

# COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

## WEEKLY UPDATE JANUARY 5 - 11, 2020

11th ANNUAL

# COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

## DINNER & FUNDRAISER



**Steve Hayward**  
*UC Berkeley's Conservative Senior Resident Scholar*  
Why is the World So Crazy,  
Can it Be Made Sane Again?

**Thursday, March 26**  
**Alex Madonna Expo Center**

5:15 pm Social Hour, Open Bar  
6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner including Wine  
\$120 per person | \$1,200 per Table (Reserved Seating for 10)

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**MAKE FAMILY MEMORIES - AT SILVER LAKE ON  
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HIKES, CAMPFIRES, AND CLOSE TO TAHOE SO. SHORE  
ATTRactions – BID ON THIS HIGH SIERRA EXPERIENCE  
DURING OUR EXCITING AUCTION**



## **THIS WEEK**

**NO SUPE'S MEETINGS UNTIL JANUARY 14, 2020  
WINTER RECESS**

**SLOCOG REPORT RAISES ISSUE OF  
POTENTIAL FOR SALES TAX MEASURE**

**COMMITMENT TO STACK-AND-PACK  
HOUSING, CAR RESTRICTIONS, AND  
RATIONING REITERATED**

**MAJOR COUNTY LAND ACQUISITION NEXT TO  
CAYUCOS ON PLANNING AGENDA  
WHY FENCE OFF MORE LAND WHEN HOUSING IS NEEDED?**

## **LAST WEEK**

**VERY QUIET WEEK ON MEETING FRONT WITH  
ALL AGENCIES OFF**

**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH  
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**BY MIKE BROWN**

## CALIFORNIA PREENING

*The Golden State is on a path to high-tech feudalism, but there's still time to change course.*

BY JOEL KOTKIN

## CALIFORNIA'S MOST MEMORABLE POLITICAL MOMENTS OF 2019

*California Globe unpacks some of the state's recent unforgettable acts in state government*

BY KATY GRIMES

## SENATOR FEINSTEIN PUSHING MARINE RESERVE SEE PAGE 21

### THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**Santa Barbara County Council of Governments Meeting (SLOCOG) of Wednesday, January 8, 2019 (Scheduled)**

**In General:** The meeting is largely concerned with housekeeping matters such as electing new officers (chair and vice chair) and appointing members to various interagency committees. Two items of concern stand out as listed below:

**Item III-a: Executive Directors Report.** Sub-item 4 of this report notes that SLO County could pick up \$20 million in SB-1 incentive money if it adopts a new transportation sales tax. It will be interesting to see if this leads to Board direction to initiate any sort of feasibility project related to pushing a new tax.

*4. Senate Bill 1 Competitive Programs - The application guidelines for two funding programs have been modified to the benefit of SLO County; 1) the Local Partnership Program (LPP) includes a \$20M incentive ("funding bump") for new "self-help" counties that pass a sales tax*

*for transportation*, 2. *the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) allows our Pismo Beach Left Shoulder Managed Lane Project flexibility with the final environmental document.*

**Item B-2: Preliminary 2020-21 Work Plan.** The item summarizes the major tasks that will be undertaken by staff during the year. Again the part that is of major policy concern is the ongoing Sustainable Communities Strategy, which is the tool by which the State compels the localities to conform with its overall global effort to concentrate development, get people out of their cars, and otherwise impose a system of rationing rather than abundance. The tasks for this section are listed below:

*e. 4302: Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) FY 2019/20 (Carryover)*

- Develop enhanced off model tools to capture GHG benefits*
- Develop and distribute 2019 SCS and GIS results to support partner agencies*
- Develop outreach materials to increase awareness and encourage sustainable transportation choices and TDM*
- Develop report for improved fixed route and trolley transit passenger amenities*

*f. 4303: Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) FY 2020/21*

- Support Regional Growth forecast efforts*
- Update Public Participation Plan*
- Develop initial SCS materials*
- Develop Communities of Concern definition*
- Develop and review SCS modeling methodology with ARB*

The key public engagement activities are highlighted in yellow. Here your tax dollars will be used to push the overall agenda.

### **Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, January 9, 2020 (Scheduled)**

**In General:** The agenda contains items which are not of significant policy interest, such as permit applications for wireless facilities, requests for time extensions of previously approved projects, and a minor subdivision.

**Lost Opportunity:** However, there is one major policy issue and one lost opportunity sneaking through under Item 5. In this case, the County Parks Department is seeking a finding from the Commission that a 259.4-acre parcel just south of Cayucos qualifies as a park under the County Plan of Development. According to the agenda report, the County is currently seeking or will seek to acquire the parcel as open space/passive parkland. The land had previously been designated as recreational in the Estero Sub Plan of the County's overall Land Use Plan. The current request is regarded as largely perfunctory to comply with a State statute which requires that Planning Commissions review County proposed land acquisitions and capital projects prior to approval.

