



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

**THIS WEEK**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MORE COVID**

**GRAND JURY: CHARGE STATE PARKS FOR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**BOS MAY BE REQUIRED TO APPOINT TEMP SUBSTITUTE FOR HILL  
AS PART OF EMERGENCY LAW**

**YET ANOTHER BIG HOMELESS GRANT**

**LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

**LAST WEEK**

**COASTAL COMMISSION REAPPROVES OCEANO  
DUNES DUST REDUCTION PLAN**

**THEY IGNORED THE BIGGEST REVELATION:  
NO CRYSTALLINE SILICA IN PM<sub>10</sub>**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BACK**

**MORE COVID**

**EMPLOYEES OFFERED VOLUNTARY FURLOUGH  
NACI PIPELINE COSTS APPROVED**

**SGMA UPDATE: WHO SWITCHED MY CHEESE?**

## **SLOCOG CANCELED**

## **HEAVY PLANNING COMMISSION**

**MORE CANNABIS APPROVED**

**VACATION RENTAL BAN IN LOS OSOS RECOMMENDED TO BOS  
NEW GENERAL PLAN FOR LOS OSOS REVIEW BEGINS & CONTINUED**

## **SLO COLAB IN DEPTH**

**SEE PAGE 16**

## **AN INDUSTRY OF UNTRUTH**

*The brand of all cultural revolutions is untruth about the past and present in order to control the future. Why we have this happening to our country is the only mystery left.*

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

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## **SIX GRAPHS SHOWING JUST HOW MUCH THE GOVERNMENT HAS GROWN**

**BY RYAN McMichen**

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## **THE BALLOT OR THE BULLET?<sup>1</sup>**

**BY PUBLIUS**

## **THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

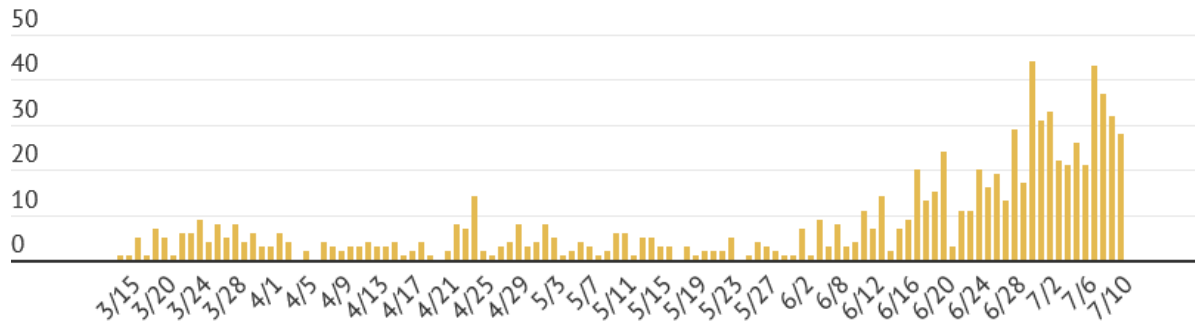
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<sup>1</sup> The title is from a famous speech given by Malcolm X in 1964 exhorting black Americans to organize and either vote or revolt.

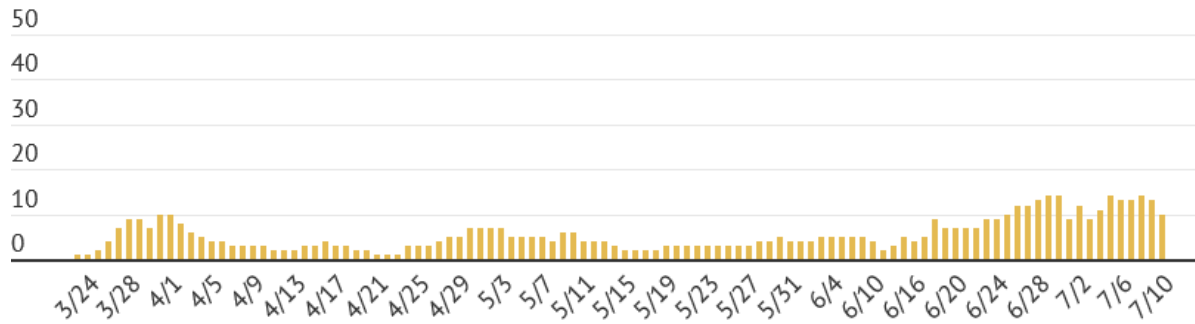
**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, July 14, 2020 (Scheduled)**

**Item 1 - Update on COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County.** There will be a verbal report with the latest updates.

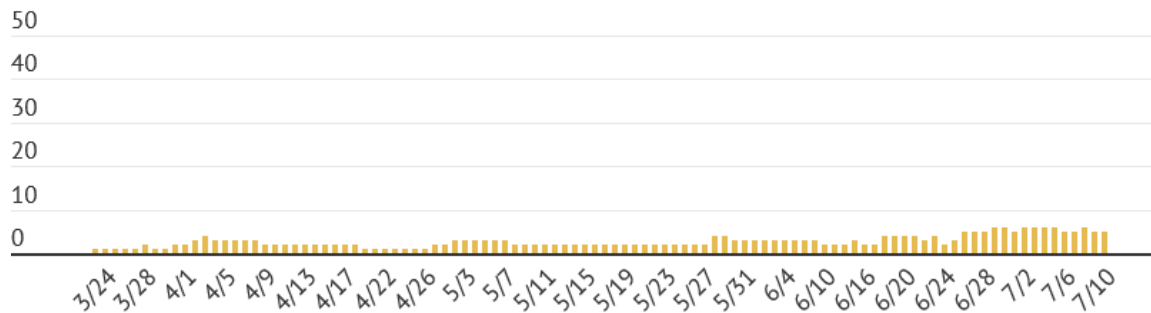
**Daily COVID-19 Cases**



**Daily Hospital Cases**



**Daily ICU Cases**



**Item 3 - Request to 1) approve responses to the FY 2019-20 Grand Jury report titled "San Luis Obispo County Public Safety Services and the Oceano Dunes"; and 2) forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by August 23, 2020.** The Jury recommends that the

County seek State reimbursement for public safety services which are provided to the Oceano Dunes State Park.

State Park Rangers are peace officers and provide the frontline law enforcement and emergency aid services within the Park. The County becomes involved with more serious crimes, first aid, and jailed violators. County fire responds to a number of medical and other incidents.

The staff does not believe that the County has the authority or the need to follow up on this recommendation. It recommends that the Board so inform the Presiding Judge and the grand Jury.

The Jury acknowledges the financial benefits of Dunes tourism to the County and nearby cities.

Special State legislation would be required for the County to be able to charge State Parks for mutual aid and other services. The County may have bigger fish to fry in this regard.

**Item 19 - Hearing to consider: 1) adopting a resolution authorizing the Planning and Building Director to file the Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) 5-year Plan and application and execute agreements and any future amendments for up to \$5,235,012 to the California Department of Housing and Community Development; 2) authorizing a corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of \$192,228 for Fund Center 290 – Community Development and Fund Center 142 – Planning and Building, by 4/5 vote; and 3) Board direction regarding the prioritization of eviction prevention and rapid re-housing for projects requesting 2019 PLHA funds.** The staff seeks approval from the Board to receive a large multi-year housing grant to promote permanent housing especially for the homeless.

Table 1: PLHA Final Funding Recommendations

Activities	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Homeownership:</b> Activities related to homeownership	\$87,250	\$109,063	\$109,063	\$109,063	\$109,063
	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
<b>Housing Trust Fund:</b> Matching portion of funds placed into a Housing Trust Fund	\$523,501	\$654,376	\$654,376	\$545,314	\$545,314
	60%	60%	60%	50%	50%
<b>Homeless-serving and Prevention:</b> Assisting persons who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness	\$218,126	\$272,657	\$272,657	\$381,720	\$381,720
	25%	25%	25%	35%	35%
5% set-aside for General Administration	\$43,625	\$54,531	\$54,531	\$54,531	\$54,531
	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>Total Dollars</b>	<b>\$872,502</b>	<b>\$1,090,627</b>	<b>\$1,090,627</b>	<b>\$1,090,628</b>	<b>\$1,090,628</b>
<b>Total Percentage</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

*All dollar amounts identified in years 2 through 5 are estimated.*

The program is largely funded by a State-imposed \$75 fee for recording deeds. Other tax money is involved as well.

**Item Not Yet on the Agenda – Supervisor Hill’s Absence.** It is possible that a matter relating to the temporary replacement of Supervisor Hill on the Board may arise. Supervisor Hill is in a care facility

dealing with depression. Under provisions of State Law regarding a declared state of emergency (COVID), a Board is required to have a pre-approved list of surrogates who can be appointed during a disaster. Reportedly, the County does not maintain such a list. The Board may be able or even be required to appoint a qualified elector from the 3rd District to provide representation until Supervisor Hill can return.

#### **Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, July 16, 2020 (Scheduled)**

**There are no major policy items contained in this meeting agenda.** The items pertain to administrative and contractual matters related to administering the agency.

## **LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 (Completed)**

**Item 1 - Update on COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County.** The news was not good, as the virus is spreading faster in just about all sectors including care facilities, the various communities of the county, the prison, and businesses. Its spread has accelerated over the past 3 weeks. The testing system is backlogged.

Separately, the County Health Department is working with the various public education systems to determine what to do in August with respect to opening. Should opening, full distance learning or something in between be required?

The County will be bringing on more staff to deal with the questions concerning statistical breakdowns related to testing. There are many questions, such as how many of the people testing positive are asymptomatic. What is the ethnic breakdown, economic, and density data.

Methods of enforcement include environmental health inspectors who are focusing on restaurants where people are not wearing masks or social distancing. The County has an enforcement phone line where complaints are received, such as businesses which are not requiring customers to wear masks. Code enforcement and Sheriff's deputies are able to make contacts, and in most cases the businesses voluntarily comply.

Supervisor Gibson seemed particularly concerned that the County have accurate reporting about the number of contacts, violations, etc. He suggested that there be some kind of weekly reporting. He also seemed concerned that the County would need the data to show the Governor that the County is complying with the Governor's orders.

