



WEEKLY UPDATE JUNE 30 - JULY 6, 2019

**COASTAL COMMISSION DEBACLE
JULY 11 & 12, 2019 ANNIHILATING THE SOUTH COUNTY
ECONOMY & AND SEIZING PRIVATE PROPERTY**

**SHOW UP BOTH DAYS AND SCREAM BLOODY
MURDER PER THE ALERTS BELOW**

**ALERT I
EARLY WARNING
COASTAL COMMISSION TO CONSIDER
BANNING DUNES RIDING AND
CAMPING - 9:00 AM THURSDAY, JULY
11TH – EMBASSY SUITES IN SLO**

**California Coastal Commission Public Hearing
Agenda Item 12a, Thursday, July 11, 2019, 9:00 AM
Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area
(ODSVRA) Review**

**Thursday, July 11, 2019, 9:00 AM - Embassy Suites Hotel, San Luis Obispo
Hearing Procedures as of June 25, 2019**

(Please check www.coastal.ca.gov for updates)

NOTE THE CONVOLUTED PROCESS BELOW:

(Coastal Commission quotes are in italics throughout)

Hearing Schedule /Order of Speakers

1. *Coastal Commission Staff Presentation (approximately 30 minutes)*
2. *State Parks Presentation (30 minutes total, reserving time for rebuttal)*
3. *Current Elected Officials (up to 3 minutes each)*
4. *Public Agency Representatives (up to 3 minutes each)*
5. *Organized Groups (up to 5-10minutes maximum per group)1*
6. *Individual Members of the Public (up to 1-2 minutes each)2*
7. *State Parks Rebuttal (time remaining after Parks' initial presentation)*
8. *Coastal Commission Staff Response to Public Testimony*
9. *Coastal Commission Deliberations*

Hearing Rules:

1. Speaker Time Limits - Organized Groups. *Organized groups with an identified spokesperson are allotted 1 or 2 minutes per group member present at the time of spokesperson testimony (which will be verified at that time, and adjusted if not present), up to a maximum of 5 or 10 minutes total per group (i.e., for groups of 5 or more), depending on how many groups need to be accommodated, and at the discretion of the Chair of the Commission. The time allotment per group will be announced prior to the beginning of the hearing. All group members allotting time to the group spokesperson must complete a speaker slip. Group members who allot their time to the group are not allowed to also testify separately from the group (i.e., as an individual). Please register with Commission Staff to be considered as an organized group.*

2. Speaker Time Limits - Individuals. *Individual speakers will be allotted either 1 or 2 minutes each, depending on how many speakers need to be accommodated, and at the discretion of the Chair of the Commission. The time allotment per speaker will be announced prior to the beginning of the hearing. Ceding of time from one individual to another will not be accommodated at this hearing.*

3. Speaker Slips Required Prior Start of Hearing. *If you intend to testify (or to allot time to a spokesperson in the case of a group) you must complete and submit a pink speaker slip at the Commission Staff table. Speaker slips will only be accepted up until the time that Commission Staff begin their presentation on the item, and will not be accepted after that time.*

4. PowerPoint Presentations. *If you intend to make a PowerPoint presentation, please provide your presentation (on a USB flash drive, flash memory card, or compact disk, where the file name includes your name or group name and the item number (i.e., "Th12a ODSVRA review – presentation for [your*

name/group name]”) to the audio-visual technicians before the time that Commission Staff begin their presentation on the item.

5. Hard-Copy Materials. Please bring 20 copies of any materials that you intend to distribute to Commissioners.

6. Decorum. No audible outburst will be allowed. You may wave your hands to show your support for testimony, or give a thumbs down to signal your opposition to testimony.

7. Chair Discretion to Modify These Procedures. To preserve adequate time for Commission deliberations, the Chair of the Commission reserves the right to close the public hearing (i.e., to stop taking testimony from the public) after a reasonable opportunity has been provided to present all questions and points of view, and further reserves the right to adjust these hearing procedures as necessary.

THE STAFF’S HAUGHTY RECOMMENDATION

The Coastal Commission Staff Throws the Book at State Parks and Dunes Riding: The 65-page staff diatribe recommends prohibition of riding on the dunes and camping in RVs, trailers, and other vehicles. Under “conclusions” on page 64 the report states in part:

The status quo related to operations and management at ODSVRA under the CDP is clearly not sustainable in a manner consistent with coastal resource protection requirements, and it is time to more fully understand and evaluate other public access and recreation options that better respond to the current realities that affect and are affected by activities at this shoreline location. Put simply, a Park that is fully consistent with on-the-ground realities, consistent with CDP, Coastal Act, and LCP requirements, does not include OHV use. Rather, it is clear that the coastal resource issues and constraints warrant elimination of OHV use at the Park.

The Commission has 12 members, 4 of whom are appointed by the Governor, 4 by the Speaker of the Assembly, and 4 by the Pro-Tem of the State Senate. Within this group are appointments by interest class such as environmental, local governments, and coastal industries. Any 7 could vote to revoke State Parks permit to operate the riding and camping area.

The staff report attempts to cloak its primary recommendation with language about less severe measures such as further reducing the riding areas, restricting the number of vehicles and riders on any given day, imposing more restrictions on special days such as the 4th of July, eliminating special events such as Huck Fest, and barring use on windy days or during the windy season.

