD AND CITIES ASK?**

**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH**

**(SEE PAGE 12)**

**SLO COUNTY REFORM AND COMMUNITY  
RESURGENCE**

**BY MICHAEL F BROWN**

**THE GREAT CALIFORNIA BREAKAWAY**

**BY JON COUPAL**

**THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, December 13, 2016 (Scheduled)**

**Item 3 - Drought Report.** The rate of decline of the reservoirs seems to be decreasing in the cooler weather.

**December 13, 2016 Drought Report.**

**Reservoir Levels (% of capacity):**

| <b>Reservoir</b> | <b>% of Capacity</b> | <b>Current Acre Feet Storage</b> |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Nacimiento       | 24%                  | 92,275                           |
| Whale Rock       | 32%                  | 12,279                           |
| Lopez            | 23%                  | 11,117                           |
| Salinas          | 9%                   | 2,253                            |

Source: [www.slocountywater.org](http://www.slocountywater.org) County of San Luis Obispo

## November 16, 2016 Drought Report.

### Reservoir Levels (% of capacity):

| Reservoir  | % of Capacity | Current Acre Feet Storage |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Nacimiento | 24%           | 92,275                    |
| Whale Rock | 32%           | 12,369                    |
| Lopez      | 23%           | 11,309                    |
| Salinas    | 10%           | 2,267                     |

Source: [www.slocountywater.org](http://www.slocountywater.org) County of San Luis Obispo

**Item 10 - County Approval of Adelaida Olive Farm Permit Overturned by Court.** The Planning staff denied the permit. The owners appealed to the Board, which approved it. Neighbors appealed to Superior Court and won. The write-up states in part:

*On or about July 31, 2015, Wilton and Helen Webster and Save Adelaida filed a First Amended Complaint and Petition for Writ Of Mandamus in San Luis Obispo Superior Court seeking to reverse the minor use permit approval based on the Board of Supervisors' alleged failure to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (San Luis Obispo Superior Court Case No. 15 CVP 0197). Following a contested hearing based on the administrative record, Judge Ginger E. Garrett reversed the Board of Supervisors' approval of the minor use permit based on the County's failure to first certify a final environmental impact report addressing, at a minimum, potential project impacts associated with traffic, noise and water supply.*

According to the Board letter, the owners have appealed the Superior Court decision. That appeal is pending.

**Bad precedent:** Will staff now claim that everything needs an EIR?

**Item 15 - Request to approve: 1) a renewal to the Energy Watch Partnership contract for \$63,350 to extend the SoCal Gas contract through calendar year 2017; 2) a renewal to the emPower Program contract for \$204,522 to extend through calendar year 2017; 3) a resolution amending the Position Allocation List for Fund Center 142 – Planning and Building to extend 1.00 FTE Limited Term Building Inspector I-III position for 12 months and 1.00 FTE Administrative Assistant I - III position for 12 months.** Part 2 of this item is a one-year extension of a contract with the County of Santa Barbara to run a government program called the emPower energy home loan program. This is yet another politically correct green boondoggle in which the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) shakes down utilities for money to ostensibly provide energy savings. In this case the money is granted to Santa Barbara County, SLO County, and Ventura County and serves as a loan loss reserve so that Santa Barbara County can operate the loan program in all three counties.

Of course the program is not free. The money ultimately comes out of the customers' utility bills. In turn the politicians take credit for providing low interest energy loans and forestalling global warming. Several years ago the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors directed its staff to provide a report on the program. It was so bad that they have not requested an updated report.

Basically the program has provided very few loans, and the program has very high overhead – that is the cost of producing the loans. Any bank would be out of business.

Highlights of the report that does exist include:

The purpose of the program is to provide home improvement loans for people to repair their insulation, windows, etc. The chart below shows that over the first four years of operation, the program resulted in the completion of only 151 projects.

