

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

**WEEKLY UPDATE
MARCH 22 - 28, 2020**

11th ANNUAL

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

DINNER & FUNDRAISER

Steve Hayward
UC Santa Barbara Conservative Senior Resident Scholar
World So Crazy, ... Again?

Alex M...

5:15 pm Social ...
6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner ...

\$120 per person | \$1,200 per Table (Reserved ...)

For tickets
Reservations and payment can be made at:
<http://www.colabslo.org/support.asp>

Or mail your check to:
COLAB SLO: PO Box 13601, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Cocktail Attire Optional

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(805) 548-0340 | colabslo@gmail.com



POSTPONED!

TO AVOID RISK EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 BY A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, AND PER THE ORDERS OF VARIOUS SAFETY AUTHORITIES, THE COLAB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HAS DETERMINED TO POSTPONE THE 2020 ANNUAL DINNER FUNDRAISER WHICH HAD BEEN SET FOR THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2020. WE WILL BE IN COMMUNICATION WITH YOU REGARDING REFUNDS AND FUTURE EVENTS. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS AND LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING AS YOUR ALL REGIONAL AGENCY GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG IN THE FUTURE. PLEASE CONTACT US AT (805) 548 - 0340 OR colabslo@gmail.com IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS



ONWARD!

**EARLY WARNING
SLO CITY GAS BAN PLANNED FOR THE AGENDA
OF APRIL 7, 2020
IT SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE VIRUS IS GONE**

As of Friday, March 20th, and in one of the more blatant and devious political moves we have seen lately, the Mayor and Council have tentatively scheduled the 2nd reading of the gas ban ordinance at their regular meeting of April 7, 2020, when no one can appear to testify in person. Moreover, the item could be heard even though the State and County have suspended the right of public assembly on the basis of very parochial and specious data relative to COVID 19. Similarly, the Council will be considering the matter in the teeth of a government induced economic meltdown. The travel ban gives them perfect cover to sneak the ban through. If the Mayor and Council persist in considering this item at this time, let alone approving it, they should be recalled.

Imagine, you pull up and park outside City Hall. The Police Officer stops and asks you under which exemption from the State and County lockdowns requiring you to stay home you are you operating. You say, I'm going to the City Council meeting under the "essential governmental function exemption" to complain about the gas ban. The officer then writes you the citation and tells you to go home, pointing out that the SLO City Council provides no actual essential government function and that you are not a government employee performing an essential government function – and particularly none which will impact COVID-19. Meanwhile the City Council proceeds under the current Brown Act open meeting law suspension.

City of San Luis Obispo City Council Meeting of Tuesday, April 7, 2020 (Scheduled)
6:00 PM

THIS WEEK

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TRUNCATED
LIVE PUBLIC ATTENDANCE BANNED

**BOARD TO HIRE \$500K CONSULTANTS TO
PROMOTE BOND DEBT & AND NEW TAX**
ITEM WITHDRAWN ON FRIDAY

MORE CANNABIS & FEES PROPOSED
ITEM WITHDRAWN ON FRIDAY

PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED
ITEMS INCLUDING 2 CANNABIS GROW PERMITS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

LAST WEEK

SPECIAL BOS MEETING RE COVID-19
BOARD RATIFIED A STATE OF EMERGENCY BUT DID NOT INDICATE THEY
WOULD IMPOSE HOME CONFINEMENT THE NEXT DAY

SUPERVISOR HILL SPECULATION UNRESOLVED

NO REGULAR BOS MEETING

LAFCO CANCELLED

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 22

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS
BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

A FIASCO IN THE MAKING?

*As the coronavirus pandemic takes hold, we are making decisions without
reliable data*

BY JOHN P.A. IOANNIDIS

GREENING OUR WAY TO INFECTION

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE BAG BAN NOW?

*The ban on single-use plastic grocery bags is unsanitary—and it comes at
the worst imaginable time.*

BY JOHN TIERNEY

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

GOVERNMENT OVERREACTION TO COVID-19?

Governments at all levels, Federal, State, and County, have overreacted to the current COVID threat. Last week on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the County issued Local Emergency Order No. 4, requiring all people to remain in their residences except for certain exempt purposes. The County Order has now been over washed by Governor Newsome’s lockdown order of the next day. Newsome’s order is shorter and much more vague.

At this point, it appears that the regular flu infects more people, hospitalizes more people, and kills more people in the United States each season than COVID-19. COVID-19 may end up ultimately infecting more people, but to date it has made relatively few sick and very few die. It appears that of those it does make sick, only about 5% are very sick. By way of perspective, see the statistics in the tables below:

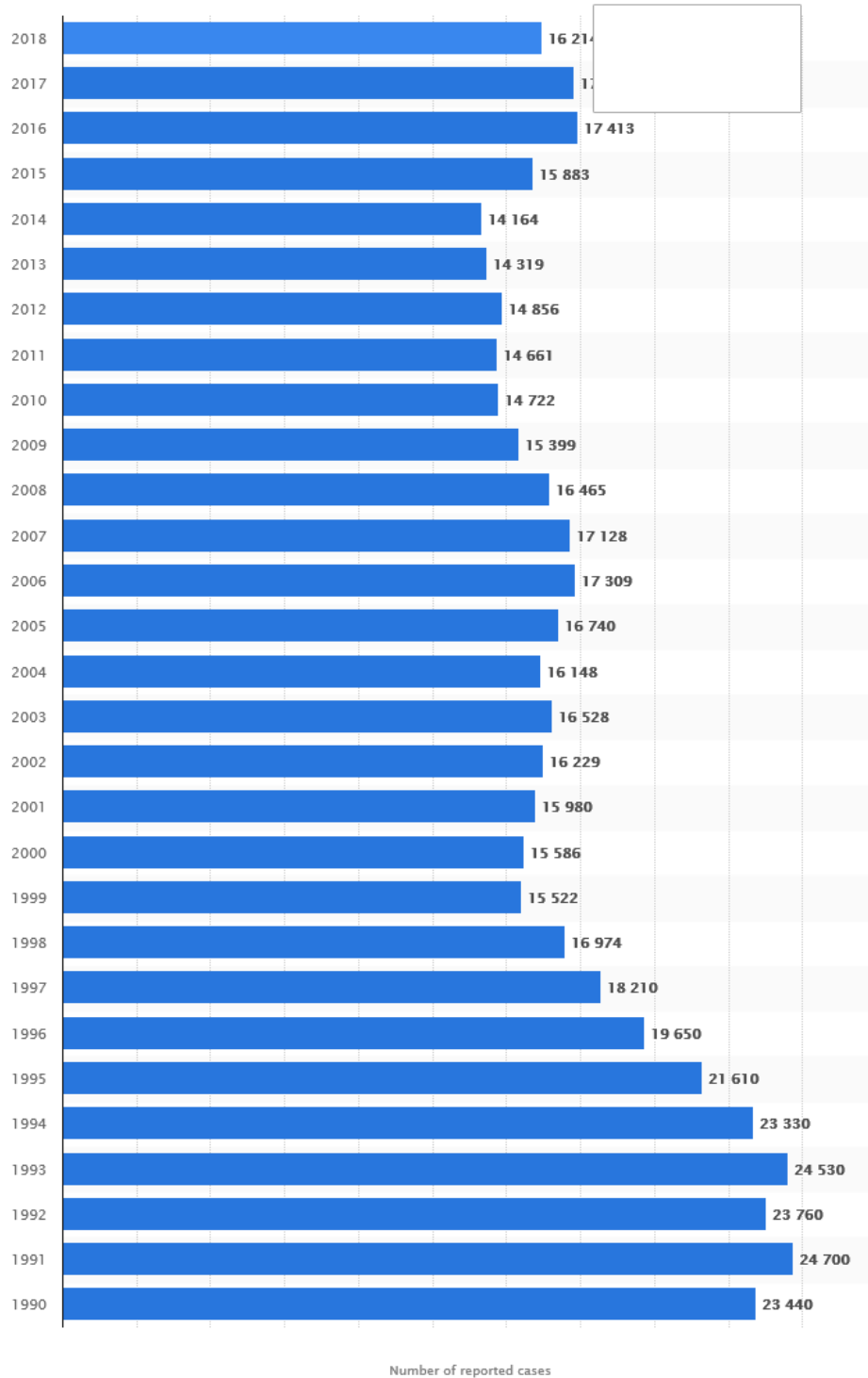
The Centers for Disease Control regular flu statistics averages for the past 5 years are displayed in the chart below:



*The top range of these burden estimates are from the 2017-2018 flu season. These are preliminary and may change as data are finalized.

Number of deaths by Suicide: 47,173

Number of Deaths by Homicide:



As of March 21, 2020, CDC reported that 24,148 people in the US have confirmed cases and 285 have died of COVID - 19. In the meantime governments have devastated the whole economy and

damaged it for years. The current generations of Millennials, X'ers, and Y'ers will suffer the consequences for the rest of their lives.

Some of the massive expansions of government authority, function, and invasiveness may never go away. The trillions in new debt to pay for free income, bailouts, and patronage will never go away. Various jurisdictions are now issuing edicts banning evictions of residential tenants. You can bet that these will be hard to rescind when the virus is over. In effect, the goals of the enviro-socialists are being achieved over a few weeks without an election or stated revolution. Income and Social Security Taxes will have to increase exponentially to pay for the debt.

As sales and hotel taxes crash, cities and counties will suffer revenue losses. Should the stock market take years to recover, the government pension systems including PERS, STRS, and the County Pension Trust will require huge new infusions of cash. Similarly, the State income tax revenue will decline, as it is so dependent on high-income individuals who derive their income from investments.

Once these chickens come home to roost, you will really be sick.

Government Rationale:

The theory is to smooth the rate of infection by locking everything down. This would reduce a potential peak and spread the new cases out over a longer time period, which would in turn allow the health care system be able to deal with the sick people. Questions at this point include:

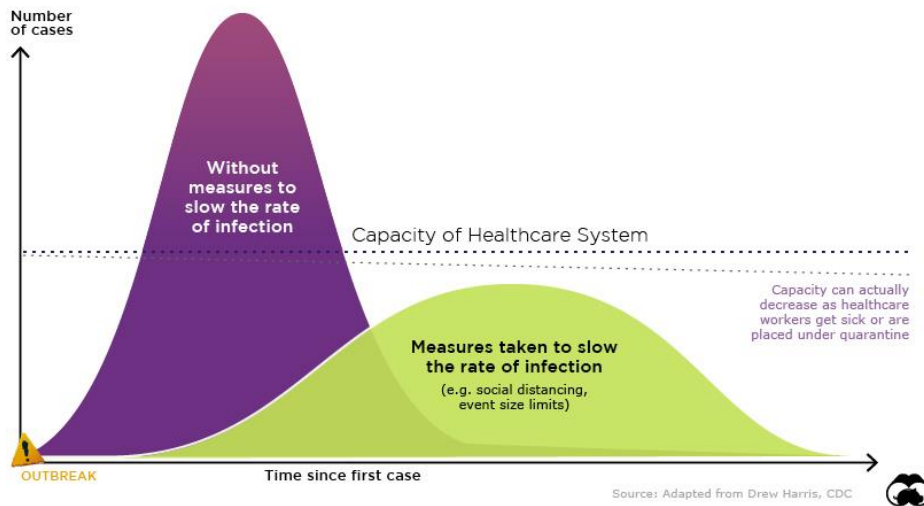
- Is the infection rate such that the draconian measures imposed are justified?
- Is the very sick rate such that the draconian measures are justified?
- What if the economy fallout is far more damaging to groups of the population than the draconian measures imposed? If a major depression results, how sick could large portions of society become from a variety of illnesses?
- What if the lockdown then becomes permanent? Will you have to have a government pass to shop, travel, assemble, worship, etc.? **“SHOW ME YOUR PAPERS.”**

Constitutional rights may become suppressed in the name of expediency and panic or as the progressive left advocates, “Never Let a Crisis Go to Waste.”

Nevertheless, the Governor amended his order to list cannabis dispensaries as essential services. The State Alcoholic Control Board issued an order to allow restaurants to serve drive-up booze. What about drive by Holy Communion with a blessed and intincted Oreo cookie?



Flattening the COVID-19 Case Curve



Pandemic Waves:

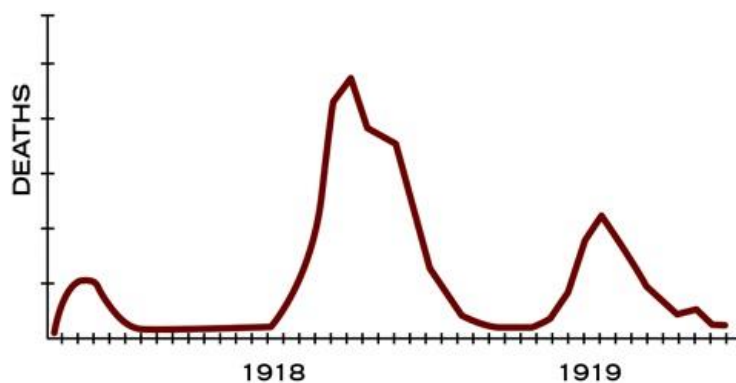
Often pandemics occur in waves. The first wave is relatively mild in terms of infection rate and mortality. It seems to moderate and then subside. A much more virulent and lethal wave emerges months later. This is because viruses naturally mutate to become more effective. As the first wave viruses' DNA evolves to be more effective in its human hosts, its surviving successors become much more virulent and lethal. Is it possible that the version in Italy is more virulent and lethal?

We have not seen any discussion from public health officials or the media of steps being taken to deal with this potential.

For example, there were 3 different waves of illness during the Spanish Flu pandemic, starting in March 1918 and subsiding by summer of 1919. The pandemic peaked in the U.S. during the second wave, in the fall of 1918. This highly fatal second wave was responsible for most of the U.S. deaths attributed to the pandemic.

Second wave - A phenomenon of infections that can develop during a pandemic:

The disease infects one group of people first. **Infections** appear to decrease. And then, **infections** increase in a different part of the population, resulting in a **second wave of infections**.



County Lockdown Order:

The heading of the County Order is displayed below. The full text can be reviewed in Addendum I, which begins on page 27 at the back of this Weekly Update and provides an idea of the restrictions and exemptions.

LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDER AND REGULATION NO. 4 COVID-19

MANDATORY SHELTER AT HOME -- ALL INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN THE COUNTY; EXCEPT THAT INDIVIDUALS MAY LEAVE TO PROVIDE OR RECEIVE CERTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES OR ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND WORK FOR ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES; EXEMPTING INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BUT URGING HOMELESS TO FIND SHELTER AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE IT; DIRECTING ALL BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO CEASE NON-ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS AT PHYSICAL LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY; PROHIBITING ALL NON-ESSENTIAL GATHERINGS OF ANY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS; AND CESSATION OF NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL

Please read this order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (County Code § 2.80.130.)

Sloppily, the Order was announced at 4:00PM with little detail or rationale. In fact examination of the actual Order shows that it was not actually executed until 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC BANNED FROM SUPERVISORS MEETINGS. See below:

FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS

Based on the threat of COVID-19 as reflected in the Proclamations of Emergency issued by both the Governor of the State of California and the San Luis Obispo County Emergency Services Director as well as the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County of San Luis Obispo will be still be holding the March 24, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting, however at this time the meeting will be closed to members of the public and non-essential County staff. Below are instructions on how to view the meeting remotely and how to leave public comment. Additionally, members of the Board of Supervisors are allowed to attend the meeting via teleconference and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.

Using the most rapid means of communication available at this time, members of the public are encouraged to participate in Board meetings in the following ways:

1. Remote Viewing Members of the public who wish to watch the meeting can view a livestream of the meeting online at <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Board-of-Supervisors/Board-Meetings,-Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

2. Public Comment The Board of Supervisors will still be accepting general public comment for items not on the agenda, as well as public comment on specific agenda items. Public comment can be submitted in the following ways:

Verbal Public Comment. Call (805) 788-6638; state and spell your name, mention the agenda item number you are calling about and leave your comment. The verbal comments must be received by the Clerk of the Board no later than 9:00 a.m. on the morning of the noticed meeting and will be limited to 3 minutes. Every effort will be made to include your comment into the record, but some comments may not be included due to time limitations.

Email Public Comment. Public Comment can be submitted any time via email or U.S. Mail by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Board meeting. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at ad-board-clerk@co.slo.ca.us. Your comment will be placed into the administrative record of the meeting. Mailing Address: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors 1055 Monterey St. D430 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

For information about and updates regarding the Board of Supervisors meeting, visit <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Board-of-Supervisors/Board-Meetings,-Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> or please call the County Administrative Office at (805) 781-5011.

**All ADA accommodations shall be promptly reviewed and resolved.*

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 24, 2020 (Scheduled). Note: some items have been postponed since the agenda was released. We have noted these but reported on them anyway, as they are important.

Item 4 - Request to authorize the use of previously approved General Fund Contingencies for Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) emergency for COVID-19 response and authorize County Administrative Officer to approve purchases for COVID-19. The staff recommends that funds originally appropriated to deal with the fallout from emergency public power shutdowns be re-allotted to deal with the COVID problem. Part of the write-up appears below:

On November 15, 2019 the Board of Supervisors approved the request by the Administrative office to use General Fund contingencies totaling up to \$500,000. The uses identified were \$395,856 (OES-PSPS Events), \$68,725 (IT-PSPS Prep) and \$35,419 (Public Works-reimbursement of expenses) to fund emergency expenses related to the preparation for a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event. The Board also authorized the County Administrative Officer (CAO) to approve purchases related to PSPS.

The Administrative office does not anticipate that all of these funds will be used on PSPS events and is requesting that the Board approve the request to use the previously approved contingency funds on expenses related to COVID-19 preparation and response in addition to PSPS related events, and authorize the CAO to approve purchases related to COVID-19.

More significantly, what is the plan if a significant number of PG&E workers become too sick to operate Diablo and the rest of the system? After all, the Governor just predicted that 56% or 25.5 million Californians could be infected with Coronavirus over the next 8 weeks. How does that impact work attendance for power plant operators, transmission workers, linemen, and all the rest?

Item 10 - Staff Proposes Allocation of \$494,000 to Promote Housing and Library Bond Issues.

Fortunately and late on Friday, the staff withdrew the item due to the COVID-19 issues. The write-up indicates that it will be resubmitted sometime in the future. There is a significant problem, in any case, which the staff and Board need to contemplate.

The County will contract with 2-ballot measure consulting firms, Moss LLC and EMC Research, to ostensibly do polling to determine how to push up the chances of the measure passing next November. The work is cast as research. This is bunk. The very fact that they are spending taxpayer money to ask voters under what circumstances they might approve the bonds is a form of prompting. Moreover, the consulting reports provide valuable free information to the proponents on how to secure approval. Detailed demographic information, voting district information, voting propensity, etc. is generated.

The entire exercise is frontloaded and biased to see how to get the bonds approved. Shouldn't \$494,00 also be allocated to groups opposed to the bonds, new debt, and a tax hike?

What A Racket

First, they hired consultants to do a poll on whether the bonds could pass. They come back with results which state that there is insufficient support. But, then they say if there were an education campaign, the bond issue might pass. Then they get a big fat contract at taxpayer expense to help figure out how to get the bonds to pass. **Moss LLC's website clearly demonstrates what they do for their clients.**

CliffordMoss.

POLITICAL STRATEGY | COMMUNICATIONS | PUBLIC AFFAIRS

What We Do:

Clifford Moss helps public agencies, private organizations and individuals build public support for ballot measures, strategic initiatives, campaigns and causes.

Our services include:

Public Information

Goals: inform, raise awareness, and build community support.

- Election Feasibility & Planning
- Public Information Programs
- Innovative Listening Initiatives
- Stakeholder / Opinion Leader Engagement / Community Outreach
- Strategic Communications & Political Consulting

Campaigns & Elections

Goals: mobilize the community support needed to WIN.

- Local Ballot Initiatives
- Local Revenue Measures
 - For Schools: School Bonds and Parcel Tax Measures
 - For Cities: Sales Taxes, **Bonds, Parcel Taxes**, UUTs, TOTs, etc.
 - For Transportation: Bonds, Parcel and Sales Taxes
 - For Counties and Special Districts: call us – you have options
- Candidate Elections
- Grassroots Organizing, Strategic Outreach & Voter Contact
- Social Media & Online Campaigns

This is an admission of an FPPC violation intent right here.

Who's kidding who?

Ditto for SMC Research's website. This is a national firm with its headquarters in Oakland and offices in Washington DC, Austin, New York, etc. Massive expertise is arrayed against the taxpayer.



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We can't read minds, but we can do the next best thing. From conducting focus groups to...

