



## WEEKLY UPDATE APRIL 28 - MAY 4, 2019

### HELP MAKE VANDENBERG SPACE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

Vandenberg Air Force Base on short list for Trump's Space Command Headquarters  
April 12, 2019 By Kaytlyn Leslie, The Tribune

Vandenberg Air Force Base is one of only a handful of U.S. Air Force bases to make a short list for potential headquarters for the newly reinstated Space Command, according to a recent report by CNN.

The local military base has been a hot spot for rocket launches and other space-related activity in recent years, including March's milestone test of an intercontinental missile defense system. CNN reported April 6 that an Air Force memo identified six bases around the country that could potentially house the new combatant command, which President Donald Trump launched in December.

The list has since been widely published by various other media outlets and the Air Force — while not commenting specifically on it — has also not disputed it.

The headquarters would house Space Command, which is separate from Trump's more controversial proposed Space Force. The former would essentially be in charge of space warfare, while the latter would create an entirely new military branch.

The United States previously had a Space Command from 1985 to 2002, but it was absorbed in to a separate command after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to free up resources for homeland defense.

CNN reported that the unofficial list has not yet been submitted to leadership. The Air Force does not have a deadline by when it needs to pick a base.

According to CNN, the memo listed four bases in Colorado, one in Alabama and finally Vandenberg in Lompoc.

Notably, Florida — long the home of much of the United States' space activities — was not included on the list.

Vandenberg is the only California base up for consideration, which could bring an unexpected economic boon to the Central Coast.

Congressman Salud Carbajal of Santa Barbara said the current combined space operations center at Vandenberg “is already a leader for our space operations and military coordination between America’s greatest allies,” and noted that the Space Command headquarters would be a good fit there.

“Vandenberg’s extensive existing infrastructure and industry, beautiful region to attract top-tier talent, and proven launch capabilities would make it an ideal headquarters for USSPACECOM,” he told The Tribune in an email Thursday. “Not only will it strengthen our national security in space, but it will also help grow our local economy. We would welcome the command to the Central Coast.”

**Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham**, who represents the 35th District, said placing the command center at Vandenberg would be “a major boost to the local economy.” “Bringing Space Command to Vandenberg would bring even more head-of-household jobs to the Central Coast and be a major boost to our local economy,” Cunningham said in an email to The Tribune on Friday. “Vandenberg Air Force Base is leading the nation in space innovation, and should be the home of the renewed space command.”

According to the CNN report, “the ‘projected manpower’ for the U.S. Space Command would be 1,450 personnel, including 390 military officers, 183 enlisted personnel, 827 civilians and 50 contractors.”

Vandenberg is currently home to more than 18,000 people, including personnel and civilians. The Air Force’s criteria for where to base the command include cost, an existing military organization to become part of Space Command, access to a C-17 aircraft capable airfield, communications connectivity, administrative buildings and available base support, CNN wrote. The memo also said Vandenberg’s Combined Space Operations Center would be assigned to Space Command, no matter if the base were selected as the new headquarters. Requests for comment from Vandenberg Air Force Base media personnel were not returned Thursday or Friday.

**Call:** [Dianne Feinstein](#), Senator, (202)224-3841  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Call:** Kamala Harris, Senator, (202)224-3553  
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

As noted in the article, Congressman Carbajal is already working on it. **Call** Congressman Kevin McCarthy (202) 225-2915.

Ask your Mayor and City Council, The Board of Supervisors, and all the Chambers to send Resolutions fast.

Contact any Air Force General Officers (active or retired) who you know.



