



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6 - 12, 2016

THIS WEEK

**ELECTION WEEK
CHOOSE FREEDOM - REJECT SERVILITY
VOTE**



THE PRICE
OF APATHY
TOWARDS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
IS TO BE
RULED BY
EVIL MEN.
-PLATO

LIGHT BOS MEETING

**PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUES WORK
ON SAN MIGUEL PLAN**

LAST WEEK

**FY 17-18 BUDGET POLICIES ADOPTED
(BUSINESS AS USUAL)**

**BOARD ADOPTS FINANCING POLICIES FOR ITS
WATER AGENCY**

(NOT CLEAR WHO WILL PAY FOR WHAT)

&

NEW BOARD WILL LIKELY REVISIT IN FEBRUARY

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

(SEE PAGE 6)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(A TRUE DEFINITION)

By Patrick Wood

THE ALIENATED AMERICAN

By Victor Davis Hanson

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

SHORT LIGHT MEETING/ELECTION DAY

(& CATTLEMAN/CATTLEWOMAN OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON)

BOS KICKS BIO SOLIDS ISSUE

DOWN THE ROAD

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, November 8, 2016 (Scheduled)

Item 8 - Submittal of a request to terminate the Inclusionary Housing Agreement for Parcel Map CO 09-0040 (Rolling Hills 2 Apartments / Peoples' Self-Help Housing Corporation). This is kind of a minor item but it demonstrates a bigger problem with the housing in lieu tax (inclusionary requirement). Readers may remember that the housing in lieu tax is a tax on market rate housing, the proceeds of which are given to not-for-profit low income housing developers to assist in packaging low income projects. This item arises because a heretofore-private market rate project (the land and the approvals) has been sold to a not-for-profit development. The original project was burdened with 8 units of in lieu taxes. The new developer is requesting the County to waive the in lieu tax because the new project is 100% affordable. The write-up states in part:

The Loan Agreement and the Inclusionary Housing Agreement have many similar or identical affordable housing requirements. PSHHC and the County desire to incorporate the requirements of the Inclusionary Housing Agreement into the Loan Agreement and then terminate the Inclusionary Housing Agreement.

This in itself makes sense but here's the rub. As the staff and Planning Commission worked on the workforce housing zoning, staff insisted that the in lieu tax be applied (in a more limited percentage) to the future work force projects even though they are designed to be affordable to a target group. Despite pleas by the Commission, the County Counsel insisted that some modicum of workforce tax has to be included. This in turn will reduce the effectiveness of the workforce housing design incentives and the program.

The housing in lieu tax will create more and more problems over time. The Board should abolish it.

Item 16 - Hearing to consider adoption of an Ordinance amending Title 8, Section 8.13.030 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, to extend the expiration date from March 31, 2018 to March 31, 2021 for the Moratorium on the Land Application of Bio solids Ordinance; and find that the project is exempt from Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA). In 2004 the County adopted an interim ordinance severely limiting the spreading of bio solids (treated sewer sludge) on fields within the county. A key provision states:

The Division of Environmental Health shall not authorize more than a cumulative total of 1,500 cubic yards of exceptional quality bio solids to be applied or distributed within the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County during any twelve-month period beginning with the adoption of this ordinance. If the cumulative total of exceptional quality bio solids land

applied or distributed in a 12 month period is less than 1,500 cubic yards, the remainder shall be carried over to the subsequent 12 month period and added to the 1,500 cubic yards.

For years the Board and staff have conducted various processes involving task forces to develop a permanent ordinance. None of these have come to fruition. Last year work was again postponed because no one wanted to spend \$200,000 on an environmental impact report. This time the Board is kicking the can down the road to 2021.

This one must be too controversial. It's strange. You would think that all the renewable resource, recycling, and green-whatever mavens would be ravenous to spread the stuff all over the place and ban commercial fertilizers. What could be more politically correct?

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, November 10, 2016 (Scheduled)

In General: Most of the items on this agenda seem to be requests for time extensions for the implementation of previously approved projects.

Item 7 - San Miguel Community Plan Update. This is a continuation of the hearing. It is likely that the Commission will finish its review, approve the Plan, and forward it to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for adoption. There are no earth shaking policy considerations.

