



WEEKLY UPDATE NOVEMBER 3 - 9, 2019

THIS WEEK

VERY HEAVY WEEK AT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BUILDING AND FIRE CODE CHANGES

EARLY WARNING ON FEE INCREASES FOR PLANNING, AG COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC HEALTH & PUBLIC WORKS

\$500,000 PLAN FOR PG&E POWER SHUTOFFS

ECON DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS WITH EVC AND SLO HOTHOUSE – NOTHING ON DIABLO RETENTION

DRAFT LETTER REPUDIATING STATE AND LOCAL ACCUSATIONS ON PASO WATER PLAN

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EXCELLENT 5-YEAR FINANCIAL FORECAST WARNINGS

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**PASO WATER BASIN OFFSET REQUIREMENTS TO BE EXTENDED
FOR 5 MORE YEARS UNTIL SGMA PLANS BEGIN TO HAVE IMPACT**

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

OTHER AGENCIES OFF TOO

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**THE GREAT FAILURE OF THE CLIMATE MODELS
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You Ought to Have a Look: Dr. John Christy's House Testimony
**BY PATRICK J. MICHAELS AND PAUL C. "CHIP" KNAPPENBERGER
CLIMATE FRAUD**

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, November 5, 2019 (Scheduled)

EARLY WARNING ON FIRE AND BUILDING CODE CHANGES CONTAINED IN ITEMS 1 AND 2 BELOW:

Item 1 - Submittal of a resolution to amend provisions of the California Building Standards Code based on local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions and introduction of ordinances amending the Fire Code and the Cayucos Hazard Abatement, both contained in Title 16 of the San Luis Obispo County Code to be consistent with the most recently adopted State codes and general cleanup. Hearing set for November 19, 2019. The purpose of the item is to set a hearing for November 19, 2019 to adopt various changes to the County Fire Code and the Cayucos Hazard Abatement area. The Fire Code changes pertain to expanded requirements for rural roads and driveways. Increased widths and load bearing capacities constitute the key changes. There are also increased vegetation distance requirements for areas around water tanks and other structures. These changes could result in increased costs for farmers, ranchers, and rural residents. The changes for the Cayucos area mainly pertain to upgraded brush clearance requirements.

All these can be seen at the link below. Click on the various attachment tabs to see the details. You have to guess which ones pertain to which issues and documents as they are unlabeled as to specific subject.

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/11077>

Item 2 - Submittal of a resolution to amend provisions of the California Building Standards Code based on local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions and 2) introduction of an ordinance amending the Building and Construction Ordinance, Title 19 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, to be consistent with the most recently adopted State codes and to implement other non-substantive changes. Hearing set for November 19, 2019. Again, the purpose of this agenda item is to set a hearing for November 19, 2019 for public comment and consideration. There are numerous changes in the Definitions section of the ordinance which should be of interest to builders, contractors, developers, and agriculturists. The general theme is to add detail and specificity.

The Board letter summarizes some of the major changes in the list below. However, we believe that it is more extensive.

Adoption of Appendix Q of the California Residential Code, Tiny Homes. This will complement the land use requirements for tiny homes and provides relaxed building code requirements.

Updated Chapter 3 – Building Codes by restructuring Tables 903.1 and 903.2 for easier understanding and two methods of calculating fire sprinkler requirements for revisions and alterations. This will provide flexibility and options.

□ Updated Chapter 7 – Plumbing Code to reflect onsite wastewater (septic) permit requirement authority.

□ Updated Chapter 11 – Stormwater Management to be consistent with state permit language.

For example, if you have an old chicken coop, tank tower, shed, or other structure, you may be required to obtain a separate retroactive permit prior to building your barn, extension on your home, or other development. This is another way for the Planning Department to generate revenue.

- c. **Refusal to Issue Permits. The Building official may refuse to issue a permit, or refuse to extend, or renew any permit to any person who has a structure or structures without the benefit of permit on the property. Permits will be issued and receive final inspection in a manner and sequence determined by the building official.**

There are changes to the requirements for fire sprinklers in existing construction per the tables below:

Table 903.2 – Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Requirements for EXISTING CONSTRUCTION ⁶

STRUCTURE TYPE	SPRINKLERS REQUIRED ²	DESCRIPTION	SQUARE FOOTAGE ¹		MIN. DISTANCES BETWEEN STRUCTURES AND PROPERTY LINES (PL)	REQUIREMENTS	USE EXAMPLES	EXCEPTIONS
			MIN	MAX				
New Construction	Yes	<u>New buildings including mobile homes and commercial coaches ¹</u>	0		Per CBC, CRC	Throughout new buildings	All new construction and dwellings	Exceptions 2, 3, 4
Residential Accessory Structure	Yes	<u>Accessory structures as defined in CRC</u>	1,000	3,000	50 feet from PL 30' between any structures on site	No heating, cooling, living or sleeping spaces	One story garage, workshop, studio, residential storage bldg.	Exception 1
Agricultural Structure	Yes	<u>Accessory to agricultural operation, livestock, crops. Agricultural operations in accordance with AG LUO & CBC definition</u>	3,000	5,000	100 feet from PL, 50 feet from other structures	Primary usage must be 75% livestock or crops	One story barn or stables	Exception 1
Pole barn, Covered arena, Greenhouse	No	<u>One story hay storage, covered riding arena, greenhouses</u>	Unlimited if 60 feet on all sides per CBC		100 feet from PL, 50 feet from other structures	No public use or access	See description	None
Agricultural Exempt (no permit required)	No	<u>LUO Ag Exempt & signed affidavit</u>	0	3,000	100 feet from PL, 50 feet from other structures	Per Ag Exempt agreement	Ag-Barn on Ag zoned land over 20 acres	See Title 19

References:

CRC: California Residential Code | CFC: California Fire Code | CBC: California Building Code | LUO: Land Use Ordinance (San Luis Obispo County)

Footnotes:

¹ For the purpose of calculating square footage for the application of fire sprinkler requirements and fire flow requirements, the floor area shall include all combustible areas attached to the structure, including garages, patio covers, overhangs over 2 feet, covered walkways and decks.

² Automatic Fire Sprinklers installed at exterior locations shall be approved corrosion resistant devices when environmental or operational conditions warrant.

Exceptions:

¹ Structures between the minimum and the maximum square footage must meet all the above table criteria and all the following are required in lieu of fire sprinklers: • no conditioned or habitable space. • no second stories (lofts 1/3 the floor area and open to below are allowed). • minimum two exits including one pedestrian door (side hinge swinging door). • workshops or offices limited to 10% of floor area. • dedicated fire water storage minimum of 5,000 gallons steel tank in full compliance with NFPA 1142 (see fire safety plan) if there is no community provided fire hydrant within 500 ft. • structure complies with the California Wildland Urban-Interface Ignition Resistant Construction Requirements. • heat detectors installed in accordance with CBC linked to an audible bell mounted in the exterior of the structure. • Cannot be used as a place of employment or for public assemblage/events. • Cannot be used as a commercial building.

² A single-story building or commercial coach where floor area does not exceed 1000 square feet and the occupancy is not a Group A, E Daycare, F1 Woodworking, group R, Group H, Group I occupancy or any occupancy where cellulose nitrate film, pyroxylin plastics or any hazardous materials manufactured, stored or handled in quantities in excess of Tables in CRC, CFC or within Los Osos CSD and the fire flow from a hydrant is less than 750gpm at 20psi.

³ Mobile/manufactured or factory-built homes or commercial coaches constructed or altered on or before March 12, 2011 which were not manufactured with automatic fire sprinklers.

⁴ Accessory dwelling units shall not be required to provide fire sprinklers if they are not required for the primary residence.

Table 903.2 – Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Requirements for EXISTING CONSTRUCTION ⁶

<u>OCCUPANCY OR STRUCTURAL MODIFICATION TYPE</u>	<u>SPRINKLERS REQUIRED³</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SQUARE FOOTAGE¹</u>	<u>REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>USE EXAMPLES</u>	<u>EXCEPTIONS</u>
<u>Alterations¹</u>	<u>Yes, if...</u>	<u>ation includes modifications to the structure</u>	<u>50% of existing floor area²</u>	<u>Alterations additions and remodel square footage will be considered a combined and cumulative sum of floor area</u>	<u>Interior remodels Rehabilitation</u>	<u>Exceptions 1, 2, 3, 4 -</u>
<u>Additions¹</u>	<u>Yes, if...</u>	<u>Additions cumulative from January 01, 2008 regardless of any change of ownership</u>	<u>1,000 sf or 50% of floor area²</u>	<u>Alterations additions and remodel square footage will be considered a combined and cumulative sum of floor area</u>	<u>Any addition</u>	<u>Exception 4</u>
<u>Hazard Category and Occupancy Classification Changes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Change results in higher hazard or as deemed necessary by fire code official and the building official</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Hazard classification rating as determined by the fire code official, and occupancy, classification as determined by the building official.</u>	<u>Any change of occupancy defined in Chapter 3 of the CRC</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Hazardous Materials Inside buildings</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Cellulose nitrate film or pyroxylin plastics or any hazardous materials manufactured, stored or handled in quantities in excess of Tables in CBC, CFC</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Building and any portion of a building must also include requirements as listed in CFC Chapter 5005.4</u>	<u>Any occupancy</u>	<u>None</u>

References:

CRC: California Residential Code | CFC: California Fire Code | CBC: California Building Code |

Footnotes:

¹ For the purpose of calculating square footage for the application of fire sprinkler requirements and fire flow requirements, the floor area shall include all combustible areas attached to the structure, including garages, patio covers, overhangs over 2 feet, covered walkways and decks.

² Fire sprinklers are required when all ceiling coverings are removed, or a project reaches the threshold of 50% of addition or alteration; determination of fire sprinklers shall be made by one of the following methods: 1) By net floor area: Any room(s) or area(s) that are added, altered, rehabilitated or repaired shall have their net floor area calculated and compared to the total net floor area of the existing structure to find the calculated percentage. 2) By surface area: Surface area shall be defined as surfaces of walls and ceilings. Any room(s) or area(s) that are added, altered, rehabilitated or repaired shall have their surface area calculated compared to the total wall and ceiling surface area of the existing structure to find the calculated percentage.

Note: Change(s) in project scope after the plan review process shall require that the fire sprinkler calculation be revised and submitted for review and approval.

³ Automatic Fire Sprinklers installed at exterior locations shall be approved corrosion resistant devices when environmental conditions warrant.

⁴ Mobile/manufactured or factory-built homes or commercial coaches constructed or altered on or before March 12, 2011 which were not manufactured with automatic fire sprinklers are not subject to fire sprinkler requirements.

Exceptions:

¹ Alterations limited to only one of the following: replacement of exterior coverings and windows, roofing, electrical services, sewer laterals, retaining walls, or routine plumbing, electrical and mechanical repairs.

² A loft open to the floor below and no more than one third of the floor area of the room below may be added without requiring sprinklers.

³ REPAIR is the reconstruction or renewal for the purpose of maintenance.

⁴ Accessory dwelling units shall not be required to provide fire sprinklers if they are not required for the primary residence. Footnote 2 determination is required.

There is an extensive section pertaining to septic systems, which includes parcel size, distance from structures, rainfall, and density.

There are also new requirements for calculation of foundation structures on slopes.

See the link below. When it opens, click on the tab Amendments to Title 19(Showing Changes) <https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/10955>

ANOTHER EARLY WARNING – FEE INCREASES:

Item 3 - Introduction of an ordinance implementing the County Fee Schedule "A" for Calendar Year 2020 and Fee Schedule "B" for Fiscal Year 2020-21. Hearing date set for November 19, 2019. The purpose of this item is to set regulatory processing fees and service fees for the FY 2020-21 fiscal year. During the hearing on November 19th, the public and impacted businesses will have an opportunity to comment. It should be noted that these are not the large exaction fees imposed on development to mitigate its impact. These are the fees for staff processing of applications or for providing specific services.