**But is this smart?** Even though the land was generally planned to be recreational in the past, the situation should be reviewed in terms of today's current housing shortage, homelessness,

location, existing abundance of open space, State parks, and campgrounds already within the area.

**It is next to Cayucos, which is already an urban village.** Why truncate its expansion, when it already has utilities, services, and other attractions. For example, the County just took over its fire and all hazard emergency protection last year. It is on a major state highway with 4 lanes. It could use desalination for water. The school population is dropping and could use a new infusion of students.

Moreover the County is desperate for revenue. The parcel is currently assessed for about \$350,000. What would a mixed use residential, hospitality, and recreational project look like, and what could it generate in property taxes, sales taxes, and hotel taxes?



**Cayucos in relation to the subject parcel.**

## **LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**No Board of Supervisors Meetings until Tuesday, January 14 2020**

The Board was off on winter recess, and the other agencies were without meetings as well.

# **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**

## **PLANNING COMMISSIONER HARRISON'S REPULSIVE POSTS & RESIGNATION**

**BY MIKE BROWN**

It was discovered that Harrison's personal Facebook site contained anti-Muslim statements. It also contained a retouched photo portraying House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a black Nazi World War II SS uniform as well as a figure of a Democratic Party Donkey with a swastika brand on it.

The symbols and references were per se offensive in any context. Speaker Pelosi is a powerful and effective promoter of Democratic Party policies. She has delivered hugely for her district, city, and region. Billions of dollars in freeways, airport terminals, housing projects, parks, bridge replacements, transit projects, hospitals, university facilities, and jobs have poured into her district and region. She is a role model for girls and women who wish to enter politics and other hardball leadership roles.

There was extensive public and official outrage, including demands for Harrison to resign or be removed. Within several days he did announce his resignation from the Commission. He also withdrew as the 2020 Honoree of Man of the Year for the South County Chamber of Commerce.

One of the more provocative comments about the blunder came from 2<sup>nd</sup> District SLO County Supervisor Bruce Gibson, which was quoted in the SLO Tribune. Gibson suggested that those who disagree on major policy issues need to discuss their differences. Presumably, he was not only referring to this particular episode, but also the growing divide in our society in general. In this regard we have long suggested that an open and objective discussion of the theory of anthropomorphic caused climate change be agendized for a Board of Supervisors meeting rather than relegated to policy purgatory as a settled issue. The County, its cities, and SLOCOG have essentially based their economic, land use, and transportation policies on the doctrine.

Ironically, and if the appeal of Islam spreads in American society, its puritanical fundamentals may be key a force which counters the current catalogue of progressive failures (decay of behavioral standards, the tendency toward socialism, the decline of the work ethic, acceptance of anti-social behavior and crime, and all the rest) for which Pelosi and company are either proactive or unwitting champions.

As reprehensible as this is, it is shocking, as Harrison had a long and honorable public service career as a Santa Barbara County Firefighter, culminating in his role as Assistant Fire Chief for

Operations. In retirement he then served in many civic leadership positions in Nipomo and San Louis Obispo County.

In the end as Mohammed preached, “Only God knows the secrets of all hearts,” or as Jesus said, “Judge not that ye be not judged.”

## CALIFORNIA PREENING

*The Golden State is on a path to high-tech feudalism, but there’s still time to change course.*

BY JOEL KOTKIN

“We are the modern equivalent of the ancient city-states of Athens and Sparta. California has the ideas of Athens and the power of Sparta,” [declared](#) then-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2007. “Not only can we lead California into the future . . . we can show the nation and the world how to get there.” When a movie star who once played Hercules says so who’s to disagree? The idea of California as a model, of course, precedes the former governor’s tenure. Now the state’s anti-Trump resistance—in its zeal on matters concerning [climate](#), technology, gender, or race—believes that it knows how to create a just, affluent, and enlightened society. “The future depends on us,” Governor Gavin Newsom [said](#) at his inauguration. “And we will seize this moment.”

In truth, the Golden State is becoming a semi-feudal kingdom, with [the nation’s widest gap](#) between middle and upper incomes—72 percent, compared with the U.S. average of 57 percent—and its highest poverty rate. Roughly half of America’s homeless live in Los Angeles or [San Francisco](#), which now has the highest property crime rate among major cities. California hasn’t yet become a full-scale dystopia, of course, but it’s heading in a troubling direction.

