



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO WEEK OF MARCH 5 - 11, 2017



DINNER & FUNDRAISER

CELEBRATE SUCCESS - REINFORCE REFORM

Thursday, March 30, 2017



Lynn Compton
District 4 Supervisor
San Luis Obispo County



John Peschong
District 1 Supervisor
San Luis Obispo County



Debbie Arnold
District 5 Supervisor
San Luis Obispo County



Jordan Cunningham
Assemblyman
CA 35th Assembly District

Alex Madonna Expo Center, San Luis Obispo

5:15 PM - Social Hour, No Host Cocktails

6:15 PM - Filet Mignon Dinner including Wine

Exciting Auction!

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Reserved seating for tables of 10**

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THIS WEEK

**MILLIONS IN NIPOMO DEVELOPMENT
MITIGATION FEES SENT TO COASTAL AND
MIDDLE COUNTY**

**FIGHT OVER HOW TO PAY FOR
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT BREWING**

**SHORT TERM VACATION RENTALS BEGET
WILLIAMSON ACT PROCEDURE
ADJUSTMENTS & SOME RESTRICTIONS**

**CARBAJAL ANTI-OIL BILL ON AGAIN FOR
FINAL ACTION**

LAST WEEK

BOS ENDORSES CARBAJAL OIL BAN BILL 3/1/0

**DRAFT MARIJUANA REGULATORY ORDINANCE SENT ON
ROAD SHOW & TO PLANNING COMMISSION**

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

(SEE PAGE 14)

OUR AWFUL SACRED CIVIC DUTY

BY MICHAEL F. BROWN

A DAY WITHOUT ESSENTIALS

BY ANDY CALDWELL

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 7, 2017 (Scheduled)

Item 1 - Monthly Drought Report. The reservoirs are coming up. The report speculates on the status of replenishment in the groundwater basins. It states that it could be months before any change could be detected. Since the County has monitoring wells and permission to measure some private wells, why doesn't it check? Perhaps some in the County don't want to report if things are getting better. Permanence of a bad situation empowers the regulatory mentality.

February 26, 2017

Reservoir Levels (% of capacity):

Reservoir	% of Capacity	Current Acre Feet Storage
Nacimiento	83%	313,640
Whale Rock	66%	25,550
Lopez	46%	22,714
Salinas	102%	24,293

Source: www.slocountywater.org County of San Luis Obispo

Reservoir levels as of January 24, 2017:

Reservoir Levels (% of capacity):

Reservoir	% of Capacity	Current Acre Feet Storage
Nacimiento	78%	294,925
Whale Rock	53%	20,655
Lopez	33%	16,407
Salinas	67%	15,980

Source: www.slocountywater.org County of San Luis Obispo

December 21, 2016 Data:

Reservoir Levels (% of capacity):

Reservoir	% of Capacity	Current Acre Feet Storage
Nacimiento	25%	92,900
Whale Rock	32%	12,339
Lopez	22%	11,031
Salinas	9%	2,260

Source: www.slccountywater.org County of San Luis Obispo

Item 13 - Public Facility Financing Plan (PFF). This is a report which was requested by Supervisor Compton after she discovered that public facility fees generated in the south county (primarily Nipomo) were spent outside the area where they were generated. Public facility fees are a type of tax called an exaction, which are levied on new development to offset the capital costs (new fire houses, parks, police stations, libraries, etc.) that are needed as a result of the development. The write-up states in part:

The PFF Program is a financing mechanism by which the County can collect fees to offset the costs associated with providing new public facilities to accommodate new growth and development. County facilities provide services for the benefit of all county residents and employees, which is known as the service population. As the service population increases, so does the demand for County facilities. As developers build new homes and non-residential buildings, the County must provide proportional amounts of facilities to serve this new development if it is to maintain existing standards. The PFF Program is one mechanism to offset the costs of maintaining existing standards as the service population grows

The rates charged are displayed in the table below:

Current Public Facilities Fees*

Facilities	Residential (per dwelling unit)		Non-residential (per 1,000 building square feet)		
	Single Family	Multi- Family	Office	Retail	Industrial
Parks	\$2,303	\$1,753			
Law Enforcement	\$280	\$213	\$378	\$226	\$163
General Govt.	\$533	\$406	\$719	\$432	\$309
Fire	\$1,994** (based on sq ft of 2,210)	\$902** (based on sq ft of 1,000)	\$902	\$902	\$902
Library	\$454	\$345	\$239	\$143	\$103
Subtotal	\$5,564	\$3,619	\$2,238	\$1,703	\$1,477
Admin Fee @2.0%	\$111	\$72	\$45	\$34	\$29
Total	\$5,675	\$3,691	\$2,283	\$1,737	\$1,506

Note that the “fees” are not cheap. Each single family dwelling pays \$5,675. This does not include road fees, school district fees, or sewer and water hookup fees.

1. * Adopted May 12, 2009

It turns out that most of the development in the unincorporated County over the past decade-and-a-half was in Nipomo. Large planned golf communities and subdivisions were approved and constructed.

The tables below illustrate how much funding was generated in each area of the County and how much was expended. For whatever reason the staff provided both a 10-year and a 12-year view. The map below on page 6 lays out the boundaries of the areas. We have lifted the data off the map in the tables because it is too small to be seen on the map when it is reduced to an 11 x 8 standard page.

