



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26 - OCT. 3, 2015



COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

FALL FORUM



USURPING DEMOCRACY STATE & REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

**Who can really do
what to whom?
What does it all
mean?**

Thursday, October 8th

5:30—7:30 PM

Holland Barn
2275 Carpenter Canyon Rd.
San Luis Obispo

(From SLO: just past the Cold Canyon Landfill entrance, on the right. From AG: just past the Cold Canyon Landfill entrance, on the left.)

Appetizers and beverages will be served.

Guest Panelists



Fred Aguiar — Former City Councilman of Chino, County Supervisor of San Bernardino, Speaker Pro Tem of the California State Assembly, and Chief of Staff for Governor Schwarzenegger.

Sam Blakeslee — Former State Assembly Member, State Senator, and founding Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology & Public Policy at Cal Poly.



Mike Brown — Retired CEO of Santa Barbara County, and former City Manager of Tucson and Berkeley. Brown also served as Chief Deputy Commissioner of Housing of the State of Connecticut and as a City of Hartford Washington staff advocate.

RSVP's appreciated by Monday, October 5th

Email: colabslo@gmail.com or call (805) 548-0340

**SAVE THURSDAY OCTOBER 8
COLAB FALL FORUM-FREE EVENT
SEE FLYER ON PAGE ABOVE
(RSVP 805 548-0340)**

**NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
ON TUESDAY SEPT. 29, 2015**

**WELL KNOWN LEFTIST AGITATOR
SLANDERS SUPERVISOR COMPTON
MALIGNS JUST ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE**

**ALSO
DISAGREE WITH THE COUNTY LEFTIST MACHINE?
YOU'RE A "CRYPTO- FASCIST"**

**Early Warning: So-Called Water Conservation Plan/PERMANENT
PASO BASIN MORATORIUM BOARD HEARING TO BE
TUESDAY OCTOBER 27TH**

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 22, 2015 (Completed)

Item 13 - Further Expansion and Extension of the Environmental Impact Report for the Phillips 66 Rail Spurs. This item added \$204,000 and 3 months for further studies. So far the company has spent 4 years and millions of dollars in the project application. Several public commenters suggested that Phillips abandon the project since there is so much opposition.

Item 19 - General Public Comment For Matters not on the Agenda. For the second week in a row COLAB requested that the Board explain why it is opposing the quiet title action in the Paso Water Basin. COLAB again asked why the Board was opposing the quiet title effort

by property owners in the North county. Last week the Board had no answer. This week the County Counsel stated that it was difficult to talk about a case in litigation. She indicated that the County was a defendant and had to preserve its rights and place in the case. She further indicated that it is early in the case (timeframe wise) and that this requires the County to participate. These procedural answers really didn't go to the heart of the matter. What if the County simply allowed the overlies to go ahead and did not interfere? What is the harm that could accrue to the County?

At some point there was faint reference to the County as the water provider in Shandon. The inference would be that somehow the overlies would lay claim to all the water and Shandon would get none. No one has actually demonstrated the reality of this theory. The little Shandon water district uses very little water in proportion to the use in the overall Paso Basin.

Background: COLAB asked the Board members to explain why they are opposing the quiet title action by 500 of their constituent landowners, representing 17,000 acres in the Paso Basin. The matter is repeatedly considered in closed session under provisions of the Brown Act, which allows public bodies to consider active litigation in private. We are not asking the Board to disclose any legal strategy but to simply explain what operative public interest is being served by their opposition.

**COLAB Mixer Fills Morro Bay Grange Hall on Wednesday, September 23, 2015
(Completed).**

Please accept our thanks to all those who participated in and/or assisted with the mixer which filled the Morro Bay Grange Hall. A delightful and socially invigorating evening was enjoyed by all. San Luis Obispo County wines, local craft beers, and awesome hot hors d'oeuvres provided by the San Luis Obispo Cattlemen flavored the event. The crowd was energized by 4th District Supervisor Lynn Compton's insights into how County policy formation works, how Board member communications are legally limited, and how the County has completed some positive achievements in the near term. She also explained the good old boy organizational culture of the County's 4th floor. Supervisors Gibson's and Hill's bullying tactics and clear disdain for professional articulate women are clearly evident. (See the most recent example in the APCD Section of this report on page 9 under the heading "**More Bullying**".)