COLAB has speculated on future connections to Silicon Valley. Additionally, an active part of the County's economic development program should be to ascertain opportunities for expansion of the number of missions assigned to Camp Roberts. The County adopted the *Camp Roberts Joint Use Study* several years ago. Several provisions included insuring that other land uses do not encroach in the area of the base, which could interfere with existing or future expanded missions. Clearly the County has contemplated this potential. Now it should act.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, November 1, 2016 (Completed)

Item 16 - Review of the FY 2017-18 Budget Goals and Policies, Budget Balancing Strategies and Approaches, and Board Priorities. The Board received the standard annual presentation and determined to stick with the current policies. Supervisor Arnold again brought up the idea of elevating road maintenance to a top priority and was rebuffed 4/1. Meanwhile you are being

asked to bail the County and state out with the Measure J transportation tax increase on the November ballot.

The new Board of Supervisors should develop an overall capital investment strategy linked to other key strategic components of the County's policy, including the Revenue Plan, Human Capital Plan, Land Use Plan, and so forth. This could then guide the annual budget and other decisions.

Background: The item constitutes the annual check-in by the CEO with respect to soliciting policy direction from the Board prior to sending out the budget preparation instructions to the departments for assembling the FY 2017-18 County Budget. This has become a largely ritualistic non-event in which the Board simply ratifies the status quo and congratulates itself and staff for its financial policies.

The Board letter reiterated the stated priorities (which have been the stated priorities for years):

Currently the Board's priorities are as follows (in order):

- Meet legal mandates*
- Meet debt service requirements*
- Public Safety- defined as:*
 - *Sheriff-Coroner (fund center 136)*
 - *District Attorney (fund center 13201)*
 - *Probation (fund center 139)*
 - *County Fire (fund center 140)*

Item 20 - Submittal of a resolution establishing a policy regarding management of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District General Fund Budget and Reserves. The Board adopted the Resolution 5/0 with some degree of gusto. There was no real discussion of policy implications or cost impacts. It was as if someone were buying a car without knowing exactly what kind of car, the features, or the cost.

Background: In the big picture does this mean that residents living in areas subject to SGMA, who are not part of an existing city or district, will have to fund their SGMA plans from a new tax or fee?

1. How will this work in terms of the SGMA 2020 deadline when the required Prop. 218 tax votes must occur during a year when members of the cognizant legislative body are up for election – i.e., the Board of Supervisors. The next election will be in November 2018.
2. Does the staff believe that the property owners who are part of the Paso Basin Adjudication will be subject to creating a zone of benefit to fund SGMA planning and ultimate implementation in their area?

Item 21 - Receive an update and provide direction on the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Strategy. The Board heard the staff

presentation and then simply received the report without much discussion. One theory is that some board members hope that a change is coming and that it is not worth it to battle Hill, Gibson, and Mecham now over issues such as forcing unincorporated residents to become part of (and pay for) a new layer of water district government or end up (and pay for) under state control.

Background: This item detailed the various structural options that might be adopted for the County to coordinate with the various GSAs that are emerging. It also discusses the variety of coordinative mechanisms that could be developed to manage a basin with multiple GSAs.

In the end you get to pay a new, existing, or consortium of governments (or all three) to tell you how much water you can use, when you can use it, and where you can use it. You will also, in effect, be paying for your own water when they impose the extraction fees. Once this program is fully in force, it will add to the problems of the growing body of restrictions on both agriculture and living on acreage, such as events ordinances, vacation rental ordinances, winery regulations, greenhouse gas emission regulations, owner occupancy regulations (banning 2nd homes), native tree regulations, code upgrades upon sale or modification, endangered and listed species laws, and so on.

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.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By Patrick Wood

One of our loyal readers highlighted the quote below, which is one of the more precise and succinct definitions of the subject we have seen.

Sustainable Development is a replacement economic system for capitalism and free enterprise. It is a system based on resource allocation and usage rather than on supply and demand and free economic market forces.”¹

¹ Patrick Wood in *Technology Rising: The Trojan Horse of Global Transformation*. Coherent Publishing, Mesa Arizona, 2015.

