



**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**OCTOBER 18 - 24, 2020**

**THIS WEEK**

**CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REFORM FLOATED**  
**RESTRICTS BIG INTEREST POWER IN LOCAL ELECTIONS**

**COVID LOW IN COUNTY**  
**BUT IN EUROPE & SOME US STATES IT'S ON THE RISE**

**FINANCIAL COMPLEXITIES AND INTERNAL LOANS**  
**ON THE ARROYO GRANDE CREEK FLOOD**  
**CONTROL PROJECT**

**SOUTH COAST CITIES' WATER RECHARGE PROJECT**  
**MAJOR QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY WATER AGENCY, RATE PAYERS, AND**  
**AGRICULTURAL OVERLIERS**

**PLANNING COMMISSION LITE**

**LAST WEEK**

**NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**LAFCO PREVIEWED NEW APPLICATIONS**  
**ADDITIONS TO CITIES AND DETACHMENTS FROM WATER DISTRICTS**

# COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 12

## AN “ECOTOPIAN” FUTURE: CAN CALIFORNIA’S GREEN EXTREMISM GO NATIONAL?

BY JOEL KOTKIN

## What is TRULY at stake in this election? Don't blink; you could lose your freedom!

BY ANDY CALDWELL

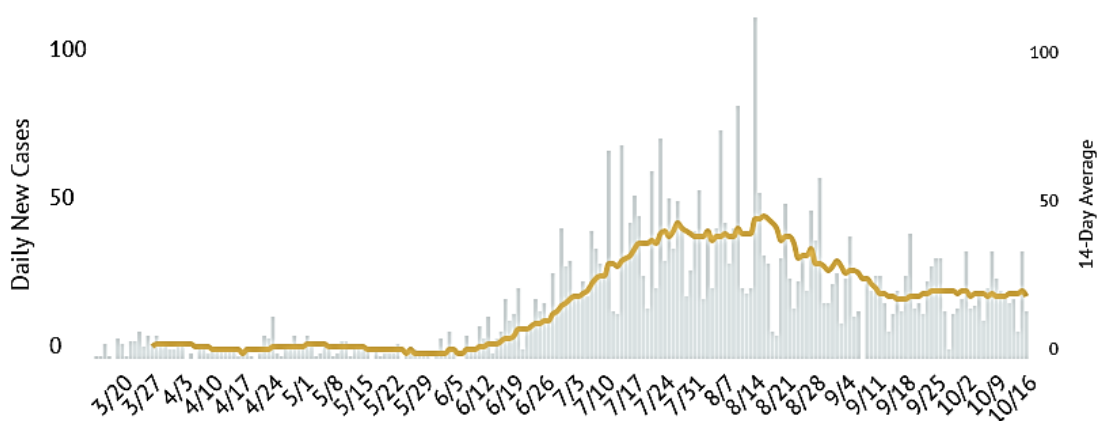
### THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

#### Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, October 20, 2020 (Scheduled)

**In General:** The agenda contains an item of major policy and government reform pertaining to campaign contribution limits. The limits would apply to races for Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, Auditor Controller, Clerk Recorder, District Attorney, and Assessor. **See agenda item 20 below.**

#### Item 1 - COVID Update:

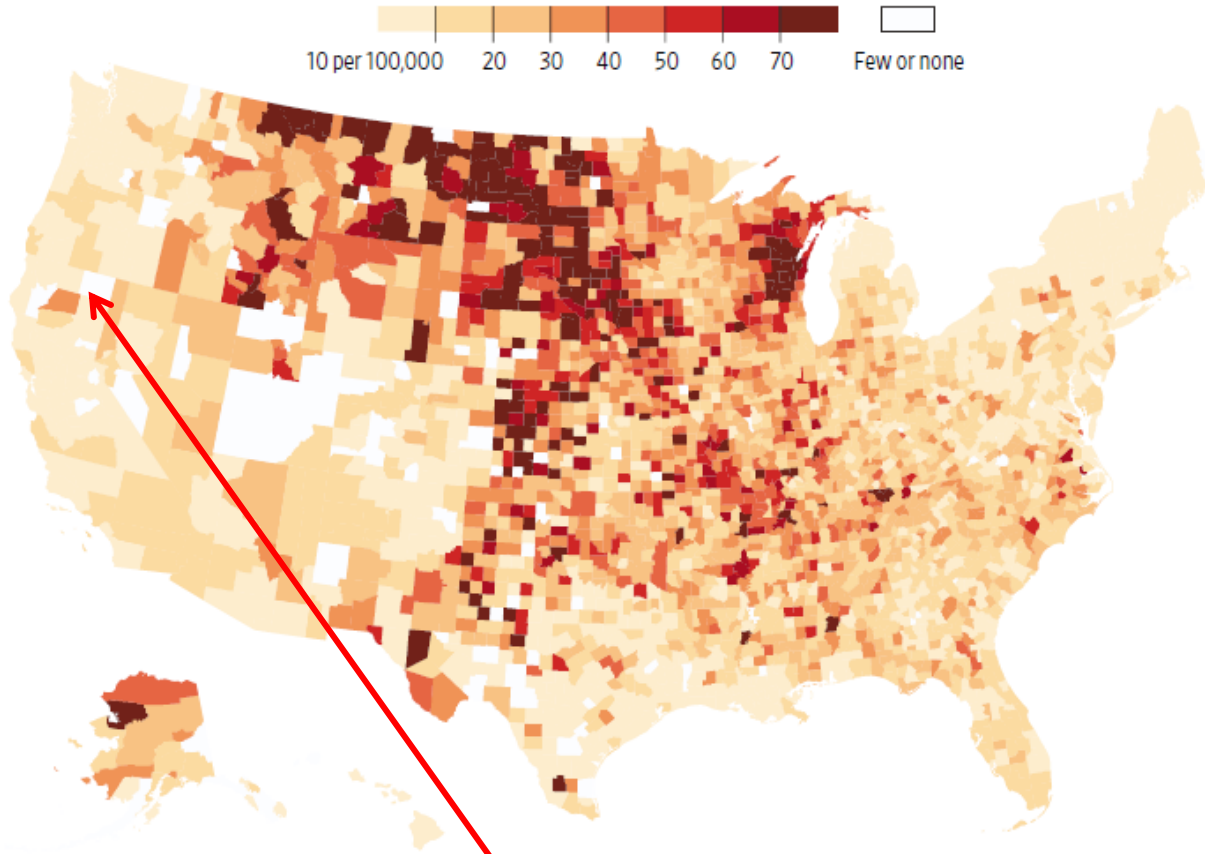
Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



#### CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED

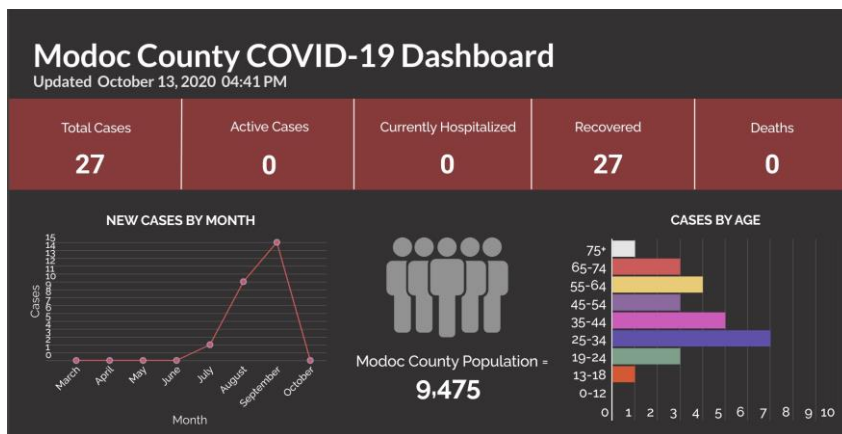
6 (1 of whom is in ICU)

## Average new daily Covid-19 cases for most recent week, per 100,000 people

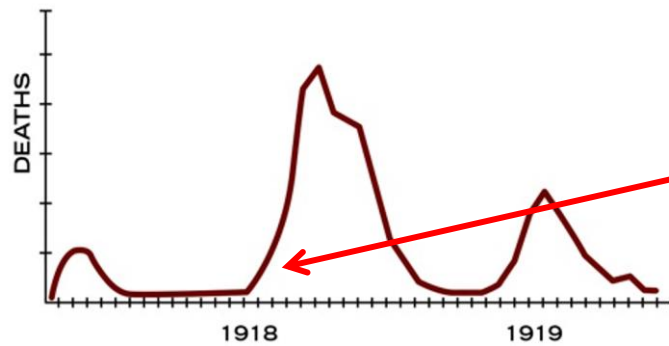


Note: Last updated on Oct. 15 at 8:51 a.m. Negative values are due to revised figures.  
Sources: Johns Hopkins University (cases); Census Bureau (population)

Has Modoc County (and several others) achieved herd immunity? They never went for lockdowns. Why can't we segment larger counties by geographic zones such as census tracts, zip codes, community plan areas or whatever, and then tailor the controls to the problem areas? SLO County is over 3,000 square miles in area. Controls in Creston need not be as severe as at Cal Poly or dense apartment house neighborhoods.



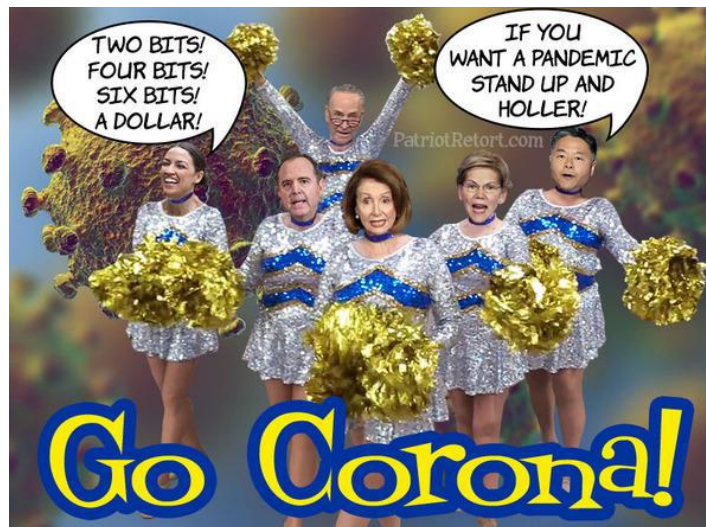
It appears that a second wave of the virus, which may be a more virulent strain, is hitting Europe hard. Should this infection spread into North America, the impacts will be devastating if major lockdowns must be re-imposed. Why not ban travel now and avoid massive new infection?



It will hopefully not follow the pattern of the 1918-19 Flu pandemic. Should travel to and from Europe be banned? What if we are here?

Is anyone at the CDC or WHO testing the new virus variety to see if it has different genetic, virulence, and morbidity characteristics?

There is considerable disagreement within the medical community about trends, what they mean, and how to manage them. Of course the pandemic has been exploited by the progressive left to impose regulations, diminish liberty, and expand the administrative state. Per the map above on the prior page, why would you lockdown California because of a resurgence in Wisconsin? Shouldn't Wisconsin be quarantined to prevent the spread to the rest of the country? Ditto for the Dakotas and selected counties. Why let it spread to the whole country, beckoning another general lockdown? Or is that the real program of the deep administrative state and their elected progressive friends in the first place? If the President imposed the travel bans, would he be a racist? They claim to want action. How about it? Why aren't they calling for it?



### Meanwhile the California Policy Center comments on the current status:

*New social gathering rules:* This week, California's public health officials in the state, forbidding gatherings of more than three households at any time and mandating that all such gatherings be held outside. Attendees may – thank you, leader! – use restrooms as long as they are frequently sanitized – which seems like good advice in any decade. Seating at these gatherings must be at least six feet apart, and attendees must wear masks. Gatherings should be less than two hours in duration and among the same three households each time. Oh, and no singing! The media has billed these guidelines as an “easing” of state restrictions.