It turned out that Jay Salter, who is a longtime leftist political agitator, former Civil Service Commissioner and ally-supporter of Gibson, Hill, and former Supervisor Patterson, came to the meeting to betray our hospitality. He posted a particularly nasty, sexist, and libelous report of the mixer on Facebook. (See the Addendum I on page 10 of this weekly update for details).

As one concise and very knowledgeable community /business leader summed up:

Jay Salter is a long-time friend and supporter of Jim Patterson, a leftover from the David Blakely/Bud Laurent days on the Board from the late 80's and early 90's. Perfect matching bookend for Tom Fulks. Why is it that the tribe that spouts platitudes about acceptance,

multiculturalism and tolerance always proves to be intolerant of others with different points of view? I'd say they're rattled!!

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 (Not Scheduled)

There is no meeting scheduled as the 29th is a 5th Tuesday.

Early Warning: So-Called Water Conservation Plan/PERMANENT PASO BASIN MORATORIUM BOARD HEARING TO BE TUESDAY OCTOBER 27TH.

In a very confusing press release the County seems to be saying on the one hand that on October 6th it will be setting hearings for the 27th for the various water regulatory matters. But then in the next breath it says:

The first Consent Agenda item to be considered will be the official introduction of the proposed ordinance amendment to Title 8 (Health and Sanitation Ordinance) and Title 19 (Building and Construction Ordinance) of the County Code, which are being recommended in order to implement the requirement that new development offset water use, link the existing well permit requirements to the proposed Agricultural Offset Clearance requirements, and to establish regulations regarding the wasteful use of water.

Any actions taken by the Board during the meeting on October 6, 2015 will only be procedural and will not constitute a final action. Public comment will be heard on these items.

So are they going to take any actions on the 6th? Is the public to wait until the 27th or do they need to be there on the 6th too?

In any case, Tuesday October 27th will be a critical day impacting water policy, property rights, and the broader underlying issue trends of personal freedom. Please save this day for the Board meeting. At this point we don't know what time the issue is scheduled. As the date approaches we will update the issue and process. The County notice below explains the schedule and what is happening at the various meetings leading up to the actual substantive hearing.



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

Promoting the Wise Use of Land - Helping to Build Great Communities

Date: September 14, 2015

To: News Media / Interested Parties

From: Department of Planning and Building

Subject: Board of Supervisors Consideration of the Proposed Countywide Water Conservation Program

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building announced today that on October 6, 2015 and on October 27, 2015 the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors (Board) will consider a San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission (Commission) recommendation made on August 13, 2015 to certify the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and to adopt proposed amendments to the County General Plan and County Code associated with a proposed Countywide Water Conservation Program (CWCP). All of the associated documents are available on the County Department of Planning and Building webpage under “Water-Related Amendments”: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/water-amendments.htm>.

The Board will consider the Commission recommendation in a two part process on October 6, 2015 and October 27, 2015, as required by law. In brief, introduction of items will occur October 6, 2015, while consideration, deliberation, and action on items will occur on October 27, 2015. The Board will not consider final action on the items until October 27, 2015. See below for additional detail.

The first part of the process will occur on October 6, 2015 during the regular meeting of the Board, when two separate procedural Consent Agenda items related to the proposed CWCP will be introduced. Any actions taken by the Board during the meeting on October 6, 2015 will only be procedural and will not constitute a final action. Public comment will be heard on these items. The first Consent Agenda item to be considered will be the official introduction of the proposed ordinance amendment to Title 8 (Health and Sanitation Ordinance) and Title 19 (Building and Construction Ordinance) of the County Code, which are being recommended in order to implement the requirement that new development offset water use, link the existing well permit requirements to the proposed Agricultural Offset Clearance requirements, and to establish regulations regarding the wasteful use of water. In addition, the proposed amendment to Ordinance 3274 (County Fee Schedule), to establish new fees associated with the implementation of the proposed water offset requirements, will be introduced. The second Consent Agenda item to be considered will be a request to authorize the use of Alternative Publication Procedures for the proposed amendments to the County General Plan, the County Code, and the County Fee Schedule, should the Board take action to adopt those proposed amendments at the public hearing on October 27, 2015. Authorization would allow for a quarter-page display advertisement to be published (in two publications) instead of the full text of the adopted ordinances in order to save on advertising costs.

