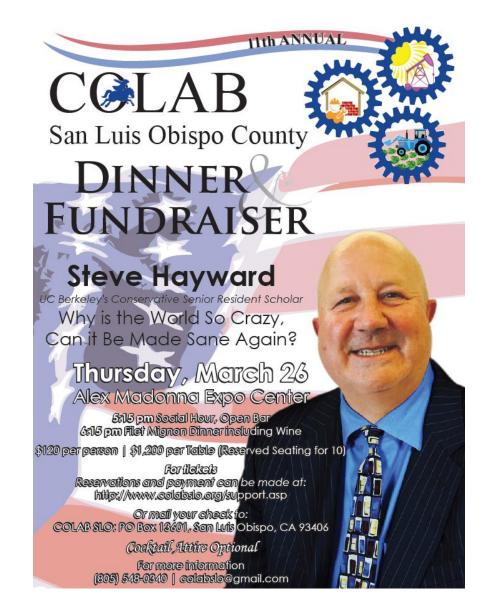


The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE MARCH 8 - 14, 2020



NATIONAL COLUMNIST, REAGAN AUTHOR, & UC BERKELEY CONSERVATIVE SENIOR SCHOLAR WILL INSPIRE OUR RESOLVE GREAT FOOD, WINE, AND AUCTION ITEMS STAND UNITED CELEBRATING LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY

SUPPORT COLAB OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY GET TICKETS AND TABLES AT: <u>http://www.colabslo.org/events.asp</u> HEAR STEVE HAYWARD'S PHENOMENAL FIRST HAND ACCOUNT WHY IS THE WORLD SO CRAZY? CAN IT BE MADE SANE AGAIN?

Steven F. Hayward is currently senior resident scholar at UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies, and a visiting lecturer at Berkeley Law. He was previously the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Public Policy, and was the inaugural visiting scholar in conservative thought and policy at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2013-14. From 2002 to 2012 he was the F.K Weyerhaeuser Fellow in Law and Economics at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC, and has been senior fellow at the Pacific Research Institute in San Francisco since 1991.

He writes frequently for the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, National Review, the Washington Examiner, the Claremont Review of Books, and other publications. The author of six books including a two-volume chronicle of Reagan and his times entitled The Age of Reagan: The Fall of the Old Liberal Order, 1964-1980, and The Age of Reagan: The Conservative Counter-Revolution, 1980-1989, and the Almanac of Environmental Trends. His most recent book is Patriotism is Not Enough: Harry Jaffa, Walter Berns, and the Arguments That Redefined American Conservatism.







THIS WEEK

2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT FOR CURRENT FY 2019-20

UPDATE ON STEPS IN HOUSING STRATEGY SOME HAVE BEEN COMPLETED & SOME ARE UNDERWAY

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND AND TAX HIKE FOR HOUSING FLOATED LIBRARIES BOND & TAX ALSO FLOATED BUT POLLS LOW

REVISED MINING REGULATIONS BE SURE THEY REALLY PROTECT AND PROMOTE MINING

PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW OF NEW CANNABIS OP EAST OF PASO ROBLES

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING ELECTION DAY

ELECTION VOTES STILL BEING COUNTED AS OF THIS WRITING

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY MEETING CANCELLED but staff working away on expanded plastic bag ban

UPDATE AND INTERIM GUIDANCE ON OUTBREAK OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

COUNTIES WILL BE THE FRONTLINE IF IT BECOMES A TRUE PANDEMIC SOME NATIONAL POLITICIANS LOVE IT

REGIONAL WATER BOARD AG ORDER EIR SEE PAGE 25 FOR THE DRAFT ORDER & HOW TO COMMENT

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 19

THE PREMISES OF CALIFORNIA'S DYSFUNCTION

BY EDWARD RING

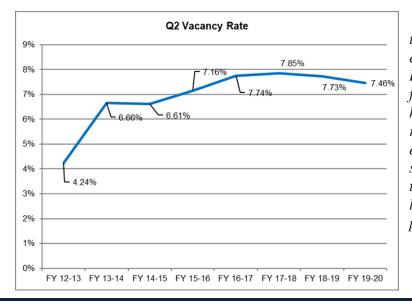
THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 10, 2020 (Scheduled)

Item 19 - Submittal of the FY 2019-20 Second Quarter Financial Status Report. At halfway through its fiscal year, the County is pretty much on track with respect to both revenues and expenditures. The largest problems include overtime and unbudgeted overtime (due to vacancies) in the Sheriff's Department and revenue shortfalls in the golf operation exacerbated by debt service payments for prior improvement at the Dairy Creek Golf Course.

There are a number of expenditure increases in Social Services, including General Relief (welfare for people who don't qualify for the big State /Federal programs), increased costs in CalWORKs (the main welfare program for families), and increased expenditures for foster care. Separately from the cost issues, these trends suggest increasing poverty or other economic dislocations even within a booming economy.

Some of the Social Services increases will be offset by increased formula State reimbursements and will not impact the General Fund. Overall, the County should end the year with a balanced budget and without too much trouble. The large interdepartmental transfers will occur at the 3rd Quarter Report in May, when unbudgeted salary increases will have to be made up from salary savings in departments which are under running their budgets due to vacancies and/or transfers from the contingency account.



The County turnover rate at the end of the second quarter was 14.9%. This equates to 394 employee separations. By comparison, the turnover rate for the first quarter was 14.4%. The County has seen a steady increase in turnover rate in recent years. While employee engagement surveys show that employee satisfaction remains high, changes in the job market, challenges with cost of living, and changing employee priorities present challenges in maintaining a low turnover rate. The County currently has efforts underway to explore creative recruitment and retention solutions to address these issues.

The resulting vacancy rate is 7.46%. The paragraph above suggests that there is pressure to increase the cost of salaries and benefits. In the big picture and given the cost, the historical model of a rigid civil service bureaucracy has become obsolete. Government agencies must seek to contract with private sector and not-for-profit providers for services. Moreover there are far too many governmental agencies enjoying duplicative overhead in California for the available revenue tax and fee base. The State, 58 counties, 450 cities, 977 school districts, and thousands of special districts cannot be sustained.

