



WEEKLY UPDATE SEPTEMBER 20 - 26, 2020

THIS WEEK

MAJOR POLICIES AT BOS THIS WEEK DANGER

COUNTY AWASH IN ONE TIME MONEY

BUT KEEP THE FREEZE ON – IT'S NOT RECURRING REVENUE

-COVID BUDGET IMPACTS NOWHERE NEAR AS BAD AS FORECAST-

-STATE/FEDS TO PROVIDE \$30 MILLION COVID SLUSH GRANT-

-\$20 MILLION MORE IN SURPLUS THAN FORECAST FOR FY 2019-2021-

**CONSISTENT WITH LEG POLICY, WILL BOARD
PUBLICLY OPPOSE PROP 15 ATTACK ON PROP 13?**

ECON DEV STRATEGY/DIABLO BACKFILL

PLANNING TAKES UP HOUSING GOALS & PROMISES

APCD TO APPOINT APPEALS BOARD MEMBERS

UNFUNDED PENSION DEBT KEEPS RISING

LAST WEEK

LITE WEEK FOR SLO PUBLIC BODIES

OTHERWISE FIRES, SOCIALIST REVOLUTION, TAX AND DEBT

MEASURES & WE ARE STILL LOCKED DOWN WITH ONLY 8 PEOPLE IN THE HOSPITAL

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

LAFCO MEETING LITE HOUSEKEEPING

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 21

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE REVEALS ‘NO CLIMATE EFFECT’ ON CALIFORNIA’S WILDFIRES

BY KATY GRIMES

Scientists refute Governor’s claims that climate change contributes to wildfires

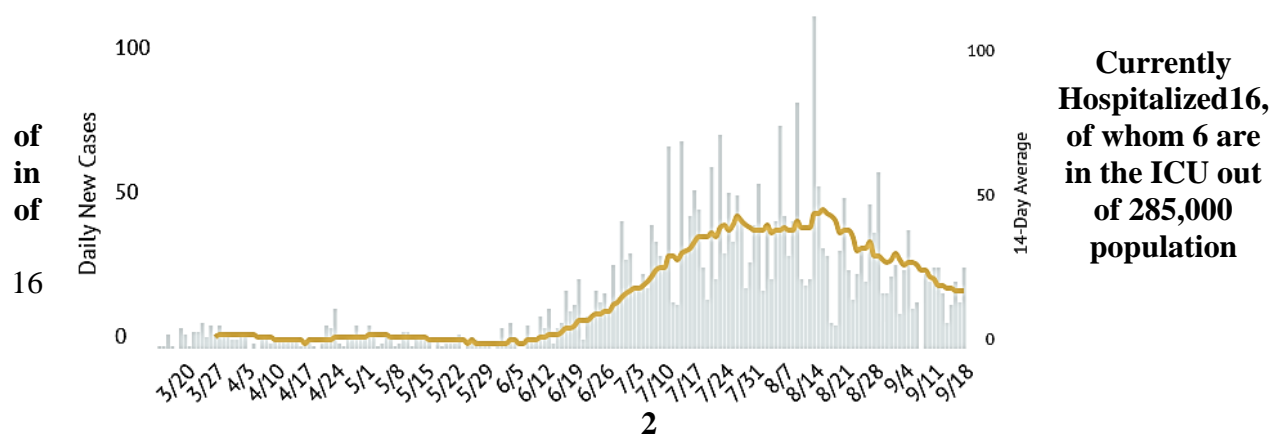
TECH TITANS AND BAY AREA BOURBONS GROW RICH, THE MIDDLE CLASS FLEES, FORESTS BURN

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 22, 2020 (Scheduled)

Item 1 - COVID Update.



In General

Portions of this agenda contain important policy considerations related to financial status and planning, housing and land use, economic development and jobs, pension debt, and status of the State Groundwater Management (SGMA) plans, costs, and next steps. In the end and at the base level, these matters are all interrelated.

Interrelated Financial Items:

Item 4 - (a huge 30 million COVID one time grant),

Item 9 - (actions to update the adopted FY 2020-21 Annual Budget (as a result of greater than expected surpluses generated from the prior year), and

Item 39 - a report on the actual ending results for the FY 2019-20 fiscal year

Back on July 8, 2020, the County reported that it “currently faces a \$32 million to \$56 million budget shortfall, meaning expenses are expected to outpace revenue countywide this fiscal year. In fact, and although we are still in the first quarter of the current fiscal year (and thus revenues are not yet measured), it appears that so far there is not a major financial crisis.”

In asserting this, it should be remembered that most of the surplus revenues are one time only. Thus it is not prudent for the Board to consider adding new programs, restoring staff, or otherwise relaxing the hiring freeze except in those areas which will produce new or more revenue.

To facilitate the discussion here we are subsuming the discussions of Items 9 and 39 here under Item 4, which is the leading factor. This will save the reader from having to go back and forth through the separate items.

Item 4 - Submittal of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Expenditure Plan for Federal Coronavirus Relief Funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated by the State of California. The County is awash in money. As noted in **Item 39** (Year End FY 2019 -20 Fiscal Report) below, the impacts of the COVID lockdown on County revenues were nowhere near unmanageable, let alone catastrophic. The general fund reserves were able to bail out departments that had revenue shortfalls and/or over-expenditures. Now comes a new \$30 million of Federal/State COVID boondoggle money that is to be slathered into the Budget on top of everything else.

The County is set to receive a huge amount of Federal COVID slush finding.

Consider the broader impacts:

1. The County never laid off anyone. The 3,000 County employees received full pay and benefits whether they were actually working in the field or at home.

2. Meanwhile tens of thousands of County residents have been laid off or had hours cut back, and an unknown number of businesses have been temporarily shuttered or forced out of business forever. For example, the Piedmonte Ristorante on upper Monterey Street went out of business. This was a very nice and wholesome family operation. This tragedy is being repeated all over the

county and state in the hundreds of thousands. It is reported that the number of business lease evictions and shutdowns in the County are building up daily.

3. The new \$30 million of slush reported here is ultimately funded from a \$150 billion addition to national debt, which is a subpart of the \$3 trillion in national debt that Congress foisted on the country earlier this year. As readers know, the Congress is considering more huge tranches of trillion plus programs. All this will come back as a future national financial crisis of accumulated national debt when interest rates inevitably rise.

4. COVID has provided the greatest excuse to expand government and its costs since the Great Society programs of the late 1960's and 1970's.

5. There is no clearer confirmation that State and local government in California exist primarily to benefit its employees as a pampered and protected class of lower level nobility, similar to the lower level nobility of the middle ages – knights, tax collectors, fortress guards, parish priests, customs officials, and smaller manorial land holders. Our local nobility doesn't even have to go to the Holy Land to fight the Saracens. We send working class 19-years old instead.

