



**WEEKLY UPDATE
APRIL 12 - 18, 2020**

THIS WEEK

**SUPERVISOR HILL RESIGNS BOARD CHAIRMANSHIP
LYNN COMPTON HAS DISPLAYED LEADERSHIP IN COVID-19 LOCKDOWN
BOARD SHOULD FORMALIZE HER ROLE**



**AS CHAIR, FORMER SUCCESSFUL FORTUNE 500 CO. MANAGER, AND
FORMER LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER, SHE SHOULD BE DESIGNATED BY THE
BOARD AS THE PEOPLES' ELECTED LEADER FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

**NO SUPERVISORS MEETING
MOST OTHER AGENCIES ON LOCKDOWN EXCEPT SAFETY SERVICES**

**LAFCO BUDGET
OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS
CONTRACT IT OUT TO A GIG GUY OR GAL**

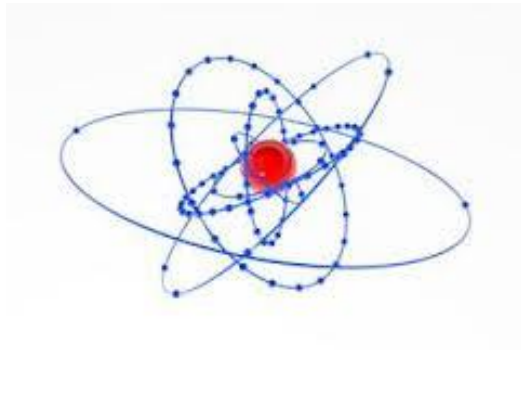
COVID OPERATION ON SCHEDULE

LAST WEEK

BOARD MEETING CANCELED

COVID-19 OPERATIONS DOMINATE WORK

ECONOMIC RECOVERY EFFORTS BEING PLANNED AS THE SONG SAYS – “DANCE WITH THE ONE YOU BRUNG” KEEP DIABLO OPEN & DON’T BAN GAS



COVID LOCKDOWN WILL SLUG LOCAL REVENUES

**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 14**

WHY IS THE LEFT EXPLOITING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS THEY HAVE DONE WITH THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS?

The authoritarian left is exploiting the Chi-Com Virus pandemic in the same way they have always done with climate change crisis. Why?

BY THOMAS SOWELL

WHY CENTRAL PLANNING BY MEDICAL EXPERTS WILL LEAD TO DISASTER

BY GARY GALLES

CA HYDROLOGIST WANTS ALL ENVIRO FARM WATER LAWS 'LOCKED-DOWN' AFTER COVID-19 CRISIS OVER

BY WAYNE LUSVARDI

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Supervisor Adam Hill resigns as Chairman of the Board but remains as 3rd District Supervisor

On Saturday evening April 11, 2020 (exactly one month less a day from when the FBI raided his office and home and then followed by a subsequent suicide attempt), Supervisor Adam Hill resigned as Chairman of the Board of San Luis Obispo County. He did not resign his position of 3rd District Supervisor. According to CalCoastNews he cited health concerns including underlying vulnerability from Crohn's Disease¹, which would make him more susceptible to complications if he contracted COVID-19.

It appears that the Supervisor intends to serve for the remainder of his current term, which ends December 31, 2020, and then be sworn in for a new term starting on January 4, 2021.

As we have pointed out, it is not known where the current FBI investigation will lead and what future disclosures, if any, will portend. In the meantime Stacey Koresgaden, who came close to defeating Hill, is available and ready if Hill cannot or does not wish to serve. Whether or not the Governor would appoint her based on her Republican Party affiliation is a potential hurdle. On the other hand, if he refused on a partisan basis and picked a local Democrat like Heidi Harmon, he would be telling 10,513 local voters to go screw themselves, thus perpetuating the life of the corrupt SLO County

¹ Crohn's disease is an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). It causes inflammation of the digestive tract, which can lead to abdominal pain, severe diarrhea, fatigue, weight loss, and malnutrition. Inflammation caused by Crohn's disease can involve different areas of the digestive tract in different people.

Democratic left progressive political machine. In such a case his appointment would be ripe for recall. Even some of the 11,100 Democrats, who voted for Hill, might be fed up at this point.

COVID-19 Operations

So far the planning and operations seem to be going as well as can be expected. The Governor expects the peak of infections, hospitalizations, ICU cases, ventilator use, and deaths to occur sometime in mid-May. It is not certain that SLO County will follow that pattern. The County is largely rural to suburban, does not rely heavily on mass transit, contains little stack-and-pack housing, and is largely populated by upwardly mobile population made up of people who are accustomed to working for the larger good and are motivated to achieve success. Of course the students are gone or locked in.

It's not as if you live in the projects in Oakland and have to take a bus to BART and then a bus from BART in San Francisco to your actual essential job site at one of the hospitals, clinics, utility plants, corporation yards, etc.

Imagine you live in a 90-year old 6-story apartment house in Queens and you have a hospital job in Manhattan. The Flushing Line Route 7 elevated train comes within 3 blocks of your apartment. You work at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital on the upper West Side at 168th street. The 7 Train takes you into Manhattan to 42nd Street. Then you have to walk through a filthy tunnel to get the Broadway Express A Train all the way up to 168th Street.

The A Train before COVID



New York Transit has now shut down the A train and other routes because so many motormen, switch operators, and maintenance people are sick that they can't operate it. You have to take a bus on Manhattan surface streets with a red light on every corner – 1 hour.