## **THIS WEEK**

### **NO BOARD MEETING**

### **SPECIAL SLOCOG BOARD MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019 TO CONSIDER LITIGATION THREAT  
NO OTHER ITEMS LISTED  
IS THE FPPC AFTER THEM OR SOMEONE ELSE?**

## **LAST WEEK**

### **COUNTY LOST JOBS OVER PAST DECADE**

**NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT RECEIVES COUNTY SUPPORT  
-TIME RUNNING OUT ON DIABLO CLOSURE-**

### **WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HIGHLY TOUTED ECON DEV. STRATEGY ADOPTED IN 2011?**

**HOMELESS CENTER ROILS AG AND GROVER  
BEACH – 3 SUPERVISORS APPROVE FUNDING  
– PUT ULTIMATE DECISION ON GROVER MAYOR AND COUNCIL -**

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEAL APPROVED IN CAMBRIA**

## **COLAB IN DEPTH**

**SEE PAGE 11**

### **BREAKING BAD: CALIFORNIA TAXES VS. THE OTHER STATES**

**BY RICHARD RIDER**

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting is Scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, 2019 (5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Not Scheduled)**

**Special San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, May 1, 2019 (Scheduled Recently)**

**A-1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Government Code section 54956.9.)** It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session concerning the following items: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of section 54956.9. Number of potential cases: One.

There is no explanation of the threatened litigation in the write-up. It is possible that the State Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has proposed some sort of action related to SLOCOG's massive promotion of a yes vote on the Measure J Transportation Sales Tax proposal in 2016. Could businesses that use State Route 172 be suing in opposition to the recently approved "roundabouts," which interfere with trucks and slow everyone down? On the other hand it could be something else which is unknown at this point.

## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, April 23, 2019 (Completed)**

**Item 3 - Contract (\$300,000) with the Hourglass Project for the Development of a Central Coast Jobs Roadmap and Action Plan.** The contract was approved unanimously and without comment on the consent calendar.

**Background:** The Hourglass Project is a new-not-for profit created in response to the impending closure of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant. Its website summarizes its key purposes as:

*We are a coalition of business and civic leaders who have come together to form a region-wide economic development **action tank** to create high quality jobs throughout the Central Coast Super Region – from Vandenberg Air Force Base to Camp Roberts.*

*With the ambitious goal of fostering a more prosperous economy that works better for all, we are calling on regional leaders to embrace **big** thinking, **bold** action, and regional **collaboration**, in order to shape a vibrant economic future for nearly half a million people.*

*The Hourglass Project is based on the shared belief that our economy's problems are too big for any individual community to solve on its own and we need to collaborate regionally to create jobs.*

*This **call to action** has generated enthusiastic support from industry, education, government and nonprofit leaders all across the Central Coast.*

The key Hourglass deliverables for the project are displayed below:

**Applicant will provide a complete Central Coast Jobs Roadmap and Action Plan, which will include the following components:**

- **Vision:** Definition of the Central Coast Jobs Roadmap and Action Plan Roadmap main purpose, aspirations, and Objectives;
- **Program Governance Model:** Conceptual-level institutional and ecosystem model for the Central Coast Jobs Roadmap and Action Plan, defining overall structure, stakeholder roles and responsibilities (high-level).
- **Actionable Roadmap:** Time-bound (quarterly) plan to advance the Central Coast Jobs Roadmap and Action Plan, including key Implementation next steps
- **Performance indicators**, linked to Roadmap activities

**Applicant will provide a detailed overview of the architecture and approach for the regional database to the County.**

Hourglass Project, in partnership with appropriate consulting partners, will demonstrate to appropriate private sector and public sector users the architecture of a regional (all of San Luis Obispo County and Northern Santa Barbara County) data toolkit:

- Aggregate and display data related and described in work statement.
- Graphic user interface (website)
- Performance measurement dashboard that will track progress of Central Coast Jobs Roadmap and Action Plan Performance Metrics

This project will continue into calendar year 2020 and beyond, and is planned to include business data analysis tools, asset mapping, as well as predictive capabilities

**Didn't the County, Business Community, and Economic Vitality Corporation Launch a Similar Initiative Earlier in the Decade?** What happened to the County's highly touted Economic Strategy, which was announced with great fanfare in 2011? It was prepared by the Economic Vitality Corporation (EVC), which the County designated as its de facto economic development agency in lieu of having its own economic development office.

**What Has the County Expended on Economic Development over the Past 10 Years?** There does not seem to be any consolidated presentation of costs and outputs anywhere in the Budget book. To the best of our recollection the County has spent about \$140,000 per year on the EVC project, or \$1.4 million over the past 10 years.