At this point a middle level County manager with 20 years in, a guaranteed life pension, guaranteed health plan (both now and in retirement), social security, infinitesimal chance of permanent layoff, and other securities constitutes a noble class within the society.

Now, the County is set to receive a huge amount of Federal COVID slush finding. The write-up summarizes the background:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), signed by the President on March 27, 2020, appropriated funding to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist communities in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (the "Fund") and appropriated \$150 billion to the Fund.

Based on the State's population, California received a total of \$15.3 billion. Of the \$15.3 billion, \$9.5 billion was paid directly to the State, and cities and counties with populations over 500,000 received \$5.8 billion directly from the U.S. Treasury. Due to our population size, the County of San Luis Obispo did not receive Coronavirus Relief Funds directly; however, the State Budget Act of 2020 allocated \$1.29 billion to counties to be used toward homelessness, public health, public safety, and other services to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the \$1.29 billion, \$28,269,109 was allocated to the County of San Luis Obispo. This final allocation dollar amount has changed from prior Board items and Board discussions as follows:

□ *\$28,976,000 was the allocation provided to the County on June 27 and reported to the Board in the July 7 Board item.*

Please see the table below on the next page for the slush analysis:



Item	Est. Total Grant/Allocation Expenditures	Est. Funded through CRF	Est. Funded through FEMA/CAL OES	Est. Funded through Other Sources
Administrative Expenses	-	-	-	-
Budgeted Personnel and Services Diverted to a Substantially Different Use	19,264,827	18,711,095	553,732	-
COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing	11,870,082	580,743	6,976,362	4,312,977
Economic Support (Other than Small Business, Housing, and Food Assistance)	10,080	-	-	10,080
Expenses Associated with the Issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs)	-	-	-	-
Facilitating Distance Learning	-	-	-	-
Food Program	704,445	44,028	660,417	-
Housing Support	9,481,931	-	-	9,481,931
Improve Telework Capabilities of Public Employee	210,740	210,740	-	-
Medical Expenses	2,778,618	173,664	2,604,955	-
Nursing Home Assistance	-	-	-	-
Payroll for Public Health and Safety Employees	4,292,472	4,292,472	-	-
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	1,039,181	239,410	799,771	-
Public Health Expenses	5,280,384	3,788,842	518,079	923,463
Small Business Assistance	-	-	-	-
Unemployment Benefits	200,000	200,000	-	-
Workers' Compensation	28,117	28,117	-	-
Items Not Listed Above	816,800	-	-	816,800
Total	55,977,676	28,269,109	12,163,316	15,545,251

Note that the largest chunk simply pays for keeping County staff on payroll while tens of thousands of ordinary citizens were laid off .

What is the detail here?

How many tests? Unit cost?

Separately, the County at **Item 39**, reports much larger surpluses than were projected at Budget adoption time in June. The table below on the next page illustrates the circumstances.

Item 9 takes these funds, and subject to Board approval, allocates them to reserves in the current FY 2020-21 Budget. Here the board must not be tempted to add programs, restore programs, or otherwise build these one-time funds into the base ongoing operating budget.

COVID could kick back in with a vengeance. If the socialists take over the Federal Government in January under a Democratic November victory, the stock market will inevitably plunge, and huge tax increases, income redistribution schemes, assaults on private property, and totalitarian politically correct social requirements will decimate the economy.

California's pending poison stew of ballot propositions designed to raise taxes and punish business and agriculture will ultimately savage the state and county economic base. All this will come on top of the closure of Diablo, the closure of Phillips 66, the closure of Wetherby Fire Arms, and the decimation of local businesses by the lockdown.

As noted below in **Item 42**, county pension costs rise inexorably.

For all these reasons, the Board of Supervisors should take this money and **lock it and leave it**.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
June 30, 2020
Proposed versus Actual Fund Balance Available

COUNTY FUNDS	Fund #	Estimated Fund Balance Unreserved/Un designated June 30, 2020	Actual Fund Balance Unreserved/Un designated June 30, 2020	Difference Over/(Under)	Appropriation to Contingencies	Designation	General Reserve	General Purpose	Revenue Adjustment Inc/(Decr)	Object Level Appropriation Adjustment
General Fund	1000000000	23,171,274	36,428,360	13,257,086		7,281,764			32,889	6,008,191
Capital Projects	1100000000	-	321,518	321,518		321,516				
Road Fund	1200000000	-	2,208,233	2,208,233		2,208,233				
Community Development	1200500000	-	54,568	54,568	54,568					
Parks	1201500000	756,486	86,620	(669,866)	240,408	(669,866)			240,408	
Co-Wide Automation Repl	1202000000	-	574,809	574,809		574,809				
General Govt Building Repl	1202500000	-	400,000	400,000		400,000				
Tax Reduction Reserve	1203000000	-	2,141,369	2,141,369		2,141,369				
Road Impact Fees	1203500000	-	1,312,721	1,312,721		1,312,721				
Wildlife & Grazing	1204000000	-	6,598	6,598		6,598				
Driving Under Influence	1204500000	10,000	(15,502)	(25,502)		(10,000)		(15,502)		
Library	1205000000	415,500	786,725	351,225	73,471			244,885		32,869
Fish & Game	1205500000	-	8,438	8,438		7,507		931		
Emergency Medical Services	1207000000	-	-	-						
COP Loans DSF	1208000000	-	-	-						
Pension Obligation Bonds	1801000000	427,000	585,762	158,762		158,762				
TOTAL		24,780,280	44,880,217	20,099,937	368,447	13,733,413	-	230,314	273,277	6,041,060

Even during the COVID lockdown, the County increased staffing.

SUMMARY OF POSITION ALLOCATION CHANGES

FY 2010-20	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Quarter Start	2,796.50	2,792.50	2,802.50	2,810.50
FTE Additions	22.75	29.00	32.50	0.00
FTE Deletions	26.75	19.00	24.50	0.00
Quarter End	2,792.50	2,802.50	2,810.50	2,810.50
Net Change	-4.00	+10.00	+8.00	0.00
% Change	-0.14%	+0.36%	+0.29%	0.00%

Item 40 - Request to approve a FY 2020-21 renewal agreement with the Cal Poly Corporation to support the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the amount of \$200,000 from Fund Center 104 - Administrative Office to enhance economic development.

The County has provided this grant for at least the past 5 years as part of its economic development effort. Former Supervisor Hill was a major supporter of Center for Innovation and its subsidiary SLO Hothouse business incubator program.

The parent CAL Poly Corporation is an entity set up to manage campus facilities, student dining facilities, student book stores, and other support services to the University. Separately from these support services, it seems to manage a number of research and other programs.

Apparently, economic development is one of them.

