



**WEEKLY UPDATE  
JUNE 21 - 27, 2020**

**THIS WEEK**

**NO BOS MEETING  
FOR THE NEXT 3 WEEKS**

**APCD DIRECTOR'S CONTRACT CONTAINS VERY  
EXPANSIVE TIME OFF PROVISIONS**

**STRICT NEW REGULATIONS FOR CANNABIS  
PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW IS HOT POTATO ON JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**LAST WEEK**

**SLO CITY ADOPTS GAS BAN**

**THEY DENY IT'S A BAN**

**BUT BY ESTABLISHING INCENTIVES, DISINCENTIVES, AND  
FEES IT'S ULTIMATELY A BAN**

**THEY POSTPONED IN LIEU FEES BUT WILL CONSIDER THEM NEXT YEAR  
OBVIOUSLY AFTER THE CITY COUNCIL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER  
WHY DIDN'T THEY PROMISE NOT TO ADOPT THEM IF THEY ARE SINCERE?**

**BOARD ADOPTS PLACE HOLDER FY 2020-21 BUDGET**

**\$17 MILLION IN FIRST CUTS**

**\$36-\$52 MILLION DEFICIT FORECAST**

**MUCH MORE TO COME AS THE BUDGET LACKS THE SUPPORTING REVENUE**

**MONTEREY BAY POWER REJECTED**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL PRIVATE PROPERTY ISSUE AND FAKE ENERGY**

**BOARD DIRECTS STAFF TO GO OUT TO BID ON**  
**\$30 MILLION PUBLIC DEFENDER CONTRACT (AGAIN)**

**POSITIVE STEPS ON AG WORKER HOUSING AND**  
**ADDITIONAL DWELLING UNITS ADOPTED**  
**SOME CONTENTION OVER HOUSING FOR CANNABIS WORKERS**

**IWMA WILL “EDUCATE” RESTAURANTS ON**  
**PLASTIC UTENSILS / CONSIDER BAN NEXT YEAR**

**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH**  
**SEE PAGE 17**

**CLASS, NOT RACE, DIVIDES AMERICA**

*IT IS THE TRUTH THAT THE WHITE PROGRESSIVE DARES NOT TO UTTER*

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

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**HOW CULTURAL REVOLUTIONS DIE ---- OR NOT**

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

*They eat their own, unless a cruel dictator rises to unite and control the mob*

# CALIFORNIA'S OUTBOUND MIGRATION CONTINUES, WITH SOME IN-STATE DIVERSIONS

BY KATY GRIMES

*The states with no income taxes gained the greatest wealth, while the states with the highest income taxes lost the most*

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

### No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The Board will be off on summer recess for the next 3 weeks.

### San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution (District) Meeting of Wednesday, June 24, 2020 (Scheduled)

**Item B-5: Employment Contract Changes for the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO).** The new contract looks pretty standard for a district manager. The subject matter is fairly technical. The straight salary is \$174,240, which with benefits such as pension, social security, health insurance, and other allowances, is a total compensation estimated to be around \$242,936.

Other provisions are described in the contract paragraph below:

*Vacation, Holidays, Sick Leave, and Administrative Leave. Employee shall be entitled to twenty (20) vacation days annually. Employee will be entitled to twelve (12) paid holidays per year on the same schedule as employees of the SLOAPCD, and one (1) paid personal leave day. Employee shall be entitled to twelve (12) days of paid sick leave per year and shall be entitled to accrue any unused sick leave up to a maximum of 260-days (2,080 hours). Employee is also entitled to paid administrative leave of twenty-one (21) ~~six (6) days per year~~. Employee is further entitled to cash-out a maximum of 80 hours vacation time each fiscal year, provided Employee has already used 40 hours of vacation time during the fiscal year. At the end of employment, employee shall be entitled to full compensation for all unused vacation and administrative leave, and shall be compensated at his most recent hourly rate for fifty percent (50%) of accrued sick leave up to 1,440 hours.*

Sick, vacation, and holidays add up to 44 days. Why would the APCO be given 21 paid administrative leave days on top of the 44 days? This would bring the total paid time off to 65 days. An average work month contains about 21 days. In effect, he would be entitled to 3.1 work months,

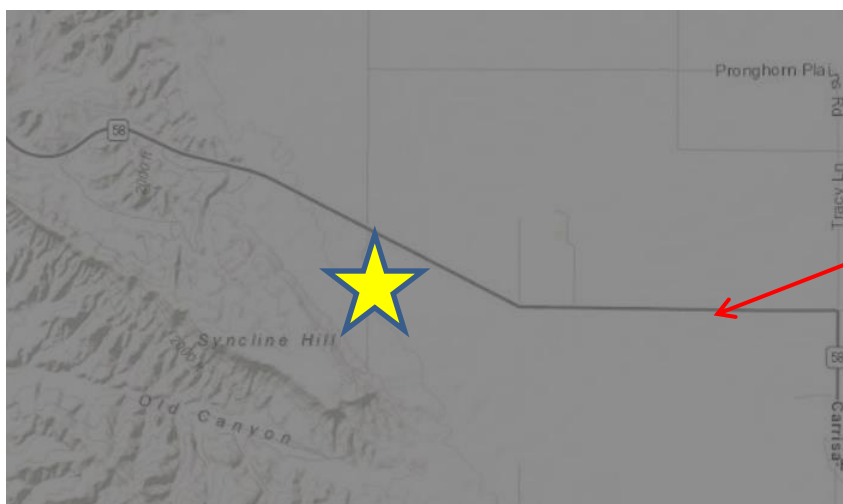
or 13 weeks off. This seems excessive on top of everything else. Note that if he does not get sick he can keep half of all sick leaves up to 1,440 hours and cash it out at retirement.

The contract is silent about outside employment, such as consulting for other agencies or a private sector company. Nor does it require that the APCO devote full time to the job with the SLO APCD. Will he be allowed to do other work with all the time off?

We never heard of public employees being granted 21 days of paid administrative leave on top of vacation – that’s almost 3 weeks and is a lot of mental health days! Perhaps he needs to purge the dunes dust.