Authorized staffing increased in the 2nd quarter.

FY 2019-2020	Q1	Q2
Quarter Start	2,796.50	2,792.50
FTE Additions	22.75	29.00
FTE Deletions	26.75	19.00
Quarter End	2,792.50	2,802.50
Net Change	-4.00	+10.00
% Change	-0.14%	+0.36%

Position Allocation Changes

FY 2019-20 Financial Impact of PAL Changes:

• Total Expenditures = \$1,549,448

• Total GF Impact = \$104,790

MAJOR POLICY ON THIS AGENDA BELOW

NOTE: Items 20 and 21 below are interrelated and describe major policy initiatives with respect to housing and related infrastructure. These should be read carefully as they summarize work to date, work in progress, and new funding and tax increase proposals.

Item 20 - Request to 1) receive and file an update on policy and funding initiatives to address affordable housing needs in the county; and 2) provide direction to staff regarding use of funding options for affordable housing. As far back as 2016, the Board of Supervisors majority recognized that the left progressive housing policies of the State and San Luis Obispo County were and are failures. Programs such the so-called In Lieu Housing Fee (a tax) do not produce much revenue for affordable home government subsidies and at the same time make the market rate housing more expensive. To this end the Board majority embarked on the development of a more comprehensive strategy. This Board item provides a summary of what that strategy has accomplished so far and what further steps are underway or planned.

These efforts are summarized in the tables below:

Table 1: Overview of County Funding and Policy Initiatives to Address Affordable Housing

Category	Initiative	Description	Status
Policy	1. Regional Infrastructure and Housing Plan	Funded a Limited Term Principal Administrative Analyst position to prepare a Regional Infrastructure and Housing Plan with local partner agencies. Note: Under State law, RHNA exchanges are allowed between willing City(ies) and unincorporated areas/ County. While the process is complex, potential RHNA exchanges may be considered, pending willingness by participating agencies and pending following certain required steps.	In progress, slated for adoption in late-2020/ early- 2021
	2. Housing Element Update (2020-2028)	Update Housing Element to facilitate housing production for existing and future residents in the unincorporated county.	Scheduled for Board hearings in fall of 2020
	3. Agricultural Worker Housing Ordinance	Amend the Agricultural Worker Housing Ordinance to remove regulatory barriers and streamline the construction of group quarters housing for agricultural workers.	Scheduled for Board hearing on April 7, 2020
	4. Movable Tiny House Ordinance	Evaluate options to allow tiny homes on wheels as a type of Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance (ADU).	In progress, slated for Board consideration in late-2020
	5. Density Bonus Ordinance	Amend County Density Bonus Ordinance to conform with the State density bonus law.	Scheduled for Board hearings in summer of 2020

6. County California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines	Amended the County's guidelines for implementing the CEQA to improve coordination between the County and project developers during the environmental review process.	Completed on July 16, 2019
7. Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance – Phase II	Amend the County's ADU Ordinance to remove regulatory barriers and streamline the construction of ADUs consistent with State law.	2020
8. Ministerial versus Discretionary Project Matrix	A tool to assist builders with identifying the types of projects that can be developed without the time and cost associated with a discretionary land use permit.	Completed on August 21, 2018
9. First-time Homebuyers Program	Evaluate whether the County should continue offering a first-time homebuyers program. Staff recommended continuing a limited version of the program given limited funding availability.	Completed on August 21, 2018

Funding	1. Authorize	Hire consultant to consider feasibility of	Presentation of study results
	affordable housing	-	on March 10, 2020
	bond feasibility	on the November 2020 ballot.	
	study		
	2. Authorize a	Hire consultant to determine impact of	Scheduled for Board
	vacation rental	vacation rentals on affordable housing	consideration in May 2020
	impact fee nexus	seeds and whether a fee would be	
	study	justified.	
	3. Consolidated Plan	Update Consolidated Plan to prioritize	Scheduled for Board
	(2020-2024)	housing and homelessness when	consideration on May 5, 2020
		allocating CDBG and HOME funds.	
	4. Amend inclusionary	Revise fee structure to exempt homes up	Completed on March 12, 2019
	housing "in-lieu"	to 2,200 square feet and apply gradually	
	fees	higher fees to larger houses.	
	5. Waive and defer	Authorize Director of Planning and	Completed on August 21, 2018
	fees for affordable	Building to waive permit fees for	
	housing	affordable housing.	
		Exempt affordable housing from public	Completed on November 5,
		facility fees.	2019
		Amend Public Facility Fees Ordinance (Title	Completed on August 21, 2018
		18) to allow builders to defer payment of	
		impact fees.	

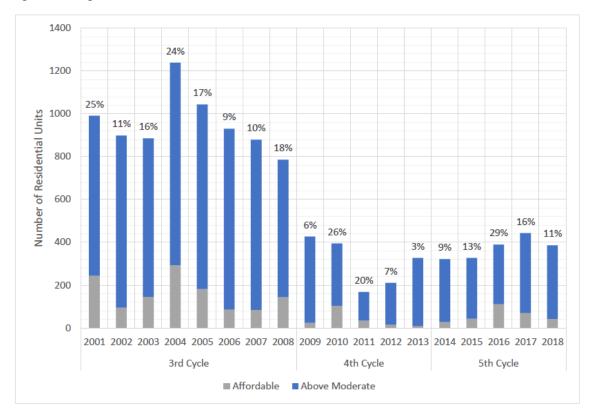
The Board and staff are to be complemented for engaging in a comprehensive strategic approach given the failure of existing policies, as demonstrated in the tables below. However, missing from the project list is the idea of rejecting the 45 year anti- suburban fetish of professional planners, The details of the debt issuance (and tax hike) option are presented in item 21 below.

academics, and progressive politicians. San Luis Obispo County contains over 3000 sq. miles of which only about 4% are urbanized or urbanizable under current County and city land use plans and regulations. To deal with this, stack-and-pack, anti-automobile, and forced mass transit have been adopted as policy. Of course this policy package has been undergirded and propagandized by climatists promoting the global warming theory. As the various enviro-socialists at the state and national level have made crystal clear, this is really a ploy to adopt socialism and to oppress the average American.

