

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE AUGUST 9 - 15, 2020

THIS WEEK

COVID NOT GOING AWAY

COUNTY COUNSEL UP FOR NEW 4-YEAR TERM

HEARING NOTICE FOR PASO WATER MORATORIUM FOR AUG. 18TH NEEDS MAP AND CLARITY MAJOR POLICY IMPACTS ON BASIN OVERLIERS

INTEGRATED WATER PLAN NEEDS TO BE CONTINUED TO HEARING ITEM 429 PAGES OF POLICY ON CONSENT CALENDAR & IMPACTS AIRED OUT

INTEGRATED WASTE AUTHORITY LITE GIVING OUT PATRONAGE TO ENVIRO GROUPS

PLANNING COMMISSION WORKS ON LOS OSOS LAND USE AND CIRCULATION PLAN

LAST WEEK

DEATH OF SUPERVISOR ADAM HILL SUSPECTED SUICIDE – UNDER LOCAL INVESTIGATION AS OF AUGUST 9TH

STATUS OF SEPARATE PRIOR INVESTIGATIONS BY FBI AND PERHAPS OTHERS IS NOT PUBLIC AND MAY NEVER BE REVEALED

WAS HILL A SUBJECT, WITNESS, OR INFORMER?

COUNTY GOVERNMENT ROLLS ON ROUTINELY AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED

SLO DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE COLUMNIST & CONSULTANT TOM FULKS POLITICIZES THE DEATH AS MARTYRDOM BY CONSERVATIVES

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

SLOCOG LITE

PARENT LED MICRO-POD SCHOOLS

FAINT GLIMMERS OF A BETTER SYSTEM & END OF THE GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY

COASTAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW COUNTY HEMP REGULATIONS

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 21

THE FINANCIAL POWER OF CALIFORNIA'S GOVERNMENT UNIONS

BY EDWARD RING ***********

FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU LOVE

Why I stay in San Francisco BY ERICA SANDBERG

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, August 11, 2020 (Scheduled)

Item 1 - Update on COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County. The Board will receive its weekly report on the trends, steps to reduce the infection rate, and potential future actions. With schools on distance learning, there are likely to be a variety of impacts on County funded and operated services involving children, youth, and parents. These will include nutrition, mental health, physical health, child care, income maintenance, Cal Fresh (food stamps), and unemployment.

Daily COVID-19 Cases

Daily New Cases

It now appears that the new hospitalizations have increased slightly in proportion to the growth of new cases. This will be the key trend to watch.

Daily New ICU Cases			
60			
40			
20			
0 32 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	5/5/25/25/25/25/25/25/25/2	11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-	6 130 813 811

Fortunately, the ICU cases have remained relatively low.

Item 4 - Request to review and approve standby officers as designated in the County Emergency Operations Plan and required by County Code.

Item 11 - Submittal of a resolution reappointing Rita L. Neal as County Counsel for a succeeding four-year term beginning September 30, 2020. Under California law county boards of supervisors appoint their county counsels for 4-year terms. This came about because there were some counties that would fire them out of hand for giving opinions that they did not like. This in turn led to mistakes and costly lawsuits. The county counsels can be fired only for neglect of duties, misfeasance, or severe mistakes.

Attorney Neal appears to be careful in her opinions and on the surface eschews playing politics. This is proper, but on the other hand this leaves the conservative Board majority without tactical legal advice on many high level issues that are inextricably embedded in value judgments about private property, water rights, behavior of high ranking officials, fees, and so forth. The County Counsel advises the entire Board and must not play favorites or provide separate advice to individuals other than on potential conflicts such as those that might arise under the Brown Act.

If your lawyer is not sympathetic to your policy initiatives, how do you function? It is not known how Attorney Neal actually feels about the issues related to the large societal policy schism which divides American politics and all levels.

On land use matters she seems to be pro-regulation and reads the laws and ordinances in the most restrictive ways. On the infamous 12-lot antiquated subdivision certification matter 2 years ago, her office went out its way to force the owner to suffer de novo a new submission application. Similarly, she has opposed all efforts to investigate the various citizen and employee complaints against Supervisor Adam Hill which accumulated over more than a decade. Both she and a previous County Administrator engineered a pass for Supervisor Gibson and his then girlfriend/Legislative Assistant by first assigning her to another job, which violated civil service rules, and then opining that he could appoint her back to her original job in Gibson's office. In the meantime the County fired a Public Works Director for apparently asking some of the younger women out for coffee. (We never actually knew what happened).

As we have pointed out before, some Board members are concerned that County Counsel and the CEO have taken over and constitute a de facto executive team running operations and making

decisions that should be cleared with the Board in advance. COVID-inspired notices to tourists to stay out of the County and disagreements over personnel matters are rumored.

This then presents a dilemma for a Board majority of any type in obtaining legal advice for executing its overall program. This is actually a general problem for many county executive officers and city managers who are not provided separate legal advice. It undermines their independence and ability to provide recommendations to their respective elected bodies. At least when they tell you that it's cancer and you should have it cut out, you can get a separate opinion.

The write up provides the bare details:

The Board appointed Ms. Neal as County Counsel in September of 2012 pursuant to Government Code section 27640 and again in 2016. Government Code section 27640 identifies the Board of Supervisors as the appointing authority for the position of County Counsel. Pursuant to statute, individuals appointed to this position by the Board serve a renewable four-year term in office.

The current costs of the position are allocated in the department's FY 2020-21 adopted budget. No new appropriations are requested or required to implement this action. The annual salary for County Counsel is \$234,811. Benefits for this position total \$139,768.

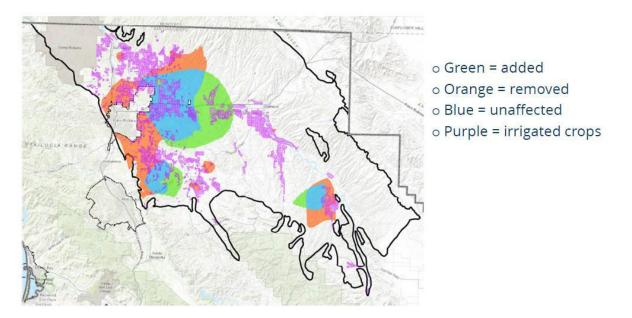
Rita L. Neal will serve as County Counsel for the County of San Luis Obispo through September 29, 2024.

Item 16 – Paso Basin Request to authorize the use of alternative publication procedures for a hearing on August 18, 2020 to consider the following requests by the County of San Luis Obispo 1) an amendment to the County Land Use Ordinance (Title 22 of the County Code) and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (Title 23 of the County Code) as applicable to Cannabis Activities; 2) an amendment to the County Land Use Ordinance and Building and Construction Ordinance (Title 19 of the County Code) to update the mapping boundaries for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and clarify fallowing requirements under the Agricultural Offset Ordinance; 3) an amendment to the Land Use Ordinance and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance to revise the County's Sign Ordinance to be consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court decision Reed v. Town of Gilbert regarding content neutrality; and 4) an urgency ordinance to extend the expiration dates for land use permits and land use permit applications. This is a request to waive the publication of the full text of certain ordinance revisions, including the cannabis regulatory ordinance, the Paso Basin water moratorium ordinance, and the signage regulations. The idea is to save money that would be spent displaying the full and lengthy text of these ordinances. This is probably okay because most people aren't going to read them anyway unless they are particularly interested.