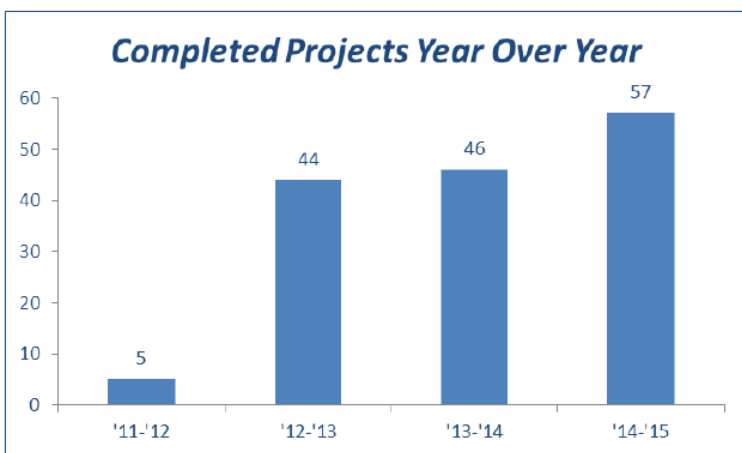
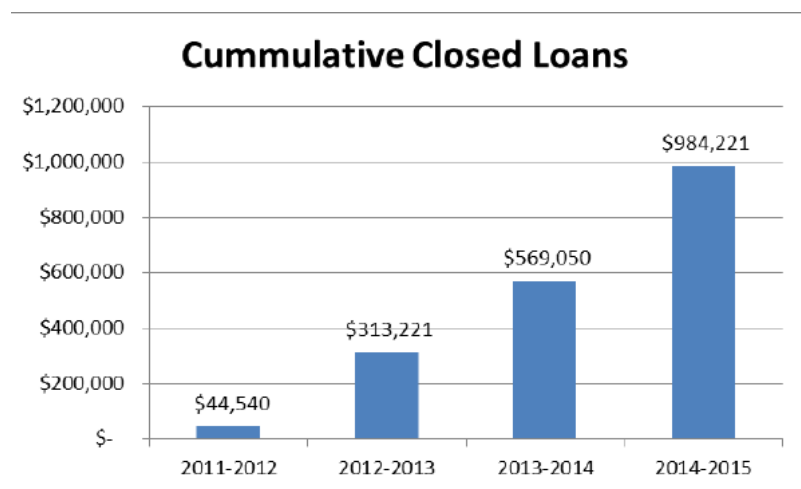


Figure 14. emPower projects reported by year

The emPower annual report letter indicates that the budget for 2014-15 was \$1,553,106, during which 57 projects were completed. So some of the money went to the loans.

Another chart provides information on the accumulative loans:



From this chart it can be deduced that \$415,171 worth of loans were made in FY 2015.

It's a little hard to get apples and oranges (projects vs. loans), but if most of the projects take place in the year of their loan, the 57 projects in FY 14-15 averaged about \$7,283 per loan.

The 2014-15 operating budget is presented as:

| Program Spending Breakdown    | 2010-2011         | 2011-2012         | 2012-2013         | 2013-2014         | 2014-2015           |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries and Benefits         | \$ 220,500        | \$ 272,000        | \$ 386,600        | \$ 401,300        | \$ 495,500          |
| Operations/Program Delivery   | \$ 202,000        | \$ 529,200        | \$ 508,200        | \$ 528,800        | \$ 846,700          |
| <b>Total Program Spending</b> | <b>\$ 422,500</b> | <b>\$ 801,200</b> | <b>\$ 894,800</b> | <b>\$ 930,100</b> | <b>\$ 1,342,200</b> |
| Loan Loss Reserve Transfer    |                   | \$ 1,000,000      |                   | \$ 1,600,000      |                     |

Assuming that the \$415,171 comes out of the \$846,700, the actual operating costs of the program are \$495,500 + \$431,521, or \$927,021. This includes administration, the energy coach, all the meetings, tool libraries, contractor seminars, consultants, and promotions designed to get people to use the program. But only 57 loans were made in FY 2014-15 (the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the program).

Thus it cost \$16,263 to produce each \$7,238 loan on average.

- How does this compare with industry standards?
- What is the experience for SLO County alone? How many loans? How much is the average loan? What does it cost to produce each loan?
- The Board should have the Auditor Controller or some forensic accountants look at this thing before it becomes a scandal.
- The Board letter contains no performance or financial data. The Board should not consider extending the program until it has the SLO County specific data.
- How much energy has actually been saved so far by the program? How much greenhouse gas has been reduced?

**And check out the incomes of the borrowers:** 67% have incomes over \$100,000! This is an upper middle class welfare program funded by So. Cal gas and PG&E ratepayers. 18% had incomes of more than \$200,000!

- How many were County employees?

**Bottom line:** This is not a cost effective program, and there are clearly not a lot of customers given the massive publicity effort that really constitutes the “substance” of the program.