North County				
	Expenditures		Revenue	
	12 Yr	10 Yr	12 Yr	10 Yr
Gov	\$ 7,337	\$ 7,337	\$ 1,707,639	\$ 1,000,348
Law	\$ 1,490,063	\$ 64,277	\$ 693,768	\$ 525,999
Lib	\$ 2,175,750	\$ 2,175,750	\$ 916,123	\$ 590,808
Parks	\$ 1,155,905	\$ 950,777	\$ 3,164,906	\$ 1,868,932
Fire	\$ 4,444,481	\$ 4,321,222	\$ 3,851,687	\$ 3,048,546
Total	\$ 9.27 M	\$ 7.52 M	\$ 10.33 M	\$ 7.03 M

Carrizo				
	Expenditures		Revenue	
	12 Yr	10 Yr	12 Yr	10 Yr
Gov	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,477	\$ 63,206
Law	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,530	\$ 33,398
Lib	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,456	\$ 26,626
Parks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83,408	\$ 45,878
Fire	\$ 854,626	\$ 514,959	\$ 192,265	\$ 173,541
Total	\$ 0.85 M	\$ 0.51 M	\$ 0.42 M	\$ 0.34 M

South County				
	Expenditures		Revenue	
	12 Yr	10 Yr	12 Yr	10 Yr
Gov	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,372,361	\$ 876,501
Law	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 587,617	\$ 460,561
Lib	\$ 56,050	\$ 56,050	\$ 938,128	\$ 668,841
Parks	\$ 1,964,968	\$ 1,948,055	\$ 3,854,599	\$ 2,500,251
Fire	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,129,437	\$ 3,423,071
Total	\$ 2.02 M	\$ 2.00 M	\$ 10.88 M	\$ 7.93 M

San Luis Obispo				
	Expenditures		Revenue	
	12 Yr	10 Yr	12 Yr	10 Yr
Gov	\$ 5,483,777	\$ 4,476,505	\$ 312,232	\$ 240,694
Law	\$ 402,175	\$ 399,984	\$ 144,722	\$ 126,631
Lib	\$ 45,743	\$ 41,799	\$ 139,451	\$ 104,623
Parks	\$ 1,888,998	\$ 823,000	\$ 343,055	\$ 181,656
Fire	\$ 1,832,242	\$ 489,311	\$ 763,881	\$ 660,379
Total	\$ 9.65 M	\$ 6.23 M	\$ 1.70 M	\$ 1.31 M

Coastal Zone				
	Expenditures		Revenue	
	12 Yr	10 Yr	12 Yr	10 Yr
Gov	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 362,488	\$ 245,481
Law	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,843	\$ 129,077
Lib	\$ 2,067,800	\$ 2,039,800	\$ 174,099	\$ 128,732
Parks	\$ 4,671,833	\$ 3,240,634	\$ 609,043	\$ 434,623
Fire	\$ 1,458,681	\$ 933,031	\$ 930,402	\$ 765,786
Total	\$ 8.20 M	\$ 6.21 M	\$ 2.23 M	\$ 1.70 M

As noted in the tables, the South County, primarily Nipomo, generated almost \$11 million. But only \$2.2 was expended in the South County area. In fact, \$8.2 million was expended in the Coastal Zone, which is approximately congruent with Supervisor Bruce

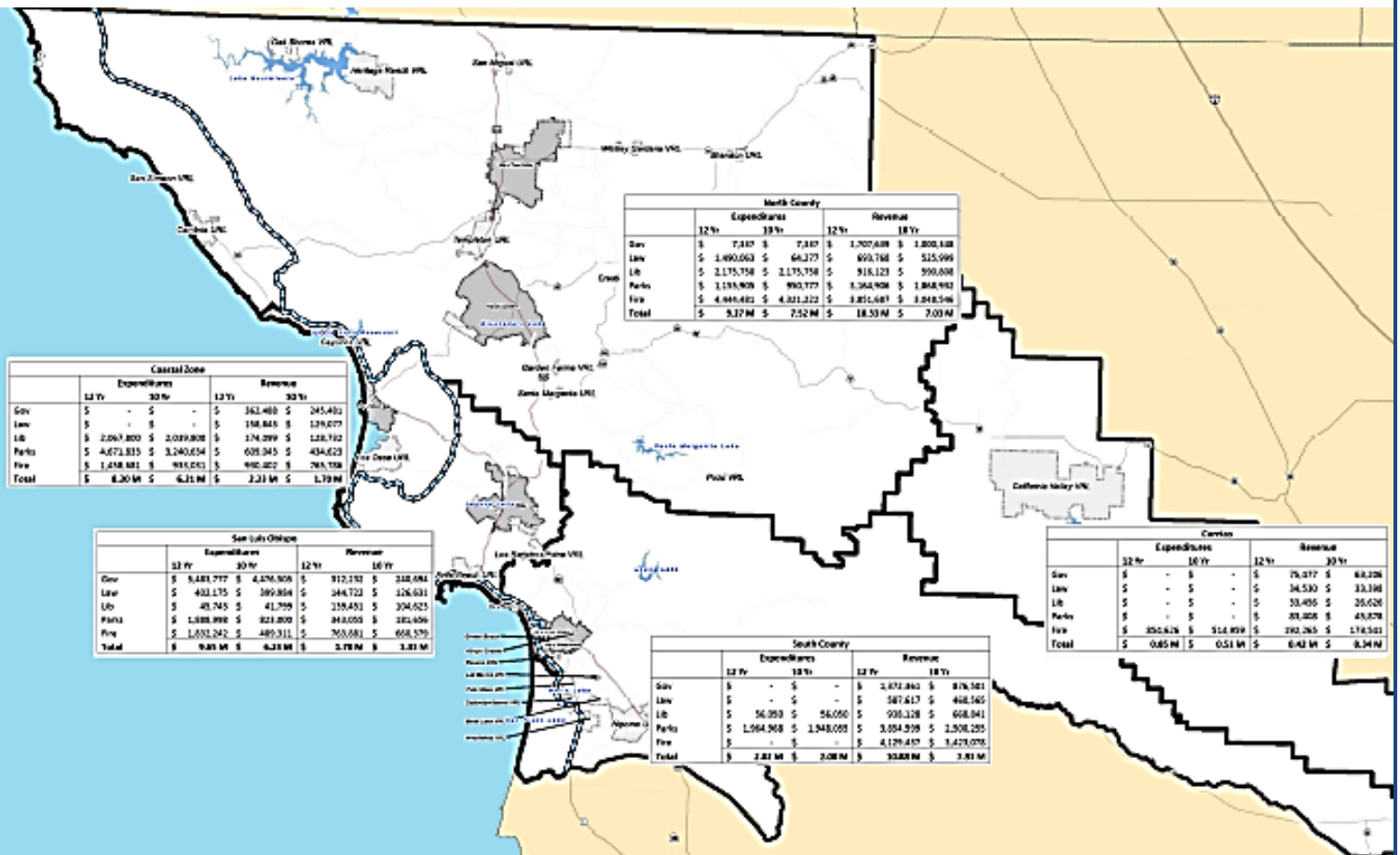
Gibson's 2nd district. Similarly, the San Luis Obispo area generated \$1.7 million but received \$9.6 million. The SLO Area generally corresponds with Supervisor Hill's District. It would appear that a significant amount of the expenditures in the SLO area were applied to the County Administration Building.