One of the Paso Basin issues is a staff recommendation for a major revision to the mapping of those areas which are in severe water level decline. The display ad should include the color coded map to make clear to the public and the overliers that the proposal has severe implications for those who would be included in new areas defined as being in severe decline.

It would also be helpful on the cannabis ordinance to have a map that shows the impact of the proposed 1500-foot prohibition setback of cannabis operations from an existing cannabis operation, and more importantly, urban reserve lines, sensitive receptors, and other exclusionary uses.

Display ads containing the maps (which already exist) might cost more but would make it clear to the stakeholders and general public that these are significant policy changes. This map, below, should be included.



Item 18 - Submittal of resolutions approving the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM) and find that the project is exempt from Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA). It is surprising that this matter is on the consent calendar. It contains major long range policy which can impact land use and development.

To be eligible for state water funding grants, an IRWM plan must periodically be submitted to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) for review and must meet the stringent requirements. It is somewhat analogous to the SLOCOG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in the road and transit universe. At its most general level (the Plan contains 429 very technical pages), the Plan:

- Describes the Region and its water management strategies
- Reviews the Region's water issues (e.g., supply, quality, storage, conveyance, etc.)
- Puts forward strategies to address solutions for those issues
- Suggests actions, programs, and capital projects to carry out those strategies
- Prioritizes and integrates those actions, programs, and capital projects
- Establishes metrics to measure and manage collected data to show the potential improvements, benefits, and impacts of the plan
- Provides a methodology to carry out those actions, programs and capital projects
- Monitors the plan's progress and adjusts when needed

The full Plan can be seen at the link:

https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getattachment/fd41c16f-f29e-4ef0-be2c-cd3e7197ebe3/2019-IRWM-Plan.aspx

The various water groupies in the County study the plan intensively, influence it, and use it to help push whatever policies they support. For our readers with insomnia, download the Plan and read it at night.

The table below on the next page is a high-level summary of the changes made in updating the 2014 IRWM Plan to the 2019 IRWM Plan.

PLEASE CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE:



San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) 2/14/2020

Summary of Changes 2014 IRWM Plan to 2019 IRWM Plan

This table is a high-level summary of the changes made in updating the 2014 IRWM Plan to the 2019 IRWM Plan. The District encourages reviewing Appendix L – State Guidelines Requirements Table to see the extensive list of DWR requirements for the plan, what section meets the requirement and a brief qualitative explanation.

Section	Title	Type of change, if any	Description	
1	Introduction	Minor	General updates. No structural changes to section.	
2	Governance and Stakeholder Involvement	Significant	Section now includes Stakeholder Integration and Plan Implementation subsections to meet Guidelines. Also includes Outreach and Communication Plan	
3	Region Description	Significant	Watersheds updated from CalWater boundaries to USGS Hydrologic Units. Added water quality issues, per Guidelines. Updated Groundwater subsection to reflect SGMA.	
4	IRWM Goals and Objectives	Minor	Updated goals and objectives to reflect SGMA. Updated survey information.	
5	Resource Management Strategies	Significant	Replaced "water management strategies" with the State's "Resource Management Strategies"	
6	Project Review Process	Significant	Overhauled based on RWMG efforts in 2018 and 2019 regarding the Implementation List and Grant Opportunity List processes.	
7	Plan Benefits and Impacts	Minor	Updated to reflect current project list, no structural changes to section.	
8	Plan Performance and Monitoring Results	Minor	Updated to reflect current project list, no structural changes to section.	
9	Data Management	Minor	Updated to reflect current practices and upcoming new systems, no structural changes to section.	
10	Financing Strategies	Minor	Updated to reflect current opportunities and project list, no structural changes to section.	
11	Technical Analysis	Minor	Updated to reflect latest technical studies and reports, no structural changes to section.	
12	Relation to Local Water and Land Use Planning	Minor	Updated to include GSP efforts and latest agency documents (i.e. UWMPs)	
13	Planning Coordination	Minor	Updated with latest funding area and regional coordination, also reflects GSA formation across region	
14	Climate Change	Significant	Overhauled based on Guidelines requirements. Added the Vulnerability Assessment and Prioritization as required.	

The logic diagram below summarizes the main goals and objectives in a succinct format.

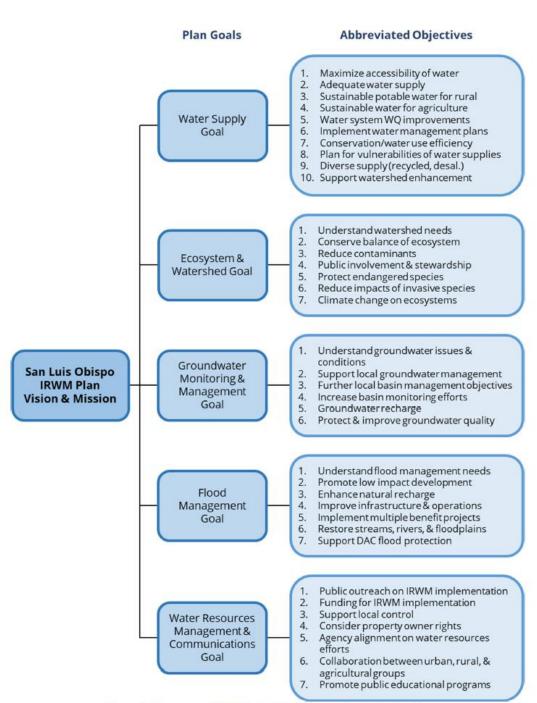


Figure 4-4: Summary of IRWM Goals, Objectives, and Sub-Region Priorities

Various grants, the awardees, and amounts are listed in the table below.