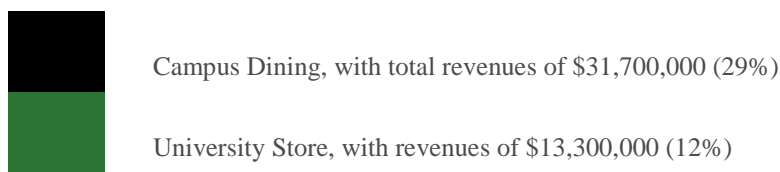
Its website states in part:

Cal Poly Corporation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is one of 86 auxiliaries within the California State University system. In this capacity, the corporation helps Cal Poly retain earnings, lessen risks, make investments, sell assets and hire employees. And we do all of this to help Cal Poly continually evolve as the world-class educational experience that it has come to be known.

The corporation is 100 percent self-supporting and receives no state funding. Operating costs are covered by administrative fees charged to units the corporation supports.

Its Board of Directors is largely made up of CAL Poly faculty and administrators, supplemented by several local business executives.

The corporation’s primary revenue sources include:



Additional revenues include the following:



Its website is transparent in that it contains lists of Board members, executives, and budget and financial reports.

The corporation reports a number of successes for the Hothouse.



CAL POLY Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship

1. Startups Incubating in the SLO HotHouse:

As of June 30, 2020, there are 13 companies in the Incubator Program, including:

- **Armadillo Designs** is creating the All-Access Camper, which is a customizable camper shell with a convertible roof.
- **Code SLO** is an organization that provides computer engineering education to both adults and youths in the San Luis Obispo area, holding both traditional classes as well as 'boot-camp' style, summer-sessions that teach people how to code.
- **De Oro Devices** is a medical device developer whose first major product helps address a major debilitating symptom of Parkinson's disease known as 'Freezing Of Gait'.
- **Ethic Marketplace** engages storytellers, content creators, to create an ethical and sustainable online marketplace platform with a mission of inspiring and enabling conscious consumerism. Ethic is led by industrial engineering graduate Garrett Perkins and architecture graduate Jess Corr.
- **memwris** is a software firm that is developing a computer and mobile operating system that is an alternative to traditional point-and-click systems, with the potential to vastly increase the efficiency of mobile text editing.
- **Neocharge** has developed a small, affordable, and portable adaptor that allows people to easily use their existing 240V outlets to charge their electric vehicles in their homes.
- **Totem** is an augmented reality festival experience platform that enhances the safety of attendees by allowing for communication between event organizers, attendees, and medical staff, in areas that lack cell reception.
- **Trees (formally IPSE)** is a company that is developing software that uses machine-learning to help people achieve their goals in a way that is tailored to them based off of their personality and personal characteristics.
- **Roopairs** is a business-to-business, mobile "on-demand" platform that connects restaurants with service workers so commercial equipment is always properly maintained and repaired.
- **Ropegun** is a fitness tracker, route-guide, and social media platform for climbers.

- **Spinshot** designs, manufactures and sells all of the hardware, software, services and educational resources for 360 views. Spinshot also provides an ultra specialized 360 product photography service for select industries.
- **Pacific Adventure Vehicles** is designing the most advanced wedge camper on the market.
- **Wayve Filtration** is helping travelers avoid sickness and obtain clean drinking water, wherever they go. They are developing a portable water filter that attaches to any faucet or spout, removing everything from hard minerals to bacteria and viruses.

Item 41 - Request to receive and file a report on Economic Development in San Luis Obispo County, and provide direction to staff. This is an important policy item which again raises the question about how the County should approach the issue of strategic long range economic development. Recent developments underscore this issue:

1. The Bi-County (Santa Barbara and SLO) regional economic development not-for-profit REACH has established a major opportunity involving the Air Force, aviation and space serving firms, technology, and related support firms. Swiftly expanding industries in communications, Nano technology, artificial intelligence, medicine, driverless transport, and others are all potential central coast recruitment and expansion candidates if we can find a way for provide real housing which the groups of people who work in these industries ultimately want in their lives.

2. The long time economic development entity Economic Vitality Corporation is in a leadership transition.

3. Last year the County Executive Officer established a joint 7 city/County work group to develop countywide solutions to economic development barriers such as housing costs, water supply, transportation system, and underlying infrastructure shortage and cost problems.

The County invests in other economic development entities and programs such as regional tourism promoters, promotion of agriculture crops, and partnerships, including the Cal Poly Corporation's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

4. The County invests categorical revenue in a number of job training and employment programs.

The Board item, after conducting a somewhat meandering discussion of local government economic development programs recommends creation of a new executive position in an effort to coordinate the various efforts from a County standpoint. To this end the Board item states in part:

Capacity

The County currently does not have any staff whose primary focus is ED. As noted, the County instead has relied on community partners to serve its ED purposes. This is particularly problematic at this time due to financial uncertainties driven by COVID-19 and the impending closure of DCP. Staff is therefore seeking direction from your Board on the possible use of SB 1090 funds to hire a full-time position whose sole focus will be on ED activities.

The creation of a full-time position is in alignment with the County's General Plan – Economic Element, per Policy 1.6:

The County should develop and maintain staff trained in and committed to facilitating economic development opportunities.

Adding dedicated staff would put our County more in alignment with how ED is handled across the nation. According to a National Association of Counties (NACo) report (see attachment 2), 57% of counties have a county department managing ED initiatives. The same report noted that, "Counties most typically focus on workforce training, business attraction and retention and regional marketing in their economic development partnerships."

A newly created position could have the following overarching duties:

- 1. **Lead** County ED programs and activities.*
- 2. Serve as the County **liaison** for ED, including relationships with County partners, cities, chambers of commerce, and businesses.*
- 3. Serve as the **County lead** for current and future activities related to the closure of DCP. This duty would exclude oversight for activities being undertaken by the Planning and Building Department.*

*While the position would support activities throughout the county, it could contain a specific focus on the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. The position could also serve as a **"portfolio manager"** overseeing ED related contracts and grants provided by the County. In this way, the position would be able to follow up on outcomes being driven by ED programs and activities.*

Should your Board be in support of such a position, the Administrative Office would work with the Human Resources Department to identify an appropriate (or new) job classification and bring a consent item at a date later this year.

Note: Be skeptical of proposals that use vague terms such as lead, liaison, portfolio manager, coordinate, collaborate, etc., No! The role should be a true command position. The County management structure should not be a PTA meeting helplessly working on which cookies to bring to the next meeting.

Any position created should report directly to the CAO and have the authority to command resources across the relevant departments – particularly Planning and Building, Public Works, County Counsel, Ag Commissioner, and various housing functions which are scattered across the County organization.

It is important that funding for the new position not be subtracted from funding that is slated for private sector efforts which are noted at the top of this item, such as REACH. To achieve the same benefit, and instead of creating a new County position, what if the County contracted with REACH to coordinate its economic development policies? In effect, it did this with Economic Vitality Corporation in the past. Couldn't the REACH vice-president fulfill this roll under a performance contract? Other economic development activities and contracts could be managed through this arrangement. In fact, the County used REACH in this way to manage the COVID reopening plan for a while.

