COLAB San Luis Obispo County

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE SEPT. 29 - OCT. 5, 2019

10th ANNIVERSARY

COLAB San Luis Obispo County

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

BOS TO CONSIDER JOINING MONTEREY BAY POWER

1:30 PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019

YET ANOTHER LARGE SOFTWARE CONVERSION PROJECT

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE EXISTING ONES?
DO THEY WORK?

LAST WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

APCD INCENTS FIREPLACE REMOVALS

PROBABLY A BAN WILL COME NEXT

PLANNING COMMISSION

MORE CANNABIS APPROVED

IMPROVING THE BACK ROAD TO DIABLO APPROVED
IT TOOK SINCE 2006

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 26

GREEN HAM, LEECHES AND LEMMINGS

BY ANDY CALDWELL

Exclusive Report – Community Choice Aggregation: A False Choice

READ THE BOOK ON LINE OR ORDER

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, October 1, 2019 (Scheduled)

Item 25 - Request to: 1) approve a project in the amount of $1,848,650 to migrate the Behavioral Health Electronic Health Records (EHR) system and all clinical data from Cerner Corporation's current Anasazi platform to the new Millennium platform; 2) waive the competitive request for proposal process and approve a sole source FY 2019-20 contract with Cerner Corporation in an amount not to exceed $477,367; and 3) authorize the Health Agency Director or designee to approve amendments to the Cerner Contract up to 25% of the amount of agreement 4) approve a corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of $1,848,650. This is yet another large software conversion project within the County Government.

a. Does the County's Information Technology Reserve contain sufficient funds attributable to the Behavioral Health Department to cover this cost? That is, has Behavioral Health made sufficient contributions to cover this plus other products and conversions which it has adopted? Is there any general fund impact?

b. The installation budget indicates that much of the cost is consulting by the vendor:

One Time Costs:

Hardware:	$125,000
Software:	$144,807
Services:	$435,560
Project Management:	$180,000
Limited Term staff:	$446,000
Cost for First Year Maintenance:	$229,908
Contingency:	$287,375
Estimated Total:	$1,848,650

c. Why is there a first year maintenance charge on software which is just being installed?

FY 2020-21 Estimated Annual Expense - Year 1						
Action	**Classification**	**FTE**	**Salary**	**Benefits**	**Total**	**Step Estimate**
Add	Administrative Services Officer II - Limited Term	1.00	71,011	39,767	110,779	Step 3
Add	Software Engineer III - Limited Term	1.00	95,618	49,148	144,765	Step 3/4
	Net Change	**2.00**	**$166,629**	**$88,915**	**$255,544**	

FY 2021-22 Estimated Annual Expense - Year 2						
Action	**Classification**	**FTE**	**Salary**	**Benefits**	**Total**	**Step Estimate**
Add	Administrative Services Officer II - Limited Term	1.00	18,642	10,281	28,923	Step 4 for 3 months
Add	Software Engineer III - Limited Term	1.00	100,391	50,968	151,359	Step 4/5
	Net Change	**2.00**	**$119,033**	**$61,248**	**$180,282**	

d. If it's such great software why does it need so much installation overhead and then additional County staff? Moreover, the County already runs a version. Why is it so difficult?

e. What is the status of the other large projects such as the Permitting System, Assessor's System, and various public safety systems?

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 44 - Request to 1) receive and file the feasibility study of Community Choice Aggregation as provided by Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) and 2) provide staff

direction on preferred next steps for Community Choice Aggregation. The study, conducted by an Independent Certified Public Accountant, was prepared at Board direction to analyze the feasibility of the County joining the Monterey Bay Community Power Authority. The bottom line is that joining would be risky and would become riskier over a period of years. Under some scenarios, it could cost the County general fund tens of millions of dollars, if not more.

The full text of the study can be accessed at the link
https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/10945

Once it opens, click on the tab Feasibility Study. It is not too long (only 12 pages) or too technical, and it provides many interesting facts about Monterey Bay Power's operations to date.

Key findings of the report include:

The key cautions listed by the consultant include:

Risk Analysis of Joining MBCP

We have determined that there are some significant risks in joining the MBCP. We will outline each area we believe creates a financial risk below. It is intended to be a summary discussion of risks, and not intended to be comprehensive or quantify risks.

Another risk related to these purchase commitments is the purchase price was entered into for over 20 years when we cannot determine the price of energy that far into the future. If the rate to customers falls below the purchase commitment price, the County will be required to assist in funding the ongoing operations of the MBCP as the MBCP would be operating at a loss.

Procurement

The MBCP has already entered into contracts to purchase renewable energy until 2042. The commitments that were entered into may not be sufficient to provide power supply to the load requirement or may be in excess of what is required.

If the MBCP is required to purchase more renewable energy on the open mark the cost may exceed the rate paid by customers because of the demand in the open market. There is a significant shift in communities to provide renewable energy options to consumers and rate payers.

If the commitment is more than required by the MBCP, they will be required to resell, possibly at a lower rate than the purchase.

Regulatory Landscape

There are many regulatory challenges that effect utilities in California. CCA's are only lightly regulated by the California Public Utilities Commissions. However, there are substantial regulations that require attending from those advocating for Community Choice.

There are several bills still pending that may change the procurement responsibility of the CCA. Currently the CCA is able to procure whatever mix of power they choose. The pending regulations will require a procurement responsibility governed by the CPUC. This may result in a different mix of any current long-term contracts that the MBCP already has, creating a financial impact that they may not be prepared to undertake or have planned ways to mitigate it.

2020 marks a historic year for the State of California. It is the first state that will require solar panels on new single-family homes and multi-family buildings that are up to three stories high. This requirement will be able to be met a few different ways. The homebuyer can purchase the panels outright, lease them, or enter into a power purchase agreement. Homes that are often shaded from the sun are exempt from the standard. The new standard may not create a direct risk for the MBCP immediately, however, as the cost of solar panels decreases over the next decade, homeowners may be choosing to install solar panels on their own homes and no longer need to purchase energy from MBCP creating a decrease in demand, but an increase in rates to the other customers of the MBCP. The homeowner that owns their solar is required to sell the net power back to the grid at retail rates, this creates a higher cost to the residential customers of MBCP.

Pacific Gas & Electric

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) manages the distribution of power and customer billing of the MBCP. PG&E filed for bankruptcy on January 29, 2019. PG&E maintains it will continue operation, gas and electricity that will continue to be provided and reliable. The uncertainty of the future of PG&E is a risk. The CPUC would ensure that energy would continue, however, the cost to continue with the MBCP may be prohibitive and you may see many customers opting-out.

Opting-Out

It is understood that many consumers prefer to be energy efficient and green to reduce greenhouse gases. However, when it comes to the agricultural and commercial customers their bigger concern will be cost. If it is cost prohibitive to participate in the MBCP you could see a significant number opting-out, therefore, increasing the cost to the residential customers.

California Public Utilities Commission

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) monitors entities for procurement diversity and capacity, as well as, many other regulations. The entities are required to contract for sufficient capacity if peak load is called upon, as well as, have a certain mix of energy, not just renewable. If they don't meet these requirements, they are issued a citation and fined.

The CPUC Resource Adequacy Requirement issues the most fines of any of the Energy Citation Programs. Of the recent CCA's citations in 2018, Pioneer Community Energy was fined $2.4M dollars. In 2019, Pioneer Community Energy was fined $137K, East Cay Community Energy was fined $1.5M and San Jose Energy was fined $6.8M. San Jose Energy has appealed the fine.

The citations can be avoided as long as MBCP has plans to meet the capacity and portfolio requirements. PG&E may not always have the excess capacity to purchase; therefore, backstops must be in place.

Conclusion

There are many factors to consider when joining MBCP. It is very young company that doesn't have a proven track record of sustainability. The first few years look promising, however, the proforma years 2020 through 2025 seem more realistic and similar to other CCA's.

In the first few years 2018 and 2019 MBCP charged PG&E rates so they could build up their reserves target of 50% of Total Expenditures. This is why their bank balances look so healthy. Those reserves will flatten out or be depleted in the proforma years based on their projected model of cost-plus, therefore, charging less to consumers. This is a wonderful concept if you can be certain of your costs. The utility industry is very regulated, and prices are based on supply and demand. With more CCA's flooding the market along with the regulations imposed by the CPUC (portfolio diversity and total load requirements) prices are sure to increase over the years. Therefore, they will have to dip into their rate stabilization reserves to cover cost of energy.

