



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO WEEK OF JANUARY 13 - 19, 2019



COLAB
San Luis Obispo County

10th
ANNIVERSARY



DINNER & FUNDRAISER

'10th ANNIVERSARY'

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, March 28, 2019
Alex Madonna Expo Center

details coming soon...

CELEBRATE YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR SUCCESS,
YOU MADE COLAB GREAT AGAIN & AGAIN!

COLAB San Luis Obispo County
805-548-0340 colabslo@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

**PROPOSED ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE AT
AVILA BEACH RESORT WITHDRAWN**

MONARCH DUNES REQUESTS 35 MORE HOMES

**SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM GROWING
MORE HEROIN – WOULD COUNTY SUPPORT THE BORDER WALL?**

**MAJOR REPORT ON FUTURE OF FIRE DISTRICTS
COUNTY MAY HAVE TO PUMP MILLIONS MORE IN TO KEEP THEM ALIVE?**

LAST WEEK

**CEREMONIAL BOS MEETING SWEARS IN RE-
ELECTED OFFICIALS + SUPV. ARNOLD AS
CHAIR AND SUPV. HILL AS VICE-CHAIR
NEW COLLEGIALLY ON BOS?**

**SLOCOG REAFFIRMS STACK-AND-PACK,
GETTING PEOPLE OUT OF CARS, AND LAYING
GROUNDWORK FOR A NEW TAX**

**TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION WARNS SLOCOG
AGAINST USING PUBLIC FUNDS TO DEVELOP
AND PROMOTE NEW SALES TAX**

PLANNING COMMISSION
AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEAL APPROVED IN CAYUCOS

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 11

POSTPONE DIABLO'S CLOSURE
IT'S UNAFFORDABLE
BY MIKE BROWN

WILL THE LIGHTS GO OUT AT PG&E?
BY DAN MORAIN

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, January 15, 2019 (Scheduled)

Item 1 - Request to set a hearing to consider the Temporary Commercial Outdoor Entertainment License Application from Avila Beach Resort. Hearing date set for January 29, 2019. The item is being withdrawn at the request of the applicant.

Item 35 - Request to authorize processing an amendment to the Woodlands Specific Plan to re-designate 35 residential multi-family units to 35 residential single-family units and allow for the relocation of the units from the village center and multi-family site to new single-family lots to be created within the Phase 2B area of the village. The site is located south of Via Concha Road approximately 1,000 feet east of Highway One, South County Planning Area. This amendment also includes a proposal to officially change the name of the village from the Woodlands Village to the Monarch Dunes Village. There are no letters of opposition in the record.

Table 1: Woodlands Village Residential Units

Unit Type	Existing Plan Approved Units	Proposed Units	Total Units
Residential Single Family	1,220	Increase by 35	1,255
Residential Multi-Family	100	Reduce by 35	65 (20 of these built at affordable)
Total	1,320		1,320

The areas shown in green depict the new units.



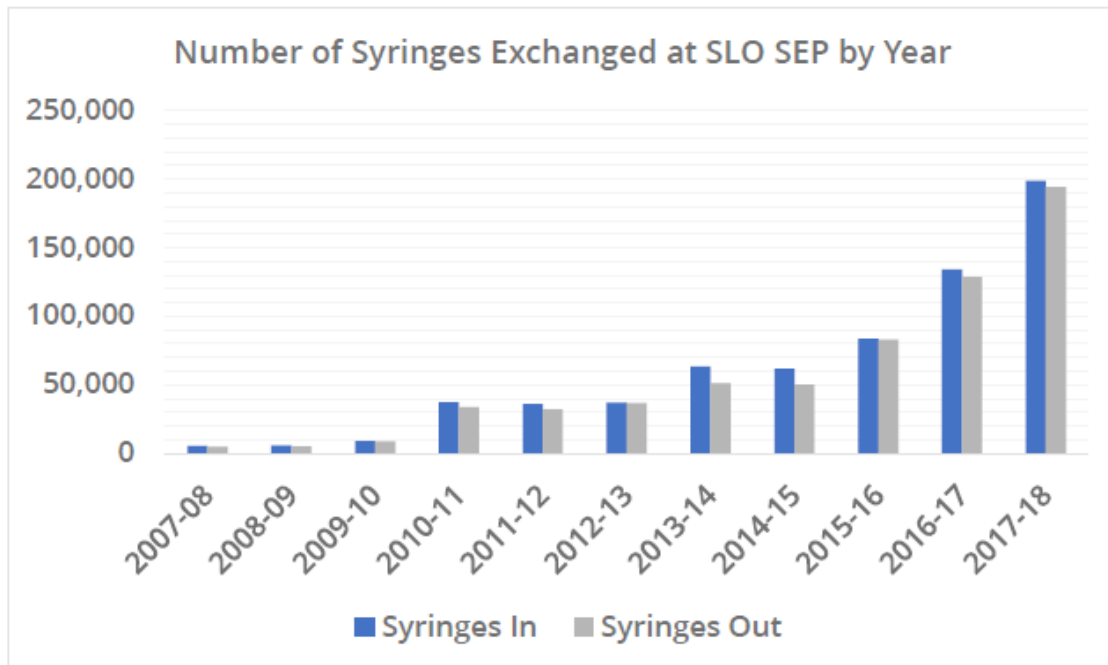
Item 40 - Submittal of a report on the San Luis Obispo Syringe Exchange Program (SEP).