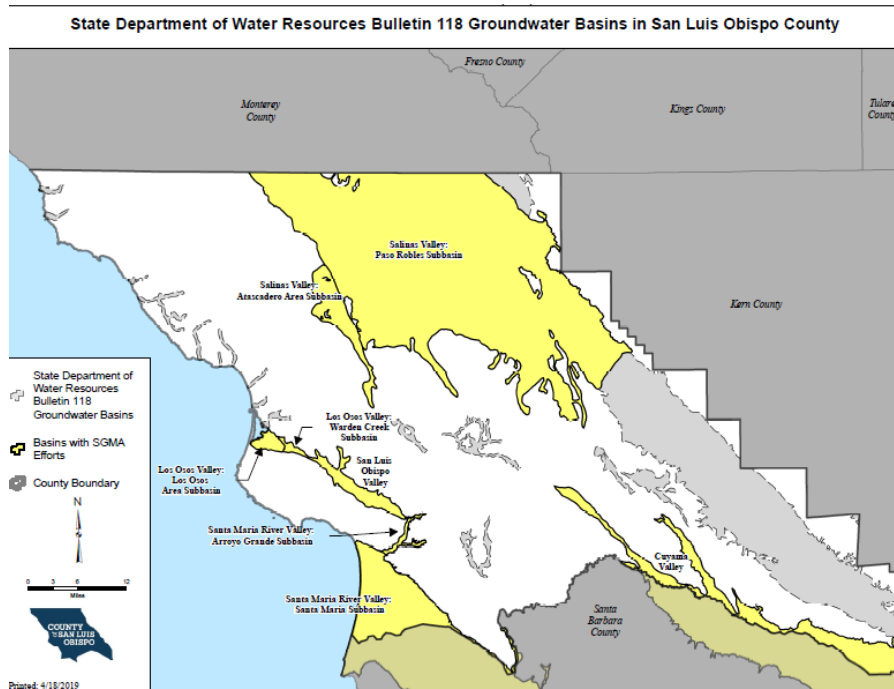
In the end over \$500,000, when staff time is included, will be expended in promoting the bond issue. Who will stand for the individual citizen taxpayer? The Board should not appropriate this funding. Instead, and if it is true to its word, "let the voters decide," why not just put the measures on without wasting all this money and "let the voters decide?"

Item 16 - State Groundwater Management Act Progress (SGMA) Update. The staff provides the Board with quarterly updates on the status of the groundwater management plans for each of the County's 8 basins subject to SGMA.

- **Cuyama Valley (DWR No. 3-013, "Cuyama")**
- **Salinas Valley – Paso Robles Area (DWR No. 3-004.06, "Paso")**
- **Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area (DWR No. 3-004.11, "Atascadero")**
- **San Luis Obispo Valley (DWR No. 3-009, "San Luis Obispo")**
- **Los Osos Valley – Los Osos Area (DWR No. 3-008.1, "Los Osos")**
- **Los Osos Valley – Warden Creek (DWR No. 3-008.2, "Warden Creek")**
- **Santa Maria River Valley – Santa Maria (DWR No. 3-012.01, "Santa Maria")**
- **Santa Maria River Valley – Arroyo Grande (DWR No. 3-012.02, "Arroyo Grande")**

The write-up states in part:

Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for both the Paso Basin and Cuyama Basin were submitted to DWR by the State's deadline of January 31, 2020.2 The next SGMA deadline is for the GSAs in the remaining priority basins to develop and adopt a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) by 2022. Given that the County is either the GSA or a member of a GSA in all eight basins, it is critical to keep the Board informed of the progress within each basin to develop a GSP. Staff anticipates providing SGMA Program updates through quarterly report consent items and periodic board business items.



Item 31 - A request to receive and file a report on the County Cannabis Program and provide staff direction as necessary. The item has been cancelled and will be continued to a future meeting. This is an extensive report on the County’s workload related to cannabis permitting, inspection, enforcement, and prosecution. The bottom line is that it calls for more staffing and higher fees to support the staffing.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 26, 2020 (Scheduled, then Cancelled)

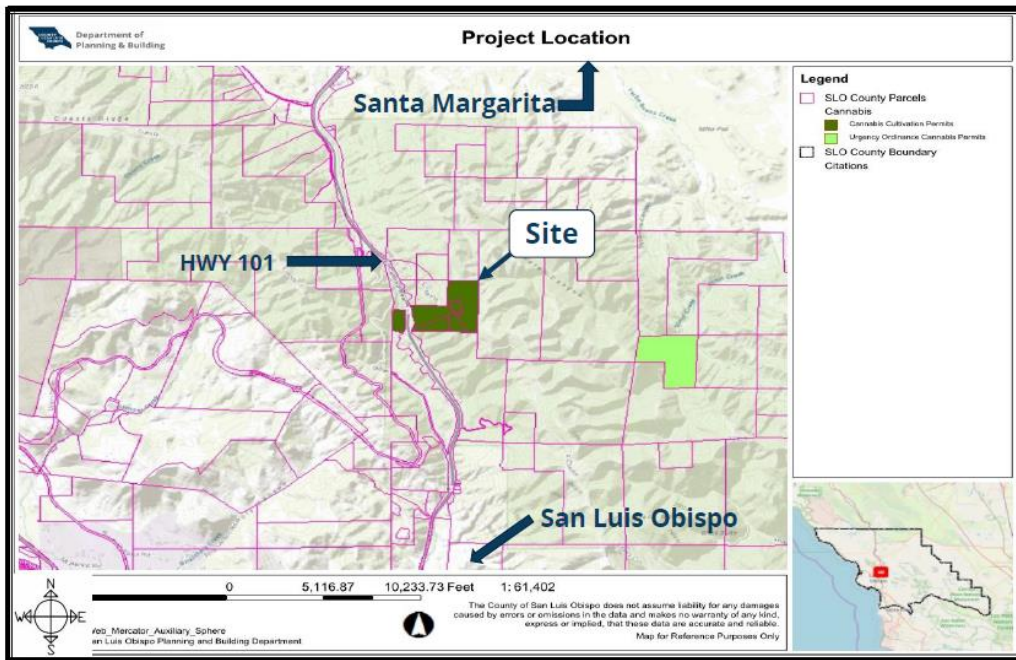
On Friday March 20, 2020 the County announced cancellation of the meeting:

MARCH 26, 2020 PLANNING COMMISSION IS CANCELLED

San Luis Obispo County is currently under a Mandatory Order to Shelter at Home (Shelter in Place) to limit the spread of COVID-19 or coronavirus. Effective immediately, all Department of Planning and Building hearings that are deemed non-essential, meaning anything that is not necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of our community, will be postponed until further notice. This includes items scheduled for Planning Department Hearings, Planning Commission, Subdivision Review Board, Cannabis Hearing Officer, Agricultural Preserve Review Committee, and Airport Land Use Commission. This also includes all Department of Planning and Building items scheduled for the Board of Supervisors.

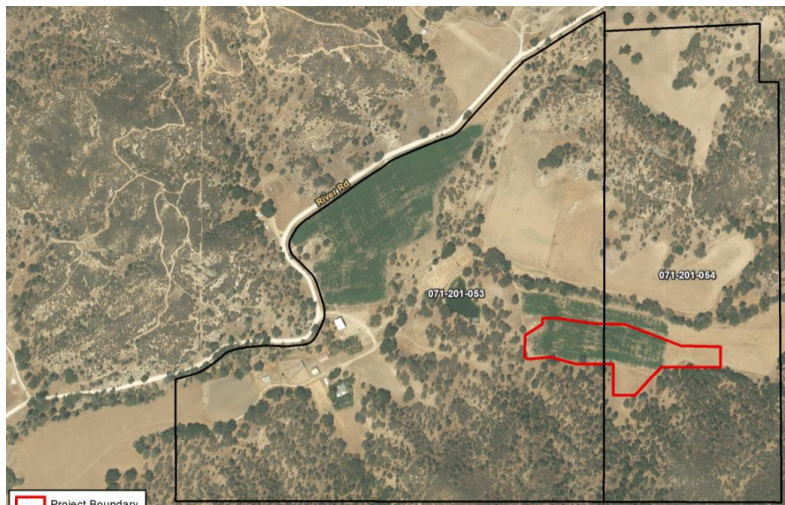
No estimated date has been promulgated for the resumption of meetings. Two of the main items on the agenda for this meeting, which has now been cancelled, are permits for Cannabis grows.

