

# COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF MARCH 23-29, 2014



THE COALITION OF LABOR,  
AGRICULTURE, AND BUSINESS

# COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

## 5th Annual

# DINNER & FUNDRAISER

## 2014

**Thursday, March 27, 2014**

Alex Madonna Expo Center, San Luis Obispo

5:15 pm - Social Hour, No Host Cocktails

6:15 pm - Filet Mignon Dinner including Wine

\$125 per person / \$1100 per table of ten

Reserved seating for Tables of Ten

For tickets, mail your check to:

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

For more information call: (805) 548-0340

or email to [colabslo@gmail.com](mailto:colabslo@gmail.com)

**Remember to bring your ticket to enter in the  
door prize drawing!**

## Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Sam  
Blakeslee**

The Honorable Dr. Sam Blakeslee founded the Institute for Advanced Technology and Public Policy at Cal Poly in 2012. With a portfolio of experience as a scientist, business owner and legislator, his goal is to bring these diverse worlds together with cross-disciplinary thinkers at Cal Poly to solve some of the most complex public policy challenges facing society today. Blakeslee was elected to the California State Assembly in 2005 and later to the State Senate. Elected by his fellow legislators, Blakeslee served as Assembly Minority Leader. In this role, he was a member of the "Big 5" with responsibility for negotiating the state budget and major policy initiatives. In 2009 and 2012, the Sacramento Bee Identified Blakeslee as one of "Sacramento's Most Bipartisan Legislators."



**Come join us in the celebration!**

**Cocktail Attire Optional  
(We still love those jeans too!)**

# MORE “ROBUST” (SEVERE) PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN LAUNCHED

## NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING ON MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> - CELEBRATE AND ATTEND COLAB’S DINNER MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>

### Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 18, 2014 (Completed)

**Item 18 - Update the Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan.** The Board adopted on a 4/1 vote (Arnold dissenting) a Resolution initiating a process to make the Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan, which was adopted in 2012, more “robust.” The word “robust” is used throughout the documents related to this item. In this case, the word “robust” is a broad euphemism for adopting more severe, restrictive, and onerous rules and regulations for managing the basin.

Some of the potential powers include:

- Limit or suspend extractions from the Basin if the Board determines that alternative supplies of water have been insufficient.
- Collect Fees and Assessments.
- Conduct testing and measurements to facilitate more regulation and enforcement.

COLAB and other speakers asked the Board to explain what new actions, regulations, ordinances, fees, and other ideas might be contemplated in a more “robust” Plan. Board members insisted they couldn’t speculate because the Plan amendment process requires a series of steps, including public workshops. Board members, and especially Supervisor Ray, insisted it would be improper. As one speaker noted, this is yet another shoot-and-aim later action taken by the Board. It is astonishing that a legislative body would initiate major costly regulatory policy development and refuse to comment on what types of actions generically it is contemplating. To hide behind process is outrageous.

**Process Issues:** It turns out that the Board must adopt a Resolution stating its intent to amend the Groundwater Management Plan. If greater than 50% of the landowners, by acreage in the basin, file protests, the process cannot go forward.

Several Speakers pointed out that the enabling legislation prohibits establishment or amendment to groundwater basin plans if the “basin is subject to adjudication,” and

Supervisor Arnold noted that the Board is about to receive yet another Paso Robles Ground Water Assessment (the Todd report). She reasoned that it might be more logical and prudent to see the results of that report before commanding that new policies be crafted.

With the exception of Supervisor Arnold, the Supervisors plowed ahead with vehemence. Some snippets from Board discussion include:

Mecham: “How are we going to do the outreach?”

County Public Works Director Ogren: “It will be ... media, video tape, town hall meetings.”

Gibson: “I think it’s very clear that we need to move forward and adopt this Resolution ... stop our quibbling ... We have all the science we need ... There are two questions we need to answer - What is the ( substantive plan) and what is the structure (to administer it).”

Hill: “... a great crisis, drying up wells ... people are afraid ... there will always be uncertainty and unknown ... but we have one certainty which is the basin is in decline.”

Ray: “We are looking at a suite of alternatives ... this Resolution of intent is just to let us look at it.”

Mecham: “This is about how are we going to balance the basin ... what are the options ... we can’t kick the can down the road ... I move the item ...”

There were 29 speakers, of which 9 supported the item (primarily Pro Water Equity members), 16 opposed, and 4 did not seem to have a position.

**Since September 2013, the Board has:**

- Adopted the Paso Basin Water and Land Use Moratorium.
- Adopted a vesting resolution to exempt some owners from the moratorium.
- Issued an \$800,000 contract to an engineering consultant to examine the feasibility of methods to acquire supplemental water for the basin.
- Added staff to the Planning and Building Department (\$250,000) to revise County land use regulations, Plan documents, and ordinances to, in effect, make the moratorium permanent and more restrictive and to spread it to other parts of the unincorporated County.
- Directed staff to prepare amendments to the Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan, other Plan Elements, zoning ordinance, and regulations to require larger parcels, restrict number of lots approved per year, deny permits on existing small lots, require combining of lots, force stack-and-pack development, expand transfer of development credits mandates, impose mandatory plumbing retrofits, etc.
- Issued a \$158,000 contract to the Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District to develop an agricultural water conservation, offset, and banking program with appurtenant regulations.