**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, June 25, 2020 (Scheduled)**

**Item 3 - Hearing to consider a request by Arvus Axiom (Caleb Wendorff) for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2018-00154) (Previously DRC2018-00173) to authorize the multi-phased development of up to 3 acres of outdoor cannabis cultivation canopy in hoop houses; up to 40,824 square feet of commercial nursery area in hoop houses; up to 22,000 square feet of indoor cultivation canopy in greenhouses; 15,000 square feet of indoor processing; and 12,000 square feet of indoor commercial nursery. Project development would consist of the construction of 36,000 square feet of greenhouse space, a 15,000 square foot processing building for trimming, drying, curing and storage of onsite product, 480 square feet of office space, and installation of nine water storage tanks for irrigation use and one water storage tank for fire suppression. The project will result in the disturbance of approximately 10.2 acres on two parcels totaling approximately 41 acres. The project site is in the Agricultural land use category and is located at 8015 Carrisa Highway, about 38 miles East of the community of Santa Margarita in the Carrizo Planning Area of the North County Planning Area. Also to be considered at the hearing will be adoption of the Environmental Document prepared for the item. This is an extensive vertically integrated operation located out on Highway 58.**



**Project Location**

***Project Description / Uses***

***Cultivation***

- *Outdoor – 3 acres*
  - *Indoor – 22,000 sf*
- Commercial Nursery*
- *Outdoor – 40,824 sf*
  - *Indoor – 12,000 sf*

***Ancillary Uses***

- *Processing - drying, curing, trimming, and packaging*

***Project Description / Site Development***

- *Outdoor Cultivation hoop houses: 163,296 sf*
- *Indoor Cultivation 8 greenhouses : (8 x 3,000) = 24,000 sf*
- *Processing building: 15,000 sf*
- *Outdoor Commercial Nursery hoop houses: 40,824 sf*
- *Indoor Commercial Nursery 4 greenhouses: (4 x 3,000) = 12,000 sf*
- *1 Mobile Security Office building: 480 sf*
- *Additional Features:*
  - o *Access/parking Improvements, Engineered Swale, Secure Fencing*

Staff recommends approval of the project, as it meets all the requirements. The permittee will have to provide extensive protections for the badgers, kit foxes, rats, etc.



**Parcel in Relation to Hwy 58**



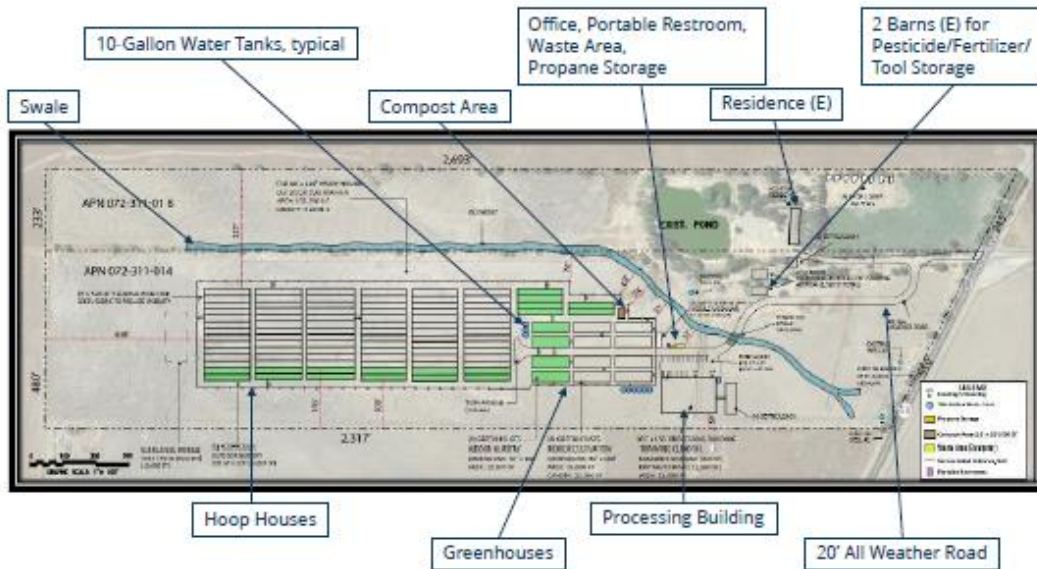
**North American Badger**

Special trails through the facility must be provided for transiting animals. The size, scope, and presumed cost of permitting and building this facility in the teeth of the very strict State and local regulatory requirements underscore the growing sophistication and financial capability of the cannabis industry. Also the name of the operation, Arvus Axiom, is interesting in this regard. The word arvus is the Latin adjective for ploughed and axiom is a statement which is taken to be true.

The word *axium* derives from the Greek *axiōma* (*ἀξιωμα*) 'that which is thought worthy or fit' or 'that which commends itself as evident.'<sup>1</sup>

Ploughed Truth? Someone has some education and/or imagination from somewhere. There is already an SLO winery named True Myth. Wonder how True Myth and Arvus Axiom pair. No doubt SLO Progressive's leader, and now cannabis entrepreneur Nick Andre will be bringing out a sneaky (seems mild but slugs you hard) version called "Social Equity."

There was not any adverse public comment in the file as of this writing.



### Parcel Development Plan

**Item 4 - Hearing to consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo for an amendment to the Land Use Ordinance and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance, Title 22 and Title 23 of the County Code (LRP2019- 00005. LRP2019-00006) as applicable to Cannabis Activities. The proposed amendments include enhanced enforcement violations, increased distance buffers from sensitive receptors, revisions to water offset requirements, disallowing re-permitting if an operation ceases or code violations occur, requiring fully enclosed ventilation systems, and revising standards for ancillary nursery to be encompassed in overall cannabis cultivation area.** Per the Board of Supervisors request last year, staff has returned with a cafeteria of potential expanded regulatory controls on cannabis. The Commission will review these and make recommendations to the Board. The key areas under consideration include:

1. Establish enforcement related remedies for cannabis violations, including options and scenarios related to a "3-strike" policy
2. Increase buffer distance from schools and other sensitive receptors,
3. Evaluate and analyze options to prohibit outdoor cultivation

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia, April 10, 2020



4. Disallow the payment of water offset fees over the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin
5. Disallow re-permitting if an operation ceases or violation occurs (no “revolving door”)
6. Require enclosed ventilation systems on indoor grows
7. Evaluate and analyze drying in hoop houses, and
8. Revise standards for ancillary nurseries to be encompassed in the overall cannabis cultivation area.

Click on the link below to see the changes. They are marked in red. Once the link opens, click on the tab Title 22 Amendments.