The Board needs to ask staff where the assignment stands related to the suburban footprint expansion. Perhaps it is embedded in the Regional Housing and Infrastructure project. If it is, it should be clarified and made specific as it is key to any real solution. Remember, this issue is critical to the agreement to continue the housing in lieu tax temporarily until this whole project is fully evolved. Any shilly shallying on this one would break the deal.

Figure 3, below, demonstrates the failure of this overall policy over the past decade.

Figure 3: Percentage of Residential Units Deemed Affordable



The County's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requires that about 10,800 new homes (of all types – apartments, condos, free standing, mobile, etc.) be zoned in over the next 8 years. Under the law these do not actually have to be constructed, but the County and 7 cities must prove that they have the zoning available. SLOCOG's jobs and population growth forecast indicates that about 40,000 new homes are needed between now and 2040. From the chart above, it can be seen that the average new homes of all types actually produced over the past 10 years is less than 400 per year. At 400 per year it would take 100 years on until 2120 produce 40,000 new homes.

Also, as displayed in the chart, the number of "affordable homes" is miniscule.

Larger policy issues at both the local level and State level need to be addressed. Those that require State action should be included in the County legislative program and the platforms of CSAC and the League of Cities. Some can begin to be addressed by the County and cities directly

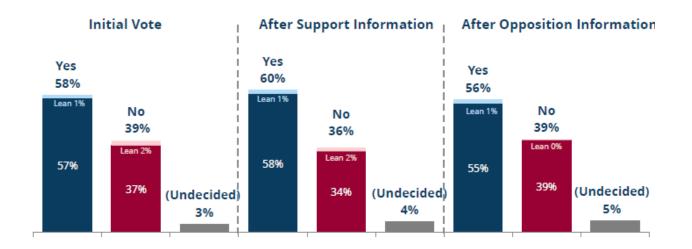
- Abandon "inclusive zoning" aimed at integrating subsidized low income residents into middle class neighborhoods via massive taxpayer expenditures.
- Restrict mandated higher density zoning to the core urban areas in California and along major traffic arteries. One absolute set of governing criteria should apply everywhere.

- Treat every county and city exactly the same, instead of allowing select counties and cities to take longer to come up with their own plans.
- Repeal or significantly reform the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Repeal energy neutral mandates and assorted other unwarranted environmentalist inspired building code regulations that add costs to home construction.
- Set a maximum period of time within which building permits can be granted, and set a maximum building fee at \$10,000 per home/unit (or less).
- Streamline the building permit process to make it easier, not harder, for developers to acquire permits. Look to Texas for guidance.
- Ban project labor agreements and require open bidding processes for public works projects.
 Restore public funding to streets and connector roads instead of charging developer fees which are then reflected in much higher home prices.
- **Repeal laws designed to prevent reasonable expansion of the urban footprint. Allow** housing developments again on open land.

Item 21 - Request to 1) receive an update on the feasibility study of a potential affordable housing bond ballot measure and a potential libraries bond ballot measure and 2) provide direction on pursuit of an affordable housing bond measure. This item was placed on the agenda by staff per prior Board direction. The issue this week is not to necessarily go forward but to determine if the staff should work up a bond and tax ordinance to be placed on the November general election ballot for voter consideration. As noted in the item title, in addition to a housing bond, a discussion of a potential library bond is also included. The County conducted an independent poll, and neither bond showed much potential of achieving a 2/3 vote, even after an "education" campaign.

Affordable Housing Vote Progression

Opposition information is impactful, and can decrease support for an affordable housing measure.



Background on potential housing bond

- \$40-M affordable housing bond
- Estimated cost of \$3.85 per \$100-K assessed value per year over a 20-year debt term
- Countywide, including 7 cities and unincorporated areas
- Requires 2/3 registered voters approval
- 7/16/2019 Board directed staff to study the feasibility for placing a housing bond on November 2020 ballot

To provide first-time homebuyer assistance and affordable housing throughout San-Luis-Obispo-County for working people/families and vulnerable populations including veterans, seniors, persons with disabilities, domestic abuse victims, and those who are at risk of becoming homeless; and transition homeless individuals into housing, shall the measure issuing \$40,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, at an estimated \$3.85 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, raising approximately \$2,772,891 annually while bonds are outstanding, and requiring local oversight and audits be adopted?

The slug to the left indicates that some of the bond funding would be used for homebuyer assistance. This is a terrible idea. The County should not get into the business of subsidizing home ownership . Who would get the new homes? Would there be a lottery or what? If this plan were to go forward, the proceeds should be used to help finance low income and workforce family rental apartment projects.

For a home assessed at \$650,000, the new tax would be \$25.03 per year. For the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant , it would have been per \$99,265 if it were not shutting down. The Bond interest would be around \$1.2 million per year on top of the \$40 million principal which would have to be paid back, which is why the \$40 million issue yields only \$2.8 million per year. The County should be able to find this in its \$549 million general fund budget and not resort to debt and tax increases. For example, it creams off millions each year in salary underruns (not all general fund) to pay for unbudgeted salary and benefit increases. It then increases staffing as well. At the same time it takes no affirmative stand with regard to maintaining Diablo open, promoting natural resources such oil and gas, promoting 5-star destination resorts, and promoting high-end estate and ranchette development, all of which cost little in government services but pay high property taxes and in some cases high sales taxes and hotel taxes.

Why is the answer always to go to a new tax.? The County already is already receiving or projecting housing revenue from Federal and State programs and plans to use some of its Diablo mitigation funding for housing (this is a onetime shot).

If the Board does direct the preparation of a bond program, a group would be created to "educate" the public on the benefits. This is a tricky process in which government employees and rent seeking community partners develop an advertising campaign, which is supposed to be "informational" since it could be using government funds. The FPPC is currently investigating SLOCOG for violations in this regard.

The write-up states in part that if the Board does authorize the preparation of the item for the ballot, staff and the partners will prepare a plan for the use of the funds. You would think that everyone would want to know the content of the program before placing the bond issue on the ballot.

