



**COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO  
WEEK OF OCTOBER 22 - 28, 2017**

**THIS WEEK**

**NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**LAST WEEK**

**GIBSON/HILL LABEL ARNOLD/COMPTON AS  
REALITY DENIALISTS  
(A NEW CASTE OF PROGRESSIVE VILIFICATION VICTIMS)**

**LONG MARIJUANA SLOG CONTINUES  
(NEXT SESSION ON NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>)**

**COUNTY GREENHOUSE GAS GOALS AND  
RESTRICTIONS TO BE AMPED UP**

**OCEANO NEIGHBORHOOD TO BE SUBJECTED  
TO ENERGY MANIPULATION SCHEME**

**NEW HIGHWAY 227 DEVELOPMENT FEE ZONE  
APPROVED  
(YOU CAN TRY TO NEGOTIATE YOUR FEE BUT THE COUNTY  
HOLDS THE HAMMER)**

# **LAFCO PROCEEDINGS EXPOSE INEVITABLE DEFICITS**

## **SLO COLAB IN DEPTH**

**(SEE PAGE 13)**

## **AN EPITAPH FOR SOCIALIZED ENERGY**

**By Andy Caldwell**

## **CLIMATE SCIENCE FACTS & CONCLUSIONS**

**By Richard Auhll**

## **THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

### **No Board of Supervisors Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2017 (Not Scheduled)**

No meeting was scheduled as the 24<sup>th</sup> is a 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Most Boards of Supervisors do not schedule meetings on 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, and more and more are not scheduling 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays when possible.

### **Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, October 26, 2017 (Scheduled)**

**Item 5 - Hearing to consider a request by Monarch Dunes, LLC for a Conditional Use Permit to develop Phase 2B of the Woodlands Village (Tract 2341), including 163 single-family residential units, site development including tract improvements (roads, utilities, water storage tanks, sewer treatment plant upgrade, grading and drainage), and project features including 45 acres of vineyards, site landscaping, parks and trails, and walls and**

fencing. Phase 2B is located in the southwestern quadrant of the Woodlands Village between Mesa Road and Eucalyptus Road, approximately 2 miles west of the community of Nipomo. The project is a scheduled phase of the Woodlands Specific Plan approved in 1998. Opponents are concerned that there will be insufficient water due to the potential of recurring drought. The Planning staff recommends approval. The new residents may become additional dunes recreation opponents.



## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

### GIBSON AND HILL LABEL ARNOLD AND COMPTON “OBJECTIVE REALITY” DENIALISTS



Actually “objective reality” is usually defined by the doctrinaire progressive left politicians, in general, and Hill and Gibson in particular, as whatever they want it to be. It turns out, however, that objective reality, sometimes known as objectivism, is a subject studied in university philosophy programs. One summary on the subject states:

*The phrase "objective reality" means that reality exists independent of our minds. The description "objective" doesn't make a lot of sense on its own, but it does in comparison to the competing theory of the relationship between consciousness and existence.*

Dr. Gibson  
Interprets Science.

This stuff looks pretty deep. Although a few hits from the bong or some Cuesta Quintessence Marijuana Lemon Chews might help, something more potent and mind expanding might be required.

The fact that Arnold doesn't support establishment of marijuana dispensaries or wants to use some general fund money for groundwater planning doesn't mean that she is somehow detached from any understanding of the currently known structure of the universe or even California Valley for that matter. Similarly the fact that Compton cites concern of her constituents over marijuana odors from a commercial grow as a reason to ban or limit grows in residential areas of the Huasna Valley does not make her some sort of reality denialist.

The Gibson/ Hill mantra is that growing , processing, and selling marijuana is now a legal activity and everyone better get on the bus or else. If they don't, they will be personally and politically pilloried as opponents of democracy and promoters of unreasonable regulation. "Marijuana smell good – greenhouse gas bad."

Of course Hill and Gibson's sudden laissez-faire regulatory epiphany will make inquiring minds wonder what "objective realities" are stimulating their passion.

The marijuana growers, processors, and retailers may want to consider whether the aggressive personal attacks by their Board supporters on two very decent family-oriented women (who are not long term political hacks) will do them any good in the long run. No doubt Hill and Gibson were counseled by expert lobbyists during the interval between Tuesday's meeting and Friday's meeting in this regard, as they were on somewhat restrained behavior (for them) during the Friday session.

