



**WEEKLY UPDATE OCTOBER 13 - 19, 2019**



# FALL FORUM

## CHANGING THE LAW

### HOW WE CAN SAVE DIABLO & OUR LOCAL ECONOMY



#### **Redefining Nuclear Power as Renewable**

Thursday, October 24th

5:30—7:30 PM

Thousand Hills Ranch  
550 Thousand Hills Rd.  
Pismo Beach

From the 101 in Pismo Beach, take Price Canyon Rd. 1.8 miles, turn left onto Thousand Hills Rd. (use caution, as the road is somewhat hidden around a bend in the road and it comes up on you suddenly) follow the road for approximately one mile to the red roofed barn on right!

Appetizers and beverages will be served.

#### **Assemblyman**

#### **Jordan Cunningham**



Attend our interactive forum with Assemblyman Cunningham. Hear about his brilliant legislation, ACA 18, which could change the political environment and benefit the natural environment.

Kindly RSVP before October 18th — there is no charge for this informative event!

Email: [colabslo@gmail.com](mailto:colabslo@gmail.com) or call (805) 548-0340



**THIS WEEK**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING CANCELLED**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION HAD BEEN SCHEDULED  
BIG PICTURE TOO SCARY TO CONSIDER?**

**COASTAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW STATE PARKS  
DUNES PLAN PROGRESS**

**LAFCO MEETING CANCELLED**

**LAST WEEK**

**CANNABIS GROW APPLICATIONS DELAYED  
PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED FOR LACK OF QUORUM**

**NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**LAFCO MEETING CANCELLED**

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY BANS  
POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS**

**TWO WEEKS AGO**

**DUNES RIDING AT RISK AGAIN**

**APCD VIOLATION FINDING ON DUNES NOT ON THE AGENDA  
BUT THEY TOOK ACTION ANYHOW  
BROWN ACT VIOLATION?  
GIBSON ADAMANT - BLEW OFF COUNSEL ADVICE**



**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH**  
**SEE PAGE 12**

**ELITES AGAINST WESTERN CIVILIZATION**

*Teaching youth that there is nothing good about our democratic cultural inheritance, the intellectual class is working to discredit our past and demolish our future.*

**BY JOEL KOTKIN**

**'GIFT TO CLIMATE ALARMISTS' EXPOSES  
GLOBAL WARMING JUNK SCIENCE IN 12 MINUTES**

**BY JAMES STANSBURY**

**A CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY?**

**BY RICHARD A. EPSTEIN**

**THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 (Cancelled)**

**Meeting Cancelled – Elected Officials Hate Strategic Planning - It takes Away Short Term Political Cover.** A Strategic Planning Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2019 has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, October 22, 2019. The strategic planning meetings usually contain a cafeteria of items including a financial forecast for the ensuing fiscal year, the Planning and Building Department list of potential administrative projects (such as updating a few elements of the General Plan), construction project status, and perhaps a report by one of the departments on a new initiative. None of this is particularly strategic in nature. Basic assumptions and embedded doctrines underlying major policies should be reviewed periodically lest they become stale and obsolescent and lead to failed and /or dangerous outcomes.

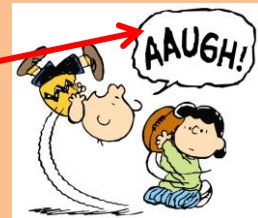
Instead, SLOCOG is pretty much calling the tune on population growth, housing, and transportation funding. The underlying doctrines compel members' submission to and fortify the justification of their utilitarian and parochial funding interests. These manifest themselves as policies, including:

1. Go along and get along with State smart growth and global warming policies in order to secure as much road money as possible.
2. Play the State Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) game in order to make it look as though government is doing something about housing and, again, do it in a way that does not jeopardize road money.
3. Obey State and local progressive laws which oppose "suburban sprawl" in the name of "sustainable communities" to concentrate everyone but the wealthiest in stack-and-pack carless tenements in the cities and unincorporated villages.

Even though each member of the full Board of Supervisors sits on the SLOCOG Board, the 3 conservatives are outvoted by their 2 progressive colleagues plus a number of left leaning city council members. Meanwhile back on their own County ranch, this leaves the Board as Board of Supervisors to manage a variety of housekeeping matters, the County Budget, formulaic State mandated social and health programs, wildfires, the mentally ill, the intoxicated, the jail and other institutions, pension debt, some portion of water sustainability, and marijuana.

Lost in all of this are key strategic issues which were "settled" by "progressive" dominated Boards of Supervisors a decade ago. Like your desktop computer, some of these need to be refreshed and a great deal of accumulated baggage deleted. The Board of Supervisors needs to come up for air and reexamine some of the more fundamental polices separately from the immediate budget context and currently obtaining beliefs. This

SB 1 PROMISE



## BY THE WAY

WHERE IS SLOCOG'S OUTRAGE ON GOVERNOR NEWSOME'S HIJACKING OF THE SB-1 ROAD FUNDS? WHAT ABOUT A BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION.