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/123068>

Some summary highlights from the Staff report include:

#### Violations

*Previous violations. Any site proposing cannabis activities where there have been verified violations of a County ordinance or other laws relating to cannabis within the last twenty-four (24) months shall require a Conditional Use Permit approval. Any site proposing cannabis activities which has had three (3) or more verified violations of County ordinance or other laws relating to cannabis within the last twenty-four (24) months shall be ineligible to apply for land use permit approval for any cannabis activity for a period of five (5) years from the date of the last verified violation.*

*Without modifying or limiting the grounds for revocation set forth above, land use permit approval shall be deemed automatically revoked for five (5) years upon a finding that the site has had three (3) or more verified violations of County ordinance or other laws relating to cannabis within the last twenty-four (24) months.*

#### **Amortization of Grows Over Time:**

*Limit on the number of cannabis cultivation sites. The total maximum number of applications accepted for processing for cannabis cultivation sites in the unincorporated portions of the County that cumulatively can be approved or accepted for processing shall be limited to 141. The revocation, expiration, rescission or termination of use permit approval, or the denial or withdrawal of an application accepted for processing, for cannabis cultivation on a site does not affect whether the above cap has been reached and whether any additional applications can be submitted. Once an application for a cannabis cultivation site has been accepted for processing or approved, the number of applications which can be accepted for processing for a cannabis cultivation site will be permanently reduced by one. In addition, the number of applications for cannabis cultivation which can be submitted at any one time shall be limited to 141, including permanent reduction for approved applications and applications accepted for processing regardless of whether those applications were subsequently withdrawn or approvals subsequently revoked. Renewal or modification of an approved land use permit does not qualify as a new application with regard to this limitation. Additional cultivation limitations shall be...*

#### **Energy requirements:**

*a. A detailed inventory of energy demand prepared by a Certified Energy Analyst. The inventory shall include an estimate of total energy demand from all sources associated with all proposed cannabis cultivation activities including, but not limited to, lighting, odor management, processing, manufacturing and climate control equipment. The quantification of demand associated with electricity shall be expressed in total kilowatt hours (kWh) per year; demand associated with natural gas shall be converted to kWh per year.*

*i. Specific steps to be taken to minimize energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project. Such steps may include, but are not limited to:*

*ii. Source project energy demands from renewable energy sources;*

*iii. Evidence documenting the permanent retrofit or elimination of equipment, buildings, facilities, processes, or other energy saving strategies to provide a net reduction in electricity demand and/or GHG emissions.*

*iv. Construction of a qualified renewable energy source such as wind, solar photovoltaics, biomass, etc., as part of the project.*

*v. Purchase of greenhouse gas offset credits from any of the following recognized and reputable voluntary carbon registries.*

*Inland Public Hearing Draft*

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*vi. Installation of battery storage to offset nighttime energy use.*

*vii. Any combination of the above or other qualifying strategies or programs that would achieve a reduction or offset of project energy demand and GHG emissions.*

*3. Evidence*

### **Separation From Sensitive Receptors:**

Separation From Sensitive Receptors is increased from 1,000 ft. to 1,500 ft. These include schools, parks, health facilities, drug and alcohol rehab facilities, and others. There is strong pressure from the public to declare residences as sensitive receptors.

### **Setbacks From Another Cannabis Cultivation Site:**

*No cannabis cultivation site shall be located within one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet of another cannabis cultivation site or cannabis nursery. Distances shall be measured from the closest property line of the existing cannabis cultivation site, to the closest property line of the property containing the proposed cannabis cultivation site. This location standard can be modified through Minor Use Permit approval when a Conditional Use Permit.*

### **Water Use Restrictions:**

There are some heavy-duty water restrictions for the Paso Basin and in particular areas that are listed as in "Severe Decline." These include 2/1 offsets and no transfers between parcels or around the basin.

Should all or many of these new regs (and others not displayed here) be adopted, it will be almost impossible to site an outdoor grow anywhere in the County except in the far eastern sector.



## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

### Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, June 16, 2020 (Completed)

**Item 1- Update and possible action on COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County.** Again the report was verbal. The infection rate is rising in some counties but not in SLO County so far. There does not seem to be any large uptick in cases at this point. Everyone is on pins and needles to see if progressive opening of society will accelerate the infection rate. There are a number of people advocating that people in public places be required to wear a mask. While recommending the use of masks, the County did not seem to be ready to impose the requirement.

Later in the week the Governor issued an order that everyone must wear masks in public. Also by the week's end, there was indicia that the infection rate is up-ticking all over California. If the masks don't work, will this spur not only rollbacks in reopening but a re-expansion of the lockdown.

**Item 38 - Adoption of FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget. The purpose of this addendum is to update the FY 2020-21 budget per actions taken during the budget hearing held on June 8-10, 2020 which includes: 1) a resolution adopting FY 2020-21 budgets for the County and Board governed Special Districts; and 2) a resolution adopting the FY 2020-21 Position Allocation List.** The Board voted 4/1 (Arnold dissenting) to adopt the budget and incorporate about \$17 million in preliminary cuts due to the government imposed shutdown of the economy.

Supervisor Arnold had advocated funding restorations in the Sheriff's budget by reducing other less essential services such as training, travel, vehicle purchases, etc. For whatever reason, the rest of the Board determined to use reserves.

There will have to be successive Board meetings later in the year to adopt further reductions due to the economic damage done by the government required COVID-19 lockdown. The staff will assess the impact of the State budget reductions on the County. They will also monitor the sales tax.

**See last week's COLAB Update - June -20, 2020 for all the details:**

[http://www.colabslo.org/prior\\_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update\\_Jun-14\\_Jun-20\\_2020.pdf](http://www.colabslo.org/prior_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update_Jun-14_Jun-20_2020.pdf)

**Item 39 - Request to 1) receive and file the study prepared by MRW & Associates analyzing Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) and 2) provide staff direction on the next steps for Community Choice Aggregation.** The Board received the report without taking action, thereby rejecting joining MBCP for the foreseeable future. Supervisor Gibson proffered a motion to direct staff to prepare the documents for joining MBCP, which did not receive a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Supervisor Hill was absent from the meeting, allegedly due to being stressed about being ordered to evacuate due to the Avila fire.

**At the Meeting:** The consultant from MRW presented the report via Zoom. The Board asked a variety of questions. Then there was a lengthy public comment period consisting of recorded messages and live telephone comment. The supporters and opponents were pretty much equal in number.

Supervisor Hill was displeased with the COLAB report (see last week's Update at to review our analysis): [http://www.colabslo.org/prior\\_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update\\_Jun-14\\_Jun-20\\_2020.pdf](http://www.colabslo.org/prior_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update_Jun-14_Jun-20_2020.pdf)

There is detailed information exposing the scam. Much of the supporting commentary was based on the shibboleth, "everyone else has joined so SLO County must join too." With only 3 minutes to comment, we couldn't mention that this was the same argument when SLO County ill-advisedly issued pension obligation bonds back in 2003. These were a complete scam as well, and the County has been paying them off ever since. Over \$10 million per year is being diverted from current service to maintain the payments. There was also a huge cliff in the payoff schedule for one series of the bonds that required the County to pay \$90 million in one year (2018), which could have been used for real capital improvements such as roads, buildings, homeless housing, and other needs.

Just because other dumb governments go along with the latest scam fad doesn't mean that SLO County should. Thanks to the Board majority of Debbie Arnold, Lynn Compton, and John Peschong, the County was not snookered on this one.

After all, the arguments about rates, County financial risk, paper energy, fake renewables, and fake carbon free energy were run through again, but the Board wasn't deceived. Of course the biggest underlying problem is that the whole program is a government seizure of private property.