This didn’t have to happen. No place on earth has more going for it than the Golden State. Unlike the East Coast and Midwest, California benefited from comparatively late industrialization, with an economy based less on auto manufacturing and steel than on science-based fields like aerospace, software, and semiconductors. In the mid-twentieth century, the state also gained from the best aspects of progressive rule, culminating in an elite public university system, a massive water system reminiscent of the Roman Empire, and a vast infrastructure network of highways, ports, and bridges. The state was fortunate, too, in drawing people from around the U.S. and the world. The eighteenth-century French [traveler J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur](#) described the American as “this new man,” and California—innovative, independent, and less bound by tradition or old prejudice—reflected that insight. Though remnants of this California still exist, its population is aging, less mobile, and more pessimistic, and its roads, schools, and universities are in decline.

In the second half of the twentieth century, California's remarkably diverse economy spread prosperity from the coast into the state's inland regions. Though pockets of severe poverty existed—urban barrios, south Los Angeles, the rural Central Valley—they were limited in scope. In fact, [growth](#) often favored suburban and exurban communities, where middle-class families, including minorities, settled after World War II.

In the last two decades, the state has adopted policies that undermine the basis for middle-class growth. State energy policies, for example, have made California's gas and electricity prices among the steepest in the country. Since 2011, electricity prices have risen [five times faster](#) than the national average. Meantime, strict land-use controls have raised housing costs to the nation's highest, while taxes—once average, considering California's [urban](#) scale—now [exceed those of virtually every state](#). At the same time, California's economy has shed industrial diversity in favor of dependence on one industry: Big Tech. Just a decade before, the state's largest firms included those in the aerospace, finance, energy, and service industries. Today's 11 largest companies hail from the tech sector, while energy firms—excluding Chevron, which has moved much of its operations to [Houston](#)—have disappeared. Not a single top aerospace firm—the iconic industry of twentieth-century California—retains its headquarters here.

Though lionized in the press, this tech-oriented economy hasn't resulted in that many middle- and high-paying job opportunities for Californians, particularly outside the Bay Area. Since 2008, notes Chapman University's Marshall Toplansky, the state has created five times the number of low-paying, as opposed to high-wage, jobs. A remarkable 86 percent of new jobs paid below the median income, while almost half paid under \$40,000. Moreover, California, including Silicon Valley, created fewer high-paying positions than the national average, and far less than prime competitors like Salt Lake City, Seattle, or Austin. Los Angeles County features the lowest pay of any of the nation's 50 largest counties.

No state advertises its multicultural bona fides more than California, now a majority-minority state. This is evident at the [University of California](#), where professors are required to prove their service to “people of color,” to the state's [high school curricula](#), with its new ethnic studies component. Much of California's anti-Trump resistance has a racial context. State Attorney General Xavier Becerra has sued the administration numerous times over immigration policy while he helps ensure California's distinction as a sanctuary for illegal immigrants. So far, more than [1 million illegal residents](#) have received driver's licenses, and they qualify for [free health care](#), too. San Francisco now permits illegal immigrants to [vote in local elections](#).

Such radical policies may make progressives feel better about themselves, though they seem less concerned about how these actions affect everyday people. California's Latinos and African-Americans have seen good blue-collar jobs in manufacturing and energy vanish. According to one [United Way study](#), over half of Latino households can barely pay their bills. “For Latinos,” notes long-time political consultant [Mike Madrid](#), “the California Dream is becoming an unattainable fantasy.”

In the past, poorer Californians could count on education to help them move up. But today's educators appear more interested in political indoctrination than results. Among the 50 states, California ranked [49th in the performance](#) of low-income students. In wealthy San Francisco,

[test scores](#) for black students are the worst of any California county. Many minority residents, especially African-Americans, are fleeing the state. In a recent UC Berkeley poll, 58 percent of black expressed interest in leaving California, a higher percentage than for any racial group, though approximately 45 percent of Asians and Latinos also considered moving out.

Perhaps the biggest demographic disaster is generational. For decades, California incubated [youth culture](#), creating trends like beatniks, hippies, surfers, and Latino and Asian art, music, and cuisine. The state is a fountainhead of [youthful wokeness and rebellion](#), but that may prove short-lived as millennials leave. From 2014 to 2018, notes demographer Wendell Cox, net domestic out-migration grew from 46,000 to 156,000. The exiles are increasingly in their family-formation years. In the 2010s, California suffered higher net declines in virtually every age category under 54, with the biggest rate of loss coming among the 35-to-44 cohort.