Think of this as the progressives try to force stack-and-pack housing, mass transit, and car ownership penalties onto SLO County. You finally get a 1200 sq. foot \$700,000 condo in a stack-and-pack in Atascadero. Your job is at Mindbody on Broad Street in East SLO. You have to take bus to downtown SLO, transfer at the transit center, and then another bus out Broad Street. Why the hell did millions of people leave New York in the first place from the 1920's until the present day? Why would you allow the government to roll your standard of living back to that of your immigrant ancestors from 100 years ago?

Dense urban living is for the rich, students, and those who don't have any choice. And the rich have country homes to escape to while they wait out the pandemic. Don't be fooled - learn from this tragedy.

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, April 16, 2020 (Scheduled)

The meeting will be conducted remotely.

Viewing Instructions:

LAFCO April 16, 2020, Commission meeting can be viewed at <https://zoom.us/j/391889735>

Webinar ID: 391 889 735

Call in number: +1 669 900 6833 US

Please provide **written** comments on any matter, regardless of whether it is on the agenda for Commission consideration or action. Submit your comment via email or U.S. mail by 1 p.m. Apr. 15, 2020. You may submit comments via email to the Clerk of the Commission at Imarquez@slolafco.com. Your comment will be placed into the administrative record of the meeting.

Item B-1: Consideration Of The Proposed Fiscal Year 2020/21 San Luis Obispo LAFCO Budget (More Options Than Presented). The write-up presents two options. The first would occur if the current Deputy Director is appointed to fill retiring Executive Director David Churches' vacancy. The second would occur if the Commission determines to conduct an open recruitment for the position.

FY 20-21 Proposed Budget Options

Line Items	Option #1	% Dec./Inc.	Option #2	% Dec./Inc.
Salaries	\$255,799	-16%	\$290,351	-5%
Taxes/Benefits	\$209,053	-12%	\$235,097	-1%
Services Supplies	\$144,361	+11%	\$176,361	+39%
Total Budget	\$609,213	-9.3	\$701,810	+4.5%
Charges to Agencies	\$568,213	-8%	\$660,810	+6.9%

Option #1 includes funds for a biennial Audit as well, but not for the selection consultant. Both options include Mr. Church's salary through July 24, 2020.

A third option would be to dispense with maintaining a separate staff and assign the staff work to existing County staff, eliminate the need for separate counsel, and otherwise reduce costs.

Exhibit A - Option #1
San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission
Proposed Budget - Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Proposed 4/16/2020

EXPENDITURES SUMMARY	Current Year	Expense YTD	Proj. Yr End	Proposed 20-21	Incr/Dec	% Inc/Dec
Salaries	306,297	237,245	298,000	255,799	-50,498	-16%
Benefits and Taxes	238,231	171,498	223,319	209,053	-29,178	-12%
Services and Supplies	127,097	85,755	106,899	144,361	17,264	14%
Total Expenses	671,625	494,498	628,218	609,213	(62,412)	-9.3%

EXPENDITURES DETAIL	Current Year	Expense YTD	Proj. Yr End	Proposed 20-21	Incr/Dec	% Inc/Dec
Salaries and Benefits						
Salaries	306,297	237,245	298,000	255,799	-50,498	-16%
Benefits and Taxes	238,231	171,498	223,319	209,053	-29,178	-12%
Subtotal Salaries & Benefits	544,528	408,743	521,319	464,852	(79,676)	-14.6%
Variable Costs (%):						
FICA -Employer Match	18,990	13,571	19,176	15,860	-3,130	-16%
Medicare - Employer Match	4,441	3,678	4,500	3,709	-732	-16%
Retirement-Employer Contribution *	103,595	77,440	100,953	90,742	-12,853	-12%
Retirement-Employer for Employee	31,647	24,989	31,951	26,520	-5,127	-16%
Retirement - Employee Contribution *	22,313	14,339	18,640	22,723	410	2%
Pension Obligation Bond Payment	20,439	15,111	20,739	15,973	-4,466	-22%
SUI-Employer Contribution	2,500	378	500	2,500	0	0%
Fed Unemploy Tax-Employer Cont	300	0	0	300	0	0%
Fixed Costs (\$):						
Health Plan/Café Cash	45,000	28,331	35,100	41,700	-3,300	-7%
Life Insurance	0	0	0	750	750	0%
Def Comp - EO Employer Match	11,000	8,000	10,400	11,000	0	0%
Total Benefits	238,231	171,498	223,319	209,053	-28,859	-12%