*How can these violations of civil liberties be justified given the crushed curve?* Heavy-handed

*government restrictions on civil liberties were originally justified to “flatten the curve” so hospital systems wouldn’t be overwhelmed. California has more than succeeded at this. There are fewer Californians hospitalized with Coronavirus than any day on record since April 1, the day the state began tracking the metric. Those in intensive care are at their second-lowest level since officials began keeping track in late March. Daily deaths are also at their lowest level since early April.*

*Yet in the land of the perpetually moving Coronavirus Reopening Goalposts, businesses and schools remain closed. And social gatherings are forbidden – aside from the Kafkaesque “gatherings” that could possibly take place under the state’s new guidelines. You don’t have to be a conspiracy theorist to have deep concerns that Covid-19 has turned into an aphrodisiac for power among the state’s government officials.*

**The kicker:** *Science indicates that outdoor transmission is exceedingly rare – especially in the California sunshine.*

**As if kids didn’t have it hard enough, Halloween is canceled:** *This week, California public officials “strongly discouraged” trick-or-treating on Halloween. This announcement is tantamount to a ban because in order for trick-or-treating to be any fun, most households or apartments in a given neighborhood need to take part.*

*According to California Health and Human Services Secretary Mark Ghaly, “Some of the traditional Halloween celebrations, such as... door-to-door trick-or-treating, we know pose a high risk of spreading Covid and are therefore strongly discouraged.” Really? We know that trick-or-treating spreads Covid? I’d like to see the science behind that claim. As a replacement for Halloween, the fun sucks at the state public health department suggest an online costume contest.*

**Item 16 - Complications On Arroyo Grande Creek Flood Control Project.** This is a long evolving project to reduce flooding on the Arroyo Grande Creek. Due to the environmental requirements, it has taken many years to receive the approval from a host of regulatory agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers, the Coastal Commission, the State Fish and Wildlife Department, APCD, County Planning, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Oceano Ladies Village Improvement Society.

The project is now underway. It was discovered that there are grading complications where the creek crosses the union Pacific Railroad, which require about \$182,000 in new engineering expenses.

The larger issue is confusing and involves the necessity for the County to loan itself \$3 million to cover the ongoing construction costs. It may be that this loan will be covered by a future grant. It is not clear from the writing if this grant has been solidly approved and if it has, why it is delayed.

A portion of the Board letter states:

***Most of the project costs will be funded through State and Federal Grants.*** *Flood Control Zone 1 has also received loans from FC 450-Flood Control Zone General to temporarily fund the project until after completion of construction and receipt of grant funding.*

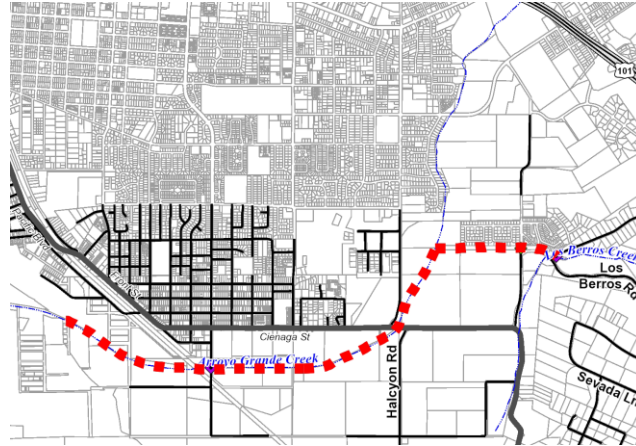
*It is necessary for the Board to approve an additional short-term loan in the amount up to \$3M from Flood Control Zone General, by cancelling Designated Reserves, to provide temporary cash flow*



until grant reimbursements are received. **The \$3M short-term loan is estimated to be paid back by approved grants by June 30, 2021.**

Why is there a timing gap, and is there any chance that the grants could be cancelled or otherwise not be paid?

**The graphic below displays the creek segment where the project is taking place.**



**Item 19 - An update on State Legislative activities by Paul Yoder and Karen Lange, of Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange (SYASL).** There is no substantive write-up or summary. There is a list of bills which have become laws that impact counties. It can be viewed at the link: <https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/126589>

Larger issues such as COVID policy, lockdowns, impacts of single party government, regulatory overreach, keeping Diablo open, and other major policy matters appear to be absent from the discussion.

**Item 20 - Request to provide input regarding adoption of an Ordinance establishing local campaign finance contribution limits.** This is a major policy item, which if adopted, will make County elections or Boards of Supervisors, Sheriff, DA, Auditor Controller, Clerk Recorder, and Assessor much more democratic. Per 2019 bill AB 571, the County can adopt an ordinance limiting the amount that any individual, association, political action committee, or other entirety can contribute to a particular candidate. Reciprocally, the amount received by a candidate can also be limited.

**Some key portions of the Board letter include:**

*AB 571 becomes effective on January 1, 2021. It accomplished the above goals by continuing to allow cities and counties with no independently imposed local campaign contribution limits the discretion to set their own contribution limits; however, if an agency has no local limits on campaign contributions as of January 1, 2021, the bill limits contributions for elections for that agency by defaulting to the state's limitations (currently \$4,700).*

**Other characteristics of AB 57**

*Extends contribution restrictions for elective county or city office regarding personal loans and for committees created to oppose recall measures.*

- Allows a candidate for county or city office to carry over campaign expenditures in connection with a subsequent election for that same office, except in instances where a city and a county has prohibited that practice in light of its own local contribution restrictions; and
- Limits personal loans to one's campaign to \$100,000 and prohibits candidates to charge interest on personal loans unless the agency adopts an ordinance with different loan limits.

**Options to consider:**

(1) Do nothing. As of January 1, 2021, campaign contribution limits for county elective offices would default to the State's rules, which currently impose a \$4,700 limit from any individual. The FPCC would take responsibility for enforcing the restriction.

(2) Set its own limit. The County could establish its own campaign contribution limits. These limits would apply for any campaign regarding an "elective county office," which includes the Board of Supervisors, County Assessor, District Attorney, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator, Clerk Recorder and Sheriff-Coroner.

It will be interesting to see how various officials, political parties, and other political groups react to the proposal. It will be especially interesting to see how government employee labor unions react.

A specimen ordinance is posted as an attachment to the Board letter. It is not up for adoption yet but is posted to focus the Board on this issue. It can be seen at the link:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/12509>

**Item 24 - Appeal of a Minor Use Permit for the City of Pismo Beach to Install 2 Test Wells and pipeline in the Oceano Dunes Park (portion next to Highway 1).** The actual appeal pertains to a test well which is necessary to ascertain the feasibility of a much larger project that the City of Pismo Beach and perhaps the Cities of Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, and the Ocean CSD are undertaking. The matter at issue today is whether the test well overly interferes by restricting access to coastal recreation campsites.



**Much Larger Future Issues:** There are larger issues in the future, as this test well project is prefatory to a much more extensive project entitled the Central Coast Blue Project (CCB). It is a project led by the City of Pismo Beach which would ostensibly have participants including the Oceano Community Service District, the City of Arroyo Grande, and the City of Grover Beach. The purposes of the project are to inject groundwater into the aquifer along the coast to prevent sea water intrusion into the aquifer and to add to groundwater reserves for the participant agencies.

