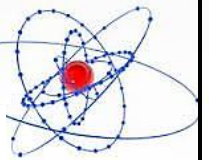




WEEKLY UPDATE OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2019

**THIS THURSDAY – SAVE DIABLO TO SAVE OUR JOBS & ECONOMY
SHOW UP AND DELIGHT IN COMMON SENSE & REAL LEADERSHIP**



COLAB
San Luis Obispo County

10th ANNIVERSARY



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 or call (805) 548-0340

THIS WEEK

**PREVIEW OF NEW FACILITIES FEE FORMULA
INCLUDES EXEMPTION FOR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSING**

**SGMA WATER PLANS UPDATE
STATE AG BOARD ASSERTS PASO FARMERS UNHAPPY – CITES NO
NAMES BUT HINTS AT SHANDON – SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT**

DEJA PREVIEW – FY 2020 – 21 BUDGET ISSUES

**LIBRARY BOND FOR CONSTRUCTION TO BE
PROPOSED**

LAST WEEK

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING CANCELLED
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION HAD BEEN SCHEDULED
BIG PICTURE TOO SCARY TO CONSIDER?**

**COASTAL COMMISSIONERS REVIEWED STATE PARKS
DUNES PLAN PROGRESS – SOME NOT HAPPY**

LAFCO MEETING CANCELLED

**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 14**

TWO ARTICLES ON OUR DESCENT INTO MADNESS

**MAYHEM AND DEATH IN THE NAME OF SAFETY
BY ANDY CALDWELL**

**CRAZY AND WOKE ON THE WESTERN FRONT
OF PROGRESSIVE INSANITY
BY EDWARD RING**

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, October 22, 2019 (Scheduled)

Item 1 - Set a Hearing on Public Facilities Fees for Tuesday, November 5, 2019. There will be a hearing on November 5, 2019 to consider amending the ordinance as follows:

1. Set the adjustment of the fees on an automatic annual formula, which would increase or decrease based on the existing metric, which uses a combination of the inflation rate in the LA Metro area and Bay area. The new calculation method would adjust the rate as follows:

(b) The public facilities fees imposed by resolution of the board of supervisors shall be automatically adjusted on January 1 of each year. The adjustment shall be calculated by the Department of Planning and Building, based on modifying the adopted value up or down in conformance with the Engineering News-Record September Construction Cost Index, utilizing the following formula:

$$1 + \left(\frac{\text{Current Index} - \text{Prior Year Index}}{\text{Prior Year Index}} \right)$$

No samples of how this might affect specific fees, given current inflation rates, were provided. Theoretically the fees could adjust up or down, depending on the inputs to the formula.

2. Qualifying very low-income housing projects would be exempt from paying the County exactions.

SECTION 1: Section 18.03.020 of the Public Facility Fee Ordinance, Title 18 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, is hereby amended to add new subsection 10 as follows: (to exempt residential units which qualify as very low or lower income affordable housing units:

18.03.020 – Exemptions

(10) Affordable housing units meeting the definition of extremely low-income, very low-income, and lower-income, as set forth in Land Use Ordinance Section 22.12.070 and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance Section 23.04.094.

The write-up does not contain any example forecasts about the potential costs to the County budget based on typical experience in recent years.

Public Facility Fees
Effective July 13, 2009

FEE CODE		GOV'T	ADMIN	SHERIFF	PARK **	LIBRARY	FIRE *	TOTAL	TOTAL W/O FIRE
ZSFR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE - Each									
	AVILA SFR	\$ 533	\$ 111	\$ 280	\$ 2,303	\$ 454	\$ 1,994	\$ 5,675	\$ 3,681
	COUNTY SFR	\$ 533	\$ 111	\$ 280	\$ 2,303	\$ 454	\$ 1,994	\$ 5,675	\$ 3,681
	CAYUCOS SFR	\$ 533	\$ 111	\$ 280	\$ 2,303	\$ 454	\$ 1,994	\$ 5,675	\$ 3,681
	CAMBRIA SFR	\$ 533	\$ 111	\$ 280	\$ 2,303	\$ 454	\$ 1,994	\$ 5,675	\$ 3,681
	SAN MIGUEL SFR	\$ 533	\$ 111	\$ 280	\$ 2,303	\$ 454	\$ 1,994	\$ 5,675	\$ 3,681
ZMFR MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE - Each									
	AVILA MFR	\$ 406	\$ 72	\$ 213	\$ 1,753	\$ 345	\$ 902	\$ 3,691	\$ 2,789
	COUNTY MFR	\$ 406	\$ 72	\$ 213	\$ 1,753	\$ 345	\$ 902	\$ 3,691	\$ 2,789
	CAYUCOS MFR	\$ 406	\$ 72	\$ 213	\$ 1,753	\$ 345	\$ 902	\$ 3,691	\$ 2,789
	CAMBRIA MFR	\$ 406	\$ 72	\$ 213	\$ 1,753	\$ 345	\$ 902	\$ 3,691	\$ 2,789
	SAN MIGUEL MFR	\$ 406	\$ 72	\$ 213	\$ 1,753	\$ 345	\$ 902	\$ 3,691	\$ 2,789
ZOFC OFFICE - Per 1000 Sq Ft									
	AVILA OFFICE	\$ 719	\$ 45	\$ 378		\$ 239	\$ 902	\$ 2,283	\$ 1,381
	COUNTY OFFICE	\$ 719	\$ 45	\$ 378		\$ 239	\$ 902	\$ 2,283	\$ 1,381
	CAYUCOS OFFICE	\$ 719	\$ 45	\$ 378		\$ 239	\$ 902	\$ 2,283	\$ 1,381
	CAMBRIA OFFICE	\$ 719	\$ 45	\$ 378		\$ 239	\$ 902	\$ 2,283	\$ 1,381
	SAN MIGUEL OFFICE	\$ 719	\$ 45	\$ 378		\$ 239	\$ 902	\$ 2,283	\$ 1,381
ZRTL RETAIL - Per 1000 Sq Ft									
	AVILA RETAIL	\$ 432	\$ 34	\$ 226		\$ 143	\$ 902	\$ 1,737	\$ 835
	COUNTY RETAIL	\$ 432	\$ 34	\$ 226		\$ 143	\$ 902	\$ 1,737	\$ 835
	CAYUCOS RETAIL	\$ 432	\$ 34	\$ 226		\$ 143	\$ 902	\$ 1,737	\$ 835
	CAMBRIA RETAIL	\$ 432	\$ 34	\$ 226		\$ 143	\$ 902	\$ 1,737	\$ 835
	SAN MIGUEL RETAIL	\$ 432	\$ 34	\$ 226		\$ 143	\$ 902	\$ 1,737	\$ 835