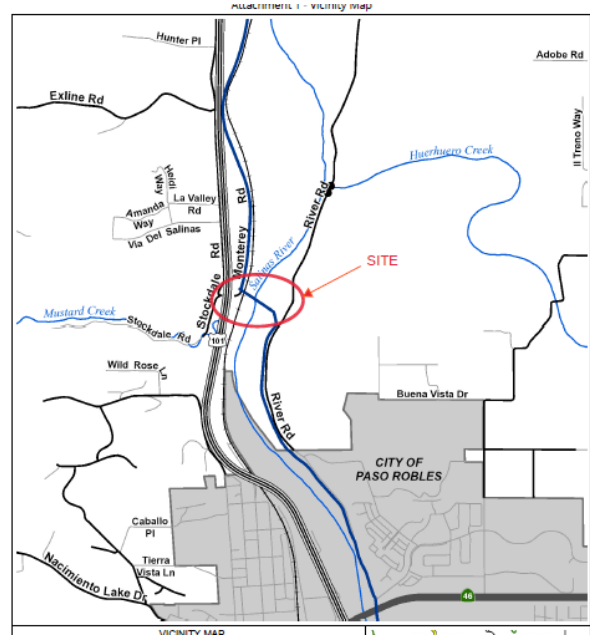
**Item 4 - Submittal of bid opening report for the Nacimiento Water Pipeline North Salinas River Crossing Repair project, to award the subject contract (Clerk's File) to V. Lopez Jr. and Sons, Inc., the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$1,026,873.** The County Counsel reported that the County has settled with the contractor on the first pipeline break. They are working with the contractor on a further settlement related to the second break.

**EXHIBIT A**

**Project Cost Estimates**

Nacimiento Water Pipeline  
North Salinas River Crossing Repair  
Project No. 300641

Expenditures:	Total Project Budget	Estimated Project Costs	Variance
Emergency Response	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0
Preliminary Engineering	150,000	150,000	0
Design, Utility Coord., and AD-15 Processing	575,000	575,000	0
Environmental	50,000	50,000	0
Right of Way	50,000	50,000	0
Construction and contingency	1,180,903	1,180,903	0
Project Administration, Operations and Construction management	1,875,697	1,875,697	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,181,600</b>	<b>\$4,181,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Funding Source:</b>			
Nacimiento Operating Fund & Nacimiento Reserves	\$4,181,600	\$4,181,600	\$0
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$4,181,600</b>	<b>\$4,181,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>



**Background:** This is the second break in the aqueduct pipeline. The good news is that the bid for the actual construction came in substantially below the budget estimate. The costs are paid by the Nacimiento Project Authority, which consists of the City of Paso Robles, Atascadero Water Company, Templeton Community Services District, and the County of San Luis Obispo. Cost will be covered by water rates. The County functions as the agency's staff.

**Item 14 - Submittal of a resolution approving the Voluntary Temporary Reduction Schedule program.** The Board authorized a program under which employees can volunteer to work fewer hours but maintain their benefits. It is hoped that enough employees would opt for the program to help lower the County's impending deficit. The County favors a voluntary program versus mandatory furloughs.

**One problem is that the program is random:** No one can predict which employees will volunteer. For this reason a volunteer must be approved by his or her department head. The Sheriff probably cannot afford to let jail deputies and road deputies volunteer. It would negatively affect the operation and result in more overtime cost.

Similarly, the case planner who is processing several major subdivisions cannot just leave in the middle of the long review process. The developers have already paid hundreds of thousands in fees and have borrowed money which cannot be repaid until the projects are in operation.

Many of the jobs are funded by State and Federal revenues on a formulaic basis. For example, Social Service Eligibility Workers are about 95% covered by State reimbursements. If a particular worker is simply not present, the formula lowers the County's reimbursement. There is no actual savings, and it may take longer to get an eligible family qualified for food stamps, income maintenance payments, job training, and Medi-Cal.

The advantage of scheduled furloughs is that you can shut an organization down systemically. For example, it is well known that up to 60 % of some local government employees will take vacation during the week before Christmas and the week between Christmas and New Year's. By scheduling a furlough at this time, the County could shut down just about all the offices and run skeleton crews in critical social and health services. Fire is not an issue because it is a contract with CAL Fire, and the employees don't belong to the County. The Sheriff, jail, and Juvenile Institutions have the least flexibility and have to be staffed.

The savings generated by a two-week mandatory furlough should be calculated. County payroll records will show how many employees take vacation anyway. The actual nonpayment of the 10 days could be spread over the year so that the employees will not be slugged for all of it in one pay period.

**The Board item was unclear about the deficit.**

1. First it said the County could face a \$32 to \$56 million budget gap.
2. Then it said that as of July 1, 2020 the County is facing a \$26.2 million gap.
3. The \$26.2 million is better than \$32 to \$56 million, but which is it?
4. During Budget adoption the Board reduced the budget by \$17 million. Is the \$26 million net of the \$17 million? In other words, if they had not cut the \$17 million, would the gap be \$40.2 million?

Under questioning, staff stated that the deficit is now estimated at \$26 million. They did not specify the answer to question 4 above.

**Item 20 - State Ground Water Management (SGMA) Plans status.** Who switched My Cheese? The Board received the report after considerable discussion led by Supervisor Arnold, who raised critical questions about the revisions to the boundaries of the Paso Water basin.

The 8 subject water basins include:

1. Cuyama Valley (DWR No. 3-013, "Cuyama")
2. Salinas Valley – Paso Robles Area (DWR No. 3-004.06, "Paso")
3. Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area (DWR No. 3-004.11, "Atascadero")

4. San Luis Obispo Valley (DWR No. 3-009, “San Luis Obispo”)
5. Los Osos Valley – Los Osos Area (DWR No. 3-008.1, “Los Osos”)
6. Los Osos Valley – Warden Creek (DWR No. 3-008.2, “Warden Creek”)
7. Santa Maria River Valley – Santa Maria (DWR No. 3-012.01, “Santa Maria”)
8. Santa Maria River Valley – Arroyo Grande (DWR No. 3-012.02, “Arroyo Grande”)

The status of the work on the plan for each subject basin is detailed at the link:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/123149>

**Background:** The PASO Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was approved by the Board in January and was submitted to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 31, 2020 in accordance with the State mandated deadline. In turn the DWR posted it on line for public comment until May 15, 2020. The write-up did not indicate if DWR has given any feedback or might render a decision on plan approval.

The report did not mention any problems with any of the plan processes or finances.

**Attachment 2  
Budget Status Update  
for SGMA Program  
as of 4/30/2020**

The table below represents the County's SGMA Program FY 2019-20 Budget and expenditures by basin. Given the complexity of each basin's approach to funding the GSP development, this table does not attempt to depict the multi-year program costs or cost sharing/in-kind services contributed by partner agencies. See footnotes for other key elements of basin funding approaches.

Basin <sup>(2), (3)</sup>	GSP Development Phase Duration in Fiscal Years <sup>(4)</sup>	Current Fiscal Year Budget Status <sup>(1)</sup>			Total SGMA Costs to Date (7/1/17 - Current)
		FY 2019-20 Budget	FY 2019-20 Costs to Date	Remaining FY 2019-20 Budget	
<b>SGMA Program</b>		2,745,425.80		\$ 2,745,425.80	
Los Osos Basin	FY 17/18-19/20		\$ 6,543.60	\$ (6,543.60)	\$ 77,680.85
Cuyama Basin	FY 17/18-19/20		\$ 4,283.91	\$ (4,283.91)	\$ 69,365.28
Paso Basin	FY 17/18-19/20		\$ 159,543.40	\$ (159,543.40)	\$ 1,046,406.51
San Luis Obispo Basin	FY 17/18-21/22		\$ 516,210.88	\$ (516,210.88)	\$ 630,481.76
Santa Maria Basin	FY 17/18-21/22		\$ 3,012.12	\$ (3,012.12)	\$ 47,553.88
Atascadero Basin	FY 17/18-21/22		\$ 3,244.88	\$ (3,244.88)	\$ 8,517.57
<b>County General Fund (GF) Contribution Total</b>		<b>\$ 2,745,425.80</b>	<b>\$ 692,838.77</b>	<b>\$ 2,052,587.03</b>	<b>\$ 1,880,005.83</b>
General Fund Revenue:					
	Grants		\$ 608,069.56		\$ 608,069.56
	FCZG one-time (\$750,000) & Basin Partners		\$ 45,971.43		\$ 895,971.43
	Total Revenue		\$ 654,040.99		\$ 1,504,040.99
	Net General Fund		\$ 38,797.78		\$ 375,964.84
<b>Flood Control Zone General (FCZ) Contribution Total</b>			<b>\$ 989,844.22</b>		<b>\$ 3,303,967.58</b>
<b>SGMA Program Total (GF + FCZ)</b>			<b>\$ 1,028,642.00</b>		<b>\$ 3,679,932.42</b>

**Item 29 - COVID Testing Fees.** The Board approved the fees unanimously without question or comment. The Health Director stated that the service is free to the consumer. The mechanisms for the County to be reimbursed for the fees were not discussed.



**At the meeting:** The Board letter did not address the mechanism for payments or reimbursements to the County. As noted above, none of the questions below were discussed. These include: Will the County accept private insurance, Medicare, or Medi-Cal? Will there be co-pays? Will credit cards be accepted? Is the service available to everyone? For example, must you be a county resident, a US citizen, or can anyone get treated? If you are medically indigent are you sent to a regular County clinic or Cen Cal Health?

Apparently the County will give the tests for free. It might seek some sort of reimbursement from the State or Feds, but it is not clear. It appears you will be paying for the tests through your State and Federal taxes.

**Other Unanswered Questions:**

How often does someone have to be tested to determine if they have not had or do not have the disease? In other words, if you get a test in July, when would you have to be tested again to make sure you are clear?

How is the test result reported and how is the patient’s private physician notified to update their record?

Is the County undermining private medical practices by offering this service to full pay and insured patients?