**In part the CCB website states:**

*INJECTION WELLS AND MONITORING WELLS*

*Seven injection wells would be installed generally within one-half mile of the coast and would each require approximately 3,000 square feet of land.1 Each injection well would be capable of injecting approximately 800 acre-feet per year. The advanced purified water would be injected at a depth of approximately 200 to 600 feet below ground surface. The injection well network would be accompanied by a network of nested monitoring wells at ten locations throughout the project area. Nested monitoring wells would each include two to three well casings that would extend to varying depths up to 400 feet. Each monitoring well would have a surface footprint of approximately 25 square feet and would be equipped to measure and monitor water level and water quality. Injection wells would include aboveground piping and infrastructure such as electrical panels, control panels, and storage facilities that would be approximately six feet in height. Maintenance of the injection wells would involve monitoring of pressures, frequent inspections, cleaning out the well casings, and removing microbial build-up once every two years.*

The overall project is expected to cost over \$47 million dollars. It is not clear from the record if the Oceano Community Service District, the City of Arroyo Grande, or the Oceano CSD are contractually committed to have their water users fund their proportionate share of the costs.

While these matters are not entirely before the Board of Supervisors at this juncture, they do raise questions about overall water policy and feasibility. While the County is not a funder or partner and properly leaves local municipal affairs to the cities and districts, it does have an overall statutory responsibility for water planning and security as the Water Agency. The Board should defer the matter and:

- 1. Assess the larger project in terms of its overall responsibility as County Water Agency.**
- 2. Have its expert water management staff prepare an analysis and recommendation with respect to feasibility of the Central Coast Blue project in terms of overall countywide water management policy.**
- 3. Understand the short and long term rate implications of the project on the citizens in the area to be served by the project.**
- 4. Understand the legal impact on the overlying agriculturalist primary beneficial use constitutional water right.**

A key threshold question, which pertains to most government initiatives, is what problem are we trying to solve? The primary purposes stated here are to push back or forestall saltwater intrusion into



the aquifer underlying the coastal portion of the putative participant jurisdictions and recharge the aquifer. The actual problem may be: *What are we going to do with our treated sewer plant effluent?*

The various write-ups and websites related to the project do not present any data about the extent of current or potential saltwater intrusion.

**The project draft EIR states that its purposes are:**

***Project Objectives***

*The objectives for the proposed Central Coast Blue project are as follows:*

*Produce advanced purified water of a quality that can safely be used to augment groundwater supply while maintaining or improving existing groundwater quality.*

*Create a sustainable, drought-resistant, local water supply and improve water supply reliability for southern San Luis Obispo County.*

*Provide a new source of recharge to the SMGB to protect the basin from degradation via seawater intrusion.*

*Reduce wastewater discharges to the ocean and maximize utilization of local water supplies.*

*Facilitate continued water resources collaboration in the NCMA.*

**With respect to seawater intrusion, the EIR states in part:**

*Historically, elevated freshwater levels along the coastline and natural outflow to the ocean have prevented seawater from intruding into the groundwater basin. However, groundwater elevations along the coastline have dropped due to changing climatic conditions, including more frequent periods of extended drought resulting in reduced inflow into the groundwater basin and increased demands on groundwater supplies resulting in a higher rate of groundwater extraction. These lower levels reduce the flow of freshwater out toward the ocean, which reduces the effectiveness of groundwater as a barrier to seawater, and in 2009, elevated concentrations of water quality constituents consistent with incipient seawater intrusion (i.e., total dissolved solids, sodium, chloride) were detected in the NCMA monitoring wells. If conditions worsen, seawater will draw toward the freshwater zone of the aquifer, contaminating it with elevated salt concentrations (GSI Water Solutions, Inc.).*

There is an extensive hydrological analysis included as Appendix G of the EIR. It studies different scenarios of recharge, climate, and other factors involved in predicting the status of the aquifer. County staff needs to advise the Board on how this works, since the presentation is highly technical and its difficult for lay people to get to the bottom line answer about whether a problem.

**Major Questions:**

**Project Backing:** A review of the City of Pismo Beach's critical City Council meeting in November 2019 addressing the project shows that the issue was dealt with inconclusively. Is it okay to spend \$47

million on this project? Do the Cities of Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, and the Oceano Community Service District agree? The answer seemed to be: *We're working on it.*

**Impact on Overliers' Primary Water Rights:** Do the impacted agricultural overlayers agree that injecting the water into the aquifer is legally safe in terms of maintenance of their primary Constitutional water right to the beneficial use of the water? Or does the comingling of municipal recharge water obliterate that right once it mixes and becomes water in the public domain subject to government control? Could in fact the cities and Water District assert that they could charge the farmers for the water or regulate their pumping separate from the Santa Maria Basin Adjudication and/or SGMA, as the cases might apply?

How does the project intersect with the Santa Maria Basin adjudication? Does it need to be approved by the Court?

How does it impact the areas of the basin not under the adjudication and which the County is now studying vis-a-vis SGMA?

Currently the draft EIR is out for public comment. Have the impacted agriculturalists representative organizations such as the Farm Bureau and Grower Shipper been alerted to this issue? Certainly COLAB was not on the list.

Again, the County might ask for a time out to firm up its own position prior to misleading the City of Pismo Beach into thinking that the project is acceptable to the County from its standpoint as Water Agency. After all, the City has already let a \$750,000 contract for the 2 test wells, and the contractor is ready to proceed.

Because the applicant in this case is a municipality, the Board of Supervisors may be uncomfortable in asking questions due to the usual public official noblesse oblige. The Board should regard all policy matters from the standpoint of the citizens and avoid professional courtesy.

### **Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, October 22, 2020 (Scheduled)**

#### **In General**

The agenda items involve permit requests for small projects, a cell tower, a minor subdivision, and amendment of a prior 7-unit project approval in Avila Beach to permit vacation rentals. The project is limited to 1 vacation rental by its original approval. The staff recommends against it. There do not appear to be any large general policy impacts contained in these items. That being said, the items are very important to the individual applicants, who are spending tens of thousands of dollars on consultants to prepare their applications and more thousands on County processing fees and mitigation exactions.

## **LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

### **No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 (Not Scheduled)**

The next scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

**San Luis Obispo County Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, October 15, 2020 (Completed)**

**Item B-2: Status Report of Submitted Proposals and Upcoming Proposal Activities.** The Commission received an informational report on the active and potential applications for annexations, expansions of services, and detachments. There were no public speakers, and there did not seem to be any angst at this point over any of the potential actions.