### Special Board of Supervisors Meeting of Friday, October 20, 2017 (Completed)

**Schedule Background:** This was a continuation of the item, which was first heard during the October 3, 2017 meeting and subsequently continued to October 17<sup>th</sup>. After 3.5 hours of acrimonious debate on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Board determined to continue the item to a special Board meeting on Friday, October 20, 2017. The outcome of that meeting is reported below.

The Board Rules of Procedure require that the Board unanimously vote Yes on a motion to continue the meeting past 5:00 PM. This is done routinely in order to complete a particular day's agenda. In this instance Hill voted against going past 5 o'clock because preliminary (straw votes) on various components of the ordinance were not to his liking.

After some debate, it was determined to continue the meeting to Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Action During the October 20 Meeting:** Most of the meeting (9:00 AM-5:30 PM) was taken up with the Supervisors going through various parts of the proposed ordinance voting (straw votes) on potential changes in the text up or down.

The meeting was continued to Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, for further deliberation and potential votes on adoption.

In general, the Board majority (Arnold, Compton, and Peschong) are for a more restrictive structure of regulation than Gibson and Hill, who seem to be downright advocates. Sample issues include:

- Number of outdoor grows – the proposed 50 total limit was raised to 144 commercial and 134 (murky estimate) medicinal.
- Elimination of the allocation of number of allowed grows by County Planning Area.
- The prior allocation is displayed below. The current version does not include these restrictions.

[North County 30](#)

[San Luis Obispo 3](#)

[South County 11](#)

[Coastal Planning Areas \(combined\) 7 - \(Estero, North Coast, San Luis Bay-Coastal, and South County-Coastal\)](#)

[Carrizo Prohibited](#)

- Edibles will be allowed but cannot be produced, packaged, or sold in the form of an animal, person, or fruit.
- Dispensaries are still prohibited but there is huge pressure from the industry to permit these.

Industry reps (growers, dispensaries operators, suppliers, and their lobbyists and attorneys) are not happy with the Board majority positions.

The general public, except for 2 or 3 speakers, does not appear to be engaged on the issue.

**Action During the October 17 Meeting:** At that time the Board received a staff report on the Planning Commission's recommendations for permitting and regulating marijuana pursuant to its legalization by the voters through Proposition 64. Most of the 4-hour session was consumed by public speakers objecting to the limitations contained in the proposed ordinance.

As predicted, most of the objections were related to the limitation on the number of outdoor grows to only 50 countywide. There were many nuanced comments pertaining to various details.

**Background/The overarching policy questions:**

1. If marijuana is not problematical from health, mental health, and other societal impacts, which seems to be the general consensus, why do the number of grows, processing facilities, and retail outlets need to be limited and strictly regulated? This is not the case for wine, beer, tobacco, or cardiac-endangering sugary soft drinks.

2. Should the County Board consider the tax and revenue potentials at different scales of industry size before determining the size through its regulations? In other words, at this point neither the public nor presumably the Board has any idea what potential tax revenue might be generated. Absent some modeling of this issue, would the Board be locking itself into limits by adopting a very restrictive scheme of regulation? As we know, undoing land use regulations is very difficult because they set a CEQA baseline, which in turn requires extensive mitigations for future expansion. Suppose the Board adopts a limited industry policy and everything goes fine. Further suppose that later this Board or a future board determines to reduce restrictions and allow a more expansive industry. Will it be blocked by a list of Class I unmitigated impacts?

On the other hand, what if the wide use of recreational marijuana has negative impacts on cognitive development, motivation, mental acuity, ambition, educational attainment, and public safety? Certainly most of us have had friends or family members whose quality of life became severely disrupted by the frequent use of marijuana. One only need walk through certain areas in San Francisco (particularly the Civic Center and South of Market), Berkeley (particularly both Telegraph Avenue and the downtown, and Santa Monica (particularly both the downtown and Palisades Park). All 3 communities, in effect, provide a forecast of the impact of widespread adult use of marijuana because they de facto legalized its use years ago by ordering their police departments to treat marijuana possession, use, and sales as their lowest priority.

**Summary Provisions:** Accordingly, the summary of the key measures, by means not all, contains the following provisions for the Board's consideration:

**Zoning:** Cannabis cultivation would be limited to the Agriculture (AG), Rural Lands (RL), Residential Rural (RR), and Industrial (IND) land use categories with a land use permit in each case and as may further be restricted.