Compton is asking for reparations but is being blown off. Of course there is very little money being generated at this point because the County has used the drought to justify water and development moratoriums just about everywhere. Compton is being told by the staff – and by

some of her colleagues – so sorry, you lose. In fact, Administrative staff and County Counsel are bending over backwards to defend the situation. As the staff report says:

The funds in each public service category can be used for any given project countywide within the public service category in which it was collected. This practice is consistent with the way that fees have been historically allocated. The intent behind the method is that County facilities provide services for the benefit of all county residents and employees, and as such, the collected fees can be expended under broad discretion of the Board and used for a wide variety of projects to benefit the public. Due to the long-term nature of the PFF Program, projects are often unknown until new development occurs and new public facility needs are created. This method allows enough funds to be collected over time to implement and fund complete projects as the need arises. If funds were not allocated county-wide, it is uncertain whether enough funds would be collected to execute specific projects.

Why then did the County set up the idea of geographic zones in which to calculate development impacts in the first place? Voters in the 4th District should remember this in 18 months, when Compton is up for re-election and Hill and Gibson come around endorsing her opponent. Whoever that may be will side with them and if elected, will stick it to the Nipomo residents for another 12 years.



Item 18 - State Groundwater Management Act (Update). This is an extensive report on the status of ongoing and future work to comply with the state-required creation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in various parts of the County, pursuant to the State Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The major questions are:

- a. How will the County manage those areas in the unincorporated County which are not part of a city, community services district, water district or other entities that will function as separate GSAs?
- b. What will the cost each year be for the County to manage those areas?
- c. How will the County fund those costs?
- d. How will the County handle the rights and the regulation of the 700 or so property owners representing 20,000 acres in the Paso Basin who are in the quiet title/adjudication process?

A complex portion of the issue is the financing. There is likely to be significant disagreement. Supervisors Gibson and Hill believe that the property owners in the unincorporated areas who are not part of an existing or new water district or city or special district GSA should be required to be subject to a vote to raise the money for the portion of the cost attributable to their areas. Supervisor Arnold has been adamant that the existing dependent County Water District pay for the costs (at least in the early years for planning), since the people are already being taxed. Arnold points out that the County spent around \$1 million designing and promoting the proposed Paso Basin AB 2453 Water District in 2014 and 15, which was being pushed by Hill and Gibson. That district was overwhelmingly rejected by the voters by almost 80%.

It is not known where Supervisors Peschong and Compton stand on the issue. Public Works has been projecting the costs, which could still be fairly substantial, even after the formation of several new water districts as GSAs.

The table below displays one version of the estimated costs. The reference to white areas means those areas that are not in an existing or proposed water district, city, or special district, which are preparing their own groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs).

The numbers in the yellow shaded columns are the ones which Hill and Gibson insist should be funded by new taxes. Additionally, they insist that if voters in those areas reject a new tax, the State should take over and charge them fees for planning and managing their part of the variously basins.

ATTACHMENT A

TABLE 1A: Summary of Costs Across "White Areas" of Unincorporated Parts of Basins

Revised on 2/24/2017

This table summarizes the calculations from the following Table 1B and provides basin-by-basin estimates of the distribution of costs to develop and begin implementation of GSPs in the "white areas". "White areas" is a map reference to areas not within an existing or proposed water management entity other than the County itself. The left side of the table summarizes total costs for the GSP Development Phase (first 3 - 5 years), the right side shows the same costs on an annualized basis.