The one issue remaining would be who in the County would be assigned to manage the overall REACH contract and hold them accountable. The County Administrator is very busy and should not be responsible for day-to-day supervision and distractions from specific staff or line units and functions.

Item 42 - Request to receive and file a presentation on the County of San Luis Obispo's Retirement Plan by Pension Trust. It is positive that this report is being presented now and it should be a twice-annual event to provide context for larger financial decisions. The report provides basic information on how the pension system works and its funding status. Some basic factoids include:

Fund Status and Discount Rate displayed in the table below on the next page:

Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$2,170 million	A measure of the total liabilities of the Plan.
Assets	Actuarial Value	\$1,417 million
	Market Value	\$1,439 million
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$753 million	The amount being amortized into pension cost over a set period (20 years remaining) to bring the Plan to fully funded status.
Funded Ratio	Actuarial Value	65%
	Market Value	66%
Earnings Assumption (Discount Rate)	6.875%	Lowered in 2020 from 7.00%. Expected long term rate of return used to discount liabilities.

It will never happen. Prop 15 is, in large part, an effort to bail out state, local, and educational pension plans.

Rates keep relentlessly increasing:

An amazing gratuitous statement in the staff report:

As is true of nearly all retirement systems, periodic increases in contribution rates are necessary. In recent history, pension contribution rates have increased as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rate Increase</i>
2016	5.17%
2017	2.38%
2018	2.26%
2019	2.68%
2020	4.13%

This didn't happen until 2003 when the State and localities threw caution to the wind and substantially expanded the benefits.

Now all but one of the cities in the county (the County is not) are seeking tax increases on the November 3, 2020 ballot to pay for their equivalent problem. These tax increases are being blamed on COVID. If you vote for them, you are simply feeding the machine.

As a % of Pay	Misc.	Probation	Safety	TOTAL
Normal Cost	19.80%	24.91%	26.87%	21.04%
UAAL Amort.	<u>25.45%</u>	<u>24.94%</u>	<u>36.09%</u>	<u>26.88%</u>
Total ADC	45.25%	49.85%	62.96%	47.92%
Employee Paid *	15.79%	19.06%	18.47%	16.31%
Employer Paid.	<u>29.46%</u>	<u>30.79%</u>	<u>44.49%</u>	<u>31.61%</u>
Total ADC	45.25%	49.85%	62.96%	47.92%
+ Pension Obligation Bond Debt Service				6.00%

ADC = Annually Determined Contribution
For each Class, the three Tiers are blended here.
* Includes Employer Paid Member Contributions ("pick-up") which vary by BU

Note that these numbers do not include the 7% which the County is contributing to Social Security on top of this for the non-safety employees. Also note that the employees are not paying the full cost percentages for their share as reported here, because they receive a "benefit cost offset" in addition to pay to write down the cost of their share.

Imagine, on average for every dollar of payroll, the pension contribution costs 53.92 cents.

Matters After 1:30 PM

Item 44 - 2019 Crop Value Agricultural Report. The total value was down about 5% due to a surplus of grapes in California. Note that this report is for 2019. Thus the impact of COVID is not a factor here.

The Board letter states in part:

Strawberries regained the number one slot from wine grapes in 2019 totaling \$271,431,000 based on steady numbers in the year-to-year acreage planted and strong prices in both the fresh and processed markets.

In comparison, wine grape valuation fell nearly 8% despite a small increase in bearing acres and favorable weather conditions. The overall decrease in wine grape value can be partially attributed to an oversupply of wine grapes across the state, as California has reached one of the highest levels of planted wine grape acreage. This oversupply has led to some growers, such as those operating without contracts or those with blocks of lesser quality fruit, to forego harvest. This may correct itself in the coming years as overall global demand for wine remains strong, and many growers across the state are retiring acreage of their low yielding or lower value varieties.

Cannabis is not considered an ag crop. The Report indicated that hemp, which is considered an ag crop, has added to field crop totals.

COMPARISON OF VALUATION OF MAJOR GROUPS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

YEAR	ANIMAL	FIELD	NURSERY	FRUIT & NUT	VEGETABLE	TOTAL
2010	\$57,139,000	\$18,545,000	\$94,708,000	\$365,750,000	\$176,666,000	\$712,808,000
2011	\$71,479,000	\$22,929,000	\$96,454,000	\$366,570,000	\$174,981,000	\$732,413,000
2012	\$73,857,000	\$24,612,000	\$95,155,000	\$463,296,000	\$204,900,000	\$861,820,000
2013	\$100,865,000	\$16,365,000	\$97,651,000	\$468,355,000	\$237,896,000	\$921,132,000
2014	\$135,017,000	\$16,812,000	\$84,394,000	\$468,518,000	\$195,329,000	\$900,070,000
2015	\$70,659,000	\$15,600,000	\$99,511,000	\$428,344,000	\$214,059,000	\$828,173,000
2016	\$45,350,000	\$16,784,000	\$86,933,000	\$568,129,000	\$212,734,000	\$929,930,000
2017	\$47,909,000	\$16,679,000	\$82,802,000	\$566,592,000	\$210,716,000	\$924,698,000
2018	\$48,596,000	\$18,777,000	\$81,190,000	\$656,609,000	\$230,327,000	\$1,035,499,000
2019	\$41,073,000	\$24,180,000	\$80,566,000	\$615,218,000	\$217,972,000	\$979,009,000

Proposition 15 on the November 3, 2020 election would move some ag processing facilities and all ag support businesses (irrigation equipment vendors, seed vendors, implements, trucking, fertilizer and pesticide vendors, regional bottling plants, and everything else) out of Prop 13 protection. It's not like the John Deere, Ford, and Kubota tractor dealers, construction supply guys, pump suppliers, and fertilizer companies are going to be exempt.

Readers should pin your candidates for State and local office down on where they stand on Prop 15. For example where do Heidi Harmon, Jeff Lee, Andy Pease, John Laird, Salud Carbajal, and the rest of the socialist gang stand?

The Board of Supervisors should forcefully and publically oppose Proposition 15 ASAP by Resolution, letter, and any other means at their disposal.

Item 45 - Submittal of a report on the implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act efforts in eight local groundwater basins. Overall, it appears that the plans are being completed on time and on budget.

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

The large and complex Paso Basin Plan (# 2 above) was submitted on time in January, but the State has not yet responded with regard to whether it is approved or needs refinements. No doubt the State reviewers are at home on COVID staycations, watching their locked down school kids, and day trading on the stock market. SLO's multi-million dollar plan will have to wait, even though there were hard deadlines for the counties and water agencies.