Attachment Z

IRWM Grant Funding Source and Funded Projects	Grant Funding	Status	Project Sponsor	
Prop 50 Planning Grant (2008) - DWR No. 460000450	\$500,000		Troject Sponsor	
Data Enhancement Plan	\$72,500		Flood Control District	
Flood Management Plan	\$55,000		Flood Control District	
Groundwater Banking Plan	\$185,000		Flood Control District	
Regional Permitting Plan	\$187,500		County of San Luis Obispo	
Prop 84 Planning Grant (2012) - DWR No. 4600010061	\$1,000,000		county of same dis obispo	
Update Plan to Meet Standards	\$185,000		Flood Control District	
Identification of Basins Requiring SNMPs	\$15,000		Flood Control District	
	\$200,000		Flood Control District	
Santa Maria Groundwater Basin Study Paso Robles Groundwater Basin SNMP	\$200,000			
Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Model	\$50,000		City of Paso Robles Flood Control District	
			Flood Control District	
Regional Recycled Water Planning	\$200,000			
Watershed Management Planning Pron 15 Stormwater Flood Memt Crant (2011) DWD No. 4600000714t	\$250,000		Upper Salinas/Coastal SLO RCD	
Prop 1E Stormwater Flood Mgmt Grant (2011) - DWR No. 4600009714*		In Progress	Flood Control District	
Flood Control Zone 1/1A - Modified 3a Project	\$2,797,000		Flood Control District	
Prop 84 Implementation Grant (2011) - DWR No. 4600009717		In Progress	County of Con Luis Obieno	
Los Osos Wastewater Project	\$5,945,444		County of San Luis Obispo	
Flood Control Zone 1/1A – Modified 3c Project		In Progress	Flood Control District	
Nipomo Supplemental Water Project	\$2,200,000		Nipomo CSD	
Grant Administration	\$55,556		Flood Control District	
Prop 84 Expedited Drought Grant (2014) - DWR No. 4600010880	\$6,323,610			
CSA 23-AMWC-Garden Farms Emergency Intertie	\$1,404,290		County of San Luis Obispo	
Emergency Turnout	\$255,226		Heritage Ranch CSD	
Emergency Water Supply	\$4,382,255		Cambria CSD	
Grant Administration	\$281,839		Flood Control District	
Prop 84 Implementation Grant (2015) - DWR No. 4600011487	\$3,702,762			
Upper Salinas River Basin Conjunctive Use	\$2,956,796		Templeton CSD	
Well Head Treatment	\$362,431		San Simeon CSD	
Water Resources Reliability Program - Planning Study	\$198,397		Oceano CSD	
Grant Administration	\$185,138		Flood Control District	
Prop 1 Planning Grant (2016) - DWR No. 4600011892	\$204,183			
IRWM Plan Update & Region-Wide Stormwater Resource Plan	\$204,183		FC&WCD, USLTRCD & CSLRCD	
Prop 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement (2017)	-	In Progress		
FCD Funding Administration		In Progress	Flood Control District	
Disadvantaged Community Needs Assessment	\$67,738	In Progress	Flood Control District	
Water Resource Reliability Program, Phase 2 Pre Construction Activities		In Progress	Oceano CSD	
Turnout Pump Station Design and Water Master Plan Update		In Progress	City of Grover Beach	
Water Resource Recovery Facility Project, Value Engineering at 60% Design		Complete	City of San Luis Obipso	
Reservoir Expansion Project Development & Water Master Plan Update		In Progress	San Simeon CSD	
Wastewater Plant Upgrade Study and Recharge Basin Study	\$177,750	Complete	San Miguel CSD	
Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 1 - draft award received 5/7/2020	\$3,282,130			
Grant Administration	\$155,000	Draft Award	Flood Control District	
One Water SLO, MBR/UV Component	\$1,314,530	Draft Award	City of San Luis Obipso	
8th Street Well Construction		Draft Award	Los Osos CSD	
Supplemental Water Project, Final Phase		Draft Award	Nipomo CSD	
Water Resource Reliability Program, Projects #1-1, #1-9	\$274,500	Draft Award	Oceano CSD	
Reservoir Expansion Project - Phase 1 Distribution System	\$500,000	Draft Award	San Simeon CSD	
Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 2 (est. 2021)	\$3,282,129			
Implementation Projects, including DAC Projects	TBD	TBD	Project Sponsors	
Total IRWM Funding Awards Received to date	\$29,088,248	Includes Prop	1 Round 1 Draft Award	
Total IRWM Funding Awards Received (incl. anticipated future awards)	\$32,370,377			

San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Funding Awards Summary May 2020

It is not clear over what time period these were approved.

The Plan document itself makes it clear that policies and provisions of the Plan can impact various jurisdictions' land use policies and can be used to assist or forestall development. Again and through this process, smart growth, greenhouse gas reduction, and other efforts to reformat society are promulgated.

In this regard, the new Plan contains a major new chapter on climate change. The participating jurisdictions must commit to policies and objectives which meet state mandated climate change policies. This insidious process never sees the light of day in the Boardroom and probably not at the city councils and other participating jurisdictions as listed below.

Avila Beach CSD California Men's Colony Cambria CSD Cayucos Sanitary District Central Coast Salmon Enhancement City of Arroyo Grande City of Grover Beach City of Morro Bay City of Paso Robles City of Pismo Beach City of San Luis Obispo Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District County of San Luis Obispo Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District Heritage Ranch CSD Land Conservancy Los Osos CSD Morro Bay National Estuary Program Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee Nipomo CSD Oceano CSD San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District San Miguel CSD San Miguelito Mutual Water Company San Simeon CSD Shandon-San Juan Water District South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District S&T Mutual Water Company Templeton CSD Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

Item 22 - Submittal of department budget reduction plans for FY 2020-21, as directed by the Board of Supervisors during the FY 2020-21 Budget Hearing, and request to approve corresponding budget adjustments as detailed in the recommendations by 4/5 vote. The item

was withdrawn from the agenda last Friday, which is probably good as it contained considerable detail about reductions already made but no strategic big picture. The notice states:

Withdrawal of Item #22 - Submittal of department budget reduction plans for FY 2020-21, as directed by the Board of Supervisors during the FY 2020-21 Budget Hearing, and request to approve corresponding budget adjustments as detailed in the recommendations by 4/5 vote. All Districts. Staff is requesting that this item be postponed to a later date.

Integrated Waste Management Authority of Wednesday, August 12, 2020 (Scheduled)

In General: There are not any large policy matters on the agenda. They do pass out some patronage in the form of contracts for public relations services "education" to favored not-for-profits such as ECOSLO and the Earth Day Committee. The contracts are designed to have these agencies train the public to recycle, use fewer plastics, and otherwise engage in the micro fetishes of the environmental left. Thus some portion of your trash disposal fees end up subsidizing the very organizations that help weave the web of the new green socialist paradise. Remember, they will always be one demand ahead of you.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, August, 13, 2020 (Scheduled)

Item 3 - Hearing to consider a request by Krista Koenig for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2018-00155) to allow for the phased development of multiple cannabis activities. Phase 1 would include the establishment of three acres of outdoor cannabis cultivation, 4,800 square feet of modular trailers for ancillary cannabis processing, a 960 square-foot modular trailer for a non-storefront dispensary service and additional processing, the relocation of two existing 5,000 gallon water tanks, the installation of one new 5,000 gallon water tank, and site improvements including security equipment, fencing, driveway improvements, parking areas, and installation of a restroom and septic system. Phase 2 would include 33,600 square feet of greenhouse to support 22,000 square feet of mixed- light/indoor cultivation, one 8,200 squarefoot greenhouse for a commercial cannabis nursery, and a 960 square foot modular trailer for non-volatile manufacturing activities. The project site is located within the Agriculture land use category at 3919 Huasna Road, approximately five miles northeast of the city of Arroyo Grande in the San Luis Bay (South) sub area of the South County Planning Area. This is an integrated operation with indoor and outdoor cultivation, processing, storage, non-volatile manufacturing, a non-storefront dispensary, and nursery cultivation. The staff recommends issuance of the conditional use permit.