Most of the increases are attributed to increased staff salary and benefit costs.

Note that in the past some Board members have challenged any resistance to fees on the basis that “I receive no complaints and no one ever shows up a Board meetings to complain”

Some of the key fee increases on the docket for the November 19 hearing include:

PLANNING AND BUILDING:

Significant Fee Increases						
Board Discretion Type	Fee Indicator #	Fee	FY 19-20 Fee	Proposed FY 20-21 Fee	Fee Increase	% Change
Full	1005	Dis-establishment of Preserve with General Rule Exemption or previously issued environmental document	\$3,483	\$3,820	\$337	10%
Full	2006	Condition Compliance - Minor with site visit - "Cannabis"	\$932	\$1,211	\$279	30%
Full	2012	Condition Compliance - Major with site visit - "Cannabis"	\$1,709	\$2,075	\$366	21%
Full	4004	General Plan Amendment/ Ordinance with Categorical Exemption or General Rule Exemption or previously issued environmental document	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$500	7%
Full	4005	General Plan Amendment/ Ordinance with Initial Study	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$500	7%
Full	5009	Parcel Maps with Initial Study	\$7,924	\$8,658	\$734	9%
Full	5014	Public Lot Request	\$2,805	\$3,274	\$469	17%
Full	5015	Tract Maps with Categorical Exemption or General Rule Exemption or previously issued environmental document	\$5,842	\$6,445	\$603	10%
Full	5016	Tract Maps with Initial Study	\$11,174	\$12,130	\$956	9%
Full	5017	Tract Map with Development Plan/Conditional Use Permit with Initial Study	\$14,898	\$15,636	\$738	5%
Full	6001	Development Plan/Conditional Use Permit with Categorical Exemption or General Rule Exemption or Previously Issued Environmental Document to Modify Land Use Ordinance	\$4,183	\$5,908	\$1,725	41%
Full	6002	Development Plan/Conditional Use Permit with Categorical Exemption or General Rule Exemption or previously issued environmental document	\$8,838	\$9,659	\$821	9%
Full	6003	Development Plan/Conditional Use Permit with Categorical Exemption or General Rule Exemption or previously issued environmental document - "Cannabis". Deposit	\$8,838	\$16,261	\$7,423	84%

Significant Fee Increases						
Board Discretion Type	Fee Indicator #	Fee	FY 19-20 Fee	Proposed FY 20-21 Fee	Fee Increase	% Change
Full	6004	Development Plan/ Conditional Use Permit with Initial Study	\$17,292	\$18,118	\$826	5%
Full	6005	Development Plan/ Conditional Use Permit with Initial Study - "Cannabis" Deposit	\$17,292	\$33,254	\$15,962	92%
Full	6009	Minor Use Permit - Tier II with Categorical Exemption or General Rule Exemption or previously issued environmental document - "Cannabis" Deposit	\$4,129	\$8,759	\$4,630	112%
Full	6013	Minor Use Permit - Tier III with Initial Study	\$10,773	\$11,518	\$745	7%
Full	6014	Minor Use Permit - Tier III with Initial Study- "Cannabis" Deposit	\$10,773	\$25,297	\$14,524	135%
Full	6020	Variance with Initial Study	\$9,287	\$10,097	\$810	9%
Full	8004	Oil Wells Annual review - thermal recovery	\$896	\$1,044	\$148	17%
Full	8005	Reclamation Plan add on fee	\$7,706	\$9,048	\$1,342	17%
Full	8006	Surface Mine Annual Inspection Fee - Tier I	\$1,006	\$1,271	\$265	26%
Full	8007	Surface Mine Annual Inspection Fee - Tier II	\$1,990	\$2,533	\$543	27%
Full	9002	Pre-application meeting - "Cannabis"	\$500	\$1,685	\$1,185	237%
Full	9003	Pre-Application with Site Visit	\$1,269	\$1,437	\$168	13%
Full	9004	Pre-Application with Site Visit - "Cannabis"	\$1,269	\$2,308	\$1,039	82%
Full	10001	Road Name Requests requiring a public hearing	\$1,491	\$1,747	\$256	17%
Full	10002	Road Names Requests -Tract Maps/ Parcel Maps/ Lot Line Adjustment	\$811	\$952	\$141	17%
Full	11004	Time extension third request for land use permit	\$1,839	\$2,021	\$182	10%
Full	12003	Amendment to land use permit/ subdivision using previously issued Environmental Determination.	\$2,805	\$3,279	\$474	17%
Full	12008	Subdivision Ordinance Exceptions, request not concurrent with map	\$4,161	\$4,580	\$419	10%
Full	24020	6. Legal Notice (advertised)	\$331	\$424	\$93	28%

PUBLIC HEALTH: Please see the table on the next page below:

Significant Fee Increases					
Board Discretion Type	Fee	FY 19-20 Fee	Proposed FY 20-21 Fee	Fee Increase	% change
Partial	Swap Meet - Produce Sales (Annual)	\$165	\$196	\$31	18.8%
Partial	Swap Meet Packaged Stands	\$183	\$217	\$34	18.6%
Partial	Body Art Facility Permit	\$383	\$536	\$153	39.9%
Partial	Body Art Practitioner Annual Registration	\$128	\$148	\$20	15.6%
Partial	Temporary Body Art Event Sponsor	\$128	\$202	\$74	57.8%
Full	Small Water Supply Systems (Water Sample Pickup)	\$64	\$101	\$37	57.8%
Partial	Four or more Pools/Spas @ Same Site	\$892	\$1,049	\$157	17.6%
Partial	CalARP Program 2	\$1,851	\$2,146	\$295	15.9%

PUBLIC WORKS:

Board Discretion Type	Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Increase	% Increase
Full	Minor Use Permit Application	\$299	\$349	\$50	17%
Full	Building Permit Initial Review	\$61	\$80	\$19	31%
Full	Community Acknowledgement Form - FEMA	\$136	\$160	\$24	18%
Full	Annexation Map Review	\$636	\$702	\$66	10%
Full	Assessment Apportionments	\$550	\$685	\$135	25%

Board Discretion Type	Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Decrease	% Decrease
Full	Parcel Map Application	\$1,169	\$960	-\$209	-18%
Full	Conditional Use Permit	\$2,257	\$1,900	-\$357	-16%
Full	Lot Line Adjustment Application	\$390	\$292	-\$98	-25%

Board Discretion Type	Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Increase	% Increase
Full	Curb and Gutter Waivers	\$207	\$239	\$32	15%
Full	Utility Encroachment	\$333	\$384	\$51	15%

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER:

Significant Fee Changes					
Board Discretion Type	Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Increase	% Increase
Full	Market Registrations	\$440	\$485	\$45	10.2%
Partial	Annual Device Registration Fee, Livestock Scales <10,000 lb. capacity	\$50	\$100	\$50	100%
Partial	Annual Device Registration Fee, Livestock Scales 10,000 to 19,999 lb. capacity	\$50	\$100	\$50	100%
Partial	Annual Device Registration Fee, Livestock Scales >= 20,000 lb. capacity	\$100	\$150	\$50	50%
Partial	Annual Device Registration Fee, Vehicle Scales	\$150	\$200	\$50	33%
Partial	Annual Device Registration Fee, Jewelry and Prescription Sales	\$50	\$80	\$30	60%
Partial	Annual Device Registration Fee, All Scales (>100 and <2,000 lbs.) Except Computing, Jewelry, and Prescription	\$30	\$50	\$20	66.7%
Partial	Annual Device Registration Fee, Computing Scale (less than 100 lb.)	New	\$23	-	-
Partial	Annual Device Registration Fee, Class II non-prescription	New	\$40	-	-
Partial	Annual Device Registration Fee, Compressed Natural Gas	New	\$40	-	-

The County has almost 2,000 different fees, most of which are not increasing. Some are actually decreasing. Staff did a nice job of isolating and presenting in the tables above summarizing some of the important ones which are increasing for next year. The ability to hold the line to a great extent is appreciated.

Item 5 - Request to approve budget adjustments in the total amount of \$500,000 from General Fund contingencies to fund emergency expenses related to preparation for a Public Safety Power Shutoff event, by 4/5 vote. The County produced a 43-page Annex (Plan) to its Emergency Plan to address possible PG&E power shutoffs. The write-up states that the plan cost \$395,856. Additionally, \$68,725 is required for some ongoing information technology expenses and \$35,419 for Public Works “management expenses.” We assume that most of the people who worked on this or who continue to work on it are already on payroll. So, just what is being purchased for the overall \$500,000? The write-up states in part:

In order to ensure the County is prepared for a PSPS event, the department is requesting \$500,000 in General Fund Contingencies to complete the PSPS Task Force priority activities. Actual expenditures will be approved by the County Administrative Officer and reported to the Board in Quarterly Financial Reports.

It would be interesting to see a line item budget for this project. Is it overtime, materials, consultants, or what? Does anything that deviates from the County's budgeted work program require supplemental funding?

Of course the irony is that the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant, sitting right next to the Ocean, is purring away 24/7 generating 2200 MGW all the time. It's not like the power has to come from Bakersfield over miles of brush covered hills and mountains.

The Plan can be seen at the link:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/11108>

Open and click on the tab: *PSPS Coordination Procedure*.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ITEMS:

Item 8 - Request to approve a FY 2019-20 renewal agreement with the Cal Poly Corporation to support the SLO Hothouse - Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the amount of \$200,000 to be paid out of FC 290 - Community Development to enhance economic development. The Hothouse provides space, training, and expert advice to startup companies. This is an extensive report about the operations, which can be accessed at the link:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/11138>

The list of advisors appears to contain substantially qualified successful experts. The Report states in part:

Through our Open Office Hours program, from January to June 2018, we offered over 60 hours of counseling services from our expert advisors. Specialty Advisors staff an office at the SLO HotHouse at certain hours of the week and are available for drop-in counseling and advice. Any Company or Coworker, affiliated with our programs, can consult with these experts - without having to make an appointment - to ask a question relevant to the Advisor's area of expertise. The Advisors participating in the program have the expertise to assist clients in the following areas: accounting, sales training, market research, intellectual property, bank loans, and customer development, insurance and legal.

Our experts include:

- Caliber Accounting - Accounting*
- Carmel & Naccasha – Law*
- Fitch Even – Law*
- Glenn Burdette – Accounting*
- Glick, Haupt and Marino LLP- Law*
- Stradling, Attorneys at Law- Law*

- Pacific Western Bank- Finance and Lending
- MindBody – Legal Transactional
- iFixit – IP Legal
- Entrada Ventures – Venture Fund •Live Eye Wear – IP & Legal
- Stradling – Attorneys at Law
- City of SLO (Mayor Harmon) – Civic Engagement

Perhaps Harmon used Rules For Radicals as the textbook. Her SLO Progressives colleague Nick Andre seems to be gone from the fold. He is reportedly now in the cannabis business. The HotHouse does not seem to be assisting fledgling cannabis companies.