Public Facility Fees
Effective July 13, 2009

FEE CODE		GOV'T	ADMIN	SHERIFF	PARK **	LIBRARY	FIRE *	TOTAL	TOTAL W/O FIRE
ZIND INDUSTRIAL - Per 1000 Sq Ft									
	AVILA INDUSTRIAL	\$ 309	\$ 29	\$ 163		\$ 103	\$ 902	\$ 1,506	\$ 604
	COUNTY INDUSTRIAL	\$ 309	\$ 29	\$ 163		\$ 103	\$ 902	\$ 1,506	\$ 604
	CAYUCOS INDUSTRIAL	\$ 309	\$ 29	\$ 163		\$ 103	\$ 902	\$ 1,506	\$ 604
	CAMBRIA INDUSTRIAL	\$ 309	\$ 29	\$ 163		\$ 103	\$ 902	\$ 1,506	\$ 604
	SAN MIGUEL INDUSTRIAL	\$ 309	\$ 29	\$ 163		\$ 103	\$ 902	\$ 1,506	\$ 604

It should be noted that road fees, water and sewer fees, school fees, and housing-in-lieu fees are not included.

Item 24 - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Basin Projects Progress.

The basins subject to SGMA include:

- 1. Cuyama Valley (DWR No. 3-013, “Cuyama”)
- 2. Salinas Valley – Paso Robles Area (DWR No. 3-004.06, “Paso”)
- 3. Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area (DWR No. 3-004.11, “Atascadero”)
- 4. San Luis Obispo Valley (DWR No. 3-009, “San Luis Obispo”)
- 5. Los Osos Valley – Los Osos Area (DWR No. 3-008.1, “Los Osos”)
- 6. Los Osos Valley – Warden Creek (DWR No. 3-008.2, “Warden Creek”)
- 7. Santa Maria River Valley – Santa Maria (DWR No. 3-012.01, “Santa Maria”)
- 8. Santa Maria River Valley – Arroyo Grande (DWR No. 3-012.02, “Arroyo Grande”)

SGMA’s

An extensive report concerning the progress to date in formulating plans for each of the subject water basins is available at the link:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/10958>

When it opens, click on the tab: County Groundwater Basin Summaries and Key Updates. One of the sample charts is presented below:

**Basin Status Report of SGMA Compliance: Governance & GSP Development Update
SALINAS VALLEY - PASO ROBLES AREA SUBBASIN (DWR No. 3-004.06)**

Road Map to GSP Development:

The schedule below provides the Consultant’s high-level road map towards GSP development and adoption (but does not show each draft GSP Section).



Costs to date:

Budget Status Update for SGMA Program

as of 8/31/2019

The table below represents the County's SGMA Program FY 2019-20 budget and expenditures by basin. Given the complexity of each basin's approach to funding the GSP development, this table does not attempt to depict the multi-year program costs or cost sharing/in-kind services contributed by partner agencies. See footnotes for other key elements of basin funding approaches.

Basin ^{(2), (3)}	GSP Development Phase Duration in Fiscal Years ⁽⁴⁾	Current Fiscal Year Budget Status ⁽¹⁾			Total SGMA Costs to Date (7/1/17 - Current)
		FY 2019-20 Budget	FY 2019-20 Costs to Date	Remaining FY 2019-20 Budget	
SGMA Program		2,745,425.80		\$ 2,745,425.80	
<i>Los Osos Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-19/20</i>		\$ 1,504.56	\$ (1,504.56)	\$ 72,641.81
<i>Cuyama Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-19/20</i>		\$ 1,938.56	\$ (1,938.56)	\$ 67,019.91
<i>Paso Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-19/20</i>		\$ 33,058.60	\$ (33,058.60)	\$ 919,921.71
<i>San Luis Obispo Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-21/22</i>		\$ 85,422.82	\$ (85,422.82)	\$ 199,693.72
<i>Santa Maria Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-21/22</i>		\$ 781.21	\$ (781.21)	\$ 45,322.97
<i>Atascadero Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-21/22</i>		\$ 868.02	\$ (868.02)	\$ 6,140.71
County General Fund (GF) Contribution Total		\$ 2,745,425.80	\$ 123,573.77	\$ 2,621,852.03	\$ 1,310,740.83
Flood Control Zone General (FCZ) Contribution Total			\$ 148,898.73		\$ 2,127,306.73
SGMA Program Total (GF + FCZ)			\$ 272,472.50		\$ 3,438,047.56