The program has been operating in SLO County since 2006. The program is designed to prevent Aids and Hepatitis C. The tables below show that the number of participants is growing. Apparently heroin use is growing and is a factor in the increased use of needles.

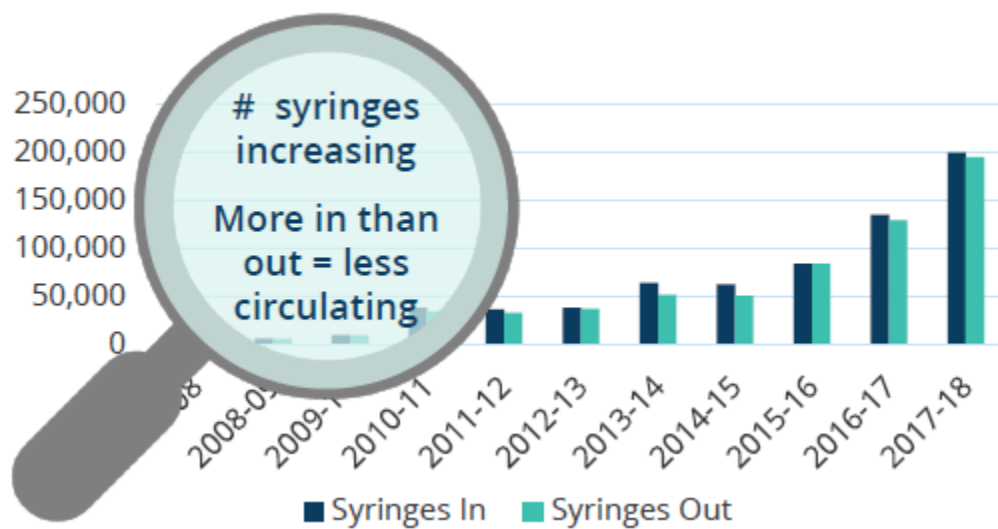
A major issue is to what extent should society tolerate self destructive behavior which results in major public costs and crime?

Another is to what extent would a border wall reduce the amount of heroin and other injectable drugs reaching California?

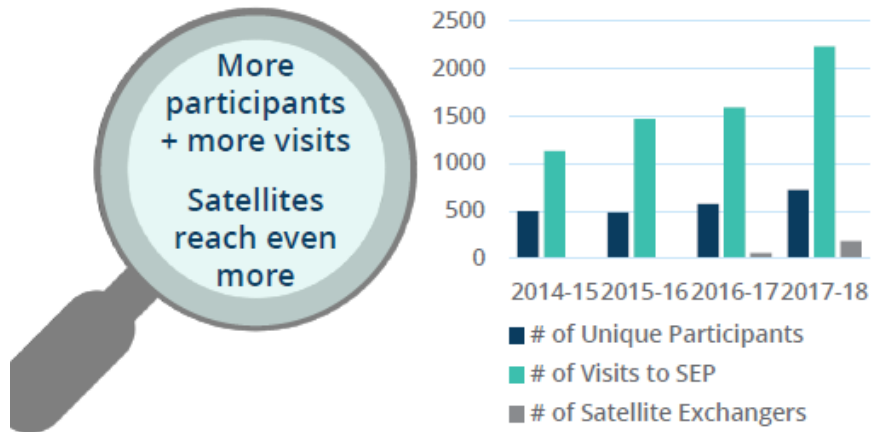
COLAB Note: Wonder if the County will support the border wall in its Legislative Program?