The second part of the process will occur on October 27, 2015 during a regular meeting of the Board. The Board will hold a hearing to consider the recommendation from the Commission to adopt the CWCP. During the hearing process, County staff will provide a full presentation on the proposed CWCP, including an overview of the environmental review analysis and a detailed overview of the proposed amendments to the County General Plan, the County Code, and the County Fee Schedule. The presentation will be followed by the public comment period; then the Board will begin their deliberation. If the Board takes action to adopt the proposed amendments, the amendments will take effect 30 days after action. The full staff report and all associated items will be readily available to the public and available online at the Board's website: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSagenda.htm>.

For further information, please contact Xzandrea Fowler, Supervising Planner, at (805) 781-1172 or via email at waterprograms@co.slo.ca.us.

**Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of Wednesday, September 23, 2015
(Completed)**

Item B-1: Minutes from the June 17, 2015 APCD Board Meeting. This usually routine item erupted into a contentious and emotional debate. Supervisor Arnold requested that the minutes be revised to show that a public commentator, Will Harris, had been verbally chastised and interrogated by Supervisor Hill (she was polite and used the word “interrupted”). Of course, Hill and Gibson went bonkers.

Background - More Intimidation: On June 17th a speaker named Will Harris came to the lectern for public comment on the item. He stated that he was employed by the California Geologic Survey, which is a Division of the State Department of Conservation. It appears the Division is responsible for preventing damage from earthquakes and other geologic forces.

Harris made a presentation in which he stated that the APCD has never determined background levels (that is the naturally occurring amounts) of dunes dust. This is important because the impact of the off-road vehicles could not be determined without this information. Harris asserted that the background levels are currently far lower than in past times, because the State has propagated so much vegetation over the decades that the amount of dust overall is much lower.

As Harris tried to sum up, Hill accused Harris of representing “someone.” Hill said in an accusatory voice, “Who told you to come today?” Harris replied that no one told him to come.

Hill: “So you are representing yourself?”

Harris: “I came because of my professional experience.”

Gibson (muttering in the background/mic was OFF): “Attending for whom, the state?”

The APCD Board then went through a discussion of the continuation of the DUST RULE matter. Arnold tried to get them to consider alternative 1 (the Waage version). In the end, all voted for continuation except Arnold and Harmon.

As the meeting was about to adjourn SLO Mayor Marx returned to the Harris issue and expanded on it:

Marx - something to the effect: Mr. Harris’s performance as a paid advocate did not disclose that he was representing someone else. I found this very disturbing.

She then asserted that members were meeting with outsiders such as Kevin Rice, who has sued the APCD and on occasion has discussed closed session items. She did not name which members or member. She said: We need to know if there are ex parte conversations.

She stated that paid consultants must identify themselves as such.

Harris attempted to come to the lectern on a point of order, since he had been personally called out and publicly humiliated and impugned by a sitting Mayor and County Supervisor. Hill forcefully called him out of order and would not let him speak. As the meeting ended Hill glared at Harris and said menacingly, wait until we talk to your superiors in Sacramento. Other members of the APCD did not challenge Hill’s behavior, thereby countenancing intimidation, threats, and a clear Brown Act violation.

Subsequently Gibson wrote a letter (on his office stationery) to Harris’s Department Head and asked that Harris be disciplined. Reportedly that boss agreed and has changed Harris’s assignments and removed him from his office and sent him to the basement.

Action on September 23, 2015: Ultimately the APCD voted 6-5 to amend the minutes in accord with Ms. Arnold’s request. Those dissenting included Hill, Gibson, SLO Mayor Marx, Morro Bay Councilman Smuckler, and Grover Beach Councilwoman Karen Bright. Roberta Fonzi was absent.

Harris should hire a good lawyer with expertise in government employment law and take the issue to the bank.

Separately, the District Attorney should examine the record of the Board of the APCD in this case. The issue of whether Harris was representing the State, himself, or both is irrelevant. The Brown Act states in part:

54954.3.

(c) The legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body. Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law.

54959. Each member of a legislative body who attends a meeting of that legislative body where action is taken in violation of any provision of this chapter, and where the member intends to deprive the public of information to which the member knows or has reason to know the public is entitled under this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor

Moreover, there is considerable case law protecting public speakers against retaliation. For example:

Indeed, retaliation by the government against a person for exercising his First Amendment right of free speech is prohibited under the constitution. See, e.g., Hartman v. Moore, 547 U.S. 250, 256 (2006) (as a general matter, the First Amendment prohibits government officials from subject an individual to retaliatory actions for speaking out); Perry v. Sindermann, 408 U.S. 593, 597 (1972) (government officials may not punish a person or deprive him or her of a benefit on the basis of his or her "constitutionally protected speech.