Item 10 - Request to approve a FY 2019-20 agreement with the Economic Vitality Corporation in the amount of \$10,000 to implement economic development programs identified in the Economic Element of the County General Plan. The Board letter summarizes the work to be done as:

The following is expected of the EVC as terms of the FY 2019-20 agreement:

- Assist the County by facilitating implementation and preparing updates as needed for a countywide economic strategy;*
- Convene at least one seminar on a topic related to the economic strategy that will assist and improve county businesses and the county economy;*
- Act as a referral agency to the County, engaging cluster industry stakeholders and facilitating input on proposed policy adoption and modification actions. Topics for which such referral services will be needed by the County include but are not limited to workforce housing amendments and procedures for economic impact analyses of discretionary permit applications;*
- Monitor opportunities for statewide action pertaining to economic initiatives such as California Forward, the California Economic Summit, and the California Stewardship Network. Engage cluster industry and the community stakeholders as feasible and appropriate; and*
- Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with economic development and workforce development partners locally and in adjacent regions (Monterey, Santa Barbara, Ventura).*

It is too bad COLAB doesn't take government money. The County could provide \$10,000 to assist us to work on keeping Diablo open. Why don't they make a contract with one of these economic development not-for-profits to support Assembly Member Cunningham's efforts?

Item 11 - Request to authorize the County Administrative Officer to send a response letter to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture regarding outreach and engagement to the irrigated agriculture community in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin in regards to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). As we reported last week, the of California Department of Food and Agriculture sent a letter to the SLO Board asserting that

that the County had neglected farmers in the preparation of the Paso Water Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Paso GSP). This then sparked a pile-on by Supervisors Hill and Gibson plus representatives of some of the new water districts in the basin.

As we reported:

Representatives of the El Pomar – Creston Water District and the Wine Alliance complained that “agriculture” was not included in the development of the SGMA Plan for the Paso Robles Water Basin. The complaints put an exclamation point on what appears to be a coordinated political campaign effort to hijack the Basin Water Plan and to undermine Supervisor Debbie Arnold’s re-election efforts.

It is not a coincidence that the State Board of Food and Agriculture rebuked the County, and particularly Supervisor Arnold. This was followed up by a slanted multi-column article in that week’s issue in the SLO New Times, a proudly leftist weekly. This was further followed up by the appearance of Paso water district advocates during the Board meeting, who made the same complaints. Of course and on cue, Supervisors Hill and Gibson chimed with full feigned sympathy and indignation.

Hill: “I am concerned about the letter from the State; it’s indicative of favoring some to the exclusion of others.” “We need to address this.”

Gibson: “The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) has serious shortcomings – there are no specific plans or fees for implementation.”

Now the County Executive Officer has prepared a proposed response on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to the California Department of Food and Agriculture. It will be interesting to see who shows up to talk about the letter and what the position of Gibson and Hill will be during the meeting and vote on the item.

Please see **ADDENDUM I** on page 36, the proposed letter which repudiates the Commission’s assertions about the County’s process for involving the Basin farmers.

Significantly, the Food and AG Commission does not have any authority or role in the SGMA groundwater management plans.

Item 22 - Request to: 1) approve a resolution authorizing submittal of two applications to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding in the amount up to \$15,000,000, for a one-time payment aimed at providing permanent supportive housing for persons who are in need of mental health services and are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and; 2) authorize the Health Agency Director or his designee to sign the standard agreement and all other documents required for participation, acceptance and application that does not increase the level of General Fund support required by the Health Agency. In 2016 voters approved \$2 billion in debt for the No Place Like Home (NPLH) program, which provides funds for constructing and acquiring housing for the homeless, subject to the condition that the County

provides supportive mental health services for the residents. The County was awarded \$6.2 million under a previous round. The funds are competitive. It is not known exactly how the County would use the funds if they are awarded. It is likely that there would be competitive proposals from homeless serving agencies and not-for-profits.

If the County were to be awarded the full \$15 million, it should have a plan to leverage the dollars beyond the nominal amount and also build projects with an economy of scale to maximize the impact.

The Homeless Industrial Complex marches on.

BUDGET PLANNING MATTERS: Items 41 and 42 below pertain to the County's overall budgetary strategy, the Board's overall budgetary policies, and potential future scenarios based on the economy and labor costs.

Item 41 - Review of the FY 2020-21 Budget Goals and Policies, Budget Balancing Strategies and Approaches, and Board Priorities. There are 2 specific parts of this item – 1) Goals and Policies and 2) Budget Balancing Strategies and Board Priorities.

1. The Goals and policies portion provides the staff an opportunity to make sure that the overall budget financial policies are in line with the current Board of Supervisors overall intentions. There are 34 Budget Policies, most of which are standard good public administration budgeting practice, such as the rule that the proposed budget will be balanced as to expenditures and revenues.

A disappointing change proposed for this year would make it more difficult to contract out for services. This is strange, given the high fixed and growing cost of relying on government employees. The proposed wording addition states:

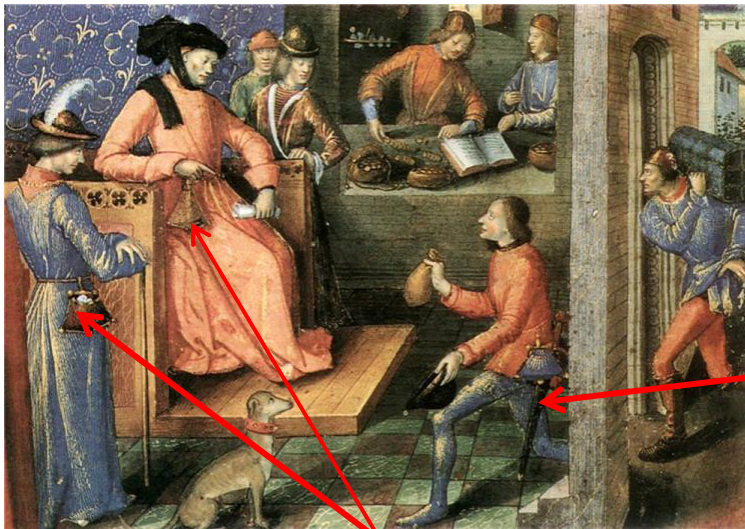
18. Privatization of Services: County departments are encouraged to identify and recommend opportunities for cost savings whenever possible, including the privatization of services that are beneficial to the County and legally possible. Analysis will include review of existing services, including the possibility of eliminating contracts with outside vendors and instead using "contracting in" with existing personnel and the development of a transition process for those services approved for privatization. In implementing significant new services, a thorough cost and program analysis shall be conducted to ascertain if privatizing will result in reduced costs, increased services and accountability.

- a. What are some examples where this might be tried?
- b. Does this mean that existing staff have been underutilized and have slack time which could be applied to new projects?
- c. Is this a back room deal with some of the unions which was agreed to during collective bargaining?

d. Would this apply to EIRs, engineering design, physician services, special County Counsel, specialty contracts for vehicle maintenance (windshields, break jobs, etc.), custodial services, the guys who run the Board meeting video/audio services, Public Defender services, all the big software consulting contracts, the large doctor and health facility contracts, or street paving?

If they are going to spend tax dollars on the cost and program analysis, why wouldn't they be looking the other way too? Just as they determined to contract out jail medical, what additional further services could be contracted out? Purchasing, budgeting, fleet maintenance, more of parks maintenance, Probation institutions, the Public Health Facility, Planning and Zoning, Animal Services, a plethora of inspectional services, Human Resources, payroll, Information Technology, management and technical services to County dependent special districts, and many others are contracted out somewhere in the nation.

We know these ideas are heretical in California State and local government at this time. But as they say, it's "not sustainable."



Note the field guy has a sword and armored leggings. When is Govt. not just a protection racket?

In medieval times a leather pouch worn by the royal ministers was called le buget (pronounced boujay in old French). It is the origin of the modern term budget. Here the County Tax Collector (Perhaps the Sheriff or other noble) receives a bag of coins from a subordinate who collected them from one of the villages. The tax office appears to be staffed with 7 FTE's in the picture. At least they dressed up for the occasion.

A Prudent Policy: This is a new one which is positive. The County is warning everyone that it will not pick up the costs of collapsing fire districts, water districts, and community service districts. The trend is likely to continue as the State and local policies drive costs ever upward and sabotage economic growth. They should have included the cities in this one as the "sustainability" of the smaller and weaker ones' becomes ever more precarious as salary and pension costs relentlessly displace funding for the actual services.

Funding for Independent Special Districts: As independent special districts are autonomous government agencies fully independent of the County in governance, the provision of services,

and funding, the County shall not subsidize an independent special district with County General Fund monies nor should any property tax exchange result in a net fiscal loss to the County.

2. The Budget Balancing Strategies and Board Priorities section is really a set of rules and techniques for how to balance the Budget if revenues are insufficient. Its overall emphasis seems to be on staff retention:

When faced with financial difficulty, the County should identify budget balancing strategies that address both short and long-term budget gaps, while also minimizing the impact of budget reductions to the community and employees. It also becomes increasingly important to focus on employee retention as the cost of turnover can outweigh savings produced by vacancies. Focusing on creative and cost neutral or low-cost options to manage turnover at a strategic rate is imperative to maintaining service during difficult times. If they move and decide to work in a city or county in the Boise metro area, they can own a home. Perhaps SLO County could build barracks.

The slide below provides examples of some of the balancing techniques which would be invoked if revenues are insufficient to maintain the current level of services.

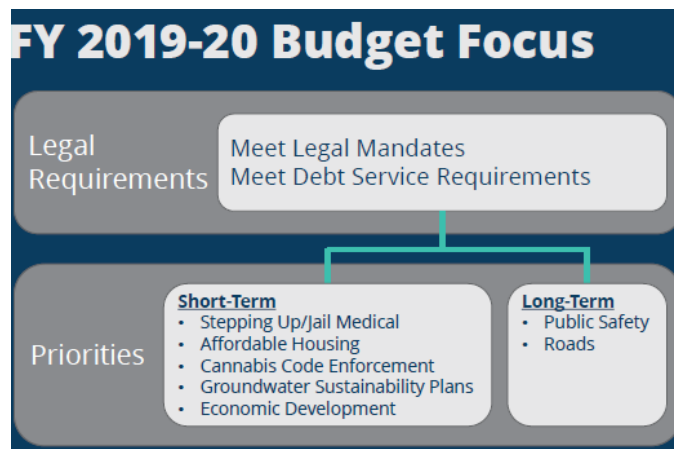
Short-Term Approaches

- Hiring chill
- Reduce General Fund contingency
- Defer capital & automation projects- revising
- Minimize building maintenance
- Reduce organizational development- deleting
- Reallocate accumulated depreciation



\$229,900 in Boise – 4 Bd. 2.5 baths .

The actual overall substantive priorities are displayed as:



The definition of legal mandates is always tricky. The State, the Feds, and County ordinances impose mandates which exist along a continuum that goes from absolute to partial to soft. Departments game the system by asserting the ones that affect them are absolute. The question for the CEO, Board, and Budget analysts is: Show me the statutory language. Another one is:

Why do Merced and Kern Counties get away with so much less staff in the whatever department?

There is likely to be a push to add remediation of the homeless problems.

Managers and experts in the private sector often receive bonuses and promotions for developing savings and eliminating obsolete and inefficient past practices. This model has been regarded as an anathema in the public sector. For example, the City of Tucson (in a less restrictive labor environment) had a program called Los Ojos (The Eyes). All of the employees except senior management were eligible to participate. If you spotted something wrong out in the field (say a leak, a broken piece of street furniture, code violation, a junk car, crud building up in a storm drain, or whatever, you reported it on a form and got a point if it was valid. The person who had the most points at the end of the month received a used refurbished county car, which would have been surplusd at auction. They had them repainted metallic blue. The trash guys were mostly the winners, as they were driving different systemic routes each day. In California, the program would be attacked as forcing people to work outside of their job classification.

The other part of the program was that anyone, except top management, who came up with a valid cost savings idea, which turned out to be implemented, got a bonus and a fancy award at an annual luncheon at one of the City's golf clubhouses.

All of this meant that the City could do more with less. In effect you had thousands of inspectors out there every day.



Wonder if a refuse worker coined “Bag and Tie so your trash Won’t Fly”? Chrome rims on garbage trucks? The guys are proud!