Prior to placing a potential housing bond on the ballot, if directed to do so, the Planning and Building Department would conduct community and stakeholder meetings to educate the public about the affordable housing bond, describe the types of projects and programs that could be funded with bond proceeds, and determine highest priority housing and homelessness needs. The Planning and Building Department would also work with city partners and stakeholders to develop a conceptual plan for administering bond proceeds. The plan would address the process for reviewing funding proposals, developing funding recommendations, and monitoring and reporting on funding results.

Governments always leap to solutions without adequately defining the problem that they are attempting to solve. Some relevant questions which should be answered before leaping to this solution include:

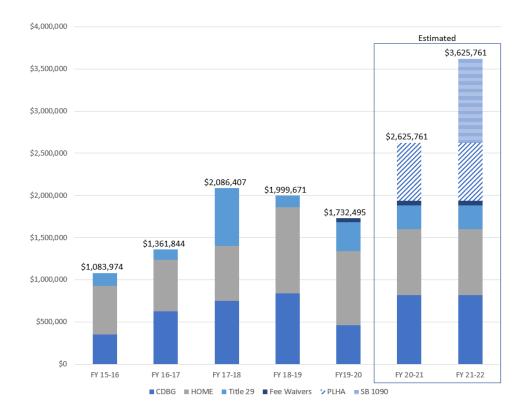
1. What is the scope of the housing problem in SLO County?

2. How big is it and what are the barriers to solving it?

3.What portion of the problem will this program solve? For example, how many and what type of housing units and for whom would be generated over the life of the program? How does this compare with the overall need? Per the chart below, the County already spends and expects to spend several million per year on housing.

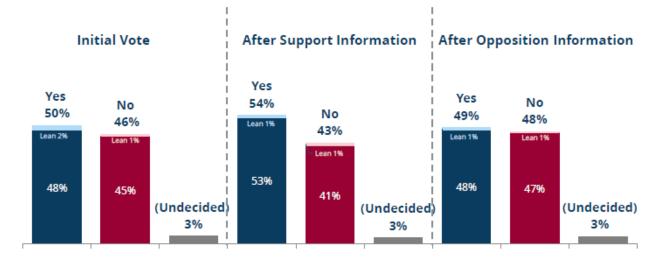
4. How many units will be leveraged when this program is adopted and when it is matched with Federal, State, not-for-profit, and for-profit resources? What is the general potential leverage?

5. Is the issuance of debt backed by a property tax hike justified by the projected results?



Library Vote Progression

Overall, library support sees little movement as voters are presented with additional information.



The library bond looks like a dead duck. Again, libraries enjoy strong support at the ballot box but what is their role in the modern age of electronic information? Schools should be teaching young people how knowledge is organized and how to conduct research, as well as enjoy recreational reading. The libraries have increasingly become community centers sponsoring an array of services and programs. Get your flu shot, eat popcorn and watch *Casablanca*, bring your dog to watch Buck the dog in new film *Call of the Wild*, see an exhibit of historic photographs, etc. Of course they have also become homeless hangouts.

How many County officials and staffers use the library to conduct research on various matters of public policy?

Some communities have homework night at the libraries and provide volunteer tutors to assist the students. How has this worked out?

Item 22 - Executive Session. It is not clear if a discussion of Supervisor Hill's alleged vile and bullying comments is included in this session. As of this writing he appears to have been returned to a 4^{th} term.

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 23 - Hearing to consider tentative approval of amendments to Title 22 and Title 23 of the County Code, Framework for Planning, Coastal Framework for Planning, Inland Area Plans, and the Conservation and Open Space Element (LRP2013-00017) to modify combining designations for lands with significant mineral resources and lands adjacent to existing mines and quarries pursuant to the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. The Board will consider revisions to the ordinances which pertain to gravel operations and other mining. These have been recommended by staff and the Planning Commission. The zoning classifications related to mining are mandated by State law in an effort to prevent the counties and cities from allowing development on or near major mineral deposits. The idea is to not allow incompatible development. The State understands that extracting minerals such as gravel for roads is of very high strategic importance.

In reading the Plan goals below, the question arises: Is the County really trying to protect mining and its impact on the economy and the need for vital materials? Check out some of the wording highlighted in yellow below:

Principle 1: Preserve open space, scenic natural be	eauty and natural resources. Conserve energy
resources. Protect agricultural land and resources.	

Principle 2: Strengthen and direct development toward existing and strategically planned communities.

This one actually sounds like an effort to use the mining ordinance to promote stack- and- pack

Coastal Zone

□ Goal 1: *Preserve open space, scenic natural beauty and natural resources. Conserve energy resources. Protect agricultural land and resources.*

Goal 8: *Strengthen and direct development toward existing and strategically planned communities.*

The proposed amediate Ditto would support and be consistent with the principles and goals. Framework for Planning establishes two combining designations for the protection of mineral resources. These are EX (Energy and Extractive Area) and EX1 (Extractive Resource Area). EX applies to regional energy facilities, large scale mining operations, and mineral resources of statewide significance. EX1 applies to minerals resources of regional significance. Ordinance requirements for non-mineral development differ between the two designations. The proposed amendments would clarify the distinction between the two combining designations and introduce a third designations.

Economic Element

The following goals are relevant to the proposed Mineral Resources Designation Amendments:

□ Goal EE1: *Promote a strong and viable local economy by pursuing policies that balance economic, environmental, and social needs of the county.*

What does balance mean? Good jobs in mining and trucking would benefit social needs.

Goal EE 2: *Retain and enhance a diverse economy.*

□ Goal EE 3: *Provide for strategically-located opportunities for economic development.*

The proposed amendments would support and be consistent with the goals stated in the Economic Element and State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) "Mineral Resource Management Policies" for any lands that are designated as containing vienificant mineral resources. The proposed amendments

are designed to ensure that sand and gravel resoul construction needs, while forecasting demand. Conservation and Open Space Element

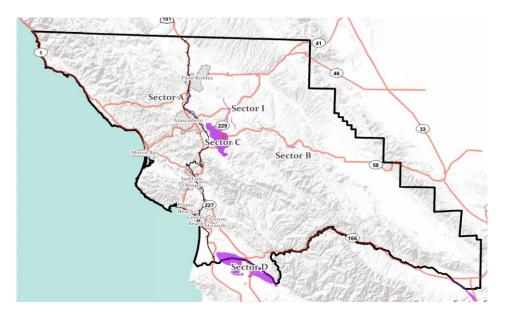
What are some examples – a quarry, trucking facility, asphalt plant, or what?