Item 10 - 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 staff recommends approval. There is no written opposition in the record at this time. The plants will not be visible from Highway 101. Perhaps you can enjoy a nice whiff as you cruise down the grade.





Item 11 - Hearing to consider a request by Pegaso, Inc. for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2018-00177) to allow for a multi-phased development of cannabis activities. Phase I will include approximately three acres (130,680 square feet) of outdoor cannabis cultivation in hoop houses. Phase II will consist of the construction of 38,800 square feet of greenhouses for the establishment of 22,000 square feet of indoor cultivation and 16,000 square feet of ancillary nursery. Phase II will also include construction of a 9,500 square foot building for processing and manufacturing activities. The project will result in approximately 10 acres of disturbance on a 225-acre, including 12,364 cubic yards of cut and fill. A parking modification is requested to reduce the required parking spaces from 80 to 26. The project is within the Agriculture land use category located at 12415 River Road, approximately 2.2 miles northwest of Pozo Village and 5.3 miles east of the entrance to Santa Margarita Lake. The staff recommends approval. However, the Santa Margarita Community Advisory Council and some neighbors are opposed.



LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Special Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 (Completed)

Item 1 - Request to adopt a resolution ratifying Proclamation of Local Emergency and delegate authority to terminate the proclamation to the County of San Luis Obispo Emergency Services Director. All Districts.

Item 2 - Request to adopt resolution ratifying Health Officer's Declaration of Local Health Emergency and delegate to the County Health Officer the authority to terminate the Declaration of Local Health Emergency. All Districts.

The Board approved both Resolutions and then entered into a dialogue with the County Administrative Officer and the Health Officer. Much of the discussion was led by Supervisor Gibson, who asked detailed questions about how the COVID operation was being managed from structural and communications standpoints within the County organization. He also focused on how information from the State and Federal Government was received and then how it was acted on by the County staff. There was also information presented about how the County was interacting with the cities, universities, school systems and business communities.

It all seemed to be common sense driven by the training that everyone has received in the Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS), which is used in California to manage disasters and other extraordinary events requiring coordination among agencies and providing timely information to the public.

Supervisor Hill Speculation (Not Scheduled) – A Growing Mystery

This Week: As of Saturday, March 21, no new information has been provided. The County's top of the list website public information posting, other than COVID-19, concerns an airline that has cancelled service to Las Vegas.

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

As a result there is much speculation.

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

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

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

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

No Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The next scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 19, 2020 (Completed)

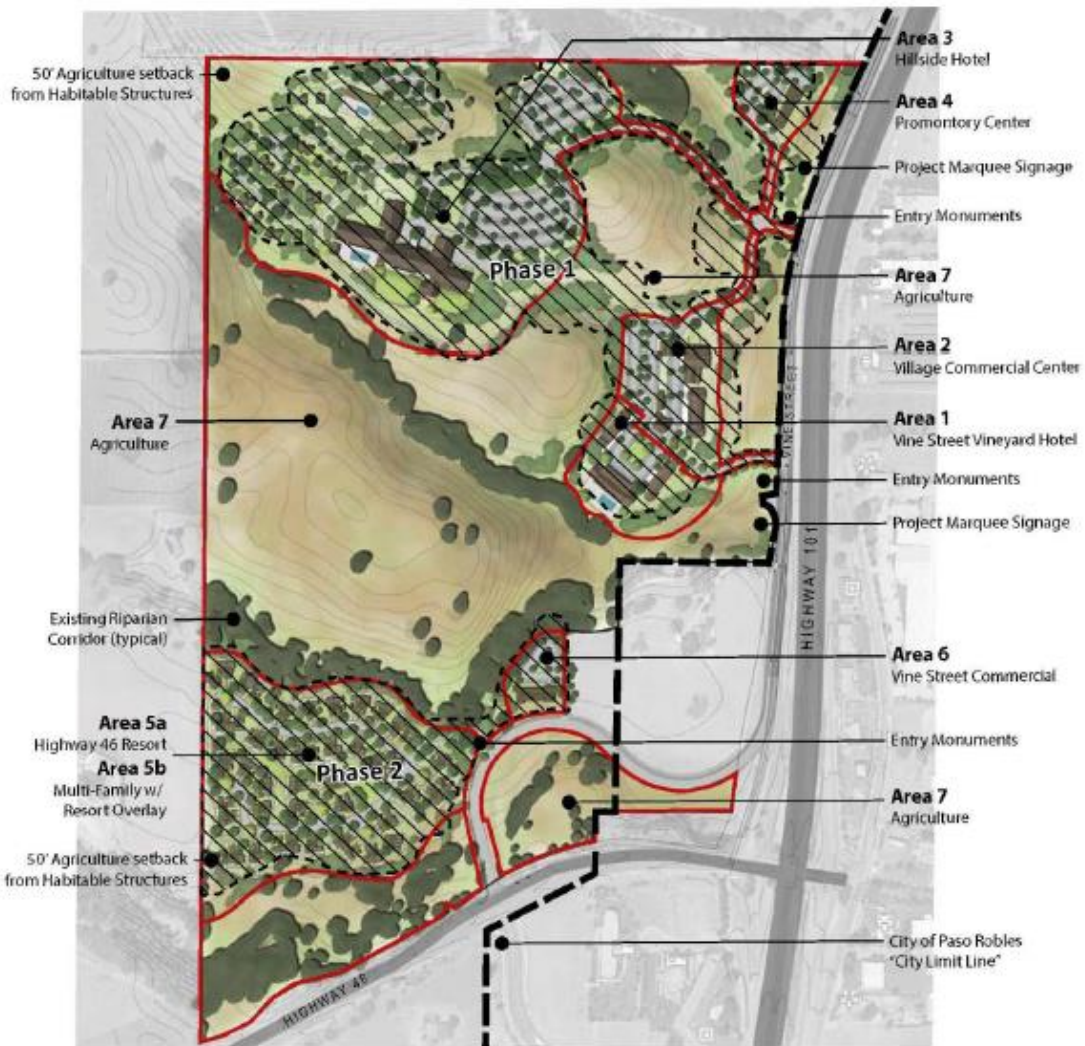
Item B-1: STUDY SESSION #2: GATEWAY-SOI AMENDMENT AND ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES. The meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 bans.

Background: The City of Paso Robles plans to annex vacant land at the intersection of Highway 101 and Route 46. The item is not on the agenda for action but is posted as an informational item for the Commission. The item text describes the project as largely hospitality and commercial.

The Paso Robles Gateway Project includes several components: (i) a Hillside Destination Resort Hotel and Conference Center, (ii) a Vine Street Vineyard Hotel and Village, (iii) a High Density Resort Community, (iv) two distinct visitor and community serving commercial centers, and (v) a 32-acre on-site agricultural conservation easement. The Project will include up to 425 transient units, a maximum of 80 which may be permitted as residential units (resort community), approximately 65,000 square feet of retail and office space with 17 workforce residential units in conjunction with the retail uses, 10,600 square feet of restaurant uses, and over 30,000 square feet of conference space.