Footnotes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Expenses shown in the table were incurred in the General Fund (FC 20101). The table also reflects the expenses of in-kind services provided by the Flood Control District support of the SGMA Program during the GSP Development Phase.
- ⁽²⁾ Estimates do not reflect total costs of SGMA compliance in each basin, as each basin may be comprised of multiple funding sources (e.g. in-kind services provided by partner agencies).
- ⁽³⁾ Five of the six basins received conditional award of State SGMA grant funding. Grant receipt varies by basin and the benefit to offset the County's cost sharing contribution depends on basin-specific cost sharing allocations among partner agencies. The grant funding offsets GSP costs throughout the GSP Development Phase (i.e., over the next 3-5 years, depending on the basin GSP deadline). Exhibit A will be updated to reflect grant reimbursement once Grant Agreements are in place, and the County receives its respective share of reimbursements.
- ⁽⁴⁾ This column briefly notes the GSP Development Phase timeframe based on SGMA's regulatory deadline applicable to each basin.

It appears that the plans are all on schedule; however, the situation in the Paso Basin still seems to be contentious. According to the *SLO New Times*, the State of California Board of Food and Agriculture chastised the County for lack of involvement of agriculture in formulating the Paso SGMA Plan.

According to the *New Times*, the letter in part stated with respect to the Basin Plan:

Because the state board has heard from so many people from the agricultural community in the Paso Robles area, ... we felt it important to reach out to you," it read.

The letter addressed the main point of conflict in basin planning between county officials and farmers: The County's emphasis on pumping reductions.

"Relying almost exclusively on groundwater pumping cutbacks is one solution," the letter read, "and every agriculturalist who has addressed the board acknowledges demand reduction must be a part of the plan, but not the sole option."

Is this a shot over the bow signaling that the proposed cutbacks (18%) are too much? The Plan states that on average, and absent other measures (which it then proposes), average pumping reductions would be 18%.

The quotes in the article seem strange in that the PASO Basin SGMA Plan in Chapter 9 proposes 6 potential projects to help reduce the amount of reduced pumping that will be required.

There are six potential sources of water for projects:

- 1. Tertiary treated wastewater supplied and sold by City of Paso Robles and the San Miguel CSD to private groundwater extractors to use in lieu of groundwater. This water is commonly referred to as recycled water (RW).*
- 2. State Water Project (SWP) water*
- 3. Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) water*
- 4. Salinas Dam/Santa Margarita Reservoir water*
- 5. Local recycled water*
- 6. Flood flows/storm water from local rivers and streams*

These are detailed as to potential timing and cost as part of Chapter 9 and can be seen in detail at the link <http://pasogcp.com/> When it opens, click on the link, which is at the top of the list on the right side of the page. There are many good maps illustrating potential new pipelines as well as calculations about how many acre-feet per year could be produced and delivered to specific locations.

<http://pasogcp.com/service/document/download/190>

Is this a late hit, which is more about DWR or someone else attempting to establish a water bank, or is it about Supervisor Arnold's opponents?

Item 27 - Deja Preview - County FY 2020 - 21 Budget Forecast. This one is pretty much the same story each year. "We are conservative but might have a small deficit of \$ 2 million." Of course this won't happen in a \$580 million budget. A few tweaks here and there can eliminate \$2 million in a nano second. The staff report goes on to list the potential problems which could be created by the State messing with formulas for various health and social service programs to the detriment of counties. The report also speculates on a possible national recession, perhaps caused by trade problems.

Local Non Departmental - General Revenue Chart Money not Earmarked for Specific State Mandated Programs:

Revenue	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Projection	2020-21 Forecast	% Diff: 19-20 Bud & 20-21 Forecast
Secured Prop Tax	\$112,642,651	\$119,082,798	\$124,727,507	\$125,393,838	\$131,662,764	5.6%
Unitary Tax	\$8,141,508	\$7,901,274	\$7,101,320	\$6,379,750	\$5,741,775	-19.1%
Supplemental Prop Tax	\$2,686,178	\$3,245,480	\$2,169,000	\$2,169,000	\$2,169,000	0.0%
Prop Tax in lieu of VLF	\$34,553,839	\$36,555,197	\$38,382,957	\$39,107,615	\$41,062,996	7.0%
Prop Transfer Tax	\$3,030,991	\$2,860,128	\$3,497,500	\$3,003,000	\$3,153,000	-9.8%
Sales Tax	\$11,202,504	\$11,833,604	\$11,780,000	\$13,720,000	\$13,874,000	17.8%
TOT	\$10,539,765	\$11,664,348	\$11,181,886	\$12,000,000	\$12,400,000	10.9%
All Other	\$15,567,934	\$16,360,522	\$14,310,214	\$26,020,790	\$21,362,659	49.3%
Total (Non-Dept. Rev.)	\$198,365,370	\$209,503,351	\$213,150,384	\$227,793,993	\$231,426,194	8.57%

Just this revenue alone has grown from \$198 million in FY 2017-18 to a projected \$231 million in FY 2020-21, a \$33 million (17%) increase in new dollars in just 3 years rolling in every year. Of course the County staff is forecasting a small deficit for FY 2021, but that is based on fully funding all their 2800 staff positions. The cost of fully funding the positions is never realized because of an average 7.5% staff vacancy rate, which has persisted over the years.