What are the County’s risks for medical malpractice liability if a mistake occurs, such as switching tests, switching reports, or not getting accurate results due to procedure errors? For example, what happens if the County determines that John Doe is not infected and he suddenly comes down with it 2 weeks later and dies in the ICU? This kind of thing happens from time to time with the private draw stations, even with everyone telling them their name, birthdate, and social security number every step of the way.

Three COVID-19 test related fees are recommended for approval:

Test #	Name	Fee Amount	Description
Test #6850	Coronavirus SARS-CoV2 RT_PCR.	\$138 (CDC test)	This is the mainstream test used since the beginning of the pandemic response. Test costs are concordant with other reference level polymerase chain reaction tests. Testing is performed using a thermocycler.
Test #682	Coronavirus SARS-CoV2 Xpert RT_PCR.	\$94	This test was introduced May 8, 2020 and is run on the existing platform called the GeneXpert. The test can be performed in an hour and is reserved for urgent or “Stat” test orders as needed by the County Health Officer and her designees. Fee is concordant with <i>M. tuberculosis</i> PCR that is performed on the GeneXpert platform.
Test #6860	Coronavirus SARS-CoV2 AMPLIFICATION.	\$63	This test will be introduced on or about June 24 and will replace the bulk of testing now performed with the CDC assay by using the automated instrument called the Panther. Fee is concordant with many other tests performed on the Panther.

**Testing Performed to Date:**

Number of Tests	Cost of Test	Total Expenditure
3,300	\$138	(\$455,400)

**Estimated Revenues upon approval of Fees:**

Number of Tests for a 12-week period	Cost of Test	Total Revenue
6,000	\$63	\$378,000

What is the plan if and when a vaccine becomes available?

What statistical outcome to prevent COVID is expected from this random program?

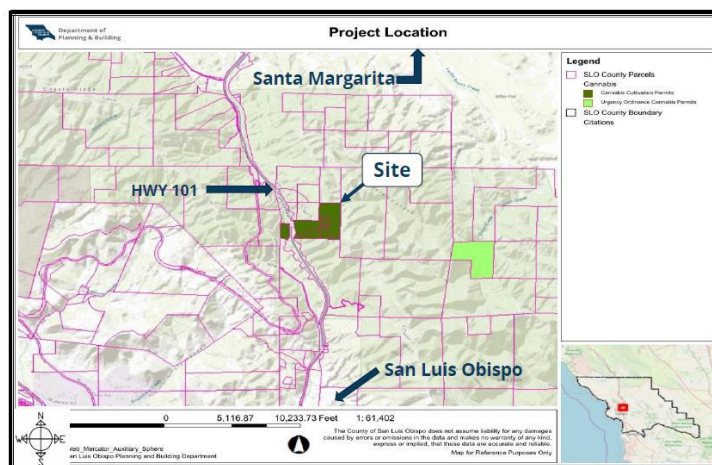
**San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, July 8, 2020 (Completed)**

The write-up did not explain the cancellation.

**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, July 9, 2020 (Completed)**

**Item 3 - Hearing to consider a request by Green Gold Organic Collective for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2019-00091), previously a Minor Use Permit (DRC2018-00034), to establish 26,136 square feet (0.60 acres) of outdoor cannabis cultivation in hoop houses. The project would result in approximately 35,000 square feet (0.8 acres) of site disturbance on a 58.12-acre parcel, including approximately 25 cubic yards of cut and fill. The project site is within the Agriculture land use category located at 3033 Mt. Lowe Road, approximately 0.35 miles east of U.S. Highway 101 on the East Cuesta Ridge. The site is within Los Padres Sub Area of the North County Planning Area. The Commission approved the application. There was no public opposition.**

**Background:** Green Gold Organic Collective was originally scheduled for a Planning Commission Hearing (PCH) on March 26, 2020. Due to the COVID19 Shelter-in-Place orders issued by California’s Governor, the scheduled PCH was postponed off calendar.



**Item 6 - Hearing to consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo to approve amendments to the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance, Title 23 of the County Code, to establish residential vacation rentals standards for the community of Los Osos, under Section 23.08.165. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt**

the ordinance, which if ultimately adopted by the Board of Supervisors will be the strictest vacation rental (VR) ordinance in the unincorporated County.

**Provisions Include:**

A minor use permit would be required for both initial permitting and renewals every 5 years.

A 500 ft. separation between existing and new vacation rentals or other visitor serving accommodation. Note that it is 100 ft. in most places and 200 ft. in Cambria.

Limited to single family homes, no VRs in multi-family homes or mobile homes.

Community cap of 1% of all residences would result in a maximum of 55.

1 VR per entity

Potential ownership requirement – you must be a natural person, not a trust or corporation. (This one could definitely have legal problems). The Commission supported this one but acknowledged that the Board and County Counsel would need to examine the legal issues

A VR permit would expire when the property is sold. (This one could have legal problems but the Commission recommended that it be included if it is legal.)

**At the Meeting:** There were about 40 speakers, mostly from the community, who supported the staff recommendation or suggested even more restrictions. At the end and in approving the recommendations, the Commissioners stated that they were very impressed by the community's testimony and thanked them profusely.

**Bigger Picture: Concerns listed were ignored and never discussed by the Commission.** The fundamental problem is that owners should be able to rent their property for whatever term they wish. It is still a residential use. The regulations that are now popular in beach, lake, mountain, and communities with other attractions violate basic property rights. That is, the right of the owner should be primary. It is not as if the VR is serving food, fixing cars, or dispensing cannabis. Loud parties and overcrowding can be prevented under normal nuisance ordinances.

The staff report attempts to justify the very expansive ordinance on the grounds that Los Osos should be a series of quiet neighborhoods and laid back. They also invoke the argument for the removal of long-term rental housing. This is all social engineering at best and confiscation at worst. The fact that some alleged majority in Los Osos (there has been no vote) wishes to ban short-term rentals is simply an expression of the tyranny of the majority.

Interestingly, the new Los Osos Land Use and Circulation Plan (see **Item 7** immediately below:) states in part:

*In the vision statement, Los Osos maintains its small-town atmosphere and is environmentally oriented **yet promotes expanded tourism** and environmentally friendly businesses that provide job opportunities for residents. Automobile transportation is accommodated, but the need for automobile*

*travel is reduced by encouraging alternative transportation such as walking, bicycling, and public transit. For example, pedestrian activity is encouraged, especially in commercial areas. Los Osos wants to take advantage of its environmental assets, offer a high quality of life and exhibit a high degree of community involvement and maintain local control over its future to the greatest extent feasible.*

Staff took pains to rebut this question on the grounds that the ordinance allows some VRs.

How does essentially banning VRs comport with this vision statement? The commercial areas in the new Plan are very restricted. There will not be a slew of new hotels.

This ordinance, if adopted by the Board of Supervisors as proposed, will no doubt be DOA at the Coastal Commission. Denial by local communities of the opportunity for California residents to visit and enjoy coastal resources violates the Commission's prime mission. Given the fact that California is now about 39 % Hispanic and will be majority Hispanic in the future, there is huge social equity issue which the Board of Supervisors must address in considering such ordinances.

The appeal to preserving permanent affordable housing is the most cynical and hypocritical of all. When will the Board of Supervisors zone in large parcels for large-scale projection of garden apartments?

**Item 7 - Hearing to consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo to: 1) amend and update the Estero Area Plan, Part II of the Land Use and Circulation Element of the County General Plan and Local Coastal Plan, by updating the Los Osos Urban Area, including goals, policies, programs, and planning areas standards, for the area within and outside of the existing Los Osos Urban Reserve Line, known as the ‘Los Osos Community Plan’, and making other related changes to the Area Plan; 2) amend the Official Maps, Part III of the Land Use Element of the County General Plan, to reflect changes to land use categories and combining designations; and 3) amend and update the Growth Management Ordinance.** The Commission determined to review the complex Plan in 2- hour time bites over successive meetings. There was considerable public support from the Los Osos community for the Plan.

**Take Your Plan and Shove It:** Separately and ironically, just hours earlier, the Coastal Commission overturned the County’s approval of 3 Los Osos lots which are now approvable because they can connect to the sewer system. They would also meet all the requirements of the new land use plan and zoning. The Commission voted unanimously to deny the lots on the grounds that they are in an area of environmentally sensitive habitat (ESH). The applicant demonstrated on maps that they are not in an ESH but nevertheless, the Coastal Commission decided they are.

**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 the way Bruce wanted it to.

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.

### California Coastal Commission Meeting of Thursday, July 9, 2020 (Completed)

## THE COASTAL COMMISSION IGNORED THE FACT THAT CRYSTALLINE SILICA IN $PM_{10}$ WAS A LIE

**Oceano Dunes Dust Agenda Items:** In the end the Commission followed the Court directions and revised the wording in its Permit to the State Parks Department to limit the potential closure areas. There were over 130 public speakers commenting on the 3 interrelated items. See last week's Update at the link [http://www.colabslo.org/prior\\_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update\\_July-5\\_July-11\\_2020.pdf](http://www.colabslo.org/prior_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update_July-5_July-11_2020.pdf)

Scroll down to page 13 of that Update for the extensive background and analysis. The Commission will review the issues again during its October 2020 meeting.

**There are several aspects of the meeting which were of interest and relate to future actions.**

1. Unlike previous meetings, the Commissioners did not make off the cuff negative remarks about the dunes riding and camping. They were more circumspect than in the past. It may be that their counsel warned them that if they mouth off now, and later take an action adverse to the dunes recreation, it could be used against them in Court. The adverse court decision on their permit wording may have provided them some tangible hint.

2. The staff person, Central Coast District Supervisor Kevin Kahn assigned to the issue, strongly opposes dunes riding and is clearly attempting to persuade the Commission to ultimately shut the off-road use down. He attacked the program by starting his presentation with graphics (not in the agenda package) showing how dust particles get into the lungs. He asserted that it is dangerous health issue. He appears to be a tough smart weasel. He is a UC Berkeley graduate in Geography and City and Regional Planning. He is not qualified to brief the Commission on the medical aspects of  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_2$ .



3. A number of the speakers supporting off-road riding and camping, inspired by recent national demonstrations, told the Commission that if they shut it down, they can expect massive civil disobedience at the dunes by thousands of off-road supporters.