Accordingly, and after listing some of these options, the report continues:

Although the Commission has to date used its discretion (through amendments to the base CDP and through the annual review process) to allow ODSVRA use parameters, intensities, and activities to continue based on these temporary and interim use parameters (as adjusted through CDP amendments)

as they relate to coastal resource impacts for decades, it has become clear to staff that the coastal resource issues and constraints affecting vehicular operations at the Park are only becoming more acute, and have reached a point where it is simply not appropriate for the Commission to continue to allow for use to continue as it has in the past, as this would not be consistent with underlying permit conditions and coastal resource protection parameters, interpretation of which must be consistent with the Coastal Act and LCP.

Here the staff is stating that it would be illegal for the Commission to allow continued riding and vehicular camping. Presumably, the Commission's General Counsel has read the report and approved it. The Commissioners are in a terrible position to reject the staff recommendation under these circumstances.

Staff Arrogance and Disrespect for the Public: The staff also takes pains to editorialize against whatever Park users and supporters may have to present by way of countering these arguments. Remember these writing are ahead of the legally required public hearing, during which the Commissioners are supposed to listen to the people with an open mind.

*Put simply, in staff's view a Park that is fully consistent with on-the-ground realities, and with coastal resource protection requirements, **does not include OHV use**. Rather, it is clear to staff that the significant coastal resource issues and constraints attributable to OHV use render long-term OHV use at this location untenable. Granted, current vehicular and OHV users will no doubt suggest that is exactly the manner in which State Parks should proceed, but to do so is to suggest that State Parks should simply disregard the realities affecting this Park, and to suggest that those realities are somehow inconsequential.*

The Sham: Why have a Commission appointed by elected officials? Or for that matter, why have a Commission at all? Simply appoint a self-perpetuating staff and let them make any rules (in effect, laws) which they decide are appropriate. The current Staff is essentially uncontrolled. Encased in its privileged marble and glass building on Van Ness Avenue, next to the Opera House in San Francisco, and sipping Martinis at fancy SF Restaurants, it can destroy property, people's lives and hopes, and at this point, whole communities. These Mandarins won't even deign to serve in the gritty State Capitol in Sacramento.

Remember that the recent study of the economic impacts of the State Park and its heretofore existing recreational uses demonstrate that it generates about \$243 million of economic multiplier activity in the Five Cities area per year.

Blackmail: One of the most offensive and astonishing staff recommendations requires that the State Parks Department use its funds to cover the Commission's costs of litigating and paying damages for any lawsuits that may arise as a result of the Commission voting to shut down the riding and camping. Item 14 of a long list of sanctions and conditions, which the staff recommends be imposed on State Parks, reads:

14. Indemnification by State Parks/Liability for Costs and Attorneys' Fees. State Parks agrees to reimburse the Coastal Commission in full for all Coastal Commission costs and attorneys' fees (including (1) those charged by the Office of the Attorney General, and (2) any court costs and

attorneys' fees that the Coastal Commission may be required by a court to pay) that the Coastal Commission incurs in connection with the defense of any action brought by a party other than State Parks against the Coastal Commission, its officers, employees, agents, successors and assigns challenging the approval of these CDP changes. The Coastal Commission retains complete authority to conduct and direct the Commission's defense of any such action against the Coastal Commission, its officers, employees, agents, successors and assigns.

In other words, funds which could be used to operate parks would be diverted to reimburse the Coastal Commission for its lack of accountability.

This could work either way. If the Commission does not shut down the riding area, the Sierra Club or someone else could sue them. (They probably have someone lined up.) On the other hand if they do shut down the riding area, it is likely that the Friends of the Dunes, local governments, and others negatively impacted could sue.

This seems to be a huge illegal post hoc attempt to punish State parks and the public for using the Park over decades and decades.

The Awful Failure of Shills and Ideologues Posing as Public Administrators: Beyond the instant issues discussed above, this whole sad saga reveals a complete and utter failure of the Coastal Commission staff to understand and imbibe the basic principles of being public servants in a democratically constituted society. Key values include commitment to:

The Rule of Law

Efficient Use of Public Resources

Reasonable and Fair Application of Rules

Regulatory and Fiscal Restraint

Presenting Decision Makers with Both Negatives and Positives of the Proposed Policy and its Alternatives.

Here they did none of that. And as noted above, they even pre-chastised those who would object.

ALERT II
IT GETS EVEN WORSE ON FRIDAY,
JULY 12TH - USING SEA LEVEL RISE
HYSTERIA TO BAN & CONFISCATE
PRIVATE PROPERTY ON THE COAST

COASTAL COMMISSION “WORKSHOP”

California Coastal Commission
Local Government Workshop

AGENDA

Friday, July 12, 2019
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Embassy Suites Hotel | 333 Madonna Road | San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

MEETING GOALS:

- A full, frank and mutually respectful discussion of key coastal city and county issues and concerns related to interactions with the Commission on Short-Term Rentals (STR), Sea Level Rise (SLR) and the Local Coastal Program (LCP) process.
- Seek agreement on priorities and specific actions wherever possible for each topic (STR, SLR, LCP) within the time available in this meeting.
- Identify next steps and commitments to develop more specific strategies and solutions for each topic following this workshop.

Summary: The Coastal Commission is abolishing private property rights on the coast in the name of human generated global warming sea level rise. The Commission has imposed requirements on cities and counties to revise their land use development codes in coastal areas. In order to have valid coastal land use ordinances a city or county must develop a graduated plan to accommodate sea level rise of up to 80 ft. over the next 100 years. This is part of the Commission’s long term scheme to socialize all private property in the coastal zone.