* Split Employer/Employee 2.6% pension rate increase

Services and Supplies	Current Year	Expense YTD	Proj. Yr End	Proposed 20-21	Incr/Dec	% Inc/Dec
Food	800	234	400	800	0	0%
Maintenance - Equipment	300	0	0	300	0	0%
Maintenance - Software	500	360	360	500	0	0%
CALAFCO/Other Memberships	4,400	4,707	4,707	7,000	2,600	59%
Office Supplies	2,500	802	1,500	2,500	0	0%
Commissioner/Consultant/Sick Leave Payout	10,000	4,378	7,000	18,000	8,000	80%
Publication/Legal Notices	800	1,027	1,027	1,000	200	25%
Rent	38,000	30,565	36,700	38,000	0	0%
Small Equipment	400	0	0	400	0	0%
Large Equipment	1,000	73	500	1,000	0	0%
Computer Software	500	185	200	500	0	0%
Employee Mileage	200	0	0	200	0	0%
Commissioner Mileage	1,800	755	1,000	1,800	0	0%
Airfare/Public Transportation	500	0	0	500	0	0%
Accommodations/Travel	4,000	2,270	2,270	4,000	0	0%
Auto Allowance	5,400	4,154	5,400	5,400	0	0%
Training/Conf Registration	4,500	3,790	3,790	4,500	0	0%
Utilities	4,000	3,112	4,000	4,000	0	0%
Car/Vehicle Rentals	1,000	916	916	1,300	300	30%
Postage	1,000	160	200	1,000	0	0%
Custodian	1,000	640	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Copying	800	0	400	800	0	0%
ITD-SAP/Board Chambers	850	0	700	850	0	0%
Phones	2,600	1,198	2,400	2,800	200	8%
County Auditor	8,247	8,247	8,247	8,511	264	3%
Insurance/Worker Comp/Property/Liability	8,000	7,632	7,632	12,500	4,500	56%
Legal Counsel/Other Co Billings	24,000	10,550	16,550	25,200	1,200	5%
Subtotal Services & Supplies	127,097	85,755	106,899	144,361	17,264	14%
Total Expenses	671,625	494,498	628,218	609,213	-62,412	-9.3%

A good deal of the overhead listed in the detail here could be eliminated.

A fourth option would be to use an independent contractor as opposed to career benefited government employees. There are a number of free lancers around who are LAFCO and Cortese/Knox experts, who could do it for \$300,000 instead of \$600,000. In fact, the Commission might find someone who is both a LAFCO expert and an attorney. In an emerging epoch where revenues are likely to plunge, why not take the opportunity to save?

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board meeting of Tuesday, April 7, 2020 (Canceled)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

COVID-19 Operations

Absent the presence of Board Chairman Adam Hill, County Administrative Officer Wade Horton and County Health Officer Penny Borenstein have been the face of the County in explaining the planning and operations for COVID-19 AKA Wuhan Flu. At some point someone realized that the peoples' elected leaders were not included, and they have been cycling the other four Supervisors through the daily media briefings. There is a fairly elaborate website dedicated to the operation, which presents statistics, operational developments, preparations in case it develops beyond the ability of the normal hospital system's capacity, and so forth. It is updated daily with statistics and a daily news release that summarizes the County activities.

<https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/covid19.aspx>

From what we can tell, they are doing everything they can to prevent the spread and to provide surge capacity if the infection rate increases very rapidly later in April or beyond.

Separately, Board Vice-Chair Lynn Compton is running a weekday COVID-19 update on her personal FACEBOOK account. It is quite informative and is receiving substantial public comment and approval. From reading the comments, it is clear that the public appreciates the direct communication from their elected representative. These can be accessed at the link below or directly on FACEBOOK for those who are subscribers.

https://business.facebook.com/lynncomptonslo/?ref=py_c

This is a good summary, which she is sending out Monday through Friday.

Supervisor Hill Speculation & Box Score & Depressed Leaders In Bad Times

This Week: As noted above Supervisor Adam Hill resigned his Board Chairmanship on Saturday evening April 11, 2020.

Last Week: The Board meeting was canceled. The staff had been diverted to managing the COVID-19 problems and is not bringing forward major business items. Hence, the Supervisor Hill situation remains in limbo. Vice Chair-Compton is providing leadership beyond the bureaucratic versions. According to the CalCoastNews, on April 8th, Hill's wife Dee Torres took some sort of legal action to attach the Supervisor's retirement account. This could portend several future paths, including his possible regular retirement or perhaps an application for a disability retirement. On the other hand it could be that they agreed to protect Torres in the future.

Separately, the Republican Party of SLO County sent out an alert encouraging people to request that the Board of Supervisors remove Supervisor Hill as Chairman of the Board. Unsurprisingly, and without even doing a news story, the San Luis Obispo Tribune immediately jumped on this idea editorially with all four feet, calling it a "Cheap Shot." All the while and simultaneously, they were saying that they have questions about Hill's behavior, treatment of others, and past eruptions. Nevertheless they are quick to continue to provide air cover. Is it OK to do bad things as a public official if you are severely depressed? If someone else committed some minor politically incorrect faux pas, such as admiring a colleague's clothing, the left and Tribune would be yowling for disciplinary action. Perhaps the Tribune and McClatchy empire subscribe to the depressed leader theory:

DOES BEING SERIOUSLY DEPRESSED MAKE YOU A BETTER LEADER?

BY FREDERICK ALLEN

Yes, when times get tough. Even being mentally ill can help. That's according to Nassir Ghaemi, a Tufts University psychiatry professor, in [an article](#) in *The Wall Street Journal* adapted from his new book, *A First-Rate Madness: Uncovering the Links Between Leadership and Mental Illness*. He says mentally healthy people make fine leaders when times are good and the challenges are easy, but "in times of crisis and tumult, those who are mentally abnormal, even ill, become

the greatest leaders. We might call this the Inverse Law of Sanity."

He points out that the perfectly competent and sane Neville Chamberlain, prime minister of England, couldn't handle the approach of World War II, and had to relinquish leadership to the manic-depressive and sometimes suicidal Winston Churchill. Abraham Lincoln, Mohandas Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr., also showed signs of serious mental instability and were greater leaders than any normal people could have been, Ghaemi says.