SGMA Program Update

Basin	Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Development Status
GSP development complete	
Cuyama Basin	GSP submitted
Paso Basin	GSP submitted
Ongoing GSP development	
San Luis Obispo Basin	Submittal deadline is January 31, 2022
Arroyo Grande Basin	GSP development per grant agreement
Atascadero Basin	GSP development per grant agreement
No GSP development	
Santa Maria Basin	GSP not required due to adjudication
Los Osos Basin	GSP not required due to adjudication
Warden Creek Basin	GSP not required due to low prioritization

Projected Total SGMA Costs

(after grants and partner contributions)

Basin	County General Fund	Flood Control District (FCD)
Los Osos and Warden Creek Basins	\$ 253,848	\$ 651,771
Cuyama Basin	\$ 69,893	\$ 188,612
Paso Basin	\$ 377,066	\$ 1,797,040
San Luis Obispo Basin	\$ 614,301	\$ 723,023
Santa Maria and Arroyo Grande Basins	\$ 511,696	\$ 783,644
Atascadero Basin	\$ 101,016	\$ 108,655
Adelaida Area	\$ 0	\$ 130,781
FCD one-time contribution	\$ (750,000)	---
Program management	---	\$ 666,538
Projected Total (7/1/17 – 6/30/22)	\$ 1,177,824	\$ 5,050,077

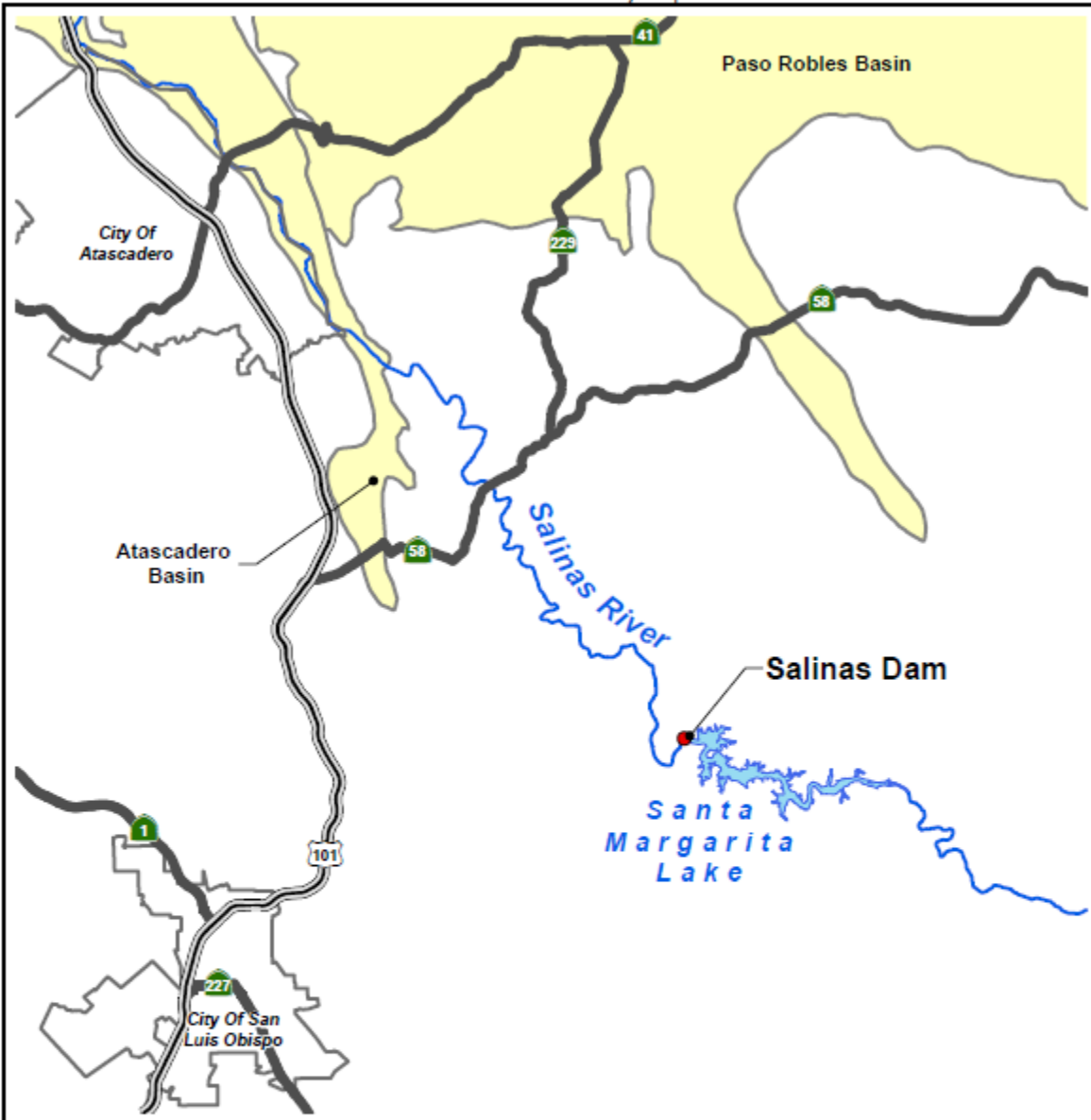
Item 47 - Request to authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign and send a letter to the United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's interest in the Salinas Dam.

Local Water Resiliency

*Potential to install spillway gates and increase capacity by 18,000 AF
Expanded capacity may help address issues in the Paso Basin:*

*County's 2019 Legislative Platform
Paso Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Local ownership of the dam would require:
Meeting State safety standards
Transfer via USACE "disposal"*

Attachment I - vicinity map



VICINITY MAP	
SALINAS DAM Santa Margarita , CA	
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	
1:170,000	Map by: jecasey
0 2.5 5 Miles	Date: 7/31/2020

San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of Wednesday, September 23, 2020 (Scheduled)

Item B-1: Consideration of Appointment of Air Pollution Control District Hearing Board Engineer Member and Engineer Alternate. This is an important appointment because the APCD Hearing Board is a separate and expert body which adjudicates appeals of APCD regulatory decisions, fines, and other actions. The Hearing Board contains members who are physicians, air quality experts, environmental experts, and engineers. The engineer positions have become vacant through the normal term expiration process. Two incumbents and one new volunteer have applied for the 2 vacancies.

The write-up summary states in part:

The Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial panel authorized under the California Health and Safety Code to provide relief from air district regulations under certain circumstances. As defined in state law, the Hearing Board is the sole entity in the District authorized to hear and act on:

- *Petitions by companies for variances from permit conditions or regulations;*
- *Petitions by the District for abatement orders (an abatement order requires a company operating out of compliance to take specific actions or shut down its operation; this is a severe remedy reserved for serious violators or immediate threats to public health and safety);*
- *Appeals by companies and third parties from the granting of permits, permit conditions, permit denials or suspensions, denials of emission reduction credits and denials of pollution control plans.*

Candidates include:

Engineer Member: Mr. James Anderson*

Mr. Mohsen Nazemi*

Dr. Yarrow Nelson (Incumbent Engineer Member with term expired on 7/31/2020)

Mr. Robert Vessely*

Engineer Alternate: Mr. James Anderson* (Incumbent Engineer Alternate Member with term expiring on 9/24/2020)

Mr. Mohsen Nazemi*

Mr. Robert Vessely*

* Three candidates, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Nazemi and Mr. Vessely applied for the Engineer Member or the Engineer Alternate Member position.