4. Coastal Commissioner and Hollywood Producer Dayna Bochco (LA Law and NYPD) has the best Zoom background. It's too bad we couldn't get it to copy. While most of the Commissioners were zooming in from their kitchen, spare bedroom, or library, Bochco zoomed in from a tropical beach (probably somewhere in Hawaii). She was dressed in an elegant summer outfit. The live background shows a dazzling tropical day with waves breaking on sandbars, a white sugar sand beach, palms moving in the breeze, and the coastline in the distance.

**How A Seawall Repair Permit in Bolinas Illustrates Our Fatal Situation:** The agenda item prior to the Dunes issue concerned the replacement of a seawall in front of a multi-million dollar ocean front house in Bolinas in Marin County. The Commission's process was indicative of how much we as a society have surrendered to government agencies such as the Coastal Commission. The meeting started at 9:00 AM. After various preliminary formalities and two small items, the Commission took



up the Bolinas sea wall matter. The staff gave an extensive report which indicated that they had worked several years on reviewing the permit application. It turned out that the whole Bolinas community supported the applicant because he allows them to sit on the wall and fish off the wall at high tide.

Village residents even made videos of people using the wall. The staff recommended approval of the permit. Nevertheless the Commission spent 4 hours, from shortly after 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM, nitpicking the issues and the wording of the permit. Mind you, this is a Statewide Commission whose purpose is to promote access to the beach. A public road to the beach terminates just to the end of the wall where the camera would be.

Think of it. Commissioner Bochco is standing on a private estate beach in Hawaii philosophizing about how thick the wall should be, and shouldn't the Commission require that the inner wall be converted to a bench so that the public can sit on it, and so on and so forth. This is your state tax dollars at work. God knows what the poor people who own the house have had to pay in fees, mitigations, and professional, legal, engineering and environmental consultant costs.

In the meantime the 130 public speakers who wanted to zoom or phone in about the dunes were on a minimum 4-hour hold. A number commented on the Commission's process and priorities.

We see over and over again where regulatory agencies including planning commissions, city councils and boards of supervisor's micromanage the design and content of private projects to death. The entire scheme of land use control has been perverted and turned into an oppressive weapon against private property and freedom.

**Summary Background on the Dunes Items:** The 3 items below were interrelated, as they all pertained to a Coastal Commission Permit under which the State Department of Parks and the SLO APCD are conducting a project to reduce dust generated from the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular

Recreation Area (ODSVRA). **Item Th9** was a Quarterly status report on how the Coastal Commission staff assesses the progress of the State Parks Department/SLO APCD Plan to reduce the dust to 50% of its 2017 level by 2022.

**Did the APCD Scandal Give Coastal Commission Pause? No! The Commission did not give any indication that they had even heard about it.** Readers should note that 2 weeks ago the CAL COAST NEWS published an article resulting from its investigation, which reveals that the blowing dust does not contain crystalline silica (a very fine version of the mineral silica – which is 100 times finer than the version that occurs in nature). The crystalline silica has been found to contain carcinogenic particles that can lodge in the lungs. It is also known to promote asthma and other pulmonary problems.

The premise of the efforts to close down and/or regulate the dunes riding for the past 10 years has been based on the alleged presence of the crystalline silica in the microscopic sand sub-particles PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2</sub>.

According to the CAL COAST NEWS article, the APCD never tested for the presence of crystalline silica until 2017, after its Hearing Board questioned the staff about the matter. The first test came back negative for silica. Another test was conducted in 2019, which was also negative. For whatever reason, the APCD did not announce the data, which was eventually forced out by the CAL COAST NEWS.

Since **Items Th10** and **Th11** are so closely intertwined, they were handled as one hearing item together.<sup>2</sup>

**Item Th9 - ODSVRA PWP Update Quarterly status report by State Parks on the progress of State Parks' Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) Public Works Plan (PWP) efforts.** **Item 9** appears to be a verbal introduction to the subject, as there is no write-up. It is clearly an effort to orient the Commissioners to a confusing and repetitive mass of data designed to overwhelm them.

**Background:** The difference between **Items Th10** and **Th11** are a little confusing, since the titles of both items are word for word the exactly the same. Also the recommended action is word for word exactly the same.

**Item Th10 - Coastal Permit Applications: Application of State Parks (on remand from court decision) to implement a five-year program (between 2017 and 2022) to reduce dust and particulate matter emissions at State Parks' Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) which spans the City of Grover Beach and the unincorporated community of Oceano in southern San Luis Obispo County.**

**Action:** *Staff recommends that the Commission, after a public hearing, approve a coastal development permit for the proposed development. To implement this recommendation, staff recommends a YES vote on the following motion. Passage of this motion will result in approval of the*

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<sup>2</sup> The item numbering system may puzzle readers who are not familiar with the Coastal Commission agendas. The Commission usually meets for 3 days in a row, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Thus they must designate the items numbers by the day on which they appear. Accordingly Item Th10 is the 10<sup>th</sup> item scheduled for Thursday's session.

*CDP as conditioned and adoption of the following resolution and findings. The motion passes only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.*

**Item Th11 - Application of State Parks (on remand from court decision) to implement a five-year program (between 2017 and 2022) to reduce dust and particulate matter emissions at State Parks' Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) which spans the City of Grover Beach and the unincorporated community of Oceano in southern San Luis Obispo County .**

***Action:** Staff recommends that the Commission, after a public hearing, approve a coastal development permit amendment for the proposed development. To implement this recommendation, staff recommends a YES vote on the following motion. Passage of this motion will result in approval of the CDP amendment as conditioned and adoption of the following resolution and findings. The motion passes only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.*

As noted above, both were processed as if they were one item in the hearing.

**\$14 million on studies and junk so far and ongoing.**

## **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 BALLOT OR THE BULLET?<sup>3</sup>**

**By Publius**

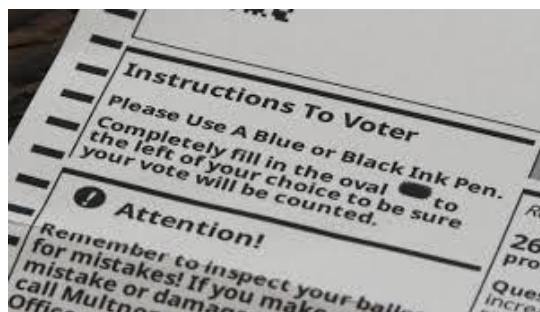
FIRST THEY TOOK OUR VACATION RENTALS, AND I SAID NOTHING;  
SECONDLY THEY TOOK OUR PLASTIC BAGS AND UTENSILS, AND I SAID NOTHING;  
THEN THEY TOOK OUR NATURAL GAS APPLIANCES, AND I SAID NOTHING;  
NEXT THEY TOOK PEOPLE'S BEACH PROPERTY, AND I SAID NOTHING;  
THEN THEY BANNED FOSSIL FUELS, AND I SAID NOTHING;  
AFTER THAT THEY TOOK OUR WATER, AND I SAID NOTHING;  
NEXT THEY OUTLAWED OUR HOME DEFENSE FIRE ARMS, AND I SAID NOTHING;  
AND THEN THEY LOCKED DOWN OUR STREET AS A POLICE FREE ZONE;

AND WHEN THEY FINALLY TOOK MY HOME BY OVER TAXATION, AND I  
COMPLAINED, THEY SAID I WAS SELFISH AND RACIST AND SENT ME AWAY TO A RE-  
EDUCATION CAMP;  
THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO SPEAK FOR ME NOR WAS THERE ANY WAY TO RESIST.

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<sup>3</sup> The title is from a famous speech given by Malcolm X in 1964 exhorting black Americans to organize and either vote or revolt.





## AN INDUSTRY OF UNTRUTH

*The brand of all cultural revolutions is untruth about the past and present in order to control the future. Why we have this happening to our country is the only mystery left.*

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

The current revolution is based on a series of lies, misrepresentations, and distortions, whose weight will soon sink it.

### **Viral confusion**

Unfortunately few in authority have been more wrong, and yet more self-righteously wrong, than the esteemed Dr. Anthony Fauci. Given his long service as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and his stature during the AIDS crisis, he has rightly been held up by the media as the gold standard of coronavirus information. The media has constructed Fauci as a constant corrective of Trump's supposed "lies" about the utility of travel bans, analogies with a bad flu year, and logical endorsement of hydroxychloroquine as a "what do you have to lose" possible therapy.

But the omnipresent Fauci himself unfortunately has now lost credibility. The reason is that he has offered authoritative advice about facts, which either were not known or could not have been known at the time of his declarations.

Since January, Fauci has variously advised the nation both that the coronavirus probably was unlikely to cause a major health crisis in the United States and later that it might yet kill 240,000 Americans. In January, he praised China for its transparent handling of the coronavirus epidemic, not much later he conceded that perhaps they'd done a poor job of that. He has cautioned that the virus both poses low

risks and, later, high risks, for Americans. Wearing masks, Fauci warned, was both of little utility and yet, later, essential. Hydroxychloroquine, he huffed, had little utility; when studies showed that it did, he still has kept mostly silent.

At various times, he emphasized that social distancing and avoiding optional activities were mandatory, but earlier that blind dating and going on cruise ships were permissible. Fauci weighed in on the inadvisability of restarting businesses prematurely, but he has displayed less certainty about the millions of demonstrators and rioters in the streets for a month violating quarantines. The point is not that he is human like all of us, but that in each of these cases he asserted such contradictions with near-divine certainty—and further confused the public in extremis.

In terms of how the United States “fared,” it is simply untrue that Europe embraced superior social policies in containing the virus. The only somewhat reliable assessments of viral lethality are population numbers and deaths by COVID-19, although the latter is often in dispute.

By such rubrics, the United States, so far, has fared better than most of the major European countries—France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden, and Belgium—in terms of deaths per million. Germany is the one major exception. But if blame is to be allotted to public officials for the United States having a higher fatality rate than Germany, then the cause is most likely governors of high-death, Eastern Seaboard states—New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut in particular. They either sent the infected into rest homes, or did not early on ensure that their mass transit systems were sanitized daily as well as practicing social distancing.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, more than any other regional or national leader, is culpable for decisions that doomed thousands of elderly patients. He did not just suggest long-term-care facilities receive active COVID-19 patients, but *ordered* them to take them—knowing at the time that the disease in its lethal manifestations targeted the elderly, infirm, and bedridden.