COLAB NOTE: San Luis Obispo County has imbibed the sustainable development doctrine completely. It has infected every aspect of its strategic and land use policies. It is deeply embedded in the belief and value systems of hundreds of its management and technical staffers to whom it has been systematically taught as part of their formal education. Compliance with its tenets is required for their promotional advancement.

THE ALIENATED AMERICAN

By Victor Davis Hanson

Many Americans increasingly seem psychologically, if not materially, disengaged from their own country. A few vote with their feet and move to quieter enclaves in the American rural West or to no-income-tax states in the South and hinterlands. More withdraw with their minds, by shutting out most of the noise emanating from American popular culture, politics, and the media.

I spent my vacation in September in small towns in southern Michigan, and a few days of October traveling to a number of communities in rural California, as well as talking to a variety of people on my farm. In all these venues, I kept meeting the same sort of detached American. Though these men and women came from varying class and ethnic backgrounds, they were united by a sense of malaise. Let me sum up what I think is the new *Americanus alienatus*.

The American stranger embraces a pessimistic view of this country, rather than the therapeutic view shared by most Americans. Given the nation's cultural and financial profligacy, he assumes things are going to get worse. Or at least he accepts that they cannot go on as they are. The medicine (that will fall on him to administer) will be as catastrophic as the lethal disease (which he thinks was caused mostly by others).

Stereotyped as a "deplorable" "clinger" and "everyday American," the stranger certainly has no wish to dispute the new politically correct orthodoxies of open borders, Black Lives Matter, the euphemisms that mask radical Islamic terrorism, record deficits, unsustainable entitlements, and chaos abroad. All of that, he believes, is now the concern of the members of the coastal establishment, whose incestuous lives are glimpsed in the latest WikiLeaks trove.

The disengaged American's own existential business is survival. It takes all his energy and resources to navigate around the concrete ramifications of what elites have wrought, like failing public school systems, crime-ridden cityscapes, and Kafkaesque bureaucracies. The elites, meanwhile, have far better ways of insulating themselves from the injurious effects of their own ideology.

The stranger believes we are running out of answers to increasing racial and ethnic tensions. As a drop-out himself, when he reads daily of shootings, stabbings, riots, and assaults, he makes a mental note of where they take place, knows enough to keep quiet about them, and plans to stay a safe distance away.

Politics is a turn-off, epitomized this year by the crude Donald Trump and the refined and inveterate prevaricator Hillary Clinton. Both seem to reflect our long-standing hubris, in which

we glorified empty celebrities and overlooked the high crimes and misdemeanors of professional politicians, who made their own rules of behavior that ultimately (and logically) permitted destroying government documents, recklessly trafficking in classified information, and selling government influence to the highest bidders. To the extent Trump wins sympathy among estranged Americans, it is largely because he represents the nihilistic choice: the idea of a humiliated and doomed Samson pulling down the pillars of the Philistine temple upon us all apparently has a sort of psychological and vicarious attraction for the American stranger, especially when he reads of the contempt that the elite hold for people like himself.

Neither candidate talks about the financial Armageddon ahead, when raising interest rates will make it nearly impossible to meet existing outlays and service a \$20 trillion national debt. In contrast, the quiet American assumes that the remedies of inflation or catastrophic budget cuts in defense and entitlements—or more likely both—are inevitable. He assumes his own financial future is bleak, and his children's even bleaker. In paranoia, he readies himself for anything, whether that means European-level tax rates or the loss of his private 401K to the insolvent Social Security trust fund. Sometimes, the nuts who advocate buying gold do not seem so nutty to him.

Hypocrisy is the national creed, and the turned-off American survives by navigating around or ignoring it. Illegal aliens, seen as an important new political demographic, are increasingly immune from federal immigration law. Many new immigrants assume that America is the choice destination of the world, but when they get here, they find that the lure of lodging grievances against their generous host is the better path to political influence and government largess. Assimilation, in contrast, is written off as proof of inauthenticity.

The turned-off know well enough to keep quiet about political correctness. They accept that just one wrong word can at any time end careers as a clerk, cop, or teacher. The disaffected also still trust that college is a future investment for their kids, but have no clue how to pay for it. They are also unsure how to weigh the pluses of receiving a bachelor's degree against the minuses of being indoctrinated by a small, bitter subset of the population.