It is spending \$200,000 per year on the SLO Hothouse small business incubator. This would be about \$600,000 over the last 3 years. It provided the SLO Art Museum a \$400,000 one-time grant for its capital campaign to construct a new expanded museum. The County has served as a conduit and assigner of tens of millions of dollars in Federal and State job triaging money over the same period.

**County Terminated the EVC Work on the Original Version of the Project.** For whatever reason the County terminated the work on a similar project, which was first initiated for the same reasons as the current Hourglass project. Various sources give different reasons. One version is that the EVC failed to obtain certain matching funding from various cities. Another version is that when the EVC's economic analysis consultants requested information about various cities' revenue/funding gaps and increasing pension liability, some city managers revolted and demanded cessation of the project. This seems inappropriate, since such calculations would be essential to an analysis of the aggregate community financial needs going out into the future. These numbers would be an important part of the long range financial model, which would inform the magnitude of economic goals.

**Employment in San Luis Obispo County Has Actually Declined Since the Recession and Recovery.** Data from the County's 2017-18 Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR) shows that employment has actually declined from 2009 through FY 2018. During the same period the County population increased by 10,000 (270,000 to 280,000).

The departure of key employers such as Weatherby Fire Arms (which has moved to Wyoming) and PG&E (which will be closing Diablo in 2024) will further negatively impact these statistics. The County has been unfriendly to oil companies and denied Phillips 66 the ability to expand operations. Progressive radicals attempted to outlaw new oil and gas development in the County through a ballot measure. The Board of Supervisors will soon face major opposition against the replacement of the Plains Pipeline and the expansion of the Price Canyon Oil Field.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for agriculture to survive, given water restrictions, resistance to vertical integration, Ag tourism, and State taxing schemes which attack the family farm.

While the addition of some high-tech information technology and science jobs are helpful, most of the people who work in agriculture, extractive industries, and manufacturing will not be transitioning to work as cloud system protocol designers or even systems engineers at Amazon (assuming the Mayor of SLO doesn't chase the company away).

Will existing traditional industries which employ people in real head of household jobs be shown any respect?

**Item 31 - Homeless Funding Grant Recommendations and a Shelter Siting Controversy.** In the end and after almost a full day of public comment (much in opposition), the Board approved the grant award on a 3/2 vote (Arnold and Compton dissenting).

**Background:** As homelessness has mushroomed in California's poverty economy (the part that's not in Silicon Valley, San Diego, and fancy coastal enclaves), the State has invoked the usual government response, which is to throw billions of new dollars at the problem. Notwithstanding that County statistics show that homelessness has declined in the county in recent years, SLO County's share for this year is \$4.8 billion dollars. The County staff and representatives of homeless serving agencies have engaged in a process to determine how to divide up the money.

One of the selected agencies is the Five Cities Housing Partnership, which plans to use the funding to buy a former church property at 1935 Newport Avenue in Grover Beach. The basic project description is stated below:

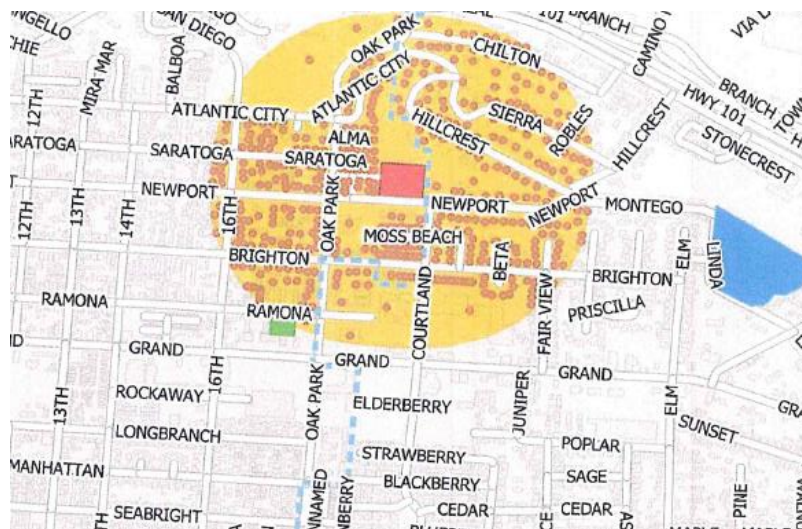
Renovations to create housing navigation center and offices for 5CHC, development of a vocational/educational resource facility with commercial kitchen for training, transitional housing dorms for youth, and provide CE referrals, diversion and immediate needs, rapid re-housing, benefits advocacy, medically fragile and substance abuse case management, outreach, winter warming center, and other services. PSHH intends to develop permanent housing units on the property. Phase 1 - rehab Hillside Church for 5chc admin offices and housing navigation center and warming center. Phase 2 - transitional housing 44 beds (11 youth dorms) and 20 units of permanent supportive housing