During a prior review the Commission expressed concerns about affordable housing, water, and traffic.

Figure 1 – Project Site Plan & Phasing Plan



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

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

More data is [critical in understanding the virus](#) in general and in particular its transmission in particular countries. Anyone who looks at rates of mortality and lethality of influenza and related pneumonia, especially in the elderly and infirm, can be shocked at the wide variances between [particular countries](#).

Reliable data alone should drive proper policy, especially given that any decision made henceforth in the present landscape of bad and worse choices can involve on the one hand greater viral death and morbidity, and [on the other economic catastrophe](#) with its own particular role in ensuring non-viral morbidity and death.

So, what we would like to know, it seems, are a few of numbers of which we are not often apprised:

- What is the percentage of negatives of all those tested?
- What are the percentages of those who request, or are given tests, who are showing some symptoms of illness or at least feel that they are in some way ill?
- To what degree can we assume that those tested are accurate representations of the population as a whole, or are weighed inordinately toward the apparently ill or reside in perceived hotspot areas of the virus?
- What is the percentage relationship between increased known virus cases and the number of increased tests? And does the death rate from coronavirus rise, stay steady, or fall commensurately when testing, and thus known positive cases, increase?
- We are told that what is happening in Italy is what is waiting for us in the U.S., but what are the criteria in Italy that are the same as or quite different from the U.S., given that on a per capita basis those, say, in West Virginia may be experience quite differently the virus from those in Washington?
- What is best estimation of how many arrived in the U.S. from China, from say mid-or late-November to February 1–2, 2020, and in terms of epidemiology, albeit relying in part on Chinese data, what are the parameters of numbers of likely positive carriers and the ripples from arriving population? What is the best estimation of the number of Chinese nationals who were unable to return home after the flight ban, or who arrived via temporary stop-overs in European cities after the flight ban.
- Given the flu is often a source of comparison, for both pessimists and optimists of the virus's trajectories, how are the methods of ascertaining deaths from the flu, or the number of annual cases of the flu, or the effects on particular vulnerable age groups similar or different from those modes now in use to ascertain how many have been infected by COVID-19, how many have died from it, and what the lethality rate is?

NRO contributor [Victor Davis Hanson](#) is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and the author, most recently, of *The Case for Trump*. [@vdhanson](#)
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A FIASCO IN THE MAKING?

As the coronavirus pandemic takes hold, we are making decisions without reliable data

BY JOHN P.A. IOANNIDIS



A nurse holds swabs and a test tube to test people for Covid-19 at a drive-through station set up in the parking lot of the Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich. *Paul Sancya/AP*

The current coronavirus disease, Covid-19, has been called a once-in-a-century [pandemic](#)². But it may also be a once-in-a-century evidence fiasco.

At a time when everyone needs better information, from disease modelers and governments to people quarantined or just social distancing, we lack reliable evidence on how many people have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 or who continue to become infected. Better information is needed to guide decisions and actions of monumental significance and to monitor their impact.

Draconian countermeasures have been adopted in many countries. If the pandemic dissipates — either on its own or because of these measures — short-term extreme social distancing and lockdowns may be bearable. How long, though, should measures like these be continued if the pandemic churns across the globe unabated? How can policymakers tell if they are doing more good than harm?

Vaccines or affordable treatments take many months (or even years) to develop and test properly. Given such timelines, the consequences of long-term lockdowns are entirely unknown.

The data collected so far on how many people are infected and how the epidemic is evolving are utterly unreliable. Given the limited testing to date, some deaths and probably the vast majority of infections due to SARS-CoV-2 are being missed. We don't know if we are failing to capture infections by a factor of three or 300. Three months after the outbreak emerged, most countries, including the U.S., lack the ability to test a large number of people and no countries have reliable data on the prevalence of the virus in a representative random sample of the general population.

This evidence fiasco creates tremendous uncertainty about the risk of dying from Covid-19. Reported case fatality rates, like the official 3.4% rate from the World Health Organization, cause horror — and are meaningless. Patients who have been tested for SARS-CoV-2 are disproportionately those with severe symptoms and bad outcomes. As most health systems have limited testing capacity, selection bias may even worsen in the near future.

The one situation where an entire, closed population was tested was the Diamond Princess cruise ship and its quarantine passengers. The case fatality rate there was 1.0%, but this was a largely elderly population, in which the death rate from Covid-19 is much higher.

Projecting the Diamond Princess mortality rate onto the age structure of the U.S. population, the death rate among people infected with Covid-19 would be 0.125%. But since this estimate is based on extremely thin data — there were just seven deaths among the 700 infected passengers and crew — the real death rate could stretch from five times lower (0.025%) to five times higher (0.625%). It is also possible that some of the passengers who were infected might die later, and that tourists may have different frequencies of chronic diseases — a risk factor for worse outcomes with SARS-CoV-2 infection — than the general population. Adding these extra sources of uncertainty, reasonable estimates for the case fatality ratio in the general U.S. population vary from 0.05% to 1%.

That huge range markedly affects how severe the pandemic is and what should be done. A population-wide case fatality rate of 0.05% is lower than seasonal influenza. If that is the true rate, locking down the world with potentially tremendous social and financial consequences may be totally irrational. It's like an elephant being attacked by a house cat. Frustrated and trying to avoid the cat, the elephant accidentally jumps off a cliff and dies.

Could the Covid-19 case fatality rate be that low? No, some say, pointing to the high rate in elderly people. However, even some so-called mild or common-cold-type coronaviruses that have been known for decades can have case fatality rates [as high as 8%](#)⁵ when they infect elderly people in nursing homes. In fact, such “mild” coronaviruses infect tens of millions of people every year, and account for [3% to 11%](#)⁶ of those hospitalized in the U.S. with lower respiratory infections each winter.

These “mild” coronaviruses may be implicated in several thousands of deaths every year worldwide, though the vast majority of them are not documented with precise testing. Instead, they are lost as noise among 60 million deaths from various causes every year.

Although successful surveillance systems have long existed for influenza, the disease is confirmed by a laboratory in a tiny minority of cases. In the U.S., for example, so far this season [1,073,976 specimens have been tested](#)⁷ and 222,552 (20.7%) have tested positive for influenza. In the same period, the estimated number of influenza-like illnesses is between 36,000,000 and 51,000,000, with an estimated 22,000 to 55,000 flu deaths.

Note the uncertainty about influenza-like illness deaths: a 2.5-fold range, corresponding to tens of thousands of deaths. Every year, some of these deaths are due to influenza and some to other viruses, like common-cold coronaviruses.

In [an autopsy series](#)⁶ that tested for respiratory viruses in specimens from 57 elderly persons who died during the 2016 to 2017 influenza season, influenza viruses were detected in 18% of the specimens, while any kind of respiratory virus was found in 47%. In some people who die from viral respiratory pathogens, more than one virus is found upon autopsy and bacteria are often superimposed. A positive test for coronavirus does not mean necessarily that this virus is always primarily responsible for a patient's demise.

This article first appeared in STAT News of March 17, 2020.