This issue highlighted the fundamental objection to the CCE model and Monterey Bay Power. The government in the form of the State of California determined to effectively seize private property of the privately owned utility systems by requiring them to use their property to serve the CCEs. This is the most odious and outrageous aspect of the entire program. Even if the CCEs could deliver a lower cost and more carbon reduction (which is questionable) the Board of Supervisors majority rejected the scheme, which undermines fundamental American Constitutional rights.

The Board majority stood tall on this issue and did not succumb to false utilitarian arguments or genuflect to the green deities.

The Board majority was particularly perceptive on the matter of governance of the MBCP, which we had overlooked. They pointed out that the Policy Board used by the Authority consists of city council members and Supervisors from the member counties - Monterey, Dan Benito, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and all the cities in SLO County except Atascadero. SLO County, with one Supervisor on the Board, could be outvoted all the time, just as it is at the loony Integrated Waste Management Authority and the APCD. Supervisor Peschong was clear when he pointed out that, just last week, the MBCP Board rejected a sound business recommendation of its management to help keep its rates lower while remaining "carbon free" when it voted to forbid the use of carbon free certificates from the Diablo Power Plant (12 to 3) because they are created by carbon free nuclear energy. The anti-

nuclear ideologues and green radicals run the ranch, so to speak. After all this just isn't trivial like banning plastic forks.

**Background:**

The theme here was:

*If at first you don't receive the answer you want, hire more consultants until you do.*

This was the 4<sup>th</sup> study commissioned by the Board of Supervisors on the feasibility of establishing or joining a community choice energy (CCE) program. Prior studies included 1) forming a joint CCE with SLO County, Santa Barbara County, and Ventura County, 2) forming a CCE with the City of San Luis Obispo, 3) SLO County joining Monterey Bay Community Power - consultant 1, and 4) SLO County joining Monterey Bay Power - consultant 2. The first 3 studies were negative. The first study was separately peer reviewed and was confirmed as negative. The 3rd study was particularly negative, prompting Supervisor Gibson, who was eventually followed by the rest of the Board, to commission a 4th study based on a list of Board and staff provided questions.



**Item 40 - Request to receive and file an update and take action on matters associated with the Primary Public Defender contract with San Luis Obispo Defenders, a Professional Law Corporation.** After much discussion and contention, the Board determined to request that the Law Corporation extend the current contract for 18 months. This would allow the County to prepare a request for proposals and bids, circulate them, analyze the responses, and negotiate with the successful responder. As of this writing we have not heard if the Law Corporation would agree to the County request.

If it doesn't, the County would be compelled either let the proposed 4-year contract go forward without a bid, attempt to negotiate a longer interim contract, or let the contract end. In the latter case the Law Corporation would continue defending all the defendants in its current workload under the provisions of the current contract. The County would have to contract with outside law firms for the new cases until it completes its bid process.

This one is coming down to the wire. It is good that the Board is not being bullied into rolling the existing contract over again. The Law Corporation may be the best service, compete, and win the new

bid. In any case the Board would for the first time in 4 decades have an idea what the contract is worth.

**Background:** Last week the Board determined to ask the Law Corporation if it would voluntarily extend the existing contract, which is about to terminate, to allow the County to conduct a proper request for proposals and bid. An ad hoc committee of Supervisors Compton and Gibson was assigned to ask the Law Corporation to do this. As of this writing there is no answer to the question. It is expected that it will take about 7 months to prepare a proper request for proposal, circulate it for response, analyze the responses, and negotiate a new contract.

Here again was another controversy in which the staff was asserting its power to control a matter which should ultimately be Board Policy. In this case it involves the award of a contract that will ultimately cost somewhere north of \$20 million over 4 years and could actually cost \$30 million if a 2-year contractual extension is exercised.

The contract is with a law group called the San Luis Obispo Defenders (SOLD), which provides the County's primary public defender services, which are mandated by law. Some counties provide the service using in-house staff and some contract the service out. The SOLD has held the contract for at least **20 years or more**. For all of that time the contract has contained a clause which requires the County to negotiate with SOLD for a new contract prior to going out with a bid. Due to this circumstance, the County has no idea what other law firms or consortia might propose.

It is very bad public policy and irresponsible to keep rolling contracts repeatedly without coming up for air to see what the market would provide. The County could be wasting millions of dollars and providing a huge financial windfall to SOLD.

**Item 42 - Hearing to consider adoption of a resolution amending Title 22 and Title 23 of the County Code and the Coastal Framework for Planning Table "O" (LRP2017-00002) to amend and replace the Farm Support Quarters Ordinance with a new ordinance on Agricultural Worker Housing that reduces regulatory barriers and streamlines the permitting of agricultural worker housing.** The Board approved the ordinance revisions, making it easier and more cost effective to produce on site agricultural worker housing.

*The proposed ordinance amendments would remove barriers for developing agricultural worker housing. Agricultural worker housing is generally defined as residential dwellings, including mobile homes, or group quarters, such as dormitories or bunk houses and mess halls, occupied by employees of agricultural or ranching operations and the spouses and children of those employees. The County has an existing ordinance that governs agricultural worker housing (currently called "farm support quarters") for both inland and coastal areas. These ordinances generally regulate allowance of agricultural worker housing based on the land use category, size of parcel, and amount of agricultural operation that exists on the subject property or within a five-mile radius.*

| TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF THE<br>CURRENT ORDINANCE, STATE LAW, AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  |                                      |                                  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Note: The following is a summary of the proposed amendments and does not reflect the entirety of the ordinance. For more detail, please refer to the respective documents. |                                      |                                  |                                      |
|  | Current Ordinance                    | Employee Housing Act (State Law) | Proposed Amendments                  |
| Land Use Categories Where Agricultural Worker Dwellings are Allowed  | Agriculture (AG)<br>Rural Lands (RL) | Discretion of local government   | Agriculture (AG)<br>Rural Lands (RL) |
| Minimum Site Area for Group Quarters   | 20 Acres                             | Discretion of local government   | 5 Acres                              |
| Maximum Distance from Group Quarters to Supported Agricultural Operation   | 5 Miles                              | Discretion of local government   | Eliminate distance requirement       |

| Ministerial Review for Single-Family Dwellings as Agricultural Worker Dwellings | 4 dwellings allowed before a Minor Use Permit is required                                     | 12 dwellings allowed before a Minor Use Permit is required   | 12 dwellings allowed before a Minor Use Permit is required   |
|---|---|--|--|
| Ministerial Review for Group Quarters as Agricultural Worker Dwellings          | 20 beds allowed before a Minor Use Permit is required   | 36 beds allowed before a Minor Use Permit is required        | 36 beds allowed before a Minor Use Permit is required        |
| Status of Residents   | Agricultural Workers of Supported Agricultural Operation, including their Spouse and Children | Any Agricultural Worker, including their Spouse and Children | Any Agricultural Worker, including their Spouse and Children |

**Item 43 - Hearing to consider adoption of a resolution amending Coastal Framework for Planning Table “O” to add Accessory Dwelling Units as an allowed use; exempt from CEQA.**

The Board also approved the ordinance revisions here which make it easier to develop second units and increase the affordable housing stock.