Perhaps the most important paragraph in the report relates to the closure of the Diablo Plant, which has been a foregone conclusion. It is important to note that the language describes the full impact, which some politicians and apologists have attempted to diminish in the last 8 months on the basis of a very specious UC Berkeley Economic Institute Study.

Diablo Canyon Power Plant

Over the longer term, the closure of Diablo Canyon Power Plant will have significant ramifications. The plant produces approximately 18,000 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually and accounts for roughly 20% of PG&E's electricity portfolio and 9% of California's electricity consumption. According to a 2013 study by Cal Poly, Diablo Canyon is one of the largest employers in the county and its annual local economic impact is estimated at \$1 billion. Additionally, the total economic impact of Diablo Canyon is approximately \$2 billion per year pays over \$30 million per year in unitary taxes (property taxes for a public utility), which is allocated to over 80 governmental agencies or jurisdictions within the County.

Now that Assemblyman Cunningham has officially raised the issue, where are the Board of Supervisors, City Councils, Chambers of Commerce, our Congressman, State Senator, and the leadership of both political parties? For that matter, why wouldn't our "Climatist" Governor, who cares so much about CO₂, not intervene to forestall the generation of 8 million metric tonnes of CO₂ per year?

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 30 - Discussion of the Library's capital needs and explore the feasibility of seeking capital funding through a countywide parcel tax assessment with a November 2020 ballot

initiative. This is a preliminary discussion to determine if the Board would approve a staff project to work up a \$25 million library bond which would provide funds for improvement of local branches in both the cities and unincorporated areas of the county. The public service fee assessments on new development for this purpose raise very little funding. This is particularly true in the unincorporated areas, because there is so little development to tax.

Bond issues for physical facilities such as libraries, schools, and firehouses are generally popular, because the taxpayers can see what they are getting for their money. Children who benefit from libraries and schools constitute a preferred service group.

The current County budget states in part:

The Library provides materials and services countywide through 14 branch libraries and one main library. The Library operates as a Special Revenue Fund outside the County General Fund and is funded primarily by tax revenue and user fees.

The system costs about \$11.5 million per year to operate, most of which goes for personnel and materials. It is difficult to assess the actual impact of the library system on the citizens in terms of substantive outcomes. Certainly there are citizens who enjoy reading and using other materials recreationally. Children seem to benefit from familiarity with materials and being encouraged to read. Young students also benefit from learning how knowledge is organized and stored. These both benefit their general comprehension of knowledge and later their ability to conduct research necessary to compete academically.

Historically, and prior to establishment of public high schools, community colleges, and public university systems, the libraries constituted an important means of general and civic enlightenment. They were also an important source of news prior to the expansion of daily newspapers and later on various forms of electronic media. They were a democratizing force. There are many examples of prominent citizens who could not attend school, and became educated on their own in libraries. These include Abraham Lincoln, Jack London, Abigail Adams, and Malcolm X.

All of these benefits have enshrined public libraries as a popular and priority service of cities and counties throughout the nation. In recent years, libraries have expanded their range of programming to include a variety of activities targeted toward various interest and age groups. In an effort to build clientele, libraries nationally have expanded programming to include games, festivals, movie nights, free Wi-Fi, electronic books, flu shots, issuing passports, and even holding drag queen story hours. These were started by the San Francisco City/County system and are reportedly now operating in at least 40 US cities. The story hours are designed to promote “inclusion and tolerance.”



Drag Queen Story Hour in El Segundo

State and national data concerning public library use is extensive. The problem is that the reports are so academically dense that it is almost impossible to discern any macro trends. The California State Library collects data from the cities and counties, but they are so detailed that they are unintelligible. This is also true of the American Library Association data. The County's data as presented in its budget does not give a big picture.

The Budget contains several performance measures for the Library system, most of which involve cost and circulation data. The one that gets closest to impact is displayed below:

Department Goal: Maximize onsite and remote public access to a diverse collection of library materials, services and programs to meet research, educational, and recreational needs of the community.					
1. Performance Measure: Percentage of Current Cardholders per capita in the County.					
This measure showcases market penetration of library services within the County based upon the number of library cardholders per capita. Current cardholders are customers who have used their library card within the last two years.					
	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Target	35.00%	34.00%	26.00%	23.00%	22.00%
Actual	25.00%	21.00%	21.00%	22.00%	
Notes: No additional notes.					

One would have to know the number of library cardholders to make any sense of this measure. In other words, for during FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 combined, 22% of library cardholders accessed some service that required the use of their card. Is this 50,000 cardholders or 150,000 cardholders? If it is only 50,000, 22% or 11,000 it is not so good.

The Impact of Technology and Automated Tools: From clay tablets, to scrolls, to hand copied books, to printed books, to electronic device screens, the method of sorting and transmitting written data has developed over the past 6,000 years. It seems now that most information is available somewhere in the Cloud. Perhaps librarians and support staffs are to become guides and mentors on how to access information from ever more comprehensive digitized sources.

A question arises: Does such a service require expensive municipal buildings housing materials and staffs? On the other hand, there is nothing like lying in bed on a cold winter's night with a nice well bound book.