The following goals are relevant to the proposed Mineral Resources Designation Amendments:

□ Goal MN 1: Conservation and development of significant mineral deposits will be a high priority, but will be balanced with other County General Plan goals and policies.

□ Goal MN 2: Significant mineral resources will be protected from land uses that threaten their availability for future mining.

□ Goal MN 3: Balance mining of mineral resources with sensitive natural resources and existing adjacent property.



Summary of Proposed Changes

Existing Proposed		Permitting Reqs.	Prohibited Uses		
 EX- Existing energy or mineral extraction EX1- Lands that contain minerals of regional significance 	mineral extraction and quarries, and Remove previously mapped defunct energy facilities facilities EX1- KRA – Lands that contain minerals of regional significance Formely EX-1 will be renamed to MRA and still only include lands that contain minerals of regional significance		 Recycling & Scrap Small Scale Manufacturing Clubs, Lodges, and Private Meeting Halls Libraries & Museums Churches Rural Rec. & Camping (except Incidental Camping) Schools Restaurants Lodging (except B&B Inns, 3 or fewer units) Waste Disposal Sites Airfield & Landing Strips 		
MDZ - • This new designation v within 1/4 mile of activ constructive notice for • No standards are prop	ve mines to serve as a nearby mining activity.	N/A	N/A		

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 12, 2020 (Scheduled)

Item 6 - Hearing to consider a request by California Production Services for a Conditional Use Permit DRC2019-00180 (Formerly Guitierrez Minor Use Permit DRC2018-00103) to allow 22,000 square feet of indoor cannabis cultivation, two acres of outdoor cannabis cultivation, and 3,000 square feet of ancillary cannabis processing activities. The project will result in the disturbance of approximately 2.7 acres on a 20.13-acre parcel. The project site is within the Agriculture land use category located at 1480 Penman Springs Road, approximately 1.48 miles east of the City of Paso Robles. The staff recommends approval of the permit. A number of neighbors are supportive while others are opposed.

Summary

The applicant proposes to establish up to 22,000 square feet of indoor cannabis cultivation (greenhouse) and up to two acres of outdoor cannabis cultivation. Project development would

include eight greenhouses totaling 22,000 square feet, 87,120 total square feet of hoop structures, and a 3,000 square foot steel building for processing activities ancillary to cannabis cultivation (drying, trimming, packaging, and labeling). An existing outdoor cannabis cultivation had been on site and was registered as Cooperative/Collective registration CCM2016-00394 under Urgency Ordinance 3334. The operation consisted of one acre of disturbed area with a total canopy of less than one acre. The operation did not have a valid State license and the cannabis was recently removed due to the code violation. The project was elevated from a Minor Use Permit to a Conditional Use Permit as required by County Land Use Ordinance (LUO) Section 22.40.040. Other existing development on site includes two single-family residences (one to remain and one to be demolished) and a barn.





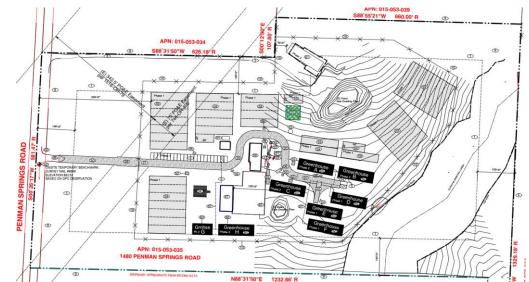


Table 1 – Project Components

Project Component	Structure Size (sf)	Count	Footprint (sf)	Canopy (sf)
Phase One				
	2,200	38	83,600	83,600
Hoop Structures	1,100	2	2,200	2,200
	1,320	1	1,320	1,320
Greenhouses D, E, F	2,880	3	8,640	8,640
Office	80	1	80	n/a
Safe Room	80	1	80	n/a
Secure Storage	320	1	320	n/a
	Sub-Total	of Phase One	96,240	95,760
Phase Two				
Greenhouses A, B, C, H	2,880	4	11,520	11,520
Greenhouse G	1,840	1	1,840	1,840
Processing Building - Drying	3,000	1	1,500	n/a
Processing Building – Packaging	3,000	'	1,500	n/a
	Sub-Total of	Phase Two	16,360	13,360
		Total	112,600	109,120

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The next regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting is set for March 10, 2020.

SLO Integrated Waste Management Authority Meeting of Wednesday, March 11, 2020 (Canceled)

For whatever reason the meeting was canceled, but the staff is working away on its latest assignment. During its February meeting the Authority's Executive Committee proposed an expansion of the Plastic Bag Ban beyond the carryout bags. The new ban would include grocery store individual product bags such as produce, meat, and fish bags. The plastic garment bags provided by dry cleaners would also be banned.

The staff was directed to prepare an ordinance and return. Supervisors Hill and Gibson supported the policy, while Supervisors Arnold, Compton, and Peschong were opposed. Six of the 7 city officials on the IWMA Board also supported the policy.

The IWMA is an unnecessary meddling corrupt agency which should be abolished. The County could take over the governance of landfills and recycling and then contract with a private operator by periodic bid. Recycling may actually be a government fad whose time has come and gone. No one wants the stuff and governments are either paying someone to take it or dumping it the landfills anyhow.



The bags would be banned. You will have to buy reusable cotton bags, \$20 for a 4 Pac, from Amazon. Then you will have to wash them to keep them sanitary. The fish/meat bag is\$29.99



Banned

CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19

The media and national Democratic Party politicians have hyped the issue up in an effort to blame President Trump. Relatedly, they hope that the negative economic consequences will hurt the President and Congressional candidates in the November election.

It is not known yet if COVID-19 will become a serious life threatening pandemic like the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic (it actually started at Ft. Leavenworth in Kansas and spread to the rest of the world) or the Polio epidemic of the late 1940's and early 1950's. The Chinese seem to be treating it as a species of Flu that will burn itself out. So far the morbidity rate is estimated at about 3.5 %. Flu morbidity rate is hard to pin down in the US. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that influenza has resulted in between 9 million and 45 million illnesses, between 140,000 and 810,000 hospitalizations, and between 12,000 and 61,000 deaths annually since 2010. In California about 14.5 people per 100,000 die of Pneumonia and Flu combined in a typical year.