"WHITE AREAS" OF UNINCORPORATED AREA SGMA FUNDING SCENARIO
 Annualized Cost in "White Areas" of Unincorporated Parts of Basin

BASIN	GSP Development Phase Cost (1)(2)	Flood Control District Funding	Funding Provided by Other Entities (2)	Cost to "White Areas" of Unincorporated Parts of Basin	GSP Development Phase			Transition to Implementation		
					FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022 and beyond
Cuyama Basin	3,217,615	1,090,000	1,914,854	212,762	70,921	70,921	70,921	100,000	100,000	100,000
Los Osos Basin	3,217,615	840,000	0	2,377,615	792,538	792,538	792,538	250,000	250,000	250,000
Paso Robles Basin	2,245,000	1,040,000	819,400	385,600	128,533	128,533	128,533	320,000	320,000	320,000
SLO Basin	3,217,615	900,000	1,506,450	811,165	162,233	162,233	162,233	162,233	162,233	350,000
Santa Maria Basin	3,217,615	900,000	0	2,317,615	463,523	463,523	463,523	463,523	463,523	250,000
Atascadero Basin	1,215,000	615,000	588,000	12,000	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	5,000
Totals	\$16,330,460	\$5,385,000	\$4,828,703	\$6,116,757	\$1,620,148	\$1,620,148	\$1,620,148	\$1,298,156	\$1,298,156	\$1,275,000

(1) Estimates for Paso, Atascadero, and SLO have been refined by working groups. SLO refinements have been applied to Los Osos, Santa Maria and Cuyama.
 (2) Estimates do not include partner agencies in-kind services. Costs would increase if partner agencies reduce contribution, and/or if number of anticipated partner agencies decreases.

There are many other issues embedded in the item, but the dispute on this issue is likely to be the main focus.

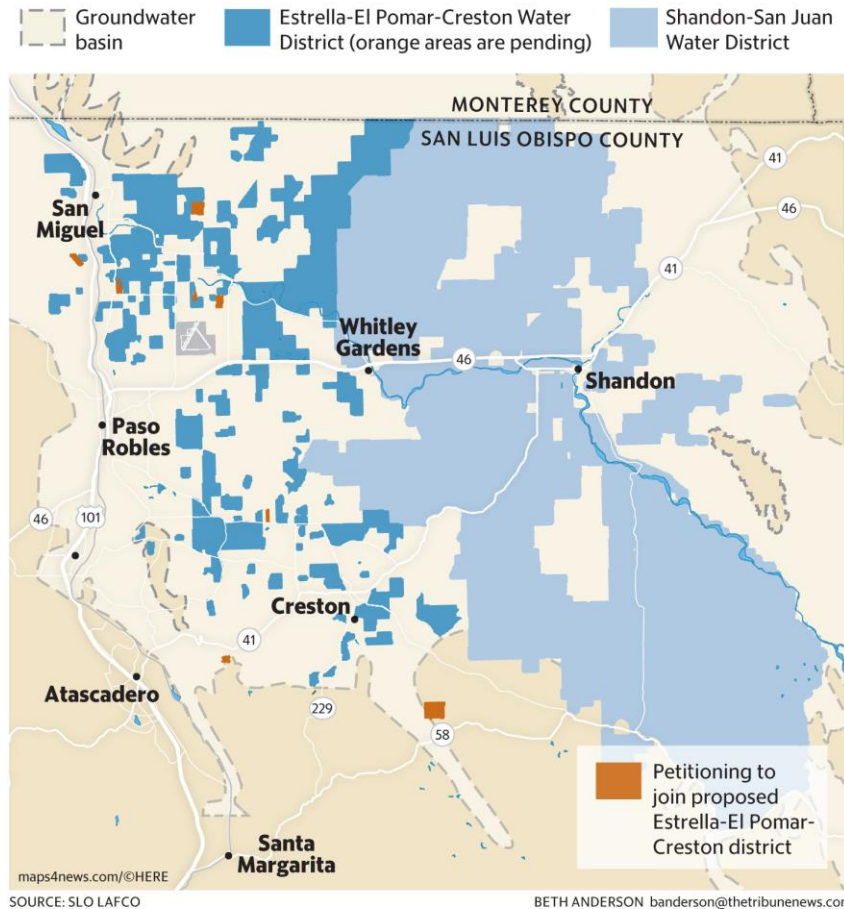
There were maps accompanying the item, but they do not show the so-called white areas. For the Paso Basin, we do have the LAFCO map, which provides an approximation. That map is displayed below. Thus for the areas shown in gray, the County would function as the GSA. Will the residents be required to pay a new tax?

The full report and attachments can be seen at the link:

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/7114/SXRIbSBEb2N1bWVudCAoUHVibGijKSA=/14/n/74453.doc>

North County water districts take shape

Property owners in the Paso Robles groundwater basin are joining to create their own water districts. The two new districts likely will include only a fraction of landowners in the basin but would provide oversight for a sizable chunk of the region. In the east, Shandon-San Juan would cover 144,000 acres and 66 larger landowners, nearly 25 percent of the basin. Estrella-El Pomar-Creston would oversee 45,000 acres and at least 190 smaller landowners, about 8 percent of the basin. Together, the two districts would cover about 33 percent of the water source.