**Background:** The staff provided an informative list of upcoming applications. Some of the more significant include:

*Shandon San Juan Water District Detachment. Additional property owners have Inquired about detaching from the water district. One landowner has 1,200 acres, another Owns 3,357 acres, and others are smaller acreages. LAFCO would typically consolidate Applicants under one action for detachment for a broader perspective ease and reduced processing costs. There is no anticipated application date at this time.*

*Dana Reserve Annexation. This proposal would annex 288 acres located within the Sphere of Influence and immediately north of the Urban Reserve Line of Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD). The property is bounded by Willow Road and Cherokee Place to the north, existing residential ranchettes to the south and west, and U.S. Highway 101 to the east. The landowners have filed a subdivision application with the County for a 42-lot multi-use subdivision and corresponding Specific Plan for approximately 1,270 single and multi-family homes including residential, commercial, and recreation/open space, among others. This future application would likely take a year or two before coming to LAFCO.*

*Froom Ranch Annexation. This proposal would annex 110 acres located immediately west of Los Osos Valley Road between U.S. Highway 101 and the Irish Hills Plaza outside the City limits of San Luis Obispo. The City Council adopted a Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report on September 15, 2020. The Commission held a Study Session regarding this Life Plan Community on March 19, 2020, and gave an update on May 21, 2020.*

*Gateway SOI Amendment/Annexation. This proposal is expected to be submitted on October 7, 2020, by the City of Paso Robles to annex 170 acres located in the vicinity of the northwest corner of Highway 101 and Highway 46 West and outside the City limits of Paso Robles.*

# 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

## What is TRULY at stake in this election? Don't blink, you could lose your freedom!

BY ANDY CALDWELL

### Freedom Lost by Force and Fraud

As James Madison wrote in Federalist Paper No. 47, “The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.”

Furthermore, George Orwell wrote “A society becomes totalitarian when its structure becomes flagrantly artificial: that is, when its ruling class has lost its function but succeeds in clinging to power by force or fraud.”

California, which is completely politically dominated by progressives, has perfected the art of using force and fraud to delude the general populace while robbing it of its freedom. That is, the basic guarantee of a free people has to do with the premise that our government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed. Any other means of exercising authority is thereby unjust.

Nevertheless, Gavin Newsom has used the cover of covid to issue over 100 executive orders and change over 400 laws in this state sans the consent and decree of the people or their representatives in the legislature. Many of these orders have absolutely nothing to do with covid including an executive order that bans gasoline and diesel-powered cars and trucks in the near future.

California's particular problem? Both the state assembly and the senate are elected by popular vote. That means that the heavily populated Bay area and Los Angeles dominate both houses at the expense of the rural counties and smaller metropolitan areas. That is, the assembly should be elected by state-wide popular vote while each county should be able to elect their own state senator akin to how the house and the senate are elected to serve in Congress. Instead, our current situation has left the entire state at the mercy of one party rule which has now morphed into one man rule.

On the national level, Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer are attempting to accumulate power from both the executive branch and the judiciary. This includes the endless attempts to initiate a coup by impeaching President Trump. Now we have the plan to form a 25th Amendment committee to ostensibly determine that Trump must be removed from office because he has lost his capacity to

govern. That is, unless, Nancy and Chuck have plans to replace Biden with Kamala Harris if Biden is elected? Unfortunately, it would not be a stretch to prove that Biden does in fact suffer from diminished mental acuity. Either way, the dems in Congress are trying to control who sits in the White House regardless of the will of the people.

Moreover, the dems are planning to pack the Supreme Court if Biden wins and they win control of the Senate. What does that mean? The role of the Supreme Court, as the highest court in the land, is to preserve and protect the Constitution and thereby the people from, among other things, the other two branches of government. That same Constitution rests on the division, separation, and balance of powers between three equal branches of government to preserve the power of the people and the states. The ignoble intentions of the democratic party is to nominate and confirm upwards of six additional justices who will seek to alter the constitution via judicial fiat, sans the constitutionally-outlined process for amending the Constitution, as the dems take the concept of judge-shopping to an all new level.

One other plan of Pelosi, Schumer and company to reflect California's one party rule comes by way of their plans to eliminate the electoral college, thereby rendering the voting power of small states superfluous.

Make no mistake about it, Pelosi and Schumer are promoting a form of tyranny at the expense of the people and the states.

*Andy Caldwell is the Executive Director of COLAB of Santa Barbara County, public affairs columnist, and host of the Andy Caldwell Radio Show. He is the Republican candidate for the 24th Congressional District.*

## **AN “ECOTOPIAN” FUTURE: CAN CALIFORNIA’S GREEN EXTREMISM GO NATIONAL?**

**BY JOEL KOTKIN**

*They paved paradise...And put up a parking lot...With a pink hotel, a boutique...And a swinging hot spot...Don't it always seem to go...That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone -- Joni Mitchell, “Big Yellow Taxi,” 1970*

One is often at a loss to explain California to people from other planets—like, say, earth. This is a state that issues mandates for electrification of everything while reducing its generating capacity. It blames devastating fires on climate change, without taking the blame for forestry practices that helped make the seasonal fires much worse. In California, pot is legal, but owning a car [with a gas engine](#), however clean, may soon not be, and climate skeptics of any stripe face opprobrium, consignment to obscurity, and—if they have assets—court dates.



To understand how a state could adopt what often seem insane policies, impoverishing its people while claiming the mantle of social justice, you need to consult the state's unique history. California is just not like other places, and you won't get anywhere without understanding that. With few navigable rivers and a lack of water near its coast and fertile valleys, the state largely engineered its own rise. "Science is the mother of California," said the University of California's second president, [Daniel Coit Gilman](#). Largely dominated by desert, flammable dry chaparral and high mountains, California depended on bringing water to its bone-dry coast, tapping electricity from distant dams, and accommodating a massive influx of new residents with largely suburban housing.

The state's [rapid population growth](#) from 1.5 million in 1900 to nearly 40 million today placed enormous strains on its natural systems. During the Gold Rush, mining practices devastated the Mother Lode country and poisoned the rivers. In the rest of the state, natural scrubland was converted first into farms, then into housing tracts, wiping out whole ecosystems. Those who grew up here, from Jerry Brown to Joni Mitchell, or who have lived here long, like this writer—nearly a half-century resident—have witnessed immense changes. We've seen the citrus orchards all but vanish from the coast, the massive 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, ever-more suffocating traffic congestion, and the densification of many communities. It's hard not to harken back to "better times" when the grove near your house is now a Target.