Then in shameful fashion, after thousands died, Cuomo claimed that either the facilities themselves or Donald Trump were responsible for the deaths. In truth, in the United States, the coronavirus is largely a fatal disease in two senses: the vulnerable in just four states on the Eastern Seaboard that account for about 12 percent of the nation’s population but close to half of its total COVID-19 fatalities, and/or patients in rest homes or those over 65 years old with comorbidities.

Why are there currently spikes in cases among young people in warmer states and those of less population density in late June? No one is certain. But one likely reason is that millions of protestors for nearly a month crammed the nation’s cities, suburbs, and towns, shouting and screaming without masks, violating social distancing, and often without observant hand washing and sanitizing—most often with official exemption or media and political approval.

The period of exposure and incubation is over, and the resulting new cases—for the most part asymptomatic and clustered among the young—are thus no surprise. Still, what is inconvenient is the rise in these cases—given that the Left either had claimed its mass demonstrations would not spread

the disease, or, if they would, the resulting contagion was an affordable price to pay for the cry of the heart protests.

Perhaps, but the real cost of four weeks of protesting, rioting, and looting was to undermine the authority of state officials to enforce blatant violations of the quarantine. Obviously, if some can march with impunity in phalanxes of screaming, shoulder-to-shoulder protestors, while others are jailed as individuals trying to restart a business, then the state has lost its credibility with people and they will simply ignore further edicts as they see fit. Now what adjudicates quarantines are the people's own calibrations of their own safety.

Mismanagement of the virus? There have been four disastrous official policy decisions: sending patients into rest homes; allowing millions *en masse* for political reasons to violate state mandates on masks and social distancing; retroactively attempting to reissue quarantine standards that their advocates and authors had themselves earlier *de facto* destroyed; and consistently issuing pandemic alerts solely on the flawed basis of new positive cases, without distinguishing those who were asymptomatic, or who were infected and recovered without ever being tested, or who were asymptomatic and tested positive for antibodies, or who were only briefly ill, recovered, and by no means still a case-patient.

### **Endemic Racial Violence?**

Black Lives Matter, Antifa, and other revolutionary groups hijacked the tragic death of George Floyd. Within hours they created a mythology of rampant white police lethal attacks on innocent black victims. But that trope, too, was without a factual basis.

The wrongful deaths of unarmed African-Americans in custody have been on the decline, is far less than the number of police murdered per year, less than the number of white suspects killed, and proportionally fewer, in terms of percentages of those arrested by police, than other racial groups.

In rare interracial violence, blacks are five times more likely to attack whites than vice versa. There *is* a tragic war against young, black males—over 7,000 murdered per year—but it is an urban genocide of sort perpetrated in liberal cities, governed by liberal mayors and governors, and overseen by liberal police chiefs. The shooters are overwhelmingly other black males.

Somehow those facts were distorted by the Left into a trope that George Floyd was typical of an epidemic of white-generated lethal racial hatred. One can certainly argue about systematic racism as being a factor in all these asymmetries, but that is not what the rioting and their apologists have done in trafficking in accusations that have no data to support them.

### **Iconoclasm Redux**

There is no logic to statue toppling, name changing, or culture canceling other than the quest to assert power, humiliate authorities, and create crises where they do not exist in order to manufacture a faux state of emergency—in service of a political agenda. In some sense, whether any statues fall is contingent entirely on the lack of resistance.

We know this because the ignorant rioters and protestors cannot explain why monuments to Ulysses S. Grant, Cervantes, black Civil War veterans, or Abraham Lincoln need to be toppled and destroyed as much as a statue of Robert E. Lee. We are not told why the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton is canceled out, but not the Wilson Center in Washington, or why a memorial to President Washington is targeted for defacement but not the hit play, “Hamilton,” another founder who at one time owned slaves. And what or who, if any, exactly is to replace our fallen luminaries? Name the most iconic—Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, or Che Guevarra and the current rules of perfection would disqualify them all.

The abettors of the madness—corporations, the Democratic National Committee, universities, and the media—are not so mad. Yale, named for a slave owner, is now mostly a brand name, not a certification of a first-class, disinterested, and classically liberal education.

Take the elite stamp away, and what replaces it might as well be an online degree mill—given that it is no longer so demonstrable that a Yale graduate learned more than in his four years than did a graduate of Cal State Stanislaus.

So university presidents at Princeton, Yale, Stanford, and Columbia, know that by the standards of BLM their brand names must be changed. But to do so is synonymous with multi-billion-dollar losses and the destruction of centuries-old brands. Perhaps that is why they pander to the mob the way a Roman would-be emperor outbid rivals seeking to win over the Praetorian Guard.

### **Trial Balloon Lies**

The truth is that the COVID-19 epidemic, the lockdown, and the rioting were seen by the Left, the media, and now the Democratic Party as a renewed effort in this election year to do what Robert Mueller, Ukraine, and impeachment had not—abort the presidency of Donald Trump, or make it impossible for him to be reelected.

So Trump was to be reconfigured as a racist responsible for the death of George Floyd. Then he was smeared as a Herbert Hoover who supposedly crashed the economy all on his own. And then he became a Typhoid Mary purveyor of death who sickened and killed tens of thousands of Americans at his rallies in a way millions at left-wing protests did not.

To that end, almost daily, entire fantasies were birthed, floated, crashed, and then were replaced by new hoaxes. The strategy was that while one lie might be refuted, the bigger and more numerous the lies, the more a continuous narrative could be fabricated.

Consequently, the last two weeks, in succession we were told by the media that a noose was left in a NASCAR garage as a racist threat to NASCAR's only major African-American driver, typical of Trump's racist America; that Donald Trump, in dejection and self-incrimination, was soon to quit rather than face the humiliation of a landslide defeat in November; that the president knowingly rejected intelligence that the Russians were paying bounties on American soldiers in Afghanistan, as part of his obeisance to Vladimir Putin; and that Trump went to Mount Rushmore to honor racist presidents and dishonor sacred Native American land.

All were not just lies, but respectively unimaginative and banal successors to similarly long ago discredited lies—the Jussie Smollett hoax, the “Trump never wished to be president in the first place” hoax, the Russian “collusion” hoax, and the hoax that Trump's presence turns once esteemed monuments that prior presidents, most recently Barack Obama, visited into racist dog whistles.

Then there was the monstrous lie that Joe Biden has no cognitive disabilities. That he does was the consensus of one in five polled Democratic voters, of many of his own primary rivals in numerous Democratic debates, of handlers who bragged that his basement quarantine need not end because it resulted in him outpolling Trump, of a scramble to turn the vice-presidential nomination into a veritable presidential bid, and in a litany of gaffes, blank outs, and tragic memory lapses of familiar names, places, and common referents.

Biden finally came out of his bunker to do some tele-fundraising and talk to a few preselected reporters. He almost immediately blasted a reporter as a “lying dog face.” In one of his next appearances, his opening statement started with “I am Joe Biden's husband, even as the liberal media insisted “Joe” was “Jill.” There is now a Biden-inspired cottage industry of arguing that what Biden is recorded as saying is not what he was saying—on the theory that he so poorly pronounces words that they can become almost anything you wish.

What *is* cruel is cynically using a cognitively challenged candidate for the purpose of winning an election and then replacing him with a far-left vice president who otherwise likely would never have been elected.

FDR and the Democratic Party did something similar in his successful fourth-term bid in 1944 because of FDR's anticipated early death in office—but in matters of hiding physical rather than cognitive impairment. Moreover, at least that dishonest gambit was undertaken in order to prevent a socialist takeover of the United States by jettisoning the hard leftist, Vice President Henry Wallace.

In 2020, the effort is not to ensure that a socialist not be appointed president who otherwise would not have been elected, but rather to ensure that she will be.

The brand of all cultural revolutions is untruth about the past and present in order to control the future. Why we have let this happen to our country is the only mystery left.

*Victor Davis Hanson is an American military historian, columnist, former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He was a professor of classics at California State University, Fresno, and is currently the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism.*

*He is the author most recently of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict was Fought and Won (Basic Books). This article first appeared in the July 5, 2020 edition of American Greatness.*

## SIX GRAPHS SHOWING JUST HOW MUCH THE GOVERNMENT HAS GROWN

BY RYAN McMAKEN



Federal spending and federal taxation in the United States set new records in 2019. And the federal [budget deficit swelled to more than a trillion dollars](#). Europe is in the middle of [an enormous spending binge](#). But apparently hard-core *laissez-faire* libertarian purists have taken over the world's governments.

At least, that's the case in the minds of many leftists and conservatives who have convinced themselves that "market fundamentalists" have conquered the world's institutions, and have enacted a global regime of near-zero taxation, free trade, and almost totally unregulated markets.

We hear this over and over again when everyone from The Pope to Bernie Sanders claims "neoliberalism" — a term used to "[denote... a radical, far-reaching application of free-market economics unprecedented in speed, scope, or ambition](#)" — has forged the world into a paradise for radical libertarians.

As one writer at *The Guardian* [assures us](#), the UK must end the nation's "generation-long experiment in market fundamentalism." Meanwhile, Tucker Carlson [insists that American policymakers "worship" markets](#) and have a near-religious devotion to capitalism.

The neoliberal takeover is so complete, in fact, that we're told neoliberals are [the ones really running the Labor Party](#). Meanwhile, sociologist Lawrence Busch [informs us](#) of a "neoliberal takeover" of

higher education. "Free-market fundamentalists," Busch contends, have transformed America's colleges and universities into swamps of capitalist obeisance.

By What Metric?