Likewise in business: "The sanest of CEOs may be just right during prosperous times, allowing the past to predict the future. But during a period of change, a different kind of leader—quirky, odd, even mentally ill—is

more likely to see business opportunities that others cannot imagine."

Why should this be?

"Normal" nondepressed persons have what psychologists call "positive illusion"—that is, they possess a mildly high self-regard, a slightly inflated sense of how much they control the world around them.

Mildly depressed people, by contrast, tend to see the world more clearly, more as it is. In one classic study, subjects pressed a button and observed whether it turned on a green light, which was actually controlled by the researchers. Those who had no depressive symptoms consistently overestimated their control over the light; those who had some depressive symptoms realized they had little control. . . .

Great crisis leaders are not like the rest of us; nor are they like mentally healthy leaders. When society is happy, they toil in sadness, seeking help from friends and family and doctors as they cope with an illness that can be debilitating, even deadly. Sometimes they are

up, sometimes they are down, but they are never quite well.

When traditional approaches begin to fail, however, great crisis leaders see new opportunities. When the past no longer guides the future, they invent a new future. When old questions are unanswerable and new questions unrecognized, they create new solutions. They are realistic enough to see painful truths, and when calamity occurs, they can lift up the rest of us.

Their weakness is the secret of their strength.

Ghaemi illustrates his thesis with details from the careers of Lincoln and Churchill. Does the theory suggest that George W. Bush may have been too cheerfully normal to recognize the hazards of plunging into two wars at once? That Barack Obama is too normal to take charge of events as aggressively as some has thought he should? I for one would put both Bush and Obama in the camp of the relatively sane and not neurotic, knowing, of course, nothing of their interior lives. What do you think?

Frederick E Allen became the Leadership Editor of Forbes in December 2008, just as the American business world was crashing down and taking the jobs and homes of millions with it. This article was first published in Forbes in 2012.

San Luis Obispo County is not in a crisis that beckons depressed leadership but don't be surprised if the Tribune and progressive left proffer this bit of psychological hype soon.

Two Weeks Ago: On Monday March 30, 2020 Supervisor Hill issued a news release to the SLO Tribune. Several Tribune articles have since then resulted. According to the articles (so far the actual news release does not seem available generally), Supervisor Hill stated that he did attempt suicide. He also stated that he wished to return to the job he loves. There is some speculation that his wife Dee Torres actually prepared the release. In that case it is not known if Hill actually authorized it. Some cynics theorized that she wants to keep him employed so that he can keep his County health insurance. In any case, he reportedly indicated that he was depressed because of the stress of the reelection process.

This in turn has generated more speculation and questions:

1. Hill seemed ebullient during the Board meeting of March 10th, by which time it was becoming clear that he had eked out a narrow victory over Stacey Korsgaden. He cheerfully presided over the meeting, glad-handed people in the audience, and was courteous to the other Board members. The next day, after the after the FBI raided his home and office under provisions of a sealed warrant, he attempted suicide because he was “depressed.”
2. The question then arises whether he was actually depressed by the election campaign or the import of the FBI raids. An important underlying question is whether he is a subject or a witness in the FBI investigation.
3. Is he healthy enough to resume his duties as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, particularly given the COVID-19 operations and major uncertainty about the ultimate rate of infection and ability of the County to deal with the impacts while at the same time running its normal operations? Add an earthquake, public power shutdowns, large conflagration, civil unrest, other Supervisors becoming sick and incapacitated, or a combination of any of these. Should someone who is vulnerable be filling a slot on the Board, let alone serving as the chief elected official? Should he be the spokesperson and leader of the County in a major health/public safety crisis? For example, suppose the County needs to make a special plea for aid to the Governor or another agency, would Hill have the necessary stature and credibility at this point?
4. There is also the issue of the FBI investigation. Hill may not be a suspect, or whatever is alleged may be found not to have happened. He could be a witness or could have been thought to have records or materials pertaining to a suspect. The press release said that he was cooperating with the FBI. This could mean anything from helping them on the case or to ratting out accomplices in some alleged illegal activity to obtain a lesser charge.
5. Hill was reportedly on a 5150 psychiatric hold for several days. This is a short-term process to confine patients who are determined to be a danger to themselves and/or others.

6. If the seat becomes vacant, the Governor appoints the successor. As noted below in the background section, there had been some speculation that Pismo Beach City Councilman and Coastal Commissioner Eric Howell, a Democrat, might be a potential appointee. Alarmingly, we have heard that SLO Mayor Heidi Harmon might have a shot.

7. All of this combined with Hill's erratic and repeated bullying behavior puts a cloud over the entire Board of Supervisors and senior management. So far and prior to this latest episode, the Board has refused to undertake an investigation of Hill's other repeated irruptions. Even if the FBI investigation evaporates, the basic ongoing problem remains.

Three Weeks Ago: Supervisor Hill did not attend the March 26 Board meeting. Recent news reports indicate that his home was also raided by FBI agents simultaneously with his office back on March 11th. Staffers reportedly attempted to locate him to sign an emergency Declaration as Board Chairman but were unsuccessful.

Four Weeks Ago: As of Saturday, March 21, no new information had been provided. The County's top of the list website public information posting, in addition to COVID-19, concerned an airline that has cancelled service to Las Vegas.