*The proposed revisions to Coastal Framework for Planning Table “O” replace the term “Secondary Dwelling” with “Accessory Dwelling Unit”, and allows ADUs to be constructed in all land use categories that allow single-family and multi-family dwellings.*

Apparently the Coastal Commission, per usual, is meddling with the County by trying to make permit applications for additional units in the Coastal Zone appealable to the Commission. This item is an effort by the County to reclassify them in the zoning ordinance to forestall the Commission's blocking efforts. The new wording may diminish the Commission's concerns and allow the County to go forward.

**City of San Luis Obispo City Council Meeting of Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 6:00 PM, City Hall (Completed)**

**Item 11 - Consideration Of A Resolution Establishing A Policy For Clean Energy Choice For New Buildings And Implementation Measures Including An Ordinance Approving Local Amendments To The Energy Code And An Ordinance Establishing Regulatory Flexibility For A Limited Term To Support All-Electric New Buildings.** The City Council approved the Resolutions and Ordinances on a vote of 4/0. Councilor Pease recused herself due to a possible appearance of a conflict of interest. It is possible that the written comments of COLAB and some other opponents were not transmitted to the City Council members or placed in the Record by the City Clerk. These were submitted per the instructions on the City website over 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

If this default is confirmed, the City violated the Brown Act and should be compelled to a rescheduling of the item and reconsideration. See last week's Update for the full analysis and details at the link:

[http://www.colabslo.org/prior\\_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update\\_Jun-14\\_Jun-20\\_2020.pdf](http://www.colabslo.org/prior_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update_Jun-14_Jun-20_2020.pdf)

**Background:** The program was packaged in 3 Resolutions and 2 Ordinances. In aggregate they require that new residential and commercial buildings be all electric for heating, hot water, cooling, dishwashing and clothes washing, cooking, and accessory appliances such as pool heaters. Commercial restaurants are exempted. Apparently the industry revolt was sufficient to convince the City to lay off.

Tellingly, a builder or owner seeking an exception will have to install electric service capacity with specified sufficient amperage connections, wiring, and space for future required all-electric system connections. These must be capable of replacing all the gas appliances in the future.

As the agenda letter states:

*Overall, the Clean Energy Choice Program for New Buildings is an incremental approach to avoid the generation of new greenhouse gas emissions as the result of new development. At build-out of the City's General Plan (2035), the Clean Energy Choice Program is anticipated to avoid 6,250 Metric Tons of CO2 equivalence (MTCO2e) per year. The annual amount of avoided emissions would be equivalent to taking 1,320 passenger vehicles off the road or planting nearly 160,000 trees to sequester carbon.*



New buildings that use gas will have to meet higher energy standards with respect to insulation (or other energy saving construction), windows, and roofing. All of this is specific in building code ordinances.

Thus while not an outright ban today, it's an effective ban for new construction and it lays the groundwork for required conversions in the future. There are also financial incentives and regulatory bonuses for those who do opt to construct all-electric buildings. For example, new commercial buildings will be let off the hook for required solar facilities if they go all-electric now.

Monterey Bay Community Power will also be providing cash incentives, utilizing revenue derived from the electric rates levied in its service communities, which include the City of San Luis Obispo. This means, just as we had forecast, that MBCP is not only in the electric business (really the wheeling and trading of renewable energy certificates), but will use its money and power to help achieve progressive goals, such as wiping out the natural gas industry and ultimately the fossil fuel industry.

#### **The Council Item states in part:**

• *Financial Incentives: Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) is currently developing a multi-year direct incentive program with an initial funding amount of \$1.2 million through the end of September 2020. MBCP staff has communicated that the program will be available for new all-electric multi-family and affordable housing units in its service territory and is expected to begin taking applications in May of 2020. More information is available at <https://www.mbcommunitypower.org/building-programs/>.*

MBCP is also giving grants to communities that adopt gas bans.

#### **Reach Code Incentive Program:**

- MBCP is offering a onetime incentive payment of \$15,000 to MBCP member jurisdictions to offset staff costs associated with the adoption of a reach code ordinance
- Program launches May 29, 2020

Staff will be developing a long-term retrofit program for Council consideration as part of its 2020-21 work-plan. Initially, the City would work to support other agencies/organizations that are already implementing energy efficiency retrofit programs.

**The Whole Issue Is a Symbolic Red Herring:** San Luis Obispo's total 340,000 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e is only .001% of the State total. If San Luis Obispo City eliminated all of its CO<sub>2</sub> totally, it would have no meaningful impact. In turn the amount of natural gas to be reduced (7,800 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>) is only .00002 %. Why would the City subject its homeowners, builders, and everyone else to the costly, intrusive, and wasteful ordinance? It cannot be justified as public policy on the numbers. It is simply symbolic virtue signaling of the worst kind. Oh and by the way, the Diablo Power Plant forestalls the production of 8 million Metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year. This will largely be replaced by natural gas

to provide the base loads at night. Remember, most of the Monterey Bay Power Authority electricity is not flowing from British Columbia hydro or some other CO<sub>2</sub> free source, but is simply a trading scheme of clean energy certificates.

The actual electrons will come from PG&E and other gas sources, especially after the Diablo plant closes.

What did the SLO City Council ever do to help keep Diablo open?

### **Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, June 18, 2020 (Cancelled)**

#### **NOTICE**

*Please be advised that the June 18, 2020, meeting of the LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO) has been canceled. The next LAFCO meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2020.*

### **Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Meeting of Thursday, July 18, 2020 (Completed)**

#### **16. Discussion Regarding Single-Use Take-Out Utensils and Accessories in San Luis Obispo County.**

##### **Page 163**

Recommendation: Based on public requests the Executive Committee asked Staff to add to the Board agenda a line item to discuss the increased use of single-use take out utensils and accessories and provide direction to staff.

The Board had a long discussion about the evils of plastic utensils which are placed in take-out food containers and bags for the convenience of their customers. It is asserted that these are contaminating the world's oceans and clogging up landfills. The Board considered agendaing an item to require that restaurants only provide them if requested by the customer. In the end and given some push back from the Board of Supervisors members (other than Gibson, Hill was absent), they determined to set up an email education campaign with messages being sent to restaurants urging them to only provide the utensils if requested. After the election they will start talking "ban" again.

Interestingly, last January the staff advised the Board that aging solar panels are becoming a larger problem in the waste stream. Apparently they wear out and cease functioning at some point. Staff warned that many of the newer solar panels being hyped to customers are cheesy and have a useful life of only 5 years. A deluge of these will come in a few years.