The real issue is and continues be the fact that while the County Supervisors have the authority to make the funding grant, the City of Grover Beach has the zoning authority. City officials have

signed off on a letter endorsing the grant and program. However, it is reported that the site is not zoned for an institutional use such as homeless shelters, feeding services, medical care, and other services.

Apparently an application for a zone change is wending its way through the City's process. Since the Mayor and Council have already supported the grant and program formally, the question is whether they will be able to vote on an appeal from their Planning Commission, which is very likely if it is approved at the Commission level.

For whatever reason, County staff and the Homeless Services Oversight Committee (HSCO) believed that the site was shovel ready, so to speak, but without zoning how could that be? The map extract below shows the site in relation to single family homes, which are shown as red circles. Schools are shown in blue and parks in green. The site is shown as a red rectangle. The dotted blue line is the Boundary between the cities.



Stay tuned on this one as it must pass through the Grover Beach Planning Commission, and if approved there it is almost certain to be appealed to the City Council. Meanwhile, it will be interesting to see if the impacted opposition neighbors on the Arroyo Grande side of the boundary ask their City Council to rescind their support.

**Item 35 - Hearing to consider appeals by Mary Webb and Christine Heinrichs of the Planning Commission's approval of a request by Peoples' Self-Help Housing for a Development Plan/Coastal Development Permit (DRC2012-00052) to allow the construction of a 33-unit apartment complex on the north side of Schoolhouse Lane across from Santa Lucia Middle School, approximately 0.65 mile north of the Highway 1/Main Street intersection, in the community of Cambria.** The appeal was denied and the project was approved on a unanimous vote. There was considerable public opposition by a number of speakers. They said they submitted a



petition in opposition which contained 266 signatures. The opponents based their appeal on lack of water, fire danger, traffic, and insufficient access.

**Background:** The 33-unit affordable project, which was approved by the Planning Commission, was being appealed on the grounds of insufficient water.

Staff pointed out that although Cambria is under a water use moratorium, the County's zoning gives special treatment to affordable housing. Moreover, the not-for-profit developer has a can and will serve letter from the Cambria Community service District.



**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, April 25, 2019 (Completed)**

**Item 5 - Hearing to consider a request by Larry Nasareno Montenegro Delgado for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2017-001 08) to establish three acres of outdoor and 22,000 square feet of indoor cannabis cultivation, 28,800 square feet of indoor and 77,657 square feet of outdoor standalone cannabis nursery, non-volatile manufacturing, and distribution of cannabis on a portion of a 42-acre project site. The project includes construction of two greenhouses (57,600 square feet) to support the proposed indoor cultivation and indoor cannabis nursery. A 6,000-square-foot processing building would be used for non-volatile manufacturing, and the drying, curing, trimming, packaging, and labelling of non-manufactured cannabis product. Three 864-square-foot temporary office trailers are also proposed. The project will result in the disturbance of approximately 10 acres. The project would operate seven days per week, up to 24 hours per day. The project requests a modification from the parking standards set forth in Land Use Ordinance (LUO) Section 22.1**

**8.050.C.1 to reduce the required number of spaces from 128 to 19 and a modification from the setback provisions set forth in LUO Section 22.40.050.D.3.b to reduce the outdoor cultivation setbacks from 300 feet to 30 feet from the western property line, and from 300 feet to 258 feet from the eastern property line. The project site is located at 8380 Carrisa Highway in the Carrizo Planning Area.** The item was suddenly continued as two State regulatory agencies belatedly raised a number of questions. The State Fish and Wildlife Department was concerned about the adequacy of species protection and the State Cannabis Regulatory Division had a number of questions.