**Indoor cultivation:** There would be no limit to the number of permitted indoor cannabis cultivation operations that may be permitted within the unincorporated area of the County at any one time.

**Outdoor cultivation:** No more than fifty (50) outdoor cannabis cultivation operations would be permitted within the unincorporated area of the County at any one time. Any site could receive land use permit approval for up to five (5) outdoor cannabis cultivation operations, provided each cannabis cultivation operation does not exceed the canopy size threshold established by State law.

**Distribution of the number of outdoor cannabis cultivation operations:** The allowed number of permitted outdoor cultivation operations (50) would be distributed as follows by Planning Area based on the total number of available parcels in land use categories allowing cannabis cultivation. The distribution would contain a maximum for each Planning Area.

North County 30

San Luis Obispo 3

South County 11

Coastal Planning Areas (combined) 7 - (Estero, North Coast, San Luis Bay-Coastal, and South County-Coastal)

Carrizo Prohibited

**Land use permit expiration:** All land use permits issued for cannabis cultivation would expire in seven years from the approval date. Prior to expiration, the applicant may request the land use permit be renewed for an additional seven-year period. Any request for renewal would be in writing to the Department prior to the expiration date of the land use permit, and would be submitted in conjunction with the appropriate land use permit application.

**Application requirements:** In addition to any specific requirements in this Section, land use permit applications shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 22.60 and Section 22.40.040.

1. A detailed water management plan including the proposed water supply, proposed conservation measures, and any water offset requirements.
2. Information regarding stormwater control and wastewater discharge.
3. A list of all pesticides, fertilizers, and any other hazardous materials used in the cultivation process.
4. A storage and hazard response plan for all pesticides, fertilizers, and any other hazardous materials kept on the cultivator's site.

5. For indoor and mixed-light cultivation, all power sources proposed to be used.

6. (If applying for a land use permit for outdoor cannabis cultivation) Proof that the applicant has been selected to operate a cannabis cultivation operation pursuant to Section 22.40.040.A.1.

## **CULTIVATION**

**Location:** Cannabis cultivation would not be located within one thousand (1,000) feet from any pre-school, elementary school, junior high school, high school, library, park, playground, recreation or youth center, licensed drug or alcohol recovery facility, or licensed sober living facility.

**Minimum site area:** No minimum site area is required in the Agriculture, Rural Lands, and Industrial land use categories. Indoor cannabis cultivation in the Residential Rural land use category would be located on sites that are a minimum of 5 acres in area. Outdoor cannabis cultivation in the Residential Rural land use category would be located on sites that are a minimum of 20 acres in area.

### **Setbacks:**

a. Indoor cannabis cultivation would be within a fully enclosed building that has been setback as set forth in Section 22.10.140.

b. Outdoor cannabis cultivation would be set back a minimum of 300 feet from the property lines of the site.

c. Indoor cannabis cultivation would be setback 100 feet from any existing offsite residence, swimming pool, patio, or other living area of separate ownership. A new adjacent use does not affect the continuation of an existing use that was legally established under the standards of this Section.

d. All outdoor cannabis cultivation would be located at least 50 feet from the upland extent of riparian vegetation of any watercourse.

e. Setbacks could be modified through Minor Use Permit approval, except for setbacks required by the California Building Code.

**Screening and Fencing:** Cannabis plants will not be allowed to be easily visible from offsite. All cannabis cultivation activities would occur within a secure fence at least six (6) feet in height that fully encloses the cultivation area and prevents easy access to the site.

The fence must include a lockable gate(s) that is locked at all times, except for during times of active ingress/egress. Said fence shall not violate any other ordinance, code Section, or provision of law regarding the height, location, materials, or other fencing restrictions, and shall be both

solid and durable. All screening and fencing would conform to the requirements of applicable area, community, specific and design plans.

### **CANNABIS MANUFACTURING**

**Cannabis Manufacturing Limitation on use:** Non-volatile cannabis manufacturing facilities may be permitted in the Commercial Service (CS), Industrial (IND), Agriculture (AG), and Rural Lands (RL) land use categories subject to a land use permit in each case, as required below. Cannabis manufacturing facilities involving volatile processes or substances (requiring a volatile Cannabis Manufacturing State license) would be permitted only in the Industrial land use category

### **CANNABIS DISPENSARIES**

**Limitation on use:** Cannabis dispensaries within a permanent structure open to the public for retail sales may be permitted in the Commercial Service (CS) and Commercial Retail (CR) land use categories subject to a land use permit. Cannabis dispensaries within a permanent structure that are not open to the public for retail sales (mobile deliveries only) may be permitted in the Commercial Service (CS) and Industrial (IND) land use categories subject to a land use permit. Cannabis dispensaries not operating within a permanent structure (mobile dispensaries) are prohibited.