The quiet American is also cynical. He expects elites to be pretenders. The hacked emails of insiders Colin Powell and John Podesta, and Hillary Clinton's \$250,000 Wall Street chats confirmed what most believed about low-bar Washington values. Trump's eleven-year old hot-mic vulgarities rebirthed Bill Clinton's alleged sexual assaults, reminding the cynical that in the age of Miley Cyrus, Chris Brown, and Kim Kardashian, America is both crude and sanctimonious at the same time.

So the drop-out American turns off the media and not merely because of its 24/7 hyperkinetic frenzy, but because he is fed up by its superficiality and hypocrisy—and its abject partisanship dressed up as edginess. Most journalists assume their role is either to further their own careers or to convince the supposedly ignorant masses to endorse the progressive views embraced by only 20 percent of the population. Either way, millions of Americans have checked out, retiring instead to the blogosphere and comments sections of articles. The alienated American also does not go to the movies much. The reason is not just because excellent entertainment is easily available at home on his various devices. The problem, rather, is the message. A politically warped Hollywood is, like the media, trumpeting political ideas that do not resonate with most viewers.

The alienated American is touched by, but avoids, popular culture. He cannot figure out the attraction of the harsh voices, grating beat, and glorification of misogyny, racism, and violence in rap music. He knows of a Kanye West or Miley Cyrus only to the degree that such entertainers sometimes intrude into the mainstream media, causing confusion over exactly how such untalented exhibitionists ever won an audience, and why, in such a Victorian society such as our own, their obscenities still remain politically correct.

The quiet American was once devoted to televised sports, but increasingly is losing interest there as well. San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who refuses to stand for the national anthem on the ground that America is racist, hardly represents speaking truth to power. He is another pampered multimillionaire athlete who has manipulated his sport for personal attention and gain. The alienated American also avoids ESPN and similar sport channels. He believes that life is too short to listen to half-educated jocks posing as Socratic philosophers as they politicize their analyses and try to turn gladiators on the field into heroic progressive humanists.

The media, contemporary politics, sports, Hollywood, popular music, government policy, political correctness, the pretenses of the elite—all of these have driven a sizeable minority of the population into a psychological underground. Every once in a while, I see the alienated American, who gives me a nod or wink at the supermarket or gas station—a confirmation that he has become a stranger in his own strange land.

This article first appeared in the Hoover Institution of Stanford University Daily Report of October 28, 2016. Victor Davis Hanson is an American military historian, columnist, former classics professor, and scholar of ancient agrarian and military history.

Bloggers' Comments on the VDH article above:

We thought some of the responses posted on the Hoover website were right in line with how many folks here feel. Some are also quite literate. This ain't Fulks and the other Adam Hill surrogates. Check them out below:

Indianaman

Here's a nod and a wink to VDH from an alienated American in Indiana. Thank you for your poetic prose giving voice to what so many Americans feel.

Preacherohio

I am 73 years old, and until recently my American citizenship was my most precious earthly possession. I was a proud American who went to work when I was fifteen years old and worked at least 40 hours a week all through high school. I married young and am still married to my high school sweetheart and have raised two sons who never gave me any trouble and are good men. I joined the military as the Vietnam War heated up, but I was medically discharged because of a heart problem. So, I came home, went to work and eventually became a Christian minister. I was classified as a small business man by the IRS for tax purposes and often struggled to pay social security, medicare, and income taxes. I willingly paid because I believed that is what good

American citizens do. Now, though, the America that I always loved is no longer that country. I trust in God, so I do not despair. Otherwise, this article would describe exactly how I feel about our present culture and the political situation of this country. May God be merciful to this once great country, and may our nation turn from its headlong rush to its coming destruction.

OwlCreekObserver • 2 days ago

I agree with every word of this. My wife and I finally gave up after 30 years of living in a state noted for its violence and political chicanery and relocated to a different state which, though not perfect, still maintains a nodding acquaintance with good manners and traditional values. We're not any more optimistic about the future of the country, but at least we're surrounded by far more common sense folks here.