As families with children leave, and international migration slows to one-third of Texas's level, the remaining population is rapidly aging. Since 2010, California's fertility rate has dropped 60 percent, more than the national average; the state is now aging 50 percent more rapidly than the rest of the country. A growing number of tech firms and millennials have headed to the [Intermountain West](#). Low rates of homeownership among younger people play a big role in this trend, with California [millennials](#) forced to rent, with little chance of buying their own home, while many of the state's biggest metros [lead the nation in long-term owners](#). California is increasingly a greying refuge for those who bought property when housing was affordable.

After Governor Schwarzenegger morphed into a progressive environmentalist, climate concerns began driving state policy. His successors have embraced California "leadership" on climate issues. Jerry Brown [recently told](#) a crowd in China that the rest of the world should follow California's example. The state's top Democrats, like state senate president pro tem Kevin DeLeon, Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti, and billionaire Democratic presidential candidate Tom Steyer, now [compete](#) for the green mantle.

Their policies have [worsened conditions](#) for many middle- and working-class Californians. Oblivious to these concerns, Greens ignore practical ideas—nuclear power, natural gas cars, job creation in affordable areas, home-based work—that could help reduce emissions without disrupting people's lives. Ultra-green policies also work against the state's [proclaimed goal](#) of building more than 3.5 million new housing units by 2025. In accordance with its efforts to reduce car use, the state mandates that most growth occurs in already-crowded coastal areas, where land prices are highest. But in cities like San Francisco, the cost of [building one unit](#) for a homeless person surpasses \$700,000. California's inland regions, though experiencing population gains, keep losing [state funding](#) for [decrepit highways](#) in favor of urban-centric, mass transit projects—yet transit use has stagnated, especially in [greater Los Angeles](#).

The state, nevertheless, continues its pursuit of policies that would eliminate all fossil fuels and nuclear power—outpacing national or even Paris Accord levels and guaranteeing ever-rising energy prices. Mandating everything from [electric cars](#) to electric homes will only drive more working-class Californians into "energy poverty." High energy prices also directly affect the manufacturing and logistics firms that employ blue-collar workers at decent wages. Business relocation expert [Joe Vranich](#) notes that industrial firms account for many of the 2,000

employers that left the state this decade. California's industrial growth has fallen to [the bottom tier of states](#); last year, it ranked 44th, with a rate of growth one-third to one-quarter that of prime competitors like Texas, Virginia, Arizona, Nevada, and Florida.

Similarly, the high energy prices tend to hit the interior counties that, besides being poorer, have far less temperate climates. Cities like [Bakersfield](#), capital of the state's once-vibrant oil industry, are particularly hard-hit. High energy prices will cost the region, northeast of the Los Angeles Basin, 14,000 generally high-paid jobs, even as the state continues to [import oil from Saudi Arabia](#).

California's leaders apply climate change to excuse virtually every failure of state policy. During the California drought, [Brown](#) and his minions blamed the "climate" for the dry period, refusing to take responsibility for [insufficient water storage](#) that would have helped farmers. When the rains returned and reservoirs filled, this argument was forgotten, and little effort has been made to conserve water for next time. Likewise, [Newsom](#) and his supporters in [the media](#) have blamed recent fires on changes in the global climate, but the disaster had as much to do with green mandates against [controlled burns](#) and [brush clearance](#) than anything occurring on a planetary scale. [Brown](#) joined greens and [others](#) in blocking such sensible policies.

Few climate advocates ever seem to ask if their policies actually help the planet. Indeed, California's green policy, as [one paper](#) demonstrates, may be increasing total greenhouse-gas emissions by pushing people and industries to states with less mild climates. In the past decade, the state ranked 40th in per-capita reductions, and its global carbon footprint is minimal. Renewable energy may be expensive and unreliable, but [state policy](#) nevertheless [enriches](#) the green-energy investments of [tech leaders](#), even when their efforts—like the Google-backed [Ivanpah solar farm](#)—fail to deliver affordable, reliable energy.

It's not so surprising, given these enthusiasms, that progressive politicians like [Garcetti](#)—who leads a city with paralyzing traffic congestion, rampant inequality, a [huge rat infestation](#), and proliferating homeless camps—would rather talk about becoming chair of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

Reality is asserting itself, though. Tech firms already show signs of restlessness with the current regulatory regime and appear to be shifting [employment to other states](#), notably [Texas](#), [Tennessee](#), [Nevada](#), [Colorado](#), and [Arizona](#). Economic-modeling firm [Emsi](#) estimates that several states—Idaho, Tennessee, Washington, and Utah—are growing their tech employment faster than California. The state is losing momentum in professional and technical services—the largest high-wage sector—and now stands roughly in the middle of the pack behind other western states such as Texas, Tennessee, and Florida. And Assembly Bill 5, the state law regulating certain forms of [contract labor](#), reclassifies part-time workers. Aimed initially at ride-sharing giants [Uber and Lyft](#), the legislation also extends to independent contractors in industries from media to trucking.