The Planning Staff had recommended approval. The project went through a long environmental review. The Topaz Solar Farm, which is nearby, was required to provide wildlife transit corridors. It turns out that the wildlife are not using the corridors.

It is not known how cannabis affects giant kangaroo rats, kit foxes, antelope, bobcats and other local critters.



## **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**

## **BREAKING BAD: CALIFORNIA VS. THE OTHER STATES**

**By Richard Rider – Chairman, San Diego Tax Fighters**

**Version 3.09, Revised: 16 April, 2019**

**Here's a depressing but documented comparison of California taxes and economic climate with the rest of the states. The news is not good (at least once a month, I update crucial data on this fact sheet):**

Prior to Prop 30 passing in Nov. 2012, CA already had the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst state income tax rate in the nation. Our 9.3% tax bracket started at under \$50,000 for people filing as individuals. 10.3% started at \$1 million. Now our "millionaires' tax" rate is 13.3% – including capital gains (CA total CG rate now the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the world!). 10+% taxes now start at \$250K. CA now has by far the nation's highest state income tax rate.

We are 34% higher than 2<sup>nd</sup> place Oregon, and a heck of a lot higher than all the rest – including 7 states with zero state income tax – and two states (NH and TN) that tax only dividends and interest income (not capital gains). NOTE: TN tax totally phases out by 2022.

CA is so bad, we also have the nation's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest state income tax bracket. AND the 3<sup>rd</sup>. AND the 5<sup>th</sup>. AND the 8<sup>th</sup>!

<http://taxfoundation.org/sites/taxfoundation.org/files/docs/ff2013.pdf> Table #12

and

<http://tinyurl.com/CA-2nd-CG>

CA has the highest state sales tax rate in the nation. 7.25% (does not include local sales taxes). 9<sup>th</sup> highest state with the average local sales tax included (8.56% on 1 January, 2019 – up from 8.25% in 2017).

<https://taxfoundation.org/sales-tax-rates-2019/>

CA corporate income tax rate (8.84%) is the highest west of Iowa except for Alaska (our economic competitors). Overall CA has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest corporate tax rate in nation. And it's 8.84% from the first dollar of profit made.

<https://taxfoundation.org/state-corporate-rates-brackets-2019/>

CA has the nation's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest "gas pump" tax at 72.76 cents/gallon (March, 2019). Add in the unique 10-12 cent CA "cap and trade" tax per gallon, and CA is the worst – 6 to 8 cents more than PA. National average is 52.18 cents. Yet CA has the 9<sup>th</sup> worst highways (41 states are better).

<http://www.api.org/oil-and-natural-gas/consumer-information/motor-fuel-taxes/gasoline-tax> (CA easily has the nation's highest total diesel tax)

and

[http://reason.org/files/22nd\\_annual\\_highway\\_report.pdf](http://reason.org/files/22nd_annual_highway_report.pdf)

and

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2017/05/california-only-2-state-for-gasoline.html>

California in 2015 ranked 14<sup>th</sup> highest in per capita property taxes (including commercial) – the only major tax where we are not in the worst ten states. But the 2014 average CA single-family residence (SFR) property tax is the 8<sup>th</sup> highest state in the nation. Indeed, **the median CA homeowner**

**property tax bill is 93% higher than the average for the other 49 states.**

<http://tinyurl.com/go89o6u>

and

<http://tinyurl.com/hf6phjz>

and

<http://linkis.com/blogspot.com/Yq6cx>

Average 2012 CA impact fee for single-family residence was \$31,100, 90% higher than next worst state. 265% higher than jurisdictions that levy such fees (many governments east of the Sierras do not). For apartments, fee averaged \$18,800, 290% above average outside state. The fee is part of the purchase price, so buyer pays an annual property tax on the fee!