Key provisions include:

- Prohibiting new development on property which would experience flooding as the sea rises progressively per the Coastal Commission models.
- Prohibiting maintenance activities on properties which would experience flooding as the sea rises progressively per Coastal Commission models.

The Coastal Commission agenda write up encourages the cities and counties with ominous advice:

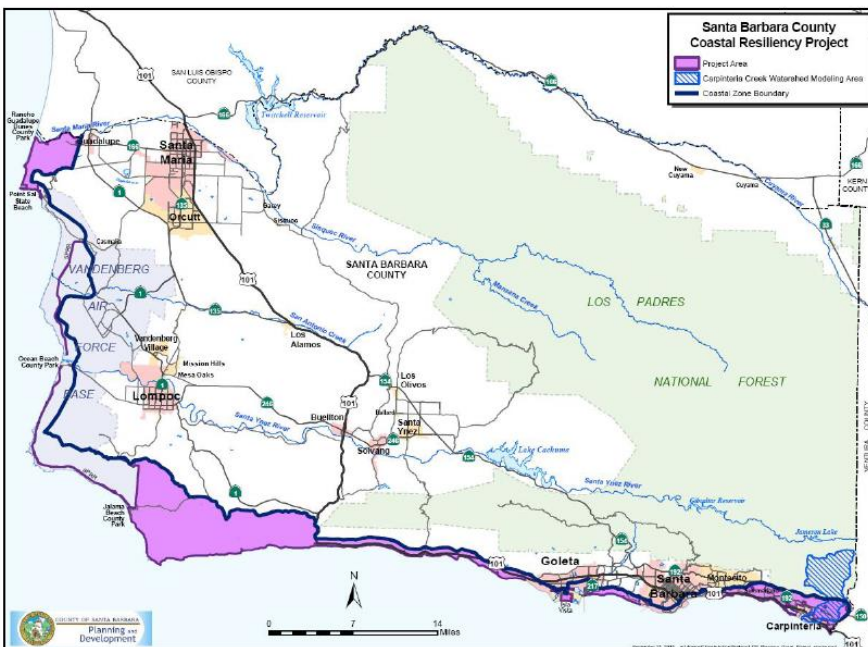
Local governments could also downzone areas vulnerable to sea level rise to reduce densities and limit development expectations, and they could manage nonconforming structures in order to bring them into conformance with LCP policies within a reasonable period of time. The long-term effectiveness of such a redevelopment-based adaptation strategy depends on at least two factors. First, policies should include clear measures that define the threshold of improvements that constitute “redevelopment.” This is critical because, with “redeveloped” properties, the entire structure must be brought up to current LCP standards. In contrast, if the improvements qualify as “repair and maintenance,” a landowner could maintain the structure for its remaining life and make minor improvements that meet current

standards, but the whole structure need not meet current standards so long as the improvements do not increase the degree of non-conformity of a structure in a hazardous area. Additionally, in some cases, development that qualifies as repair and maintenance may be exempt from permitting requirements. Second, an adaptation strategy should include downzoning of hazardous areas so that buildings destroyed by disasters are not allowed to be rebuilt in place. Instituting rebuilding restrictions in advance of damage will give property owners time to adjust their investment backed expectations and help local governments avoid takings challenges.

If an agency is contemplating requiring property owners to dedicate open space easements or other property interests, or requiring the payment of fees to mitigate project impacts, the agency should be careful to adopt findings explaining how requiring the property interest or payment is relevant.

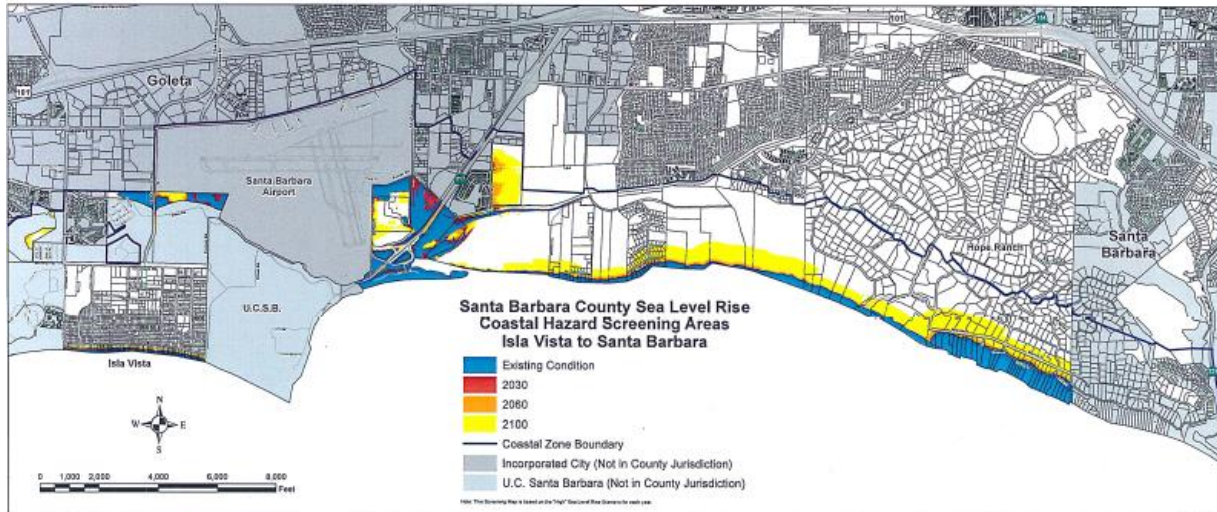
The complete text can be accessed at the link:

<https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2017/8/w6h/w6h-8-2017-exhibits.pdf#page=2>



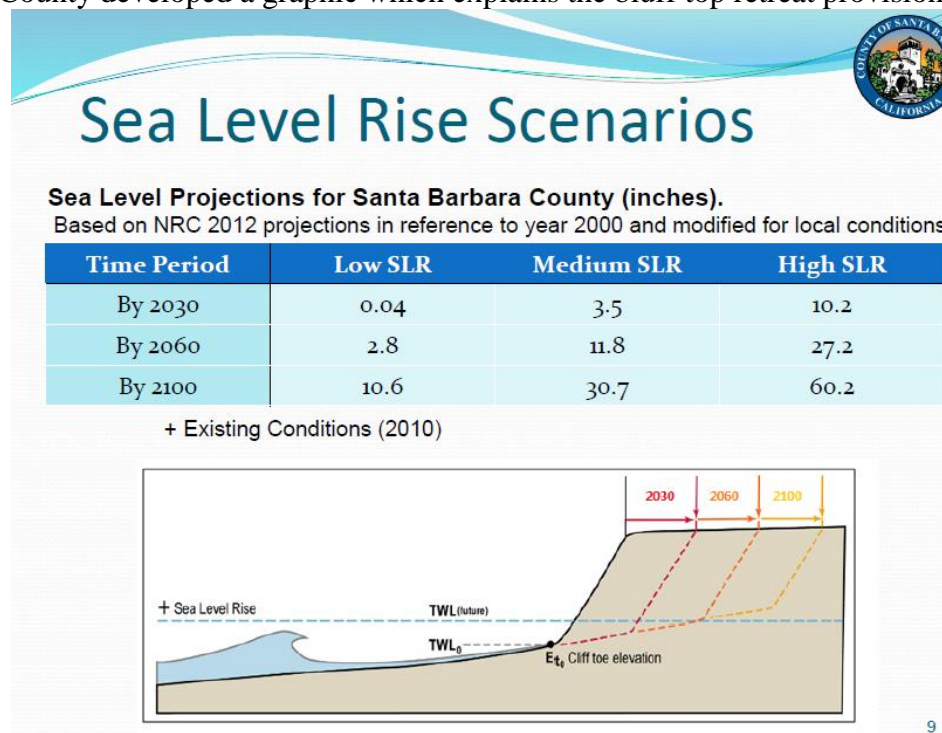
As an example, Santa Barbara County has already defined the areas where the revised ordinances would be imposed.

In turn they have provided examples of the retreat areas and schedule in detail. See the blowup below on the next page, depicting the unincorporated area between the City of Santa Barbara and UCSB. If your property is in the blue, red, or yellow zones, it could become illegal.

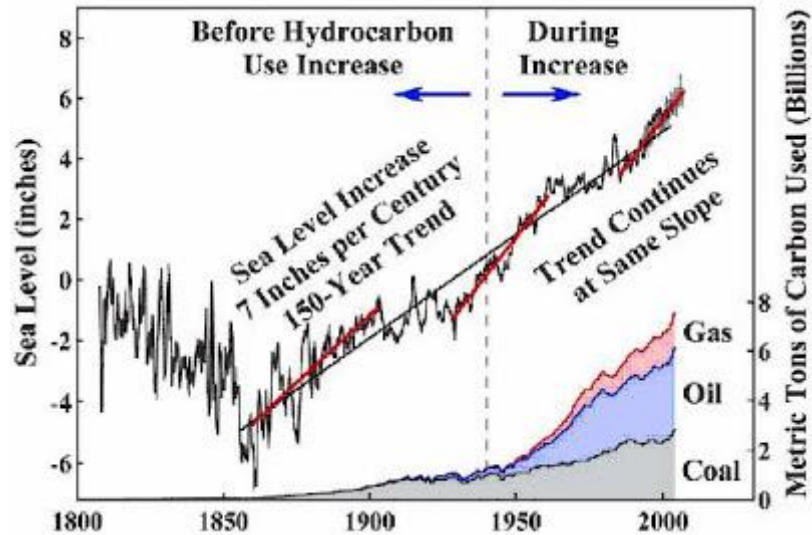


- Prohibiting new development on oceanfront bluff tops, which would experience undercutting as a result of progressive sea level rises per Coastal Commission models.
- Prohibiting maintenance of properties on bluff tops which would experience undercutting as a result of progressive sea level rise per Coastal Commission models.
- Requiring “managed retreat” of existing development.

Santa Barbara County developed a graphic which explains the bluff top retreat provisions.