Still, where these real challenges, along with concerns over climate change, might have encouraged constructive solutions, they have instead metastasized the apocalyptic side of modern environmentalism. Predictably, *The New York Times* suggests that California is "ground zero for climate disasters," while [the Los Angeles Times](#) claims that California now fights not just fires and droughts but "climate despair." A letter to the editor insists that the state is already "a climate change hell," a logical conclusion to reach, judging by media coverage of the recent fires. That voice of establishment reasoning, the [Council on Foreign Relations](#), helpfully chimes in that "California is a Preview of Climate Change's Devastation for the Entire World."

In California, we appear to have made the transition *from awesome to awful*. ***The Origins of***

### ***Environmental Politics***

The "pastoral ideal," historian Leo Marx noted, "has been used to define the meaning of America ever since the age of discovery." Initially, it reflected the Jeffersonian vision of a nation of farmers, but gained adherents among the gentry in the rapidly developing industrial areas of [New England](#), New York, and [the Hudson Valley](#).

Modern environmentalism, though, is largely a California product. To some, particularly the ecological Left, environmental rapine is to California what the legacy of slavery has been to the South.

In a state where the frontier closed quickly, and wilderness confronted the consequences of extraordinarily rapid growth, the well-born sought ways to preserve something of our spectacular natural state. [The Sierra Club](#), still the leading environmental lobby, gained prominence campaigning early in the last century against the flooding of [Hetch Hetchy Valley](#) in Yosemite to supply water to largely waterless San Francisco. This struggle presaged an almost endless succession of battles across the state over land use, energy, and water development. When the Sierra Club's solutions seemed too tame, the Friends of Earth, also founded in San Francisco, rose to fill the gap, establishing a pattern of steady radicalization.

In their early days, California greens were largely conservationist, with a bipartisan base of affluent suburban homeowners, mostly in the coastal areas, who looked askance at development closing in on their once-pristine neighborhoods. By the late 1960s, however, greens increasingly embraced often-hysterical scenarios of a dystopian future. Stanford's Paul Ehrlich published [The Population Bomb](#) in 1968, forging a deep impression with its predictions of starvation on a global scale. Inspired by Rachel Carson's 1962 [Silent Spring](#), others worried, sometimes justifiably, about [the effects](#) of pesticides, the speculated-upon environmental causes of cancer, and potential disasters from nuclear power.

These more radical views gained acceptance in Sacramento with the elevation of Jerry Brown to the governorship in 1974. Unlike his father, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, a renowned builder of infrastructure, Jerry, noted the late Max Palevsky, former chairman of Xerox and co-founder of Intel, came into office with "a kind of hippy dippy ideology" and a philosophy that emphasized a new "era of limits."

### ***Homage to Ecotopia***

*Ecotopia*, published in 1975 by an obscure imprint, Banyan Tree Books. Its author was Ernest Callenbach, an equally obscure movie critic. To everyone's surprise, *Ecotopia* became a major best-seller, selling [a million copies](#).

The book follows a newspaper reporter who visits a breakaway republic whose policies in many ways presage the goals of today's environmental movement. *Ecotopia* reflects environmental concerns common in the 1970s—air pollution, energy dependence, pesticides, nuclear power, overpopulation. Callenbach called his new state "a small precarious island of hope" and portrays the rest of the country as a polluted, collapsed dystopia. Although conditions on environmental issues like [air pollution](#) have greatly improved since the 1970s, Ecotopian policies resonate with extreme environmentalists today: a highly regulated, essentially socialistic society without cars, fossil fuels, or air travel, and with limits placed on child-bearing. Like many radicals of our own time, the Ecotopians also were hostile to the nuclear family and embraced the principles of racial politics, with special rights and "greater autonomy" for various minorities, including Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, and even Jews.

## *California's Green Authoritarian State*

For California's greens, [Ecotopia](#) reads like a how-to-manual for imposing a regulatory regime that limits virtually every function of daily life and economy—one for which Covid-19 is providing a [“test run.”](#)

California's powerful green lobby has imposed a series of policies—on housing, transportation, and energy—that diverge from national norms. The state, for instance, is looking to go [all-electric](#) in the next decade, with the [elimination of gas-powered cars by 2035](#), at enormous cost, even as it cuts power from natural gas and nuclear. One [critic](#) suggests that this could leave California looking like Cuba, filled with rickety, but affordable, gas-powered automotive dinosaurs.

Little mention is made in the press or academia about how these policies have proved [catastrophic](#) for the state's working and middle classes, driven the cost of energy and housing to unsustainable levels, and chased millions out of the state. Much mainstream media coverage approaches environmental issues with all the objectivity of Pravda. This was particularly evident in the coverage of fires, with the media mindlessly repeating [Governor Gavin Newsom's](#) attempt to blame the conflagrations on climate change.

Not since the Middle Ages, where everything was seen as caused by divine will, have incompetents found a more convenient excuse for their failures.

In reality, as even the usually left-leaning [Pro Publica](#) has revealed, the [fires](#) were made far worse by [green policies](#) driven by the demands of environmentalists. These included [constant lawsuits](#) against local efforts to clean up old growth, particularly [dead trees](#), and stopping even [sustainable logging](#). California, as few reporters note, has a naturally combustible landscape which, left alone, would burn [many times](#) more than even the worst fire season.

Most tragically, current policies have little chance of making a meaningful difference to the climate. California, though a hotbed of climate extremism, has reduced its greenhouse gases between 2007 and 2016 at a rate that ranked just [40th per capita](#) among the states. Similar failures can be seen in [Germany](#) (whose policies [Newsom](#) wants to follow), where the much heralded [Energiewende](#)—the nation's planned transition to low-carbon fuel sources—has led to soaring energy costs but [disappointing results](#) in emissions declines. The impact of such steps by California on global climate, note some [recent studies](#), would be [almost infinitesimal](#), given that the primary source of rising emissions comes from outside the West—notably [China](#), easily the world's biggest emitter.