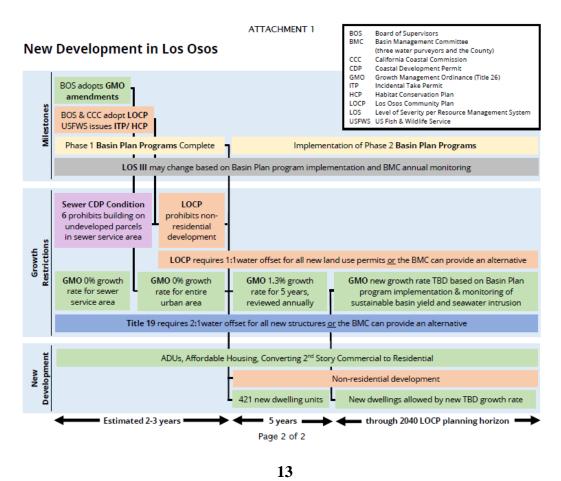


As of this writing there were no comments from neighbors in the file.

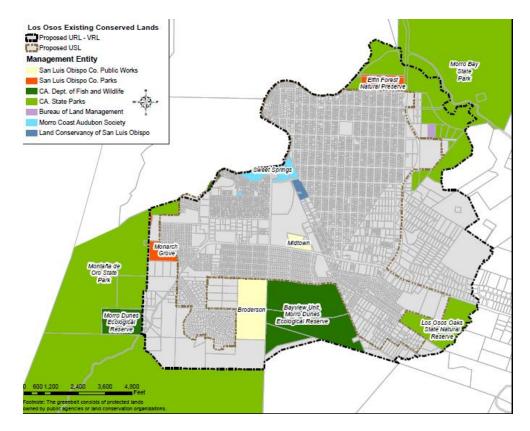
Item 4 - Continued Hearing on the Los Osos General Plan (Land Use and Circulation). The Commission will continue its review of the new Plan prefatory to making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The Commission previously determined to review the Plan in chunks spread over several meetings in order to give the major policy document systemic review over time.

During a prior session, Commissioners directed staff to change some proposed polices and also provide data with respect to some sections. These are summarized below:

1. Develop and present an exhibit showing how the Community Plan would interact with other planning documents and policies to manage growth in Los Osos



The chart suggests that it may be up to three years before any real development takes place, which would be permitted by the Plan notwithstanding the completion of the Los Osos Sewer Plant several years ago.

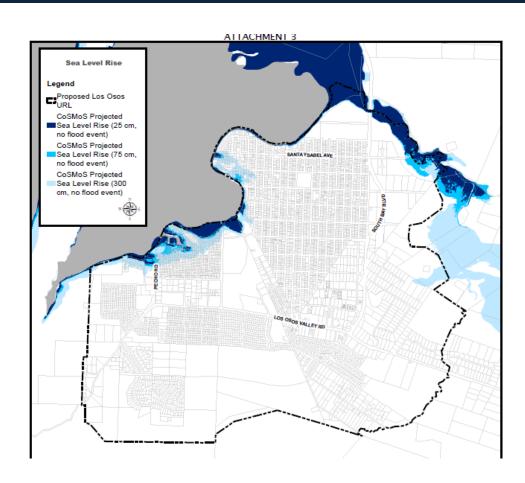


2. Present a map showing the proposed Los Osos Greenbelt

The greenbelt areas combined with the bay pretty much land-lock the community except for a few portions of the east side.

3. Present the Sea Level Rise Map for Los Osos

The projected sea level rise inundation areas will restrict new development and reconstruction of the properties shown in the areas on the map below. Eventually, the County will be required to implement managed retreat – that is removal of structures in the affected areas. This is an emerging mandate from the California Coastal Commission and other State agencies. See the map below:



4. Include exemption to allow the second story of commercial buildings to be converted to residential use

5. Update exemption language and water demand offset standard in Chapter 7 (Planning Area Standards) of the Los Osos Community Plan

6. Amend Community Plan to designate Morro Shores and the Fairchild Area as mostly residential

7. Discuss the implications of including a site in the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) combining designation

8. Prepare and present additional information regarding water supply impacts of projected ADU and affordable housing development

9. Provide for a maximum flexibility in design for the Commercial Areas

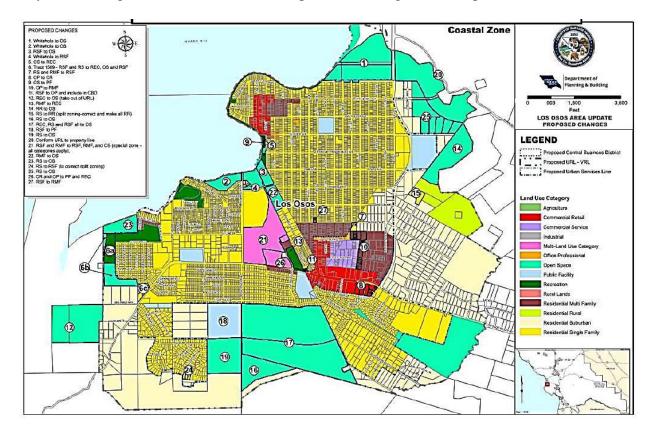
10. Status of the Habitat Conservation Plan and Timing of Los Osos Community Plan

Background: This is a long coming Plan update, which revises the Land Use Plan and the Circulation Element (transportation). The map below provides a general overview. The Plan is pretty much an Epistle from the Disciple St. Bruce of Cayucos to the Los Osians, which incorporates the 50-year old concepts of resource based planning, the basic tenants of which are the natural and manmade resources limit development and economic growth. Growth should be slow if at all. Nature is to be preserved at all costs. To these cannons have been added the global warming and social justice provisions of greenhouse gas reductions, prejudice against cars, and the idea of forcing the average person into dense housing and mass transit.

There was a huge and long preparation process including all the Delphi techniques to make sure the Plan came out to prohibit most development.

Lots that have been locked down for decades due to the sewer issue will now supposedly be first in line for permit processing. The water problem seems to exist unabated and without a firm long-range solution. Thus the mantra of limited resources will inevitably continue. Note that the turquoise color on the map key is open space. The dark green is recreation. It appears that most of the village will be surrounded by open space.

The correspondence in the file expresses concerns that the plan will result in overuse of water, which is already in severe shortage. It also indicates that the community is not too happy with the idea of any more density or additional housing development. The Community Services District sent a letter expressing particular concern about water. The community does not wish to become a target for more than its share of affordable and subsidized housing. One problem attendant to the County's overall smart growth policy is that denser housing, usually a prerequisite for affordable housing, is allowed only in the village centers of Los Osos, Templeton, San Miguel, and Nipomo.