3rdjerseyman • 2 days ago

VDH constantly manages to put the ricocheting thoughts bouncing off the hard interior of my skull onto paper- or into appropriate arrangements of electrons. He clarifies and makes comprehensible the multiplicity of derangements poisoning our civil lives. It is a privilege to read his work. I hope they are not preparing his cup of hemlock.

SouthOhioGipper 3rdjerseyman • a day ago

VDH is among the greatest conservative pundits of our age. He always seems above it all. Passionate, yet detached enough to be objective.

Wayne Lusvardi • 20 hours ago

The eminent sociologist of religion and Lutheran Christian, Peter L. Berger, once wrote: "Accept alienation, it is the price of freedom. Learn how to stand apart" (Movement and Revolution,

brian_in_arizona • a day ago

Gibbon attributed part of the decline of the Roman Empire to early Christianity, but not for the reasons many assume. Early Christians, inspired by the teachings of Jesus and not yet subject to a central religious authority of an official established Church, decided to withdraw from the messiness of contemporary Roman life. Their talents were directed to their spiritual life in the face of official pagan faiths and their physical survival in the face of government hostility. They directed their energy and talents to the development of churches, to charities, to their fellow Christians, and to the perfection of their faith and Christian practice.

In modern language, we would say they "dropped out". The dropouts eventually included many well-born and talented Romans who in prior times would have become active in politics, the economy, and secular society.

This may be the destiny for the alienated of our time.

skillsaw59 • a day ago

It seemed like VDH was speaking about me. Even as a lifelong Democrat and non religious social liberal I was never satisfied with any President in my 63 years and hardly ever thought there was much of a choice. Now I've been cast into the deplorable basket by HRC because of my rejection of political correctness and my objection to immigration that allows into the country many that are a drain on our economy or worse violently hate our culture. The Obama Presidency has been the last straw for me. I doubt it but it's possible that Trump would roll back some social freedoms I support but I'm more concerned with the corruption and the "I'm above the law mentality" of HRC. That's where the real danger lies. The reopening of the Hillary investigation by the FBI, by its timing, only 2 weeks before the election seems almost divine in nature. Trump is far from perfect but God always chooses flawed individuals to do his will.

jmquillian • a day ago

I must say, I do see some of myself in these descriptions. IMHO, people are hungry for sanity, an acknowledgement that we must eventually deal with realities and stop pretending that the government will indeed control the weather with taxes and regulations, that we can obtain all the energy we need from solar and wind, that Bruce Jenner is a woman and students should be able to use whatever shower they feel like using. A short list that doesn't even include foreign affairs where we contemplate another 'humanitarian' war in Syria. You see, we must bomb the Syrians to save them - just like Libya. Oh, and why don't we antagonize the Russians for no reason at all - other than domestic political advantage. It's becoming embarrassing.

Anthony • a day ago

VDH pretty much nails the "stranger in his own country" but I think he discounts Americanus alienatus complicit history (wittingly or unwittingly) in facilitating our current institutional fractures.

chsimmons1 • 8 hours ago

Brilliant article. Rare to find a man at that level of elite academia who shows such a sharp instinct for how "real people on the street" feel about the western world these days.

Sy Weiner • 15 hours ago

VDH again gives us the Melanie Phillips exegesis that the world is turned upside down and the ultimate sacrifice that my brother gave at the Battle of the Bulge was useless and he too as I am were and are contemptible. Dr. Hanson's name sake on Okinawa was too I crawl away from people so I should not offend because I am white and a refugee from Nazi Austria who served as medical officer in Nam and when I came back I was called doctor and now I am a health care

*provider and one of the new all too prevalent Americans alienatus miserabilis I am tired of it all just tired beaten and ready to go to Carl Sagan's star stuff ,There is no- where for miserable deplorable like me but I want to see if Pax Americana shows more symptoms of Pax Romana in decline. I am tired of giving to people, family, and country and preaching to the he polity of De Oficis. I know this is most of us but we are the silent alienated louts!!! Thanks Dr. VDS
NB*

Note: COLAB presented a free evening with Victor Davis Hanson at its Fall Forum on September 28, 2016. Please support our relevant and timely work. See page 14 below.



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ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES**

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(Revised 9/2016)