The County should feel confident in the MBCP Resource Adequacy and their Energy Portfolio mix programs. If the MBCP does not have enough capacity if the Peak Load is called upon or they don't have the right mix of energy in their portfolio, they could be fined by the CPUC. Therefore, the County should have a solid understanding of the MBCP business practices to ensure they don't have any exposure with the CPUC.

The County may also want to consider setting up a sinking fund that they would budget an annual amount to go to for times when the MBCP has deficits, or if they chose to leave the MBCP they would have funds in their reserves to cover the commitments they are responsible for, currently through 2042.

This one is particularly disturbing. How many millions should the County contribute each year?

We believe since MBCP is a very new Aggregation and they are changing the way they will bill consumers starting in the 2020/2021 fiscal year, going to the cost-plus model it would be prudent to understand how they ascertain their net electricity rates, as this is the biggest driver in the whole model. We would also want to be assured they have the best practices for their energy mix and load portfolio to ensure the CPUC would not have any reason to fine the MBCP. We would want to have more historical knowledge before we felt comfortable making such a significant financial commitment into perpetuity.

Other Objections:

1. Pressure to Join – the Lemming Effect: The Board is under severe pressure to join MBCP. Advocates ask, "Why haven't you already joined?" "All the other cities and counties are joining." Historically, California cities and counties have been particularly susceptible to financial lemming lures, often with costly or even disastrous results:

Consider some of the more pernicious:

Pension Refunding Bonds – Bond salesmen, investment bankers, and county and city membership organizations (California League of Cities, California State Association of Counties, are among the most prominent which received support from the salesman and bankers for cocktail hours at conventions, sponsorships, etc. – especially during the early 2000's.) pushed issuance of these bonds as a way to mute the impact of escalating pension debt. The theory was to issue government tax-exempt bonds at 4% interest and then plan on the pension fund making 7.5%, year in and year out. It didn't work. In SLO County's case ($137 million), major reserves had to be accumulated on top of the regular pension payments to pay these bonds off. The County is still making payments of $11.6 million per year.

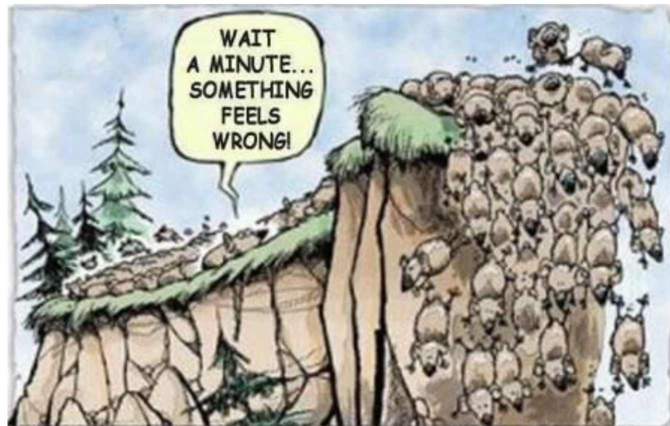
Mello-Roos Capital Financing Bonds – Cities and counties set up internal taxing districts to issue the bonds to fund capital improvements necessitated by new development. They bet on the come that as the new housing developments and commercial developments developed and grew, there would be new revenues to pay off the bonds. In many cases economic dips or failure of the developers to perform resulted in huge costs to their general funds. Fortunately SLO County never fell for this one.

Tobacco Settlement Securitization – The attorney generals of many states sued the big tobacco companies for creating huge health costs. The states won and a multi-billion dollar tobacco settlement fund was set up to make payments for years including currently. Bond salesmen and investment bankers persuaded many jurisdictions and their membership organizations that the tobacco companies would go out of business, and therefore the cities and counties should take the money and run. Others who bought the securitization bonds would take the risk and receive a huge discount from the cities' and counties allotments from the fund. In the end the tobacco settlement has been paid and the industry has grown. Those jurisdictions that followed the fad received a huge and costly haircut.

3% Public Safety Pensions – Back at the end of the 2000's, the California Public Retirement System (PERS) as well as separate county pension systems were flush with funding. Unions, management, and the governmental membership organizations all advocated for the increase under which public safety members could receive 3% of their final average salary for every year of service. The definition of final average salary was expanded to include a variety of other payments and allowances. Only one member of the state senate voted against the enabling legislation. No one in the state Assembly voted against it. Simultaneously, less plush benefits were extended to non-safety employees to meliorate their hurt feelings of being left out.

In the end the combined provisions have devastated the ability of the State, counties, cities, school districts, and special districts to deliver the very services for which were created. This was yet another case where jurisdiction after jurisdiction went along with the fad of the day.

The Housing in Lieu "Fee" – This is really a tax on market rate new development. The theory is that developers would be required to build 20% affordable units in their developments. If they don't wish to actually build them, they can opt to pay an in lieu fee. The proceeds from the fee would be used to assist not-for-profit housing developers. Of course, all this program does is make the market houses more costly and when combined with all the other fees, truncate housing production in the state. This was also a lure, which about 150 cities and counties have adopted. SLO County just raised its fee substantially.



"Shut up, you moron! Do as you've been told It's for your own good!"

CCA is yet another one of these fad schemes which the localities are jumping on like lemmings. Of course this one is fortified by the massive global warming propaganda and hysterical ADD teenagers screaming on CNN for the end of industrial civilization. What's the rush?

2. Renewable Energy Contracts – Paper Green Power: Part of the pitch for CCA's including MBCP is the idea that householders and commercial customers will be receiving all renewable or CO_2 free energy. Policymakers and citizens should keep in mind the reality:

a. All the US States west of the Rockies plus British Columbia and Alberta are part of the Western Grid.

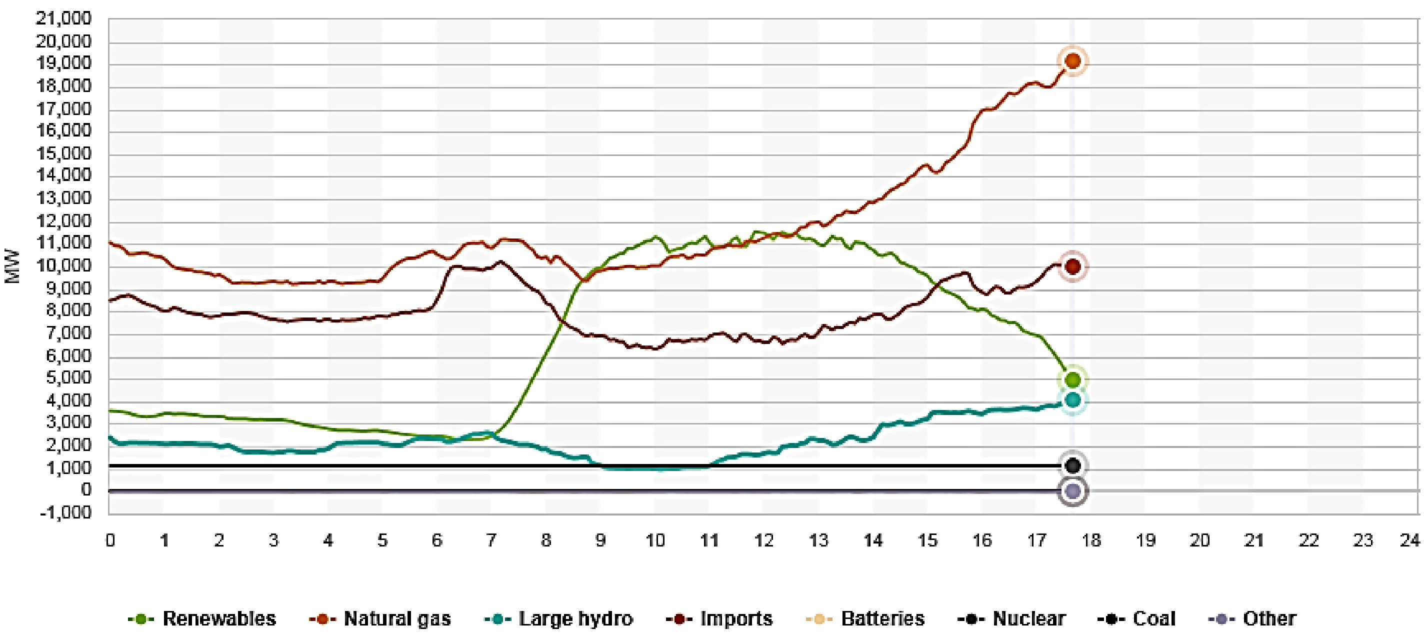
b. MBCP is issuing short and long term power purchase contracts (PPCs) for both renewable and CO_2 free energy from suppliers all over the western grid plus some from other parts of the nation. An example: One of its contracts is for 139 megawatts of solar from a company in Arizona. Those electrons are not coming to SLO. They are part of the huge Western Grid pool and will be used locally in Phoenix. MBCP entered into a PPC representing the Arizona company's 139 megawatts, gets credit for the renewable energy, and then actually uses of 139 megawatts of actual energy from the pool.