These candidates all have PhD's from high quality universities, long technical careers, and have been around for decades.

The Hearing Board has not been particularly friendly to the Oceano Dunes riders.

Counties are required by law to maintain an APCD. Thus there is not a choice to simply abolish the thing.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, September 24, 2020 (Scheduled)

Item 9 - Hearing to consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo to approve amendments to the General Plan, to update the Housing Element.

This update to the Housing Element would serve to guide planning, development, and funding related to housing for the unincorporated county through December 2028, in addition to achieving compliance with State Housing Element Law and State certification. This is a very important policy document which updates the Housing Element of the County’s Plan of Development. The 204-page document certifies that the County has sufficient zoned land available to allow housing at various income levels as required by the State approved Regional Housing Needs Assessment and Regional Transportation Plan. The Planning commission will consider the Plan and then make recommendations for adoption, modification, or rejection to the Board of Supervisors. The full text of the Element can be seen at the link:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/12372>

Once it opens, click on the tab: Housing Element.

Key features at this point include:

1. The County unincorporated area, where it has land use authority, is a subcomponent of the wider georgic county requirement.

Table 1: San Luis Obispo Region Housing Needs Share Allocations

Jurisdictions	Total Share	Income Category			
		Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate
		24.6%	15.5%	18.0%	41.9%
Unincorporated County	3,256	801	505	585	1,365
Arroyo Grande	692	170	107	124	291
Atascadero	843	207	131	151	354
Grover Beach	369	91	57	66	155
Morro Bay	391	97	60	70	164
Paso Robles	1,446	356	224	259	607
Pismo Beach	459	113	71	82	193
San Luis Obispo	3,354	825	520	603	1,406
Regional Total	10,810	2,660	1,675	1,940	4,535

Note: Number of shares represent number of housing units needed

2. The County already had sufficient zoned parcels to theoretically allow permits for the required number of dwelling units

Table 2: Summary of Unincorporated County's Housing Needs Share

	Total	Income Category			
		Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate
Unincorporated County's Share	3,256	801	505	585	1,365
Housing Units Approved, Under Construction, or Completed (Jan – Aug 2019)	388	15	14	0	359
ADUs Approved, Under Construction, or Completed (Jan – Aug 2019)	37	0	18	19	0
ADUs Projected Through Dec 2028	1,665	832		566	267
Remaining Share of Housing Needs	1,166	427		0	739

The County has identified an adequate number of vacant sites to accommodate the unincorporated county's remaining housing needs share.

3. The State does not require that the homes actually be constructed, only that the County and cities provide an adequate number of zoned parcels.

Table 3: Summary of Identified Vacant Sites

Income Category	Identified Vacant Parcels		Housing Units		
	Total Number of Parcels	Number of Parcels by Land Use Category	Number of Realistic Potential Housing Units ⁽¹⁾	Remaining Share of House Needs	Unincorporated County's Share
Very Low and Low	36	RMF: 13	1,505	427	1,306
		CR: 23			
Moderate	41	RMF: 13	1,181	0	585
		CR: 28			
Above Moderate	192	RSF: 184	1,104	739	1,365
		RR: 8			

Note 1: Based on realistic development capacity of 18 dwelling units per acre.

4. The whole expensive exercise is a government funded phony Kabuki Theater ritual, because even though the County and other jurisdictions claim they have sufficient zoned land, most of the permits will not be over the counter, but will require various degrees of expensive de novo “discretionary” land use permits, payment of huge processing fees, and payment of even larger mitigation fees. Housing at 30 percent of a family’s income will still be way out of reach.

Infrastructure shortages in water, sewer, and road and highway construction are used to condemn proposed projects from the gitt go.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

A Very Light Week in Terms of Public Meetings With Policy Issues in SLO County

A Sickening Week

As millions of acres within the Pacific States are burning down and the left progressive Socialists are fomenting a revolution, not much happened this week in public policy formation in SLO County in terms of public meeting agendas. The climatists, led by Gavin Newsom, continued to fan the flames of the global warming scam even as they continued to do nothing to keep Diablo¹ open, to allow construction of fire breaks, or to permit logging and forest floor clearing.

Meanwhile, in Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved a Resolution of support for Proposition 15, which would end Proposition 13 property tax protections for industrial, commercial, some agricultural facilities, and some mixed-use residential/commercial buildings.

Please ask the SLO Board of Supervisors and your city councils to pass Resolutions in opposition to Proposition 15. You might ask them to pass one to keep Diablo open as well, given recent rolling blackouts and the need for the Governor to order continued operation of obsolete gas fired power plants to keep the lights on.

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

Local Agency Formation Commission of Thursday, September 17, 2020 (Completed)

The agenda was light, containing several housekeeping matters and no major policy.

¹ Diablo forestalls almost 8 million metric tonnes of CO₂ per year while providing 10 percent of California's electrical energy 24/7.

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

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE REVEALS ‘NO CLIMATE EFFECT’ ON CALIFORNIA’S WILDFIRES

BY KATY GRIMES

Scientists refute Governor’s claims that climate change contributes to wildfires

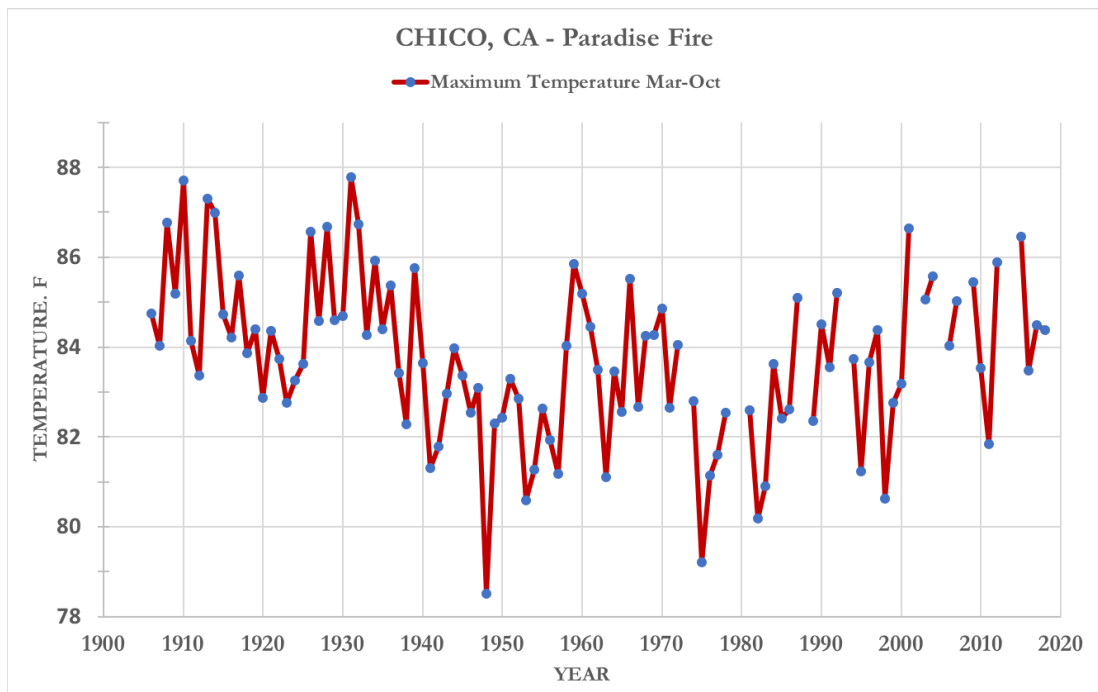
President Donald Trump [stopped in Sacramento, CA](#) Monday to meet with Gov. Gavin Newsom and state officials to discuss the 2020 wildfires. Trump was in California last year as well during the wildfires, and warned that forest management needed to be more aggressive to ward off ongoing devastating wildfires.