The solar panels are considered hazardous waste. There will be a huge tax cost foisted on the citizens and businesses of the State when this trend arrives. You would think that the Board would prioritize this over the plastic knives and forks that come with your sushi.

There was no write-up or staff proposal. During the previous meeting several of the Directors complained about plastic utensils that are included with take-out food. The thrust will be to ban them.

## **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**



### **CLASS, NOT RACE, DIVIDES AMERICA**

***IT IS THE TRUTH THAT THE WHITE PROGRESSIVE DARES NOT TO UTTER***

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

Nothing is stranger in these tense days than the monotony of the inexact and non-descriptive mantra of “white privilege” and “white solidarity”—as if there is some monolithic white bloc, or as if class matters not at all.

In truth, the clingers, the deplorables, the irredeemables, and Joe Biden’s “dregs” have very little in common with those who so libel them, but superficially share supposedly omnipotent and similar skin color.

In the past, we saw such tensions among so-called whites in CNN’s reporting of the allegedly toothless rubes at Trump rallies, in the Strzok-Page text trove about Walmart’s smelly patrons, in the

callous coastal disregard for the five-decade wasting away of the American industrial heartland, in the permissible elite collective disparagement of Christian evangelicals, and in the anthropological curiosity about and condescension toward such exotic, but presumably backward, Duck Dynasty and NASCAR peoples.

As a result, we have reached the surreal point at which the nation's privileged whites on campuses such as Harvard, Yale, and Stanford, in the top echelon of politics, and the corporate and entertainment worlds, all deplore in the abstract something they call "white privilege" in others who have never really experienced it.

Of course, whatever such a thing is, *they* possess it in abundance but give no hint they have any intention of giving it up other than rhetorically or through the medieval concept of hair-shirt penance and Twitter confessionals. On the other hand, they are furious that middle-class whites do not join their theatrics of bending the knee and offering abject apologies for original sins.

Progressive, affluent whites run most of the blue states that oversee the big blue cities who hire the liberal police chiefs and their unionized officers. So how strange it is for liberal elite white people to damn supposed white privilege for the logical sins of their own ideology and governance.

### **Little in Common Culturally and Socially**

Across the hollowed-out rust belt, in Appalachia, throughout California's foothills and Central Valley, or in the rural South there are millions of white Americans who fail in terms of income, longevity, suicide rates, dependence on government assistance, and drug dependence statistically compared to nonwhite ethnic groups such as Punjabi immigrants, or Asian-Americans in general, and elite black and Latino minorities.

But more importantly, I can attest after living my entire life near the rural nexus of Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties, ground zero of the 1930s and 1940s *Grapes of Wrath* Oklahoma diaspora, that many whites by no stretch of the imagination could be defined as "privileged." They are also not deplorable, irredeemable, or clingers to their guns and religion, much less dregs. Whatever they may be, they are *not* the beneficiaries at birth of any intrinsic advantage. They certainly did not enjoy the affirmative action of the white elite, defined by familial networks of like professionals, alumni influence, money, *quid pro quo* interning, incestuous leveraging, and good ol' boy favoring.

So they have little culturally or socially in common with the elites of predominantly white coastal corridors from Boston to Washington and La Jolla to Seattle. The indifference of one to the other is mutual. There is no shared concept of "It's a white thing, you wouldn't understand." Again, the white underprivileged feel about the white privileged about the same as the latter feel about them. In that sense, the generic "white" means very little.

Class matters, not superficial commonalities of race. Lower-middle-class or poor whites are more likely to live among poorer minorities than are elite, high-income whites whose experience of the

Other is often confined either to career contacts with wealthy minority professionals of like tastes, education, backgrounds, and values—or their asymmetrical brief conversations with their own gardeners, housekeepers, and nannies.

The white underclass lives, schools, and works among the supposed Other; the overclass not so much. As a result, in our increasingly polarized racial society, the white overclasses have constructed a psychological edifice to contextualize the paradox of their own *de facto* racial apartheid and segregation.

In rural Fresno County, for example, most poorer whites—in terms of the local public schools, friendships, and social outing—have far more in common with Mexican-Americans and Hmong minorities and are of the same class, than they do with the wealthier and professional white classes in the Bay Area.

One reason that many African-Americans are often suspicious of white liberal elites is that they sense their apologetics serve as cheap penance for their apartheid lives of privilege. No one has much respect for a chronic dissimulator, appeaser, and apologist, even if superficially ideologically akin. A great unexplored topic is the African-American disdain for the white elites who so easily are superficially obsequious, not out of authentic desire to be equals but to preen among one another of their condescending paternalism. Only in the irrational venom toward black conservatives, who warn of the white progressive elite, do we see the extent of the white elite liberal's superciliousness.

### **Racial Demagoguery vs. Class Appeals**

One of the reasons that the Left and the Democratic Party feared and hated the Trump movement was its emphasis on class rather than race, a more fluid and potentially more dynamic appeal, and one with the potential to unite rather than divide those of different tribes.

Indeed, much of the left-wing focus on Trump's supposed "racism" emerged in response to the fact that, unlike past Republican bogeymen such as Mitt Romney and despite his billions, Trump was not so easily caricatured as an elite grandee who felt uneasy among the nonwhite.

Whatever Trump was, he talked to blacks just as he talked to everyone else—same accent, same mannerism, same vocabulary. He was not going to feign a black patois and pander in the Joe Biden style of "Put y'all back in chains" or "You ain't black," or reinvent himself in Hillary Clinton fashion as a civil rights veteran possessed of a phony drawl, "I don't feel no ways tired. I come too far . . ." Think of the logic driving these white liberal elites: "Blacks cannot understand *my* good English, so I will descend into *their* poor grammar, diction, and syntax to feign 'y'all' and 'ain't' and 'no ways tired.'" "

In the context of promoting real national healing or efforts to ensure a more equitable society, Americans need to understand something about many of the Antifa protestors in the streets; the professors at the barricades; the New York and Washington grandees; and the Pelosis, Schumers, and

Bidens of the world. Their abstract lectures about “privilege,” public prostrations on their knees in the Capitol with Kente cloths, self-interested promises of additional billions of dollars for blue-city bureaucracies, and narcissistic virtue signaling with other superficial bumper stickers of the revolution condemning white anything or privilege something—all of it—amounts to nothing more than day jobs to be turned on at 9 a.m. and switched off at 5 p.m. The show means little to most of them except the otherwise necessary price for feeling good about doing even better *in their own eyes*.

After Mitt Romney’s recent walk in a Black Lives Matter protest, an interview on television ostensibly displayed his caring for the black underclass. Do we recall prior left-wing hit jobs on him as a racist during his 2012 presidential bid? There were so many, but two ads stand out.

One was that now-infamous secretly recorded tape in which, to a receptive audience, Romney expressed his credo “there are 47 percent of the people who will vote for the president [Obama] no matter what” because they are “dependent upon government . . . believe that they are victims . . . believe the government has a responsibility to care for them . . . these are people who pay no income tax.”