<http://www.newgeography.com/content/003882-california-homes-require-real-reach>

and

<http://eyeonhousing.org/2014/01/home-building-impact-fees-state-averages/>

CA has now instituted highest “cap and trade” tax in the nation – indeed, the ONLY such U.S. tax. Even proponents concede that it will have zero impact on global warming. The tax especially increases the cost of electricity, gasoline and manufacturing.

<http://tinyurl.com/WSJ-CA-cap-and-trade>

California has a nasty anti-small business \$800 minimum corporate income tax, even if no profit is earned, and even for many nonprofits. Next highest state is Rhode Island at \$500 (only for “C” corporations). 3<sup>rd</sup> is Delaware at \$175. Most states are at zero.

<http://tinyurl.com/CA-800-tax>

Based just on GDP, CA, by far the most populous state, ranks as the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. But adjusted for population and cost of living, CA prosperity ranks lower than all but 13 U.S. states.

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2016/07/updated-2015-figures-ca-per-capita-gdp.html>

California’s 2019 “business tax climate” ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> worst in the nation – behind anchor-clanker New Jersey – a decline from 3<sup>rd</sup> worst last year. In addition, CA has a lock on the worst rank in the 2017 Small Business Tax Index – 8% worse than the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst business state (New Jersey).

<https://taxfoundation.org/state-business-tax-climate-index-2019/>

and

<http://sbecouncil.org/resources/publications/small-business-policy-index-2017/>

The American Tort Reform Foundation in 2019 ranks CA the “worst state judicial hellhole” in U.S. – worse than 2018 “winner:” Florida. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranked CA a bit better – “only” the 4<sup>th</sup> worst state in 2017 (unfortunately, sliding from 7<sup>th</sup> worst in 2008).

<http://www.judicialhellholes.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/judicial-hellholes-report-2017-2018.pdf>

and

<http://www.instituteforlegalreform.com/states/california>

CA driving tickets are incredibly high. Red-light camera ticket \$500. Next highest state is \$250. Most are around \$100.

<http://reason.org/blog/show/red-light-cameras-and-the-enigmatic>

CA has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest/worst state workers’ compensation rates in 2018. More important factor than a state's corporate income tax. 169% of median state rate. Yet we pay low benefits -- much goes to lawyers.

<https://www.oregon.gov/dcbs/reports/Documents/general/prem-sum/18-2082.pdf>

The Tax Foundation “Tax Freedom Day” study ranks CA as the 12<sup>th</sup> worst taxed state in 2019. But many new CA state and local taxes proposed this year. More important, the huge CA state income tax is the most progressive of all states, hammering the upper fourth of the populace. The top 1% pay 50% of all CA state income taxes. A CA person's Tax Freedom Day varies dramatically.

<https://taxfoundation.org/tax-freedom-day-2019>

CA unemployment rate (February, 2019) is 4.2%. Yet we are still worse than all but 11 states. National unemployment rate is 3.8%. The CA unemployment rate is 12.1% higher than the average of the other 49 states.

<http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm>

and

<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

But using the lagging yet arguably more accurate U-6 measure of unemployment (includes involuntary part-time workers), CA is the 8<sup>th</sup> worst – 8.8% vs. national 7.7%. National U-6 not including CA is 7.55%, making CA’s U-6 16.6% higher than other states.

<http://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>

CA public school teachers are the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest paid in the nation – avg \$81,126. CA students rank 46<sup>th</sup> in math achievement, 42<sup>nd</sup> in reading.

<https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile>

and

[http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/180413-Rankings\\_And\\_Estimates\\_Report\\_2018.pdf](http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/180413-Rankings_And_Estimates_Report_2018.pdf) page 49

CA annual per state prisoner cost (\$75,560) is easily the highest in the nation – over triple the avg. cost of the 18 states with the least-costly rates.

<http://californiapolicycenter.org/prison-unions-punish-california-taxpayers/>

and

[www.tinyurl.com/CA-prison-cost](http://www.tinyurl.com/CA-prison-cost)

California, a destitute state, still gives away community college education at fire sale prices. Our CC tuition and fees are the lowest in the nation. How low? Nationwide, the average community college tuition and fees are TRIPLE our California CC's.