c. The actual 139 megawatts will come from PG&E and whatever mix of power it is deploying at a particular time of day. Other than between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on sunny days PG&E's energy (and hence MBCP's power) will be coming from natural gas, nuclear, imports from out of state, and large hydro. Note that the State of California does not count large hydro as renewable or CO_2 free. Nor does it count nuclear as CO_2 free. Once Diablo closes, much more of the power will have to come from natural gas. The snapshot of the graphic below on the next page was taken at 5:48 PM on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, a very hot and sunny day.

d. Similarly, MBCP claims its mix is about 65% carbon free, which is attributable to its PPC with British Columbia Power, which is mostly large hydro. The power goes into the western grid and is mixed with power that is sourced from coal, gas, solar, wind, nuclear, and other sources. A homeowner in SLO is ultimately getting electricity from a varying mix, depending on conditions in the grid. The PPC simply represents a percentage of CO_2 free energy, or renewable energy which is going somewhere, but is not the local reality.

In fact, in the daytime when the sun is out, California utilities literally have to pay to export excess solar generated energy to the western grid because there is too much. At night and on cloudy days, things flow the other way. The graph below depicts conditions in California at about 5:45 PM on Wednesday September 25, 2019, a very hot day.[1] As the sun declines, renewables are shutting down and will disappear from the mix as it gets dark. Natural gas, large hydro, and imports from out of state (the Western Grid) will become dominant as night approaches. Some of the out of state imports come from Arizona Public Service, which operates 2 huge coal fired plants and their own coal mine on the Navaho Indian Reservation. It also operates a major nuclear plant near Phoenix.

Note that nuclear, which is usually 2200 MGW, is only running at 1,000 MGW because Diablo's UNIT 2 is off line for refueling.



e. The MBCP customer is meanwhile feeling virtuous and paying about double for her electricity compared with most of the consumers in the United States. PG&E's level average blended rate is about 22.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. The rest of the country pays about 11.5 cents. The customer thinks she is getting a deal from MBCP because she gets a 3% rebate at the end of the year. But she is already paying much more, as PG&E had to purchase high cost government subsidized renewables as a State mandate. In effect she is paying twice to be virtuous.

[1] Source: California Independent System Operator (ISO); September 25, 2019 (5:45 PM). The ISO balances and tracks both supply and demand statewide.

She will pay even more as the rates increase to cover the fire liability. PG&E is paid a pass through charge for transmitting "MBCP's energy," which will be impacted by the fire rate increases. Moreover, the CPUC is having second thoughts about CCAs in general and particularly the pass through rates, which could go up. All this would be unnecessary if the State would count nuclear as CO_2 free and help keep Diablo open. It forestalls nearly 8 million metric tonnes of CO_2 every year. Meanwhile the PPC for Arizona green energy is helping subsidize much lower rates to run air conditioners 24/7 in Phoenix and Tucson.

f. Why has the City of SLO City Council or the SLO Board of Supervisors never allowed anyone to lay this out in open session? Why have their supposedly apolitically professional staffs never presented this side of the story?

APS Coal Mine.

3. MBCP's Trade Secrets?

Where does MBCP's power actually come from? The Authority's very elaborate and marketing oriented website does not contain details in in this regard.

Actually the County's consultant strongly recommends that the County understand this, as it is the "biggest driver of the whole model."

> We believe since MBCP is a very new Aggregation and they are changing the way they will bill consumers starting in the 2020/2021 fiscal year, going to the cost-plus model it would be prudent to understand how they ascertain their net electricity rates, as this is the biggest driver in the whole model. We would also want to be assured they have the best practices for their energy mix and load portfolio to ensure the CPUC would not have any reason to fine the MBCP. We would want to have more historical knowledge before we felt comfortable making such a significant financial commitment into perpetuity.

COLAB filed a records request with MPCP seeking this information. Shockingly, MBCP refused to disclose the contract costs and power supply amounts on the grounds that the numbers constitute legal "trade secrets" of MBCP. They have the information but will not provide it.

Counterparty (Seller)	Contract_Execution	DealTerm_Begin	DelTerm_End	Term (in yrs)	Product	Capacity_MW	Expected Energy MWH	Contract Price	Notional Value	
Powerex Corp.	12/08/17	03/01/18	12/31/22	4.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$9,507,150	
Powerex Corp.	12/11/17	01/01/19	12/31/19	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$280,500	
Direct Energy Business Marketing LLC	12/14/17	01/01/19	12/31/20	2.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$65,361,166	
Exelon Generation Company, LLC	12/14/17	03/01/18	12/31/20	2.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$94,025,034	
Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc	12/14/17	03/01/18	12/31/18	0.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$28,988,012	
Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc	12/14/17	03/01/18	12/31/20	2.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$4,012,500	
Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc	12/14/17	03/01/18	12/31/20	2.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$2,015,000	
Shell Energy North America (US), L.P.	12/14/17	03/01/18	12/31/22	4.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$4,146,999	
TransAlta Energy Marketing (U.S.) Inc.	12/14/17	03/01/18	12/31/18	0.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$150,000	
3 Phases Renewables Inc	01/05/18	03/01/18	12/31/18	0.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$2,497,500	
Tenaska Power Services Co.	01/05/18	03/01/18	09/30/21	3.6	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$870,000	
Exelon Generation Company, LLC	02/02/18	03/01/18	12/31/20	2.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$90,578,845	
Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc	02/02/18	03/01/18	12/31/18	0.8	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$116,000	
Direct Energy Business Marketing LLC	04/05/18	01/01/19	12/31/19	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$425,000	
Shell Energy North America (US), L.P.	04/18/18	05/01/18	12/31/19	1.7	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$2,961,250	
Pacific Gas and Electric Company	06/20/18	07/01/18	12/31/20	2.5	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$18,479,250	
Powerex Corp.	04/05/18	01/01/19	12/31/19	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$837,500	
Avangrid Renewables, LLC	04/23/18	01/01/19	12/31/19	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$1,687,500	
Pacific Gas and Electric Company	09/05/18	01/01/19	12/31/21	3.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$4,216,000	
Pacific Gas and Electric Company	10/24/18	01/01/19	12/31/20	2.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$6,877,500	
Shell Energy North America (US), L.P.	11/21/18	01/01/19	12/31/21	3.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$65,417,024	
Pacific Gas and Electric Company	05/06/19	01/01/20	12/31/20	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$1,423,750	
Exelon Generation Company, LLC	05/17/19	07/01/19	09/30/19	0.2	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$1,795,564	
Nextera Energy Marketing, LLC	05/17/19	01/01/21	12/31/21	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$18,790,260	
Direct Energy Business Marketing LLC	05/16/19	01/01/20	12/31/20	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$10,963,523	
Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority	05/30/19	06/01/19	12/31/19	0.6	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	($340,000)	
Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority	06/06/19	06/01/19	12/31/19	0.6	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	($333,000)	
Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc	07/24/19	10/01/20	12/31/22	2.3	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$35,277,900	
Powerex Corp.	07/31/19	08/01/19	07/31/20	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$66,000	
Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc	08/29/19	01/01/20	12/31/20	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$4,210,438	
Exelon Generation Company, LLC	08/28/19	01/01/21	12/31/21	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$11,256,946	
Shell Energy North America (US), L.P.	09/03/19	01/01/22	12/31/22	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$8,048,250	
Nextera Energy Marketing, LLC	08/28/19	01/01/21	12/31/21	1.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$7,884,000	
DuranMesa (Pattern)	07/20/18	12/31/20	12/31/35	15.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$187,842,870	
BigBeau Solar LLC_EDF	10/25/18	12/01/21	10/31/41	20.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$136,399,383	
RE Slate 2 LLC_Recurrent	10/25/18	06/30/21	05/31/36	15.0	Energy	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	$97,627,476	

Keep in mind that MBCP is a government entity, not a for-profit private corporation which owns proprietary processes, technology, financial, or other assets, which if disclosed publically would advantage competitors.