- Accepted the Public Health Department’s decision to develop regulations for more difficult well permitting requirements, including metering.
- Endorsed Legislation to form a customized California Water District per Division 13 of the California Water Code.
- Declared a drought emergency without specifying what actions they would take that are permitted under a declaration of a local emergency.
- Determined to legally oppose its constituents who have filed legal action for quiet title defense of their Constitutional water rights as Paso Basin overlies.
- Determined to legally oppose its constituents who have filed a lawsuit challenging the failure of the Board to meet State requirements for imposing the Moratorium.
- Directed the staff to develop a more “robust” Paso Robles Water Basin Management Plan (as noted above).

NO Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2014

It is not known why a meeting is not scheduled for this week. Board members may wish to keep the schedule as clear as possible to encourage their constituents to attend COLAB’S 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Fundraiser without having to bother with preparing for public comment, etc. Since cocktail attire is optional, Board members and senior County staff may need extra time to visit Nordstrom’s, Saks Fifth Avenue, or other fashion emporia to “style up ” for the gala evening.



MADONNA CAKE

**San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of  
Wednesday March 26, 2014 ( Scheduled)**

The meeting agenda is very light. There are some salary and benefit adjustments which will add \$ 39,000 to the budget when annualized. Unless the Air Pollution Control Officer's verbal report opens up some issues, it does not appear that there are new initiatives at this time. The executive session contains items on the dunes dust law suits but that is the only mention of the dunes dust issue on the agenda. of green house gasses. Could it be that they are trying to keep it quiet during the election season and not remind voters of the various costly and intrusive APCD policies and related friction until after June?

A paragraph burried deep in item B-6 reports that APCD continues to spread the Gospel of Climate change:

□ *Central Coast GHG Planning Project: Climate Action Plans (CAPs) have been completed for the remaining six cities in our region. Four of those six city councils have adopted the CAPs. The next step in the process will be implementation of adopted plans. An application was submitted to the California Sustainable Growth Council for assistance with CAP implementation and monitoring of the adopted plans. Discussions are also underway to partner further with Cal Poly's City and Regional Planning department to secure student assistance with the implementation, monitoring and annual reporting of approved CAPs throughout our region .*

**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 27, 2014 (Scheduled)**

**Item 1- Study Session #1 for the San Luis Obispo County Renewable Energy Streamlining Program.** The staff is working on zoning ordinance amendments to make it easier to permit "renewable" energy facilities such as solar plants, windmills, and geothermal. Note that nuclear and hydro are not included.

***Project Description***

*The Program supports the County's adopted General Plan. The Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) of the General Plan includes policies and programs to designate and protect areas that contain renewable energy resources and to streamline planning and development rules, codes, and processing to encourage renewable energy development.*

*Development of this Program directly implements the following adopted COSE goals and policies:*

- *The use of local renewable energy resources will be maximized as part of an overall energy portfolio. (COSE Goal E 6)*
- *Evaluate large-scale commercial solar projects (i.e., over 10 megawatts) to favor technologies that maximize the facility's power production and minimize the physical effects of the project. (COSE Policy E 6.2, Implementation Strategy E 6.2.1)*
- *Encourage distributed energy resources to increase the efficiency of the power and transmission system and use of local renewable fuel sources. (COSE Policy E 6.6)*
- *Designate and protect areas that contain renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, geothermal, and small hydroelectric. (COSE Policy E 6.8)*
- *Where renewable energy resources have been identified and mapped, renewable energy shall be given high priority while balancing the protection of other environmental resources. (COSE Policy E 6.9)*
- *Encourage and support the development of solar and wind power and other renewable energy systems as commercial energy enterprises, and ... examine the potential for use of previously disturbed sites such as former mine sites, or disturbed urban areas such as parking lots. (COSE Policy E 6.2, Implementation Strategy E 6.2.3)*

**What About Oil and Gas?** The County should develop a similar policy for the development of its oil and gas resources. The renewable resource facilities are exempt from the property tax, while oil and gas are not exempt. Moreover, on oil and gas projects the County (in combination with the State) has the opportunity to negotiate for royalty income. Wouldn't this help with the County's unincorporated area \$126 million road deterioration deficit? Wouldn't this help with the countywide (SLOCOG) longterm transportation deficit of \$2.3 billion? What about the County's \$343 million unfunded pension liability?

**Item 4 - Bunyon Brother/Perozzi Green Waste Composting Facility - Green Waste Recycling Facility at 4400 Orcutt Road.** *Continued hearing to consider a request by RON RINELL & THE PEROZZI FAMILY TRUST for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the construction and operation of a green waste composting facility. The facility would consist of two composting sites, approximately 4 acres in size each that would be contained with an earthen berm and would include holding ponds to contain drainage and runoff. The operation would consist of collecting and processing organic materials (i.e., tree waste, leaves, manure and similar feedstock) into a soil amendment material. The allowable daily maximum feedstock received would be 300 tons per day (equivalent of 500 cubic yards per day) and the allowable maximum volume of materials onsite for all operational phases (receiving, processing, windrows, curing, screening and storage) would be 41,441 cubic yards per day. The facility would operate Monday through Saturday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, and would not be open to the public. The maximum allowable truck trips would be 150 per day.*

This is a continued hearing from February 27<sup>th</sup>, when a large group of area residents were present to oppose the project. Representatives of the adjacent City of San Luis

Obispo essentially questioned the adequacy of the County's analysis. The Commission had many unanswered questions. The discussion on March 27<sup>th</sup> will be limited to what further analysis and information will be required – not actual consideration of the application for the permit. The matter has become increasingly prominent in the media, and the Commission is likely to request further analysis. Truck traffic and potential odors from the fermenting green waste are driving the concerns.