Item 19 - Short Term Vacation Rentals on Williamson Act Contracted Lands. The County, at the request of area residents, extended the short term vacation (STR) rental ordinance to the Adelaida area. Staff is working on extending it to the entire inland County. This in turn raised the issue of compatibility of STRs with the Williamson Act (land contracted to remain as an agricultural use). The County staff has examined the County Procedures Resolution pertaining to the Act and recommends some changes to insure compliance. Technically the action adds short term vacation rentals to the list of uses deemed compatible with Williamson Act contracted land.

<u>USE GROUP</u>	<u>INLAND</u>	<u>COASTAL ZONE</u>	
	<u>AREA</u>	<u>PRIME SOILS</u>	<u>NON-PRIME SOILS</u>
<u>TRANSIENT LODGINGS</u>			
Bed & Breakfast Facilities	<u>Yes/Note 9</u>	No	<u>Yes/Note 9</u>
Homestays	No	No	No
Hotels & Motels	No	No	No
Recreational Vehicle Parks	No	No	No
<u>Residential Vacation Rentals</u>	<u>Yes/Note 13</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes/Note 13</u>
Temporary Construction			
Trailer Parks	Yes	No	No

Various conditions and restrictions are also imposed.

13. Residential Vacation Rentals are allowed on properties subject to land conservation contracts in existing permitted residences if the criteria listed below can be met. In the Inland area residential Vacation Rentals are subject to Title 22 and are processed as a Zoning Clearance. In the Coastal Zone Residential Vacation Rentals are subject to Title 23 and are processed as Minor Use Permit/Coastal Development Permits. (Including TOT and business license.)
- a) Properties must be in compliance with the provisions of their contracts (when entered into) and have current and ongoing agricultural use as required by the Williamson Act.
 - b) Residential Vacation Rentals must have an on-site resident manager (or other designated manager), be incidental to and in support of the primary agricultural enterprise and be consistent with the 3 Principles of Compatibility in the Williamson Act [Government Code Section 51238.1.(a) through (c)].
 - c) One Residential Vacation Rental is allowed per land conservation contract. A Residential Vacation Rental is not allowed in addition to a Bed and Breakfast (one or the other but not both). Farm Support Quarters cannot be used for Residential Vacation Rentals.
 - d) Guest occupancy (including private parties) is limited to a maximum of 12 overnight guests with the total day time guests and visitors not to exceed 18 people, excluding children under 5 years of age. Properties with a single residence are limited to 120 days of transient occupancy and no more than 4 tenancies per month. Properties with two or more residences (one vacation rental) are allowed no more than 4 tenancies per month.
 - e) Temporary events are not allowed unless authorized under the appropriate land use permit as required by the respective Land Use Ordinance (Title 22 or Title 23).

Item b seems unreasonable. What is the role of the on-site manger in protecting the primary agricultural operation from the weekend renters? Do they think the couple from LA is going to go out to disturb the cows or what?

Item 20 - Carbajal Bill. The proposal to send a letter to Congress supporting Representative Carbajal's Bill banning oil development along the entire west coast was approved 3/1/0 (Compton, Gibson, and Hill in favor; Arnold opposed; and Peschong recused) last week after some debate. It is back this week because some language about prior anti-oil policies of the County is to be added. Thus there will be another vote.

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke

Secretary of the Interior

United State Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, N.W. Washington DC 20240

RE: Offshore Oil and Gas leasing- California Outer Continental Shelf

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The County has a substantial history of involvement and opposition to leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for oil and gas development. Major issues involve potential adverse impacts to the land and marine environment, air quality, economic impacts on commercial and recreational fishing, oil spill impacts and tourism. These concerns are reflected in a number of adopted County plans and policies including the Local Coastal Program and the County Offshore Energy Element.

There are no current oil and gas exploration or extraction facilities directly offshore the coast of San Luis Obispo County. However, our county has had a front row seat on the issues and activities associated with off shore oil experienced by our neighbor to the south- Santa Barbara County. While San Luis Obispo County has never had to grapple with a major off shore oil disaster, such as the oil spill that occurred in 2015 north of Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County, we have had extensive experience dealing with the calamitous aftermath of oil company negligence and equipment failure resulting in the massive clean-ups of the Guadalupe Dunes Oil Field and the town of Avila Beach.

It is important to note that in 1986, a voter initiative, "Measure A," was approved by the voters of San Luis Obispo County and is now a part of the County's Local Coastal Program. Measure A requires that any permit or authorization allowing the development or establishment of any support facility for off shore oil and gas activity, must be approved by a majority of voters at a special or general election. The passage of Measure A in 1986 and subsequent denial by the voters of an application by Shell Oil was an excellent gauge by which to judge the concerns and will of the citizens of San Luis Obispo County, and those concerns run just as strongly today.

While improvements have been made in offshore drilling technology and oil transport and delivery, substantial risks and these risks far outweigh the potential benefits.

A substantial portion of the economy of San Luis Obispo County relies on tourism. These tourism dollars reflect visitors enjoying the beaches, natural scenic beauty and natural resources that

exemplify San Luis Obispo County. In addition, survey after survey of the residents of San Luis Obispo County place the "quality of life" and the "environment" as some of the top reasons for living in this area. The effects of off shore oil exploration and extraction would create a grave risk to these resources and further threaten commercial and recreational fishing off the coast and the overall quality of life for our citizens.