MBCP has redacted expected energy quantities and contract pricing as maintaining the confidential nature of such information is both (1) critical to enabling MBCP to negotiate fair market pricing for energy on the open market on behalf of its customers, and (2) reflective of MBCP's method and process for contracting that meets the definition of a protected trade secret.

The California Public Utilities Code defines a trade secret as:
"Trade secret" means information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process, that:
(1) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to the public or to other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and
(2) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.
3426.1d

What independent economic value would be derived by the public, "competing" power companies, energy brokers, or anyone else from data about MBCP's existing power contracts? How would this information harm MBCP's ability to negotiate fair pricing? MBCP is not a competitor with other utilities but works as a partner with them. As a not-for-profit government owned non-competitor, how could MBCP have trade secrets?

This might be a supportable argument during the bidding phase of acquiring power. The bid prices and other terms would not be disclosed publicly to protect the integrity of the bidding process. But once the successful bidders have been selected and contracts signed, how would disclosure of the results interfere with MBCP's ability to negotiate fair market pricing in the future?

MBCP is a government entity set up to buy and distribute CO_2 free and renewable electric power at costs below what is being offered by investor owned utilities. It seems unconscionable that the public and customers are debarred from data about the suppliers' charges for power to their local CCA.

How can the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, or any other public body for that matter, evaluate the short and long term feasibility of joining MBCP without this basic information?

For example, one of the suppliers listed in the table is Excelon Corporation. As COLAB reported in the past:

> **Excelon:** This corporation seems to be headquartered in Illinois. It lists 7 power plants in Illinois, 3 in Pennsylvania, and 3 in Maryland, and claims to generate around 35,500 megawatts (Diablo is about 2200) of power per year, of which 521 (one of the solar farms in SLO county claims to generate about this much) are solar. **Exelon counts energy from its nuclear plants as green energy!**
>
> So MBCPP is buying nuclear produced electricity from back east and counting it as green energy, even though the State of California does not count nuclear produced electricity as green energy. Excelon's corporate website states in part:
>
> *Excelon's family of companies represents every stage of the energy value chain. Exelon's six utilities deliver electricity and natural gas to approximately 10 million customers in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania through its Atlantic City Electric, BGE, ComEd, Delmarva Power, PECO and Pepco subsidiaries. Exelon is one of the largest competitive U.S. power generators, with more than 35,500 megawatts of nuclear, gas, wind, solar and hydroelectric generating capacity comprising one of the nation's cleanest and lowest-cost power generation fleets. The company's Constellation business unit provides energy products and services to approximately 2.2 million residential, public sector and business customers, including more than two-thirds of the Fortune 100.*

How much is MBCP paying Exelon? Since Excelon is located in the eastern part of the country, just how does this work? How does MBCP get credit for its "paper portion" of Excelon's green and CO2 free energy?

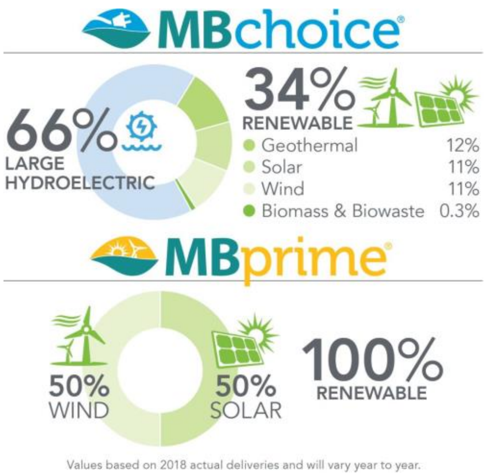
Utility workers in the states in which Excelon plants are located will have job, in part because of MBCP's renewable energy contract. Workers at Diablo, which was built to serve California, will be laid off.

Another contract is with a corporation called Powerex. As COLAB reported:

Powerex Corp: This is a wholly owned subsidiary of BC Hydro, Canada's third largest electric utility. Its website states:

Powerex has access to the flexibility of BC Hydro's world-class integrated system of close to 17 000 MW of generating capacity - over 12 000 of which are hydroelectric. This system is interconnected with the western U.S. by two 500 kilovolt transmission lines on the west coast between B.C. and Washington, one 230 kilovolt line connecting B.C. and Washington on the east side, and a 500 kilovolt line to the east, connecting B.C. with Alberta.

Currently MBCP's own website reports that 65% of its power is coming from British Columbia Hydro. As noted above, Powerex is getting power from BC Hydro. Does any of that power actually reach the central coast or is it simply going into the western grid?



Where is this power actually coming from? Is it possible that some comes from PG&E?

4. Management RFP For MPCP's Energy Portfolio Provides Some Perspective:

Recently MBCP issued a request for proposals (RFP) for energy portfolio modeling. The RFP explained some of MBCP's business to the prospective bidders.

MBCP Portfolio Overview

MBCP provides two distinct retail service offerings to participating customers. The default service option includes a renewable energy content that meets the minimum procurement requirements established under California's Renewables Portfolio Standard ("RPS") program, supplemented with hydroelectricity to provide a zero or very low carbon energy content. The retail generation rates associated with MBCP's default service option are equivalent, if not identical, to the tariffs charged by the incumbent electric utility, Pacific Gas and Electric ("PG&E"). A voluntary service option comprised of 100% renewable electricity is available to *interested MBCP customers at $0.01/kWh more than the MBCP default tariff. MBCP reserves the right to change its portfolio energy mix and/or rate structure in the future and would expect the awarded vendor to accommodate such changes.*

Currently, peak demand for the MBCP Program is approximately 500 MW; annual energy requirements are approximately 3,000 GWh; and MBCP's retail service accounts total approximately 271,000.

From this disclosure, we know that MBCP has a current peak demand of 500 MW.

The anticipated addition of SLO and Morro Bay in 2020 is projected to increase peak demand by approximately 40 MW; annual energy requirements by approximately 250 GWh; and MBCP's retail service accounts by approximately 30,000. These projections assume that 5% of prospective MBCP customers in the expansion area will opt-out of (i.e., not participate in) the Program, electing to continue bundled service with PG&E instead.

The anticipated addition of the Cities of Del Rey Oaks (Monterey County), Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Paso Robles and Pismo Beach (SLO County), Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe and Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara County in 2021 is projected to increase peak demand by 325 MW; annual energy requirements by approximately 2,000 GWh; and MBCP's retail service accounts by approximately 175,000. These projections assume that 5% of prospective MBCP customers in the expansion area will opt-out of (i.e., not participate in) the Program, electing to continue bundled service with PG&E instead. [ins to trial evidence.]

From the 2 paragraphs above we know that they would add 355 MW for the new cities and counties which have recently signed up.

The total existing and new would then be about 855 MW. The County Board agenda write-up does not indicate how many MG would be added if the County joins. For rough estimation purposes, let's say 1000 total if the unincorporated County added a new 145MW. This is less than half of Diablo's carbon free 2200 MW.

This is a waste and tragedy which defies description. SLO County will lose 2000 career benefited head of household jobs, $22 million in property taxes, and suffer huge negative economic multipliers because the State does not define nuclear energy is CO_2 free, let alone renewable, and separately would require PG&E to build a $12 billion water recycling system to keep the plant open.

Meanwhile the lemming local public officials are hell bent on expanding MBCP which is claiming to be CO_2 free because it is paying an energy jobber, Powerex, for what amounts to paper power hydro renewable energy contracts.

5. A New Government:

MBCP is a new government entity (a joint powers authority) consisting of member counties and cities created in 2017. The key alleged benefits include:

a. 3% rebates on the average electric bill each year.

b. More renewable and more CO_2 free energy than is provided by PG& E.

c. “Free” stuff like electric auto charging stations, subsidies for energy improvements, and eventually MBCP-owned electrical generating facilities.

d. Local Control.

Of course, if the State counted nuclear and large hydro as CO_2 free and renewable, PG&E would be over 70% green energy already. With respect to rebates, and as the County’s study demonstrates, it will become increasingly difficult over time for MBCP to generate surplus income to generate rebates and other benefits. (See the 5-year projections in the study).

Now You’re on the Board of Directors of an Electric Company

Local control is ostensibly provided by the governance structure of MBCP. This is a complex layered system consisting of a Policy Board of local county supervisors and city council members appointed by their respective jurisdictions. There is also a separate Operations Board consisting of city managers and county executive officers appointed by the member jurisdictions. The counties and the larger cities will each be entitled to a representative on each board. The smaller cities will have representative covering groups of cities.