WILL THE PROPONENTS NOW PUSH A NEW LOCAL TAX MEASURE WITH MORE BAIT AND SWITCH TRICKS?

should be done on behalf of all the people of the county and not just the homogenized elites which dominate the conversation. These include:

1. Is the theory of anthropomorphic global climate change driven by increased greenhouse gases - GHGs), rising temperatures, desiccation, and catastrophic sea level rise true? It was assumed true beginning in the 2000's and has continued as the underpinning the County's overall land use policies. Supervisors Gibson and Hill resist any attempts to update the discussion and demean anyone who brings it up as being a science denialist.

2. The State and County's overall so called "smart growth" policy is the key legal driver of its other policies.

a. As an operational subcomponent of Item 1 above, is it valid? Or is it the prime driver of unaffordable home prices?

b. Separately from the climate change theory, is it really a good idea or simply a faddish political choice, which is actually destructive of the standard of living, subversive of the economy, and a driver of inequality?

c. Are there alternative patterns of urban and regional spatial development that should be examined separately from traditional either/or choices of sprawl versus smart growth hard urban edges?

3. Are there viable alternatives to closing the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant, which forestalls nearly 8 million metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels every year?

a. Do PG&E, any of its possible successors, the CPUC, the incipient State Energy Authority (designed to take over if PG&E collapses), or even the County Planning Department have any notion how the 8 million metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which are now forestalled, will be offset once the plant closes? What are the specific sources and amounts of renewables which will forestall the use natural gas?

b. So far we have not seen any concrete plans for the replacement of Diablo's economic impact on the community. While there is some process, where's the beef?

4. Where is the strategy to build or install homeless housing, RV parks, and other physical measures on a scale large enough to impact the problem? Where is the strategy and political courage to set behavioral standards (progressive blasphemy) for those who are addicted to alcohol and drugs to the point where they constitute a danger to themselves and civil society? What about care for the mentally ill who will not get better?

5. Has the current model of large government organizations utilizing triple protected unionized, civil service, and seniority ranked employees become unsustainable, to use a popular phrase.

6. Both the State and localities (the County in this case) should consider alternatives to the current strategy of water rationing, which will beget agricultural contraction, economic contraction, fewer homes, stunted opportunity, and eventually social unrest.

**California Coastal Commission Meeting of Friday, October 18, 2019; 9:00 AM, Chula Vista City Hall (near San Diego)**

**Item 8a - ODSVRA PWP Update Report - Quarterly status report (currently scheduled for the October 2019, February 2020, April 2020, and July 2020 Commission meetings) by State Parks on the progress of State Parks' Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) Public Works Plan (PWP) efforts.** The Commission will be reviewing the status of the progress by State Parks in executing the plan to reduce the dust. Readers may remember that the Commission refrained from finding State Parks in violation of its Dunes Coastal Permit during a rancorous meeting this past July. At the end the Chair warned State Parks that they "had better show progress, or else." She also exhorted them to add a series of new actions that had been proposed by the Coastal Commission Staff.

If the Commission is not satisfied, it can order enforcement actions up to and including shutting down the riding area.

As of Friday October 11, 2019, there was no staff report indicating whatever they might be thinking or recommending.

See the APCD item below on page 11, which will have a bearing on this issue.

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, October 17, 2019 (Cancelled)**

**The meeting has been cancelled.** No reason was provided. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019.

## **LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 (Not scheduled)**

No Board of Supervisors meeting last week. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

**San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Meeting of Thursday, October 10, 2019 (Completed)**

**Item 15 - Adoption of an Ordinance Banning Polystyrene and expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Food Containers and Products.** In yet another costly and potentially health threatening hypocritical instance of feckless virtue signaling, the IWMA adopted an ordinance banning polystyrene cups, food containers, and construction materials (such as floats for marina docks) throughout the county, including all 7 cities. Only Supervisors Arnold and Peschong voted against it. Supervisor Compton was away.

It turns out that the paper cups and containers may be just as problematical. As left wing propaganda outlet CNN reported:

*As basic as it looks, from an engineering perspective, today's disposable cup is close to perfect. It doesn't leak, break, melt or warp. It doesn't change the way beverages taste. It's cheap enough to be mass produced. It's light and stackable, so it can be easily transported and stored.*

*Which is why it's so difficult to invent a greener alternative. An eco-friendly cup has to first meet all those requirements — and then break down easily.*

*There are some cups on the market that are advertised as "compostable," but they generally don't degrade in the same way banana peels or eggshells do in your household compost bin. Instead, they must be processed in industrial composting facilities, which are still rare.*

Actually, Santa Barbara County is building an industrial composting facility at a cost of about \$200 million just in principal to propitiate the Eco Gods (or Demons as the case may be). The citizens of SLO probably don't want to drink the Kool Aid on this sort of experiment.

The substantive part of the ordinance is quoted below.

**SECTION 4. Polystyrene and EPS Disposable Food Containers are Prohibited.**

- A. Food and Beverage Providers within the IWMA Region may not provide Prepared Food and Beverages in or provide separately any Disposable Food and Beverage Container made from Polystyrene or EPS except as exempted in Section 7.
- B. Disposable Food Containers made from Polystyrene or EPS are prohibited from use in all IWMA Member Jurisdiction stores or businesses which sell or offer goods, services, or merchandise.
- C. IWMA Member Jurisdiction contractors in the performance of IWMA Member Jurisdiction contracts and event promoters may not provide Prepared Food and Beverages in Disposable Food and Beverage Containers made from Polystyrene or EPS.
- D. Food Providers and Beverage providers are prohibited from using, providing, distributing, or selling Polystyrene or EPS.