In Beverly Hills would you get a Prada purse?

Item 42 - Consideration of a five-year financial planning outlook for the County of San Luis Obispo. In a very positive development, the County has extended and refined its 5-year financial forecasting. It has added new data points including additional types of revenue and alterative assumptions about the economy. At this point SLO County is probably the most

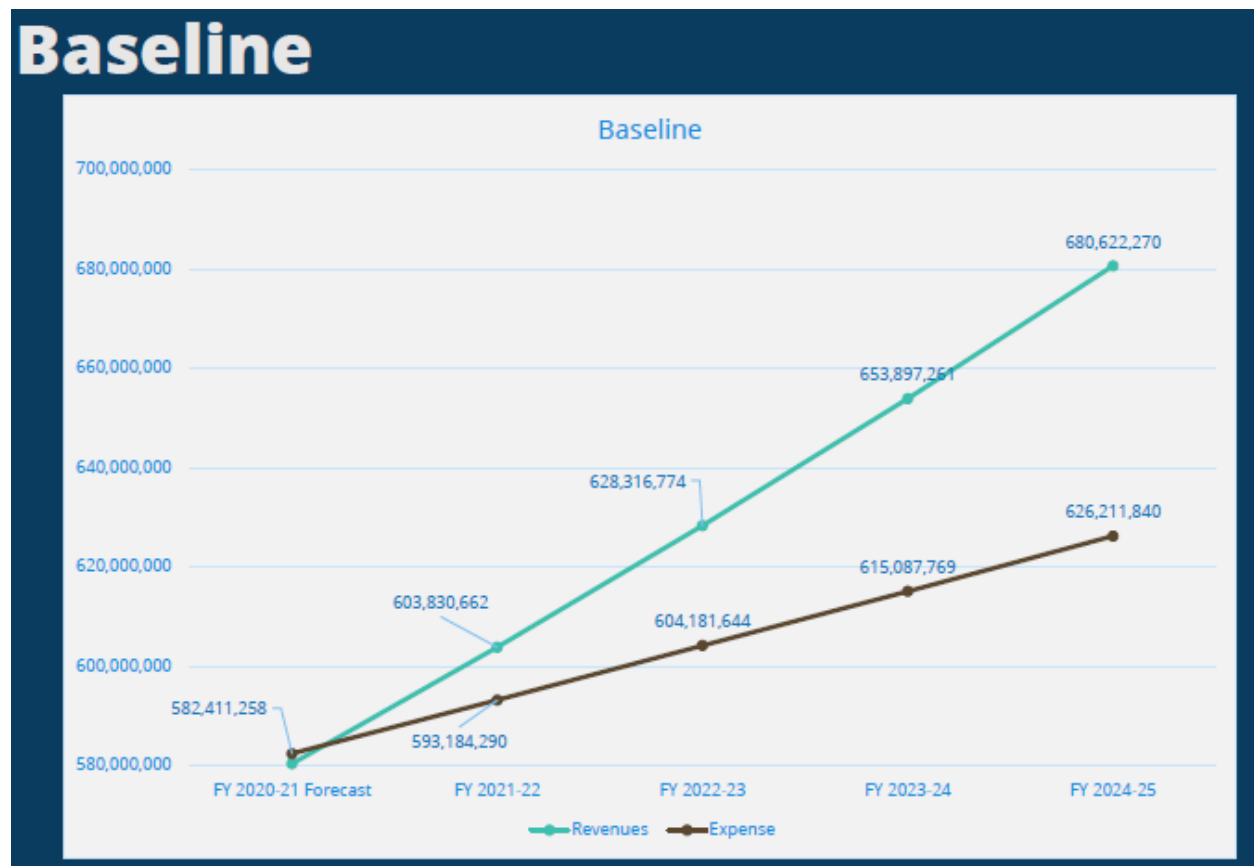
advanced County in the State with regard to this type of modeling. The County may also be ahead of the cities in this regard.

It provides the Board, management, the unions, and the public a tool to evaluate the probable consequences of various potential economic scenarios as well as the long term impact of current spending decisions (such as raises and benefit improvements) on the future. The analysis and alternative graphs are extensive and can be seen at the link:

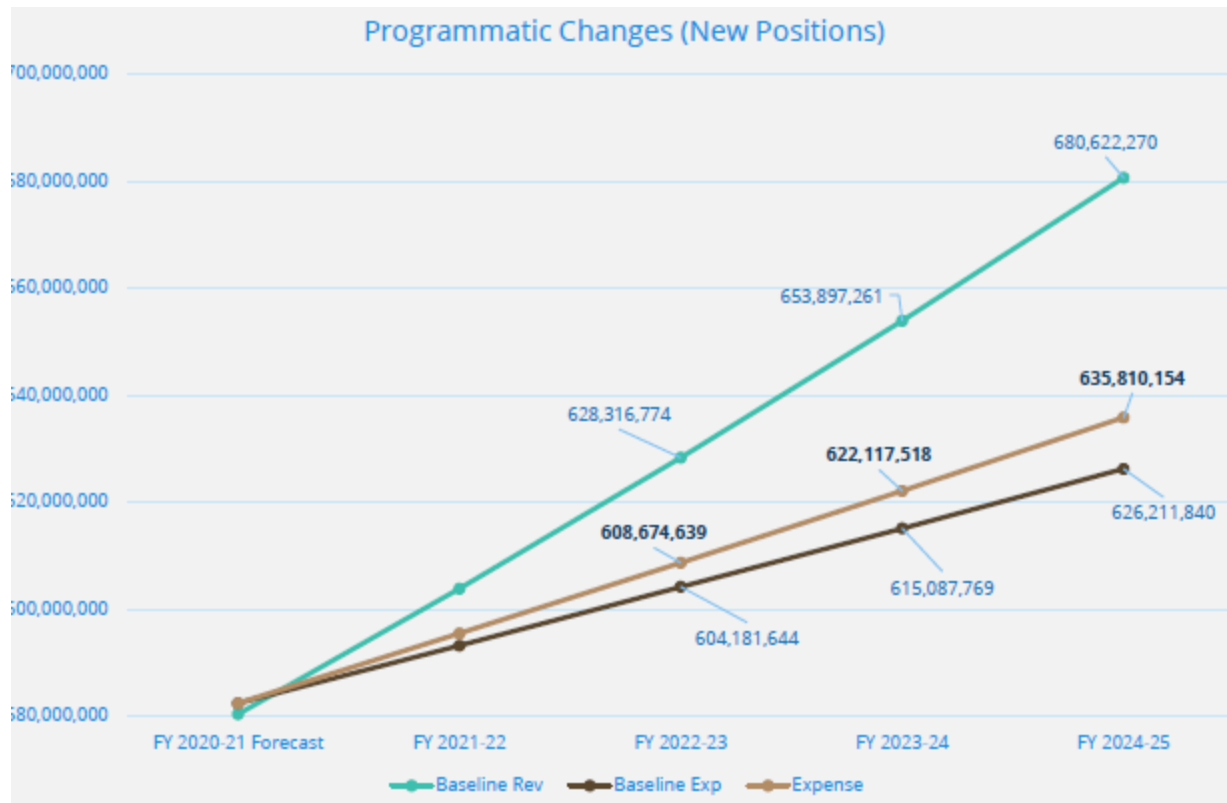
<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/11109>

Click and when it opens, click on the tab, 5 Year Outlook Presentation. The material is too extensive to be presented in full here. Several sample examples are illustrated below:

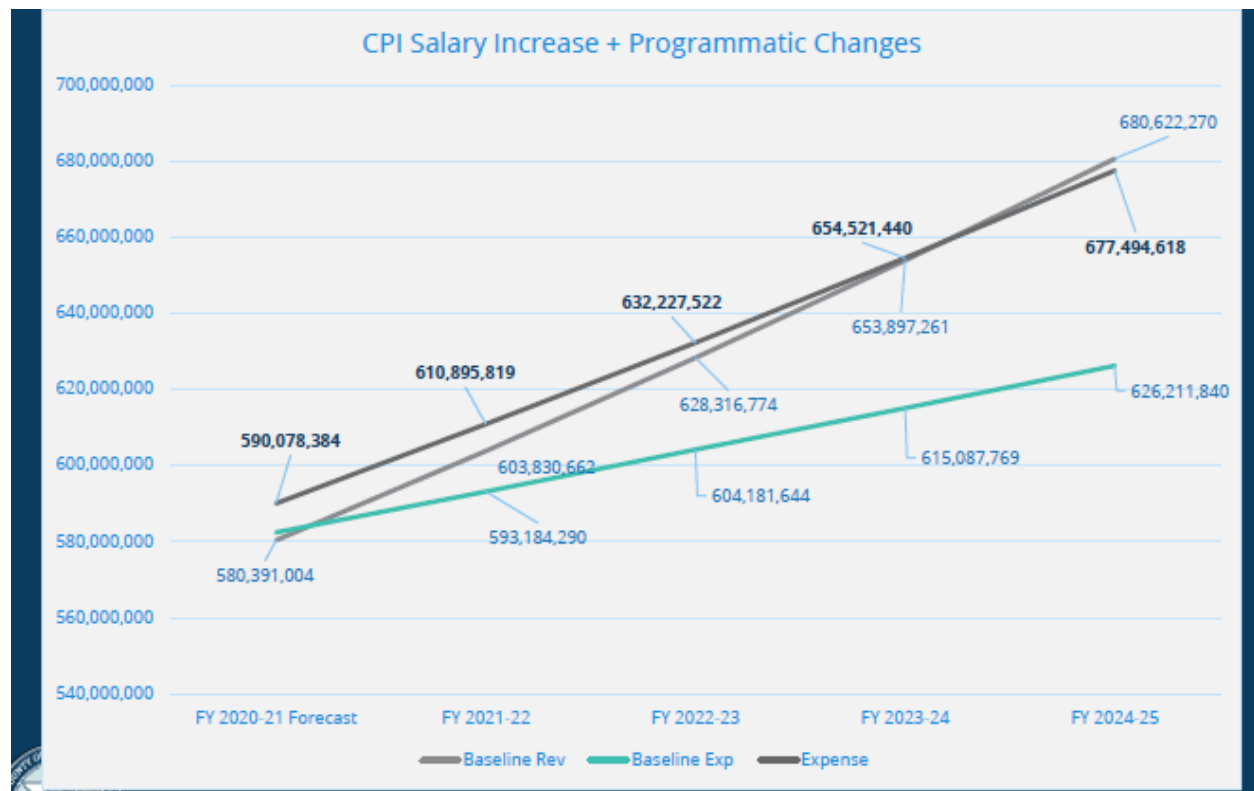
Baseline: If there were no raises, no pension increases, no new general fund positions, no State takeaways and no recessions, baseline revenue would increase with natural growth by almost 100 million over the 5 years, or \$20 million per year. In the period 2014-2019, the base revenue increased by about \$63 million, or \$12.6 million per year. The rate would have to accelerate over the next 5 years to reach \$100 million. Is the revenue curve too aggressive?