MBCP, as government entity, is exempt from State and local taxes, utility taxes, franchise fees, and perhaps migration fees on new development (for example if it built an energy generating facility, manufacturing facility, or headquarters). It is not clear if the pass through payments which MBCP must pay PG&E for transmitting power, maintaining the system, and billing it customers will contain a portion of PG&E’s State and local taxes, and if so how much.

Managing a large and growing regional electrical utility is not an easy or rinky-dink enterprise.

Meanwhile, the elected officials and city and county administrators on the two Boards are already heavily tasked and attempting to run their own jurisdictions. The county supervisors, in addition to being on their own boards, are also on their respective Council of Government Boards, APCD Boards, waste management boards, water and flood control boards, and others. Some are appointed to their county LAFCO and war on poverty board (CAPSLO in our case), as well as regional and state membership organizations. Each week they receive large 3-ring binders often containing hundreds pages of complex agenda items often representing critical and costly policy issues.

How will the member appointed by SLO County have time to become an expert and absorb a whole new and complex business that has meetings every 3 months? Will they be driving up to Monterey? How much control can they actually exercise? Won't they be highly dependent on the staff? Who will set the Board agenda?

Could the general public comment section of the Board of Supervisors meeting fill up with unhappy utility customers if there are problems or controversies?

"I forgot to pay my bill and went to Europe for 3 weeks and they turned off my power and 700 pounds of Tule Elk meat (fish, rib eyes, - pick your poison) rotted in my freezer and stunk up the whole house."

"The power went off last week and when it came on, it surged and blew out my $18,000 sound system."

"We were promised more vehicle charging stations but we didn't get even one in ……. (pick your area)."

"My husband lost his job at Diablo and we lost our home. MBCP and you guys promised new green energy jobs. Where are they?"

With local control comes local accountability. The elected County Supervisors and city council members will now take the heat, which cannot be focused on PG&E's Board on Market Street in San Francisco. No one will care about the complexities of this system.

This is not the Shandon Water District with a few customers.

Will Monterey Bay Power include a clause in a contract with the County that the rates will remain equal to those of PG&E and that there will be a minimum 3% rebate every year forever?

And again, if County voters should want the County to get out, how much will it cost once MPCP contracts for the proportional amount of power – which as we have pointed out, they say is a trade secret.

In the end the War on Carbon will go the way of the War On Poverty, The War on Crime, The War on Drugs, the War on Terrorism, and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. Meanwhile the PPC for Arizona green energy is helping subsidize much lower rates to run air conditioners 24/7 in Phoenix and Tucson.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments Meeting of Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 8:30 AM (Scheduled)

Item A-1: 2019 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA): Final Plan Adoption. The cities and counties have accepted their housing allocations, and the plan can now be forwarded to the State for review and approval. The cities and the County are not required to force the housing to be built, but they must approve sufficient zoning to accommodate the numbers for each income level. These will be demonstrated in the updates to each jurisdiction Plan of Development Housing Element.

Regional Housing Need Allocation (2019)

Jurisdiction	Total Allocation	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderat
		24.60%	15.50%	18.00%	41.90%
Arroyo Grande	692	170	107	124	291
Atascadero	843	207	131	151	354
Grover Beach	369	91	57	66	155
Morro Bay	391	97	60	70	164
Paso Robles	1,446	356	224	259	607
Pismo Beach	459	113	71	82	193
San Luis Obispo	3,354	825	520	603	1,406
Unincorporated	3,256	801	505	585	1,365
Regional Total	**10,810**	**2,660**	**1,675**	**1,940**	**4,535**

2019 RHNA: Jan. 1, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2028 (10 years)

The box score for the 2013-18 RHNA for units actually reported by the jurisdictions demonstrates that only above market housing met the target and in fact substantially exceeded it. The other categories underperformed, as they cannot be produced under the current regulatory conditions and smart growth ideology, which rations land and housing.

As we have stated in the past, the whole RHNA process is an expensive Kabuki Theater designed to mislead the public that something is actually happening.

categories.

Final 5th-Cycle RHNA Reported New Units by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Very Low Income % Complete	Low Income % Complete	Moderate % Complete	Above Moderate % Complete	RHNA Total	Total Permits	Total RHNA Remain	Total % Complete
Arroyo Grande	0%	45%	0%	58%	242	76	166	31%
Atascadero	49%	42%	248%	149%	393	489	(96)	124%
Grover Beach	0%	35%	0%	152%	165	114	51	69%
Morro Bay	0%	0%	7%	58%	155	40	115	26%
Paso Robles	172%	114%	240%	91%	493	696	(203)	141%
Pismo Beach	0%	50%	0%	395%	153	265	(112)	173%
San Luis Obispo	58%	17%	6%	169%	1,143	1,019	124	89%
County of San Luis Obispo	15%	42%	66%	278%	1,347	1,864	(517)	138%
TOTAL	**47%**	**42%**	**77%**	**191%**	**4,091**	**4,563**	**(472)**	**112%**

Status information is available to 2019: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/housing-element/index.shtml (File: 5th Cycle Annual Progress Report Permit Summary.xls)

ALERT: ITEM D-11 BELOW - THIS IS A SLEEPER ITEM ON THE CONSENT AGENDA WHICH WILL HAVE PROFOUND IMPACT ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

Item D-11: SLOCOG Transition from Level of Service (LOS) to Vehicle Mile Traveled (VMT) (ADOPT REGIONAL THRESHOLDS). • Residential—11.42 VMT per capita • Office—7.3 VMT per employee. People and businesses in the land development, home building, commercial development, architectural and design fields, attorneys, realtors, lenders, and investors should pay attention to this item.

Per a State statute, SB 7434 adopted in 2013, traffic impacts will no longer be based on the current level of service standards (LOS). Instead they will be based on vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Evidently the Bill gave everyone until 2020 to adopt thresholds. Similar to CO_2 reductions required under climate laws, jurisdictions will have to design new projects to help reduce traffic measured in VMT by 15% from 2015 levels. Dense projects close to transit will get a break. The tables below are general models of potential impacts. The red line is the current level and the green line is the 15% VMT reduction level. Different views of the same data are presented below.

Figure 1: Average Daily VMT Generated by Residents in Incorporated Cities (2015)

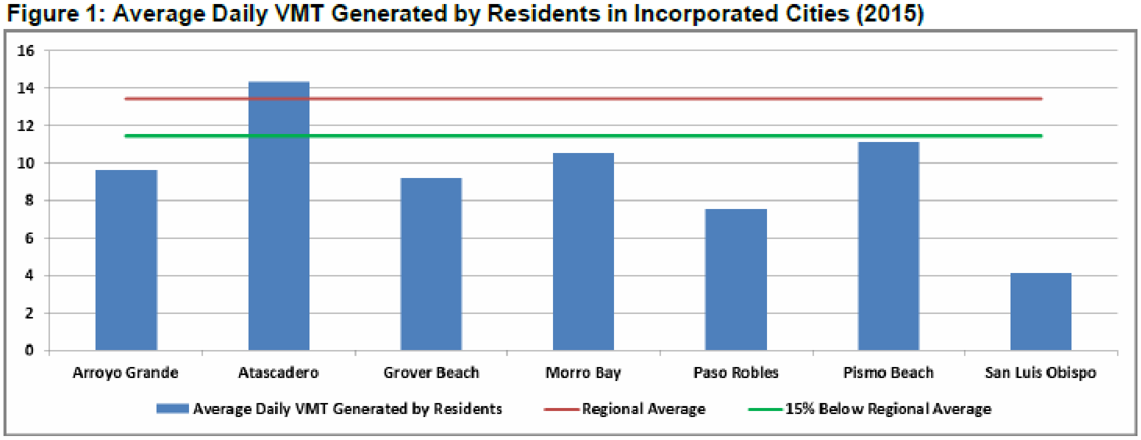
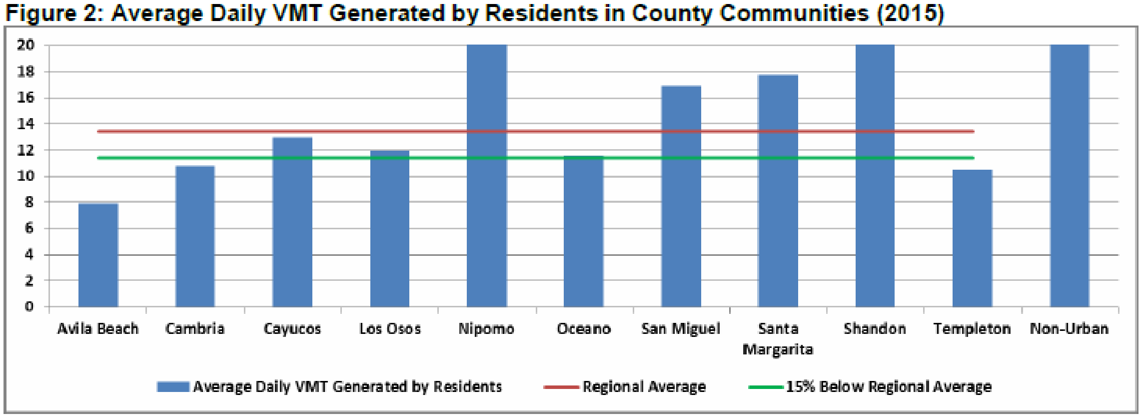


Figure 2: Average Daily VMT Generated by Residents in County Communities (2015)



Note: Shandon and Non-Urban Areas exceed the chart with 59 and 30 respectively. The unincorporated area as a whole, excluding Cal Poly, has an average of 21 VMT per resident.