Counties nationally and locally will serve as the frontline management agencies if COVID-19 does emerge as a large scale pandemic. The County Health Department has been posting information on the homepage of the County's website. Most counties prepared a pandemic annex to their emergency response plans as a result of Bio-terrorism threats of 2002, West Nile Virus 2005, Avian Flu pandemic threat of 2006, and Swine Flu threat of 2009. The plans build off the counties' emergency plans for conflagrations, earthquakes, floods, civil unrest, nuclear attacks or releases, and so forth.

County Operations

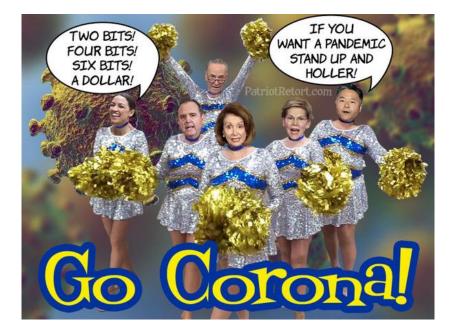
The plans detail how to prevent or reduce spread (closing schools, shopping areas, theaters, and banks, and limiting travel), managing large groups of sick and dying people, providing food and water if normal systems break down, maintaining civil order, maintaining governmental operations, and otherwise preserving life and property. What if a significant number of County emergency personnel such as firefighters, paramedics, deputy sheriffs, nurses, public safety dispatchers, doctors, and utility workers (water and sewer plants) are impacted? The plans also contain succession plans to backfill if significant elected officials are too sick to function or die. Plans also provide for the mobilizing of volunteer medical personnel.

A critical power supply issue would occur if a significant number of PG&E workers were infected and unable to report to work.

Smaller jurisdictions such as central coast cities and counties will be on their own, as national and state resources, such as the military, will be tied up in the metropolitan areas to care for the sick and maintain public order.

Financial and Long Term Impacts

The County will also need to assess the collateral damage impacts. For example, if travel were to be banned nationally and statewide, what would be the impacts on revenues such as the hotel tax and sales tax? If the stock market continues to plunge, what are the near and long term impacts on the County's 7% return assumption for its pension system?



COLAB IN DEPTH

IN FIGHTING THE TROUBLESOME, LOCAL DAY-TO-DAY ASSAULTS ON OUR FREEDOM AND PROPERTY, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE LARGER UNDERLYING IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC CAUSES

THE PREMISES OF CALIFORNIA'S DYSFUNCTION BY EDWARD RING

Anyone unfamiliar with what is really going on in California would have listened to Governor Newsom's <u>State of the State address</u> on February 12 and gotten the impression that things have never been better. Newsom's opening set the tone for the rest of his 4,400 word monologue:

"By every traditional measure, the state of our state is strong. We have a record-breaking surplus. We've added 3 million jobs since the depths of the recession. Wages are rising. We have more scientists, researchers, and engineers, more Nobel laureates, and the finest system of higher education anywhere in the world."

Newsom, to his credit, immediately qualified his sunny opening with a disclaimer that might be the understatement of the century, saying "But along with that prosperity and progress, there are problems that have been deferred for too long and that threaten to put the California dream out of reach for too many. We face hard decisions that are coming due."

Gavin Newsom, the political party he represents, and the ideology they've embraced, cannot possibly solve these "problems that have been deferred for too long." First, because Newsom and his gang created the problems, and second, because the ideology they adhere to is based on premises that are both economically unsustainable and destined to eventually deliver not solutions, but tyranny.

Here are the three core premises of California's dysfunction:

The Climate Emergency

Every policy in California must be run through the filter of its "climate change" impact. At some point over the past 10-20 years the required "environmental impact" reports morphed into "climate change" impact reports. It is impossible to overstate the degree to which this has stunted economic opportunities and raised the cost of living in California, and there is no end in sight.

"Climate change" impact is the pretext for countless laws and regulations, along with endless litigation, and its reach expands every year. There is no aspect of life in California, almost no category of activity that can escape monitoring. If what you do moves electrons or involves combustion, convection, emission, discharge, motion, extraction, construction, *anything* – than there is justification for "carbon accounting," and into the breech ride the carbon accountants, the consulting experts, the bureaucrats, the attorneys, the regulators and the legislators. "Climate change" is the pretext for an entire parasitic industry, and there is no theoretical limit to the scope of its authority.

The problem with this premise, beyond the fact it justifies an ongoing and inexorable creep towards micromanaged tyranny, is that it can't be challenged. To suggest there might be other political priorities, unintended consequences, or even to just ask for a cost/benefit analysis, is to be branded a "denier," as if someone who doesn't think the world is about to end via "climate change," or just thinks the proposed solutions are ludicrous in addition to being tyrannical, is the moral equivalent of a holocaust denier.

The "climate emergency" is an explicitly fascist political ideology, according to at least two conventional definitions of fascism. It requires an economic model where corporate oligopolies act in junior partnership to an authoritarian government. At the same time, it justifies itself according to a moral framework that does not tolerate dissent and relies on fomenting panic and fear to secure popular support. There is nothing that escapes the authoritarian reach of "climate change" policies.

The entire premise, that "climate change" is an emergency and that no sacrifice is too great in order to stop it, is based on exaggerations and lies, spread by people motivated by power and profit. It is not enough to oppose the myriad policies justified by the "climate emergency." This fundamental premise, that it is an emergency eclipsing all other political priorities, must be utterly broken.

Eliminating Privilege and Oppression

This mantra, repeated across the U.S. by the American Left, is especially entrenched in California. And the laws attendant to it, like those attendant to the "climate emergency," continue to multiply with no end in sight.

Whether it's women, transgenders, gays and lesbians, "people of color," or any other identifiable group where some statistical disparity in their aggregate achievements can be identified, new laws are being passed to join well established laws, all designed to enforce equal outcomes.