California Coastal Commission Meeting of Friday, August 14, 2020 (Scheduled)

Item 11a - San Luis Obispo County LCP Amendment No. LCP-3-SLO-20-0043-1 (Industrial Hemp). Public hearing and action on request by San Luis Obispo County to amend the LCP to allow for the cultivation and processing of industrial hemp within certain land use designations; add definitions related to industrial hemp; provide location and odor standards for industrial hemp cultivation; and add industrial hemp to the LCP's existing cannabis violation and enforcement section. The Commission staff supports the County's ordinance and recommends that the Commission certify it. The staff recommends one change, which is to increase the required distance from riparian resources from 50 to 100 feet. The write-up states in part:

The County endeavored to develop an ordinance that allows for hemp uses, while also addressing the unique issues of this agricultural use, particularly odor control and proximity to residential uses. The proposed amendment would allow for both indoor and outdoor hemp cultivation on Agricultural and Rural designated land on sites larger than 400 acres, while prohibiting outdoor cultivation within 2,000 feet of property lines, within one mile of any Urban Reserve Line or Village Reserve Line, within 50 feet of any riparian area, or within 100 feet of any wetland. Indoor cultivation would also be allowed on these lands, in addition to Rural Residential land, but would be prohibited within 100 feet of any residence that is not owned by the cultivator. The amendment treats hemp processing in the same manner as any other agricultural processing use, with additional requirements that processing takes place within a fully enclosed permanent structure and that an odor control plan be in place.

With these standards, the proposed amendment provides for Coastal Act priority agricultural use in a manner that respects and responds to its particular potential impact on coastal resources. Staff is recommending one small modification to clarify that the setback requirements for hemp cultivation/processing from riparian habitats is 100 feet (not the proposed 50 feet), as currently required by the LCP.

The hemp ordinance is very strict in terms of setback distance requirements from property lines and village reserve lines. The pending stricter cannabis regulations emulate some of these, which will make it difficult for the cannabis industry in SLO County.

LAST WEEK

Death of 3rd District SLO County Supervisor Adam Hill

Last Thursday evening, August 6, 2020, news sources reported that Supervisor Hill had died of possible suicide. As of this writing, there are no public details as an investigation of what happened continues. It is not known when a final determination of the circumstances will be made public.

Two months ago Supervisor Hill had explained that he suffered from clinical Depression and was receiving treatment.¹

Serving in elected or appointed upper level public office can be very stressful, especially now, with the severe value schism in American society over the future, including the economic system, legitimacy of government, private property, confiscatory taxation, expansion of the administrative state, and violent socialist activism

Hill was a smart and adept politician who knew where his bread was buttered and he could compromise when he found it necessary.



Supervisor Hill had been instrumental in the acquisition of the Pismo Preserve open space. (Cal Coast News Photo). The County gave \$1 million.

It remains to be seen if the rumored investigations involving him were underlying contributors to his death. In so far as we know, the County never investigated any of the allegations by citizens and employees of harassment and violation of County standards from its own officials and employees. The County Counsel and County Executive Officer steadfastly advised the Board against such investigations.

The day after Hill's death, SLO Progressive Democratic consultant and columnist Tom Fulks posted a slanderous polemic on FACEBOOK accusing COLAB, Mike Brown, conservatives in general, Supervisor/Board Chair Lynn Compton, 2019 3rd District Supervisorial Candidate Stacey Koresgaden, radio show host Dave Congalton, District Attorney Dan Dow, and investigative reporter Karen Viele of martyring Supervisor Hill.

Please see the **addendum on page 28** for his accusations. Separately from its genesis related to Supervisor Hill (obviously not Hill's fault), it is yet another example of the utter vicious ruthlessness of the progressive left attack on our society, anyone who disagrees with them, and anyone who has the temerity to express that disagreement. Understand that if Fulks and his ilk ever command true and unrestricted power, the gulag and the firing squad will be the fate of many. Fulks came to neither praise nor bury Caesar. He comes to bury us.

¹ Depression is a state of low <u>mood</u> and aversion to activity. It can affect a person's thoughts, behavior, motivation, <u>feelings</u>, and <u>sense of well-being</u>. It may feature sadness, difficulty in thinking and concentration and a significant increase or decrease in appetite and time spent sleeping. People experiencing depression may have feelings of dejection, hopelessness and, sometimes, suicidal thoughts. It can either be short term or long term.^[1] The core symptom of depression is said to be anhedonia, which refers to loss of interest or a loss of feeling of pleasure in certain activities that usually bring joy to people.^[2] Depressed mood is a symptom of some <u>mood disorders</u> such as <u>major depressive disorder</u> or <u>dysthymia</u>;^[3] it is a normal temporary reaction to life events, such as the loss of a loved one; and it is also a symptom of some physical diseases and a <u>side effect</u> of some drugs and medical treatments, Wikipedia August 6, 2020.

Disappointingly but not unexpectedly, the Sunday August 9, 2020 SLO Tribune was giving credit to Fulks as its Progressive columnist.

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The next scheduled Supervisor's meeting is on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Issues which are likely to appear and/or should appear on the Board agenda in August and September include:

1. Revised cannabis regulations that include more severe distance separation, energy conservation, and odor control provisions.

2. Revisions to the Paso Water Basin boundary and revisions to areas in the Paso Basin area that are defined as being in severe decline.

3. COVID updates related to the status of the disease and measures to combat it within the county and state. It is hoped that reporting could be expanded to include economic impacts, such as number of businesses permanently closed, unemployment data, and impact on safety net programs including welfare, child care, Cal Fresh (food stamps), foreclosures, and rental evictions.

4. County Budget impacts due to revenue losses, increased expenditure, and receipt of various forms of State and Federal aid. Impact of the adopted State budget is also likely to be included.

5. The Board should develop analysis and planning attendant to the impacts of the effective closure of K-12 education. Schools could be closed for a year. There will be myriad impacts to County services across the functional board. Physical health, mental health, income maintenance, childcare, unemployment, family dissolution, and all the rest require early contingency planning.

These issues should be expanded from the narrow budgetary accounting and program impacts to higher-level strategies to manage the crises which will inevitably result. Relatedly, some of the not-for-profit agencies that provide County services may go broke and cease functioning as a result of revenue losses and the inability to conduct fundraisers. Faith groups may be particularly vulnerable in this regard.

6. The ultimate suspension of COVID income replacement payments and enhanced unemployment insurance payments has become a huge and intractable issue. As this is written, Congress and President are struggling with how to continue the \$600 addition to unemployment payments. It is likely that some amount will be continued until the end of the year. What happens then? Tens of millions of people have become dependent on these payments for their rent, mortgages, utility bills, and other necessities. What if the COVID lockdown recession becomes a major depression that lasts for years? (Even if a vaccine is developed, the damage may have already occurred).

Similarly those states and localities which have implemented rent deferrals also face a cliff. For example, some people stopped paying rent in April and now may not be required to pay until December. What happens when they owe seven months back rent and the new December payment? If evictions begin to occur on a large scale, what do the State, counties, and cities plan. If the income maintenance programs are continued indefinitely, huge inflationary tax increases will eventually be required to service the trillions in added debt. These in turn will damage the economy, perpetuating the ongoing depression and generating social instability.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments Meeting of Wednesday, August 5, 2020 (Completed)

In General: The Agency continues its adoption of policies promoting revamping society based on climate change and social equity. This is in part because some members of the Board believe in these policies and in part because they all must tow the mark in terms of State funding, which is conditioned on adopting such polices.