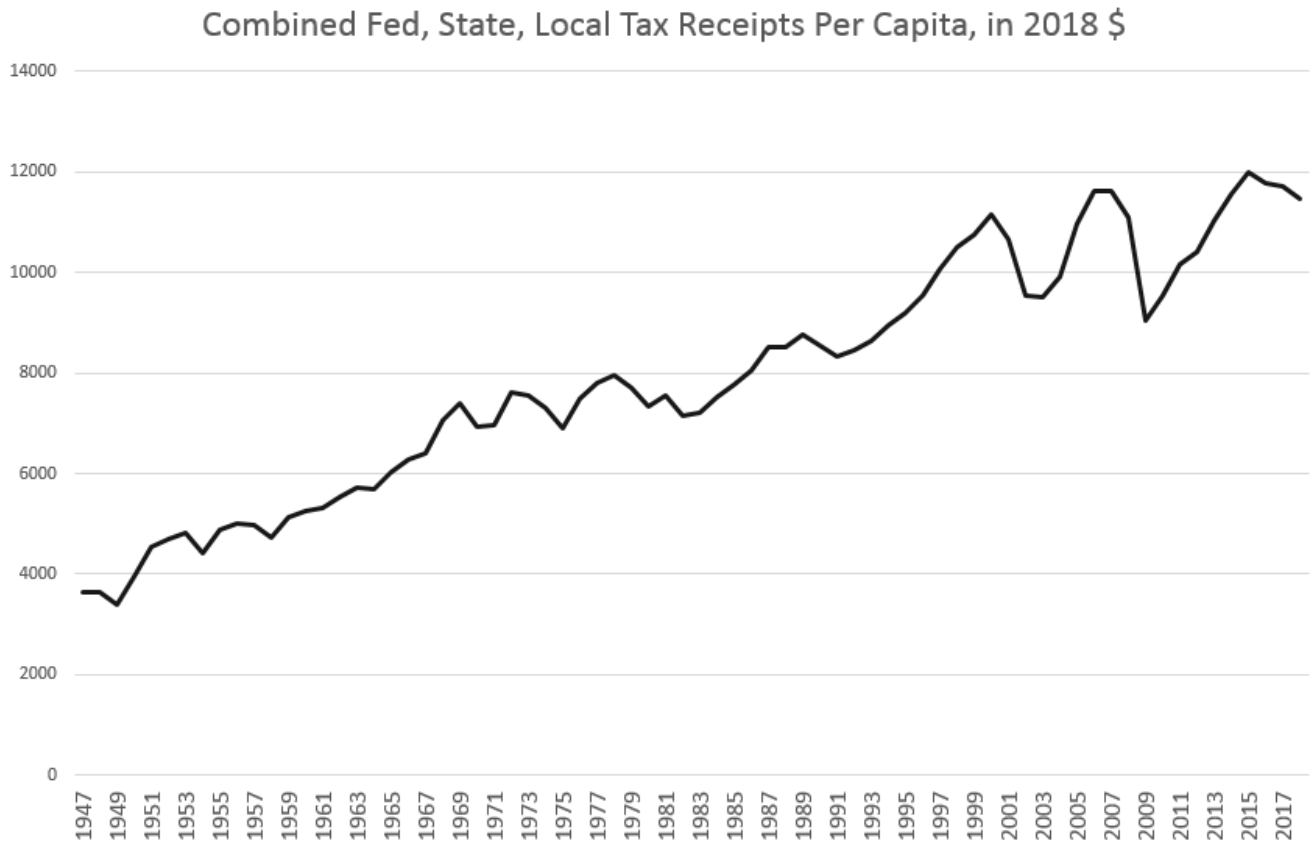
But whenever I hear about how government intervention in the marketplace is withering away — to be replaced by untrammelled markets — I am forced to wonder what metric these people are using.

By what measure are governments getting smaller, weaker, and less involved in the daily lives of human beings?

In this country, at least, this case certainly can't be made by consulting the data on government taxation and spending.

From 1960 to 2018, federal tax receipts *per capita* increased from \$3,523 to \$5,973, an increase of 70 percent.

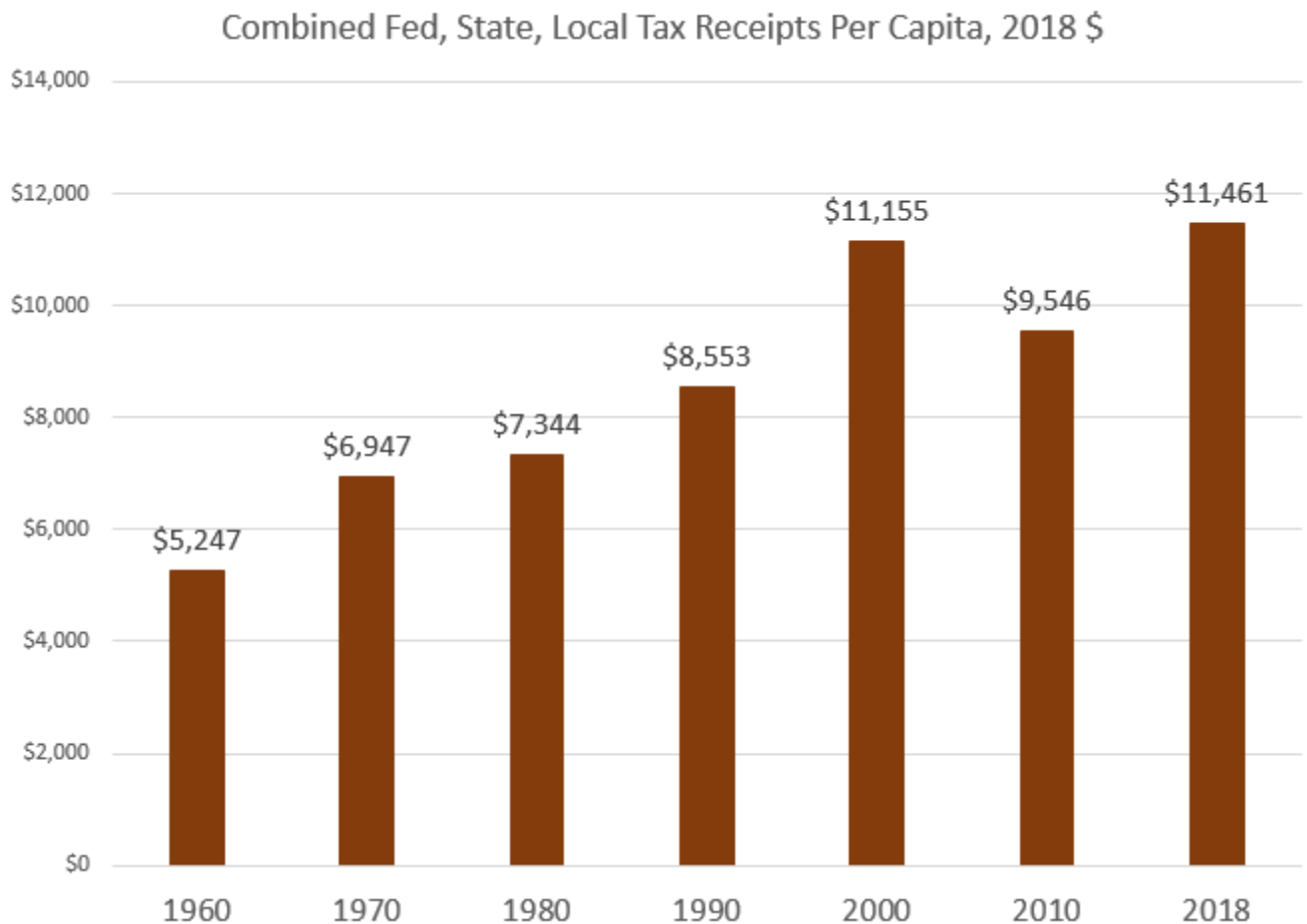
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Combining state and local taxation with federal taxes, the increase is even larger. Taxation *per capita* at all levels combined grew 118 percent from \$5,247 in 1960 to \$11,461 in 2018.

The size and scope of government isn't just growing to reflect population changes. After all, the US population only grew 81 percent from 1960 to 2018. And the federal government, embroiled in a global cold war amidst a rising tide of social programs, wasn't exactly vanishingly small in 1960.

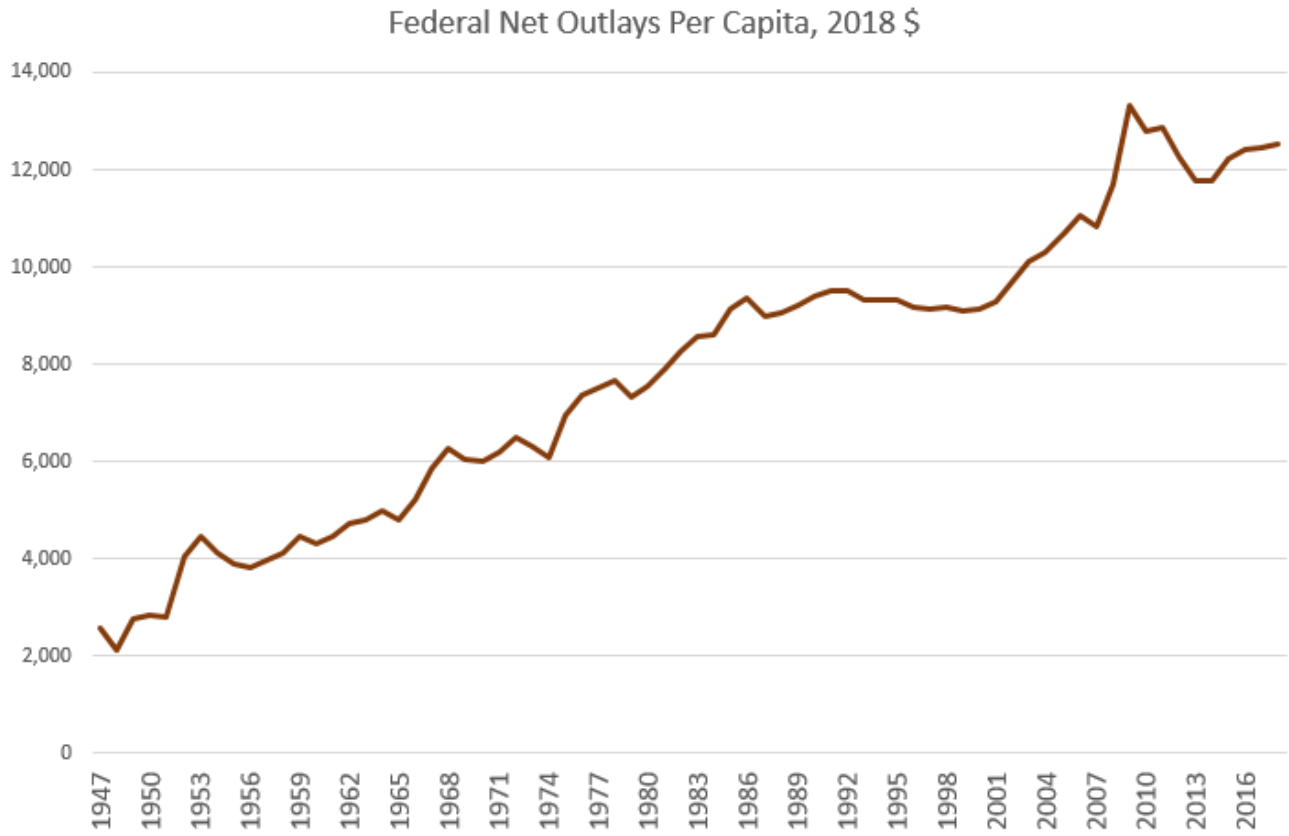
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In all these *per capita* graphs, I've factored in population growth because many defenders of government growth claim that governments must get larger as populations increase. Even if that were true, we can see that total spending and taxation is outpacing population growth considerably.<sup>1</sup> But it should not simply be accepted that population growth ought to bring increases in government spending and taxation. Military defense of the United States doesn't become more expensive simply because the population grew.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, innovation and productivity gains make products and services less expensive in a functioning private economy. This is often masked by relentless money supply inflation in the name of price "stability." But the natural progression of an economy is toward *falling* prices.