At some point, as even [Brown](#) noted, the ultra-high capital gains returns will fall and, combined with the costs of an expanding welfare state, could leave the state in fiscal chaos. Big Tech could stumble, a possibility made more real by the [recent \\$100 billion drop](#) in the value of privately

held “unicorn” companies, including WeWork. If the tech economy slows, a rift could develop between two of the state’s biggest forces—unions and the green establishment—over future levels of taxation. More than [two-thirds of California cities](#) don’t have any funds set aside for retiree health care and other retirement expenses. The state also confronts \$1 trillion in pension debt, according to former Democratic state senator [Joe Nation](#). *U.S. News & Report* ranks California, despite the tech boom, 42nd in fiscal health among the states.

The good news: some Californians are waking up. [A recent PPIC poll](#) found that increasing proportions of Californians believe that the state is headed in the wrong direction—a figure that exceeds 55 percent in the inland areas. And voters dislike [the state legislature](#) even more than they dislike Donald Trump. Newsom’s [approval rating stands at 43 percent](#), placing him toward the bottom among the nation’s governors. A [conservative-led campaign](#) to recall him is unlikely to succeed, but surveys reveal growing [opposition to the new tax hikes](#) proposed by the legislature. There’s a growing concern about the state’s expanding homeless population.

And a rebellion against the state’s energy policies is already under way. Recently, [110 cities](#), with total population exceeding 8 million, have demanded changes in California’s drive to prevent new natural gas hookups. The state’s Chamber of Commerce and the [three most prominent ethnic chambers](#)—African-American, Latino, and Asian-Pacific—have joined this effort.

Californians need less bombast and progressive pretense from their leaders and more attention to policies that could counteract the economic and demographic tides threatening the state. On its current course, California increasingly resembles a model of what the late Taichi Sakaiya called “high-tech feudalism,” with a small population of wealthy residents and a growing mass of modern-day serfs. Delusion and preening ultimately have limits, as more Californians are beginning to recognize. As the 2020s beckon, the time for the state to change course is now.

*[Joel Kotkin](#) is the presidential fellow in urban futures at Chapman University and executive director of the Center for Opportunity Urbanism. His latest book is [The Human City: Urbanism for the Rest of Us](#). His book on the return to feudalism will be released next year. This article first appeared in *City Journal* on December 20, 2019.*

## **ARTISTS, NOT JUST WRITERS, ARE COMMENTING ON THE DELUSION AND PREENING:**

Carl Dobosky’s 2016 Painting “The Pool Party” (below on the next page) perfectly portrays Woke Progressive sybarites letting the state burn. The emblematic scene is LA, but could be Sonoma, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, or any number of places in the leftist elite archipelago. No doubt, the swanky crowd blames human generated climate change but opposes any real measures to prevent fires, homelessness, and other disasters. The Krull Gallery in Santa Monica specializes in narrative painting. Its write-up states in part:

*From fires to freeways, earthquakes to race relations, the story of Los Angeles can be sinister, transient, and apocalyptic, but it is also opportunistic, perpetually sunny, and rooted in*

*dreaming. Myth-making and storytelling are at the core of our creative culture and this impulse drives the Southern California painters whose work is examined at Craig Krull Gallery in the exhibition L.A. Narrative Painting.*

*The telling of stories through the visual arts can be traced back to the beginnings of civilization, but in recent years artists have begun to tell their stories through images, allegories and symbols as a way to investigate and communicate ideas about gender, race, and politics. You can read more about the exhibition and the history of narrative art [here](#).*



## **CALIFORNIA'S MOST MEMORABLE POLITICAL MOMENTS OF 2019**

*California Globe unpacks some of the state's recent unforgettable acts  
in state government*

**BY KATY GRIMES**

During his swearing in on January 7, 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom wowed the crowds at his inauguration. But many wondered about his intentions following eight years as a frustrated and even bored California Lieutenant Governor.

Newsom did not disappoint in terms of keeping the media abuzz. Nor did the California Legislature.

This review of some of the most memorable moments in California politics during 2019 is made possible by the input and expertise of many policy experts and political wonks in Sacramento throughout 2019, and on the pages of California Globe.

### **Executive Orders, Signed Bills, Special Dispensations and Vetoes**

Gov. Newsom signed 70 bills that his predecessor Jerry Brown had vetoed the prior year or two, and he vetoed nearly two dozen bills that Brown had also vetoed.

Through an [Executive Order](#), California Governor Gavin Newsom has redirected gas tax money to fund railway systems and other projects. Californians pay the highest gas prices in the nation, most of which is taxes. The gas tax revenue would have repaired and upgraded the state's broken highways and roads.