John P.A. Ioannidis is C . F. Rehnborg Professor in Disease Prevention in the School of Medicine, Professor of Medicine, of Health Research and Policy (Epidemiology) and by courtesy, of Statistics and of Biomedical Data Science at Stanford University. His qualifications are striking: Born in New York City in 1965 and raised in Athens, Greece. Valedictorian (1984) at Athens College; National Award of the Greek Mathematical Society (1984); MD (top rank of medical school class) from the National University of Athens in 1990; also received DSc in biopathology from the same institution. Trained at Harvard and Tufts (internal medicine and infectious diseases), then held positions at NIH, Johns Hopkins and Tufts.

Chaired the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, University of Ioannina Medical School in 1999-2010 while also holding adjunct professor positions at Harvard, Tufts, and Imperial College. Senior Advisor on Knowledge Integration at NCI/NIH (2012-6). Served as President, Society for Research Synthesis Methodology, and editorial board member of many leading journals (including PLoS Medicine, Lancet, Annals of Internal Medicine, JNCI among others) and as Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Clinical Investigation (2010-2019).

Delivered ~600 invited and honorary lectures. Recipient of many awards (e.g. European Award for Excellence in Clinical Science [2007], Medal for Distinguished Service, Teachers College, Columbia University [2015], Chanchlani Global Health Award [2017], Epiphany Science Courage Award [2018], Einstein fellow [2018]). Inducted in the Association of American Physicians (2009), European Academy of Cancer Sciences (2010) American Epidemiological Society (2015), European Academy of Sciences and Arts (2015), National Academy of Medicine (2018). Honorary titles from FORTH (2014) and Ioannina (2015), honorary doctorates from Rotterdam (2015), Athens (2017), Tilburg (2019), Edinburgh (2019, ceremony in 2020). Multiple honorary lectureships/visiting professorships (Caltech, Oxford, LSHTM, Yale, U Utah, U Conn, UC Davis, U Penn, Wash U St. Louis, NIH among others). The PLoS Medicine paper on “Why most published research findings are false” has been the most-accessed article in the history of Public Library of Science (~3 million hits). Author of 7 literary books in Greek, three of which were shortlisted for best book of the year Anagnostis awards. Brave Thinker scientist for 2010 according to Atlantic, “may be one of the most influential scientists alive”. Highly Cited Researcher according to Thomson Reuters in both Clinical Medicine and in Social Sciences.

GREENING OUR WAY TO INFECTION

The ban on single-use plastic grocery bags is unsanitary—and it comes at the worst imaginable time.

BY JOHN TIERNEY

The COVID-19 outbreak is giving new meaning to those “sustainable” shopping bags that politicians and environmentalists have been so eager to impose on the public. These reusable tote bags can sustain the COVID-19 and flu viruses—and spread the viruses throughout the store.

Researchers have been warning for years about the risks of these bags spreading deadly viral and bacterial diseases, but public officials have ignored their concerns, determined to eliminate single-use bags and other plastic products despite their obvious advantages in reducing the spread of pathogens. In New York State, a new law took effect this month banning single-use plastic bags in most retail businesses, and this week Democratic state legislators advanced a bill that would force coffee shops to accept consumers’ reusable cups—a practice that Starbucks and other chains have wisely suspended to avoid spreading the COVID-19 virus.

John Flanagan, the Republican leader of the New York State Senate, has criticized the new legislation and called for a suspension of the law banning plastic bags. “Senate Democrats’ desperate need to be green is unclean during the coronavirus outbreak,” he said Tuesday, but so far he’s been a lonely voice among public officials.

The COVID-19 virus is just one of many pathogens that shoppers can spread unless they wash the bags regularly, which few people bother to do. Viruses and bacteria can survive in the tote bags up to nine days, according to [one study of coronaviruses](#).

The risk of spreading viruses was clearly demonstrated in [a 2018 study published in the *Journal of Environmental Health*](#). The researchers, led by Ryan Sinclair of the Loma Linda University School of Public Health, sent shoppers into three California grocery stores carrying polypropylene plastic tote bags that had been sprayed with a harmless surrogate of a virus.

After the shoppers bought groceries and checked out, [the researchers found](#) sufficiently high traces of the surrogate to risk transmission on the hands of the shoppers and checkout clerks, as well as on many surfaces touched by the shoppers, including packaged food, unpackaged produce, shopping carts, checkout counters, and the touch screens used to pay for groceries. The researchers said that the results warranted the adaptation of “in-store hand hygiene” and “surface disinfection” by merchants, and they also recommended educating shoppers to wash their bags.

[An earlier study](#) of supermarkets in Arizona and California found large numbers of bacteria in almost all the reusable bags—and no contamination in any of the new single-use plastic bags. When a bag with meat juice on the interior was stored in the trunk of a car, within two hours the number of bacteria multiplied tenfold.

The researchers also found that the vast majority of shoppers never followed the advice to wash their bags. One of the researchers, Charles Gerba of the University of Arizona, [said that the findings](#) “suggest a serious threat to public health,” particularly from fecal coliform bacteria, which was found in half the bags. These bacteria and other pathogens can be transferred from raw meat in the bag and

also from other sources. An outbreak of viral gastroenteritis among a girls' soccer team in Oregon was [traced to a reusable grocery bag](#) that had sat on the floor of a hotel bathroom.

In a [2012 study](#), researchers analyzed the effects of San Francisco's ban on single-use plastic grocery bags by comparing emergency-room admissions in the city against those of nearby counties without the bag ban. The researchers, Jonathan Klick of the University of Pennsylvania and Joshua Wright of George Mason University, reported a 25 percent increase in bacteria-related illnesses and deaths in San Francisco relative to the other counties. The city's [Department of Public Health](#) disputed the findings and methodology but acknowledged that "the idea that widespread use of reusable bags may cause gastrointestinal infections if they are not regularly cleaned is plausible."

New York's state officials were told of this risk before they passed the law banning plastic bags. In fact, as the [Kings County Politics website reported](#), a Brooklyn activist, Allen Moses, warned that shoppers in New York City could be particularly vulnerable because they often rest their bags on the floors of subway cars containing potentially deadly bacteria from rats—and then set the bag on the supermarket checkout counter. Yet public officials remain committed to reusable bags.

A headline on the website of the New York Department of Health calls reusable grocery bags a "[Smart Choice](#)"—bizarre advice, considering all the elaborate cautions underneath that headline. The department advises grocery shoppers to segregate different foods in different bags; to package meat and fish and poultry in small disposable plastic bags inside their tote bags; to wash and dry their tote bags carefully; to store the tote bags in a cool, dry place; and never to reuse the grocery tote bags for anything but food.

How could that possibly be a "smart choice" for public health? Anyone who has studied consumer behavior knows that it's hopelessly unrealistic to expect people to follow all those steps. If the Department of Health actually prioritized public health, it would acknowledge what food manufacturers and grocers have known for decades: disposable plastic is the cheapest, simplest, and safest way to prevent foodborne illnesses.

Instead, leaders in New York and other states are ordering shoppers to make a more expensive, inconvenient, and risky choice—all to serve a green agenda that's actually [harmful to the environment](#). The [ban on plastic bags](#) will mean more trash in landfills (because paper bags take up so much more space than the thin disposable bags) and more greenhouse emissions (because of the larger carbon footprints of the replacement bags). And now, probably, it will also mean more people coming down with COVID-19 and other illnesses.

John Tierney is a contributing editor of City Journal and a contributing science columnist for the New York Times. This article first appeared in the City Journal of March 16, 2020.