B-1 Update on COVID-19 Impacts on Transportation. The staff report lists some of the trends resulting from the COVID lockdown:

• SLO County's average vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by day was 64% lower, according to Streetlight data from mid-March through mid-May.

• Less travel on California highways increased travel speeds by an average of 4-6 mph.

• Fixed-route transit ridership on RTA buses was down 70-80%.

• A Rideshare survey found that 71.4% of workers began working from home at least part-time during the pandemic. Prior to COVID-19, just 7.2% of employees in SLO County worked from home.

• COVID-19 has increased managers' trust in work from home productivity, creating a high likelihood that some increased telecommute mode-share "stick".

• Some experts predicted a higher single-occupant vehicle mode share after shelter-in-place restrictions loosened, due to less traffic and shorter commute times ("induced demand"). *B-1-2*

• Other contributors to induced demand include lower gas prices, pent-up demand for postponed services (hair styling, dog grooming, routine doctor's visits, etc.), reservations about using public transportation, and the replacement of some long-distance vacation travel by car.

• Observations made by SLOCOG staff, advisory committee members, and Board members noted an increase in the number of people in SLO County biking and walking for recreation. Since June, staff has continued collecting data and information on the effects of COVID.

Whether the member cities and the County will work up plans to deal with prolonged economic disruption is a question. What if the disease continues indefinitely?

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

THE FINANCIAL POWER OF CALIFORNIA'S GOVERNMENT UNIONS BY EDWARD RING

There is no special interest in California that wields more influence over state and local politics than public sector unions. At every level of government, from the office of the governor to a school board managing a district with only a few hundred students, public sector unions are omnipresent. With rare exceptions, to defy their agenda is certain political suicide.



The reason for this power is money. Lots of money. Every two-year election cycle, not millions, but hundreds of millions of dollars are spent by California's public sector unions to support or oppose candidates, campaign for ballot measures, lobby the legislature, and pay for public relations campaigns. While wealthy individuals or powerful corporations may at times challenge these unions, their concerns are narrow in focus. Nothing matches the perennial torrent of public sector union money; the opposition may stir up a flash flood, but these unions are the Amazon.

Twice in the past five years the California Policy Center has attempted to estimate just how much money public sector unions collect and spend each year. In 2015, a rough top-down estimate that used US Census Bureau data on union membership and general assumptions on the average union dues payment came up with \$1.0 billion per year. In 2018, exercising an abundance of caution, referring to the 990 forms that unions file with the IRS, as well as researching membership information that is often provided by the unions on their websites, the total public sector union spending estimate was \$800 million per year.

This time, using the same methods as 2018, but going into somewhat more detail, the new estimate is \$921 million. It should be noted that available information online is usually about 18-24 months behind. For example, our 2018 report referenced Form 990s that were filed for 2015. This 2020 report used Form 990 data for the year 2018, the most recent currently available.

The fact that data presented here represents 2018 numbers raises an important question: Has the Janus decision, which found that the application of public sector union fees to non-members is a violation of the First Amendment, had any effect on public sector union revenue and membership?

Because Janus took effect in mid-2018, the results shown here may only serve as a baseline. Form 990s for 2019 will not be available to the public for another year.

Moreover, unless the trends in total revenue estimates show truly dramatic changes, which is unlikely, there are too many variables at work to know what may be generating the variance. If the numbers are up, would they have been up higher without the Janus decision? Will any downward results in 2019 merely be the impact of unions losing non-members who still had to pay agency fees, or would some of the downturn be the result of losing members? How will the bureaucratic obstacles put up by the unions delay individuals from exercising their new rights under Janus? And how would one account for new bargaining units, such as the <u>45,000 child care providers</u> who in July 2020 voted to become new AFSCME members?

Much of this discussion, however vital, falls outside the scope of this analysis. Here then is an assessment of just how much public sector unions collected in 2018.

PUBLIC EDUCATION UNIONS

The biggest public sector union in California, by far, is the California Teachers Association. From their website's "<u>About Us</u>" page, the CTA's declared membership is 310,000, down from the "<u>Fact</u> <u>Sheet</u>" they'd posted two years ago (since removed) which declared a membership of 325,000. On the surface, this may suggest the CTA has lost members, but in reality what was the CTA's loss was another union's gain.

As reported by EdSource in August 2019, the faculty associations representing 19,000 staff working in the Cal State University System <u>voted to "disaffiliate" from the CTA</u>. The CTA, for its part, claims new recruits have made up for this. Whatever the net effect will be, during 2018 these Cal State workers were still part of the CTA, so 325,000 remains a valid membership estimate for that year. Using an average annual dues estimate of \$1,040 per member, which is based on an <u>analysis published</u> in June 2018 in LA School Report, the CTA and all of its local affiliates had an estimated total dues revenue in 2018 of \$338 million. The CTA also had "other income" in 2018 of \$18 million, which brings their total revenue estimate up to \$356 million.

A distant second to the CTA, but still one of the biggest public sector unions in California, is the California Federation of Teachers. Like the CTA, the CFT is comprised of separate local and regional affiliates, making the challenge of estimating their consolidated revenue best approached by multiplying their average dues by their stated membership. According to their "<u>About Us</u>" page, their membership is 120,000, and their average member dues, reputedly somewhat lower than the CTA at \$900 per year, puts their total revenue at \$108 million.

The California School Employees Association, which according to their "<u>About Us</u>" page has a massive membership of 250,000 school support staff, reported on their <u>2018 Form 990</u> total revenue of \$81 million. This implies an average annual dues of only \$327 per member, which seems low. Without reviewing the 990s for all of the CSEA affiliates, and accounting for the net effect of all internal transfers of funds, it is impossible to discern a more accurate number for CSEA. It may be that the number of CSEA members is a relatively low percentage of the number of people represented in their bargaining units.

PUBLIC SAFETY UNIONS

The decentralized nature of most of the major public sector unions in California makes any reasonably accurate but rough estimate dependent on two variables – total membership and average dues per member. To arrive at the number of members of police unions in California, we relied on an October 2018 Public Policy Institute of California study "Law Enforcement Staffing in California." Quoting from the study:

"In 2017 there were more than 119,500 full-time law enforcement employees in California; roughly <u>78,500 were sworn law enforcement officers</u> (with full arrest powers) and 41,000 were civilian staff." We are assuming that 100 percent of the sworn law enforcement officers are unionized. If this is incorrect we would appreciate the opportunity to know the accurate percentage.

To arrive at the average union dues paid by California's police officers, we reviewed the Form 990s for the unions representing sworn police officers in California's ten largest cities. On these forms the "revenue from dues" is a separate line item. We then collected, for each city, the number of police officers on the force. In most cases, this information was available from the city websites, in a few cases, we had to rely on news reports, and in two cases, we called the police dept. in those cities and asked them. Using this method, the weighted average annual union dues we calculated was \$1,340.