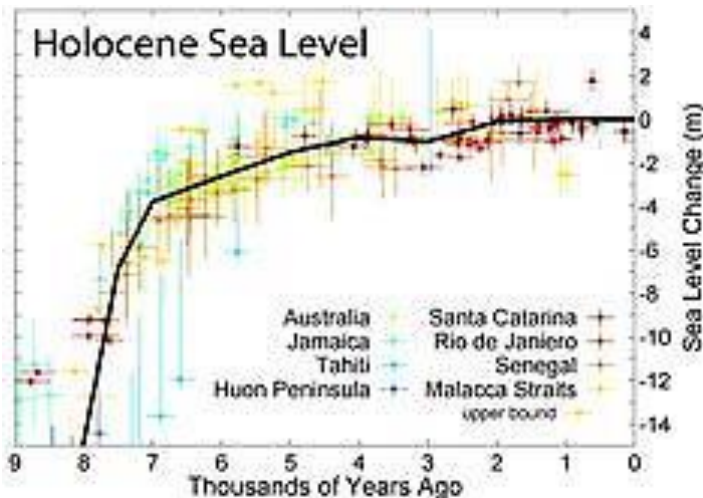


What if Sea Level Rise is Not as Fast as Bureaucrats Predict? The longitudinal graph below demonstrates that sea level rise has been occurring since before the industrial revolution/heavy carbon generation and continues at the same rate of 7 inches per century. Accordingly, the **observed** sea level rise has been about 6 inches since 1940 (80 years).



The graph above is in inches.

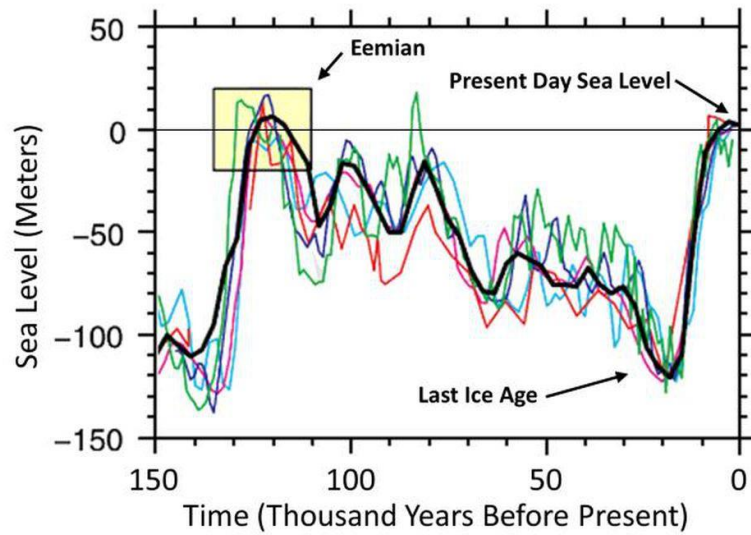
The Sea Level Has Been Rising Since the End of the Last Glacial Epoch Per the graph below: Note that the most rapid increase was between 8,000 and 7,000 year ago. Did those hunter-gatherers restrict camp fires to slow it down? Of course warming allowed the development of agriculture.



Imagine sleeping at the edge of the glacier with Sabre Tooth Tigers and giant bears & wolves prowling around. Today's left would feed the children to them.

The graph above measures sea rise in meters (a meter is about 3.3 feet).

The graph below presents a longer perspective.



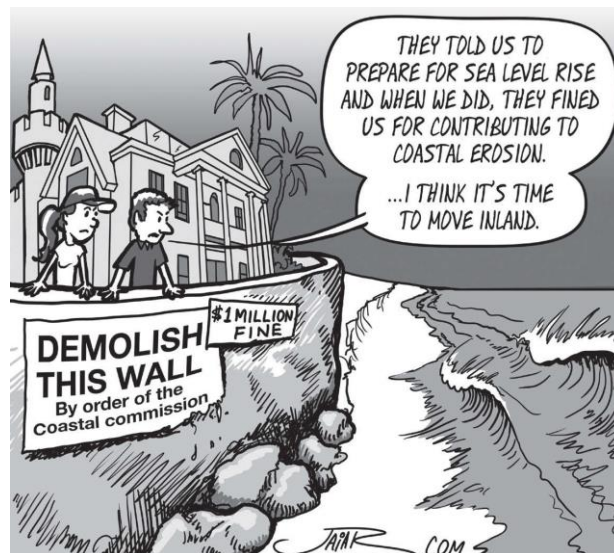
There was no industrial CO₂ driving sea level rise in 125,000 or 10,000 B.C.E.

Given this data, it's a crime for the State and localities to devalue and ultimately seize private property.



Friday's Hearing Schedule On Next Page Below:

#	Time	Topic & Objective
1	9:00 am	Opening Procedures
2	9:15 am	Opening Statements by Commissioners and City/County representatives
3	9:45 am	Short-Term Rentals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of city and county needs and concerns regarding STR - Identifying specific issues for problem solving and coordination, along with brief summary of action items and next steps
-	10:45	<i>Break</i>
4	11:00 am	Sea Level Rise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of primary concerns of cities and counties regarding SLR - Overview of statewide challenges and opportunities related to SLR - Identifying specific issues for problem solving and coordination, along with brief summary of action items and next steps
5	12:00 pm	Public Comment Session NOTE: There will be no more than one (1) hour for public comment. Due to the significant level of interest in this item and limited time available, speakers' time will be limited to 1 to 2 minutes, depending on the number of speakers, and at the discretion of the Commission Chair. We urge written comments be submitted to: StatewidePlanning@coastal.ca.gov . <i>Working Lunch</i>
6	1:00 pm	Sea Level Rise, Continued
-	1:45 pm	<i>Break</i>
7	2:00 pm	Local Coastal Program Development Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of primary concerns of cities and counties regarding LCP development - Identifying specific issues for problem solving and coordination along with next steps and timeline
8	3:00 pm	Wrap Up/Brief Closing Remarks
9	4:00 pm	Adjourn