*Will America Go Ecotopian?*

If Kamala Harris makes it to the White House, Ecotopian ideas—at least those that don't threaten her [tech oligarch backers](#), often the beneficiaries of [renewable investments](#)—are almost certain to come to the fore. Like California, the rest of the country would have to live with higher costs and less reliable energy, along with huge investments in mass transit—yielding few new riders—and restrictions on middle-class suburban housing, even as this form of housing, according to the [National Association of Realtors](#), has gained even more popularity since the pandemic.

Californians can move out (and many are doing so) as conditions become intolerable, but a national green regime would be harder to escape. Americans in the rest of country, where weather tends more to extremes, would suffer more than California from a Green New Deal—particularly the agricultural Great Plains, the “oil patch,” and the manufacturing centers of the Midwest, where people still depend on reliable energy for the production of goods.

In both [Germany](#) and [California](#), green policies have [hurt the working class far more than the affluent](#), who, argues British socialist James Heartfield, actually benefit from scarcity. Family-oriented people may also object to Ecotopia-like [calls](#) for restrictions on having [children](#) due to their “carbon legacy,” a proposal already endorsed by climate researchers at Sweden's Lund University and Oregon State University. Some [scientists](#) suggest that we will have to shift from hamburgers to such delightful concoctions as “maggot sausages.” One scientist even suggested that we recycle ourselves and rediscover the [finer points of cannibalism](#).

### *The Coming Autocracy*

It's unlikely that voters will long embrace such ideas. But many greens, concerned that the masses may not follow orders, prefer the [post-democratic method](#) of handing over power to credentialed environmental “experts” operating in Washington, Brussels, or the United Nations, a notion already advanced by former Obama budget advisor [Peter Orszag](#) and journalist [Thomas Friedman](#).

Over time, however, the green movement, now funded by [the wealthy](#), may become less genteel. Grassroots Ecotopian extremism is rising; the [vast majority](#) of young Americans believe that we face imminent environmental catastrophe. The student movement around Swedish teenager [Greta Thunberg](#) recalls the youthful fanaticism of Medieval *sanctus puer*—the “holy children,” who rampaged through Europe in the 13th century—or Mao's [Red Guards](#), unleashed during the Chinese Communists' Cultural Revolution in the 1960s.

Like their Maoist forebears, Ecotopian shock troops often seek to enforce ideological conformity, in their case against [climate skeptics](#) of any kind—even those who agree that climate change poses a serious challenge. Dissidents, some suggest, should [be jailed](#), or at least dropped into [the media memory hole](#). And perhaps uncooperative companies could be [dispossessed of their assets](#).

What happens when the green funders from Wall Street, Hollywood, and Silicon Valley find themselves under attack, as did liberal aristocrats during the French Revolution? After all, the Ecotopians rightly find it unacceptable that Al Gore, Prince Charles, Richard Branson, [rapper Drake](#), and [Brad Pitt](#)—who worries about “[consuming ourselves to extinction](#)”—still fly in their gas-guzzling [private jets](#), even to climate-oriented events. Zealots like [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Thunberg](#) already seek to restrict air travel for the masses. There’s no moral high ground for the green gentry living in massive estates and private islands, while neo-Ecotopians rage against modestly spacious suburban homes.

As in Ecotopia, the most committed greens embrace the idea that austerity should be shared by all. The wealthy have resisted this notion up to now, and they will continue to do so—at least until the green clerisy succeeds in capturing control of government policy. Then even the wealthy will be at their mercy. California’s Ecotopia, far from a fantasy, could soon become reality—for the rich and everyone else.

*Joel Kotkin is the Presidential Fellow in Urban Futures at Chapman University and executive director of the Urban Reform Institute. His new book, [The Coming of Neo-Feudalism](#), is now out from Encounter. You can follow him on Twitter [@joelkotkin](#). This article first appeared Real Clear Energy on October 8, 2020 and California Political Review on October 13, 2020.*





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**This is a message from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (3).**

To Interested Parties,

The Central Coast Water Board will hold a public meeting on October 22-23, 2020, by video conference. Below is the link to the agenda notice and staff reports.

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2020/oct\\_22/index.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/oct_22/index.html)

This meeting is dedicated to staff and Water Board discussion on draft Agricultural Order 4.0 and the next steps for the development of a proposed order. The Board received public comment on this item in the form of stakeholder panel presentations on September 10 and 11 and a public comment forum on September 23, 2020. **No additional opportunities to provide oral public comment on this item are anticipated at this time for this meeting.** However, opportunities to provide written and oral comment will likely be available during the next phases of the public process to develop a proposed order.

Although the Board will not be taking any specific action during this meeting, it may provide direction to staff on the next steps associated with the development of Ag Order 4.0.

**The Zoom meeting is the only option that offers translation services.**

**Zoom Link:** The Zoom link is posted immediately below:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Oct 22, 2020 09:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
Every day, until Oct 23, 2020, 2 occurrence(s)

Oct 22, 2020 09:00 AM

Oct 23, 2020 09:00 AM

Topic: Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85653592778?pwd=WTRMWUVTWVdHeDFkSVFKMFUwd1N3dz09>

Passcode: 398246

Or Telephone Dial in

1 408 638 0968

1 669 900 6833

1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 856 5359 2778

Passcode: 398246

### **Using CalEPA's webcast service:**

The webcast can be viewed through most web browsers from this page: <https://cal-span.org/>

The webcast does not include Spanish translation services. For Spanish translation services use the Zoom link above.

## **November 3, 2020 Ballot Measures:**

**Prop. 14:** In 2004, voters approved \$3 billion for a publicly funded stem-cell agency, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, to support research into new treatments and possible cures. The money has been spent, and the backers of Proposition 14 want voters to approve \$5.5 billion more. But CORM has been widely criticized for inefficiency and insider dealing. **Vote no.**

**Prop 15:** This is the treacherous “split roll” property tax, a direct attack on Proposition 13. Proposition 15 would repeal part of Prop. 13 and require reassessment to market value of business properties. It would raise taxes on supermarkets, shopping malls, office buildings, factories, movie theaters, hotels, restaurants, sports stadiums, warehouses, self-storage facilities, major retailers and other businesses where Californians work or shop. Even the smallest businesses that lease space will face higher rents, or will have to pay the higher property taxes as part of their “triple net” lease agreement. Those higher costs are passed on to consumers. **Vote No.**