SLO SEP Stats— # Syringes Exchanged



SLO SEP Stats— # of Participants



Item 41 - Submittal of a report evaluating fire protection service by special districts in unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. As the Cayucos Fire District was dissolved last year due to insufficient funding and lack of volunteers, the Board of Supervisors wisely commissioned a study of the fiscal and operational resiliency of other fire districts in the unincorporated area. If these begin to fail, the County could end up with significant new general fund costs to expand its contract with Cal Fire to take over the fire and all hazard emergency services. The subject districts are shown in the table below.

Table 1: Special Districts Providing Fire Protection

Special District	Fire Protection Provider
Avila Beach CSD*	CAL FIRE
Cambria CSD	Cambria CSD
Los Osos CSD	CAL FIRE
Oceano CSD**	Five Cities Fire Authority
San Miguel CSD	San Miguel CSD
Santa Margarita FPD	Santa Margarita Fire Protection District
Templeton CSD	Templeton CSD

* Avila Beach CSD shares funding for firefighters at County Fire Station 62 Avila Valley

** Five Cities Fire Authority is a Joint Powers Authority between the cities Of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and Oceano CSD

The districts are not desirous of dissolving but are faced with financial challenges, some in the near term (Templeton) and some extending out over the years. Many will be making funding requests to the County or seeking a greater percent of the share of the property tax.

The study is detailed and rigorous in terms of response times and coverage for each fire district. Over time and if the districts ultimately dissolve or seek direct County funding, the costs could be in the millions, adding stress to the County budget.

The study is important, timely, and provides a significant policy tool. It can be accessed at the link below and is well worth a look.

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/103815>

Once the window opens, click on the button, “Special District Study.”

Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, January 17, 2019 (Scheduled)

There are no major items of policy on this agenda. There is an Annual Report for 2018 and a proposed Work Program for 2019. These can be accessed at the link:

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/c93ae911ecb91737e20a6c5a84af8cb3?AccessKeyId=242F22EFFFFDE4B18755&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

Special Board Meeting of Monday, January 7, 2019 – 11:55 AM (Completed)

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY - Swearing-in of elected and re-elected County Officials.

This ceremonial meeting included administering the oath of office to Supervisors Compton and Gibson as well as the elected Department Heads, including Auditor Controller, DA, Clerk Recorder, Assessor, and Sheriff.

Item 1 - Request to adopt an amendment to the Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure, and reorganization to elect Supervisor Arnold as Chairperson and Supervisor Hill as Vice-Chairperson for the calendar year 2019 term. Supervisor Arnold was elected Chair and Supervisor Hill was elected Vice Chair unanimously.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, January 9, 2019 (Completed)

Item 2 - General Public Comment for Matters not on the Agenda. The Central Coast Taxpayers Association (CCTA) and the Howard Jarvis Tax Payers Association represented by expert political campaign law attorney Chuck Bell admonished the SLOCOG Board to not use public funds and employees on public time to develop and promote a new sales tax measure.

He sharply noted that SLOCOG did exactly that 2 years ago when it fomented and promoted the Measure J Sales Tax increase. He indicated that the complaint for that set of violations is still pending before the California State Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). The Commission has recently upped its scrutiny of various 02 public entities that have violated the law, including the LA School District, which has been hit with FPPC fines and is now facing criminal charges.

Item 3.b - Election of Officers and Appointment of the Executive Committee. The Board elected Paso Robles City Councilman Fred Strong as President. It appointed an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President, and the past President (Lynn Compton). This is a powerful Board, which handles tens of millions of highway and road funds. It consists of all 5 County Supervisors and a representative (mayor or city councilor) from each of the 7 cities in the County.

Item A.1 - Appointment to Various Boards and Committees. The Board appointed members to a number of inter-agency and state committees. These include lobbying groups, rail advocates, and the National Association of Regional Councils.

Item B.1 - Closure of El Campo Road at Highway 101 Intersection Update. The Board received an update on the status of work to determine if the Highway 101/El Campo Road crossover should be closed. Staff indicated that a study called a displacement assessment, which examines the impact on other intersections, must be completed prior to a closure decision. Most of the Board members seemed disappointed because they want faster action. Staff argued for a “measured approach.”

