



# COLLAB

San Luis Obispo County



## Current Issues

WINTER 2020

**1. March 3, 2020 Primary Election** – 3 Supervisorial seats will be determined on March 3, 2020.

District 1: Peschong vs. Shakofsky

District 3: Koresgaden vs. Hill

District 5: Arnold vs. Bereaud

**2. Paso Basin SGMA Water Plan** – Has been approved by County and other jurisdictions in basin. Next step is for State Department of Water Resources (DWR) to approve, reject, or request modifications. Plan contains 13,700 acre ft. per year pumping reduction. (18 % of future estimated pumping). Best Irrigation Practices, Supplemental Water, Local Recharge Water, and Recycled Water are included as the main components which could mitigate some of the reduced pumping.

**3. Hemp Cultivation Moratorium** – Regulation of a legal agricultural crop. Permanent Ordinance now before Planning Commission. There is considerable disagreement.

- Hemp is legal agricultural crop – is regulation a dangerous precedent for Ag. ?
- Grape growers fear negative impact of odors on wine experience.
- Cannabis growers fear cross pollination with cannabis plants rendering their crops unmarketable.
- Law enforcement fears using Hemp to camouflage cannabis.

**4. PG&E Issues Continue -**

- Are there viable alternatives to closing the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant, which forestalls nearly 8 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels every year?
- Do PG&E, any of its possible successors, the CPUC, the incipient State Energy Authority (designed to take over if PG&E collapses), or even the County Planning Department, have any notion of how the 8 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, which are now

forestalled, will be offset once the plant closes? What are the specific sources and amounts of renewables that will forestall the use of natural gas? What is the cost if PG&E has to buy the CO<sub>2</sub> free and renewable energy on the open market in competition with all the community choice aggregators? What happens to our electric rates which are already two times the national average, in this scenario?

c. Hour Glass Project Seeks to Replace Diablo with Priority Industries:

	Technology & Innovation	Energy and Cleantech	Agritech	Aerospace & Defense
Industry Stats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 53% local growth (past 10 years)</li> <li>• \$2.3T US industry</li> <li>• 90% of jobs high-paying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forecasted \$1.3T US value 2020</li> <li>• Cleantech jobs 5x fossil fuels in CA</li> <li>• CA 100% goal to drive more jobs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60%+ Percent of national investment</li> <li>• \$4B regional Ag industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 37% local growth (past 10 years)</li> <li>• \$8.7T global over the next decade</li> </ul>

Big roll out announcing organization expected in March 2020 on this one. Looks like they won't be including oil and gas.

**5. Diablo Power Plant Decommissioning** - Restoration to Original Conditions, 12,000 Acres, \$1.6 billion rate increase for un-accumulated closure costs, No Economic Development?

**6. Smoking and Vaping** - Vaping banned for now in the unincorporated County. Many cities also imposing bans. Bans on smoking expanded in public areas such as parks, campgrounds, any publicly or privately owned place that is opened to the general public, outdoor dining areas, sidewalks, common areas of multi-unit residential buildings etc.,.

**7. Cannabis Legalization** – Health and Social issues beginning to emerge as predicted. States with legalization have about 40% more teen use than those that don't. Teen use in California is up 8% last year.

**8. SLO City Gas Fired Heating and Appliances “Ban”** For New Residential and Commercial Construction still on hold – Fair Political Practices Commission declines to advise City on Vice Mayor Pease's conflict twice.

**9. AB-5 passes** - Attack on Gig Economy requires that independent contract employees be hired as regular employees. The bill is having severe negative impacts on many businesses, services, and jobs.

**10. COLAB Dinner/Fundraiser Thursday March 26, 2020** – Open bar, wine on the tables, dinner, great auction items, UC Berkeley's Conservative in Residence Steve Hayward – report from the belly of the beast. <http://www.colabslo.org/events.asp>