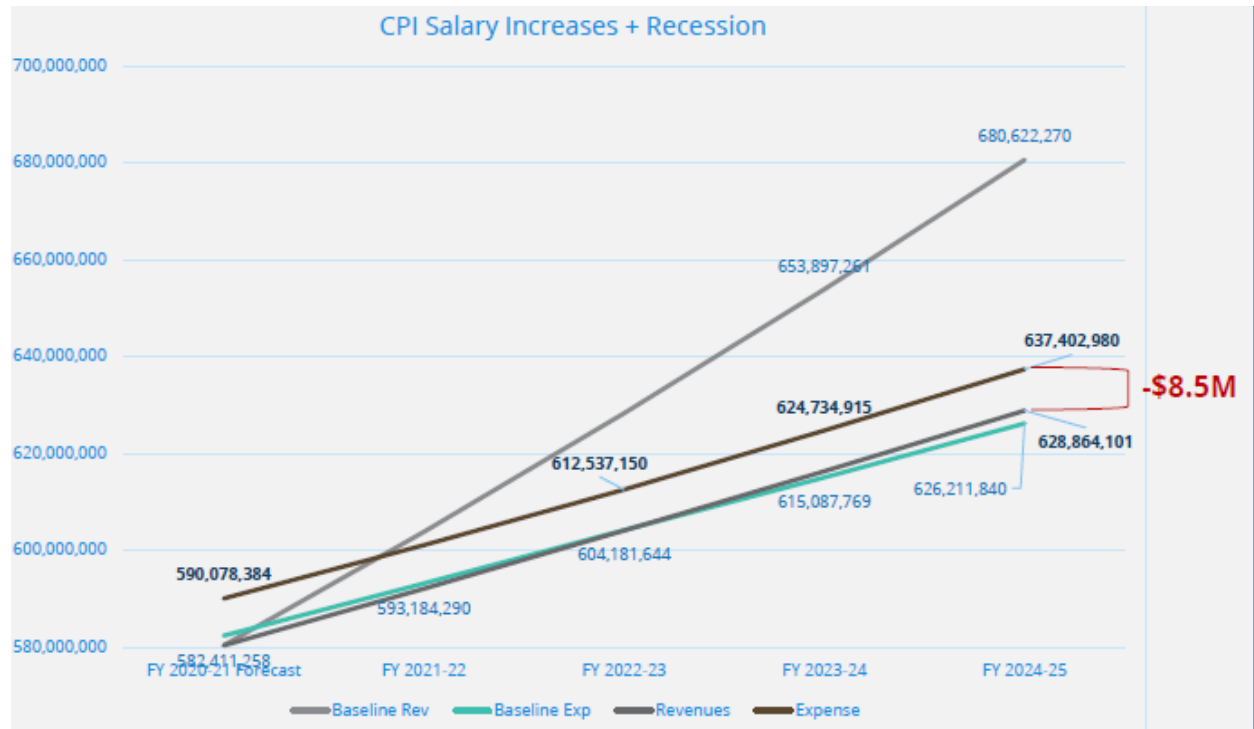
Add New Positions and the lines begin to close. (See graph below on the following page.)



Add 2.4 CPI Salary Increases and the lines close further.



Throw In a Recession and the model turns negative.



A large revenue expenditure gap emerges. This tool enables strategic financial planning and allows everyone to see the consequences of today’s decisions on tomorrow. It demonstrates how important it is to make land use decisions and economic development decisions that grow the revenue line as a hedge against trouble. The employee unions should examine this, as their destiny is on the revenue side.

Item 43 - A request to receive and file 1) a report on Department of Planning and Building Priorities and provide staff direction as necessary and 2) the Annual General Plan Progress Report. The report provides details of the Departments work load. Processing data for items such as permit applications, building permits, etc., are included. The bigger issue is the development of plan elements, ordinances and regulations. For example, the Department is preparing Round III of cannabis regulations, which is and has been a huge amount of work. The essence of the item is for the Board of Supervisors to see what they are completing and to determine what else they can work on. It seems as if they are being asked to do a great deal.

***The Following Projects Have Been Completed Since 2018
Priorities Report:***

- Cannabis Ordinance Phase II
- County CEQA Guideline Update
- EnerGov Implementation Phase I
- Housing In-Lieu Fee Ordinance

Projects (Carried Over) from Last Fiscal Year:

- Cannabis Ordinance Phase III
- Hemp Ordinance
- Water Offset Ordinance (On this agenda at Item xx)
- Funding Options for Affordable Housing

Recommended Projects to Move to Tier I

- Airport Land Use Update
- Building Code Update (Mandated)
- Density Bonus (Mandated)
- Fair Housing Plan (Mandated)
- Housing Element Update (Mandated)

Tier II Projects

- Craft Distilleries Ordinance
- Inland Vacation Rental Ordinance
- Mining Combining Designation Update
- Safety Element Update and Coastal Flood Risk Assessment
- Sign Ordinance
- Tiny Home Ordinance Amendments – Housing Package
- Urban Small Wineries
- Vacation Rental Hearing Officer Process

It is not clear how they can get all this work done and/or what additional staffing and consultant resources would be required at what cost. For our money, they could leave the vacation rental ordinance alone. The Coastal Flood Risk Assessment is a red herring provoked by several State Agencies including the Coastal Commission on the theory that the seas are rising and that all the coastal counties and cities must develop managed retreat plans ultimately calculated to prevent and then remove any existing development along the coast (not just low lying but also on top of bluffs).

The report contains much important information, including the housing box and commercial box scores for the unincorporated area of the county as depicted in the table below. Apparently most of the development in the county is in the cities per the “smart growth” stack-and-pack mantra. They may want to reexamine some of the revenue projections in **Item 42** above given the anemic production here.

Table 8: Residential Development Trends FY12-18

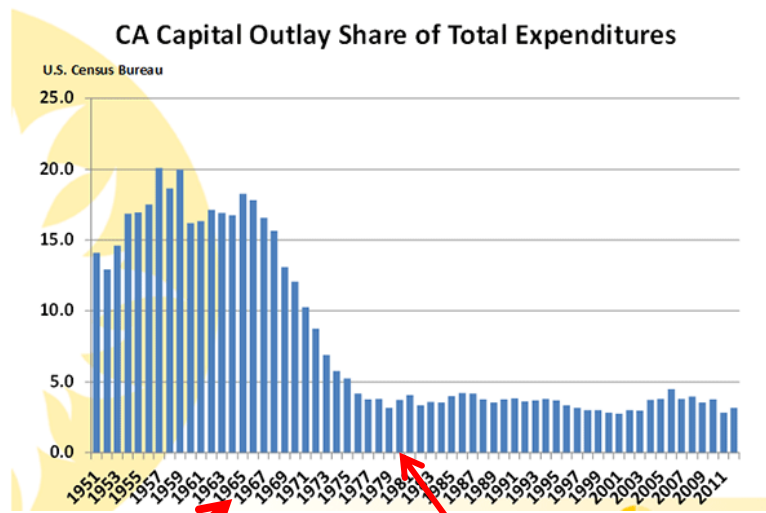
Final Building Permits	FY12-13	FY13-14	FY14-15	FY15-16	FY16-17	FY17-18	FY18-19
Single-Family	266	359	341	296	266	322	338
Multi-Family	0	0	4	1	3	4	8
Total	266	359	345	297	269	326	346
% Multi-Family	0%	0%	1.2%	0.3%	1.1%	1.2%	2.3%

Table 10: Commercial Development Trends FY12-19

	Valuation of Issued Permits	Percent Change	Final Building Permits	Percent Change
FY12-13	\$40,111,609	47%	80	40%
FY13-14	\$30,079,221	-25%	129	61%
FY14-15	\$28,021,865	-7%	124	-4%
FY15-16	\$41,582,425	48%	173	40%
FY16-17	\$55,865,497	26%	121	-30%
FY17-18*	\$30,648,797	-45%	80	-34%
FY18-19*	\$29,843,614	-3%	75	-6%

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 45 - Hearing to consider 1) receiving and filing the FY 2018-19 Annual Report for the Public Facilities Fees program and 2) submittal of a resolution to amend the Public Facilities Financing Plan and Title 18 (the Public Facilities Fees Ordinance) of the County Code to provide for future public facilities that will be needed from 2019 to 2040. The “fees” presented in this section are actually development exactions adopted to help offset the capital costs of expanded facilities, which are necessary because of increased population generated by the new development. As government labor expenses (salaries and pensions) displaced capital budgets over the years, (see chart below) the Legislature enabled cities and counties to impose fees. The fees must be reviewed each year in terms of how much has been collected and how much has been expended on which projects.



Public sector unions legalized in California

Prop. 13 is often blamed but did not take effect until 1980. The decline had already occurred.

**Public Facilities Finance Program
County Projects Implemented Under PFF Program**

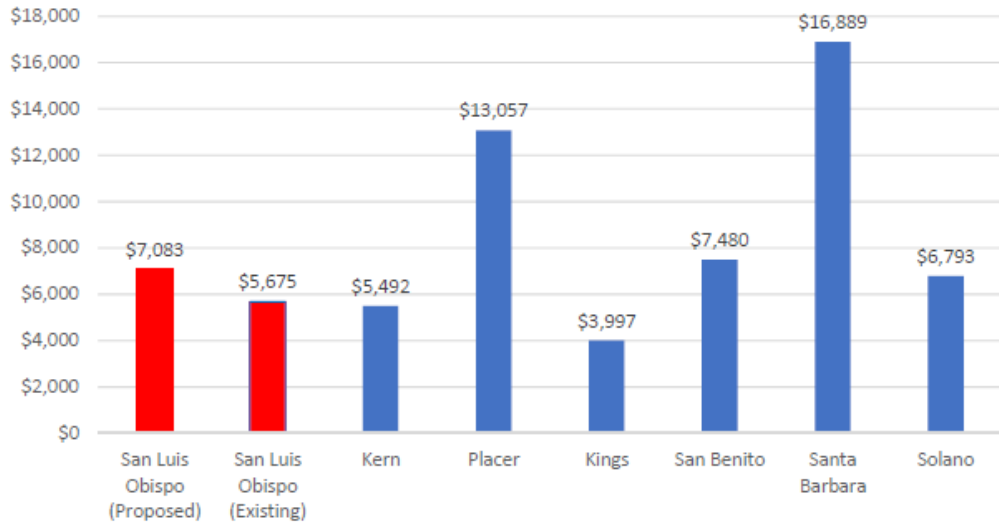
- 40 projects were funded with PFF fees in FY 2009-10 through FY 2018-19
- 9 Fire projects
- 5 Library projects
- 2 General Government projects
- 3 Law Enforcement projects
- 21 Parks projects
- In addition, there are 18 active projects

TABLE 1

EXISTING PUBLIC FACILITIES FEES					
EXISTING	RESIDENTIAL (per unit)		NON-RESIDENTIAL (per 1000 Sq ')		
Fee Category	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Office	Industrial
Parks ^A	\$2,303	\$1,753	-	-	-
Sheriff	\$280	\$213	\$226	\$378	\$163
General Gov't	\$533	\$406	\$432	\$719	\$309
Fire ^B	\$1,994	\$902	\$902	\$902	\$902
Library	\$454	\$345	\$143	\$239	\$103
Admin Fee 2.0%	\$111	\$72	\$34	\$45	\$30
Total Fees	\$5,675	\$3,691	\$1,737	\$2,283	\$1,507
PROPOSED PUBLIC FACILITIES FEES					
PROPOSED	RESIDENTIAL (per unit)		NON-RESIDENTIAL (per 1000 Sq ')		
Fee Category	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Office	Industrial
Parks	\$2,492	\$1,752	-	-	-
Sheriff	\$693	\$482	\$244	\$542	\$174
General Gov't	\$1,038	\$723	\$366	\$812	\$261
Fire	\$2,025	\$1,409	\$714	\$1,584	\$510
Library	\$696	\$499	\$71	\$157	\$51
Admin Fee 2.0%	\$139	\$97	\$28	\$62	\$20
Total Fees	\$7,083	\$4,962	\$1,423	\$3,157	\$1,016
NET DIFFERENCE:	\$1,408	\$1,271	(\$314)	\$874	(\$491)

Comparisons: Santa Barbara County has made it almost impossible to build anything without subsidies. Note that the graph below does not include road fees, which in unincorporated Goleta can be over \$100,000. This is actually by design to help forestall development and maintain the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley as preserves for the woke and wealthy. The strategy has worked well from the standpoint of its proponents. Placer County includes a portion of Tahoe, where the same policy goals are in play.