THIS WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
SUMMER RECESS FOR TWO WEEKS – NEXT MEETING JULY 9TH

NO SLOCOG MEETING IN JULY
THE NEXT MEETING IS AUGUST 7, 2019

LAST WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
SUMMER RECESS FOR TWO WEEKS – NEXT MEETING JULY 9TH

SHORT PLANNING COMMISSION
FAUX PINE BROAD-BAND TOWER APPROVED

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 14

TWO FAMILIES — THANKS GOVERNOR NEWSOM
BY BRUCE BIALOSKY

HOW TO DESTROY A CIVILIZATION
BY JEFFERY HARDING

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2019 (Summer Recess)

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday July 9, 2019 (Scheduled)

REQUEST THE BOARD TO FORMALLY OPPOSE THE COASTAL COMMISSION'S STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

COASTAL COMMISSION EMERGENCY: The Board should schedule separate Board Business Items on its July 9, 2019 calendar to adopt the County's formal position with regard to both:

1. The Coastal Commission Dunes Riding and Camping Closure Item.

And,

2. The Coastal Private Property Sea Rise Dictats to cities and counties.

The Board Chair and CEO should schedule these items for Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 PM.

TELEPHONE, TEXT, EMAIL, OR OTHERWISE CONTACT THE SUPERVISORS AND ASK THEM TO SCHEDULE THESE ITEMS PRIOR TO THE COASTAL COMMISSION HEARINGS LATER ON THURSDAY JULY 11 AND 12, 2019.

THOSE WHO LIVE IN COASTAL CITIES SHOULD HAVE THEIR CITY COUNCILS DO THE SAME THING OR TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING IF NONE IS ALREADY ON CALENDAR.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, June 25, 2019 (Not Scheduled)

The Board is on a two-week summer recess.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, June 27, 2019 (Completed)

In General: This was a short meeting during which a faux pine broad band tower was approved.

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

TWO FAMILIES — THANKS GOVERNOR NEWSOM

BY BRUCE BIALOSKY

Hopefully you spent Father's Day weekend celebrating a man you honor and cherish. I spent my weekend with my family, but more importantly with two young families that were leaving the state of California. They had enough and are moving on. Members of the middle class that believe they will never achieve their dreams in the state where everyone used to dream their dreams.

The first couple is moving to Henderson, Nevada. They are done scrambling for schools, scared of the quality or lack of quality in the LAUSD for children. I met the husband through politics close to twenty years ago and became his CPA and then his family's CPA. Ironically, he later married the niece of one of my closest friends since my first days at Grant High in the Valley almost 50 years ago. They both have spent their entire lives in California but see no livable future here for them. They raved about their new home at a very reasonable price where their kids can go to a local school.

We spent time speaking of the craziness going on in California. They brought up climate change. We talked about the lack of water in California, which is not an issue in Henderson. They both have been to Israel many times and spoke of how that desert land is awash in water. I suggested that the logical thing to do if the "environmentalists" are so concerned about the oceans rising then they should be all in for desalination plants to soak up the water along the coast and move it inland where it is really needed and stem the water shortage. The husband—who does real estate loans—stated when the liberal elite want to sell him their houses along the beach in Malibu at 70 cents on the dollar because of their concerns about climate change then he will believe it. Until then he said they are just blowing smoke.

The second couple is moving to Austin, TX. The husband moved here 15 years ago after graduating college. We know his mother through Jewish community activities, and I had met his father through political activities. We were to look after their son in this foreign land as the family is from Houston. I recently told his father I liked his son more than I like him. That is how close he became to us.

Five years after being here he met a young lady at a wedding in Chicago. She came here and started working as a professional in the Jewish Community. We soon found out her two parents were in my eighth-grade class in Shaker Heights, OH. Strange twists of fate. The young couple married and became the parents of two young daughters.

They started looking around about impending schools, the homeless factor in their relatively high-end community of Sherman Oaks, the high cost of living and all the other craziness about California and said “Hasta la Vista.”

While dealing with the devastation of losing these two families that I love having moved away, I received an email from my uncle who is now living in Florida as a refugee from NY. He is one of those guys who says he will never be a Floridian and always be a New Yorker even though NY mirrors California in so many ways, driving their residents to greener pastures.

He asked why an (estranged) nephew is also leaving CA to move to Indiana. My response: “Probably because California is driving out many young couples because the government sucks here. Had final meal with two couples over the weekend — one moving to NV, one moving to TX. Not totally surprising. High taxes, bad schools, bad roads, highest poverty rate in nation, homeless abound. Surprised anyone stays.”

He objected to that. Then he asked, but why he is leaving. “I just told you. BTW, unaffordable housing here. Why don’t you live in NY? You are in favor of paying for health care for illegal aliens and now you can get in an auto accident with an illegal who has a driver’s license, but no insurance. As insane as CA.”

Then I replied once more “BTW, if you read anything other than the NY Times you would know Indiana has basically a zero-unemployment rate. They are enticing people to move there. They have a sane government, low taxes and affordable housing. That is why he is moving there.”

If you read Joel Kotkin, a demographer out of Chapman Univ., millennials are leaving California in bunches. The middle class is getting crushed. They have figured out they cannot make it here with two kids and a mortgage and bad schools and everything else. Their chances of moving from the middle class to upper middle class are frozen thus they are relocating to defrost their dreams.