**SECTION 5. Required Reusable, Biodegradable, or Recyclable Disposable Food Containers.**

- A. All Food Providers within IWMA Member Jurisdictions utilizing “to-go” or “dine-in” Food and Beverage Containers shall use Reusable, Biodegradable, or Recyclable products.
- B. All IWMA Member Jurisdiction stores or businesses which sell or offer goods, services, or merchandise utilizing “to-go” or “dine-in” Food and Beverage Containers shall use Reusable, Biodegradable, or Recyclable products.
- C. IWMA Member Jurisdiction contractors and event promoters utilizing “to-go” or “dine-in” Food Containers shall use Reusable, Biodegradable, or Recyclable products while performing under IWMA Member Jurisdiction contract or permit.

**SECTION 6. Prohibited Sales.**

- A. No Vendor, Supplier, or Events Promoter in the IWMA Member Jurisdiction may sell or otherwise provide any Polystyrene or EPS product which is not wholly encapsulated or encased within a more durable material, except as exempted in Section 7. This specifically includes, but is not limited to clamshells, bowls, plates, utensils, trays, wrappers or wrapping, platters, condiment containers, cartons, cups, and drink ware as well as non-encapsulated coolers, containers, ice chests, marine buoys and dock floats, shipping boxes, packing peanuts, or other packaging materials. The Resin Code for polystyrene is ‘6’ or ‘PS,’ either alone or in combination with other letters. This applies to all Polystyrene and EPS Food and Beverage service ware and non-encapsulated products regardless of whether it exhibits a Resin Code.



Starbucks says its cups are biodegradable, but they still resist even in a solution designed to break them down. Moreover the lids are plastic. Starbucks has offered \$10 million dollars to anyone who invents a truly degradable product that works. The vinaigrette will leak through the cardboard container (made from trees) and onto your suit before you can get it back to the office.

**Now what?** Straws are gone and grocery bags are gone. What about plastic forks, all those plastic water bottles, and condoms, not to mention all those free hypodermic needles which the cities and counties are giving out like candy in the millions to addicts? Just as you now have to wrestle and remember your shopping bags, you will have to bring your Yeti cup.



**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, October 10, 2019 (Cancelled Suddenly)**

The meeting was suddenly canceled for lack of a forum. At 9:00 AM the Clerk came out and read a message that said it had been cancelled and that the items on this agenda would be taken



up at the next regular meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2019. As noted below in **Item 4**, there are some unlikely opponents, aided by a San Francisco law firm which appears to have spent significant time on the issue.

**Item 5** is confusing, with proponents denying that there are existing violations although they are detailed by staff.

**Background:** Cannabis Permits Hit Headwinds: One was recommended for approval (but has heavy opposition), and one was recommended for denial.

**Item 4: Hearing to consider a request by City Boy Farms for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2017-00123) to establish outdoor and indoor cannabis cultivations, outdoor and indoor commercial cannabis nurseries, cannabis manufacturing, non-storefront dispensary, and ancillary processing and transport activities. The project includes construction of a 37,350-square-foot greenhouse, and 8,000-square-foot metal building and would result in approximately 10-acres of site disturbance on an approximately 25-acre parcel. A modification from the setback standards is requested to reduce the required setback to the eastern property line from 300 feet to 100 feet. A modification from the parking standards is also requested to reduce the required number of parking spaces onsite from 67 to 36. The proposed project is within the Agriculture land use category and is located at 4225 South El Pomar Road, approximately 4 miles northeast of the community of Atascadero.** The staff seems to recommend approval of this one, as it has prepared the requisite findings and conditions. However, there appear to be both substantial neighbor and area opposition. There are strong letters in the file from neighbors, pleading for the project not to be approved. The Templeton Community Advisory Group Committee has prepared an extensive and detailed critique. A group named Californians for Sustainable Communities is challenging the adequacy of the CEQA review and demanding a full environmental impact report (EIR). They have retained the San Francisco Law firm Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo (ABJC). The firm specializes in land use, zoning codes, CEQA, natural resources and related matters. The firm has filed a number of letters, one of which presents extensive assertions with citations about how the County failed to follow CEQA properly in evaluating the proposed project.

*ABJC's main compliant letter indicates Californians for Sustainable Communities is "Californians for Sustainable Communities is an unincorporated association of individuals and labor organizations that may be adversely affected by the potential public and worker health and safety hazards, and the environmental and public service impacts of the Project. The coalition includes International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 639, Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16, and District Council of Iron Workers of the State of California, along with their members, their families, and other individuals who live, recreate and work in the County.*

It is puzzling that a group of private sector labor unions would be bringing in heavy artillery to attempt to stop this application. One might think that it would be the wine industry, which often objects to odors which can bother visitors and disturb winery events such as weddings. Unions usually become involved when jobs and/or an industry are at risk in cases such as the City of SLO gas appliance ban ordinance or the Phillips 66 rail spur application. Is there a connection

we don't understand between the El Pomar area and the unions? They may certainly be a force when the County is considering the CEQA aspects of Diablo property reuse. It would be very helpful if they engaged in advocacy for housing and abolishing the whole "smart growth panacea."