Five Weeks Ago: So far (and as of Saturday, March 14, 2020), the County had provided no official explanation of what happened to its Board Chairman, his medical condition, his whereabouts, when he might return to duty, or anything else. A spokesperson simply stated that he had been released from the hospital and was currently under a physician's care. The County justifies this lack of information on the basis of privacy concerns. This is bizarre, as Hill is the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors (the highest elected local official in the County) and has demonstrated successive episodes of erratic behavior over the years. Once someone takes on the mantle of visible public office, he or she forsakes the usual confidentiality customs. Hill is not exactly a Typist I in a remote office.

As a result there is much speculation.

Background: On March 11, FBI agents arrived at the County Administration building before opening hour and tossed Hills's office. Later that day medical units were dispatched to Hill's residence. It is alleged that the police had to break the door down to enter, and the Hill was found unconscious, a suspected suicide attempt.

You would think that the County would have access to the presenting diagnosis by the paramedics, and, Health Information Privacy Act concerns aside, it would inform the public of the status of its chief elected official.

County leadership and the SLO Tribune (which has gone out of its way to provide air cover for Hill for years) are going along as if he had an appendicitis or wrist fracture.

Meanwhile speculation about a successor has ramped up with the notion that if the position were to become vacant, Pismo City Councilman and Coastal Commissioner Eric Howell would be a likely pick for appointment by Governor Newsom. On the other hand folks could walk into the next Board meeting and find Hill smiling and glad-handing as if nothing had ever happened. It is of course unknown if the FBI will make a case or if arrests and indictments will come down.

Economic Recovery Efforts

As the front line County forces are dealing with the pandemic, the REACH Project (Reach, Recovery, Resilience - the former Hourglass Project) and the Economic Vitality Corporation (EVC) are mobilizing to assist the business community survive and then recover from the COVID-19 lockdown. Since last week the REACH site has been updated at:

https://www.recoverslo.org/en/covid19.aspx?fbclid=IwAR0qaBTsfvE1b89W4ZbxfD_ZOAlxcAb-WvtQyb2MMs1YnDxG1DS2vkFSM9U

Details for the EVC are available at: <http://www.sloevc.org/>

Diablo Nuclear Power Plant Closure

It's now time for a full court press on the Governor to lead an effort with PG&E, the California Public Utilities Commission, State Lands Commission, Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the State Legislature to keep Diablo open. The Governor should seek the help of President Trump. At this point the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 will burden the region for years, even if it dies out this summer and doesn't come back next winter. Why close the plant and create another huge economic disaster? It is 2200 MGW of carbon free energy, forestalls 8 million metric tonnes of CO₂ every year, employs 2000 local residents, and generates a total economic impact of \$1 billion per year. President Trump would love to announce saving 2000 jobs and \$1 billion in economic activity in California. He could use the threat of the War Powers Act to get everyone moving. If they don't, he has more Marines than the San Francisco based Newsom/Pelosi/Feinstein mafia.

We hear a rumor that even Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) may wish to count the energy from Diablo as CO₂-free. Oh my, desperation must be setting in. By the way, while PG&E forces are out in the weather maintaining the system, running Diablo, and actually delivering power, MBCP staff his sitting at home so they don't catch Wuhan Flu. How fair is that?

Lockdown Will Slug Local Revenues

Budget Issues: County staff is working hard on the COVID-19 issue. It is likely that the Budget unit is beginning to work up some preliminary scenarios related to budget gaps that will emerge in the current FY 2019-20 fiscal year. These could theoretically continue into the new FY 2020-21 fiscal year if the lockdown continues. Even if the COVID-19 subsides in the summer, it might return next fall and winter. In the meantime, critical County General Fund revenues will decline due to the COVID-19 societal lockdown.

Financing Sources and Uses Summary

Description	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Final	2019-20 Recommended
Financing Sources				
Taxes	190,477,203	204,280,821	204,966,418	215,322,816
Licenses and Permits	11,349,270	11,154,935	10,679,550	12,370,090
Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties	4,245,881	5,008,443	5,122,351	5,174,734
Revenue from Use of Money & Property	4,789,471	5,846,742	2,585,999	3,443,565
Intergovernmental Revenues	243,182,942	258,580,140	272,009,700	276,944,504
Charges for Services	33,936,446	35,048,698	32,625,695	31,323,821
Other Revenues	37,050,514	41,501,459	31,208,699	28,314,726
Fund Balance	0*	0*	39,697,042	30,080,897
Use of Reserves & Designations	0*	0*	8,202,936	5,241,686
Other Financing Sources	51,426,638	41,081,357	23,988,323	25,155,998
Decreases to Fund Balance	0	0	0	0
*cancellation of reserves and designations and use of fund balance included in Other Financial Sources				
Total Financing Sources	576,458,365	602,502,595	631,096,713	633,372,837

The table above summarizes the general categories of County revenue. Within these are specific revenues which are being negatively impacted by the economic lockdown. Depending on the length of the lockdown, the County will have to consider staffing and service reductions as it did during the 2010 recession. If the COVID-19 pandemic does not ebb and the lockdown is prolonged, the damage will compound. Some specific revenues which will be impacted in the near term.

Revenue	2020 Budget
Sales Tax	\$11,780,000
TOT Tax	11,181,886
Camping Fees	3,999,052
Building Pmt. fees	1,973,956
Plan Check Fees	1,902,437
Property Trans tax	3,497,500
Land use permits	2,617,494
Prop 172 Sales tax	26,598,563
Traffic School fees	\$1,300,000
Total	\$64, 850,888

A 30% decline in these fees and taxes would necessitate a \$19,455,266 reduction in the FY2020 -21 budget for next year when the full impact could be realized. Current year reductions during March and the 4th quarter will be less but will also have an impact. The State is allowing businesses to defer sales taxes.