Cannabis dispensaries with storefronts open to the public would not be allowed within one thousand (1,000) feet from any pre-school, elementary school, junior high school, high school, library, park, playground, recreation or youth center, licensed drug or alcohol recovery facility, or licensed sober living facility. Distance shall be measured from the structure that contains the dispensary to the property line of the enumerated use using a direct straight line measurement. This location standard may be modified through Minor Use Permit approval to reduce the distance to six hundred (600) feet.

### **Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, October 17, 2017 (All Items Completed Except Items Pertaining to Marijuana, Which Were Continued to Friday October 20, 2017)**

**Item 1 - Set Hearing for November 14, 2017 to adopt proposed 2018-19 Fee increases.** The hearing was set. The increases (permitting and inspection fees) of interest to COLAB members are limited. In fact Planning and Building proposes to lower 10 of its fees. We will report back prior to the November 14 meeting. You can see them all at the link:

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/7968/RlkgMjAxOC0xOSBTY2hlZHVzS/BCLnBkZg==/12/n/85024.doc>

Let us know if there are any fees (including existing – not just increases) which are problematical for your business or industry.

**Item 14 - \$327,000 California Energy Commission Grant to Update the Climate Action Plan and begin Control of Citizen Energy Usage – Oceano Neighborhood Selected as Guinea Pigs.** The Board (3 – 2), Peschong and Arnold dissenting) approved the receipt of the grant and the 108-page contract with State. The staff will use a portion of the funding to develop updated greenhouse emission data. That in turn will engender proposals for stiffer targets and increased regulation.

The bulk of the grant will be used to develop and conduct a program in a portion of Oceano called “Zero Net Energy Neighborhoods.” The write-up never really explained what will constitute a Zero Net Energy Neighborhood, what will be the benefits to its citizens, how might their life styles have to be changed to achieve the unstated goals, what personal information may have to be collected to perform the analysis, or anything else.

**Item 28 - Status of State and Federal Legislative Programs.** The Board received a report on the recently completed State Legislative session. The net result is more taxes. There is considerable maneuvering in the Democratic Party related to the impending end of Governor Brown’s term and Senator Feinstein’s future plans.

**Background:** This item is part of the semi-annual ritual in which the County receives a report on the status of the work of its Sacramento and Washington lobbyists.

**Item 30 - New Development Exaction Fee For Properties in Vicinity of State Highway 227 – Tank Farm Rd. to Price Canyon Rd.** The Board approved (4/1- Peschong dissenting) the creation of a “voluntary” funding mechanism under which developers could, as an option, negotiate additional payments into a special Highway 227 road fund as a condition of receiving a land use permit. This would be in addition to the exactions required under the County’s existing conditions of project approvals.

The staff proposes that a new zone of taxation (“fees”) be established to fund road improvement projects needed to deal with the increased use of Highway 227 during the commute. Astonishingly, the Board is being requested to approve the creation of the zone without being told how much the fees would be for a home, multi-family development, retail use, winery, or anything else.

The proposed use of the “fees” is outlined in the table below. Again there was no projection of how much the fee would raise over what time period. Consequently, there is no projection of how much of the total implementation costs would be covered by the fees.

Project No.	Project Description	Cost Estimate Roundabout	Cost Estimate Signal
1	SR 227 at Farmhouse Lane install roundabout or signal	\$2,000,000	\$1,250,000
2	SR 277 at Buckley Road install roundabout or improve signal	\$2,700,000	\$2,640,000
3	SR 227 at Crestmont Road install roundabout or signal	\$2,700,000	\$1,920,000
4	SR 277 at Los Ranchos Road install roundabout or improve signal	\$2,700,000	\$3,430,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,100,000</b>	<b>\$9,240,000</b>

When a local businessman questioned the fairness of some of the provisions during public comment on the item, Hill launched a diatribe against him and mischaracterized his comments.

**Item 36 - Hearing to consider an ordinance amending Title 6 (Business Licenses and Regulations) of the County Code to allow for licensing of cannabis businesses, per Board direction. Introduced August 22, 2017 and Continued form October 3, 2017.** This item was continued for lack of time.