Supervisor Gibson correctly pointed out that there was a study 2 years ago which contains the requisite data and that circumstances have not changed much in so short a time period. The Staff retorted that they could return with a new study by March. Even if they do, it will have to be circulated to all the stakeholders (Cal Trans, various cities, the County, neighborhood groups, and area institutions). In the end the Board reluctantly voted to follow the recommendation.

Background: There is pressure to close this dangerous intersection as a result of its substandard structure and a recent traffic death. Per usual, there is to be a study and analysis of the impacts, including other substandard intersections in the area. There is stakeholder group, and frequent meetings are planned. In the big picture, this is just one of thousands of similar catastrophes throughout the State resulting from spending too much money on salaries and benefits versus capital maintenance and improvements. Apparently there is no one in charge with the guts to close it.

Long range solutions depend on the future plans for widening and revamping Highway 101, which in turn are dependent on decade’s long priority setting and the overall financial status of the State. Even with the retention of the SB-1 gas taxes, the State’s deferred and underfunded

capital deficit is so large that nothing may actually ever happen until after the current social, political, and economic structure of the State is replaced due to some future cataclysm that would force major reform. The staff stated that it could take 17 to 20 years even if the funding is identified.

In the near term, there will be pressure for a future Measure J type sales tax to be placed on the ballot in 2020.

Item B.3 - Preliminary Overall 2019/20 Work Program – And While You Were Sleeping.

The Board unanimously approved the work program that is pretty much a pro forma report which restated what the agency is already doing. Much of it is boilerplate. It confirms current policy. The translation is in the pink boxes.

Supervisor Peschong, astutely stated that he would go along with the program for now, but that staff will have to clarify what it means when it refers to more funding and developing revenues. The rest of the Board either didn't care or was anesthetized.

Background:

SLOCOG Overall Work Program Objectives

- 1. Proactively secure and maximize local, state and federal funds.*
- 2. Satisfy state and federal regional planning requirements.*
- 3. Improve technical planning capabilities.*
- 4. Continue focus on comprehensive and cost effective intermodal transportation system improvements, including aggressive demand management through the Ridesharing Program.*

And where will these funds come from?

- 5. Maintain and enhance local and regional multimodal mobility, emphasizing safe, secure, convenient and integrated transportation system development coordinated with land use that:*
 - o Encourages more walkable communities*
 - o Maximizes travel choices, and reduces traffic congestion, greenhouse gases, and the amount of vehicle miles traveled.*

Stack-and-pack living, make cars and energy more costly, rationing.

- 6. Continue efforts to influence state and federal legislation addressing transportation revenues.*

f. 4301: Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) FY 2018/19


- ☐ *Develop, model, test, and refine the SCS for the 2019 RTP adoption.*
- ☐ *Develop stakeholder and public engagement materials and tools*

Brainwash the public to support the doctrine and more taxes.

b. 7300: Supplemental Funding

☐ **Explore supplemental funding options through community engagement (from Page B-3-11)**

Have staff (on public time) start working on a sales tax increase for the 2020 ballot.



Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, January 10, 2019 (Completed)

Item 1 - Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2019. Gibson's Commissioner Multari was elected as Chairman, and Peschong's Commissioner Brown was elected Vice-Chair.

Item 5 - Hearing to consider a request by Peoples' Self-Help Housing for a Development Plan/Coastal Development Permit to allow the construction of 33 apartments in eight buildings with a total floor area of 34,850 square feet, a community services building of 2,880 square feet, and related site improvements. The applicant is seeking a modification to the required front and side setbacks as well as a height exception for one building pursuant to the State Density Bonus Law (65915(d)(2)). The proposal would disturb approximately 2.04 acres of a 5.88-acre parcel in the Residential Multi-family land use category. The project is located on the east side of Schoolhouse Lane across from Santa Lucia Middle School, approximately 0.65-mile north of the Highway 1 / Main Street intersection, in the community of Cambria. The Commission unanimously approved the project.

There was limited opposition with more supporters than opponents. The project is designed to be "affordable" and, as noted in the agenda summary, is being proposed by the not-for-profit affordable housing developer, Peoples Self Help Housing. Review of the conditions indicates that the project will be subject to all the costly exactions, including road fees, school fees, etc.