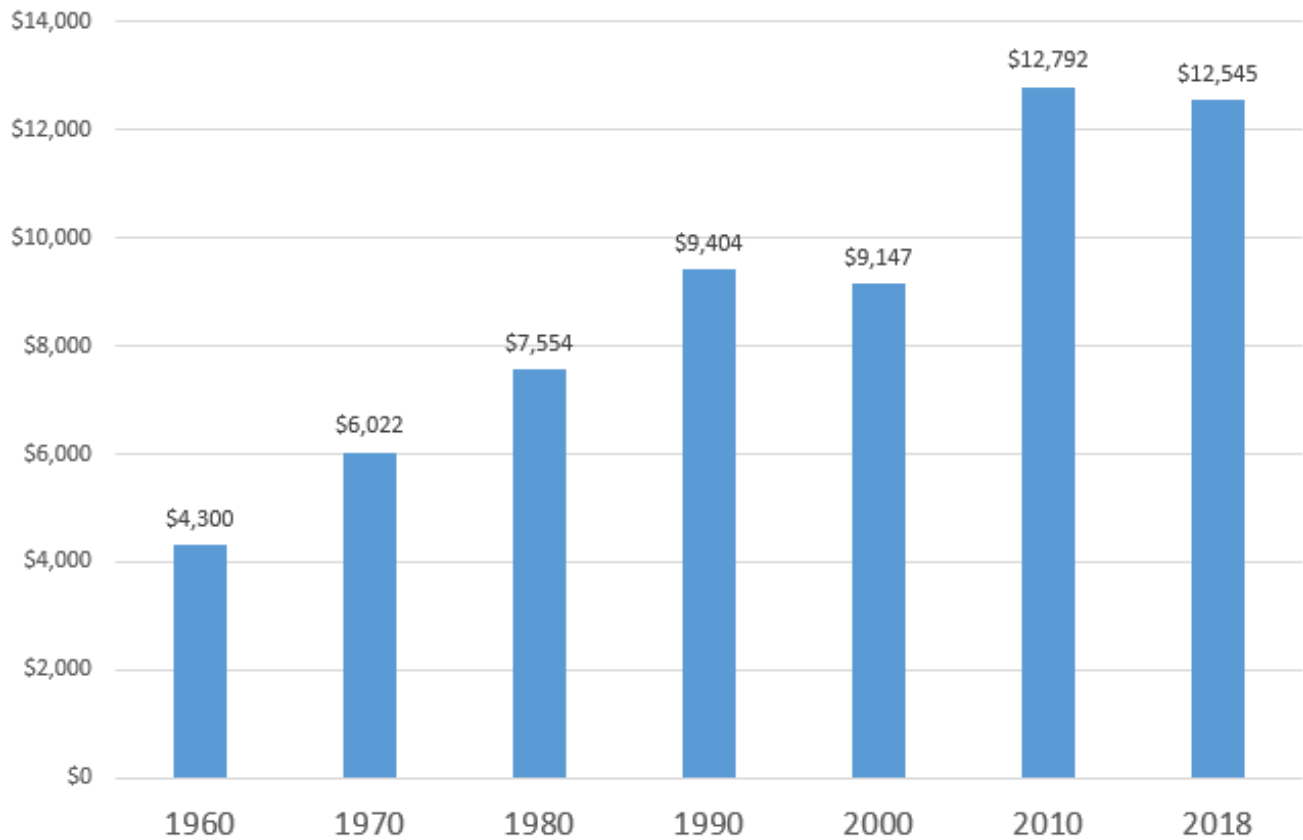
Only with government procurements have we come to expect everything getting more expensive every year.



Fueled by huge deficits, federal spending has outpaced tax collections. Per capita federal spending increased by 191 percent from 1960 to 2018, climbing from \$4,300 to \$12,545.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE:**

## Federal Net Outlays Per Capita, 2018 \$



The deficit topped a trillion dollars during the 2019 fiscal year, a new high for a so-called "boom period" during which deficits are supposed to shrink.

Ultimately, of course, huge deficits will put an additional burden on the taxpayers beyond the hundreds of billions of dollars per year necessary to simply pay interest on the debt. The huge debt levels put upward pressure on interest rates, and require more central-bank interventions designed to prop up demand for government debt. These interventions both crowd out demand for private debt, and have led to asset-price inflation as a result of money-supply inflation. This benefits the wealthy, but harms first time home buyers and ordinary savers.

The government spending itself is a problem as well. Governments try to play off government spending as if it were all a free gift to the taxpayers as some sort of "return" on the "investment" of taxes paid.

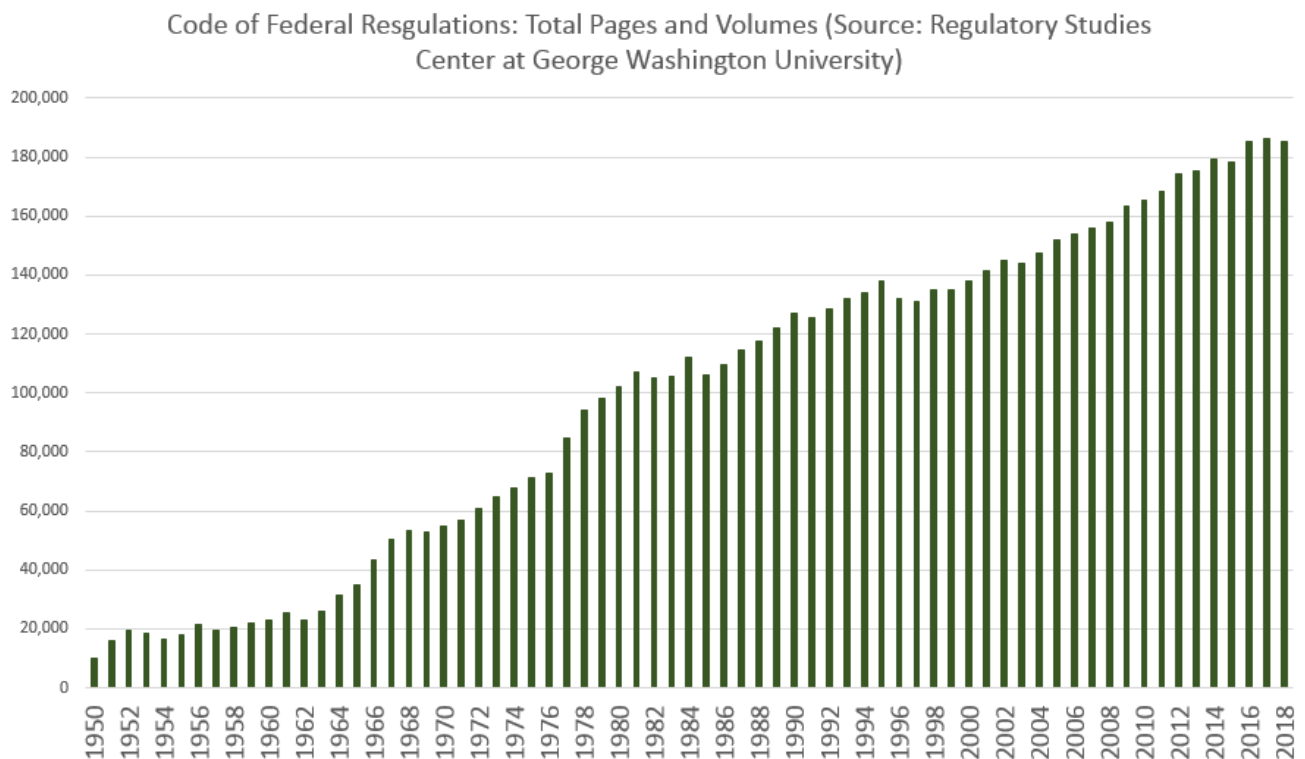
As Murray Rothbard has noted, however, government spending is just as damaging as the taxation that came before it. Government procurements bid up the prices of goods and services that *could* have been available at lower prices in the private sector were it not for the government spending. Steel and other materials would be less expensive for entrepreneurs. High tech workers could be employed innovating

and making things for ordinary taxpayers instead of for government agencies and bureaucrats. Small business owners and ordinary consumers all are worse off as a result.