**What a racket!**

**Borrower Household Income**

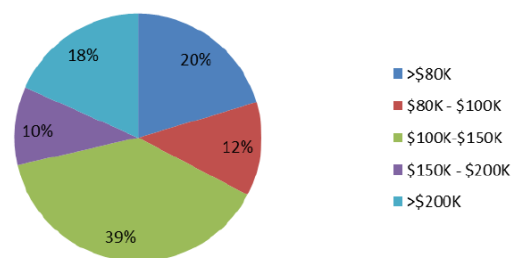


Figure 33. Borrowers' household income distribution among closed loans

**Item 28 - SLO County Water for Montecito and Santa Barbara/ CCWA Water Deal.** San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and the Central Coast Water Authority (the folks who operate the aqueduct that connects the central coast to the State Water Project) have been quietly working on a deal to help Santa Barbara County's desperate south coast communities. Lake Cachuma is just about out of water, and the lush yards, parks, gardens, swimming pools, lavish estates, and tourist industry are at risk.

It turns out that San Luis Obispo County has an extra annual allotment of State water, which it purchased but cannot have delivered because it did not purchase the annual space in the CCWA aqueduct to bring it in. Santa Barbara County, on the other hand, has insufficient State water (given the drought) but has extra annual aqueduct transmission space.

The proposed deal is that SLO County would allow some of its extra water to be sent to Santa Barbara County. In exchange Santa Barbara County would allow SLO County to use some of its extra annualized aqueduct space to convey some of its extra water to SLO County. The write-up is not clear where it would go, but obviously Zone 3 (the Lopez system /5 cities) and perhaps the Chorro valley and the Dairy Creek Golf Course could be candidates.

This "exchange deal" technique is in part being proposed because the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) will not allow SLO County to sell its extra State water outside the county.

Interestingly, one paragraph in the write-up states:

*Your Board has been actively considering the alternatives for the excess allocation, and in January 2003, your Board adopted interim policies, which are included as Attachment C. The recommended actions are consistent with those policies.*

We don't recall any such items on the agenda over the past six years. Perhaps the discussions have been behind closed doors.

COLAB became aware of this proposal much earlier this year because the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors has discussed it several times. One of their Board letters contained the particularly obfuscatory and confusing section quoted below:

### ***State Water Project Exchanges***

*Over the period of the recent drought, many local water purveyors have been able to enhance their water supplies through either the outright purchase of water or exchanges through the SWP. In addition, the Report identified underutilized San Luis Obispo (SLO) County's Table A Water as an option and CCWA is now actively working on a year to year transfer with SLO County. While SLO County has a total Table A amount of 25,000 AFY, they are contracted with CCWA to only deliver up to 4,830 AFY. In years of lower delivery, CCWA and SLO County are working on a proposal to deliver water to SLO in excess of their 4,830 AFY. Under the proposal, CCWA would receive 1 AF of water from SLO for every 1 AF of water they can deliver to SLO from their unused Table A. Under this arrangement, CCWA increases its drought buffer at basically no cost, while SLO gets to benefit from underutilized capacity that Santa Barbara County participants paid for.*



Did the SLO County Board know that these discussions were occurring? How about the public?

What is so ironic is that the aqueduct traverses the entire Paso Water basin, where the SLO County has imposed a draconian water and development moratorium. Yet here we find that the SLO County can help find a way to keep Rob Lowe's and Oprah Winfrey's lawns green but, for whatever reason, can't help its own residents and farmers. Every drop of this water will pass right through the heart of the moratorium zone.



MONTECITO COTTAGE – NO WATER BAN HERE

As the bottom line of the Board letter states:

*Execution of the proposed CCWA Agreement and DWR Agreement will enhance the ability to put the District's excess allocation to beneficial use by providing other agencies in the County with the ability to obtain emergency water. It promotes regional benefits, health and safety needs, and drought mitigation which supports a well governed, safe and prosperous community*

You would have thought that SLO County would have had a plan by now to recharge thousands of acre-feet of this water into the unincorporated Paso Basin. After all Santa Barbara is getting it for free!

Meanwhile back in SLO, the people go to endless meetings and are told to conserve.