The fact that Gibson, as a sitting government official, instigated a request for discipline and that it was carried out by Harris's boss demonstrates a concerted collective action to retaliate. Harris's boss actually wrote back to Gibson and told him he had punished Harris and apologized on behalf of the agency for Harris's comments.

In turn Supervisor Arnold is attacked and maligned for trying to set a small part of the record straight. No bullies here----- right?

Please see Addendum II on page 13 at the end of this Weekly Update for the latest information on this matter thanks to the CAL COAST NEWS.

Item B-6: Authorization to proceed with implementation Year 2 of the CivicSpark Program and receive funds in the amount of \$80,100. Arnold, Compton, Mecham, Hamon, and Waage voted against it. They wanted the money spent on something real that would help people to save energy instead of a propaganda program.

COLAB asked if the Board of Supervisors had ever approved the transferring of \$65,000 from various county sources to provide the local share, and if so, when that approval and/or transfer took place. No one had any idea. The APCD approved the project anyway.

Background: Back in March the staff recommended the renewal of the CivicSpark Program, which is a kind of domestic Peace Corps-like program that hires recent college graduates and has them proselytize on climate change and greenhouse gas reduction, and provide “technical” assistance to cities, civic groups, and other organizations to ramp up their greenhouse gas reduction efforts. It is funded by an outfit called the Local Government Commission (which is really a government funded not-for-profit) with an 18% local share (about \$75,000).

Shell Game: The staff spent months in an effort to find the local share match (March until now). In the end the County is paying for it, utilizing utility grant funds that had been given to the Planning and Building Department as well as County General fund.

Item C-2: Establishment of Ad-Hoc Board Subcommittee to Work with Staff on Fiscal Planning. The Board had not intended for this to be a Brown Act committee with noticed agendas and public participation requirements. After considerable debate instigated by civic activist Kevin Rice, the Board decided to use its executive committee plus the addition of Barbara Harmon to conduct the proceedings in accordance with Brown Act rules.

This will be an important committee because the APCD will be experiencing pressure on its budget and finances due to the phasing out of the Morro Bay power plant. Its annual permit fee was a significant piece of the district’s general revenue. There will be pressure to raise fees to cover the constant increase in salaries and retirement costs.

Unfortunately the Board decided to create this committee process without ever defining what problem(s) it is supposed to solve. This denies the full Board and the public any ability to focus on the big picture and help set the boundaries of the study. It may result in narrow spoon-fed recommendations. COLAB’s concerns in this regard were willfully ignored by the APCD Board Members.

More Bullying – Un-numbered Item: Report of the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO): During this standing agenda item the APCO updates the Board on various projects and emerging issues. Supervisor Compton took the opportunity to attempt to ask questions about the logic of the positioning of one of the dust monitoring stations on the edge of the Oceano Dunes. As Compton pressed the staff, Gibson became more and more agitated and finally began to lecture Compton in a loud and condescending voice. This is a pattern which we have seen increasingly whenever Arnold or Compton press questions or go against the heretofore-adopted policies on some issue dear to the leftist faction.

Compton and Arnold constantly have to defend and assert their right to ask questions and actually have them answered. Gibson is the most flagrant but is often supported by Hill. Frequently the questions are derogatorily dismissed as irrelevant, a waste of time, or somehow contrary to “science”. The overall strategy seems to be to portray the two supervisors as intellectually challenged. This may be some sort of an election strategy. The fact that Tom Fulks and Jay Salter, who are Hill /Gibson soldiers, constantly vilify Compton and Arnold suggests a

coordinated strategy. The other officials sitting on various boards and commissions should watch for this and be particularly sensitive. It is the sort of insidious discriminatory and nasty tactic which, if unchecked, will enrage the public on a broad scale and could ultimately interfere with or even stop much of the government process in the County until it is straightened out. The public will not tolerate this bullying behavior in the long run. An expose on one of the national evening news programs would be highly embarrassing to everyone in the county, detrimental to business, and inimical to the political careers of those officials who are silent.

Ms. Arnold and Ms. Compton are smart, successful, and educated women. Moreover, both have reared successful children and have been economic contributors to the County and region for decades. They each were elected to represent their respective districts by substantial voter majorities after hard election campaigns.