Is it actually necessary to issue \$25 million principal in debt? Why don't the cities and County set up a fund a pay whatever share they would pay for the debt service each year into the fund. This would be a pay-as-you-go plan. If the bond were to be approved in November 2020, they would have to start making both principal and interest payments in 2021 in any case. At 4% interest on a 20-year bond, this would be about \$45,000,000 in total cost, or \$1.8 million per year in principal and interest payments. They would have enough money in 3.3 years to pay for the Templeton Library. Then they could tackle the next ones on the list. The project sequence would go in the order that the local sponsors raise their 50% community share under the county formula.

LAST 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, was 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.

Background: 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 re-examine some of the more fundamental policies separately from the immediate budget context and currently obtaining beliefs. This should be done on behalf of all the people of the county, and not just the homogenized elites, who 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 they 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 this really a good idea, or simply a faddish political choice that is actually destructive of the standard of living, subversive of the economy, and a driver of social 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 CO₂ 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 of how the 8 million metric tonnes of CO₂, which are now forestalled, will be offset once the plant closes? What are the specific sources and amounts of renewables that will forestall the use of natural gas? What is the cost if PG&E has to buy the CO₂ free and renewable energy on the open market in competition with all the community choice aggregators? What happens to our electric rates, which are already two times the national average, in this scenario?

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 (Completed)

Item 8-a - 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 heard a brief presentation from its staff and a longer presentation from the Director of State Parks.

The Commissioners were not friendly or supportive of the dunes riding. Commissioner Donne Brown launched into a series of questions about the 6 deaths that have taken place recently. She focused on alcohol as a cause. Commissioner Caryl Hart said that the entire area is legally an environmentally sensitive habitat (ESH). "It's a prime responsibility under the law for the Coastal Commission to protect it."

Commissioner Linda Escalante stated that the riding area and its dust generation violate Commission and State policies and laws relative to environmental justice. Many lower income people live in Oceano. She asserted that they suffer from disease due to the dust.

She missed the fact that the dust blows into affluent planned golf communities downwind from the Park. Commissioner Eric Howell attempted to point this out to her and said the issue was stupid. Escalante took it personally, and basically chastised Howell. Commissioner Steve Padilla forcefully stated that the “issue cannot be sustained.”

The Commission Chair, Dayan Bochco, explained that when she first came onto the Coastal Commission and became aware of the dunes issue, she was very surprised that off-road riding and camping were allowed in the first place. She said ominously, “We will see what has been accomplished next July.”

The staff report, when it finally appeared, stated in part:

The Coastal Commission held a public hearing on July 11, 2019 in San Luis Obispo to review State Parks’ operations and management at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) in relation to the base coastal development permit (CDP) that originally authorized interim vehicle use parameters at the site back in the early 1980s (CDP 4-82-300 as amended). At the July hearing, Commission staff had recommended a series of operational and other shortterm changes to the CDP terms and conditions intended to be instituted immediately at ODSVRA, but the Commission decided to not require immediate implementation of those changes. Instead, and in part based on State Parks’ representations that it could complete its ODSVRA Public Works Plan (PWP) and submit it to the Commission for a decision on it by the summer of 2020, the Commission took a different action at that hearing, essentially deferring immediate changes in favor of providing State Parks the opportunity to address Commission staff and Commission concerns through its PWP efforts, provided the PWP could be completed for Commission consideration by the summer of 2020. At the July 11th hearing the Commission also required that, among other things, State Parks provide an in-person quarterly progress update to the Commission on its PWP efforts. Those quarterly updates are currently planned for October 18, 2019, and also during the February 2020, April 2020, and July 2020 Coastal Commission meetings.”

Background: The Commission reviewed 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.

The Commission was not satisfied, but it did not take any punitive actions. Instead it seems to be willing to follow the schedule until next July and then determine what actions it will take.

One of the Commissioners did, however, indicate that she was aware of the pending SLO County APCD stipulated agreement violation proceedings, which were put in motion 2

weeks ago. The outcome could have a bearing on the Commission's actions during the scheduled February 2020 quarterly review.

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

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

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

MAYHEM AND DEATH IN THE NAME OF SAFETY **BY ANDY CALDWELL**

California's free-fall descent into 3rd world hell-hole status continues unabated! Only in California can a program that is being promoted as "crisis prevention" creates a bigger crisis than the crisis it is trying to prevent! What am I talking about? The public safety power shutoff scheme whereby our utility providers shut off power if the circumstances are ripe for a fire that could be started by their equipment in a red-flag wind event. Never mind the fact that only about 10% of the state's wildfires are sparked by electrical equipment. Last week's "safety program" shut-off of power to 2 million residents resulted in the death of a person whose oxygen supply was cut off. Meanwhile, homes were burning once again in Southern California because nothing meaningful is being accomplished to reduce fuel.

We are in uncharted territory here, or maybe I should coin the term "terror-tory" because of the nightmare that could ensue. The geniuses in Sacramento and in progressive bastions like Santa Barbara believe we are the envy of the world because of all the green virtue signaling we do in this little echo chamber known as the Golden State. However, once this tsunami of incompetence and ineptitude hits the fan, we of all people will be hanging our heads in shame for a disaster of our own making.

Make no mistake about it. Local, state and federal authorities share responsibility for this fiasco. They allowed fuel to build up throughout the region for upwards of 100 years, including

an estimated 147 million dead and dying trees jammed packed into 10 million acres. They also jumped on the bandwagon to sue the utilities for the fires, ignoring the fact they themselves provided the fuel.