7. WEIGHTING TO
**COMPARATIVE SURVEY RESULTS
(SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING)**



These fees do not include roads, schools, affordable housing in lieu “fees” or utility fees, which can add tens of thousands more cost per dwelling unit or commercial space. Avila certainly has nicer sand. The water is cold in both places.

Another data view of the fee comparison is shown in detail below.

Comparable Counties Development Impact Fees : Government					
Fee Category:	San Luis Obispo	Kern	Santa Barbara	Solano	Kings
Single Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$533	\$ 84.42 - \$ 60.30	\$ 2,141 - \$ 0	\$1,172.61	\$0.00
Multi Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$406	\$ 55.28 - \$40.20	\$ 1,586 - \$ 0	\$ 912.03 - \$ 592.24	\$0.00
Office - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$719	\$ 23.12 - \$ 17.09	\$ 1,056 - \$ 0	\$234.42	\$0.00
Retail - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$432	\$ 18.09 - \$ 13.07	\$ 748 - \$ 0	\$87.47	\$0.00
Industrial - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$309	\$ 12.06 - \$ 8.04	\$ 1,056 - \$ 0	\$97.68	\$0.00

Comparable Counties Development Impact Fees : Admin					
Fee Category:	San Luis Obispo	Kern	Santa Barbara	Solano	Kings
Single Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$111	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$132.72	\$ 92.84 - \$ 39.68
Multi Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 99.56 - \$ 63.95	\$ 75.75 - \$ 31.75
Office - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.57	\$ 32.44 - \$ 10.88
Retail - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13.19	\$ 25.44 - \$ 8.70
Industrial - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7.43	\$ 19.46 - \$ 6.52

Comparable Counties Development Impact Fees : Sheriff					
Fee Category:	San Louis Obispo	Kern	Santa Barbara	Solano [1]	Kings[2]
Single Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$280	\$1,312.53	\$ 574 - \$ 0.00	\$2,687.48	\$1,431.87
Multi Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$213	\$869.33	\$ 423 - \$ 0.00	\$ 2,090.15 - \$ 1,357.33	\$1,128.06
Office - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$378	\$334.67	\$ 564 - \$ 0.00	\$874.01	\$561.07
Retail - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$226	\$251.25	\$ 398 - \$ 0.00	\$325.34	\$448.87
Industrial - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$163	\$167.84	\$ 564 - \$ 0.00	\$182.45	\$336.63

[1] Solano County Fire and Sheriff are shown within a single fee.

[2] Kings County Sheriff Fee includes Public Protection, Sheriff Patrol, and Investigation Fees.

Comparable Counties Development Impact Fees : Park					
Fee Category:	San Louis Obispo	Kern	Santa Barbara	Solano	Kings
Single Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$2,303.00	\$ 3,088.37 - \$ 1,283.39	\$12,168 - \$ 1,352	\$0.00	\$0.00
Multi Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$1,753.00	\$ 2,046.19 - \$850.23	\$ 10,465 - \$ 876	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 2,793 - \$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retail - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,982 - \$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Industrial - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 2,793 - \$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Comparable Counties Development Impact Fees : Library					
Fee Category:	San Louis Obispo	Kern	Santa Barbara	Solano	Kings
Single Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$454	\$34.17	\$ 826 - \$ 0.00	\$1,589.51	\$465.51
Multi Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$345	\$22.11	\$ 563 - \$ 0.00	\$ 1,236.29 - \$ 802.78	\$372.41
Office - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$239	\$0.00	\$ 802 - \$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retail - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$143	\$0.00	\$ 566 - \$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Industrial - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$103	\$0.00	\$ 802 - \$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Comparable Counties Development Impact Fees : Fire					
Fee Category:	San Louis Obispo	Kern	Santa Barbara	Solano [1]	Kings
Single Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$1,994	\$972.84	\$590.00	\$1,343.74	\$1,878.82
Multi Family - Per Dwelling Unit	\$902	\$644.21	\$750.00	\$ 2,090.15 - \$ 1,357.33	\$1,503.05
Office - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$902	\$712.55	\$940.00	\$874.01	\$736.21
Retail - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$902	\$534.66	\$770.00	\$325.34	\$588.97
Industrial - Per 1,000 Sq Ft	\$902	\$356.78	\$710.00	\$182.44	\$441.73

[1] Solano County Fire and Sheriff are shown within a single fee.

Item 46 - Hearing to consider 1) the submittal of a resolution amending Title 22 and Title 19 (LRP2019-00007) of the County Code extending the Water Neutral New Development programs in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin to January 1, 2025, and formalizing procedures for managing the Agricultural Offset Ordinance regarding application review and establishment of water duty factors and 2) submittal of a resolution amending the Position Allocation List for FC 142 – Planning and Building extending the sunset date for 1.00 FTE Limited Term Planner I/II/III position to December 31, 2024. County officials have now realized that the State-mandated State Groundwater Management (SGMA) plan for the Paso Groundwater basin, even when submitted and approved, may have no actual impact during its early years. This is because administrative and operational features will have to be developed, owners will have to install meters, and the Water Districts and County will have to finance and construct various works to recharge or otherwise supplement water, and so forth.

The basic principle is that farmers desiring to add a crop or change a crop must demonstrate how they can maintain a 1:1 ratio of water used on the particular parcel of land. For example if a crop is proposed that will use more water than that which was previously planted, less acreage would be planted. The issue is further complicated by “water duty factors,” which are based on the amount of water a particular type of crop uses annually, calculated in acre-feet per acre.

The original ordinance as drafted by staff eliminated the ability to have water offsets between separate non-contiguous parcels. The Planning Commission objected and removed the provision. It is likely that there will be some sort of dispute about this at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

E. Eligible Sites for Participation. For the purpose of an Agricultural Offset Clearance, a site is as defined in section 22.80.030 (Definitions of Land Use). Owners of sites that overlie the PRGWB (excluding the Atascadero Sub-basin) may be granted one of two Agricultural Offset Clearance types, as described below and referenced in Table 1:

1. On-site Offset Clearance means conversion of existing irrigated crop production on the same site. An expansion to the definition of a “site” under Section 22.80.030 may be granted where contiguous parcels are commonly owned or collectively operated.

2. Off-site Offset Clearance means New or Expanded Irrigated Crop Production on any site which obtains all or a portion of its planting credits from an off-site sending site through the reduction or elimination of water use from the sending site.

Agricultural Offset Clearance Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New crop production on site of crop being replaced• New crop production cannot exceed water demand of previous crop(s)• New crop production may exceed acreage of previous crop• Existing and proposed commodities of crop production must be declared• Site inspections• Well meter installation prior to final inspection

Table 1 – Agricultural Offset Clearance Categories

On-Site Offset Clearance	Off-Site Offset Clearance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New crop production on site of crop being replaced • New crop production cannot exceed water demand of previous crop(s) • New crop production may exceed acreage of previous crop • Existing and proposed commodities of crop production must be declared • Deed restriction on property • Site inspections • Well meter installation prior to final inspection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New crop production on different site (receiving site) as crop being reduced or taken out of production (sending site) • New crop production on receiving site cannot exceed water demand of crop production from sending site • New crop production on receiving site may exceed acreage of crop production on sending site • Commodities of crop production to be replaced on sending site and proposed for receiving site must be declared • Receiving site cannot be within an area of severe decline, as defined by Figure 30-2 • Landowner agreements • Deed restriction on sending and receiving sites • Site inspections • Well meter installation prior to final inspection

Table 3 – Existing Crop-Specific Applied Water by Crop Type

Crop Group	Applied Water (AF/Ac/Yr)
Alfalfa	4.5
Citrus	2.3
Deciduous	3.5
Strawberries	2.3 ⁽¹⁾
Nursery	2.5
Pasture	4.8
Vegetables	1.9
CBD Hemp	1.5⁽²⁾
Vineyard	1.25 ⁽¹⁾
Supplementally Irrigated Dry Cropland	0.1⁽³⁾
<p>1. Information obtained from RCD Program, UCCE, UC Davis (Strawberries 2011 data)</p> <p>2. Information obtained from UCCE, San Luis Obispo County Cooperative Extension, April 2019</p> <p>3. Supplementally irrigated Dry Cropland application requirements outlined per Section G.3.C above.</p> <p>Source: Table 9 of the Agricultural Water Offset Program, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, October 2014.</p>	

When both the urgency ordinance and the permanent ordinance were approved, County officials promised that the permanent ordinance would expire when the SGMA Plan was submitted.

No one knows how long the State will take to review and approve or reject the Plan.

The full text of the annotated ordinance, which compares the current and proposed, can be accessed at the link:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/11047>

When it opens click on the tab Attachment 2 - Amendments to Title 22 and 19 Redline to see all the changes and current proposed language.

**San Luis Obispo County San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOG)
Meeting of Wednesday, November 6, 2019 - 9:45 AM (Scheduled)**

There do not appear to be any items of significant public policy. There are a number of actions related to both Federal and State funding programs which require consideration by the Commission. These are in line with previously adopted policies. There are also a number of housekeeping items and status reports. There does not seem to be any direct reference relating to plans for a sales tax measure in the future. There are concerns about whether or not to hold a December meeting because some members will be absent.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 (Not Scheduled)

The Board did not meet as it was the 5th Tuesday of the month.

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

CLIMATE STALINISM

BY JOEL KOTKIN

Today's radical green movement demands submission to an elite governing class—and its views are entering the mainstream

The Left's fixation on climate change is cloaked in scientism, deploying computer models to create the illusion of certainty. Ever more convinced of their role as planetary saviors, radical greens are increasingly intolerant of dissent or any questioning of their policy agenda. They embrace a sort of "soft Stalinism," driven by a determination to remake society, whether people want it or not—and their draconian views are penetrating the mainstream. "Democracy," a writer for *Foreign Policy* suggests, constitutes "the planet's biggest enemy."

Today's working and middle classes are skeptical about policies that undermine their livelihoods in the promise of distant policy goals. Even now, after a decade-long barrage of fear-mongering, a majority of Americans, Australians, and even Europeans doubt that climate change will affect their lives substantially. A recent UN survey of 10 million people found that climate change ranked 16th in concerns; most people in the developing world, notes environmental economist Bjorn Lindborg, "care about their kids not dying from easily curable diseases, getting a decent education, not starving to death."

Like other people in high-income countries, most Americans want to improve the environment and many, if not most, are concerned about the potential impact of climate change. But they still rank climate as only their 11th leading concern, behind not just health care and the economy but also immigration, guns, women's rights, the Supreme Court, taxes, income, and trade. A recent Harris-Harvard poll found that three-fifths of Americans reject the portfolio of Green New Deal policies, including a third of Democrats and half of people under 25.

Simply put, once the current green agenda is understood in terms of its impact on jobs and energy prices, it does not play well. In recent Australian elections, voters soundly rejected a progressive agenda that targeted suburban residents and the country's large fossil-fuel industry. Opposition was particularly strong in primarily blue-collar areas like Australia's Queensland. The results in Australia led local celebrities and pundits to brand their fellow citizens as unremittingly "dumb."

Areas dependent on energy and manufacturing—such as Appalachia, Ontario, Alberta, the U.S. Midwest, and the British midlands, have pushed back against the prospective green regime. Even Germany has seen mounting opposition to green policies, which have sent the country's powerful industrial base reeling from the associated high energy costs. But it's not just miners, oil-riggers, and factory hands resisting the greens. French residents trying to make a living outside central Paris, and their counterparts in normally placid places like Norway and the Netherlands, have taken to the streets, sometimes violently.