**Item 5: Continued hearing (from September 26, 2019) to consider a request by Henry Mancini/Darren Shetler for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2019-00142 – formerly DRC2018-00171) to establish 21,600 square feet of indoor mixed-light cannabis cultivation within five greenhouses, 3,643 square feet of indoor nursery within one greenhouse, seven cargo containers for material storage, and related site improvements. A modification from the parking standards is requested to reduce the required number of parking spaces onsite from 50 to 12. The project would result in the disturbance roughly 3 acres of a 16.21-acre parcel. The proposed project site is within the Agricultural land use category and is located at 457 Green Gate Road, approximately 2 miles southeast of the City of San Luis Obispo. The staff recommends that the application be denied due to the existence of an illegal grow and other zoning violations. At the request of the applicant it had been continued from the September 26, 2019 meeting.**

Components of the project are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Proposed Structures & Buildings		
Building / Structures	Project Component	Building Floor Area Gross Square Feet (SF)
Greenhouse (5 @ 4,320 sf each)	Mixed-Light Indoor Cultivation	21,600
Greenhouse (1 @ 3,643 sf)	Ancillary Cannabis Nursery	3,643
Cargo Containers (7 @ ~ 320 sf each)	Material Storage	2,240
<b>Total</b>		<b>27,483</b>

The staff recommendation for denial is extensive. The paragraph below presents a summary of their reasoning.

***Verified Cannabis-Related Violations***

*These activities are inconsistent with State and local laws and raise concerns regarding public health and safety. The Planning Commission hereby finds that those violations are verified. The applicant agreed to remedy previous violations through stipulated orders. The stipulated order expressly warned that any use and occupancy of unpermitted structures was prohibited under County Code and would be subject to further enforcement action. The Planning Commission finds that the subject violations are an egregious failure to adhere to the County's rules and regulations and not the result of excusable mistake, inadvertence or neglect. Based on the nature and extent of the recent violations, the level of public concerns over cannabis facilities and the findings that are required by the Land Use Ordinance for such facilities, the Planning Commission cannot find that the proposed use will not contribute to repeat violations at the site.*

Separately there are letters on file from neighbors who are strongly opposed to odors from the illegal operation, which is asserted to be underway.

**Confusion:** Countering the County write-up, attorney letters in the file assert that there are no violations. There is also a confusing back and forth about which parcel and who in the area had violations, if any. The Planning Commission is going to have to let staff lay it out.

## TWO WEEK'S AGO – APCD STEALTH ITEM

**SLO County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of Wednesday, September 25, 2019 (Completed)**

### **Surprise Item Not Agendized – Dunes Dust/Brown Act Violation?**

During his regular Air Pollution Control Officer's (APCO) Report, Gary Willey mentioned that the State Parks Plan to reduce dust from the off road vehicle riding area in the State's Oceano Beach Park is inadequate. The APCO's report is informal and there is usually no written information. The public cannot know in advance which subjects may be presented. There are no action items.

**Dunes Kerfuffle:** Nevertheless, and after APCO Gary Willey finished, City of Morro Bay Mayor John Heading began to sternly question him about the inadequacies in the proposed activities and schedules which state Parks had presented with respect to compliance with a 5-year dust reduction plan. Willey said he was giving them a chance to fix the inadequacies. This infuriated Heading, Gibson, Hill, and some other members of the Board. Willey was placed on the hot seat and grilled by Heading and Gibson. Willey apparently has a Mediterranean cruise vacation scheduled for much of the next month, which further irritated some of the officials.

Heading and Gibson pressed for a motion directing the APCD to request its Violations Hearing Board (a separate citizen Board of individuals supposedly expert in health and air quality) to hold a meeting to enforce penalties against State Parks. The APCD attorney began to gently broach the potential problem of taking an action on a matter which had not been agendized. At different points during the discussion Supervisor Arnold, Mayor Waage, and Councilwoman Fonzi all referred to the potential problem.

Gibson was adamant when he asked Willey, "Why didn't you call a Hearing Board when you determined the 2<sup>nd</sup> version of the Plan was inadequate?" Willey attempted to explain that he was urging Parks to prepare an adequate plan. There was turmoil about Willey calling a Hearing Board meeting, which would relieve the APCD members of risking a Brown Act violation. For much of the meeting Willey resisted, but in the end and seeing the mounting anger of some of the Board members, he demurred and said he would call the meeting. This did not deter Supervisor Gibson, who said something to the effect, "If need be, we should take the risk of

being sued because this is a health issue which has subsisted for too long.” In the end, Gibson stood by his motion for the Board to request one.

The anti-dunes riding officials are extremely frustrated with the State Parks Department which they assert has not moved fast enough to actually attempt to resolve the problem. They forcefully assert that state parks has been evasive and resistive by dragging the issue out for ten years.