Governor’s handout at meeting with President Trump.

The Governor and Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot told the president he should acknowledge the role of [climate change](#) in the worsening of the wildfires, and claimed that August in California had record high temperatures. But that just is not true according to scientists and meteorologists.

Anthony Watts, a Northern California meteorologist forwarded this graph to the California Globe:



Graph of High temperatures during fire season (March-October)for Chico back to 1900. (Photo: Anthony Watts)

“This is a graph of High temperatures during fire season (March-October) for Chico going back to 1900,” Watts said. “Note that temperatures were significantly higher in the past than today, completely negating the ‘climate change’ claims for the #campfire event. The data is from the Western Regional Climate Center. I also checked other weather data near major fires and they show the same thing....warmer in the past.”

Jim Steele, Director emeritus of San Francisco State’s Sierra Nevada Field Campus, explains at [WattsUpWithThat](#): “Scientific evidence reveals there has been no climate effect regards California’s wildfires! None! The data below proves it beyond all doubt.”

Steele has [several graphs in his op ed](#) which debunk the governor’s claims:

1. The August 2013 [Rim Fire](#) centered around Yosemite National Park, was California’s 5th largest fire.
2. The November 2018 [Camp Fire](#) was California’s deadliest fire destroying the town of Paradise. It was also California’s 16th largest fire.
3. The 2018 [Mendocino Complex Fire](#) was California’s largest fire (since 1932 excluding 2020) .
4. In the October 2017 [wine country](#) fires, the [Tubbs Fire](#) was the 4th deadliest. It only burned 37,000 acres but high winds drove embers into the dwellings of the heavily populated outskirts of Santa Rosa.

Steele adds:

“Governor Newsom ignores the data to disgustingly hijacking the tragedy of California’s fires to push is climate change agenda. But he is not alone. There are climate scientists pushing catastrophes by ignoring the local maximum temperature trends. Bad analyses promote bad policies and obscure what needs to be done regards fuel management and creating defensible spaces in fire prone California.”

“Newsom must focus on fuel management and fire suppression. As fire ecologist Thomas Swetnam echoed the experts’ growing consensus against fire suppression wrote, ‘The paradox of fire management in conifer forests is that, if in the short term we are effective at reducing fire occurrence below a certain level, then sooner or later catastrophically destructive wildfires will occur. Even the most efficient and technologically advanced firefighting efforts can only forestall this inevitable result.’”

In the meeting with President Trump Monday, [Siskiyou County Supervisor Mike Haupt](#) told the President, “I come to you as a forester, an elected official, and a past land manager for the U.S. Forest Service, and firefighter.”

“My county continues to repeat the things that you saw in Paradise when you were there, on a smaller scale” Haupt said. “The town of Happy Camp, this year, is under the Slater fire that took off. And in a 24-hour period, we lost 258 structures in a very small town. Half of my population is displaced.”

“At this point in time, we have 158 homes completely destroyed.”

“Will that population come back?” President Trump asked Haupt.

“Sir, that’s a tough question because these are very poor people anyway. And they’re living through the downturn of the timber economy at this point, and there’s very low employment in this area,” Haupt said.

“In this area, I’ve worked with UC Berkeley and UC Davis, and UC Merced on some studies of our forests in the northern region, which historically have been pretty asbestos-like — are carrying four times the density that they did in 1930,” Haupt added. “So we have both the increase in brush in the wildland interface, as well as the lack of management, producing these extreme densities.”

“And climate change is — climate change is — and I can’t do much about that, because as a forester actively managing that forest, I can manipulate fuels and I can do that in a pretty short order.”

“I applaud you for the work you’ve done,” Haupt said. “I applaud you for the farm bill authorities. Our county just completed a master stewardship agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. And we have about a half million-acre project that’s ready to go across all boundaries in our state.”

Haupt and President Trump continued discussing forest management practices and the importance of firebreaks, a gap in vegetation or other combustible material that acts as a barrier to slow or *stop* the progress of a bushfire or wildfire.

“That’s something I feel so strongly about,” Trump said. “You can knock this down to nothing. You know, you go to Europe and different places in Europe — countries where they’re forest countries — and they’re very, very strong on management and they don’t have a problem. They really don’t have with, as they say, more explosive trees than we have in California.”

Jim Steele included further information about California's wildfires:

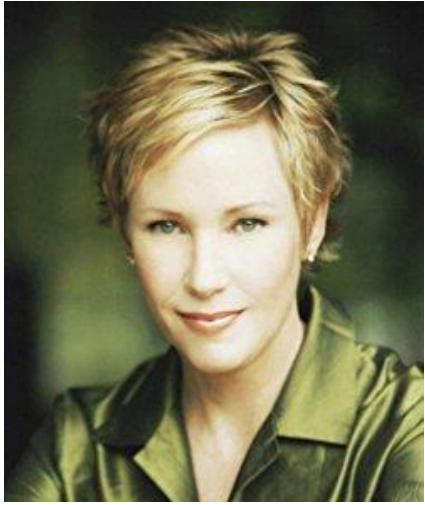
[Why Worse Wildfires – part 1](#)

[Why Worse Wildfires? Part 2](#)

[Minimizing California Wildfires](#)

[Wildfires: Separating Demagoguery from the Science](#)

[How Bad Science & Horrific Journalism Misrepresent Wildfires and Climate](#)



[Katy Grimes](#)

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of [California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?](#) This article first appeared in the September 15, California Globe.

TECH TITANS AND BAY AREA BOURBONS GROW RICH, THE MIDDLE CLASS FLEES, FORESTS BURN

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

FALL is almost here in California. So we know the annual script.