CEQA dispensation: Gov. Newsom signed legislation to let only Los Angeles bypass most of the California Environmental Quality Act to build housing for the homeless and shelters. This exemption is usually only reserved for professional sports arenas and stadiums.

### **Homeless Vagrants Allowed to Wallow in Filth on California Streets**

Homelessness Epidemic: California's vagrant street population exploded in 2019, bringing with it diseases once thought to have been mostly eradicated by the 15th century. Radio host and physician, Dr. Drew Pinsky sounded the alarms that the bubonic plague, carried by rats, could explode on the streets of Los Angeles because of the filth that more than 160,000 homeless vagrants were living in. Hepatitis, typhoid fever – another medieval disease – and hundreds of cases of typhus in Los Angeles County, Pinsky said the [entire population of California may be at risk](#).

Sacramento, San Francisco (and its notorious online defecation maps), San Diego, Fresno, and most other cities experienced identical homeless explosions, along with a major spike in property crimes and health conditions.

Amid these serious disease outbreaks, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law a package of bills banning the sale of new fur products, banning certain animals from being used in circus acts, and legislation prohibiting hunting or killing bobcats in California.

### **'Fires, Floods and Fools'**

Climate Change Hysteria: Following in the footsteps of former Gov. Jerry Brown and his claim of the “existential threat of climate change,” numerous state and local California politicians continued to declare a “climate state of emergency” replete with the usual hyperbole like “this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years” and “The United States has repeatedly obstructed efforts to transition to a green economy and thus bears extraordinary responsibility to rapidly address these existential threats,” reported Andy Caldwell, [congressional candidate](#) in California’s 24th congressional district on the Central Coast.

Caldwell suffers no fools. “Having written nearly 2,000 opinion columns in the course of my career, there is one particular subject that I have repeated over and over,” Caldwell said. “It has to do with the dangers and implications of wildland fires. I characterize these observations by way of the subject line “fires, floods and fools.”

### **Theft by Executive Order**

Gov. Gavin Newsom [signed](#) an [Executive Order](#) authorizing the looting of voter-approved gas tax funding for road repairs and highway expansions to be used to fight “climate change” via the high speed rail he promised to shut down. The Executive Order by the Governor requires state government to “redouble its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change while building a sustainable inclusive economy.”

### **The most expensive median home price in the U.S.**

Solar mandate – California home prices already [average more than \\$605,000](#), and effective in 2020, all new construction has a legislative mandate to install solar on every new home and commercial building built, adding significantly more cost to an already hefty price.

### **The Revolving Door...**

Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez authored a bill to keep legislators from becoming lobbyists, but it was killed in committee by lawmakers like Assemblymen Chad Mayes (former Republican, now NPP-Riverside) and Ian Calderon (D-City of Industry), both of whom are most likely going to become lobbyists soon.

### **Assembly Bill 5**

The end of the legislative session each year always brings drama, sub-rosa backroom deals under the cover of darkness, accusations of double-dealing, and surprises. In 2019, the end of session also brought insults, bullying, tears, coercion, and the usual backroom deals.

Specifically, [Assembly Bill 5](#) by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) and [Assembly Bill 170](#), a gut-and-amend bill Gonzalez said was forced on her by the Senate to add one more limited exemption into AB 5, if she wanted AB 5 to pass.

AB 5, written by the AFL-CIO, will serve to significantly limit Californians’ ability to work as independent contractors and freelancers.

Gonzalez's Twitter feed over the recent [weekend](#) showed cracks in the armor. Last week Gonzalez attacked freelancers after media outlet Vox fired 200 of their freelance writers because of AB 5:

*"I'm sure some legit freelancers lost substantial income," she [tweeted](#) following Vox's mass firings, "and I empathize with that especially this time of year. But Vox is a vulture."*

*"These were never good jobs," Gonzalez [said](#) earlier this month. "No one has ever suggested that, even freelancers."*

Some say the day that will live in infamy is when Gov. Newsom signed AB 5. California Globe contributor Edward Ring said, "Sure, the main target was Uber. But Uber will make a deal, one way or another, with these unions. The real victims will be Uber's upstart competitors who can't afford union pays scales and union rules at the same time as they try to grow to scale. Ditto for every other affected industry. And never mind the massive collateral damage – killing every independent contractor out there who doesn't want to join a union, or get a 'license.'"

### **Mandatory Vaccinations**

The incredible speed at which the Governor signed Democratic Sen. Richard Pan's mandatory vaccine bills after they were passed out of the legislature took less than an hour. There are now lawsuits against this mandate that removed any religious or medical exemptions on vaccines. And parents say if the State of California enforces the vaccine mandates in order for children to be enrolled in all schools, they will pull their kids out of California schools and even leave the state.