Meanwhile, by way of a government takeover of the grid called Community Choice Energy, politicians have destroyed the utility franchise model, and deconstructed the vertical integration of the utilities. What this means is that the utilities can no longer fiscally withstand the risks and costs of enduring another fire season. That leaves ratepayers and taxpayers holding the bag and innocent people paying the price.

What you have here in CA is a situation driven by ideological zealots. California has the fifth largest economy in the world but we produce no more than 1% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. China, India and Pakistan, on the other hand, produce some 60% of the greenhouse gases. The billions of people living in these three countries support the construction of coal and nuclear plants with abandon, in order to increase their standard of living and power their economies. Meanwhile, California is shutting down nuclear and turning off power because we can't bring ourselves to manage habitat.

Governor Newsom would have us believe that he is cutting red tape as he has designated some 35 high-priority forest thinning projects in the state. However, Newsom was forced to admit that in just one of these project areas, the project has been delayed due to the requirement to obtain 719 permits!

Andy Caldwell is the Executive Director of COLAB of Santa Barbara County, host of the Andy Caldwell Radio Show, and a regular columnist in the Santa Barbara News Press

CRAZY AND WOKE ON THE WESTERN FRONT OF PROGRESSIVE INSANITY BY EDWARD RING

The reason progressive extremism persists in America today is because progressives are either making money by embracing progressive policies, or because progressives are not living on the front lines of progressive insanity.



It is hard to imagine a place that would have an electorate any more progressive than Venice Beach. Located on the shores of West Los Angeles in California's 33rd Congressional District, Venice Beach is represented by Democrat Ted Lieu, who was reelected in 2018 with 70 percent of the vote. But a revolution is brewing in Venice Beach,

because Venice Beach is on the front lines of progressive insanity.

Thanks to progressive ideology as expressed in laws and court rulings, in California today you cannot arrest and hold vagrants for petty theft or possession of hard drugs; you cannot move them out of public spaces unless you can provide them with free and “permanent supportive housing;” you cannot commit demonstrably insane people to asylums; and publicly funded shelters must offer food and urgent care without any preconditions whatsoever.

The Streets of Venice Beach Are An Open Sewer

Testimonials from residents of Venice Beach provide ample evidence of what happens when you impose these progressive policies on an urban area bordered on the west by some of the most inviting beaches and agreeable weather in the world. An estimated 1,200 homeless people have set up permanent encampments in this three square mile beach town. They almost never use actual toilets.

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, the average human produces one pound of feces per day. Simple math therefore tells us that every week, the homeless population deposits more than four tons of feces onto the gutters and sidewalks and driveways and lawns of Venice Beach residents, where they are dutifully hosed into the sewers and eventually make their way into the ocean.

The reality of being on the front lines of progressive insanity requires more than hard numbers. The homeless don't go to the bathroom in their tents, or anywhere near their tents. They walk into the neighborhoods to relieve themselves. Consider this eyewitness account from a Venice Beach resident:

People have to hose this [crap] down where it runs down the street to the sewer on Main Street. Westminster Elementary school serves the children of local residents. Kids pick stuff up, dogs walk in the stuff. This is all tracked into homes and classrooms. They leave bottles of urine in their water bottles [figure around 16 tons per week] and leave the bottles. The only way these bottles don't accumulate forever is because property owners have to pick them up.

Insoluble Homeless Problem Benefits Politicians

If anything stinks more than the crap that is deposited each day in Venice by the homeless, it's the corruption that prevents action. All the laws and court rulings that prevent decisive action could be bypassed if Governor Newsom would declare a state of emergency. But why on Earth would California's progressive, woke governor do any such thing, when the progressive elite in Los Angeles

are exploiting these laws and court rulings to make billions of dollars, while the problem only gets worse?

Here is an excerpt from an email sent to Mike Bonin, the Los Angeles City Councilmember whose district includes Venice Beach:

Councilmember Bonin: I just received my property tax bill. It sort of feels like a sick joke. Can you please let me know how I can deduct for services not rendered? I'm not paying for your bloated administrative costs anymore. Our streets are lawless, they are covered in feces and our crime rate is spiraling. How can you force us to live in such horrible conditions? Don't you see that the City of Los Angeles is actually the #1 slumlord in the nation?

Or this one, also sent to Councilmember Bonin, along with many of his colleagues on the Los Angeles City Council:

Councilman and City Officials: I cannot emphasize enough how dangerous this is becoming for all constituents – the homeless and the housed both. Increasingly, we are witnessing acts of violence and being subjected to very disturbing spreading of dangerous bodily fluids and needles on the streets of Venice. Sadly, this is why many of us have actively embraced the federal government to intervene in our city in order to begin some sense of sanity and rights to our neighborhoods. I join my fellow Venetians in calling upon you to step up and take immediate steps to stop these wild, wild west actions that are now taking place on a daily basis, and restore safety for all in Venice Beach.

Or this lengthy, vivid appeal:

I was almost attacked by three dogs off leash fighting with another dog early this evening. Told another neighbor to walk his dog the other way. He appreciated the advice. This is ridiculous. To our 'respected' (NOT) council and city people: You pad your pockets, and don't think we don't know it. We are not blind and dumb. We get poorer so you can pocket money and yet our living conditions have gone to hell in a handbasket. And you drove the bus.

Make amends. LISTEN to us. We are not just rich Nimby's. We are hard working in all variety and type of work, peoples who come together to help each other. Some people are wealthy, some fighting for their very last dollar to maintain at least an apartment.