Imagine what will happen if a President Elizabeth Warren bans fracking in places like Texas, North Dakota, Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania; in Texas alone, by some estimates, 1 million jobs would be lost. Overall, according to a Chamber of Commerce report, a full ban would cost 14 million jobs—far more than the 8 million lost in the Great Recession. And the environment itself would be somewhat of a loser in this game—natural gas has done more to reduce emissions than all the greens’ efforts.

Across the world, green-backed policies have hurt the working class far more than the affluent rich who most enthusiastically embrace them. The militant Extinction Rebellion—which the online magazine *Spiked* has described as “an upper-middle-class death cult”—has tried to disrupt commuters in Britain in their drive to “save the planet” but has earned more angry contempt than support from harried workers. Though cast by the media as heroic outsiders, greens have historically clustered in elite academic, nonprofit, media, and corporate sectors. The influential *Limits to Growth*, published in 1972 by the Club of Rome, was backed by major corporate interests, led by Fiat’s Aurelio Peccei. The authors’ long-term vision, based on the notion that the planet was running out of resources at a rapid rate, was to create “a carefully controlled balance” that would restrict growth, particularly in advanced countries.

Whatever its failings, twentieth-century socialism was growth-oriented and in principle devoted to expanding working-class wealth. In contrast, the green version of socialism consciously seeks to depress the average family’s prospects, since prosperity will generate more greenhouse gases. Some zealots, such as the *Guardian*’s George Monbiot, argue in favor of economic recession as a way to reduce carbon emissions, even if it causes people to lose their jobs and homes.

Draconian climate austerity does not threaten the jobs of the so-called “clean rich,” who may benefit as investors in solar and wind energy, the trading of carbon offsets, and other activities of the “climate industrial complex.” Some old-style leftists, like British Marxist historian James Hartfield, see the emergence of “green capitalism” as a new ruse for the upper classes to suppress the lower by creating artificial scarcity in everything from energy to housing and food. Greens seek to restrict air travel for the masses, but climate activists like Prince Charles, Richard Branson, Leonardo di Capriol, the rapper Drake, and Al Gore continue to fly in private jets, even to climate-crisis summits. They enjoy, and develop, luxury resorts far from population centers, and consume prodigiously while imploring the rest of us to curb our more modest habits.

For most families, the policies of climate radicals promise only a degraded quality of life, including calls for restrictions on having children due to their “carbon legacy,” a proposal endorsed by climate researchers at Lund University in Sweden and Oregon State University. Some scientists even suggest that we shift from eating hamburgers to low-resource-intensity “maggot sausages.” A Swedish economist recently suggested that we recycle ourselves and discover the refinements of cannibalism.

Not surprisingly, the advocates find democratic politics increasingly inconvenient. Climate scientist Roger Peeper’s 2010 notion of “the iron law of climate policy”—that support for reducing greenhouse emissions is limited by the amount of sacrifice demanded—determines people’s willingness to cut back on their carbon output. “People will pay some amount for climate goals,” he suggests “but only so much.” At a cost of \$80 a year per household, he

suggested, most people, polls found, would support climate measures—but raise it to \$770 annually, and support drops below 10 percent.

Given this reality, it's likely that a future president will not be able to get a majority of both houses to embrace extreme policies inimical to middle-class life. This will force the chief executive, following the model established by President Obama (and reversed by President Trump), to impose the climate agenda through executive orders and the administrative state. The idea of a top-down approach—handing over power to credentialed “experts” operating in Washington, Brussels, or the United Nations—has been advanced by influential progressives like former Obama budget advisor Peter Orszag and journalist Thomas Friedman.

Climate activists increasingly embrace these post-democratic notions. Some, including former California governor Jerry Brown, seem to prefer China's authoritarian approach to addressing climate issues, despite that country's largest-in-the-world and still-expanding carbon footprint. Brown has helped launch a “California-China Climate Institute” that embraces the Chinese model. He even embraces “brainwashing” the population to get support for draconian climate measures, along the lines of Chinese thought control.

Once respectable and mainstream, the climate movement now resembles something inspired by religious fervor. Instead of debate, there's enforced ideological conformity. Climate skeptics of any kind—even those who agree that climate change poses a serious challenge—have been all but banned, with rare exceptions, from the mainstream media. Others, including those in the fossil fuel industry, face court challenges that portray them as so-called “climate criminals.”

Such movements don't tolerate infidels and have little patience with constitutional limits and procedures. Social Democrat Wolfgang Thiers, former president of the German Bundestag, recently told *Die Welt* that green militants display an “anti-democratic affection.” A German television reporter covering climate protesters described a movement dismissive of “our understanding of freedom and responsibility” that “borders on a collective psychosis, paired with wild fear and demands. Ever shriller, ever louder, ever faster.”

Demands to “decarbonize” the planet at once draw inspiration from scaremongering as much as from science. Ever since the 1968 publication of Paul Ehrlich's *Population Bomb* and the 1972 Club of Rome report, environmentalists have predicted massive shortages of natural resources, the end of economic growth, and widespread starvation, claims generally accepted without skepticism in media, academic, and even political circles. Yet energy and food are more plentiful than ever, as the world has experienced the largest growth in affluence in its history.

Being proved wrong has failed to get greens to rethink their doomsday assumptions. Instead, every decade sees predictions that planet has five or ten years left if extreme measures are not taken immediately. After the election of President Obama in 2009, NASA's James Hansen, an icon of the climate-change movement, announced that the new chief executive had four years to save the earth. Many phenomena ascribed to climate change—hurricanes and droughts, for example—turn out to have multiple and more complex causes. In the case of California's wildfires, some of the problem can be traced back to green policies that prevent the thinning of the state's forests. Similarly, the now-ended drought was made much worse by environmentalist

opposition to new water infrastructure. Activists even blame the recent power outages on climate, though the primary cause was lack of investment and maintenance by local electrical utilities.

Today's aggressive green policies have little chance of making an impact on the climate. California, the hotbed of climate radicalism, has reduced its greenhouse gases between 2007 and 2016 at rate that places it 40th, per capita, among the states. Similar failures can be seen in Germany, where much-heralded *energiewende* have led to soaring costs but disappointing results in terms of emissions declines. Even if the U.S. adopted the Green New Deal, the impact on climate, note some recent studies, would be almost infinitesimal. What we do in the West is increasingly irrelevant when virtually all the growth in emissions comes from developing countries, led by China, where hundreds of millions still live in near poverty. Globally, over 1 billion people lack reliable electricity. Leaders in countries such as India tend to be more concerned with access to power than with avoiding greenhouse-gas emissions.

Long-time environmentalist and author Ted Nordhaus suggests that, to make headway with the public, the green movement should give up “utopian fantasies” and “make its peace with modernity and technology.” Green virtue-signaling needs to be replaced by a practical program that could win public support, including focusing on resiliency against expected change and expanding production of hydroelectric, nuclear, and increasingly abundant natural gas rather than ruinously expensive renewables. In contrast, the Green New Deal's pledge to abandon fossil fuels by 2030, notes former Obama energy secretary Ernest Moritz, presents “impractical targets” that may “lose a lot of key constituencies who we need to bring along to have a real low-carbon solution.”

The fundamentalist green approach now being adopted represents a political dead-end that requires authoritarian means while saving the planet at the expense of upward mobility for the vast majority. Rejecting the middle ground that exists in properly functioning democracies, green extremists are doing a profound disservice, both to our constitutional order and to the sustainability of our society—and planet.

Joel Kotkin is the presidential fellow in urban futures at Chapman University and executive director of the Center for Opportunity Urbanism. His latest book is The Human City: Urbanism for the Rest of Us. His book on the return to feudalism will be released next year. This article first appeared on October 25, 2019 in City Journal.

THE GREAT FAILURE OF THE CLIMATE MODELS **BY PATRICK MICHAELS AND CALEB STEWART ROSSITER**

Computer models of the climate are at the heart of calls to ban the cheap, reliable energy that powers our thriving economy and promotes healthier, longer lives. For decades, these models have projected dramatic warming from small, fossil-fueled increases in atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, with catastrophic consequences.

Yet, the real-world data aren't cooperating. They show only slight warming, mostly at night and in winter. According to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, there has been no systematic increase in the frequency of extreme weather events, and the ongoing rise in sea level that began with the end of the ice age continues with no great increase in magnitude. The constancy of land-based records is obvious in data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Should we trust these computer models of doom? Let's find out by comparing the actual temperatures since 1979 with what the 32 families of climate models used in the latest U.N. report on climate science predicted they would be.

Atmospheric scientist John Christy developed a global temperature record of the lower atmosphere using highly accurate satellite soundings. NASA honored him for this achievement, and he was an author for a previous edition of the U.N. report. He told a House Science Committee hearing in March 2017 that the U.N. climate models have failed badly.

Christy compared the average model projections since 1979 to the most reliable observations — those made by satellites and weather balloons over the vast tropics. The result? In the upper levels of the lower atmosphere, the models predicted *seven times* as much warming as has been observed. Overprediction also occurred at all other levels. Christy recently concluded that, on average, the projected heating by the models is three times what has been observed.

This is a critical error. Getting the tropical climate right is essential to understanding climate worldwide. Most of the atmospheric moisture originates in the tropical ocean, and the difference between surface and upper atmospheric temperature determines how much of the moisture rises into the atmosphere. That's important. Most of Earth's agriculture is dependent upon the transfer of moisture from the tropics to temperate regions.

Christy is not looking at surface temperatures, as measured by thermometers at weather stations. Instead, he is looking at temperatures measured from calibrated thermistors carried by weather balloons and data from satellites. Why didn't he simply look down here, where we all live? Because the records of the surface temperatures have been badly compromised.

Globally averaged thermometers show two periods of warming since 1900: a half-degree from natural causes in the first half of the 20th century, before there was an increase in industrial carbon dioxide that was enough to produce it, and another half-degree in the last quarter of the century.

The latest U.N. science compendium asserts that the latter half-degree is at least half manmade. But the thermometer records showed that the warming stopped from 2000 to 2014. Until they

didn't. In two of the four global surface series, data were adjusted in two ways that wiped out the "pause" that had been observed.

The first adjustment changed how the temperature of the ocean surface is calculated, by replacing satellite data with drifting buoys and temperatures in ships' water intake. The size of the ship determines how deep the intake tube is, and steel ships warm up tremendously under sunny, hot conditions. The buoy temperatures, which are measured by precise electronic thermistors, were adjusted upwards to match the questionable ship data. Given that the buoy network became more extensive during the pause, that's guaranteed to put some artificial warming in the data.

The second big adjustment was over the Arctic Ocean, where there aren't any weather stations. In this revision, temperatures were estimated from nearby land stations. This runs afoul of basic physics.

Even in warm summers, there's plenty of ice over much of the Arctic Ocean. Now, for example, when the sea ice is nearing its annual minimum, it still extends part way down Greenland's east coast. As long as the ice-water mix is well-stirred (like a glass of ice water), the surface temperature stays at the freezing point until all the ice melts. So, extending land readings over the Arctic Ocean adds nonexistent warming to the record.

Further, both global and United States data have been frequently adjusted. There is nothing scientifically wrong with adjusting data to correct for changes in the way temperatures are observed and for changes in the thermometers. But each serial adjustment has tended to make the early years colder, which increases the warming trend. That's wildly improbable.

In addition, thermometers are housed in standardized instrument shelters, which are to be kept a specified shade of white. Shelters in poorer countries are not repainted as often, and darker stations absorb more of the sun's energy. It's no surprise that poor tropical countries show the largest warming from this effect.

All this is to say that the weather balloon and satellite temperatures used in Christy's testimony are the best data we have, and they show that the U.N.'s climate models just aren't ready for prime time.

Patrick Michaels was a research professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia for 30 years and is the author of the upcoming book Scientocracy. Caleb Stewart Rossiter taught climate statistics and mathematical modeling at American University. They are currently with the CO2 Coalition in Arlington, Virginia. This article first appeared on August 25, 2019.