The problem is that there is no solution to the blowing dust, because a great deal of it is natural and even abolishing all off road vehicle use will not solve it. The Nipomo Mesa itself is giant sand structure which accumulated over thousands of years of blowing sand.

The trick for those who wish to close it is to have it closed even for a short period (for example until State Parks submits an acceptable plan). For CEQA purposes the baseline conditions would then become the conditions existing in the closed status. Once this occurs, any attempt to reopen it will create long list of CEQA Class I negative environmental impacts. It is unlikely that the Coastal Commission, which holds the CEQA high cards, would find reasons to override them.

In the end the Board voted 6/4 to request the Hearing Board meeting to consider and perhaps impose sanctions on State Parks. Those voting in the affirmative included Mayor Harmon, Supervisor Hill, Councilman Paulding, Mayor Pro-Tem Shah, Mayor Heading, and Supervisor Gibson. Those dissenting included Supervisor Arnold, Mayor Waage, Councilwoman Fonzi, and Councilman Hamon. Supervisors Peschong and Compton were absent.

View the video here. When it opens, scroll down to the APCO’s Report item. The fireworks start when Willey is done.

[http://slocounty.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=7&clip\\_id=3391](http://slocounty.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=3391)

## 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

## ELITES AGAINST WESTERN CIVILIZATION

*Teaching youth that there is nothing good about our democratic cultural inheritance, the intellectual class is working to discredit our past and demolish our future.*

BY JOEL KOTKIN

The intellectual class across the West—encompassing its universities, media, and arts—is striving to dismantle the values that paced its ascendancy. Europe, the source of Western

civilization, now faces a campaign, in academia and elite media, to replace its cultural and religious traditions with what [one author](#) describes as a “multicultural and post-racial republic” supportive of separate identities. “The European ‘we’ does not exist,” writes French philosopher Pierre Manent, assessing the damage. “European culture is in hiding, disappearing, without a soul.”

The increasingly “woke” values of the educated upper classes reflect, as Alvin Toffler predicted almost half a century ago, the inevitable consequence of mass affluence, corporate concentration, and the shift to a service economy. The new elite, Toffler foresaw, would abandon traditional bourgeois values of hard work and family for “more aesthetic goals, self-fulfillment as well as unbridled hedonism.” Affluence, he observed, “serves as a base from which men begin to strive for post economic goals.”

The driving force for these changes has been the ascendant clerisy, which, reprising the role that the Church played in medieval times, sees itself as anointed to direct human society, a modern version of the “oligarchy of priests and monks whose task it was to propitiate heaven,” in the words of the great French historian of the Middle Ages, Marc Bloch. Traditional clerics remained part of [this class](#) but were joined by others—university professors, scientists, public intellectuals, and heads of charitable foundations. This secular portion of society has now essentially replaced the clergy, serving as what German sociologist Max Weber once called society’s “new legitimizers.” The clerisy spans an [ever-growing section of the workforce](#) that largely works outside the market economy—teachers, consultants, lawyers, government workers, and medical professionals. Meantime, positions common among the traditional middle class—small-business owners, workers in basic industries and construction—have dwindled as a share of the job market.

The educated, affluent class detests President Trump, whom many in the Third Estate support, and has rallied to its preferred candidate, Elizabeth Warren, who emerges from the legal and university communities and voices the progressive rhetoric common to this class. (Warren’s less brainy left-wing rival, Bernie Sanders, fares better among struggling, often younger workers.) Warren’s clerisy supporters represent what French Marxist author [Christophe Guilluy](#) calls the “privileged stratum,” which operates from an assumption of moral superiority that justifies its right to rule. They are the apotheosis of [H. G. Wells](#)’s notion of an “emergent class of capable men” that could “take upon itself the task of “controlling and restricting . . . the non-functional masses.” This new elite, Wells predicted, would replace democracy with a “higher organism” of what he called “the New Republic.”

For generations, the media embraced an ideal of impartiality and the validity of diverse viewpoints. Now, as [Andrew Sullivan](#) recently noted, it’s almost impossible to consider the mainstream news as anything other than a partisan tool. Perhaps nothing illustrates this more than the media role in the resistance to Trump; however awful he may seem, no president, even Richard Nixon, has suffered such total opposition from powerful media, with an estimated [92 percent negative coverage](#) from the networks, even before he assumed office.

The media’s anti-Trump lockstep reflects broader changes in the industry. Reporters rarely come, as in the past, from the working class but instead from [elite universities](#). They tilt

overwhelmingly to the [progressive side](#). By 2018, barely 7 percent of U.S. reporters identified themselves as Republicans; some 97 percent of journalist political donations go to Democrats. The ongoing media takeover by tech leaders is certain to accelerate this trend. Nearly two-thirds of readers now get their news through [Facebook](#) and Google, platforms that often “curate,” or eliminate, [conservative](#) views, according to [former employees](#). It’s not just conservatives who think so: over 70 percent of Americans, notes [a recent Pew study](#), believe social media platforms “[censor political views](#).”

Similar patterns can be seen in Hollywood, once divided between conservatives and liberals but now heavily slanted to the left. Liberal columnist [Jonathan Chait](#), reviewing the offerings of major studios and networks, described what he called “a pervasive, if not total, liberalism.” Virtually all mass-media cultural production follows a [progressive script](#), from the music industry to theater—and now including [sports](#), too.