Back at the ranch in SLO County:



Gotta Keep UCSB Lawns Green



PASO BASIN (left) & ARROYO GRANDE (right)





## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

### Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, December 6, 2016 (Completed)

#### **Item 6 - Board Approves Gibson Nomination Michael Multari for Planning Commission.**

Multari's application for appointment states that he is a semi-retired planning consultant, adjunct faculty Cal Poly, most recent employer: Cal Poly. His education includes MPA, Princeton University (1979); BA, Yale University (1976). His qualifications include professional planner in both public and private sectors for over 40 years; adjunct faculty Cal Poly in city and regional planning department; numerous public appointed positions, including planning commission and revenue enhancement (sales tax) oversight commission, human relations commission, and economic development task force, all with City of SLO; executive director of non-profit Bay Foundation of Morro Bay and of the Morro Bay NEP; and sustainability coordinator with Cal Poly.

Will Multari be groomed as Gibson's successor on the Board of Supervisors?

**Item 19 - Board Approves Management Trip to Denmark.** The Board unanimously approved, without question or comment, sending a staffer to a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the purposes of learning about all the "wonderful things" (not specified in the write-up) that the Danish government and some of its private corporations are doing with respect to water management and broader recycling technologies. The trip is sponsored by a Danish government-backed entity called the Water Technology Alliance (WTA - actually the full name is the Danish Water Technology Alliance), which is simply an international marketing arm designed to promote Danish corporate penetration into the United States. WTA has targeted California because it recognizes that California government officials are particularly susceptible to such schemes when they are cloaked in the ideology of green whatever and climate change.

**Item 27 - Housing In Lieu Fees – Actually a Tax.** The Board approved doubling the tax on a vote of 3/2, Arnold and Compton dissenting. Gibson, Hill, and Mecham voted to increase the rate. Hill stated the "fee" (which is really a tax) "is way too low." He wanted to raise it by 5 times! In part Mecham defended his vote as defending the general fund. Apparently he does not feel that assisting people who need housing assistance should be supported with local tax dollars. The Home Builders of the Central Coast (HBACC) proposed alternatives that are smarter and fairer. Hill criticized them as simply wanting to make more profit. This is the second time in recent weeks that Hill has been critical of the HBACC for speaking out on matters related to the cost of building homes. Hill and Gibson say that it doesn't make any difference that middle class people have to pay more for a home because of the tax.

The three supervisors who voted for the increase picked the year-2 rate in the chart below. To camouflage their real bias, Hill and Gibson claim that anyone who does not support the tax is against poor people and is not supportive of housing. Actually they are the ones who refuse to do anything real to generate more housing because they are pandering to their elitist NIMBY and radical environmental supporters who oppose any new development in the County.

#### Phasing of In-Lieu and Housing Impact Fees

| Year                        | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Percentage of fee collected | 20%    | 40%    | 60%    | 80%    | 100%   |

#### Examples of Phasing of Fees (3.6% increase amounts in parenthesis)

| Sample Project  | Year 1               | Year 2                 | Year 3                 | Year 4                 | Year 5                 |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| In-Lieu Fee –<br>2,100 s.f. Residence                             | \$1,575<br>(\$1,632) | \$3,150<br>(\$3,263)   | \$4,725<br>(\$4,895)   | \$6,300<br>(\$6,527)   | \$7,875<br>(\$8,159)   |
| Housing Impact Fee –<br>10,000 s.f. Commercial Retail<br>building | \$6,800<br>(\$7,045) | \$13,600<br>(\$14,090) | \$20,400<br>(\$21,134) | \$27,200<br>(\$28,179) | \$34,200<br>(\$35,431) |

The staff write-up was biased and sought to present the matter in a way that minimized the impact.

The new Board majority has its work cut out for it.

**Background:** This is the housing program under which the left defies economics and postulates that by taxing a product you get more of it. In this case, new market rate homes and commercial buildings are taxed. The proceeds are then given to government agencies and not-for-profit housing corporations that build affordable housing. Over its life of 5 years, the program has raised a little over \$400,000, which has been divvied up into a number of projects. It has been a minor part of the funding. The tax is deliberately misrepresented as a fee. It is simply an income transfer program, which ultimately taxes the market rate homebuyer and shifts his or her money to someone else who is favored by the government.

**Item 28 - Board of Supervisor Raises.** Arnold, Compton, and Mecham voted against the raises. Gibson and Hill sought approval and baited Mecham a little to attempt to persuade him. The issue is deeper than the actual compensation. As long as current policies such as “smart growth,” government expansion, ever increasing regulatory rules and costs, limitations on water development, and all the others are in place, there should be no raises for anyone. The covenant is broken.