Looking out a little bit longer and compounding the problems of declining revenue are impacts on the property taxes, especially if people cannot afford to pay them. Lurking beyond these problems is the potential of large pension cost increases if the stock market losses remain or continue downward.

Again, the prime directive should be to keep Diablo open. After all, with companies such as Mindbody laying off or furloughing 700 local employees, the politicians might wake up. How many not-for-profits, churches, small special districts, and cities may simply collapse?



KEEP THE LIGHTS ON

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

WHY IS THE LEFT EXPLOITING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS THEY HAVE DONE WITH THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS?

The authoritarian left is exploiting the Chi-Com Virus pandemic in the same way they have always done with climate change crisis. Why?

BY THOMAS SOWELL

Leftists can never overtly implement the ancient ideas of their socialist national agenda. They are non-functional at best and genocidal at worst. So they always need the expedient of a 'serious crisis'

to push them through. These range from the Reichstag fire of national socialist worker's party Germany to the current crisis with the Chi-Com Virus.

Ideas that are absurd in normal times such as effectively locking up the innocent and releasing the guilty or decreeing basic human rights as 'non-essential' seem to be able to pass muster in the midst of an emergency.

People who enjoy the exercise of power should not be in charge of anything

That is a paraphrasing of a Thomas Sowell quote: "People who enjoy the exercise of power should not be in charge of anything." It goes along with the often referenced quote of Robert A. Heinlein: "The human race divides politically into those who want people to be controlled and those who have no such desire."

While there are many such as our president, that reluctantly wield governmental power, others relish the exercise. Perhaps they may think of themselves as doing good, but that doesn't change the fact that they are micromanaging everyone's life down to the smallest detail.

Authoritarian is as Authoritarian does

If anything, this pandemic has finally revealed to all that leftists value control over everything else – including the cause of liberty. While many relish the issuing of dictates over everyone's daily life, they especially enjoy shutting down the nemesis to their collective power – the basic human right of self-defense.

It didn't matter to them that they were flying in the face of the founding documents. They supposedly know better than the experience of thousands of years of history.

Never mind that it's like its close ideological kissing cousin, socialism, liberty control has never worked. They simply assert that as true and hope the people they rule over don't check the numbers. It sounds emotionally true, so it has to be so.

It should be noted that were their cause ideologically pure, they would have no need to base it on lies and obfuscations. It's always a one-sided argument with the liberty grabbers of the authoritarian socialist left. The incessantly rant on deaths from firearms but never balance the discussion with the fact that guns save far more lives than are taken. Not to mention that they incessantly lie about gun confiscation being their ultimate goal when that has always been the case.

The authoritarian socialist left never lets a good crisis go to waste

What is truly fascinating is that the pandemic has become the new version of the climate crisis. Consider that both are emergencies that require a tremendous expansion of governmental power with an accompanying wealth redistribution scheme.

Both are driven by mathematical models of what is going to happen in the future with dire consequences, if we fail to do something NOW without a second thought. Never mind the implications for individual rights and liberty for the future.

The dire predictions are designed to gather clicks and scare people into agreeing with ever-increasing impositions on liberty. The word is always that we can't wait to argue, just listen to our experts and submit to the suppression of your liberty.

After all, it's a matter of placing the [Common Good Before Individual Good](#) or [Gemeinnutz vor Eigennutz](#) in the original version of [National Socialist German Workers' Party](#) Germany emblazoned on its coinage.

The Chi-Com Virus pandemic is the new climate change crisis

Tucker Carlson of Fox news produced a commentary entitled: [We must ask the experts how they screwed up the coronavirus models so badly](#). He made the point that if the experts messed up their predictions – as they have done with Global cooling – why should we listen to them now? Especially when the same leftists are talking about doing permanent damage to the economy, damage that will see far more lives being lost.

Now, it's time to look ahead. If the virus is doing less systemic damage to our system than expected, then presumably, we can begin to consider how to improve the lives of the rest, the countless Americans who have been grievously hurt by this, by our response to this.

How do we get 17 million of our most vulnerable citizens back to work? That's our task. Other countries are already hard at work doing it.

We're not even talking about doing it because we're not allowed to. Any discussion of how we might transition out of the shutdown back into normal life for some reason has become taboo in this country.

Go ahead and raise the question. You'll find yourself denounced as a tool of Wall Street who doesn't care about human life, often denounced by pro-choice activists who are happy to accept cash from corporate America. But the layers of irony are, of course, bottomless.

He then goes on to point out that many on the left are talking about a permanent change because of this crisis that sounds eerily similar to the bovine excreta used to sell the ‘Green New Deal’.

He concludes with the point that if the same people who made these dire predictions can’t explain their failure, then they should be excluded from dictating policy to the rest of us.

The time scale problem: The big difference between the Chi-Com Virus and the climate change crisis

The difficulty for the nation’s socialist left is that Chi-Com Virus pandemic presents a golden opportunity, but a terrible downside for their panic-inducing predictions. We, of course, mourn for all of the lives that have been lost during this time, but these shouldn’t be used for political purposes as the left always does. While at the same time condemning anyone doing exactly what they are doing.