Romney apparently no longer believes that or least would not again utter it even in the presence of a friendly audience. But at the time he seemed oblivious to the fact that some of those 150 million Americans did not make enough income to pay income tax, or were unemployed and wished to work, or were disabled or were sick or were on Social Security without any other private assistance.

And second, there was a vicious, but equally effective hit ad against him, a quite unfair one starring his empathetic black garbage man. He complained that Romney, supposedly unlike his other more humane customers, never greeted or talked with him. (“We’re kind of like the invisible people.”)

My point is not so much that the smear ads were unfair, only that such propaganda worked.

Why so? Not because Barack Obama, Romney’s opponent, was any more concerned with the underclass than was Romney. Indeed, the Obamas likely by now have a far greater income and perhaps even a greater net worth than Romney and may soon surpass his number of luxury homes. They probably live an even more segregated existence.

Rather, both ads suggested that the “caring” of the public Romney was demonstrative, while the private Romney, if the public could just get a glimpse of him, was not so interested in personal empathy or outreach. A cynic might add, in this age of loud virtue signaling, that had Romney just spoken to his garbage man, or told a private meeting of supporters that “the 47 percent” really could be reached and persuaded that new policies would help far better than fossilized programs, he might not have found himself in the position of much later needing to feel the need to march in front of a national audience in a fashion that will have little if any effect on anyone but Mitt Romney.

### **Separatism Won’t Heal the Racial Divide**



If one is actually troubled—indeed, really concerned about the plight of the nonwhite underclass, about systematic violence in the inner city, about the abject failures of the public schools, about the insidious spread of microaggressive racism, about virtual immunity given rogue cops—then one should recognize that virtue signaling from the gated estate, public confessionals, and medieval penance to square the circle of private apartheid have done nothing and will do nothing to address these problems.

We need not hear any more sermonizing, even from the iconic Michelle Obama, who ventures out from her multimillion-dollar Martha's Vineyard estate or Washington mansion to lecture black Americans—millions of whom are now locked in their inner-city homes, terrified by looting and arson, and not a policeman to be seen—that they cannot become “too angry,” all before venturing back inside her chateau rooms with a view.

Instead, why not commit to real change? Why do we not integrate Sidwell Friends with those schools of the inner-city and of lower classes? Why do not our actors, the Pelosi grandchildren, the scions of the Zuckerberg, Gates, and Bloomberg families, all vow to place their offspring into the public schools, to become personally engaged with the less fortunate, and to pledge that their own fates will hinge on those of others? One can write a check for millions to the anti-Semitic and racist Al Sharpton and his charity and thereby do far less than simply tutoring one inner-city teen or taking him on as a personal intern to advise him how one gets ahead in America.

Indeed, why not eschew the third home, the walled compound, the private-jet getaway, and instead have a second home in an inner-city or Latino suburb or among the rural hamlets of the Central Valley or Western Texas? People do not want tele-condescension but rather face-to-face dignity. And dignity comes from being treated as an equal and a partner, *not as a cause*.

Why not have over to dinner those who make \$50,000 rather than \$500,000? Why not eschew giving a check to Black Lives Matter and instead quietly and privately help mentor African-American youth in the arts of business, or medicine, or law, and invest personal time in genuine devotion to those who do not have the tools and support network to ensure upward mobility? Or why not weld alongside, or hammer with someone you romanticize in the abstract as much as you avoid in the concrete?

The racial divide will not be healed by black separatist tribalism. It will not be bridged by the white apartheid guilt of the well off. It certainly will not end by this absurd medievalism of affluent, sequestered, well-meaning, white progressives championing black causes in ways that are loud and public, but ultimately selfish.

The next time we hear a lecture about caring from a woke Yale professor, or a sermon on systematic racism from a CEO, or more Hollywood confessional video drivel, we should pause and politely ask, “But where do your children go to school? And why do you live where you live? And dine with whom you dine?” Then remember class, not race, is what divides America—the truth that the upscale white progressive dares not utter.

# HOW CULTURAL REVOLUTIONS DIE — OR NOT

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

*They eat their own, unless a cruel dictator rises to unite and control the mob.*

UNLIKE coups or political revolutions, cultural revolutions don't just change governments or leaders. Instead, they try to redefine entire societies. Their leaders call them "holistic" and "systematic."

Cultural revolutionaries attack the very referents of our daily lives. The Jacobins' so-called Reign of Terror during the French Revolution slaughtered Christian clergy, renamed months, and created a new supreme being: Reason.

Mao cracked down on supposed Western decadence such as the wearing of eyeglasses, and he made peasants forge pot iron and intellectuals wear dunce caps.

Moammar Qaddafi's Green Book cult wiped out violins and forced Libyans to raise chickens in their apartments.

The current Black Lives Matter revolution has "canceled" certain movies, television shows, and cartoons, toppled statues, tried to create new autonomous urban zones, and renamed streets and plazas. Some fanatics shave their heads. Others have shamed authorities into washing the feet of their fellow revolutionaries.

But inevitably cultural revolutions die out when they turn cannibalistic. Once the Red Guard started killing party hacks too close to Mao, it began to wane.

If toppling Confederate statues is required, what then about Nancy Pelosi's own mayor father, who once, as Baltimore's mayor, dedicated honorific statues to Confederate generals?

If racists understandably do not deserve their names on national shrines, what to do with the iconic liberal graduate program at Princeton, the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs? It was named for a president who did more to further segregation and racial prejudice than any chief executive of the 20th century.

Stanford and Yale, coveted brand names of the progressive professional classes, are named after men whom protestors now deem racists.

It is easier to target Fort Bragg, the iconic military base named after a Confederate general, racist, and military mediocrity than to see one's MBA or Ph.D. lose its Yale luster, or to confess that a liberal presidential icon perpetuated racism.

Once a cultural revolution gets going, there can be no contextualization of the past, no allowance for human frailty, no consideration of weighing evil vs. good.

Once a cultural revolution gets going, there can be no contextualization of the past, no allowance for human frailty, no consideration of weighing evil vs. good.

Eventually, the architects of cultural upheavals always make two miscalculations.

One, they presume that destroying things will never apply to themselves, given their loud virtue-signaling.

Two, if they are fingered by the mob, they assume they can somehow use their clout and influence to win exemption.

In other words, once cultural revolutions turn anarchic and eat their own, they lose support. When quiet sympathizers conclude that they too may be targeted, they turn on their former icons to survive.

We are seeing that now. Liberal sympathetic bystanders are wondering whether downtown arson and looting will go private and reach their suburban homes. Do they really want their marquee universities or the Washington or Jefferson Monuments defaced or renamed? What happens when calling 911 gets a constant busy signal? When a liberal mayor or black police chief or progressive governor or white leftist who diverges from the party line is targeted by the mob, then who really is safe?