In the 1960's, children received only four vaccines: Smallpox, measles, polio and mumps vaccines. Now, children receive as many as 24 shots by 2 years of age and five shots in a single visit. Most children receive 49 vaccinations by the age of six, and more than 60 vaccinations from day of birth to age 18. Newborns receive eight routine vaccinations in accordance with the [Center for Disease Control's vaccine schedule](#), during the first 15 months of life.

### **Charter Schools Under Attack**

Education scholar Lance Izumi with the Pacific Research Institute [said](#) Gov. Newsom's decimating charter school growth by signing AB 1505, "local school boards can deny a charter petition if it finds that the proposed charter 'is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community,' which is a carte-blanche reason to deny any charter petition."

Izumi [added](#), "The AB 1505 compromise will ensure that most such children will never get a chance at a better education."

### **Other California Issues**

- Some in and around the State Capitol are critical of a special election that resulted in another legislative husband and wife team, this time of Sen. Brian and now-Assemblywoman Megan Dahle.
- Investigative journalist Andy Ngo was beaten up by Antifa at Berkeley, and received traumatic brain injuries. He is now suing the Antifa members who attacked him.
- The plastic straw and tiny shampoo bottle ban was passed during a time when the catastrophic epidemic of criminal vagrancy, drug addiction, mental illness, chronic/willful homelessness, and real homelessness, brought on by Prop 47 has mushroomed. Some called this “fiddling while Rome burned.”
- The creeping Social Justice-oriented agenda in public school curriculum, and the lawsuits parents are bringing about are moving forward.
- The rapid rise and fall of Rep. Katie Hill and the “throuple” affair Hill and her husband allegedly had with a young staffer have led to Hill’s resignation and an election to replace her.

### **Water, Water, Water**

California voters have approved more than \$30 Billion in Water Bonds which has provided no new water storage, and water rationing on the horizon.

California Globe spoke to noted water expert Kristi Diener for an update on this complicated matter:

*In water year 2019, which spanned from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019, an amount of water equal to a year’s supply for 275 million people flowed under the Golden Gate Bridge and out to the Pacific Ocean. Rather than acting to build new, major, reservoir storage to capture all we can when Mother Nature brings us bountiful water for free, California continuously obstructs, and has even used the courts to block putting dam shovels in the ground. In fact, lawmakers recently enacted their own expensive and ineffective solution instead.*

*Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Los Angeles), and Assemblywoman Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), authored two new mandatory water rationing bills. Senate Bill 606, and Assembly Bill 1668, were easily passed along party lines, signed into law, and will gradually keep ratcheting indoor water use down over the next 10 years, until it reaches 50 gallons per person per day. Unlike expanded reservoirs that capture additional new water to meet the current and future water needs of a growing population, Californians will adapt to living water poor. The cost of the new regulatory body, and added level of bureaucracy necessary to enforce these rationing laws, will be passed on to taxpayers. Water rates will continue to rise, and the “use less, pay more” scenario will increase. What’s worse is the actual water savings will be insignificant.*

### **Rapid Fire Highlights on Gov. Newsom’s Strangely ‘Incoherent’ Positions**

There are some big questions on policy positions Gov. Newsom appears to have flipped on, or came out of left field:

1. The high-speed rail project – he vowed to kill it in his first state-of-the-state speech, then flipped on it within the week, allowing one strange segment of the rail to be built in the Central Valley, nicknamed “the conjugal express,” going from prison to prison, Madera to

Bakersfield. The goal for the strange and unnecessary rail line was so California would not have to return \$3.5 billion to the federal government.

2. The governor suing [Huntington Beach](#) for rejecting fake housing goals even though they were building more housing than other cities who pretended to have goals;

3. The [wildfire](#) problem which is a result of decades of preservationist policy honed by the radical left environmentalists not some cultish theory of climate change;

4. Homelessness and mental illness and appointing two of the most dubious elected officials to lead his panel: Gov. Newsom named 'Leaders & Statewide Experts' to advise on the homeless crisis... Sacramento [Mayor Darrell Steinberg](#) and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas have been so effective in eradicating the homeless in their cities, they will now recommend how to spend the \$1 billion Newsom allotted in the budget to fight homelessness.

5. The many commissions Gov. Newsom has set up to fix every problem under the sun: a new commission to study "the future of work," a single-payer health care commission, Commission of the Californias, and DMV Strike Force are just a few.