Figure 3: Average Home to Work VMT Generated by Employees in Incorporated Cities (2015)

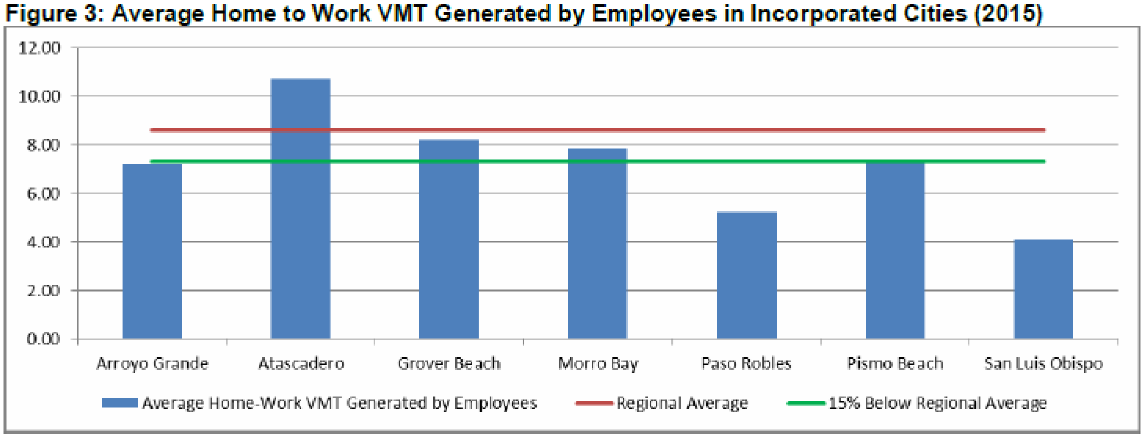
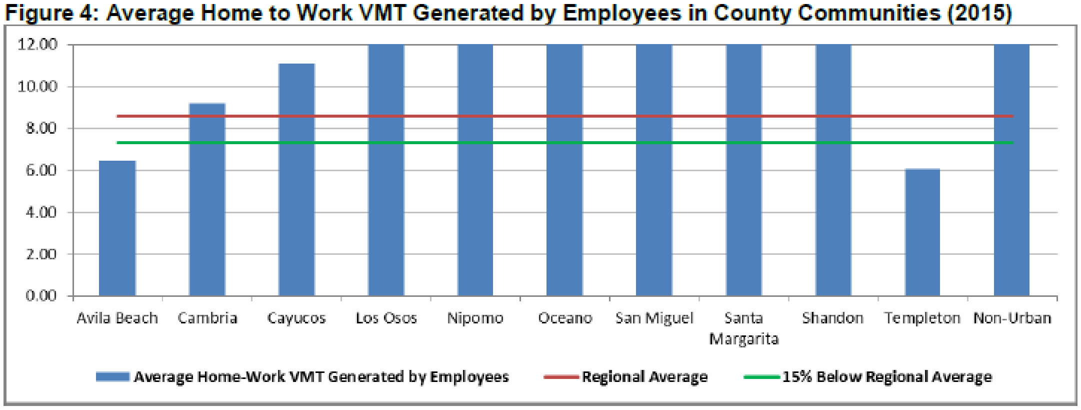


Figure 4: Average Home to Work VMT Generated by Employees in County Communities (2015)



Note: Los Osos, Nipomo, Oceano, San Miguel, Santa Margarita, Shandon, and Non-Urban Areas exceed 12 VMT per employee.

Different jurisdictions are in varying stages of amending the Circulation Elements of the General Plans and other regulations to comply with the new regulation by July 2020.

Read the full report and a technical appendix at the link:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e5ne5fbfxta4yxg/AADl1AKUhOzltQ7NeNp_MHP6a/October%20 2019/Agendas%20and%20Reports?dl=0&preview=D-11+SLOCOG+Transition+from+Level+of+Service+to+Vehicle+Miles+Traveled.pdf&subfolder_nav_tracking=1

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of Wednesday, September 25, 2019 (Completed)

Summary: There are no items of major policy concern on this agenda. However there was an item that ultimately bodes ill for the use of wood burning fireplaces in the future. It is also a precursor to more intrusive government penetration into your private home and cherished customs.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEARTH IS – *BUT IT HAD BETTER BE ELECTRIC*

Item B-3-1: Request to Authorize Funding for the 2019-2020 Woodsmoke Reduction Program & Adjustment to the Wood Burning Device Change-out Program in Paso Robles & Nipomo. The Board unanimously approved the program. Staff reported that since it started, in 2009 and then expanded in 2014, $650,000 in grants has been given out to homeowners.

The staff, in a verbal report, asserted that wood burning fireplaces and stoves produce toxic smoke which contains some of the same ingredients as cigarettes. It was further asserted that the smoke particles contribute to heart attacks, bronchitis, and other respiratory problems.

Background: One of the regulatory fetishes of the State of California and the various APCDs around the State is to ultimately outlaw wood burning fireplaces.

The SLO County APCD has not yet adopted such a draconian policy, but it is attempting to wean people off wood burning fireplaces and other open wood stoves by providing grants to replace them with electric and gas simulators.

The funding is provided to the local air districts from the State carbon tax revenue. Ultimately you can expect to see a total ban as advocates claim that fireplaces generate too much global climate warming CO_2. As noted above, it is also asserted that the smoke contains micro particles which lead to respiratory problems. The conclusion is then reached that the governments must ban their use. The initial ban in the Bay Area started several decades ago when the Bay Area APCD declared smoke days when the smoke hung over the bay on very still cold days.

The time will come when more regulations are proposed here, ultimately culminating in a total ban.

Ironically, and in light of the growing movement to ban natural gas in both the Bay APCD and the San Luis Obispo County APCD, conversion to natural gas fireplaces is permitted and will be funded by the Districts. At the same time the City of San Luis Obispo is hell bent on banning all natural gas appliances. Mayor Heidi Harmon is a member of the APCD. Perhaps she will attempt to convince the rest of the Commission to remove the gas version and offer only electric. Actually , during the meeting, the APCD staff said the added an all-electric option.

The Deeper Problem: This is yet another intrusion into people's private homes. Moreover in many cultures the family gathering at a fireplace has significant and sacred connections which go back thousands of years, transcending and incorporating both ancient and modern religions and customs.

At some point the Christmas tree lights will be banned too, as escalating government destruction of our power systems by the so called progressives create electrical shortages and blackouts. As the shortages become endemic, decorative lighting will be banned. Hope that the City of SLO climate police who come to cite you will not shoot your dog or slug you in the face. (See the Tribune Article in the addendum on page 30).

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, September 26, 2019 (Competed)

Summary: Cannabis Projects Are Flowing Through the Process More Smoothly.

Item 5 - Hearing to consider a request by 13350 River Road LLC (formerly Helios Dayspring) for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2018-00036) to establish up to three acres of outdoor (hoop house) cultivation, up to 22,000 square feet of indoor (greenhouse) cultivation, up to 28,210 square feet of commercial cannabis nursery, operation of a non-storefront dispensary, and ancillary processing activities such as curing, drying and trimming. Development would include 180,000 square feet of hoop house structures, 45,000 square feet of greenhouse structures, one 5,000-square foot metal building for drying/processing, a 320-square foot storage container for storage, and installation of ten 10,000-gallon water storage tanks. Approximately 4,740 square feet of an existing winery

building would also be utilized. The operation covers approximately 12.86 acres of the 63-acre property. After considerable public comment in opposition, the project was approved. Their concerns were about odor. It is not known yet if there will be an appeal to the Board of Supervisors.