Answer? No one.

And so the cultural revolution sputters to irrelevance.

What deflated the #MeToo movement was the high toll that the accusations took among the Hollywood and cultural elite. Suddenly, when their own careers were destroyed, progressive celebrities began demanding evidence and insisting on presumed innocence.

What burns out these cultural upheavals is that today's revolutionary can be denounced as tomorrow's sell-out. No leader wants to share Robespierre's rendezvous with his own guillotine.

There is one caveat.

Sometimes cultural revolutions don't die out — if they are hijacked by a thug or killer. The National Socialist movement was an irrelevant nihilist mob of crazies until Adolf Hitler turned it into his personal genocidal cult. A murderous Stalin resuscitated the absurdities of Lenin's failing Bolshevism.

The present madness will wane like a virus, as it eats its own and terrifies its sympathizers that they may be next — unless, of course, a would-be Napoleon uses a “whiff of grapeshot” and turns the mob into his personal cult.

The armed rapper Raz Simone, who some say lords over CHAZ, the “Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone” (recently renamed CHOP, the “Capitol Hill Occupied Protest”) in downtown Seattle, so far has neither the diabolic talent nor the resources to spread his anarchy.

Dissident generals may be misguided, but they remain patriots. So far, we have seen no Napoleon emerge to claim that he is the only man who can lead today's urban revolutionaries to victory.

A final thought: Cultural revolutions not only eventually die without cruel dictators, but they can spawn dramatic pushbacks. Ronald Reagan was the answer to the radical Sixties. Revolutionaries are now sowing the wind, but they have little idea of the reactive whirlwind they may soon reap.

*This article appeared in both the National Review and the Hoover Institution of Stanford University Daily Report of June 18, 2020. Victor Davis Hanson is a Senior Fellow of the Institution, Classics Professor, Military Historian and one of the most preeminent public policy commentators in the nation.*

FRANCE 1789



RUSSIA 1920



# CALIFORNIA'S OUTBOUND MIGRATION CONTINUES, WITH SOME IN-STATE DIVERSIONS

BY KATY GRIMES

*The states with no income taxes gained the greatest wealth, while the states with the highest income taxes lost the most*

With Antifa and Black Lives Matter riots breaking out across California, some city dwellers are longing for safer neighborhoods, and safer towns. Following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis by a police officer, radicals in BLM and Antifa – which ironically stands for “anti-Fascist” – used Floyd’s death as an opportunity and excuse to wreak havoc.

For many Californians, the final straw came sooner, as more than [691,145 Californians left the state in 2018](#). Texas nabbed 86,164 former Californians that year, according to an Orange County-based survey. Moving, the top spot for Californians is Texas, which got 86,164 Californians in 2018. Next came Arizona (68,516), Washington (55,467), Nevada (50,707), and Oregon (43,058). All told, California had the most exits among the states and that wave grew by 4% in a year.”

The California Legislative Analyst also [reported](#) that for many years, more Californians have left for other states than move here. According to data from the [American Community Survey](#), from 2007 to 2016, about 5 million people moved to California from other states, while about 6 million left California. On net, the state lost 1 million residents to domestic migration—about 2.5 percent of its total population.

Now we are starting to see outbound migration from California’s big cities to smaller cities and towns, and to the state’s rural counties – if they even choose to stay in California.

Real Estate agents regularly report trends, and Carol Butler, who owns [50Cabins.com](#) and is a Resort & Second Home Specialist, says that now that people realize that they can work from home, many are choosing to make their primary home in a beautiful place outside of a big city. “I’m selling more primary homes in Tahoe and El Dorado County, and I’m a Resort & Second Home Specialist!” Butler said. “It’s as busy as ever; I just wish we had more inventory! The economy here is surprisingly strong for the Tahoe and surrounding area market.”

Butler said the other benefit is the “perceived safety” outside of big cities. The riots did not make it to El Dorado County, although she said there were a few BLM protesters in South Lake Tahoe – but no violence or destruction.

Butler noted that the cabins and mountain homes she usually sells to second home buyers, are being purchased by primary home buyers now. “And those sellers are leaving California!”

We know why California companies leave for other states: Chief Executive Magazine reports year after year that when CEOs across the country are surveyed, they name California as the worst state in the country in which to have to do business. California has the highest-in-the-nation taxes, one of the



highest business tax climates, with the [Tax Foundation ranking](#) California at No. 49 – the second worst in the nation, ahead only of New Jersey.

California's 13.3% income tax rate is the highest marginal tax rate in the nation. And when you add in up to 37% federal taxes, living in California is expensive right off the top, and especially now that we cannot deduct state taxes against the federal.

Sacramento real estate agent Stephen G. reports he is seeing more and more home sellers leaving for other states. Initially the reasons were primarily due to the high cost of living in California. After the statewide lockdown, with schools and businesses closed for months, and then the riots the last two weeks, he said he expects to see more people reaching a tipping point, making the decision to move out of state.

Relocation specialist Joe Vranich, who used to live in [California](#), for years has documented the outbound migration of businesses. "Business-flight appears to have gotten worse since I issued my recent report, '[Why Companies Leave California](#)', which found that at least 13,000 companies moved out of state during the 2008-2016 period (the latest available figures)," Vranich wrote for Fox and Hounds last year.

"The cost: \$76.7 billion in capital was diverted out of California along with 275,000 Jobs – and companies acquired at least 133 million square feet of space elsewhere. All of those findings are greatly understated because relevant information often went unreported in source materials."

Vranich knows how and why businesses leave California:

"California's current crop of politicians point to the occasional economic development 'win' with pride while ignoring the overall business migration to other states. Let's be candid about who they are – business-hostile Democrats who've never run a business, never raised capital, never built a building, never met a payroll, never arranged for employee health-care policies, never sold a product or service, never competed with lower-priced foreign competitors, and never paid any of the countless taxes and fees imposed by various levels of government."

"Between 1995 and 2010, millions of Americans moved between the states, taking with them over \$2 trillion in adjusted gross incomes," author Travis Brown says in "[How Money Walks: How \\$2 Trillion Moved Between the States, and Why It Matters.](#)"

"Two trillion dollars is equivalent to the GDP of California, the ninth largest in the world. It's a lot of money. Some states, like Florida, saw tremendous gains (\$86.4 billion), while others, like New York, experienced massive losses (\$58.6 billion). People moved, and they took their working wealth with them."

"Money—and people—moved from high-tax states to low-tax ones. And the tax that seemed to matter the most? The personal income tax. The states with no income taxes gained the greatest wealth, while the states with the highest income taxes lost the most. Why does this matter? Because the robust presence of working wealth is the leading indicator of economic health."

[According](#) to "How Money Walks," California lost \$58.63 billion in annual adjusted gross income.



*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 June, 2020 California Globe.*



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(Revised 2/2017)