Perhaps nothing has so enhanced the power of the clerisy as the expansion of universities. Overall, the percentage of college graduates in the labor force soared from under 11 percent in 1970 to over 30 percent four decades later. The number of people [enrolled in college](#) in the United States has grown from 5 million in 1964 to some 20 million today. Universities, particularly elite institutions, have emerged as the primary gatekeepers and ideological shapers for the upper classes. A *National Journal* survey of 250 top American public-sector decision-makers [found](#) that 40 percent were Ivy League graduates. Only a quarter had earned graduate degrees from a public university.

Orthodoxy of viewpoints in contemporary higher education is increasingly rigid. In 1990, according to survey data by UCLA’s Higher Education Research Institute, 42 percent of professors identified as “liberal” or “far-left.” By 2014, that number had jumped to 60 percent. Another study of 51 top colleges found the proportion of liberals to conservatives ranging from at least 8 to 1 to as much as 70 to 1. At elite liberal arts schools like Wellesley, Swarthmore, and Williams, the proportion reaches 120 to 1.

These trends are particularly acute in fields that affect public policy and opinion. Well [short of 10 percent of faculty](#) at leading law schools, such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Columbia, and Berkeley—schools that graduate many of the nation’s leaders—describe themselves as conservative. Leading journalism schools, including [Columbia](#), have moved away from teaching the fundamentals of reporting and [adopted](#) an openly left social-justice agenda.

Once largely a college phenomenon, progressive ideology is now being pressed [upon elementary school students](#), a development that could transform our politics permanently. As authoritarians from Stalin and Hitler to Mao all recognized, youth are the most susceptible to propaganda and most easily shaped by the worldview of their instructors. This process has been most apparent in the environmental movement, which has elevated as its ideological battering ram the unlikely figure of [Greta Thunberg](#), a seemingly troubled Swedish teenager. With her harsh millenarian rhetoric about the end of the world, she reprises the role played by youthful religious fanatics during the “children’s crusade” of the thirteenth century or, more recently, the Red Guards, whom Mao mobilized to silence his critics.

The politicization of basic education, particularly concerning [American history](#), is notable throughout the country but most entrenched in liberal regions such as [New York City](#) and [Minneapolis](#). In California, schools are [scrapping](#) measures such as [exit exams](#) for more ideologically correct policies. Once a leader in educational innovation and performance, California now toils near the bottom of the pack, ranked [40th](#) on *Education Week*'s composite score of school performance. These poor results mean little to progressives in places like the Los Angeles Unified School District, which has banned “willful defiance” removals and suspensions in the name of racial equity. A bill that would do the same statewide is moving through the legislature, along with a massive campaign to weaken the state’s charter schools. Nothing has been more illustrative of our educational establishment’s far-left, racist agenda—tinged with a strong dose of anti-capitalist indoctrination—than the [draft proposal](#) for an “ethnic studies” curriculum for the state’s schools. The program has provoked fierce opposition and is unlikely to be adopted in its present form, but activists will surely keep trying.

Ethnic-studies programs are aimed at high schoolers who often lack even the most basic understanding of American history. Incapable of meeting national [standards](#) for [basic grade-level](#) English language arts and mathematics, many of these students would instead learn [academic jargon](#) like [misogynoir](#), [cisheteropatriarchy](#), and [hxrstory](#)—which ethnic-studies advocates, such as [R. Tolteka Cuauhtin](#), a member of the [advisory committee](#) that worked on the draft, defend in the name of legitimating the discipline. “AP Chemistry, for example, has some very complex academic terms, difficult to pronounce, but it’s expected because it’s AP Chemistry,” Cuauhtin explains.

The clerisy is working to undermine basic liberal democracy. In the years ahead, technology will help shape attitudes on everything from the environment to the existence of “unconscious bias” against racial and sexual minorities. China’s efforts to control and monitor thought, sometimes assisted by U.S. tech firms, are likely a hint of things to come in Europe, Australia, and North America. Already we see the rise of a new political generation with little use for the Western political tradition or the [cultural values](#) that shaped it. American millennials—despite, or perhaps because of, their high educational attainment—are increasingly inculcated with the idea that [America is hopelessly racist](#) and oppressive. Their worldview includes embracing limits on free speech. Some 40 percent of millennials, notes [Pew](#), favor limiting speech deemed offensive to minorities—well above the already-depressing 27 percent among Gen-Xers and 24 percent among baby boomers. Among the oldest cohorts, though—those who likely [remember](#) fascist and Communist regimes—only 12 percent support such restrictions. European millennials also display far less faith in democracy and fewer objections to autocratic control than Americans or previous generations. Young Europeans are almost three times as likely to see democracy as failing than their elders, and many in countries as diverse in [Sweden, Hungary, Spain, Poland, and Slovakia](#) embrace the far Right, while others, notably in [Great Britain and France](#), favor the far Left.