The County of San Luis Obispo is opposed to any expansion of oil and gas exploration or extraction off our coastline.

We recognize the challenge facing the nation and the world in addressing global climate change and reducing our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels. This is why we are supportive of a comprehensive energy plan that includes development of clean renewable energy in an environmentally balanced manner.

San Luis Obispo County looks forward to working with the Department of the Interior in their development of an offshore energy plan that provides for needed energy while ensuring protection of our important natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this significant issue.

Sincerely,

ADAM HILL

Vice -Chair, Board of Supervisors

c - Honorable Dianne Feinstein

Honorable Kamala Harris

Honorable Salud Carbajal

County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors

Dan Buckshi, San Luis Obispo County Administrative Officer

Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group

Paul Yoder and Karen Lange, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 9, 2017 (Scheduled)

There do not appear to any major policy items on this agenda.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, February 28, 2017 (Completed)

Item 7 - Fiscal Year 2016-17 Second Quarter Financial Report. The Board received the Report on the Consent Agenda. There was no discussion, and no questions were asked. There was nothing of particular note. Staff expects the County to finish the year within legal budget appropriations.

Item 25 - County Federal Legislative Program Update/Carbajal Offshore Oil Ban. The County's Washington lobbyist (Ferguson Group, LLC) presented an update on the County's requests for Federal funding assistance in a number of areas. The write-up suggested, somewhat euphemistically, that nothing much was achieved. Concurrently, on a vote of 3/1/0, the Board approved sending a letter of support to Congress endorsing Congressman Carbajal's first submitted piece of legislation (HR 731), which would permanently ban offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of California. Supervisors Compton, Gibson, and Hill voted for the ban. Supervisor Arnold voted against it. Supervisor Peschong recused himself because his company had represented oil companies in the past. The matter is actually to be on this week's agenda again (see item 20 above) because there were some language additions proposed which required re-notice.

The key text in the Bill states:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other law and except as provided in paragraph (2), beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, the conduct of oil and gas preleasing, leasing, and related activities is prohibited in areas of the outer Continental Shelf located off the coast of the State of California.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection affects any rights under leases issued under this Act before the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

○

Item 45 - Marijuana. The Board heard an extensive report on a draft proposed 33-page ordinance for the regulation of marijuana. As a result of the legalization of marijuana per the voter approval of State Proposition 64 last November, the County may determine to what degree it wishes to regulate the cultivation, refining, transportation, storage, and sale.

Many people involved in the marijuana industry were in the audience. Speakers pled for the elimination of some arbitrary limitations, including one which would limit the total number of marijuana farming locations in the County to 100 at any time. There are probably 500 in existence today, of which perhaps 430 have registered under the interim ordinance. How will it be decided who actually receives a permit?

Similarly, the actual square footage of a particular farm is limited to 500 sq. feet - 22,000 sq. feet, depending on whether operation is indoors or outdoors and its location. There are already some operations with 8 acres (320,000 sq. feet.) of plants within a single greenhouse. What happens to these existing businesses, which became legal under the medicinal marijuana law?

Interestingly, there were no speakers protesting the growing of marijuana or any aspect of the expanding industry.

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

OUR AWFUL SACRED CIVIC DUTY

BY MICHAEL F. BROWN

The Democratic Party's alternative left regressive movement is suffering Tea Party envy. Democrats, the mainstream media, self-styled Hollywood pundits, academics, and legacy baby "smart set" sophisticates from West Hampton Beach to Westwood demonize Tea Partiers as hick and toothless uninformed reactionaries or worse. Nevertheless, and after the Democratic Party's electoral debacle, they are now attempting to replicate the grass roots Tea Party phenomenon on a huge scale nationally and locally.

Unlike the Tea Party, which is truly local and bottom up, the alternate left's massive organizing effort is a well-financed top down attempt to incite its base to resist and ultimately overthrow Donald Trump, the Republican Congress, and Republican majorities in both chambers of 32 statehouses. But this assault goes way beyond partisan politics. It's a profound attempt at a strategic counter stroke by the enviro-socialist movement on the middle class, the dream of home ownership, the cohesive intergenerational family, and our heritage.

The stakes are much higher than short-term shallow partisan dominance. It is instead an epochal struggle for the very survival of America and civilization. Deceptively cloaked in the rhetoric of

catastrophic global warming, radical identity politics, political correctness, and promises of “free” health care, college, and retirement, the alternate left seeks to undermine human progress of the last half of a millennium. Its anti-historical end game would submerge society in the tyranny of an oppressive high tech neo-medievalism without private property, individual freedom, intellectual progress, or personal security.

To this end, an alliance of leftist tax exempt foundations, unaccountable and untouchable permanent government bureaucrats, arrogant academics, a corrupt and ideological media, and oligarchical public employee unions underwrite the deceptive agitators posing as a grass roots movement which ultimately seeks to overthrow the results of recent elections and advance the cruel empire of freedom’s despisers.

Organizations such as 350.org, Indivisible, Cause, SLOSENSE, and SLO Progressives are recruiting swarms of followers to show up and disrupt conservative officials’ district town halls, office hours, and other events. It turns out that California State Assembly members are targets. Last week a reported 130 people showed up at a Meet and Greet held by recently elected State Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham. The dominant group was a local cell of Indivisible, a national front designed to intimidate conservative congressmen and apparently other officials.