Start doing something about the actual problem rather than seeing what developers with whom you can seek prosperous deals can do for your OWN BANK ACCOUNTS. DO SOMETHING! And DO it NOW!!!!

You may not like what I say, but I stand firmly that I am correct in my assessments that you mismanage money and somehow it comes back to your own bank accounts. Once again don't think we are stupid. You can say what you want, but we know the truth and you cannot dodge it every chance you get.

We will find ultimately what you did. Much like a felon, just admit now to what you did and get it over with before you end up with the wrath of the power of the people you purport to represent.

Residents Are Recognizing That Political Corruption Prevents Solutions

These excerpts from emails sent to the local elected officials who run the City of Los Angeles represent a minute fraction of the avalanche of emails, letters, phone calls and public statements pouring forth from an enraged electorate.

The corruption is obvious. You don't spend over a half-million dollars per unit to provide "permanent supportive housing" to homeless people, taking years to build them, all the while leaving the vast majority of the homeless on the street. In Venice Beach these "progressive" public officials are considering a 140 unit apartment for the homeless that will cost an estimated \$205 million – nearly \$1.5 million per homeless person.

This is insanity. This is blatant corruption that deserves criminal prosecution. Yet thanks to laws and court rulings pushed by progressive ideology, it's all perfectly legal.

And the "woke" progressives on the front lines of this war are indeed waking up. This comes from a Venice resident whose ideology has shifted in recent months:

Two years ago, I would've voted for anyone but Trump. After watching Bonin and Garcetti attract drug addicts and criminals to LA and Venice, I'll never vote for a Democrat again. Bonin and Garcetti lie about the drug and crime epidemic calling it a "housing crisis" so they can pay their donors with HHH money. Don't believe me? Look at who is donating to their non-profits. Housing developers and service providers.

Women, elderly and even men are afraid to walk the streets at night. Two of my friends were attacked by homeless criminals in the last month alone. The new encampment on Hampton, (who say they are waiting for the MTA bridge home to open), are doing drugs and chopping up stolen bikes in broad daylight. A group of us are working with the White House. They are close to an intervention to protect us. Instead of asking the Fed for Federal land to build housing out there, Garcetti is asking for money to give to his donors. We are going to escalate this to the national level until the Federal government comes in to protect us.

Venice Beach is Becoming Unlivable for Residents

And meanwhile, the war goes on. The residents are losing this war. They are losing their homes. They are losing their community.

Across the streets of Venice Beach, there is glass everywhere because of discarded and shattered liquor bottles. There is homeless on homeless violence, and to protect themselves and their property, many of the homeless have dogs.

One resident, who, like most, does not want to be identified, had this to say about the dogs:

Last week, a woman was bit by a homeless person's pit bull. About an hour later the police showed up at the van where the dog lives with his owner, but the owner fled. Nothing was done. If you walk by a tent or a van, the dogs will lunge at you, because they are protecting their property and their owner – never mind if the 'property' is a public sidewalk. 'Off-leash' pit bulls and other large dogs are everywhere. The animals are being used as weapons.



Residents are intimidated and have to avoid the entire area. It isn't worth the risk of getting bit. The dog could cause a serious injury, they could have rabies. If you have your own dog, there are very few safe places to take the dog for a walk because the dogs of the homeless will attack your dog and possibly kill it.

The stories coming from the shell shocked residents of Venice Beach are endless. Back in July, a mentally ill man stole neighborhood trash bins to construct a personal fortress. The police removed the man but left the bins, which cannot be identified and reclaimed. Three months later, still there, the pile of bins have become a magnet for trash. A broken television, a couch, and the ubiquitous needles. Throughout Venice Beach, an entire new urban ecosystem has been created by the trash. Rats and mice and skunks eat the trash; they in turn become victims of hawks.

When it comes to open drug use in Venice, there is a perverse twist to the story. As told by a resident:

There are more discarded needles up in San Francisco, because the drug of choice in Venice seems to be meth. On the other hand, this is worse, because meth users become violent and agitated. I would prefer to encounter a heroin user because you can run from them.

Just the fact that residents have had to learn how to size the homeless up and figure out what they're on is part of the tragedy that has befallen this city. Residents are constantly assessing their risk factor. As another resident explains:

You constantly have to be aware of who you are around. Always stay visible to other people so you can call for help. Stay near places that are open or where people can hear you calling for help. Drug use is totally out in the open. We have a man living in the bushes on Main Street, he smokes crystal meth in the open, he craps in the same bushes, and he wears a loincloth. He walks around all day defecating in the bushes and smoking crystal meth from a pipe. He is almost always high, but he gets violent when he comes down. All the residents know him. You don't want to be around these people when they're coming down.

Homeless Encampments Create No-Go Zones

Entire blocks of Venice Beach have become the site of permanent homeless encampments, where residents cannot park their cars, walk their dogs, or, in some cases, patronize local businesses which leads to those businesses closing their doors. As described by an eyewitness:

It's like a whack a mole. When they're cleared out they just pop up in a new place. When they were temporarily cleared off the beach they moved to Rose and 3rd, the 'no ticket zone' because you can do anything there and not get written up. It's considered a 'contained encampment,' a place that the LAPD have designated as a defacto homeless haven. They are like Favelas where the homeless know they can retreat to and there is no law.