All of this relies on a premise that has supposedly passed almost beyond debate, that "cisgender heteronormative white males" have engaged in systemic racism since the dawn of time against everyone

who is not a "cisgender heteronormative white male," and this explains every statistical disparity between their achievement and that of everyone else.

There is so much wrong and evil about this premise it is hard to pick where to begin. First of all, it probably makes sense to remind the purveyors of this nonsense that life on earth has never been fair, but when it comes to "inclusion and equity," no culture on earth comes anywhere close to America.

Perhaps more people should say to anyone tempted to declare themselves a victim of systemic oppression, "too bad, and grow up, because the cure you are proposing is far worse than the disease." Perhaps anyone who thinks they've got it so bad in the United States, much less California, is invited to return to their nations of origin, and see if they find themselves feeling more welcome, with more access to opportunity.

The problems facing California's residents who are not "cisgender heteronormative white males" are made far more challenging by a Leftist establishment telling them their prospects are diminished by "systemic oppression" as by any actual oppression.

Join the military and get free college tuition when you're discharged. Learn the plumbing trade and make \$175,000 per year because there's a shortage of plumbers. Quit pretending a degree in "ethnic (or whatever) studies" is marketable in the real world, and instead train to become a nurse and make \$175,000 per year because there's a shortage of nurses. Whoever you are: you're not a victim, despite what you're hearing from some blowhard who's made a career of saying so.

Claiming "privilege and oppression" are "systemic" and that laws are necessary to stop it will literally destroy America. It will fracture our culture and further paralyze our economy. It is a lie based on biased, self serving facts and studies, and just as in the case with the "climate emergency," it is used to justify a parasitic industry. It cannot be stopped by fighting the myriad and derivative battles over budgets and legislation. The root premise must be relentlessly rejected, and *everyone*, regardless of their possible "protected status," must be recruited to join in this attack.

Capitalism is Evil, Long Live Capitalism

Into this broad category can be found most of the remaining flawed but fundamental premises of California's ruling elite. In no particular order, here are the delusions and lies that derive from this impossible, contradictory, blatantly hypocritical premise:

It is possible to make it impossible for the free market to build anything affordable in California, thanks to crippling regulations and punitive fees, yet it is possible to spend even more per unit, using taxpayer money, to build government funded "affordable housing."

It is possible to award pension benefits to state and local government employees that average literally three times (if not more) what private sector workers may receive from Social Security, and then, while attacking capitalist profiteers at every turn, and demanding more regulations and taxes to control them and make them pay their "fair share," simultaneously claim that pension benefits are sustained by returns on smartly invested asset portfolios, returns that are only possible via profits.

It is necessary to curb the excesses of capitalism through expansive legislation and regulations, because capitalism is inherently oppressive to "marginalized communities" and "working families," yet the ultimate victims of these laws and regulations are always the small family owned businesses and emerging innovative potential competitors to large companies, because they lack the financial resiliency to comply. Meanwhile, the large monopolistic corporations consolidate their positions in the market.

It is economically sustainable to curb development of land, energy, water and roads, in order to protect the environment, because the resulting scarcity creates an explosion in asset values. This in turn enables a financialization of California's economy as people borrow on the artificially inflated collateral of their home equity. The increased consumer activity, debt fueled, bolsters corporate profits and investment portfolio returns. The bubble never pops.

The Consequences of Lies

Nearly everything California's ruling elite does wrong derives from these three premises. The first two are never challenged, and the third is a paradox, barely understood but best summarized by this: Democrats, not Republicans, are the party supported by the financial sector and the super wealthy, and they are systematically exterminating the middle class, and making things harder, not easier, for low income communities.

One of the policies central to California's oppressive dysfunction is so-called "densification" or urban containment. Rarely discussed holistically, it is foundational to what ails California, and it is a consequence of all three premises.

The policy of densification means that new cities and towns cannot be built outside of existing urban areas. New housing subdivisions cannot extend beyond the existing urban periphery. This is justified based on protecting the environment, as if 95 percent of California's more than 160,000 square miles of land weren't still rural. It is justified based on stopping "climate change," as if vehicles weren't becoming cleaner and greener every year, and as if jobs wouldn't follow residents into new cities.

Densification is also justified based on combating "racism," because if jobs follow residents to new communities outside the existing urban core, then somehow this means no jobs will remain for people still living there – who may be disproportionately represented by members of "disadvantaged communities."

The economic premise behind densification, besides the rabid and cynical certainty that artificial scarcity causes asset bubbles which reward speculative investors and predatory home equity loan sharks, is that suburbs require roads which require "subsidies." When making this argument, California's ruling elites find useful and very idiotic support from libertarian dogmatists, who have made a lifestyle of living with paradoxical, self-contradictory beliefs. "Let's not subsidize the car," is what these libertarians will smugly assert, hoping for a pat on the back from the progressives with whom they've found common ground. No, of course not. Let's just subsidize light rail, trolleys, buses, and every other imaginable conveyance instead.

The wicked first cousin of Densification is "Inclusive Zoning," is a policy that as well relies on all three of California's dysfunctional premises. This policy, which like most leftist inspired policies, sounds so virtuous – "inclusive" – that only a heartless monster would oppose it. It takes the form of long-standing mandates to include subsidized "affordable housing" in virtually every housing development, and new mandates requiring cities and counties to approve "accessory dwelling units" inside any residential backyard bigger than a postage stamp. It is based on the premise that "disadvantaged communities" will suddenly be uplifted if they are able to live in subsidized units of housing in affluent neighborhoods.

Inclusive zoning is by its very nature consistent with the environmentally motivated policy of densification, since these mandated "affordable" units are smaller than the housing that surrounds them, consuming backyard lawns instead of "open space." They are, as noted, also consistent with combating "oppression," since lower income individuals will occupy these units.

California is Waging War on Working Californians

The most pernicious way in which inclusionary zoning follows from California's dysfunctional premises, however, is in the economic realm.

What inclusionary zoning mandates allow is an invasion of predatory real estate speculators to pour into every tranquil, shady neighborhood in California, where they will encounter homes that are worth more demolished than left standing. They will raze, randomly, homes throughout these to-date intact neighborhoods, and then, relying tax incentives to fund the construction, they will replace these homes with funplexes that will house low income residents living on taxpayer supported rent subsidies.