**Background:** The Human Resources Director recommended two successive annual salary increases for the Board. The primary reason given for the raises was County policy that requires that the County adopt wages at levels comparable to similar jurisdictions for its employees. Several years ago this policy was extended to cover the Supervisors. The concept of citing

market comparisons for elected Supervisors as justification for the raises is disingenuous. These are elected official volunteers who spend hundreds of thousands of dollars competing to get elected. It's not as if they are going to run away to San Bernardino or LA County because the pay is higher.

**Item 30 - Submittal of the proposed settlement agreement pursuant to the joint proposal regarding closure of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant.** It turned out that the item was simply a show and tell report about what the County, 6 cities, and San Luis Coastal School District had negotiated by way of increased farewell payments from PG&E.

If President Elect Trump can prevent companies from closing plants in the Midwest, could he incentivize the retention and relicensing of Diablo? Specific actions could include:

- a. Issuing an Executive Order opening the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Depository in Nevada for the storage of spent fuel rods.
- b. Directing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to provide expedited relicensing review.
- c. Submitting legislation to Congress that would call for a massive new nuclear energy development program nationally which includes preemption of state and local interference (after all, the Feds have ruthlessly done it the other way by imposing crushing environmental laws) and tax and other economic incentives parallel to what are being given to solar companies.

**Background:** As reported in the media, the County, the six cities, and the San Luis Coastal Unified School District have negotiated a Settlement Agreement with PG&E wherein they agree to support the Joint Proposal (by PG&E, its unions, and several environmental organizations) for the closure of the Diablo Power Plant by 2025. Their agreement requires approval by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). If the CPUC fails to approve the provisions the County, City, and School District may abandon the agreement.

The various financial benefits of the Settlement are to be funded from rate increases to PG&E's customers statewide. Ratepayer advocacy groups may not be so keen on paying \$147 million to cushion the impact on anti-nuclear trust fund babies in the City of SLO. Poor people in West Oakland may wonder why they should be punished for the public policy failure of the SLO County Board of Supervisors, the SLO City Council, and others who never lifted a finger to encourage and support PG&E's relicensing application.

**San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 8:30 AM (Completed)**

**Item V-1: Executive Director's Report - Status of Measure J Tax in SLO County and Transportation Tax Measures in Other Counties.** The SLOCOG Director officially lamented

the narrow defeat of Measure J and the Prop 13 two-thirds voter approval requirement. (**At least we know where he stands.**) There were 5 speakers who expressed relief that the measure lost. Weekly regular gadfly Eric Greening was particularly incisive in pointing out that staff, elected officials, and proponents had attempted to mislead the public into believing that tourists and other visitors would pay up to half of the tax. Central Coast Tax Payers Association President Andrea Seastrand and other speakers elaborated on both the problems inherent in Measure J and potential future tax efforts.

**Item D-4: Executive Director's Raise.** The SLOCOG Board voted 8/3 to approve the raise. Supervisors Mecham and Compton, as well as City Councilwoman Maryann Reese of Pismo Beach, voted against it. Compton and Mecham praised Director Ronald De Carli's performance but indicated that given current budgetary and economic conditions, raises at this time are not prudent.

Community leader/business woman Terry Strickland was more blunt during public comment, pointing out that De Carli had blatantly supported Measure J, far exceeding the bounds of a proper professional administrator.

## SLO 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.

## SLO COUNTY REFORM AND COMMUNITY RESURGENCE

**BY MICHAEL F BROWN**



In 2017, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors will have an opportunity to reform and reinvigorate county policies by replacing the current underlying self-serving and self-absorbed government incrementalism. A fresh and liberating approach to unleashing creativity, energy, and productivity of citizens could drive public policy. Currently, the county is mired in the general malaise of California state and local

government organizational culture, which is focused on expanding both services and itself as its overarching purpose.

The problem is that this prevailing culture is ultimately self-destructive and unsustainable because it undermines the productive capacity of society to generate the very resources necessary to feed its ever-growing demands. Simultaneously it also constrains the standard of living of its citizens. In doing this it undermines the ability of the most vulnerable members of society (the poor, immigrants, minorities, aging) to earn a living, to obtain decent housing, and to advance educationally. This results in expanded dependency and anti-social behavior, which fuels further expansion and cost of government.

The fundamental failure of this government culture is that it has collectively forgotten the ultimate and most important guiding purpose for its existence. The unique and animating historic genius of the American constitutional system was and is that its key purpose is to protect the people from their government. The Constitution and its derivative state and local constitutions and charters recognize that on both ethical and practical levels, government exists to insure freedom, safety of persons and property, legal stability, public order, and the general welfare in society. Its very distinctive character is that it recognizes that governments themselves have always been and always will be the greatest threats to those very purposes.