<http://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-and-fees-sector-and-state-over-time>

This ridiculously low tuition devalues education to students – often resulting in a 25+% drop rate for class completion. In addition, because of grants and tax credits, up to 2/3 of California CC students pay no net tuition at all!

<http://tinyurl.com/ygqz9ls>

Complaints about increased UC student fees too often ignore a key point -- all poor and many middle class CA students don't pay the UC "fees" (our state's euphemism for tuition). There are no fees for most California families with under \$80K income. 55% of all undergraduate CA UC students pay zero tuition, and another 14% pay only partial tuition. Moreover, CA's new "Middle Class Scholarship" program provides partial tuition aid for CA public college students of families with income from \$80K to \$150K.

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/blueandgold/>

and

<http://tinyurl.com/UC-zero>

and

<http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-middle-class-aid-20140624-story.html>

California's real ("supplemental") 2017 poverty rate (the new census bureau standard adjusted for the COL) is still easily the worst in the nation at 19.0%. We are 43.9% higher than the average for the other 49 states. Texas is 14.7%. CA poverty rate is 34.6% higher than Texas.

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/p60/265/table5.xls>

California has 12% of the nation's population, but amazingly has over 43% of the entire country's TANF ("Temporary" Assistance for Needy Families) and SSP welfare recipients. That's 5.6 TIMES the percentage of welfare recipients in these categories found in the other 49 states!

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/twelfth-report-to-congress> page 20

California ranks 50<sup>th</sup> worst for people's debt-to-income ratio, and 49<sup>th</sup> worst for percentage of home ownership.

<http://tinyurl.com/2-unknown-CA-stats>

**and**

<http://tinyurl.com/CA-debt-to-income>

California has the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest bond rating of any state – Basket case Illinois beat us out for the lowest spot. We didn't improve our rating – Illinois just got worse.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2014/06/09/sp-ratings-2014>

Average California firefighter paid 60% more than paid firefighters in other 49 states. CA cops paid 56% more. CA 2016 median household income (including gov't workers) is only 12.8% above national avg.

[www.tinyurl.com/CA-ff-and-cop-pay](http://www.tinyurl.com/CA-ff-and-cop-pay)

**and**

<https://tinyurl.com/ydhuj2j7>

CA COL is 41.0% higher than the national average in the 1<sup>st</sup> qtr 2018, up from 36.3% higher a year earlier. CA COL is 54.4% higher than TX.

[https://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/cost\\_of\\_living/](https://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/cost_of_living/)

The median CA home costs 2.4 times more than the national median home.

<http://tinyurl.com/MedianHomePrice>

CA has 2<sup>nd</sup> highest annual cost for owning a car – \$4,112. \$370 higher than the other 49 states' average.

<http://tinyurl.com/zcame8j>

CA residential electricity costs an average of 51.3% more per kWh than the national average. CA commercial rates are 64.6% higher. For industrial use, CA electricity is an astonishing 105.2% higher than the 50 state average – an average which includes CA! (June, 2018).

[https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.cfm?t=epmt\\_5\\_6\\_a](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.cfm?t=epmt_5_6_a)

NOTE: SDG&E/Sempra is considerably higher than the CA average.

A 2015 U-T survey of home water bills for the 30 largest U.S. cities found that for 200 gallons a day usage, San Diego has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest cost – 73.7% higher than the median city surveyed. At 600 gal/day, San Diego was again 3<sup>rd</sup> highest – 81.7% higher than the median city.

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/jul/27/drought-water-prices-rise/>

The top CEO's surveyed rank CA "the worst state in which to do business" for the **14<sup>th</sup> straight year**.

[www.chiefexecutive.net/best-worst-states-business-2018/](http://www.chiefexecutive.net/best-worst-states-business-2018/)

From 2007 through 2010, 10,763 manufacturing facilities were built or expanded across the country — but only 176 of those were in CA. So with roughly 12% of the nation's population, CA got 1.6% of the built or expanded manufacturing facilities. Stated differently, adjusted for population, the other 49 states averaged 8.4 times more manufacturing growth than did California.