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

POSTPONE DIABLO'S CLOSURE IT'S UNAFFORDABLE BY MIKE BROWN

PG&E, its rate payers, and California's taxpayers cannot afford the financial costs or energy shortfall resulting from closing the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant at this time nor in the near to medium future. Consider the following:

1. PG&E is facing over \$14 billion in claims from the 2017 North Bay fires. It has been determined that 17 of the 18 related fires were caused by PG&E. The Tubbs Fire, which is still under investigation, is likely to be found to have been caused by PG&E power lines. PG&E proposes to sell bonds to pay whatever amount is finally awarded. The bonds would be paid off over time by customer rate increases, which will have to be approved by the CPUC.
2. The cause of the November 2018 fire which destroyed the Butte County community of Paradise is also still under investigation. Early reports suggest problems with a transmission tower and power lines in the Feather River Canyon. The claims could be in the billions.
3. Both fires involved the substantial loss of life. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra is considering criminal prosecutions. It is not known what the District Attorneys of Butte and Sonoma Counties may be considering in this regard.
4. A number of high ranking executives in the Electrical Power Division of the company have announced their retirements and/or resignations.
5. There are demands for the restructuring of PG&E's Board of Directors.
6. There are also demands for breaking the company up.
7. It has been determined that the cost of decommissioning the Diablo plant after 2025 is in the range of \$4.8 billion.
8. To replace the forgone nuclear power, PG&E, as part of the Joint Proposal for closure, plans to acquire renewable power at an initial cost of \$1.3 billion. This is the first phase, which will be followed by more over the decades at additional cost. PG&E's request for a rate increase to cover the \$1.3 billion is pending and was referred by the CPUC to a separate process which involves assessing the adequacy of the plan to replace the nuclear energy with "renewable" energy.

9. In the near term it will not be possible to acquire enough “renewable energy” (solar, small hydro, wind, and biomass) to replace Diablo’s 2200 megawatt per day capacity (2.3 gigawatts per year) because it does not yet exist and/or is already under contract to others. This in turn will require the construction of new and expanded gas fired plants, which will add to greenhouse gases.

10. Several news sources reported that the CPUC voted last week to open proceedings to develop a so-called stress test for utilities wildfire costs. The goal is to see how big a financial blow PG&E could withstand and still remain viable. The price of its stock shares tumbled after the vote. Standard and Poor’s Global Ratings cut PG&E’s credit rating to junk status.

11. Some communities are still approving creation of new government entities (Community Choice Aggregation – CCA) to go into the State favored electric distribution and billing business (using tax exempt debt for startup costs), which erodes PG&E’s revenue and stability. This could be called the dying carcass strategy.

12. If PG&E is forced into insolvency and bankruptcy, will a court or special master even allow the \$85 million dollars in property tax replacement mitigation payments be made to San Luis County, the San Luis Coastal Unified School District and the cities within the County? Similarly, will the payment of \$340 million for plant employee retention, early retirement, and transition expenses be allowed?

13. Of course many of the so-called left progressives hope that the Company will collapse and that the State or new some public authority will take it over. The political patronage and shakedown potential are vast under such socialization.

14. Instead of committing environmental and financial suicide by closing the plant, the State (led by Governor Newsome and San Luis County governments) should push for a moratorium and should commit to help with relicensing. Given the current financial situation, the alleged need for non-CO₂ generating energy, the risks to San Luis Coastal Unified School District budget, why add fuel to the fire, so to speak, when the plant, a fully depreciated asset, is currently operating fine, and when closure will cost rate payers billions of new dollars .

15. Given the dire circumstances, the State should put a moratorium on the formation of new CCA’s as well as the expansion of existing CCA’s. In other words, why keep supporting a policy which will accelerate the demise of PG&E and export its jobs to other states (to utilities which are selling renewable energy certificates, not real electricity). If Diablo is forced to shut down, where will your electricity come from at 2:00AM?

16. Of course the catastrophic negative impact on the San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County economies could be avoided altogether. It is clearly apparent that other than some meetings with good intent and statements about planning and stakeholders, there is no scaled up operational project to replace the lost income and resulting massive negative economic multiplayers across the local economy.

17. What is the contingency plan for the County, the San Luis Coastal School District, and the business community if things fall apart?

WILL THE LIGHTS GO OUT AT PG&E?

BY DAN MORAIN



Is there any way for Pacific Gas & Electric not to go bankrupt?