You Ought to Have a Look: Dr. John Christy's House Testimony
BY PATRICK J. MICHAELS AND PAUL C. "CHIP" KNAPPENBERGER

If you read only one thing this week that falls within the realm of human-caused climate change, we strongly suggest this one—Dr. John Christy’s written testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space & Technology.

In it, he produces clear, strong evidence that the climate models are producing too much warming from greenhouse gas emissions and that there exists a concerted effort to try to downplay this fact to policymakers and the general public.

Christy’s Feb. 2nd testimony is an expansion of his earlier testimony Dec. 8th before the Senate’s Commerce, Science & Transportation’s Subcommittee on Space, Science and Competitiveness.

The central element of his December testimony was that climate models are failing miserably at simulating the actual temperature rise in the earth’s lower atmosphere. The models produce about 2.5 times as much warming from human greenhouse gas emissions than has actually been observed by satellites and weather-balloons.

This fact caught Senator (and current presidential hopeful) Ted Cruz’s fancy and he included it in several post-hearing communications on the topic of human-caused global warming—which of course got the global warming alarmist fanbase in a tizzy. So much so that they went so far as to produce a snazzy video aimed to shoot down Christy’s satellite observations as unreliable and untrustworthy.

In his testimony this week, Christy shoots back—with a big gun.

Here are some of his zingers.

“It is a bold strategy in my view to actively promote the output of theoretical climate models while attacking the multiple lines of evidence from observations.”

“Investigations of us by congress and the media are spurred by the idea that anyone who disagrees with the climate establishment’s view of dangerous climate change must be on the payroll of scurrilous organizations or otherwise mentally deficient.”

“[T]hese models failed at the simple test of telling us ‘what’ has already happened, and thus would not be in a position to give us a confident answer to ‘what’ may happen in the future and ‘why.’”

“The information in this figure provides clear evidence that the models have a strong tendency to over-warm the atmosphere relative to actual observations. On average the models warm the global atmosphere at a rate 2.5 times that of the real world.”

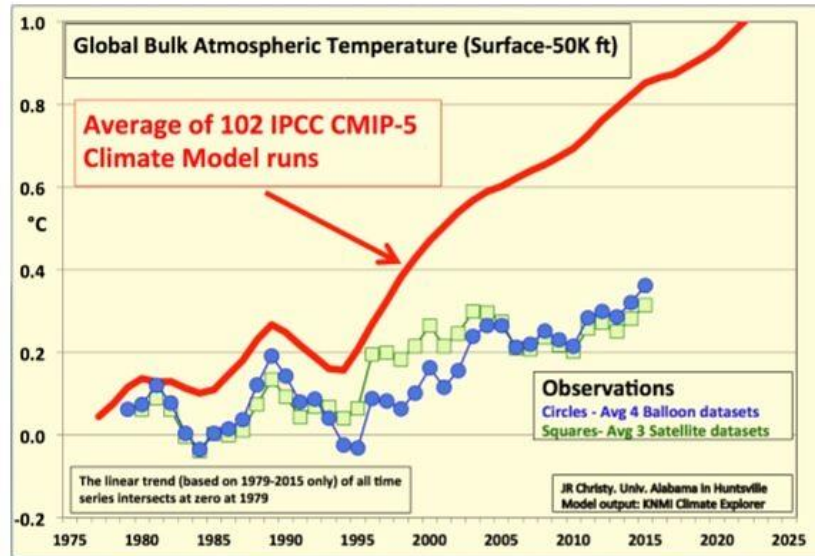


Fig. 1: Five-year averaged values of annual mean (1979-2015) global bulk (termed “mid-tropospheric” or “MT”) temperature as depicted by the average of 102 IPCC CMIP5 climate models (red), the average of 3 satellite datasets (green - UAH, RSS, NOAA) and 4 balloon datasets (blue, NOAA, UKMet, RICH, RAOBCORE).

“Because this result challenges the current theory of greenhouse warming in relatively straightforward fashion, there have been several well-funded attacks on those of us who build and use such datasets and on the datasets themselves. As a climate scientist I’ve found myself, along with fellow like-minded colleagues, tossed into a world more closely associated with character assassination and misdirection, found in Washington politics for example, rather than objective, dispassionate discourse commonly assumed for the scientific endeavor.”

And, these are just the tip of the iceberg, you *really* ought to have a look at Dr. Christy’s entire testimony in which he touches on topics that, in addition to the abject failure of climate models, include deficiencies in surface temperature compilations, problems with sea surface temperature observations, and the (non) impact of the Paris Climate Accord.

ADDENDUM I



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Wade Horton *County Administrative Officer*

October 24, 2019

Don J. Cameron, Board President
CDFA Executive office
1220 N. Street, Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Cameron,

The County received your letter dated September 20, 2019 (Attachment A) regarding listening session input for the development of the California Water Resiliency Portfolio. Your letter states that concern was expressed about conducting limited outreach and engagement to the irrigated agriculture community in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Paso Basin) in regards to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). It is disappointing that no one from your organization contacted my office, our County's Agricultural Commissioner, or the Director of Public Works to understand and confirm the level and extent of public outreach and engagement.

Had you contacted the County of San Luis Obispo, you would have learned that we not only have a long history of engaging our agricultural community, but that we also have been a statewide leader in seeking a collaborative solution to managing the groundwater in the Paso Basin prior to SGMA, and that our SGMA efforts on outreach and engagement far exceed the state's standard. As I will outline in this letter, we are proud of the efforts we have made in outreach and education to all of the diverse stakeholders in the Paso Basin. County staff has worked tirelessly to assure that all stakeholders in the Paso Basin have a voice and that their concerns are heard and considered. They are to be commended for their efforts, not criticized.

Groundwater management is so critically important to our County that the Board of Supervisors formed the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) in the 1960's. The adopted by-laws mandate that the WRAC *"advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District...recommend to the Board of Supervisors specific water resource and water conservation programs with recognition of the economic and environmental values of the programs...recommend methods of financing water resource programs."* Membership on the WRAC includes the County Farm Bureau, two at-large members from agriculture and two members of California Water Districts.

More specific to the Paso Basin, the North County Water Forum (NCWF) was established in 1998 in order to engage stakeholders in discussions on the status of Paso Basin groundwater. An

1 of 11

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agenda from a meeting in 2008 and contact list are provided (Attachment B) to demonstrate the breadth of outreach and topics discussed regarding the basin.

In 2009 the NCWF morphed into the Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC) to assist in the collaborative development of an AB 3030 Plan. The purpose of this committee was to build upon the existing stakeholder organization, identify projects and programs that could be implemented to provide long-term water supply reliability in the Paso Basin, and to be recognized by other agencies in order to successfully pursue grant funding. Ultimately in March of 2012, a groundwater management plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Chapter Six of this plan identified stakeholder involvement which led to six GAC meetings between 2009 and 2011 and two Basin Management Objective Workshops in 2010. GAC agriculture membership was as follows:

NAME	AFFILIATION	NAME	AFFILIATION
Sue Luft	WRAC	Ray Allen	Cattlemen Assoc.
Steve Sinton	PRIOR	Willy Cunha	Sunview Shandon
Randy Diffenbaugh	Shandon Advisory Committee	Bob Roos	NCWF
Joy Fitzhugh	SLO Farm Bureau		

In 2012 this group was formally modified by the Board of Supervisors and became the Blue Ribbon Committee, tasked with identifying and evaluating opportunities for stabilizing groundwater levels in the Paso Basin, developing a recommendation for a governance/management structure to implement a groundwater management plan, and identifying funding mechanisms for each task. In order to ensure outreach and engagement to the agricultural community, membership was enhanced to include the following agricultural interests:

- Central Coast Vineyard Team – Kris Beal Member, Willy Cunha Alternate
- Paso Robles Imperiled Overlying Rights (PRIOR) – Steve Sinton Member, Kent Gilmore Alternate
- San Luis Obispo Cattlemen’s Association – Kurt Bollinger Member, Ray Allen Alternate
- San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau – Joy Fitzhugh Member, Jackie Crabb Alternate
- Four At-Large Members which provided for additional agriculture representation

After the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee expired, management discussions related to the Paso Basin continued via the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee (PBAC). This committee, formed in 2014, largely kept the same membership but added even more agricultural representation by adding seats for the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance, a viticulture agriculturalist, a non-viticulture irrigated crop agriculturist and rural residents. A full list of members is provided (Attachment C). This group was working towards a formal recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors for management of the Paso Basin when the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was developed by the State of California.

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In addition to holding monthly meetings, the PBAC formed five subcommittees, one of which was the Outreach and Education Subcommittee. In their final report the Board of Supervisors, the PBAC estimated that between 2014 and 2015 the PBAC spent 4,800 hours and their subcommittees spent 3,700 hours working on Paso Basin issues, the majority of which were during publicly accessible meetings.

Since SGMA was soon to become the law for groundwater management, the PBAC endorsed the formation of a special water district in the Paso Basin. Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian authored AB 2453, which provided a hybrid water district board unique to the Paso Basin for management of the groundwater. In order to become established, the proposed water district required a formation and funding vote from the affected parties. The County Board of Supervisors identified staff from the Public Works Department to engage the Paso Basin stakeholders in an educational outreach effort on both the proposed water district and SGMA.

As demonstrated in Attachment D, the outreach to Paso Basin stakeholders was extensive and focused on rural residents and the agricultural community. In a twelve-month period, over 65 meetings/presentations were given in a wide variety of formats, with a total reach of over 1,700 stakeholders. Focusing on agriculture, County staff presented in horse barns, wineries, olive oil farms and living rooms. Ultimately the landowners in the Paso Basin overwhelmingly voted not to support the formation of AB 2453 water district.

After the failed formation of the water district, the County Board of Supervisors proceeded to fund SGMA efforts in the Paso Basin to ensure that the basin did not fall into a probationary status and become subject to management by the State Water Resources Control Board. County Public Works staff – through the Water Resources Division – contracted with a water engineering consulting firm to embark on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) process.

In compliance with SGMA, the County of San Luis Obispo formed a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for all property owners in the Paso Basin that were not covered by a municipality, Community Service District or Water District. This ensured there were no gray areas and that all property owners had a governance structure under SGMA. In total, five GSA's formed in the Paso Basin and negotiated an agreement to coordinate on one GSP.

Specific to your claim that there was “limited outreach and engagement of irrigated agriculture” in the Paso Basin, I have provided as Attachment E the complete list of stakeholder outreach workshops (seven), Paso Basin Cooperative Committee meetings (eleven), and newspaper articles announcing/summarizing the meetings (ten).

Additionally, the County Board of Supervisors has held eleven updates at their regularly scheduled Tuesday meetings and one full presentation of the draft GSP. Considering this exhaustive effort of engagement, the County of San Luis Obispo adamantly disagrees with your assertions.

As demonstrated in this letter, the County of San Luis Obispo has not only fully complied with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, we have gone out of our way to engage stakeholders pre-SGMA, support special legislation on governance, and make sure that all voices are heard.

Sincerely,

Wade Horton
County Administrative Officer



A promotional banner for "THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW". The text "THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW" is in large, bold, yellow letters on a black background. Below this, on the left, is the logo for "AM 1440 KUHL the information station" and on the right, the logo for "AM 1290 Santa Barbara News-Press Radio". At the bottom, it says "Listen to Andy Live Monday Thru Friday 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM". On the right side of the banner is a photograph of Andy Caldwell, a man with a mustache wearing headphones and smiling.

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AUTHOR & NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COMMENTATOR BEN SHAPIRO APPEARED AT A COLAB ANNUAL DINNER



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(Revised 2/2017)