To not speak is to speak.

ADDENDUM I

Jay Salter Attack on COLAB/Lynn Compton September 25, 2015

Post from Jay Salter's Facebook page:

Big Bullies Of SLO County

Three county supervisors (all of them male) have created a "bullying culture" in the upper echelons of the San Luis Obispo's government.

That's right.

What's worse, their patriarchal misrule has infected the county's top administrators who are systematically thwarting a valiant effort by the two underdog sups (both of them female) who are dedicated to cleansing the Augean Stable.

That's how Fourth District Supervisor Lynn Compton described her fourth floor situation (and that of Fifth District Supervisor Debbie Arnold) during last night's COLAB "mixer" in Morro Bay's Grange Hall, a venue populated almost entirely by rightwing partisans.

COLAB stands for Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business. It's a thinly disguised clique of Trump-like, crypto-fascists parading as righteous constitutionalists and small government advocates. They hope to gain control of SLO County's government in the next election and convert it to a cigar box republic on the order of the State of Texas .

Compton was the evening's featured speaker. **A card-carrying COLAB member**, she claimed the bullying is chiefly fostered by District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson and further abetted by both District 1 Supervisor Frank Mecham and District 3 Supervisor Adam Hill.

COLAB NOTE: Compton never mentioned Supervisor Mecham.

The triumvirate's message to them both is dire. "We've been warned" she said. "If you disagree with us, we're gonna trash you!"

Curiously, Mecham is a registered Republican, as are both Arnold and Compton. Yet Compton kept referring to Arnold and herself as the "minority party."

Tottering on six inch heels, sinuous in a black sheath dress, taloned forefinger poking the sky for emphasis, Lynn Compton was an exact replica of rightwing pundit Ann Coulter, including the victimhood. *She embodies the paranoid style in American politics perfectly.*

COLAB NOTE: This is one of the most blatant and disgusting sexist statements that we have seen in a long time. What the hell does what she is wearing have to do with the issues? Does her manicure make her a raptor?

Of course, Compton's aggrieved, trip hammer delivery mesmerized her audience. Every mention of Adam Hill's name provoked growls of rage, while the words "Bruce Gibson" evoked repeated sneers of disgust.

"But I'm not intimidated." Compton insisted. "And neither is Debbie. I'll go down in flames for what I believe, whether it's right or wrong."

This brought the house to its feet. She finished to a standing ovation. Fists pumped in solidarity. Admirers rushed to embrace her.

*Confused? Foolish? Yes. But she prompted in me a surge of sympathy. Her cascading paranoia bordered on **echolalia**. She appeared spellbound as she spoke, repeating by rote statements and conceptions long committed to memory but never fully considered or explicated. The sort of mindless natter-loop that's won her legions of devotees, like those filling the room, Trump-like men and women, angry and vengeful.*

COLAB NOTE: Here Salter is accusing Supervisor Compton of being mentally disturbed. This is not fair comment and constitutes liable and slander. He was once a SLO County Civil Service Commissioner and would know the law on this. The lie, given the context, is clearly made with malice and is not opinion. He gives the name of a disease diagnosis which he must know and understand. Echolalia is a recognized disease: 2014 ICD-9-CM

Diagnosis Code 784.69 /Other symbolic dysfunction. Reportedly, Salter has worked in a clinical mental health setting, which means his comment is not causal opinion.

Since I was the only guy in the hall scribbling notes and fondling a camera, as the speech wound down I felt several evil eyes pierce my brainpan. As the big bellies scrummed toward the bar for one last round, I snatched a bottled water and slipped through a side door into fresh air and starry darkness.

Adam Hill's and Eric Michielssen's anabasis is certain to be vexed and treacherous. Let us arm them with flowing funds.

Note: Some of Salter's self-absorbed allusions may be a little obscure.

Anabasis: The advance of an army, especially a large-scale march or expedition moving inland from the coast.

Augean Stables: In Greek mythology, the stables owned by King Augeas that had not been cleaned in 30 years. One of Heracles' tasks was to clean them in one day, which he achieved by diverting two rivers through them.

Echolalia: The compulsive repetition of words spoken by somebody else, often a sign of a psychiatric disorder. Echolalia is a condition associated with autism. People with echolalia repeat noises and phrases that they hear. They may not be able to communicate effectively because they struggle to express their own thoughts. For example, if asked a question, they might be able only to repeat the question rather than answer.