The serious crisis of ~~Global cooling~~, ~~Global warming~~, ~~climate change~~, climate change crisis, always had a time scale of 10 – 20 years. The good news for the left is that no one remembers those dire predictions after a few years. So they can make them over and over without having to worry about damaging their credibility. The bad news is that people aren’t properly panicked with these predictions.

That is reversed with the Chi-Com Virus pandemic; the dire predictions are in weeks, not years, while they can exploit these possibilities to panic into accepting all kinds of restrictions on their liberty.

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The bottom line: The people aren't going to put up with this that much longer

There have been many leftists who have eagerly salivated at the new-found powers at their disposal in this crisis. At the stroke of a virtual pen, they have temporally swept away whole swaths of the Bill of Rights. Except for the freedom of the press, that one is sacrosanct to the national socialist media.

Never mind that some of these new restrictions on liberty make absolutely no sense at all, such as the decision to deem a basic the human right of self-defense as 'non-essential' in light of the fact that leftists are now letting criminals out of their own versions of social distancing – prison.

There are many a leftist that has openly admitted to trying to exploit this crisis to empower themselves, just as they do with every mass murder tragedy. If they can't be honest about their predictions and what it will do for them, they should be dismissed from controlling the lives of everyone else.

Thomas Sowell is the Rose and Milton Friedman Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. This article first appeared in the Hoover Daily Report of April 10, 2020.

WHY CENTRAL PLANNING BY MEDICAL EXPERTS WILL LEAD TO DISASTER

BY GARY GALLES



A great deal of the coverage of the COVID-19 crisis has been apocalyptic. That is partly because “if it bleeds, it leads.” But it is also because some of the medical experts with media megaphones have

put forward potentially catastrophic scenarios and drastic plans to deal with them, reinforced by assertions that the rest of us should “listen to the experts,” because only they know enough to determine policy. Unfortunately, those experts don’t know enough to determine appropriate policies.

Doctors, infectious disease specialists, epidemiologists, etc. know more things about diseases, their courses, what increases or decreases their rate of spread, and so on than most. But the most crucial of that information has been browbeaten into the rest of us by now. Limited and imperfect testing also means that the available statistics may be very misleading (e.g., is an uptick in reported cases real or the result of an increasing rate of, or more accuracy in, testing, which is crucial to determining the likely future course COVID-19?). Further, to the extent that the virus's characteristics are unique, no one knows exactly what will happen. All of that makes “shut up and listen” advice less compelling.

More important, however, may be that in making recommendations to address COVID-19, those with detailed knowledge of the disease (the experts we have been told to obey) do *not* have sufficient knowledge of the consequences of their “solutions” for the economy and society to know what the costs will be. That means that they don’t know enough to accurately compare the benefits to the costs. In particular, because of their relative unawareness of the many margins at which effects will be felt, the medical experts we are being told to follow will likely underestimate those costs. When combined with their natural desire to solve the medical problem, however severe it might get, this can lead to overly draconian proposals.

This issue has been brought to the fore by the increasing number of people who have begun questioning the likelihood of the apocalyptic scenarios driving the “OMG! We need to do everything that might help” tweetstorms, on the one hand, and those who are emphasizing that “shutting down the economy” is far more costly than planners recognized, on the other.

Those who have brought up such issues (how long before they are called “COVID deniers”?) have been pilloried for it. Exhibit A is the vilification of President Trump for “ignoring the scientists,” such as the *New York Times*'s claim that “Trump thinks he knows better than the doctors” after he tweeted that “We cannot let the cure be worse than the problem itself.”

One major problem with such attacks is the substantial literature documenting the adverse health effects of worsening economic conditions. For just one example, an analysis of the 2008 economic meltdown in *The Lancet* estimated that it “was associated with over 260,000 excess cancer deaths in the OECD alone, between 2008–2010.” That is a massive “detail” to ignore in forming policy.

In other words, the tradeoff is not just a matter of lives lost versus money, as it is often portrayed as being (e.g., New York governor Cuomo’s assertion that “we’re not going to put a dollar figure on human life”). It is a tradeoff between lives lost due to COVID and lives that will be lost due to the policies adopted to reduce COVID deaths.

Larry O’Connor put this well at *Townhall* when he wrote:

Why should the scientific analysis of doctors solely focusing on the spread of the coronavirus carry more weight than the very real scientific analysis of the deadly

health ramifications of shutting down our economy? Doesn't the totality of the data make the argument for a balanced approach to this crisis?

This issue reminds me of a classic discussion of specialists and planning in chapter 4 of F.A. Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*. "The Inevitability of Planning" is well worth noting today:

Almost every one of the technical ideals of our experts could be realized...if to achieve them were made the sole aim of humanity.

We all find it difficult to bear to see things left undone which everybody must admit are both desirable and possible. That these things cannot all be done at the same time, that any one of them can be achieved only at the sacrifice of others, can be seen only by taking into account factors which fall outside any specialism...[which] forces us to see against a wider background the objects to which most of our labors are directed.

Every one of the many things which, considered in isolation, it would be possible to achieve...creates enthusiasts for planning who feel confident...[of] the value of the particular objective...But it is...foolish to quote such instances of technical excellence in particular fields as evidence of the general superiority of planning.

The hopes they place in planning...are the result not of a comprehensive view of society but rather of a very limited view and often the result of a great exaggeration of the importance of the ends they place foremost...it would make the very men who are most anxious to plan society the most dangerous if they were allowed to do so—and the most intolerant of the planning of others...there could hardly be a more unbearable—and much more irrational—world than one in which the most eminent specialists in each field were allowed to proceed unchecked with the realization of their ideals.