These areas where they are concentrated is evidence of how much property they have. Tents, chairs, bicycles, umbrellas; they take up a lot of space and claim the sidewalks. There are frequent fights over the space, a lot of homeless on homeless stabbings, they are fighting over property. On what we call 'RV Row,' there are over 30 RVs on Main Street that they have to move every Monday for street cleaning. They move their cars exactly when the sweepers come.

Many of these RVs are not drivable so they literally push them to the other side of the street, then push them back again. There is a whole crew that controls RV Row, putting their RVs up on blocks to level them off. Residents can forget about ever parking their cars on the street. And then there are the vans filled with homeless, which are all over Venice, and they are even worse. The occupants will do drugs all night in their van; you can hear them partying in the vans. They park in front of homes constantly playing music and shouting etc. all night long.

Nearly All Venice Homeless Are Drug Addicts

You don't have to be a clinical psychiatrist to tell when someone is obviously insane, or under the influence of narcotics. You just have to live in Venice Beach for more than a few days.

According to residents, and contrary to the pandering progressive nonsense that comes from the Homeless Industrial Complex, nearly everyone who is homeless in Venice Beach is a heavy drug user. The population might be generally subdivided as follows:

About one-third are mentally ill and heavy drug users. Another one-third are heavy drug users who have become mentally ill because of the drugs. And the final one-third are just heavy drug users.

None of these people belong unsupervised on the streets, crapping and fighting and stealing, destroying a community, while the progressive politicians get rich pretending to fix the problem. Letting this happen is a despicable betrayal of the residents by these politicians. And it's not doing these homeless people any favors, either. They are lost souls. They need help, and they're not going to get it.

And so, day after day, the story goes on. As those of us in more peaceful neighborhoods listen to the weather reports, the besieged residents of Venice Beach listen to reports of fights, thefts, rapes, and murders. Here's one of the latest dispatches from the Western Front of Progressive Insanity:

I cycled down the boardwalk at 7 a.m. today. Cool looking guy with blue sunglasses openly selling drugs. Homeless all over the place and rubbish all over the side of the boardwalk. A huge crap on the bike path. Then fire trucks, cop cars and life guard cars at one of the life guard towers. Apparently they found a dead body and started a homicide investigation. Such an exciting place for tourists to take their kids for a walk in the morning and then write home to tell all their friends to come and visit. Where else can you be in a life crime scene on a daily basis?

The Woke Plan to Bring the Western Front to EVERY Neighborhood in America

The consequences of progressive policies towards the homeless embrace a host of interlinking flawed beliefs. This is why it is not enough to stop the LA City Council from building a 156 bed “wet” homeless shelter on three acres of city owned property at 100 Sunset Avenue in the heart of Venice Beach, at a cost of well over \$100 million (the property alone is worth over \$90 million), or a 140 unit apartment to provide “permanent supportive housing” at a cost of well over \$200 million, on another three acres of city owned property in the median between North and South Venice Boulevard, one block from the sand, also in the heart of Venice Beach.

These two projects are perfectly legal, but nonetheless are morally criminal examples of corruption. Because there isn’t enough money in the world to see all of them through, eventually projects like this will be stopped, even if those two abominations are pushed through to completion. But stopping these projects is not enough, because the fall back plan being pushed by progressives is just as bad, if not worse.

Progressive extremists believe that simply providing a safe, well-appointed dwelling will cause the pathology afflicting homeless people to subside. They also believe that dispersing homeless people into subsidized dwellings in tranquil neighborhoods everywhere will be “inclusive” and further alleviate their pathology. And there are powerful financial incentives for them to pursue this policy.

By pretending the homeless crisis is inextricably linked to a shortage of housing, and because it is considered heresy to expand the urban footprint, draconian new state zoning guidelines are poised to become laws that will override local ordinances. It will become permissible to demolish single family homes in single family neighborhoods and replace them with multi-family dwellings. At the same time it will become mandatory for landlords to accept Section 8 and other subsidized renters.

California’s progressive lawmakers are planning to seed California’s suburbs with high density dwellings, randomly placed, and fill them with taxpayer subsidized renters. This is where they will relocate the homeless, including substance abusers and mentally ill. The cost of supervising these people when they are disbursed throughout the cities and suburbs will make it scarcely less wasteful than constructing gargantuan palaces at \$500,000 (or more) per unit, but progressive ideology and corrupt financial opportunism make this an attractive Plan B for the woke.

Across the suburbs of California in the coming years, expect homes to become worth more to buyers to demolish and replace as a Section 8 fourplexes. And as these suburbs fall prey to increased crime, the state will move in, extending to residential courts and cul de sacs the same pervasive surveillance that already blankets our cities.

There are alternatives to destroying our cities and suburbs in order to feed profits to investors and power to corrupt politicians and bureaucrats. But it will require more than a revolution that merely moves policy from the obviously unworkable Plan A (expensive palaces that “help” only a few) to the insidious yet feasible Plan B (rezone suburbs for subsidized multifamily units).

It will require a realignment that allows conservatives and liberals to join together to demand quick, decisive, cost-effective action. Call in the national guard who can work with law enforcement to round up the homeless, move them into quickly erected tent cities on state-owned land away from residential areas, and use the *billions* in savings to get them treatment. If the governor declared a state of emergency, it could be done in a matter of weeks. From an ideological standpoint, that will require a common recognition that the rights of hard working and responsible people have to be given, at the very least, equal priority to the rights of drug addicts and psychotics.

Edward Ring is a co-founder of the California Policy Center and served as its first president. This article originally appeared on the website [American Greatness](#) .



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