So, given that spending and taxation are at or are near all-time highs right now, where exactly is this takeover by laissez-faire libertarians we keep hearing about?

It's certainly not in the regulatory side of the government.

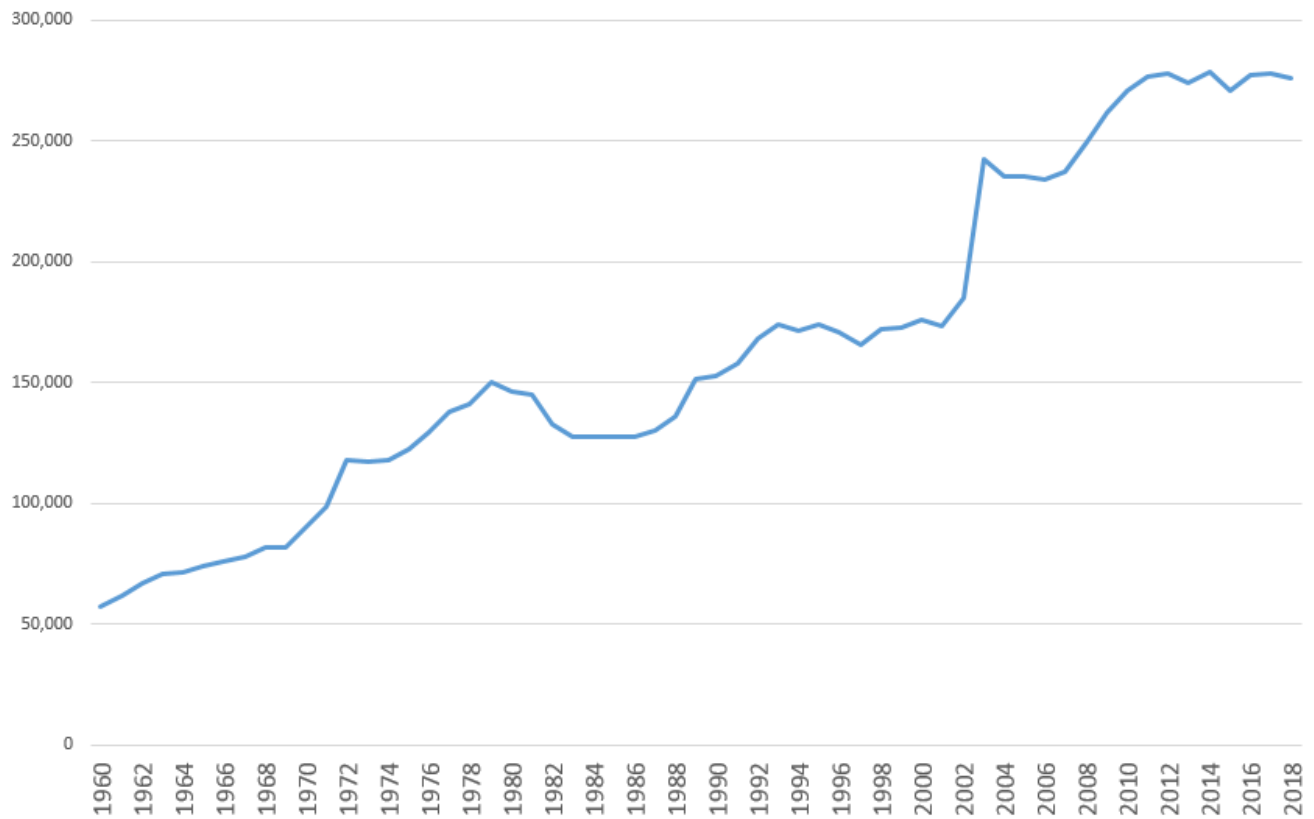
The number of pages published in the Code of Federal Regulations increased 710 percent from 1960 to 2018, and 37 percent over the past twenty years. Every additional page represents new regulations, new rules, new punishments, and new fees. These are costs employers must contend with, and consumers must ultimately pay for. Protectionists who think that manufacturers would flock to the United States were it not low tariffs might consider the regulatory burden placed on employers by our own domestic policies.



Both staffing and budgets for federal regulatory agencies continue to balloon. The combined budgets for federal regulatory agencies have more than tripled over the past 40 years, rising from under 20 billion in 1978 to 65 billion today.

Part of this has been to pay salaries for the ever growing army of federal employees. Employees at regulatory agencies doubled over the past forty years, rising from 140,000 full-time equivalent positions in 1978 to 280,000 today.

Staffing at Regulatory Agencies (Source: Regulatory Studies Center at George Washington University)



The US population increased by 47 percent during that time.

When the federal government isn't spending more, it's taking on more risk, committing the taxpayers to more bailouts, and flooding the market with government insured debt. As *The Washington Post* [reported earlier this month](#), "In 2019, there is more government-backed housing debt than at any other point in U.S. history." And these government guarantees are up considerably since the 2009 housing crash. *The Post* continues: "Now, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration guarantee almost \$7 trillion in mortgage-related debt, 33% more than before the housing crisis ... Because these entities are run or backstopped by the U.S. government, a large increase in loan defaults could cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars."

Yet, in spite of all this, we'll no doubt continue to be told that government is withering away, government institutions are "underfunded," and extreme anti-government libertarians have taken over. Of course, it's entirely possible that the success of certain free-market ideas — however limited that success may be — has helped to restrain the growth of government taxation and spending. Without this so-called "victory" of the libertarians, we might be looking at per capita tax collections that grew 200 or 300 percent in recent decades, rather than a "mere" 118 percent.

But given the ongoing growth of government taxation, spending, and regulation, it should be abundantly clear that we are hardly living in an age of "market fundamentalism," laissez-faire

libertarianism, or policymakers who "worship" the market. If anything, trends appear to be moving in exactly the opposite direction.

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- 1. One factor in rising tax collections during the twentieth century was the increase in the number of women who became wage earners. Wages, of course, are taxable, while in-kind or cottage-type income earned in household work is generally not taxable. As women left the home, they were more easily taxed. This trend, however, peaked in the 1990s, and the proportion of the workforce that is women now is about equal to what it was in the early 1990s. Per capita tax collections have continued to increase since the 1990s nonetheless.
  - 2. Nor should we assume that just because the overall economy grows, that government growth ought to keep up. Nor do the tools provided by government agencies give us much help in discerning such a relationship. For example, since government spending is included within GDP measures, government spending growth is not independent from GDP growth. We encounter a similar problem comparing government consumption and private consumption. In an economy with a sizable welfare state and with a lot of government contracting in the private sector, we find private consumption can be driven by government spending, and is not independent. For example, people who spend their welfare/soc. security checks on a vacation are increasing "private" consumption, but it's not really private in any true sense. Moreover, a worker who builds roads for government agencies is essentially a government employee, although his job and his spending would be counted as "private." The same, of course, is true of an engineer who builds high tech gadgets for the Pentagon. His paycheck isn't really private, and his subsequent spending isn't really private in the broad sense.

*[Ryan McMaken \(@ryanmcmaken\)](#) is a senior editor at the Mises Institute. Send him your article submissions for the Mises Wire and [The Austrian](#), but read [article guidelines](#) first. Ryan has degrees in economics and political science from the University of Colorado and was a housing economist for the State of Colorado. He is the author of [Commie Cowboys: The Bourgeoisie and the Nation-State in the Western Genre](#). This article first appeared in the publicatin Mises Institute on November 1, 2019.*

**SO YOU THINK COVID IS A PROBLEM? Check out this video from the UC Berkeley Lawrence Radiation Lab at the link:**

<https://youtu.be/EpaBzVoc3OU>

When it starts, press “ skip ads”.





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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HOME WORK**

**SAVE PROP. 13**

**PLEASE COPY, SIGN, AND, SEND IN THE PETITION  
BELOW ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**PLEASE PRINT, SIGN AND MAIL THIS PETITION TO:**

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association  
Attn: Director of Member Services, Dept. 202006  
P.O. Box 14230  
Orange, CA 92863-1230



**HOWARD JARVIS TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

OFFICIAL PETITION

**To: My Assembly Member  
And the entire California State Assembly**

*Whereas* Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (ACA 1) creates dozens of exceptions to Proposition 13's two-thirds vote protection, which would cost taxpayers billions in the coming years, including Parcel Taxes and Bond Debt that puts the security of home ownership at risk;

*Now Therefore I hereby exercise my right of Petition*, urging you to **VOTE NO** on ACA 1 or any Constitutional Amendment that would weaken Proposition 13.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

One of hundreds of thousands of Members and Supporters of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

*Please do not remove the section below. The form will be detached before petitions are released to the State Assembly.*

**Dear HJTA President Jon Coupal:**

**Yes**, I'm returning my signed Petition to you so you can compile the thousands you receive and deliver them to my Assembly Member and the entire State Assembly. To help HJTA fight ACA 1 and ALL threats to Prop. 13, I am also enclosing a special donation of:

\$25    \$15    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

First, Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions or gifts to the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association are not tax-deductible.

*Sign up with your e-mail address below to receive taxpayer e-mail updates:*

➔ \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address will be used only for communications from HJTA. We will not trade or rent your e-mail address, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

My check is enclosed, payable to Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association or HJTA.

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:

Visa                       Mastercard  
 Discover                     American Express

Card #:

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# ALERT

## ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

Now you can listen to THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW  
in *Santa Barbara, Santa Maria & San Luis Obispo*  
*Counties!*

We are pleased to announce that The Andy Caldwell Show is now broadcasting  
out of San Luis Obispo County on FM 98.5 in addition to AM 1290 Santa  
Barbara and AM 1440 Santa Maria



The show now covers the broadcast area from Ventura to Templeton -  
THE only show of its kind on the Central Coast covering local, state, national  
and international issues!

3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS

You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#)  
and previously aired shows at:



COUNTY UPDATES OCCUR MONDAYS AT 4:30 PM





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



**MIKE BROWN  
ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS**



**VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM**



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM

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



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER

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

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

### How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio  Internet  Public Hearing  Friend

COLAB Member(s) /Sponsor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

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

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.  
Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.  
Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

### PAYMENT METHOD:

Check  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Revised 2/2017)