**Background:** In anticipation of the approval of a regulatory scheme, the elected County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer has prepared amendments to the County’s business license ordinance to include marijuana cultivation and retailing, and other points in the production supply chain. The ordinance requires that marijuana operation should have the requisite County and State permits before a license can be granted. It also requires that the application for a business license be referred to the Sheriff, the Planning Department, and the regional Water Quality Control Board. The latter referral may send many applicants packing because the Water Board can be very picky and strict, and can demand measures which become very costly.

It seems strange that the Water Board would be consulted at a point after the Planning Department and the State have signed off on permits. You would think such a review would take place as part of the initial processing of the permit.

The Water Board is going to get into all sorts of concerns about marijuana, pesticides, solvents, etc., as well as getting into the aquifers, wells, and water systems. Growers may have to receive approval of some very complex and rigid water management plans. This provision could be the death knell for the whole industry. Ask anyone who is subject to the current Water Board AG Water Runoff Rule.

**Local Agency Formation Commission of Thursday, October 19, 2017 (Completed)**

**Item B-1: Consider Adjusting Fee Schedule for Detachment from a California Water District.** Some of the property owners who signed up for the new Paso Basin water districts (Shandon-San Juan (SSJ) and Estrella-El Pomar-Creston (EPC) Water Districts). are having buyer's remorse and want to opt out. The LAFCO process is called detachment. LAFCO currently charges \$5,000 plus \$10 per acre for parcels over 20 acres to process an application for a detachment. Fees to join a district are less, \$3500 plus \$10 per acre. Some of the potential detachers have thousands of acres in multiple parcels. This discrepancy raises an issue of fairness. The write-up is a little confusing, but it appears that the LAFCO Board agreed to lower the fees to a flat \$3,500 for both.

**Item C-2: STATUS REPORT-CAYUCOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DISSOLUTION.** It turns out that the 70-year-old Fire District is becoming ever more financially unviable .The tax is not keeping up with costs, and fewer people are volunteering for the largely volunteer department. Those who do volunteer are usually individuals seeking to acquire the training and skills to become professional fire fighters in paid departments. The district provides fire and emergency medical services, including ambulance transport.



If the Department is dissolved or simply goes bankrupt, the County will inherit the responsibility to provide fire protection and advanced life support medical response. The County utilizes a contract with the State Cal Fire Department. Its standards of coverage, wage and benefit scales, and staffing and equipment requirements will be far more costly than those required under the existing stand-alone semi-volunteer structure of the Cayucos Department.

Even a single 24/7 engine company could cost well over \$1 million per year for the County to operate. Apparently, the County provided LAFCO with its costs to take over the services, but that document was not included in the agenda package.

Ominously, it is rumored that the larger Templeton Community Service District Department faces the same death spiral economics.

This is yet another example of how the County is broke and either doesn't know it or won't admit it. "Oh, we don't need the \$20 million in property taxes from Diablo each year – it's only a small percentage of our property tax." On the other hand the widow of the guy who had the 3:00 AM myocardial infarction at the Cayucos Sunset Inn might regret such smugness and lack of strategic policy.

As PERS pension costs and other payroll costs inexorably rise, more and more jurisdictions will go out of business, and their responsibilities will fall back upon the counties, which in turn will become ever more stressed.

This small example is just the tip of the iceberg statewide. Of course the public officials' answer is always the same – we need more taxes.

## **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**

## **AN EPITAPH FOR SOCIALIZED ENERGY**

**By Andy Caldwell**

Thanks to a big push from the County of Santa Barbara, the tri-counties studied a plan to have government become the proverbial middleman between you and your electricity provider.<sup>1</sup> In the south, our provider is Southern California Edison (SCE). In the north, the provider is PG and E.

The program is called Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and it has the potential to collapse the public private partnership that currently delivers our electricity by way of franchise agreements. In essence, the goal of the program is to require our electricity providers to deliver power to our region from renewable sources in excess of state mandates.

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<sup>1</sup> Including San Luis Obispo County which contributed several hundred thousand dollars to the study.

For instance, the City of Santa Barbara could require SCE to deliver 100% renewable energy, meaning SCE could no longer sell energy it produces from hydro-electric. That leaves SCE with a very expensive white elephant on its hands! For this very reason, this trendy push for CCA is one of the reasons PG and E is decommissioning Diablo Nuclear Power Plant!