Similarly, 350.Org attempted to outlaw the oil industry from Santa Barbara County by means of a huge organizing effort combined with a ballot initiative two years ago. Indivisible, which was ostensibly founded by 4 former Congressional aides, operates a sophisticated national and obviously well-funded website offering tips to local leftists on how to organize people and groups, distribute propaganda, train leaders and followers, and carry out a wide range of other tactics.

It even has a comprehensive manual, “A Practical Guide For Resisting the Trump Agenda,” which can be downloaded and distributed to adherents. The overall strategy in the guide is openly copied from the work of the Tea Party. The picture to the right is from an anti-Tea Party site designed to discredit the movement. Why would the radical left, which supposedly supports openness and acceptance of all people, notwithstanding their appearance and beliefs, disparage the amiable looking grandma in the picture?



Ok, she’s not a thin Hamptons or Hollywood chic tofu eating fashionista with an unlimited Nordies charge account.

Contradictorily, while the authors of the Guide demonize the purpose of the Tea Party, they give it great credit for effectiveness. The Guide states:

The Tea Party started as an organic movement built on small local groups of dedicated conservatives. Yes, they received some support/coordination from above, but fundamentally all the hubbub was caused by a relatively small number of conservatives working together.

And:

Groups were relatively few in number. The Tea Party was not hundreds of thousands of people spending every waking hour focused on advocacy. Rather, the efforts were somewhat modest. Only 1 in 5 self-identified Tea Partiers contributed money or attended events. On any given day in 2009 or 2010, only twenty local events — meetings, trainings, town halls, etc. — were scheduled nationwide. In short, a relatively small number of groups were having a big impact on the national debate.

Sample tactics in the Guide include the following:

For the next two years, Donald Trump and congressional Republicans will control the federal government. But they will depend on just about every MoC (Member of Congress) to actually get laws passed. And those MoCs care much more about getting reelected than they care about any specific issue. By adopting a defensive strategy that pressures MoCs, we can achieve the following goals:

- Stall the Trump agenda by forcing them to redirect energy away from their priorities. Congressional offices have limited time and limited people. A day that they spend worrying about you is a day that they're not ending Medicare, privatizing public schools, or preparing a Muslim registry.*
- Sap Representatives' will to support or drive reactionary change. If you do this right, you will have an outsized impact. Every time your MoC signs on to a bill, takes a position, or makes a statement, a little part of his or her mind will be thinking: "How am I going to explain this to the angry constituents who keep showing up at my events and demanding answers?"*
- Reaffirm the illegitimacy of the Trump agenda. The hard truth is that Trump, McConnell, and Ryan will have the votes to cause some damage. But by objecting as loudly and powerfully as possible, and by centering the voices of those who are most affected by their agenda, you can ensure that people understand exactly how bad these laws are from the very start—priming the ground for the 2018 midterms and their repeal when Democrats retake power .*

Significantly, the national Indivisible Website also provides links to affiliated groups in local areas in a national on line directory. For SLO County and nearby areas, it lists the local groups below as supporters and resources:

- TWW-MB Huddle (Indivisibles)
- Lonely Liberals Indivisible of SLO County
- Together We Will - Cambria
- Democratic Club of Santa Maria Valley (CA)
- SLO County Progressives
- Together We Will SLO
- Indivisible Lompoc
- North SLO County Progressives
- Atascadero Democratic Club
- Rapid Response Team, SLO

- Together We Will - 5 Cities
- Lompoc Young Progressives AKA Dumbledore's Army
- Huddle Up-Morro Bay
- IndivisibleSLO
- reSISTERS
- Peace Alliance Action Team of San Luis Obispo, CA
- Indivisible Arroyo Grande

Does membership in the Lonely Liberals Indivisible of SLO County get you to the latest protest march and provide a date too? The Farmers Only dating service better watch out.

The full Indivisible Website can be accessed the link: <https://www.indivisibleguide.com/web>

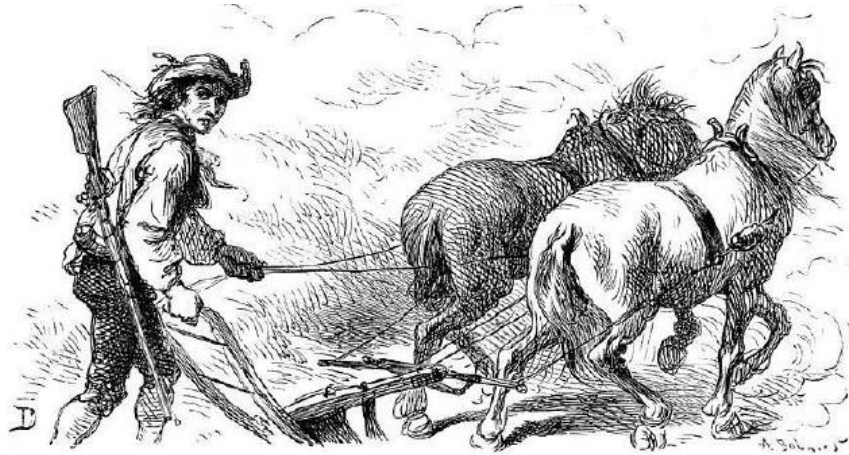
Obviously, Indivisible and its offshoots are not going to bother our two US Senators or Congressman Carbajal. In fact “The Salud” as he used to be known around the Santa Barbara County headquarters, is a loyal protégé of Santa Barbara County’s powerful and dominant south county Democratic machine. Instead they will be coming after Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, conservative members of the Board of Supervisors, (and especially Lynn Compton, who is up for re-election in 2018), and anyone who has the effrontery to run against Bruce Gibson. Of course and as promised, they will be attacking specific policies of the Trump administration as they are rolled out. Expect specific force plays such as the current run down of Supervisor Compton to support Carbajal’s meaningless and futile anti-off shore oil Bill.