Accordingly, the new board can reorient the county government (and perhaps some of the derivative agencies, such as the Air Pollution Control District and the San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments) to adopt new criteria by which to judge public policy. The county's current overarching mission statement is emblematic of its contemporary redistributive paternalistic culture.

"The county's elected representatives and employees are committed to serve the community with pride to enhance the economic, environmental, and social quality of life in San Luis Obispo County," the statement says.

This, of course, displays the government culture's inherent arrogance, which misses the point entirely that the resources to enhance society ultimately come from the productivity of a free people, not prideful public officials.

Instead it should be replaced with an affirmative and living philosophy such as: Protect liberty, personal security, private property, and freedom while promoting individual responsibility, strong families, and economic opportunity.

As a corollary matter, the new board needs to recognize that county and agency staffs have, on the one hand, been co-opted by private interest groups with which they are often allied. These combinations are likely to resist a paradigm shift.

On the other hand, and reciprocally, staff has co-opted various citizen advisory boards such as the Water Resources Advisory Commission. In both cases it will be asserted, that the boards of the county and other agencies must conform policy to staff professional recommendations.

Actually, during the last two Board of Supervisors elections, 2012 and 2016, the voters accumulatively sent a strong message that the process should be exactly the opposite. The supervisors and other boards should require that staff provide rigorous problem definition, clear analysis, and alternative recommendations from which the boards may choose or entirely reject and assert a very different direction.



At this point there is an emerging three-member board majority (supervisors Debbie Arnold, Lynn Compton with Supervisor Elect John Peschong) who have made it pretty clear that they seek this new direction or something like it. It is not known how the remaining two (supervisors Adam Hill and Bruce Gibson) will collaborate on or resist the vital changes.

As Supervisor-elect Peschong stated after the election and relative to the new board majority: “Hold us accountable.”

***Mike Brown is the Government Affairs Director of the Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business (COLAB) of San Luis Obispo County. He had a 42-year career as a city manager and county executive officer in four states including California. He can be reached at [mike@colabslo.org](mailto:mike@colabslo.org). This article first appeared in the December 8, 2016 CalCoastNews.***

## THE GREAT CALIFORNIA BREAKAWAY

BY JON COUPAL

California breaking off into the ocean as a result of the “Big One” is science fiction fantasy to Hollywood, credible urban legend to citizens of Los Angeles and San Francisco and, perhaps, the secret hope of many Americans residing on the other side of the Sierras. However, backers of a just filed initiative, “Calexit: The California Independence Plebiscite of 2019,” want a different sort of California breakaway. They envision the state as a “free, sovereign and independent country.” Although the effort began several years ago, secessionists have been bolstered by those suffering Trump Derangement Syndrome – a condition where “alt left” adherents lose their minds over the thought of a Trump presidency.

A spokesman for the movement cites California’s different culture, different set of priorities, and different plans for the future as a justification for breaking away from the rest of the country.

While efforts to establish California as a separate country may be a farfetched idea – the issue of state secession was settled in the small town of Appomattox, Virginia when General Lee surrendered to General Grant, 1865 – it is an interesting mental exercise. What would California be like as an independent nation? Who would govern and what would be the impact on taxpayers? And if California could establish independence, would the break-up end there? Drive anywhere in the Sierra foothills or north of Sacramento and “State of Jefferson” signs are ubiquitous.

If California were an independent country, the precedent would be set for further fracturing, with other regions, where dissatisfaction with the established order is intense, seeking to break away.

Today, California’s political direction is dictated by the upper income elites living in coastal enclaves and Hollywood. Here, the Starbucks generation is consumed with issues like climate

change and bathroom access and they are not shy about telling others how to live. This explains why Sacramento seems to be constantly making war on those not part of the coastal, protected class. But travel just 25 miles from the coast and you'll find a different world. Here, people are concerned about finding a job or keeping the job they have.

After speaking to a group of politically active Californians a few years ago, pollster Scott Rasmussen responded to a question about the size of government saying, the average person does not walk down the street thinking about limited government, they are thinking about how they are going to support their families.