Table 1 – Project Components

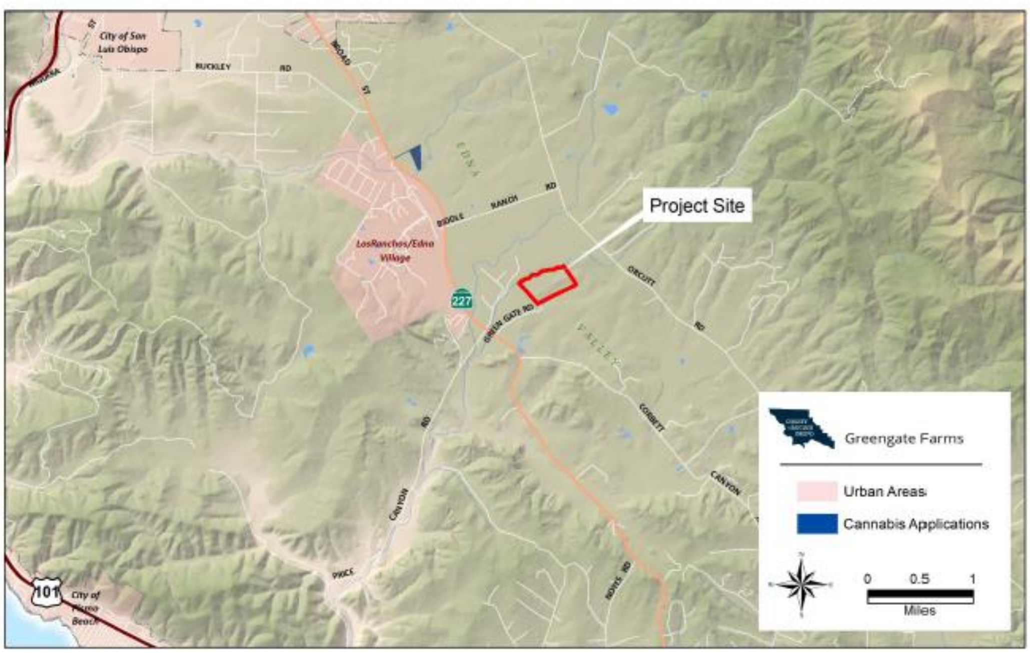
Project Component	Structure Size	Count	Footprint (sf)	Canopy (sf)
Hoop Houses – Mature/Flowering	100' x 24'	66.5	159,600	127,680
Hoop Houses – Nursery	100' x 24'	8.5	20,400	16,320
Total Outdoor Operation			***180,000***	***144,000***
Greenhouse – Mature/Flowering	187.5' x 120' 42.5' x 30'	1	23,775	22,000
Greenhouse – Nursery	187.5' x 90' 145' x 30'	1	21,225	11,250
Processing Building Drying/Curing	100' x 50'	1	5,000	n/a
Seatrain Storage Container	40' x 8'	1	320	n/a
Total New Indoor Operations/Development			***50,320***	***33,250***
Indoor Processing			1,080	n/a
Indoor Drying/Curing/Nursery			640	Up to 640
Indoor Dispensary Operation			440	n/a
Indoor Storage			145	n/a
Indoor Bathroom			65	n/a
Subtotal Indoor Operations (1st Floor of Winery Building)			***2,370***	***640***
Indoor Drying			2,370	n/a
Subtotal Indoor Operations (2nd Floor of Winery Building)			***2,370***	***n/a***
Total Indoor Operations (1st and 2nd Floors of Winery Building)			***4,740***	***640***

Attachment 3

Item 6 - Hearing 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. 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 site is in the South County Planning Area, San Luis Obispo Sub-Area South. The project was continued at the request of the applicant.

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
Total		**27,483**



Item 7 - Hearing to consider a request by Pacific Gas and Electric for a Development Plan/ Coastal Development Permit (DRC2018-00003) to allow for the North Ranch Road Improvement Project, affecting approximately 4.25 miles of the North Ranch Road, a

privately owned continuation of Pecho Valley Road, located on the North Ranch portion of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP). The improvements include: turnouts, paving in areas greater than 12-percent, retaining walls, three stockpile locations, three new culverts, and nine replacement culverts. The project would result in a total disturbance of 14.7 acres along North Ranch Road. The project is within the Agriculture and Rural Lands land use categories and is located between the southern parking lot of Montaña de Oro State Park and just north of DCPP, approximately five miles southwest of the community of Los Osos, in the San Luis Bay Coastal Planning Area. The application was approved by the Commssion. There was no opposition except a representative of the Northern Chumash,[2] Fred Collins, asserted that it could disturb sacred sites. The problem can usually be resolved if an applicant hires Collins or an associate to monitor a project. Reportedly Collins made no such demand directly to the Commission or PG&E during the meeting.

Since 2006 , PG&E has sought to make some improvements to a secondary access road which goes from Montana de Oro State Park to the Diablo Plant along the coast. It is used to bring in heavy equipment and as a backup access for fire and other emergency vehicles.

PG&E indicates that it will be necessary for decommissioning activities. The improvements are minor. Nevertheless the Coastal Commission has expressed concerns which might turn out to be problematical later. In typical fashion, the Commission never formally commented the project, which has been under review from 2006 until last week.

Project Overview Map

[2] The Northern Chumash are not a Federally recognized Tribe.

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

GREEN HAM, LEECHES AND LEMMINGS

BY ANDY CALDWELL

The lesson lost on politicians, activists and consumers? There is no such thing as a free watt. All those offers and gimmicks being floated around having to do with discounted electric vehicles such as Teslas and Volts, rooftop solar and upgraded appliances indicate that Peter is being robbed to light up Paul's life. More precisely, government subsidies, loans and grants, coupled with tax breaks (worth tens of billions of dollars), and higher rate payer fees are the source of the discounts enjoyed by some at the expense of all.

The latest gimmick that has the lemmings headed off the cliff? It's called Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). The Community Environmental Council (CEC), like the proverbial green pig at the trough that it is, is literally trying to sell the CCA pork project to the City of Santa Barbara and the county. The idea is that, like leeches, we can use the power grid bought and paid for by Edison and PG&E to deliver "greener" power that we ourselves purchase as a community from other providers. The CEC becomes the new middleman and we all supposedly reap the savings which would otherwise accrue to these (warning- dirty word ahead) for-profit utility providers. What is not to love? Plenty if you know how the real world works!

California utility providers are already mandated to get 33% of their power from alternative energy sources, despite the overwhelming cost of the same and that will only grow over time. However, some people believe that is not enough. They subsequently hatched this scheme, enabled by state statute, to utilize the infrastructure owned and maintained by the utilities to deliver energy directly contracted by the local community from other sources.

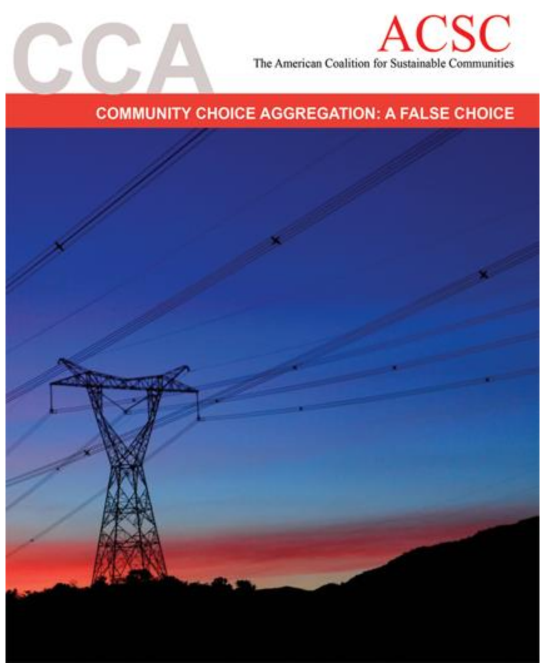
The real world problems associated with this connivance? First of all, public utilities can only afford to maintain the high cost of base load (energy generated from traditional energy sources such as natural gas, hydro and nuclear- available 24/7/365) by spreading these costs to as many consumers as possible. So what happens when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing? The CCA will then need to purchase base load energy funded by the utilities. But, the utilities can't afford to have "extra" base load sitting around for these CCA's when they need it, nor can they just turn base load sources on and off at the whim of these elites who want to cherry pick their electricity source.