- **S&P Global Ratings downgraded** the credit rating of California's largest electricity provider to "junk" status on Tuesday as it faces tens of billions in liability over 2017 and 2018 wildfires.
- **Meanwhile, three top executives** who oversaw its electricity unit are retiring this month in an apparent management shuffle, according to [The San Francisco Chronicle](#).

A PG&E bankruptcy would be "elective on their part," California Public Utility Commission President Michael Picker told me. "It is something they have to be considering fairly closely."

Picker: "From where we sit, bankruptcy is not the best policy. If it happens, you deal with it."

Among the issues:

- **Ensuring ratepayers** are considered in a bankruptcy proceeding.
- **Keeping the lights on.** The need for poles and wires won't go away.

- **Protecting renewable electricity** contracts with energy companies whose solar and wind power serve clean energy goals in California. A bankruptcy judge could abrogate those contracts, concluding they're too costly.

Picker cites pressures on the company including lawsuits, past criminal prosecution, and the imperative to improve its safety record:

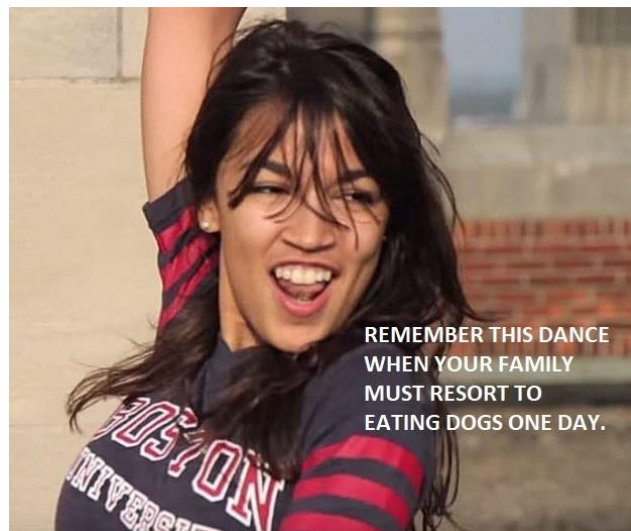
“The leadership may not be capable of dealing with all these different forces, particularly the Board of Directors. They don’t seem like they have been most dynamic.”

Gov. Gavin Newsom declined to speak about a bankruptcy Tuesday: “I’m very sensitive to things governors say, particularly as it relates to the markets.”

The company’s statement: “PG&E’s most important responsibility is public and workforce safety, and we are committed to providing safe and reliable energy that our customers expect and deserve.”

Dan Morain, former editorial page editor and political affairs columnist at The Sacramento Bee, is bringing his decades of experience and institutional knowledge to CALmatters. Morain has been The Sacramento Bee’s editorial page editor since 2013 and a columnist and editorial writer at The Bee since 2010. Morain spent 27 years at the Los Angeles Times, covering the California Supreme Court when Rose Bird was chief justice, the Legislature when Willie Brown was speaker and the Governor’s Office during Gray Davis’ tenure. His final assignment for The Times was to be part of the team that covered the 2008 presidential campaign. This article first appeared in the January 9, 2019 edition of Cal Matters?

RISE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY





ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE SEE FOLLOWING PAGES

THE
ANDY CALDWELL
SHOW

AM1440
KUHL • the information station

AM 1290
Santa Barbara News-Press Radio

Listen to Andy Live Monday Thru Friday 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM



**SUPPORT COLAB!
PLEASE COMPLETE THE
MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM
ON THE LAST PAGE BELOW**



MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS



VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM

See the presentation at the link: <https://youtu.be/eEdP4cvf-zA>



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER

Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business
San Luis Obispo County
"Your Property – Your Taxes – Our Future"
PO Box 13601 – San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 / Phone: 805.548-0340
Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 – \$249 ☐ \$ _____ Voting Member: \$250 – \$5,000 ☐ \$ _____

Sustaining Member: \$5,000 + ☐ \$ _____

(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)

General members will receive all COLAB updates and newsletters. Voting privileges are limited to Voting Members and Sustainable Members with one vote per membership.

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio ☐ Internet ☐ Public Hearing ☐ Friend ☐

COLAB Member(s) / Sponsor(s): _____

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.
I would like to contribute \$ _____ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.

Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership ☐

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: ____/____ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

(Revised 2/2017)