<http://www.cmta.net/20110303mfgFacilities07to10.pdf> -- prepared by California Manufacturers and Technology Association

California was recently ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst state to retire in by Kiplinger. Easily the lowest percentage of people over age 65. Only NY and NJ are deemed worse.

<http://www.kiplinger.com/slideshow/retirement/T006-S001-worst-states-for-retirement-2016/index.html>

The 2015 median Texas household income is 13.7% less than CA. But adjusted for COL, TX median household income is 32.0% more than CA.

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/acsbr15-02.pdf>

and

[https://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/cost\\_of\\_living/](https://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/cost_of_living/)

Consider California's "net domestic migration" (migration between states). **From 1992 through mid-2018, California lost a NET 4.2 million people to other states.** Net departures slowed in 2008 only because people couldn't sell their homes. But more people still leave each year -- in FY 2016-17, we lost 138,195. Again, note that these are **NET** losses. Sadly, our policies have split up many California families.

<https://twitter.com/SenTedCruz/status/464827967747526656/photo/1>

and

<http://tinyurl.com/FY2017-NDM>

It's likely that it's not the welfare kings and queens departing. They are primarily the young, the educated, the productive, the entrepreneurial, the ambitious, the wealthy (such as Tiger Woods) – and retirees seeking to make their nest-eggs provide more bang for the buck.

*Richard Rider is the President of The San Diego Tax Fighters. The article appeared on a variety of sites on April 16, 2019.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **Disastrous anti-oil!!!**

Assembly Bill 345, which is working its way through the CA State legislature, proposes to shut down the oil and gas industry in this state based upon the junk science supposition that oil and gas operations pose a health risk to neighboring properties. The bill is part of the effort to “keep oil in the ground” at all costs to our society, and believe me, the cost to keep oil in the ground is tremendous.

Oil and gas operations are an essential component of our energy supply, a mainstay of our economy, a cornerstone of the tax base, and the value of the same is protected by our constitution. That is, oil and gas deposits are privately owned minerals, which can’t be taken away, without just compensation.

I have never quite understood the religious fervor with which extreme environmentalists have attacked the use of natural products including oil, gas, and coal. These products enabled the onset of the industrial revolution which lifted mankind out of millennia of poverty and misery. That is, these fuels vastly improved everyone’s quality of life, extended our life span and saved countless lives in a number of ways, including by way of revolutionizing our ability to grow and store food, and protect us from the elements!

Moreover, the push to replace these lifesaving fuels any time soon with renewables is a pipe dream. This is due to the fact that, despite decades of research and tens of billion dollars invested, we still don’t have the technology available to realistically store wind and solar

power for use throughout the day and night, as these sources can only produce energy for a few hours a day, in limited locales, if that!

Nevertheless, the California State Legislature continues to try and find a way to shut down our oil and gas industry. This is simply reckless. Oil and gas resources in this state are privately owned and the state can't take away the value of this property, known as mineral rights, without compensating the owners of the same.

In addition to being a valuable property right, it goes without saying that oil and gas are an essential energy source for our state. What will we do without locally produced oil and gas? Are we going to import 100% of what we need to fuel our vehicles, planes, trains, factories, and homes? We don't have the infrastructure to do so. How much higher do you want your auto and home fuel bills to go?

The oil and gas industry also represents one of the best paying job sectors in our state. Many of the people employed in this sector of our economy make six figure salaries with only a high school education! Where are they going to find equivalent work?

Finally, the oil and gas sector pays inordinately high taxes. Venoco and Exxon Mobil were the top two tax payers in our county before they were shut down by virtue of the pipeline break three years ago. The county and our local schools are losing millions of dollars in revenue as a result.

It is not too early to contact the Governor's office and ask him to be waiting for AB345 with his veto pen!

Andy Caldwell  
COLAB



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See the presentation at the link: <https://youtu.be/eEdP4cvf-zA>



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Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

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(Revised 2/2017)