ADDENDUM I

**LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDER AND REGULATION NO. 4
COVID-19**

MANDATORY SHELTER AT HOME – ALL INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN THE COUNTY; EXCEPT THAT INDIVIDUALS MAY LEAVE TO PROVIDE OR RECEIVE CERTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES OR ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND WORK FOR ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES; EXEMPTING INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BUT URGING HOMELESS TO FIND SHELTER AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE IT; DIRECTING ALL BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO CEASE NON-ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS AT PHYSICAL LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY; PROHIBITING ALL NON-ESSENTIAL GATHERINGS OF ANY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS; AND CESSATION OF NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL

Please read this order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (County Code § 2.80.130.)

WHEREAS, at 10:00 a.m. on March 13, 2020, a Proclamation of Local Emergency was issued by the Emergency Services Director; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 8634 and Title 2, Chapter 2.80, Section 2.80.080 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors or in the event he is unavailable the Emergency Services Director, is empowered to make and issue orders and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents an imminent and proximate threat to public health, and the residents of San Luis Obispo County; and

WHEREAS, heightened levels of public health and safety planning and preparedness have been necessitated in preparation for the emergence of confirmed cases of COVID-19, and now that cases have been confirmed in the County, immediate action must be taken to prevent the spread of the virus and to limit high risk activities and gatherings in all public places; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that we ensure the safety and health of our County population; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Services Director, in consultation with the County Health Officer and with the support of the seven cities within San Luis Obispo County, deems the following immediate actions are necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered as follows:

1. **This order is effective as of Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. and shall continue in effect until April 17, 2020 at 12:01 p.m., unless modified or rescinded. It shall be reviewed every 14 days to determine the need to continue this order.**
2. The intent of this order is to ensure that the greatest number of people remain in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible. When people need to leave their places of residence, whether to obtain or perform vital services, or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life, they should at all times, as reasonably possible, comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 11, below. All provisions of this order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this order constitutes an imminent threat to public health.
3. All individuals currently living within San Luis Obispo County (the "County") are ordered to remain at their place of residence. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. Social Distancing Requirements are waived for all household members. All persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses, all as defined in Section 11 of this order. Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Section 2, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable (and to utilize Social Distancing Requirements in their operation).
4. All businesses with a facility in the County, except Essential Businesses as defined in Section 11 of this order, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the County except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined in Section 11. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home). All Essential Businesses are strongly encouraged to remain open. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 11 of this order, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.
5. All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes as expressly permitted in Section 11. Nothing in this order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.
6. All travel, including, but not limited to, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile, or public transit, except Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined in Section 11, is prohibited. People must use public transit only for purposes

of performing Essential Activities or to travel to and from work to operate Essential Businesses or maintain Essential Governmental Functions. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 11, to the greatest extent feasible. This order allows travel into or out of the County to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential Businesses, or maintain Essential Governmental Functions.

7. This order is issued based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 within the County and throughout the State of California, scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and evidence that the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the County places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the general public, which is now a pandemic according to the World Health Organization, there is a public health emergency throughout the County. Making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have unrecognized infection or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, gatherings can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and **to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed**. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County.
8. This order is also issued in light of the existence of 7 identified cases of COVID-19 within the County, as well as at least 598 confirmed cases and 13 deaths in California, as of March 17, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. P.S.T. In addition, there have been a significant and increasing number of suspected cases of community transmission and this is likely to continue. Widespread testing for COVID-19 is not yet available but is expected to increase in the coming days. This order is necessary to slow the rate of spread and the County Health Officer will re-evaluate it as further data becomes available.
9. This order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the March 13, 2020 Proclamation by the Director of Emergency Services Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency in the County, the March 13, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) issued by the Health Officer, the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo Ratifying the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency, and the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo Ratifying the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency.

10. This order follows the release of substantial guidance from the County Health Officer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world, including a variety of prior orders to combat the spread and harms of COVID-19. The County Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may modify or extend this order, or issue additional orders, related to COVID-19.

11. The following definitions and exemptions apply to this order:

- a. "Social Distancing" means the practice of maintaining a physical distance of six feet or greater from other people or of avoiding direct contact with people or objects in public places during the outbreak of a contagious disease in order to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection.
- b. For purposes of this order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following "Essential Activities." But people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care.
 - (1) To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a healthcare professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home.
 - (2) To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.
 - (3) To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, bicycling, swimming or camping (household members only).
 - (4) To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order, including Minimum Basic Operations.
 - (5) To care for a family member or pet in another household.

c. For purposes of this order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any “Healthcare Operations” including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical, biotechnology companies, and blood bank services, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, behavioral health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. “Healthcare Operations” also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined. “Healthcare Operations” does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.

(1) For purposes of this order, individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of “Essential Infrastructure,” including, but not limited to, public works construction, construction of housing (in particular affordable housing or housing for individuals experiencing homelessness), airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, energy production, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined this Section, to the extent possible.

(2) For purposes of this order, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement personnel, and certain public health personnel, and others who need to perform essential services are categorically exempt from this order. Further, nothing in this order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing “Essential Governmental Functions,” as determined by the governmental entity performing those functions. Each governmental entity shall identify and designate appropriate employees or contractors to continue providing and carrying out any Essential Governmental Functions. All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible.

(3) For the purposes of this order, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or its corporate or entity structure.

(4) For the purposes of this order, “Essential Businesses” means:

(a) Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;

(b) Grocery stores, certified farmers’ markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments

engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;

- (c) Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;
- (d) Businesses that provide food, shelter (including hotels, motels, and similar establishments) social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
- (e) Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- (f) Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
- (g) Banks and related financial institutions;
- (h) Hardware stores;
- (i) Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses:
- (j) Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- (k) Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, and governmental continuity, provided that Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible;
- (l) Laundromats, drycleaners, and laundry service providers;
- (m) Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site;

- (n) Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- (o) Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- (p) Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- (q) Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this order;
- (r) Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- (s) Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- (t) Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally-mandated activities;
- (u) Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this order to work as permitted;
- (v) Businesses engaged in any form of cultivation of products for personal consumption or use, including farming, ranching, livestock, fishing, dairies, creameries, wineries, breweries, and associated activities, including, but not limited to, activities or businesses associated with planting, growing, harvesting, processing, cooling, storing, packaging, and transporting such products, or the wholesale or retail sale of such products, but prohibiting public consumption on premises and provided that, to the extent possible, such businesses comply with Social Distancing Requirements and otherwise provide for the health and safety of their employees;
- (w) On-going commercial construction (meaning commercial construction that actually commenced, and was not just permitted, prior to the effective date of this order), provided that such activity implements Social Distancing Requirements to the extent feasible and otherwise provides for the health and safety of their employees.

12. For businesses subject to environmental health regulations, inspections of such business facilities will continue to ensure compliance with this order and other applicable regulations.

13. This order shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified in consultation with and at the recommendation of the County Health Officer.

A copy of this order and regulation shall be posted on all outside public access doors of the new County Government Center of the County of San Luis Obispo and in one public place within any area of the County within which this order and regulation applies, and personnel of the County of San Luis Obispo shall endeavor to make copies of this order and regulation available to the news media.

Date: 18 MAR 2020



Emergency Services Director

Time: 1830

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