Salter's mischaracterizations confirm the vile temper and desperation of the SLO county left.

ADDENDUM II

The article on the following page first appeared in the CAL COAST NEWS on September 26, 2015 provides both background and an update on the Harris issue and Gibson's treatment of Compton.

State employee demoted after crossing Gibson

September 26, 2015



Supervisor Bruce Gibson

By JOSH FRIEDMAN

Succumbing to pressure from San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Bruce Gibson, the California Geological Survey has demoted a state geologist who is critical of the science behind a contested local air pollution regulation. The demotion has prompted feuding among county officials.

In June, Will Harris, a senior engineering geologist, spoke during public comment at an Air Pollution Control District (APCD) board meeting in which he argued the district's Oceano Dunes dust rule is pointless. During the meeting, County Supervisor Adam Hill threatened Harris's job. Three days later, Gibson followed up the threat in a letter to California's chief geologist.

Now, Harris has lost his office and is working in a school safety position. He was moved to an office on a lower floor of his work building.

In a farewell letter to colleagues who worked with him on off-road vehicle parks, Harris wrote the Geological Survey removed him from the position because of his comments at the June San Luis Obispo County APCD meeting.

In the letter, Harris said that Gibson complained to his bosses.

Don Drysdale, an information officer with the Department of Conservation, confirmed with CalCoastNews that Gibson contacted chief geologist John Parrish about Harris. Drysdale said the conservation department does not consider Harris's change in role to be a demotion. Rather, it is a reassignment, Drysdale said.

The APCD dust rule is based on a contested study that concluded off-road activity on the dunes has caused an increase in pollution on the Nipomo Mesa. The rule requires state parks to reduce the amount of particulate matter blowing from the off-road vehicle area to natural background levels or face fines of \$1,000 per day.

At the June meeting, Harris said natural background levels of dust are actually higher than the current levels because state parks has planted vegetation in the area.

Harris has since distributed aerial images comparing the dunes in the 1930s to the dunes in 2014. The 1930s image displays more sand than the 2014 picture, and the recent image shows that much of what used to be open sand is now covered with vegetation.

One of the areas with considerable vegetation is the location the APCD selected as its control for air quality readings. To test whether the dust blowing from the off-road area of the dunes is exceeding "natural background levels," the APCD set up a monitoring station downwind of the riding area and a monitoring site downwind of a control location that is further south and is not used for off-roading.

The APCD could levy fines against state parks on days in which there is more pollution at the location downwind of the riding area than at the control site. The APCD is currently facing an approximately \$300,000 funding shortfall because of lost fees from the shutdown of the Morro Bay power plant.

In a memo to state parks, Harris wrote the APCD set up the monitoring sites in a way that skews the results so that more violations of the dust rule occur. For instance, the control site is an area with more vegetation and less wind, Harris states.

On Wednesday, the APCD board met for the first time since June. During the meeting, Gibson and Hill chastised other board members who defended Harris and questioned the science of the dust rule.

During approval of the minutes, County Supervisor Debbie Arnold made a motion calling for the minutes of the June meeting to state that Harris was interrupted during his public comment.

San Luis Obispo Mayor Jan Marx, an ally of Hill and Gibson, said Arnold was making things up and her motion was "creative writing." Gibson said it was "contrary to reality."

Hill responded by saying the board could say anything in the minutes.

"We can say a dolphin walked down the aisle," Hill said.

Paso Robles Councilman John Hamon, who is currently running for District 1 county supervisor, said he was embarrassed by how fellow board members handled the exchange with Harris at the June meeting.

Ultimately, the board voted 6-5 in support of Arnold's motion.

A short time later, Supervisor Lynn Compton questioned the science behind the dust rule. Compton questioned why the APCD is comparing air samplings from a location that is a sheet of sand to a control location that is heavily vegetated.

“It’s hard for me to understand that this is an equal comparison,” Compton said. “You’re not comparing apples to apples.”

Gibson responded by saying the best technical minds of the APCD, state parks and state Air Resources Board agreed on the control site. He then called Compton close-minded.

Referring to Harris, Compton said a scientist testified that the monitoring sites were not an equal comparison. Gibson responded by saying Harris’s “technical credibility is pretty well shot.”

The APCD website lists five engineers who work on local air quality monitoring issues. Of those, none are licensed professional engineers, according to the California Department of Consumer Affairs.