The study indicated that electricity consumption is forecasted to grow moderately, however, the continued customer adoption of consumer and business rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) is expected to offset this growth. The increasing amount of PV also creates more volatile customer load due to the variable nature of its energy output. Solar generation depends on solar irradiance, which can fluctuate significantly over very short periods of time (within seconds) due to weather patterns and resulting cloud cover. In summary, a Central Coast Power CCA would likely sell less electricity each year given customer PV adoption.

Moreover, the study revealed that due to variability in renewable generation for both utility scale resources and customer-owned PV, costs could be prohibitive. The Tri-County Region average around \$36 per megawatt-hour (MWh). However, the range of prices around that mean varied greatly, reaching a high of \$4,377 per MWh during shortages of supply relative to demand, and a low of -\$1,277 per MWh— meaning we actually end up paying participants to take power— when supply exceeds demand! The high level of PV penetration in California, combined with solar and wind energy's variable nature, accounts for much of this market volatility

The study indicates the average cost of power procurement for the CCA rises as more renewable energy content is added because renewable generation is forecast to be more expensive than alternative non-renewable resources, despite a slight downward trend in renewable energy prices. Local electricity costs could increase on average from 40 to 100% higher depending on how much renewable energy was in the order.

The conclusion of the study? The two primary factors driving forecasted feasibility results for the CCA include: 1) the competitiveness of CCA rates against PG&E and SCE rates; and 2) the long-term financial viability of the enterprise. Under all participation scenarios, because the rate comparisons show most rate classes paying more for power supplied by the CCA than from the incumbent utilities and because the CCA does not maintain sufficient revenues and working capital throughout the study period, the CCA is deemed infeasible!

*First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press.*

# CLIMATE SCIENCE FACTS & CONCLUSIONS

By **Richard Auhll**

Climate alarmists claim that the trace amount of man-generated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere is driving global temperature to catastrophic levels. This hypothesis is challenged by the numerous facts revealed in Parts I and II of this three-part series.

Here is a review of the scientific facts and conclusions that can be made about climate change: The sun's radiance upon the Earth, as modified by Earth's orbital mechanics, is the primary determining factor of Earth's climate. Greenhouse warming gasses do not create heat; they act solely as a temporary blanket.

At the heart of the "global warming" debate is the demonization of carbon dioxide. The truth is, carbon dioxide is a colorless, odorless, and non-poisonous gas. We humans are significant biological generators of carbon dioxide, as are all living animals. Plants need CO<sub>2</sub> to live. Plants and animals have evolved together in a symbiotic relationship.

Man-induced CO<sub>2</sub> is a minor factor in the greenhouse warming effect, for the following reasons: Natural water vapor causes 75 percent of the total warming effect, and total CO<sub>2</sub> causes only 15 percent. But, only 30 percent of "total CO<sub>2</sub>" is caused by mankind. So, of the total 15 percent warming that all CO<sub>2</sub> causes, 10.5 percent is from natural sources and only 4.5 percent is from human fossil fuel residue.

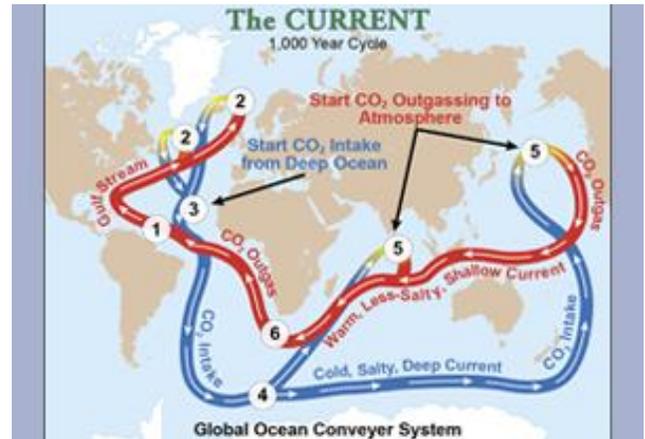
Hence, the combined effect of natural water vapor (75 percent) and natural CO<sub>2</sub> (10.5 percent) at 85.5 percent, is fully 19 times the warming the effect of man-induced CO<sub>2</sub> (4.5 percent). Man-induced CO<sub>2</sub> is NOT a primary driver of air temperature. In fact, temperature is the primary driver of natural atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Two studies, published in the journal Science, found that temperature increased and decreased first, and 600 to 800 years later natural CO<sub>2</sub> followed.