**Prop 18:** Proposition 18 would change the voting age in California to allow 17-year-olds to vote in primaries and special elections if they will turn 18 by the date of the next general election. While some states allow this, California is different than other states because under Prop. 13 and Prop. 218, tax increases must go on the ballot for voter approval. These proposed tax increases are frequently on primary and special election ballots. Proposition 18 would allow high school students to vote on tax

increases. Proposition 18 would change the voting age in California to allow 17-year-olds to vote in primaries and special elections if they will turn 18 by the date of the next general election. While some states allow this, California is different than other states because under Prop. 13 and Prop. 218, tax increases must go on the ballot for voter approval. These proposed tax increases are frequently on primary and special election ballots. Proposition 18 would allow high school students to vote on tax increases. **Vote No.**

**Prop: 19:** Proposition 19 takes away important taxpayer protections that have been enshrined in the State Constitution since 1986. That's when 76% of voters approved Proposition 58 to allow parents to transfer a home and limited other property to their children without an increase in property taxes. Proposition 19 eliminates Proposition 58 and a similar measure, Proposition 193, which gives the same protection to transfers between grandparents and grandchildren if the children's parents are deceased. Proposition 19 would require property transferred within families to be reassessed to market value as of the date of transfer, resulting in a huge property tax increase for long-held family homes. **Vote No.**

**Prop 21:** Proposition 21 would change state law to allow radical rent control laws to be passed in cities that are already suffering from an inadequate supply of housing. In 2016, California's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office issued a report that found that expanding rent control "likely would discourage new construction" by limiting the profitability of new rental housing. Under current law—the 1995 Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act—housing providers have the right to raise the rent on a vacant unit to market value after a tenant moves out. The same law also bans rent control on units constructed after February 1995 and on single-family homes and condos. Proposition 21 would repeal this law and allow unelected rent boards (or elected rent boards) to impose radical rent control and regulations, even on single-family homes. **Vote No.**

**Prop 22:** In 2019, the Legislature passed, and the governor signed Assembly Bill 5, a law aimed at destroying the "gig economy" and forcing companies to stop using independent contractors as part of their business. Supporters said companies must put all workers on the regular payroll as employees, with control over their hours and wages. The Legislature carved out exceptions for many industries, but the ride-share and restaurant delivery industry wasn't granted an exception. Proposition 22 was put on the ballot by Uber, Lyft and DoorDash. It would create an exemption from AB 5 for the companies' drivers, while providing them with basic benefits and protections. Without this exemption, the companies would likely stop offering their services in California, depriving state residents of convenient and affordable transportation and delivery services. **VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 22.**

**Prop 25:** Proposition 25 is a referendum on a state law, Senate Bill 10, that eliminated cash bail and replaced it with a system based on judging risk, specifically the risk that an arrested person poses to public safety and the risk that the person will fail to show up for a court appearance. Because opponents of the law qualified a referendum, SB 10 did not take effect. A "yes" vote is in favor of the law going into effect; a "no" vote means you do not want the law to take effect. Proposition 25 would result in immense new costs to counties. The new system of risk-based release instead of cash bail would cost taxpayers somewhere in the mid-hundreds of millions of dollars, according to the Legislative Analyst. **Vote No.**

# CENTRAL COAST TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

## CCTA OPPOSES NOVEMBER BALLOT SALES TAX INCREASES OF SIX CITIES IN SLO COUNTY

When cities need money, the default reaction is always to raise taxes: sales taxes, transient occupancy taxes, surcharges on utility bills, increases in every fee and additional fees, ad nauseam. Senior staff has a vested interest in staving off bad news, wrapping their tax proposals as reasonable, logical, and painless. “It will be paid by tourists,” “it’s only one percent,” and of course, “Everyone is doing it so we won’t be uncompetitive.” It’s so easy.

But we know from recent past experience that this approach doesn’t work. Taxes with sunset clauses, pushed to provide “extras,” are now funding routine maintenance and permanent positions. And now the demand is for even more taxes, permanently.

No tax increase should even be considered without a thorough review of the structure of the city and its long and short term goals. Consolidation of services and outsourcing are only a start. No amount of sales taxes, TOT and other fees can make up for the structural compounding growth in salaries, staffing and pension debts of small cities. These pension debts have been growing exponentially for at least two decades. Administrators and department heads, often paid more than the Governor, will block any and every attempt to make reforms, preferring a permanent sales tax hike to create another source for leveraging debt, via bonds. Thus they can postpone the inevitable pain a little longer or at least until retirement looms.

The current pandemic provides an excellent opportunity to break this cycle of tax and overspend and finally institute overdue, sound, long term financial planning in city government. Anyone breathing knows the lockdowns have created unprecedented drops in revenue for everyone. We literally are all in this together. It is time that local governments, like families and businesses, take a good long hard look at their expenses and priorities, or risk losing everything.

**Six Cities have sales tax increases on the November ballot. Only the City of Arroyo Grande does not! See below!**

## **City of Arroyo Grande - No Sales Tax Increase on November Ballot**

Arroyo Grande's proposed sales tax increase fails - Cal Coast ...

### **City of Atascadero - 1%**

Council Votes to Add Sales Tax Measure to Ballot

### **City of Grover Beach - 1%**

Grover Beach City Council supports raising sales tax

### **City of Morro Bay - 1%**

UPDATE: Morro Bay City sales tax increase placed on ...

### **City of Paso Robles - 1%**

Paso Robles City Council votes to put 1-cent sales tax ...

### **City of San Luis Obispo - 1%**

UPDATE: SLO City Council approves added 1% sales tax for ...

### **City of Pismo Beach - 1%**

The City Council has adopted Resolution R-2020-053, adding the following measure to the November 3, 2020 ballot.

#### **CITY OF PISMO BEACH**

#### **MEASURE B-20**

**PISMO BEACH PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROTECTION MEASURE.** To maintain police and firefighter service levels; reduce 911 emergency response times; protect local groundwater and beaches; and enhance senior programming and other essential services, shall the hotel/visitor tax be increased by 1%, paid by visitors, generating approximately \$1 million annually, until ended by voters, requiring annual audits and local control of funds?

## **ALERT**

**ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY**



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

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



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

3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS

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



**COUNTY UPDATES OCCUR MONDAYS AT 4:30 PM**



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PLEASE COMPLETE THE**

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MIKE BROWN  
ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS



VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM  
See the presentation at the link: <https://youtu.be/eEdP4cvf-zA>



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER



MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN.

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Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

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

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

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

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

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

### How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio  Internet  Public Hearing  Friend

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

### NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

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

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

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

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

### PAYMENT METHOD:

Check  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Amex NOT accepted.

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

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

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

(Revised 2/2017)