With [lower levels of cultural literacy](#) and reduced interest in [history](#), the new generation could reprise the intellectual deterioration of the Middle Ages, when, according to Belgian historian Henri Pirenne, “the very mind of man was going through degeneration.” Just as the feudal prelates disdained classical culture, today’s clerisy seeks to unmoor liberal culture and the [Western political tradition](#); nearly [40 percent of young Americans](#), for example, think that the

country lacks “a history to be proud of.” [Far smaller numbers](#) than previous generations prize family, religion, or patriotism.

If one does not even know about the complex legacy underpinning democracy, including the drive for individual freedom and open discussion, one is not likely to understand when it is in peril. If we are to save our uniquely open civilization, we must counter the clerisy’s efforts to discredit our past and demolish our future.

*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 in the October 3, 2019 edition of City Journal.*

## **'GIFT TO CLIMATE ALARMISTS' EXPOSES GLOBAL WARMING JUNK SCIENCE IN 12 MINUTES**

**BY JAMES STANSBURY**

Recently, I viewed a 12-minute YouTube video by Tony Heller, released 9/20/2019. He described it as "my gift to climate alarmists" and added: "This is my most concise expose of climate fraud. Please pass it around to everyone you know and your elected officials. The video is a little short, but cuts right to the heart of the matter." Be advised that the video is totally devoid of slick Hollywood production techniques, and the narration is monotone, but does cut to the heart of the matter.

Before sharing, I took the precaution of researching Tony Heller. Google listed several negative references up front that basically discredited him as a climate science–denying fraud. However, digging deeper, I found he is well educated, often contributes to [Watts Up With That?](#), and has occasionally used the pen name Steven Goddard. His rather uniquely formatted website, titled [Real Climate Science](#), contains his unorthodox yet impressive résumé. [Here](#) was found evidence that Scott Adams of Dilbert fame considers Tony the skeptic he finds most convincing.

My career involved business analytics using the same math and charting methods as those applied to climate data. Therefore, I am familiar with the misleading techniques demonstrated in the video. I have also felt pressure from senior management to use questionable data, omit contradictory findings, or adjust measurement scales to exaggerate or understate trend changes if necessary to support their desired solution.

Obviously, this type of data deception works best when the intended audience lacks the technical expertise to know it is being sold a fantasy. It is even easier when the fantasy is something many truly want to believe (e.g., Greta Thunberg and other Extinction Rebellion participants). The ultimate fantasy solution to prevent a climate catastrophe requires that big government be given the power to regulate man-caused CO<sub>2</sub> and those infinitesimal amounts of methane from cow



flatulence. Never mind that total atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is 0.04% (the equivalent clout of 4 pennies versus a \$100 bill) and that today's slightly higher CO<sub>2</sub> levels have significantly increased worldwide crop yields.

Sadly, the truth contained in Tony's video will never overcome the emotion-fueled political advantage of having a simple, taxable villain like CO<sub>2</sub>. No wonder politicians, media, academia, and the green energy industrial complex will protect this lucrative fantasy at all costs. Nevertheless, I recommend watching the video, [here](#) or below. Then you decide.

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*This article first appeared in the American Thinker of October 9, 2019*

**COLAB NOTE:** Please watch this powerful video on how the global warmist cabal is doctoring the data.

<https://youtu.be/8455KEDitpU>

## A CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY?

BY RICHARD A. EPSTEIN



Without a doubt, it is a major challenge to accurately model and predict the course of climate change. Climate systems are [highly chaotic](#), which makes it difficult to figure out the effect of any particular natural or human event on future climate changes. We should therefore proceed with caution before making bold claims that the main, or even sole, driver of climate change is the human generated increase in the carbon dioxide level, which [now](#) is approaching 415 parts per million.

But today's activists are in crisis mode. The 16-year old Swedish student [Greta Thunberg](#)'s recent calls for action sparked thousands of students to [skip classes](#) last month in order to fight a global climate "emergency." These students are long on indignation, but short on solutions. They are content to implore today's business, political, and social elites to come up with a solution before it is all too late—after all, these activists claim, [in ten years](#) we could all be dead.

The youth movement and its adult supporters assume that the fate of the world hangs in the balance unless some prompt and decisive action is taken. The proposed cures for addressing the climate crisis, such as the uncompromising [demand](#) that there be no more new fossil fuel projects, are highly intrusive. If implemented, even in part, they will necessarily affect how ordinary people eat, work, travel, and vacation—and even how they bear children. The common [desire](#) "to set a pathway for 100 percent renewable power" will force excessive reliance on alternative energy forms, such as wind and solar, that [are too unreliable](#) to offer a dependable energy source on land, and useless for such activities as air transportation.

But what if the green crusaders have overstated the risk, or what if they are just plain wrong? Then massive social resources will be squandered without obtaining any advantage in return.

Before we join the crusade, we should listen to the independent professionals decrying the current crisis mentality. Five hundred professional climate scientists have flatly [stated](#) to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that “There is no climate emergency,” stressing the dangers of relying on today’s “immature models.” Petteri Taalas, who is the secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization, has [decried](#) the “extremism” that has made it impossible to hold a more rational debate about the overall subject. Susan Crockford, an oft-cited polar bear expert, has recently [rejected](#) the claim of a climate emergency for polar bears, noting that ice fluctuations are common in the arctic, and that polar bears have for thousands of years adapted to rapid changes in conditions.