Panic has seldom improved the rationality of decision-making (beyond the "fight or flight" reaction to facing a "man-eater," when to stop and think means certain death). However, much of media coverage has fed panic. But the illogical and intemperate media attacks against those questioning the rationality of draconian "solutions" drown out, rather than enable, objective discussion of real tradeoffs. And if "Democracy dies in darkness," as the *Washington Post* proclaims, we should remember that it does not require total darkness. The same conclusion follows when people are kept in the dark about major aspects of the reality they face.

Gary M. Galles is a professor of economics at Pepperdine University. He is the author of *The Apostle of Peace: The Radical Mind of Leonard Read*.

CA HYDROLOGIST WANTS ALL ENVIRO FARM WATER LAWS ‘LOCKED-DOWN’ AFTER COVID-19 CRISIS OVER

BY WAYNE LUSVARDI



Hydrologist Robert Shibatani. (Photo: LinkedIn)

‘This is not the time for touchy feely, superfluous environmental preservation, conservation, and recovery ideals’

Sacramento Hydrologist Robert Shibatani is calling for an across-the-board moratorium on federal and state environmental laws so California’s Central Valley farm communities can recover from the economic losses imposed during the coronavirus crisis.

Central Valley hydrologist Robert Shibatani didn’t water down his words in a March 31, 2020 letter he wrote to Maven’s Notebook, an online source of California water news, regarding his views about the need to deregulate water and environmental laws after the coronavirus crisis:

“I would advocate peeling back many of the environmental regulatory requirements and attempt to isolate and leave the skeletal prerequisites of water delivery to the citizenry. This is not the time for “touchy feely,” superfluous environmental preservation, conservation, and recovery ideals... I would also support lockdowns or ‘shelvings’ on all endangered species act procedures overseen by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service.”

Shibatani really drove his point home when he wrote:

“I suspect much of the now unemployed population would not be overly happy to hear that Federal/State employees are still conducting creel census’ or species surveys, and cannabis cultivation at taxpayer expense, while they have lost their jobs.”

Farming is exempted from Gov. Newsom’s non-essential business shutdown Executive Order N-33-20. California’s Central Valley has had 288 cases of coronavirus and 9 deaths out of a population of 2,067,373, reflecting 0.01 percent (1/100 of one percent of the population).

In 2018, the Central Valley had 7,546 cases and about 200 deaths from Valley Fever, which mainly hits people who have weakened immune systems. There were over 20,000 cases of Valley Fever in 2011, an illness from airborne fungus in soil. Farmers and businesses cannot be quarantined from dust storms.

Wants Laws and Programs “Shelved”

Among the water laws, procedures and regulatory boards Shibatani wants put aside are:

- Bay-Delta and California Water Plan
- Integrated Regional Water Management Plans
- The State Water Quality Resources Board suspension of wetlands policy, suction dredge mining, cannabis cultivation regulation, Drinking Water Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP), permitting/licensing, clean beaches, operator certification
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance by the National Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permits to put fill material into a river.
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for water and waste-water projects.

Political Ideologies Must Be Set Aside

Shibatani added:

“Having said that, under these trying times, it is incumbent on regulators, elected leaders, as well the industry to take a hard look at what bare water essentials are absolutely vital. In the California context for example, as one of the most heavily regulated States in the country, we have to ask whether all of the various regulations, policies, programs, and processes are genuinely critical in order to healthily maintain human livelihood during these unprecedented times.”

We have before us a clear and present danger. The decisions we make must be based on current reality, untainted by agency or personal bias and, while unlikely, decisions must also be based without political tinkering from the Capitol. Until we, as a global society, get control of this horrific pandemic, ideologies, whether steeped in conservatism or progressiveness, and all of the fidelity that go along with either, must be pushed aside. This is no time for partisanship.”

Newsom Plays his Trump-Trump, Trump Card

California and the Federal government have been at odds for decades over whether Democrat constituencies of Los Angeles and so-called endangered fish or Republican-backed valley farmers get extra water in a dry year. In February President Trump signed a memorandum giving more federal water to farmers.

Not to be one-upped, California Gov. Newsom has recently issued orders to set limits back, purportedly to protect endangered fish that have resulted in political push, by both environmentalists and state water contractors for big cities.

But fish often serve as a political poster child for diverting water to Los Angeles during dry years.

As senior scientist for the San Francisco Baykeeper, Jon Rosenfield, has stated: “I think the Newsom administration is employing some cold, political triangulation and their position is that, ‘We don’t want to protect our endangered species, we don’t want to protect water quality in the delta or the San Francisco Bay estuary fisheries, we just have to be better than Trump”.

Triangulation is a strategy in which a politician positions their policy between the right and the left by adopting some of their opponent’s solutions so as to weaken the opposition by co-opting voters in their favor.

But the coronavirus decimation of the economy may throw a monkey wrench into Newsom’s triangulation strategy. Last year 90 percent of California was considered drought free. This year has been a drier, and more normal, year so far. If a moratorium on environmental laws is enacted as a result of the coronavirus public health shutdown of the economy, that may also mean that the gains from the California Water Conservation Act of 2009, which called for a 20 percent reduction in urban water use by 2020, which has mostly been met, could be set reversed.

Wayne Lusvardi formerly worked for California’s largest urban water agency and lives in Rancho Mirage



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