Governor Newsom is not solely responsible for this, but he wanted the big job and now he has the big woes. He recently wasted his time deriding Republicans. He misses that they are not listening because they are leaving.

He apparently is smoking some of the newly legalized dope because recently Newsom stated this: ““Every year, the (business) executive magazines come out and say, ‘California is the worst place to do business, No. 50 in the nation. They say the best places are Tennessee and Texas ...’ but if it’s all about (gross domestic product), we outperform everyone.” California “is still the envy of the world,”

Young families are leaving, businesses are relocating, the highly successful soon will leave due to high taxes no longer deductible. “California dreamin’ (California dreamin’) On such a winter’s day.” Those days are gone.

But Gov, you are giving free healthcare to illegal aliens while our Vets live in the muck on the streets. I hope you are proud Governor. I am just sad.

This item first appeared in Flashreport. This entry was posted on Monday, June 24th, 2019 at 7:57 am and is filed under [Blog Posts](#).

HOW TO DESTROY A CIVILIZATION

BY JEFFERY HARDING

There are lots of ways to kill off a civilization. Wars, politics, economic collapse. But what are the actual mechanics? It might be a useful thing to know whether or not we are killing ourselves off.

Ancient Rome is a good place to start. They had an advanced civilization. They had running water, sewers, flush toilets, concrete, roads, bridges, dams, an international highway system, mechanical reapers, water-powered mills, public baths, soap, banking, commerce, free trade, a legal code, a court system, science, literature, and a republican system of government. And a strong army to enforce stability and peace (*Pax Romana*). It wasn't perfect, but they were on their way to modernity.

One of my favorite quotes is from Marcus Tullius Cicero, statesman, orator and writer (106-43 BCE):

Times are bad. Children no longer obey their parents, and everyone is writing a book.

If that isn't a mark of a civilized society I don't know what is.

But Rome collapsed. I often wonder what would have happened if it hadn't. Could we have avoided a thousand years of the Dark Ages. Could we have been flying airplanes and driving cars in the year 1000?

What the hell happened to Rome?

Dictators. After 500 years, the famous Roman Republic ended with the dictator Julius Caesar taking power. Four hundred years later his progeny and usurpers ran the Empire into the ground and Rome fell to invading barbarians.

The standard explanation for Rome's decline and fall is that they devolved into dictatorships (true, but not *the* cause of their fall). Or they became decadent and corrupt (true, but not *the* cause of their fall). They fell to barbarian invasions (true, but not *the* cause of their fall).

Rome fell because the dictators ruined the Roman economy and the institutions that had made it prosperous. Rome was falling apart *before* the barbarian invasions.

How did the Caesars do that? They were profligate spenders. As emperors with absolute power usually do, they thought big: infrastructure (roads, temples, and palaces), a huge bureaucracy, and, as the key to maintaining their power they had a very large, loyal, and well paid army. As a consequence, massive government spending far outstripped revenue. They had what today we call a deficit problem.

They did two disastrous things to solve their deficit.

First, they kept raising taxes which became punitive. Not caring much about the consequences to the merchants, small farmers, and peasants, they came up with new ways to squeeze money out of their citizens. Onerous taxes led to tax evasion. The government's response was to double down and implement laws that restricted economic freedoms in order to raise even more taxes. Heavy taxes forced property owners, small and large, off the land. Large feudal estates run by political cronies arose in their

place. Laws were enacted that forced peasants into virtual serfdom. Business owners and their children were prevented from changing jobs or towns. And, taxes had to be paid either in gold or in kind or they would lose everything. Gold became scarce. Gold money was only lawfully available to the government, army, and bureaucrats.

Second, they debased the currency which led to inflation. It was the equivalent of printing money to pay for things. The resulting bouts of high inflation destroyed much of commerce and agriculture. Like most dictators they thought they could stop rising prices by implementing price controls, but that just led to gold and goods disappearing from the economy. Black markets grew despite threats of capital punishment. Unemployment and homelessness rose. Their large welfare system kept running short of money. Commercial, legal, and moral institutions were falling apart. Corruption was endemic. The resulting booms and busts and depressions were destroying the economy.

By the time the Goth and Visigoth invaders came along, Rome was so weakened that they could not hold back the waves of invasions. At the end, Roman citizens saw the government as the enemy and the invading barbarians as their saviors. Rome fell in 410 CE. What emerged was what we now know as the Middle Ages — it lasted for a thousand years. You know what that was like. They didn't call it the Dark Ages for nothing.

Much of Rome's economic history is quite familiar in modern times. Even after thousands of years of evidence of repeated failure, bad ideas simply don't die. Proponents of bad ideas are either ignorant of history or just ignorant. Or they are politicians (as Mark Twain said, "But I repeat myself.").

One bad idea with ancient precedents is Modern Monetary Theory (MMT). MMT is the *New Thing* among Progressives in America. Politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) and Bernie are quite excited about MMT. They think they have discovered the Holy Grail of economics.

Progressives believe that government can and should cause economic growth and prosperity. They believe government can do this by various controls, regulations, spending programs, and monetary manipulation. They believe proper government spending will stimulate demand, generate consumer spending, kick-start production, and, voila! we have full employment and prosperity. Along the way we can solve various social problems.