All this in turn raises the question of growing and sustaining support for the officials we elected and the polices which we have entrusted to them. The fact we voted, donated, or campaigned does not mean that our work is over. As noted in this article, large militant groups have formed to challenge and distract our officials at every opportunity.

If all our friends and supporters could spend a few hours each month attending an event, speaking at a crucial hearing, sending a letter to the editor, or reinforcing one of our officials at a town hall, we could do much to counter the coming onslaught. Would we give up one night of TV, one round of golf, a day of vacation, or one luncheon?

Instead would we attend a session of the Board of Supervisors on a crucial vote? Would we attend Assemblyman Cunningham’s next Meet and Greet? Would we even march? Would we be flexible and drop what we are doing at a moment’s notice to do more important work? The answer to these questions will have huge bearing on the future. Our awful sacred civic duty never ends.

On the other hand, they can’t hang you for trying..... yet.



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 4 states including California. He can be reached at mike@colabslo.org. This article first appeared in the Cal Coast News of March 3, 2017.

A Day Without Essentials

By Andy Caldwell

Last week, we witnessed “a day without immigrants” protest. I often wonder, why doesn’t the American business community employ the same tactic to impress the populace and the politicians with their power and contributions to society? How about a day without a job, fuel, or food? Or, a day without the generation of business taxes that pay to keep schools open and welfare payments coming?

California consistently ranks as the worst state for business climate in the nation. This has to do with the cost of regulations, taxes, litigation, and workers’ compensation, land costs, etc. Businesses, in order to cope, hire lobbyists and lawyers to no avail. Some businesses have moved their operations out of the state or out of America altogether, while others simply go belly up. Perhaps a protest would help the business community make their voice heard?

I recall a time when California truckers pulled their trucks onto freeway on and off ramps, parked their rigs, and walked away. They brought Southern California to a standstill and within days, the CA legislature backed off of a cost increase imposed on truckers. In addition to the ability to blockade our free-ways, what most consumers don’t realize is that 90% of the goods in America are delivered by trucks, including every ounce of gasoline delivered to local stations.

If truckers went on strike to protest what is known as the diesel engine rule, our economy would shut down overnight. The diesel engine rule is a California replace their engines twice in the next decade; a frivolous waste of money. The rule applies to farm tractors and construction equipment engines too. It is going to cost billions.

Now, can you imagine if the oil refineries in the state would shut down for a week? Perhaps California being the most car-centric society in the world would realize that they don't hate fossil fuels as much as they think they do! The oil industry is under attack from so many directions it is hard to believe any of the refineries would want to do business here anyway. Drilling operations are being hindered both on and off shore due to various machinations primarily having to do with faux air and water quality concerns. Rail tankering operations are being stalled due to overwrought concerns of explosion hazards. The biggest cost-driver is, of course, greenhouse gas regulations that are taxing the bejesus out of the industry. Of course, the clueless consumers in our state blame the greedy oil companies for the high cost of gas but it is the politicians and activists who are to blame.

Finally, California farmers grow 25% of our nation's food supply. They are being over-regulated regarding pesticides, herbicides, and they are getting it coming and going with regard to water quality and water availability issues, priced out of the market place due to minimum wage hikes, and they are suffering from a severe labor shortage. Heaven help us when they have finally had enough regulatory and confiscatory abuse!

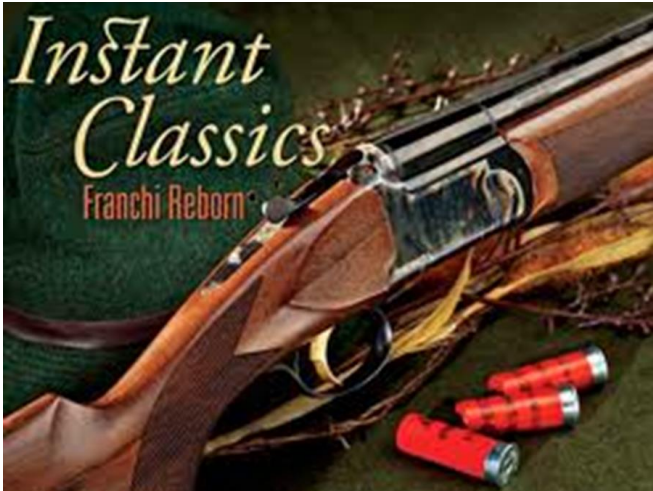
First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press



ANNOUNCEMENTS

	COLAB <small>San Luis Obispo County</small>		DINNER & FUNDRAISER
			Alex Madonna Expo Center, San Luis Obispo
	Thursday, March 30, 2017		For more information call: (805) 548-0340 or email to COLABSLO@gmail.com

**BID ON FABULOUS SPORTING EQUIPMENT AT COLAB'S EXCITING THURSDAY
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WHERE: *Once Your Application is approved, you will receive a map with directions to our location.*

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AGSC

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(Revised 2/2017)