The product of average police union dues of \$1,340 and 78,500 sworn law enforcement officers yields an estimated total revenue for all police unions in California of \$105 million per year. A similar method was used to estimate the total dues collected by California's many firefighter unions, mostly local affiliates of California Professional Firefighters. On its "About CPF" page, the California Professional Firefighters claim membership of 30,000. Applying the same average annual dues assumption we used with members of police unions, \$1,340 per year, we estimate the total dues collected by firefighter unions from their members at \$40 million per year. California's prison guards are represented by the California Correctional Peace Officers Association

(CCPOA), a centralized union which reported on its Form 990 <u>total revenue in 2018 of \$30 million</u>. This is consistent with a membership of around 31,000, implying average dues of \$983 per year.

OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS

Two very large public sector unions that belong in any analysis of public sector union revenue in California are the California affiliates of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and the California State Employees Association which includes the massive SEIU Local 1000.

AFSCME California includes a diverse group of "Councils" that represent an impressive variety of professions. This can be quickly appreciated by reviewing their "<u>Who is AFSCME California</u>" webpage.

From the information on these pages, along with phone calls to some of the actual Local offices, the total number of AFSCME members in California is estimated at 220,000 people. If anything, this estimate is low, insofar as some large agencies were unable to provide membership numbers. Because the AFSCME dues assessment varies roughly between 1.25 and 1.5 percent, because a high percentage of AFSCME's job descriptions involve skilled professionals, and based on conversations

with experts on public sector unions, we believe an average annual dues collections estimate of \$600 per year is reasonable, since even at the lower withholding percentage this implies an average member income of \$48,000 per year. Based on these assumptions, we estimate AFSCME California's consolidated dues revenue at \$132 million per year.

Last but not least is the <u>California State Employee Association</u>, which includes three major unions of active state and local government employees. The <u>Cal State University Employees Union</u>, which declared <u>revenue of \$7 million in 2018</u>, the massive SEIU 1000, <u>representing 96,000</u> employees with <u>revenue of \$56 million in 2018</u>, and the smallest of the three, the <u>Association of California State Supervisors</u>, representing 6,500 members with an estimated 2018 revenue of \$4 million.

When it comes to the possible impact of the Janus decision, the 2017 and 2018 Form 990s for SEIU 1000 offer intriguing data. In 2017, SEIU had service revenue considerably higher, at \$67 million. Understanding the reason for this drop, and watching the revenue trends over the coming years for all of California's public sector unions, should make for interesting future analysis.

CONCLUSION

As shown on the following summary chart, California's public sector unions collect and spend well over \$900 million per year, or \$1.8 billion per two-year election cycle. While only about one-third of this money is spent on explicitly political purposes such as campaign contributions and lobbying, this is still a staggering amount of money. What other special interest in California is willing and able to spend \$600 million every two years on political advocacy, year after year, for decades on end? And where the spending is not declared as political, it may still have a political impact. As the plaintiffs argued in the Janus case before the U.S. Supreme Court, and in the deadlocked Friedrichs case before that, all public sector union spending is inherently political. Public education campaigns, for example, are not considered "political," but unions rarely embark on these efforts, often at levels where they saturate California's expensive media markets, without at least an indirectly political motivation. And what about negotiations for compensation and work rules? Aren't these political decisions?

California's Public Sector Unions Estimated 2018 Membership and Revenues

	#	Annual
Union	Members	Revenue
California Teachers Association	325,000	356,366,000
California Federation of Teachers	120,000	107,640,000
California School Employees Association	250,000	81,679,000
California's Police Unions	78,500	105,162,000
California Professional Firefighters	30,000	40,189,000
California Correctional Peace Officers Association	31,000	30,473,000
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees	220,000	132,000,000
California State Employees Association incl. SEIU 1000	96,000	67,853,000
Total - Major California Government Unions	1,150,500	921,362,000

When considering the total spending estimate here, it is worth emphasizing that in most cases these estimates understate the ultimate total. In every case, the average dues we assumed for our calculations of total dues revenue were lower than what virtually all anecdotal evidence suggests. And in only one case, the state branch of the CTA, did we include "other income" apart from dues revenue. How many of these unions and their many affiliates, most of them flush with cash and other invested assets, had additional revenue beyond just what they collected from their members?

Moreover, what about the many unions we didn't identify here, but which are active in California and, cumulatively, add significant numbers to the estimates of total members and dues collections? What about the <u>Council of UC Faculty Associations</u>, an amorphous group that represents potentially <u>tens of thousands</u> of professors, associate professors, post-docs, etc.? Under what umbrella do these bargaining units fall? Were they excluded from this analysis? Probably.

To get another glimpse of just how Sisyphean the task of identifying and tracking all of California's public sector unions is, have a look at <u>this website</u>, <u>put up by the Freedom Foundation</u>. Scroll down this page and consider the following: Were all of these various Locals included in this analysis? Here's your answer: No. They weren't. There's simply too many of them. Some years ago, a professor at Pepperdine University who was considered an expert on public sector unions in California was asked if there was an accurate compilation, anywhere, ever, showing how much, collectively, these unions rake in every year. His answer, emphatically to the negative, was too obscene to be repeated here.

If anyone wishes to undertake a comprehensive analysis of every single public sector union in California, every state headquarters, every regional council, every Local, they're welcome to it. The reporting requirements are almost nil. Unlike private sector unions, which are somewhat more accountable due to having to file the more detailed <u>Form LM-2 with the U.S. Dept. of Labor</u>, the only

public disclosure required of public sector unions is the Form 990, mostly used for tracking nonprofits. The diligent analyst, using

Form 990s, will have fun attempting to net out the thousands of cases where funds are transferred between affiliates – dues trickling upwards to regional, state and national offices, as well as sometimes horizontally between Locals, and sometimes from the top down. Have at it.

California's public sector unions are not only the most powerful political special interest in the state, but most of them are nakedly partisan. To have all this power, and merely use it to push for more staff, more restrictive work rules (which equates to more staff), more pay, and more benefits, that would be bad enough. Not because workers shouldn't want to optimize their opportunities to work and live with security and dignity, but because public sector unions simply do not have to deal with the natural checks on their demands that create more balance between management and private sector unions. But with only a few exceptions – primarily among the law enforcement unions – the websites of these public sector unions read like a pamphlet describing the agenda of the Democratic party. Is this appropriate? Does this represent the membership? And even if so, shouldn't public sector unions, with all the power they wield, be politically neutral?

A long overdue reckoning with public sector unions faces California's electorate. It might start with the public schools, which labor under a public sector union monopoly that has nearly destroyed accountability. The CTA, for example, has endorsed the absurd goal to "defund the police." Perhaps defunding the CTA itself might be a more appropriate way to rescue California's disadvantaged. But between the political reality of public sector union power, and the necessary reforms that Californians desperately deserve, are nearly one billion dollars per year of cold hard cash.