Furthermore, temperature has not followed the 41 percent rise of atmospheric total CO<sub>2</sub> levels caused by mankind's fossil fuels during the past 200 years.

Earth has a natural climate cycle driven by its changing orbital cycles around the sun that and has generated more than 20 Ice Ages over the past 2.6 million years. The last eight 100,000-year Ice Age cycles, over the past 800,000 years, have averaged an 85,000-year cold glacial phase followed by a 15,000-year warm interglacial phase.

The Earth is now 10,000 years into a likely 15,000-year warm interglacial phase, to be followed by an ever more cooling 85,000-year glacier phase. Earth has been in a particularly stable, natural warming trend for the past 10,000 years. The temperature and sea levels of today have basically the same periodicity and magnitude as in comparable phases of the past 400,000 years.

Seawater holds the vast majority (98 percent) of Earth's CO<sub>2</sub> gas, which is 50 times more than in the atmosphere. The global ocean currents, as seen in the accompanying graph, are the major driver of natural CO<sub>2</sub> levels and timing in the atmosphere. During warm interglacial phases, as we have today, the conveyor currents deliver CO<sub>2</sub> from the cold deep sea into the atmosphere, thus raising its natural CO<sub>2</sub> levels. During cold glacier phases, the conveyor system slows and cold seawater absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, thus lowering its CO<sub>2</sub> level closer to 180 ppm.



Sea levels rise and fall with every Ice Age's warm and glacial phases. Today's sea level is very near that of the same point of prior Ice Age cycles. During the past 137 years, sea level has risen only eight inches, because the great majority of the glaciers have already melted.

Some politicians have attempted to scare people into their "camp" by saying "we are at a tipping point at which Earth's temperature will produce catastrophic, run-away global warming." The truth is that never in geologic time has any combination of high CO<sub>2</sub>, high temperature, and high humidity ever triggered such an event. Nor have I ever read a claim in any journal that any combination of the above would produce such an event. The claims are simply unscientific fear mongering.

Pollutants are bad, and ? along with soot and toxic atmospheric substances ? should be controlled. CO<sub>2</sub> is not a pollutant. Energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources ? are good and should be encouraged, if economical and within reasonable timelines.

Massive programs to limit man-induced CO<sub>2</sub> production are not necessary in the foreseeable future, as man-induced CO<sub>2</sub> has minimal impact upon atmospheric temperature.

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has released a series of reports that flesh out a plan conceived to terminate the generation of man-induced CO<sub>2</sub>. Over 15 years, the total

plan costs no less than \$90 trillion worldwide. By comparison, planet Earth's GDP in 2013 was \$87 trillion, and the U.S.'s was \$17 trillion. One may expect the United States ? via the American taxpayer ? to fund at least 25 percent of the total program, which comes to \$1.5 trillion per year and \$22 trillion over 15 years.

The public deserves to be given the true science of climate change in order to enable an educated debate. Open debate of differing opinions is the very basis of scientific thought and progress. To stifle open debate is to stifle discovery.

*The writer is author of "Climate Myopia," soon to be released. He lives in Santa Barbara. This article first appeared as a letter to the editor in the October 15, 2017 Santa Barbara News Press.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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# COLAB

## Meet Me Halfway 2017

Featuring:  
The American Comedy Award Winner  
for Best Female Comedian

### Wendy Liebman

Saturday, October 28, 2017

At the  
**Chumash Casino Resort**

Reserve Seating for Ten Guests: \$900

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Or By Mail:

COLAB  
P.O. Box 7523  
Santa Maria, CA 93456



**SUPPORT COLAB!  
PLEASE COMPLETE THE  
MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM  
ON THE NEXT PAGE**



**MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS**



**VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB MIXER**

Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business  
San Luis Obispo County  
"Your Property – Your Taxes – Our Future"  
PO Box 13601 – San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 / Phone: 805.548-0340  
Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 – \$249  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Voting Member: \$250 - \$5,000  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining Member: \$5,000 +  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)*

General members will receive all COLAB updates and newsletters. Voting privileges are limited to Voting Members and Sustainable Members with one vote per membership.

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio  Internet  Public Hearing  Friend

COLAB Member(s) / Sponsor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

**For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.**  
I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.  
Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.  
Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

### PAYMENT METHOD:

Check  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Revised 2/2017)