6. Every press release with the sentiments of "historic" or "unprecedented," according to Capitol watchers;

7. The phalanx of bodyguards and armed guards with the governor at all times;

8. Leaving the historic Governor's mansion downtown to move into another mansion in a suburban part of town for his family;

9. His vindictive reactions to President Trump, especially when he is frequently asking for more federal funds;

10. The federal defunding of High Speed Rail;

11. The state travel ban list expansion, now up to 11 states, recently adding Iowa to the list based on passage of a law in Iowa that removed gender protections under Medicaid.

2020 looks to be just as interesting in California politics. Happy New Year everyone.



**Katy Grimes**

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of [California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?](#) This article first appeared in the California Globe of December 31, 2019.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



11th ANNUAL

**COLAB**

San Luis Obispo County

**DINNER &  
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*UC Berkeley's Conservative Senior Resident Scholar*

Why is the World So Crazy,  
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**Thursday, March 26**

**Alex Madonna Expo Center**

5:15 pm Social Hour, Open Bar

6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner including Wine

\$120 per person | \$1,200 per Table (Reserved Seating for 10)

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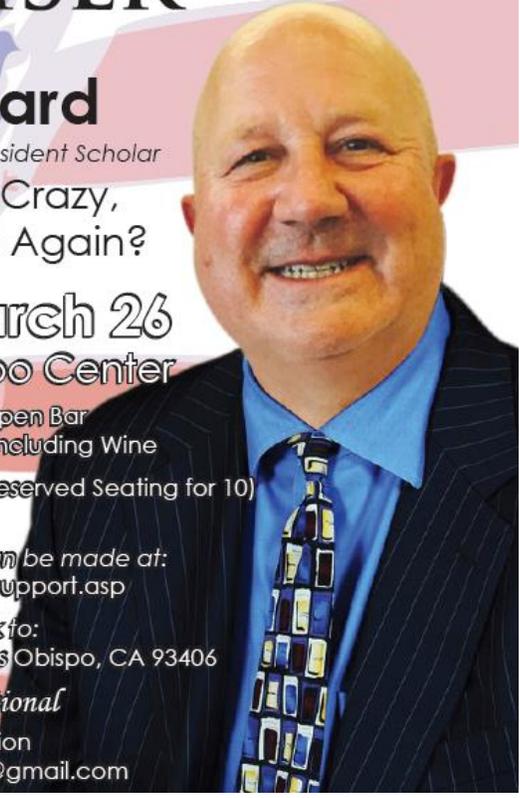
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**FEINSTEIN CALLS ON COMMERCE SECRETARY TO  
ACCELERATE DESIGNATION OF CHUMASH HERITAGE  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

Dec 23 2019

*Washington*—Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) today called on Commerce Secretary Ross to accelerate the designation of the proposed **Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary** in an effort to combat rising carbon levels in the oceans.

**“California’s waters are rising in acidity at twice the global average, threatening marine life and contributing to a growing number of costly fishery disasters,”** Feinstein wrote to Secretary Ross. **“In addition to creating 600 new jobs, designating the proposed ‘Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary’ would protect sacred sites of the Chumash people, major animal migratory routes, and kelp habitat.”**

Full text of the letter follows:

December 23, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

I am deeply concerned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) recent study on ocean acidification impacts on the California coastline, and I urge you to take immediate action to combat rising carbon levels in our oceans, including by accelerating the designation of the proposed “Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.”

California’s waters are rising in acidity at twice the global average, threatening marine life and contributing to a growing number of costly fishery disasters. In addition to creating 600 new jobs, designating the proposed “Chumash Heritage National Marine

Sanctuary” would protect sacred sites of the Chumash people, major animal migratory routes, and kelp habitat. California has lost nearly 90% of its kelp forests, which can absorb carbon at twice the rate of land-based forests. The designation of this area would provide an invaluable opportunity to replenish kelp in an area acutely affected by ocean acidification, and I urge NOAA to act as soon as possible.

Although NOAA approved this marine sanctuary proposal in 2015, the agency has yet to move forward with the designation process. NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries’ (NMS) March 2019 coordination report (attached) stated “there is not active evaluation within NOAA at this time to consider moving this site forward for designation”, despite the report identifying that the proposed area “contains an internationally significant ecological transition zone, supporting high biological diversity and densities of numerous important species.” I respectfully request that you provide a response detailing why NMS is not actively evaluating this important proposal.

I urge you to move forward with and finalize the designation of the proposed “Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary” as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, or have your staff contact Alexis Segal at alexis\_segal@feinstein.senate.gov in my office.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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LAST PAGE BELOW**



**MIKE BROWN  
ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS**



**VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM**



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM

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



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER

Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business  
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### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 - \$249  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Voting Member: \$250 - \$5,000  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining Member: \$5,000 +  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

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Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

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TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Revised 2/2017)