Densification and inclusionary zoning epitomize how California's ruling elite is waging war against its own citizens – and that ruling class very explicitly includes Gavin Newsom.

These policies reflect a contempt for the middle class bordering on hatred. No fair minded person objects to people who look different or have different lifestyles living in their neighborhoods. What they object to is having their neighborhoods destroyed through densification, then filled up with new residents whose residences and rent payments are largely paid through higher taxes.

If you object to this because you worked hard to live in a nice neighborhood, too bad. It wasn't hard work that got you there, it was "privilege." And if you object because you don't like seeing homes randomly demolished and replaced with apartments, too bad, you must be a "denier." And if you think the economics are unsustainable – after all, at what percentage of tax subsidized construction of "affordable housing" and subsidized monthly rent do government budgets implode – too bad, because all the smart libertarians joined with all the smart progressives to do this to you.

As for the tony enclaves of California's wealthiest? They litigate and lobby for exemptions to the rules they make the rest of us live by, and laugh all the way to the bank.

* * *

Edward Ring is a co-founder of the California Policy Center and served as its first president. This article originally appeared on the website <u>American Greatness</u>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS Central Coast - R3

REVISED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND DRAFT WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL WASTE DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS WITHIN THE CENTRAL COAST REGION

NOTE: CLICK HERE TO READ THE DRAFT ORDER

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/ag_order4_renewal/2020feb/dao.pdf

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Control Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for waste discharge requirements regulating the discharge of agricultural waste from irrigated lands within the Central Coast Region, "Agricultural Order for Discharges to Irrigated Lands" (Agricultural Order 4.0). The Central Coast Water Board has also prepared the Draft Agricultural Order 4.0. Both documents are available for public review and comment. The public review period for the Draft EIR and Draft Agricultural Order 4.0 is from February 21, 2020 until April 6, 2020. During the public review period, Central Coast Water Board staff will hold public workshops on the Draft EIR and Draft Agricultural Order 4.0; staff will provide notice at least 10-days prior to the workshops.

The proposed project (Draft Agricultural Order 4.0) is the issuance of a permit regulating waste discharges from irrigated lands throughout the central coastal region. The purpose of Agricultural Order 4.0 is to protect and restore beneficial uses and achieve water quality objectives specified in the Basin Plan for commercial irrigated agricultural areas in the central coast region. The proposed project would replace the existing permit regulating agricultural discharges (Agricultural Order 3.0).

The Draft EIR identified potentially significant environmental impacts to agricultural resources.

Document Availability

Electronic copies of the Draft EIR and Draft Agricultural Order 4.0 can be obtained from the Central Coast Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/ag_order4_renewal. html.

Hardcopies of the Draft EIR and Draft Ag. Order are available at the Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

Submission of Written Comments

Written comments are due April 6, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. and may be submitted via email to AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov with "Comments on Draft EIR" or "Comments on Draft Ag Order 4.0" in the subject line. While email submittal is preferred, we will accept written comments at: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PENDING GENERAL ORDERS

Ex parte communications are allowed in this matter subject to the disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287, as explained in

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/exparte.pdf. Any communications between interested persons and board members (other than at a noticed board meeting where Agricultural Order 4.0 is on the agenda or submitted as a comment letter in compliance with this or another public notice) must be disclosed by the interested person within seven working days of the communication. A sample disclosure form is available at:

 $https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/forms/docs/central_coast_disclosure .pdf.$

Pursuant to the Central Coast Water Board's direction on January 31, 2020, ex parte communications are prohibited for a period beginning 14 days before the Board meeting at which the proposed Agricultural Order 4.0 is scheduled for Board action. If the Central Coast Water Board does not take action during the scheduled meeting date, the ex parte communications prohibition will be lifted. The prohibition on ex parte communications will be reinstated for 14 days before the day of the Board meeting to which the decision is continued. At this time, the Board meeting at which the proposed Agricultural Order 4.0 will be considered for Board action has not been scheduled. The Board meeting at which the proposed Agricultural Order 4.0 will be considered for 4.0 will be considered is scheduled for May 28 – 29, 2020.

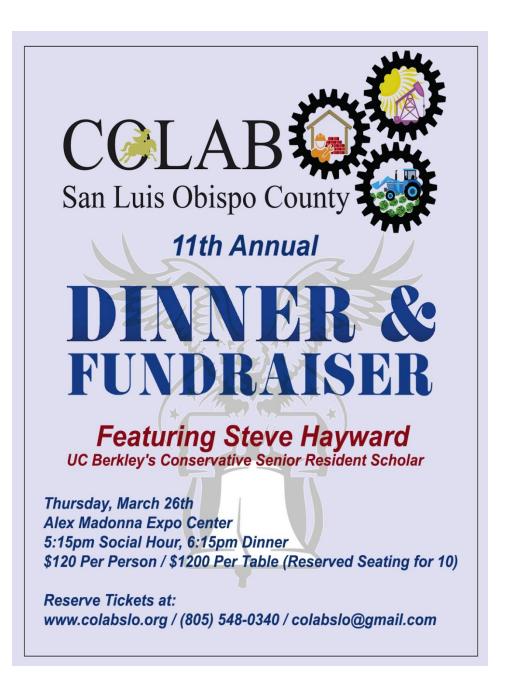
FUTURE NOTICES

During the public review period the Central Coast Water Board staff will hold public workshops on the Draft EIR and Draft Agricultural Order 4.0. Staff will provide notice of these workshops at least 10-days prior. Any change in the date, time and place of the workshops will be noticed on the automated email list for the Irrigated Lands Program and posted on the Central Coast Water Board's website. To subscribe to the automated email list, please visit the Central Coast Water Board's website at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg3_subscribe.html and choose "Agricultural Discharges" and "CEQA – Agricultural Order 4.0, March 2020."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, visit the Central Coast Regional Board's Agricultural Order Renewal website

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/ag_order4_renewal. html or contact the Irrigated Lands Program ILRP at (805) 549-3148 or at



GET TICKETS & TABLES AT: http://www.colabslo.org/events.asp





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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

MEMBER INFORMATION:

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