Outside of Malibu, Santa Barbara and the Bay Area, most people are still searching for the answer to the question of how to feed, shelter and clothe their families. If given the option of breaking away from the Prius driving, chardonnay sipping, kale chip nibbling elite, they would likely vote yes.

California will not become an independent nation, but the divide between the coastal and inland areas is real and we are about to experience another clash of these cultures played out on the Sacramento stage.

A special session on transportation, called by Gov. Brown last year, has just concluded without lawmakers imposing new taxes. But when the new Legislature convenes, one with even more pro-tax members elected in November, the top priority will be a significant increase in the gas tax and other auto-related charges. Once again, inland residents who need their cars for work will find themselves pitted against the "Let them drive Teslas" coastal elite.

If the price of fuel heads even higher than it is now, we are bound to see a multitude of working class Californians filling their tanks one last time as they leave the state for a foreign land called America.

*Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. This article first appeared in the December edition of the COLAB Santa Barbara Monthly Magazine.*





## **EARLY WARNING**

**This is the sort of Resolution that can cause real policy trouble in the future. The actual Resolution is not posted yet. COLAB talked to a staff person who indicated that she would send it to us when it is ready. We will repost this notice with the actual document when it is released. Readers should be aware that a demonstration at the Central Coast Water Board may be necessary depending on the actual content of the Resolution.**

### **NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **PROPOSED**

#### **Human Right to Water Resolution**

**The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board) will hold a meeting to consider Draft Resolution No. R3-2017-0004, Adopting the Human Right to Water as a Core Value and Directing its Implementation in Central Coast Water Board Programs and Activities (Human Right to Water Resolution). The location and time of the public meeting is as follows:**

**January 26-27, 2017**

**Santa Barbara County Offices**

**East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101**

**The Central Coast Water Board's proposed Human Right to Water Resolution is based upon Water Code section 106.3 adopted by the California Legislature on September 25, 2012, which declares that every human has the right to clean, affordable, and accessible water for consumption, cooking and sanitary purposes, as well as Resolution No. 2016-0010 adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on February 16, 2016, and Resolution R5-2016-0018 adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on April 21, 2016.**

**The Central Coast Water Board's proposed Human Right to Water Resolution and associated documents are available for review online at the following link:**

**<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/>**

The January 26 - 27, 2017 Board Meeting agenda will be available the week of January 5, 2017 at the following link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2017/2017\\_agendas.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2017/2017_agendas.shtml)

The Central Coast Water Board will accept public comments on the proposed resolution. Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 6, 2017. Comments can be submitted by e-mail to [centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov) or by courier or U.S. Mail at the letterhead address. Late comments will not be accepted into the record unless approved by the Chair.

Si necesita ayuda en español llame al (805) 542-4641.

如果協助必要用中文，請叫(805) 542-4628

**THE  
ANDY CALDWELL  
SHOW**

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# TO PROTECT OUR FISHERMEN

## INDIVIDUAL Coalition Member Form

I OPPOSE the proposed National Marine Sanctuary which would bring additional regulations placed on our local waterways and the loss of local control in a federally designated sanctuary.

You may list my name and city of residence publicly as a member of Our Protected Coast Coalition, the official coalition of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County citizens, businesses, fishermen, farmers and ranchers who OPPOSE sanctuary status.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Paid for by Our Protected Coast Coalition, PO Box 323, Morro Bay, CA 93443. Contact us at [opccoalition@gmail.com](mailto:opccoalition@gmail.com) or visit [www.opccoalition.com](http://www.opccoalition.com) for more information.

PLEASE SEND TO THE LINK TO THE LEFT OR BY MAIL

**SUPPORT COLAB!**  
**PLEASE COMPLETE THE**  
**MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM**  
**ON THE NEXT PAGE**



Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business  
San Luis Obispo County  
"Your Property – Your Taxes – Our Future"  
PO Box 13601 – San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 / Phone: 805.548-0340  
Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 – \$249 ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Voting Member: \$250 - \$5,000 ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining Member: \$5,000 + ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)*

General members will receive all COLAB updates and newsletters. Voting privileges are limited to Voting Members and Sustainable Members with one vote per membership.

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio ☐ Internet ☐ Public Hearing ☐ Friend ☐

COLAB Member(s) /Sponsor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

**For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.**

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.

Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership ☐

### PAYMENT METHOD:

Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

**TODAY'S DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All applications are subject to review and approval by the COLAB Membership Committee and Board of Directors.**

**Applications that are not accepted will have the dues or donations promptly refunded.**

(Revised 9/2016)