Beyond these sober assessments, it’s important to consider two other relevant issues: what “chaos” really means in a weather system and how plant life has fared in recent years.

Just what makes a system chaotic? The common misconception is that chaos is defined by a lack of control and predictability, such that excessive carbon dioxide could set the planet on an inexorable doomsday cycle. But the technical definition of chaotic carries with it no such implication. A system can be chaotic even when the set possible of outcomes can be confined within a limited space. A simple illustration of this point is [the double pendulum](#) with a break in the middle and a point weight on the end. The two segments of the pendulum form a circle with a radius equal to their sum. The break in the pendulum leads to a set of wild swings, the exact course of which will vary widely with even minute changes in the initial position. This apparently simple system is deterministic in that if the same initial settings are used on different occasions, they will always yield the same outcome. But it is also chaotic because [no available computational method](#) can come close to predicting the often large differences in final outcome as a function of small variations in the initial conditions. But there is a key structural limit on the set of possible outcomes: the double pendulum can never go outside a circle whose radius is the sum of its two segments.

This point has important implications for understanding the complex dynamics of climate change. No one disputes that carbon dioxide levels have been climbing steadily since 1900. There are some [claims](#) that 350 parts per million is the ideal concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, a figure that was reached during the 1980s. So why is a rise of 20 percent over that supposedly ideal number fatal? That has never been explained.

Nor, taken alone, can the consistent increases in carbon dioxide levels explain the observed ups *and* downs in temperature since 1900. Interestingly, these temperature oscillations gave rise to dire [predictions](#) of a new ice age in the 1970s. If CO<sub>2</sub> were the dominant driver, we would expect to see steady temperature increases over the entire period. But the data shows constant fluctuation. Constantly rising carbon dioxide levels cannot explain the [record number](#) of high temperatures in the 1930s when overall carbon dioxide levels were far lower than they are today: only two such highs have been set in the continental U.S. after 2010—South Carolina (2012) and Death Valley California (2013).

Moreover, any viable model must explain not only the dramatic temperature peaks in 1998 and 2016 but also the sharp declines that followed. The small increases in year-over-year levels of carbon dioxide are not the likely culprit. One reasonable explanation for these changes could be the [rapid shifts](#) from El Nino (which sent cold airs from the west across the Atlantic) and the temporary rise of La Nina, which did not. These results should be expected. The temperature spikes generate “[negative feedback loops](#)” which tend to reverse temperature directions in ways that stabilize the overall system. This pattern has held for billions of years.

The second relevant factor in this discussion is the change in plant coverage. Predictions of climate emergency entail the view that plant life will fall into a rapid rate of decline owing to the occurrence of extreme temperature conditions across the globe. But the exact opposite is true. The evidence is overwhelming that the [greening of the earth](#) continues apace. NASA reports that “the greening of the planet over the last two decades represents an increase in leaf area on plants and trees equivalent to the area covered by all the Amazon rainforests. There are now more than two million square miles of extra green leaf area per year, compared to the early 2000s – a 5% increase.” And ironically, much of that growth has taken place in China and India, where carbon dioxide emissions are highest.

Taken altogether, these are not unexpected results. The influence of carbon dioxide levels on temperature depends on a multitude of factors. Greenhouse gases tend to have multiple effects on global temperatures, and it should never be forgotten that [water vapor](#) is both a more powerful and more abundant greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. But it is also the case that these two gases [are critical](#) for photosynthesis, a process that increases plant coverage, which in turn reduces temperature extremes.

A common practice for greenhouses is to pump in large quantities of carbon dioxide, up to 1000 to 1500 parts per million, to stimulate plant growth, even if temperatures remain constant. This pattern helps explain why most of the record highs (and lows) in the United States took place [in the 1930s](#). There are those who [claim](#) that this cycle will not hold outside the laboratory, where conditions are more complex, leading to more “drought and heat stress.” Think of Wired’s 2016 [prediction](#) that “California’s Drought Is Probably Forever.” But there is no evidence of that today. Indeed, a recent report asserts that California is now [drought-free](#) for the first time in nearly a decade, notwithstanding higher carbon dioxide levels.

It is common for many concerned scientists to develop a metric that speaks of the social cost of carbon. The Environmental Defense Fund, for example, estimates the cost to be around [\\$50 per ton](#) for the [37.1 gigatons](#) of carbon dioxide emissions released in 2018 (for a total cost of \$1.86 trillion). But it is critical to be aware that all of these gloomy predictions posit a world in which, according to the EDF, climate change “causes devastating impacts: extreme weather events like flooding and deadly storms; the spread of disease; sea level rise; increased food insecurity; and other disasters.”

But these are *predictions* of bad times to come. They are not [descriptions](#) of the current situation in which the incidence of extreme weather events like drought is falling, [sea level rise](#) is slowing, agricultural prices are low, and food is abundant, not scarce. The professional skeptics are right: there is today no compelling evidence of an impending climate emergency.

*This article first appeared in the Stanford University Journal Defining Ideas on October 7, 2019 . Richard A. Epstein, the Peter and Kirsten Bedford Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, is the Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Law, New York University Law School, and a senior lecturer at the University of Chicago.*

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