Edward Ring is a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he cofounded in 2013 and served as its first president. The California Policy Center is an educational nonprofit focused on public policies that aim to improve California's democracy and economy. He is also a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. This article was originally published by the California Globe on August 6, 2020.

FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU LOVE

Why I stay in San Francisco BY ERICA SANDBERG

The moving trucks are here. On any given day, you can see two or three on a single block, loading mattresses, sofas, microwaves. Yes, some residents are leaving. I'm not among them.

In fact, while the visible signs of exodus are alarming, the majority of San Francisco's nearly 1 million residents are staying put—though not without disgust and anger. When Daniel Turner wrote about his departure from Washington, D.C., his words resonated with people in cities around the country. Past a

certain point, the bad part of living in an urban environment outweighs the good, when that good is just a ghost.

San Francisco is in crisis. Covid-19 has done damage, but managerial malfeasance is the more chronic virus. Opportunists have exploited the pandemic to advance their pet causes at the expense of citizens, workers, and small businesses. They're emptying jails of criminals on false pretexts and pushing through "safe" injection sites instead of clamping down on drug dealers. On a recent walk through Fisherman's Wharf, I informally interviewed shopkeepers. "Did your supervisor come by with a survival plan or even to offer words of encouragement?"

I asked. "Hell no. No one from the city cares about us."

Dee Dee Russell-Lefrak, host of the podcast San Francisco Damn, is scathing, especially about the treatment of her Tenderloin neighborhood. "We have to advocate for basic services," says Russell-Lefrak. "My district is used as a containment area for addicts who have none of the responsibilities and all of the rights. I don't recognize the city that I relocated to as a young lady."

For decades, San Francisco was undeniably fabulous. I held my head high when people asked where I was from. Returning from trips, my heart would flutter as the skyline emerged. Other places are great, but here is best. So there.

Today I'm far humbler. I can't say San Francisco is elegant or refer to it by its nickname, "the City that knows how," because it's not and it doesn't. It's always had flaws, but our current leaders have magnified them. Their polices have succeeded in worsening crime—as of July, year-to-date burglaries spiked 53.6 percent and arson is up 51.4 percent—creating more filth, exacerbating homelessness, increasing illegal drug activity, and driving out new and established businesses. That's quite a track record.

People often tell me now that they'll never visit San Francisco, let alone consider living here. They ask why I don't pack my bags. The answer: it's still glorious, and there is no other place I'd rather be. San Francisco is one of my true loves, and you don't leave an adored one when she's down. You fight until she's back on her feet.

I believe we can resuscitate this precious city. The number of warriors on standby, revving up to do what it takes, is astonishing. I've received countless messages from San Franciscans who recognize the abuses and failures of the administration. They come from all income levels, neighborhoods, and political persuasions. People are mobilizing. They're eager to change things for the better, preparing to battle it out at the ballot box. Strong contenders have emerged, and they're not beholden to corrupt cohorts or extremist groups like the DOPE Project, which promotes cheerful narcotic use as fatal overdoses climb.

San Francisco is still the best city in the U.S.—yes, that's a totally biased and subjective declaration. I could carry on about its stunning vistas, fascinating history, marvelous architecture, and culinary delights, but I won't. That's all documented in travel books and websites, along with plenty of harsh and accurate criticism. Some assets have disappeared, but only temporarily. This city has an old magic that lures fortune-seekers and inspires new ideas.

A self-serving, insular political system has scorched San Francisco. The mayor, supervisors, district attorney, city departments, and nonprofits have been getting away with mass destruction because they've been operating, in effect, under cover of darkness. But the light has been switched on, making it easier to see the damage and to identify the perpetrators.

The moving trucks are for other people. No judgment; we get it. But I, like most others here, am keeping my 415. We'll stay and fight for San Francisco's life.

Erica Sandberg is a widely published consumer-finance reporter based in San Francisco and the author of Expecting Money: The Essential Financial Plan for New and Growing Families. As a community advocate, she focuses on homelessness and crime and safety issues.

ADDENDUM I

IN ANGRY MEMORIAM



August 6 at 7:46 PM ·

IN ANGRY MEMORIAM

My good friend Adam Hill, county supervisor for District 3 in SLO County, died today after a lifelong battle with depression.

May God have mercy on his tormented mind and bring grace and everlasting peace to his gentle soul.

Let it be known here and now that we have lost a good man - a dear, kind, literate, funny, generous man - at the tender age of 54.

I am so very sorry to learn of this. There will be a lot to say about this in the coming days by a lot of people.

We can be sure the braying of the jackals and cawing of the vultures who are Adam's political opponents no doubt already have begun as they dance on his grave.

In fact, they didn't even wait for Adam to return from trying to mend his mind on sabbatical before heartlessly, venally demanding he be replaced by a "temporary" stand-in to represent San Luis Obispo County's Third Supervisorial District.

And, of course, they wanted his replacement to be the mud-slinging Republican lie peddler whom Adam handily defeated last March.

The fetid carp of a spokesperson for the uber-right COLAB recently floated this mendacious idea to a more-thanwilling chair of the Board of Supervisors, MAGAite Lynn Compton, who, incredibly, decided to entertain a conversation about it during a board meeting.

Compton, COLAB and all the other political scavengers of SLO County were summarily slapped down by the county counsel, citing California law, which says an elected supervisor remains just that until resignation, incapacitation or death.

Now it's up to the governor to appoint a successor, no matter how much the COVID-denying, racism-refuting, whitenationalist-embracing SLO County Republicans and other MAGA cretins complain.

The duly established, legal process for replacing Adam on the board will have to run its course, as it did in 2013 when 4th District Supervisor Paul Teixeira died in office.

In the meantime, SLO County is owed a clear and honest explanation from District Attorney Dan Dow about every detail of the FBI investigation he triggered in May into as-yet-to-be-disclosed allegations into Adam.

Dow opportunely turned over whatever it was he'd accused Adam of doing to the feds, then let the headlines fester in the ether to do the rest of the work in tarnishing Adam's personal and professional reputation.

Adam is gone now, perhaps facilitated in large measure by this actual political/legal witch hunt combined with a decade-long vendetta against him by a group of haters including the wretched, jury-convicted libeler CalCoastNews and its local talk-radio abettors.

I'm so very sad, but even more angry. And I want answers. We as a community deserve a full accounting of Adam's last months on this earth.

There's no longer any excuse for Dow to hide behind the convenient legalism that he can't discuss the matter of Adam Hill because it's "under investigation."

The investigation is closed because the subject of it is no longer alive.

If Adam has done something wrong, let's have it out in the open. Let's all see for ourselves if Adam was a lawbreaker. I doubt it, because he was too smart for that, but I'm willing to see the facts.

So bring it, Dow.

If it turns out Dow and the FBI have a fistful of hearsay, rumors and innuendo but no criminal charges, then they owe it to Adam, his family, friends and supporters to come clean. Now.

Goodbye, good friend. We will not let you down, nor your memory.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER



MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN.

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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. <u>Voting privileges are limited to Voting Members</u> and Sustainable Members with one vote per membership.
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