The idea of MMT takes this one step further. They believe that the government can spend/buy whatever it wants and print pieces of greenish paper to pay for it. Government doesn't need to tax us or borrow money to do this — it can print whatever money it needs to pay for it. Deficits don't matter because by printing money to pay for stuff they instantly solve the deficit problem. MMTers claim, with no shortage of arrogance, that they, Oz-like, can fine-tune the mechanics of how the economy is to be run and generate prosperity, prevent inflation, end inequality, and save the planet.

In other words, everything will be perfect; "just trust us" to run things. It sounds too good to be true.

AOC and Bernie Sanders and their supporters heartily embrace MMT. They want to break free of old-fashioned concepts such as fiscal integrity, balanced budgets, and monetary stability because they want no limits on their utopian schemes.

MMT is a crackpot idea. It is the monetary equivalent of the Perpetual Motion Machine — it ignores the laws of economics. It's like asking third graders to invent money. ("I'm gonna print me a bunch of money and buy me a Ferrari an' a jet an' all the coolest video games an' ..."). Proponents confuse pieces of greenish paper with wealth and, as history has repeatedly proven, you can't print your way to wealth and prosperity.

There is nothing “modern” about Modern Monetary Theory. It has been tried many times over the centuries and it has never worked. In every case where governments have printed money to pay for things, the result has been cycles of boom and bust, inflation (and hyperinflation), economic stagnation, and social disorder. MMTers simply don’t understand what money is or the mechanics of the business cycle or the concept of malinvestment and the destruction of capital.

Why is it not possible that we could go the way of Rome? Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal resulted in 25 years of economic stagnation. Only post-FDR deregulation, more economic freedoms, capital investment, and fiscal and monetary sanity led to economic growth.

AOC’s Green New Deal plus MMT would be worse than the old New Deal in that it places no limit on government’s ability to spend which means government can command economic resources and control the direction of the economy. History has shown that governments aren’t very good at that. Absolute power in the hands of the few is a bad idea.

How much destruction could MMT and utopian Progressive schemes like AOC’s utopian Green New Deal inflict on our civilization? It is hard to tell, but I hope we don’t have to look back some day and say the end started now.

June 24 Mises Wire Jeffrey Harding is a real estate investor in Santa Barbara, California. He currently writes at An Independent Mind. His articles have been cited, republished, or linked to by popular investor sites such as Zero Hedge, Seeking Alpha, and Minyanville, as well as media sites such as Huffington Post, Real Clear Politics, Real Clear Markets, Wall Street Journal, MarketWatch, Business Insider, Yahoo! Finance, The Street, and Forbes.com. He has also appeared on Fox Business News and NPR’s Marketplace Money. He currently is an adjunct professor at Santa Barbara City College where he teaches real estate investment.

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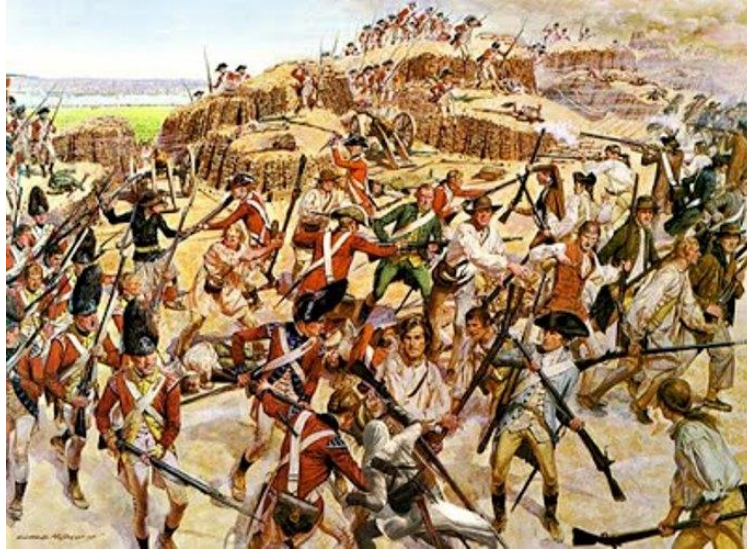
NEW YORKERS PULL DOWN A STATUE OF KING GEORGE III ON JULY 9, 1776

The statue had been dedicated in 1770 to memorialize Prime Minister William Pitt's support for the colonists. Pitt had successfully worked to have the odious Stamp Act repealed. The Stamp Act was a tax on all printed material including legal documents, newspapers, and commercial documents. The colonists objected to the Act and other taxes because they had no representation in Parliament. They actually commissioned a statue of Pitt but thought they better erect one for the King too. After all Pitt was just the King's chief advisor.

The celebration was not for long. Less than 2 months later on August 27, 1776 the British severely defeated the Continental Army and George Washington at the Battle of Long Island. The British lost around 400 men killed and wounded. The Americans lost 2,000 killed, captured, and wounded (mostly killed). New York was occupied by the British for the duration of the war. The American prisoners were incarcerated on rotting British Prison Ships anchored in New York Harbor, where many died of the unsanitary conditions and exposure.

The miracle was that Washington and some of the Army escaped to continue the Revolution.

Now, of course, the radical left is advocating pulling down George Washington's statues, painting over murals that celebrate him, and changing the name of schools bearing his name.



The outnumbered Americans were overwhelmed by British Professionals and driven from their works.

Citizens suspected of aiding Washington were summarily hung during the days afterwards.



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(Revised 2/2017)