CCA purports to lower the cost of electricity, but the true cost of renewables is never fully disclosed to consumers and ratepayers. For instance, Diablo Nuclear Power Plant in SLO, which, by the way, generates no greenhouse gas emissions, pays $20 million a year in property taxes. Whereas, the massive solar farms in the same county pay no property taxes at all. So, when somebody claims that we can save money and save the planet by purchasing even more solar, they are ignoring the cost of the subsidy afforded solar! Plus, government is cutting its nose off to spite its face, since it relies on the very taxes generated by these utilities!

The brutal truth about the CEC? The only reason they can pretend to compete against the utilities has to do with the fact that, like government, they don't pay taxes either, and they readily admit the same! This begs the question, why don't we have non-profits and governments take over our entire economy so that we can take advantage of their tax-exempt status and incredible know-how?   After all, we did that with our water supply; it ain't called "State" Water for nothing! How is that working out for you?

Andy Caldwell is the Executive Director of COLAB of Santa Barbara County and host of the Andy Caldwell Radio Show on KUHL AM 1440. This article first appeared in the Santa Barbara News Press.

Exclusive Report – Community Choice Aggregation: A False Choice



Report Unpacks the Mystery of Government Run Power Scheme

This full color report, by the American Coalition for Sustainable Communities (ACSC), is offered as a counterweight argument for those who want the inside track about Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).

The government wants people to use renewable energy and they have devised a new way to get them to use it by foisting ratepayers into a government run power utility.

Community Choice Aggregation: A False Choice provides an overview of CCAs and their impacts on cities, counties and citizens.

This report is a must read for citizens, municipal staff and elected officials considering CCA for their community.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is in many ways like a purchasing cooperative or co-op. Co-ops have been around for hundreds of years. The idea is simple: use the purchasing power of many to get volume discounts. In the case of CCA, a government entity would purchase power on behalf of its customers. This is the "aggregation" or adding up the customer demand. "Choice" means renewable energy. The report offers the other side of the CCA argument with detailed analysis regarding:

- Dubious Ratepayer Savings
- Flawed Clean Energy Claims
- Questionable Opt Out Claims 4. Disingenuous Reporting
- New Unelected Boards

The introduction provides a brief genesis of the report. An overview is presented detailing the history of CCA; deregulation, industry business model, renewable energy certificates and green-washing are discussed. The report then moves into an overview of sustainable development and its impacts. Also included, are key summary arguments and findings. The report denotes exclusive charts, graphs and complete source citations. Key summary arguments and findings for three CCAs are reviewed as case studies.

Details

Full Color Paperback: 86 pages
Publisher: Monolith Press
ISBN-13: 978-1582911410

Dimensions: 8.5 x 11 inches

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Available at amazon

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Table of Contents

ADDENDUM I

The article and picture below appeared in the September 26, 2019 San Luis Obispo Tribune. The owner attempted to follow the police officer's instructions while explaining that the dog is friendly and does not bite. The dog subsequently died and the vet bill is $6000.

He shot my f---ing family.' Police officer shoots dog in front of SLO home

By Gabby Ferreira

September 26, 2019 12:35 PM, Updated September 26, 2019 04:37

A San Luis Obispo police officer shot a dog late Thursday morning while responding to what officers thought was a possible burglary in the city.

Police went to a home in the 600 block of Santa Rosa Street after receiving reports of a possible burglary, with a caller saying that someone had jumped out of a broken window, according to police Capt. Jeff Smith.

“Officers responded and as they approached the residence, a large dog came out,” Smith said, noting that the dog wasn’t on a leash or otherwise tethered. “The officer feared for his safety, and at that time the officer fired shots at the dog.”

The officer, who has not been identified, was not injured, Smith said.

Police spoke to witnesses and parties involved to determine if a burglary or another crime was in progress at the time, Smith said.

“Right now, it doesn’t appear there was anything criminal happening as far as a burglary,” Smith said, adding that officers will now document everything that took place up to the dog being shot.

“We don’t show up to calls with the intent to kill dogs,” Smith said. “It’s an unfortunate circumstance, and we’ll look into the totality of what took place regarding the related call and the dog being loose and running after one of our officers.”

Officers respond to burglary report

Nick Regalia and Riley Manford said the officer shot their 7-year-old boxer mix, Bubbs, after someone reported a possible burglary to police when they saw Manford standing on the fence. He was trying to fix their window.

“The door was open and we were just inside,” Manford told The Tribune. She said Bubbs went outside, which wasn’t unusual for the dog as he’s friendly with the neighbors and stays in the vicinity of the house.

“We noticed he was barking a lot, so I ran outside and there was a whole police squad out there,” Manford said.

Most of the police officers were at the end of the driveway, she said, but two officers were walking up toward a parking area in front of their home.

“Bubbs was right there, guarding where the driveway meets his area,” Manford said, adding that the first police officer was friendly and didn’t seem worried about the dog.

“I was like, ‘Hey, he’s a pit bull/boxer mix. He’s rambunctious. He sounds scary but he’s friendly,’ ” Manford said.

She said the second officer had his gun drawn, and asked her to get Bubbs.

“I told him to ‘put your gun down and stop backing up,’ because the dog was following him and he might jump on (him),” Manford said.

“But he won’t bite you,” she said she told the officer. “He’s never bitten anyone, never hurt anyone.”

She said the officer kept his gun out and continued walking backward, and asked her to come get her dog one more time.

“As I was walking to him, he shot him,” Manford said, crying. “We don’t know if he’s going to be OK. The bullets went through him.”

Manford said three shots were fired, and her dog was hit twice. The dog immediately ran into the house and vomited.

Injured dog rushed to vet

Regalia rushed him to the veterinarian, where Bubbs is currently undergoing emergency surgery. Regalia said they’re waiting to hear whether the dog will live or not.

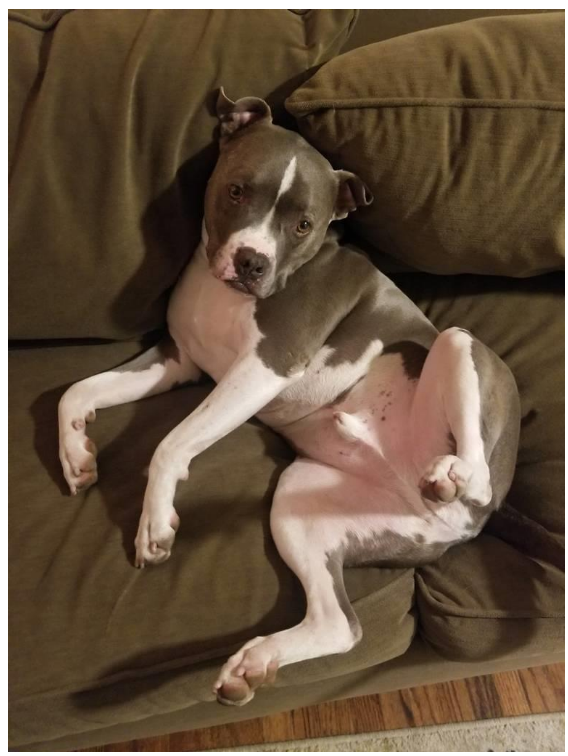
“The officer didn’t say sorry. He was like ‘Well, you should have grabbed your dog,’ and I was like, ‘I tried to. You didn’t give me a chance to. What the f--- is wrong with you?’ ” Manford said.

Smith said police “are sorry the dog was shot.”

“We wish it would have been behind a fence or locked up or on a leash,” he said. “It’s unfortunate, but at the time we believed we were responding to a burglary in progress.”

Manford said that she’s happy someone called to report what they thought was a burglary and tried to keep the neighborhood safe.

“I just think the police force needs to figure out a better training technique so their officers aren’t so trigger-happy,” she said. “I’m a 4-foot-11 girl; I’m not threatening. I asked him to put the gun down so I could go get the dog and he wouldn’t.”



“It was just so excessive I couldn’t believe it,” Regalia said. “Even if you are scared, at least three shots when you have an alternate use of force, I don’t think that’s right.”

Manford said she and Regalia adopted Bubbs when he was 6 months old.

“He’s our kid,” she said. “That’s my family. He shot my f---ing family.”

Nick Regalia and Riley Manford say a San Luis Obispo police officer shot their dog, Bubbs, who is pictured here. COURTESY OF NICK REGALIA

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