A few ostracized voices will again warn in vain of the need to remove millions of dead trees withered from the 2013–14 drought and subsequent infestations, clean up tinderbox hillsides, and beef up the fire services. They will all be ignored as right-wing nuts or worse.

Environmentalists will sneer that the new forestry sees fires as medicinal and natural, and global warming as inevitable because of “climate deniers.”

Late-summer fires will then consume our foothills, mountains, and forests. Long-dead trees from the drought will explode and send their pitch bombs to shower the forest with flames.

Lives, livelihoods, homes, and cabins will be lost — the lamentable collateral damage of our green future. Billions of dollars will go up in smoke. The billowing haze and ash will cloud and pollute the state for weeks if not months. Tens of thousands will be evacuated and their lives disrupted — and those are the lucky.

California's deer-in-the-headlight progressive officials will blame "climate change" for the conflagrations. The accompanying power brownouts, tardy responses, and official blame-gaming will follow as a prelude for still more solar-panel farms and still less forest management.

There could be a long answer to explain why California for years abandoned dead drought- and insect-stricken trees — over some 60 million of these withered, towering time bombs in their coastal and Sierra forests — to rot. But the short of it was that the kindling and tinderboxes were seen as perfect green mulch for flora and fauna.

A cynical interpretation of the eco-agenda was that doing nothing to clean up the mess was cheap for a broke state eager to spend billions on high-speed rail and the consequences of open borders. The even more cynical take would be that dead trees served as green napalm during fire season to discourage the unwanted *hoi polloi* from living in the hill and mountain cabins that in a more perfect world would properly belong, in Sheriff of Nottingham style, to the Sierra Club. And indeed, the unspoken aftermath of this latest round of conflagrations is that insurance rates will soar even higher and make it nearly impossible to live in rural hills and mountains.

Apparently, our ancestral, Neanderthal foresters once upon a time believed in the time-tried lore of removing dead brush, cutting down withered trees for needed lumber, and allowing grazing to clear foothills of dead grasses and low vegetation. But then again, the old-breed thinking has been seen as obsolete by today's brilliant new progressive consultants, professors, and activists. They were too eager to implement a natural strategy of letting medicinal fires periodically burn forest fuel to remind us that millions of trees are not for living among, or logging or recreating amid, or for anything much human-orientated other than a week or so a year backpacking.

California is shutting down both clean-burning natural-gas plants and nuclear generation, only to find that its heralded wind and solar plants do not produce enough power in times of high heat, smoke, and fire, at night or during the day, just when the heat of the dog days forces millions to ramp up their air-conditioners.

There could be a longer answer for why — when California is faced with existential threats of soaring taxes, the exoduses of its best and brightest citizens, crashing services, and biblical heat, smoke, plague, and fire— its officials obsess over reparations, raising property taxes, implementing a socialist "you didn't build that" wealth tax, and jacking up top income-tax rates over 16 percent.

The more money the state gets, the more the services degenerate, and the more it needs. And because it has no answer for the existential crisis of millions of impoverished recent illegal immigrants (20 percent of the state lives below the poverty line, a third of the nation's poor live in California), soaring Medical-subsidized health costs, unsustainable pensions, the largest homeless population in the nation, and hare-brained schemes like its fossilized high-speed-rail project, in expiation it seeks postmodern escapes from premodern threats.

Can't prevent biblical fires? Then turn to reparations or a wealth tax. Can't afford fixing decrepit freeways? Then dream on, with half-finished high-speed-rail overpasses.

Solar panels fail the grid? Then why not ban more nuclear plants?

Over the past 40 years, a small coastal cadre became the nexus of trillions of dollars in global income from high tech, computers, finance, tony universities, and Hollywood. As the middle class fled the new Hell of California, the poor of Mexico and Latin America discovered that what others called a wrecked state, broke from soaring social services and state pensions, nevertheless seemed to be heaven on earth compared with Oaxaca or El Salvador.

So the rich got really rich, the poor came in and got a little less poor, and the middle fled either out of state or to the Sierra and coastal foothills that are now aflame. So California's destruction can be summed up in the hypocrisies and paradoxes of its bankrupt elite, who believe that their money insulates them from their own toxic ideology, and their virtue-signaling squares the circle of feeling guilty that they want nothing to do with the millions of poor they invited in and are relieved that they drove out millions in the middle classes.

Governor Gavin Newsom not long ago ordered shutdowns of non-Napa Valley wine-tasting rooms — the winery he owns conveniently being located in Napa and thus escaping the lockdown orders. A hyper-capitalist made rich by his inherited "white privilege," he brags that the virus will provide the necessary fear and confusion to allow "opportunity for reimagining a [more] progressive era as it pertains to capitalism"

Newsom certainly in his own case "reimagines" capitalism. For example, recently, the redistributionist governor was delinquent in paying thousands of dollars in back property and gift taxes, largely because even his sizable income and capital have never been sufficient to support his Bay Area lifestyle. So his rich friends and distant family struggle to fund trusts and foundations by which to funnel tax-free money to meet his considerable needs. Newsom seems bewildered about the source of his ample cash flow and so apparently should not pay his own state what he owes it. In other words, it would be impossible for such a sort to feel any real empathy for those who were destroyed by the policies he implements and whose ramifications he avoids.

Once can anticipate Speaker Nancy Pelosi's next move because, beneath her self-righteousness, she will predictably be silly, often cruel, and entirely hypocritical. She may be the only House speaker in history to publicly tear up the president's State of the Union address, after he customarily handed it to her on live television. She worries whether we are Christian enough in welcoming illegal aliens and sacrificing during the quarantine, while she shows off her designer ice cream in her designer Sub-Zero refrigerators in her designer wine-country palazzo — surrounded by the sort of "decorative" fences and "modest" gates we are assured are not walls to keep out those who, she lectures us, are California's blessed future.

Pelosi rails about the need for masks. She banter about the struggle to social distance. She lauds the requirement to shut down the businesses of the nobodies (at least until the November election is over). And then, like a teen prankster, she sneaks into a salon, unmasked, scurries about to get her hair done at a business she wants closed. And yet we wonder whether she worries about the effects of fires, insolvency, crushing taxes, and illegal immigration upon others in her state.

Diane Feinstein occasionally offers embarrassing panegyrics to the Chinese ascendancy, often in response to others wishing to curb Beijing's mercantilism, dumping, currency manipulation, patent and copyright theft, technological appropriation, and its eerie mesmerizing of America's wealthiest classes with joint ventures. She is a Chinese encomiast because she has never herself lost a job to outsourcing. She seems oblivious that the Chinese Communist Party was allowing direct flights into nearby SFO from Wuhan, ground zero of the virus, whose origins and nature China so long lied about, while banning travel from Wuhan to anywhere inside China.

No matter, Diane Feinstein's husband is a billionaire financier, in part from substantial Chinese investments, despite the "fire wall" that, she claims, separates every married couple's finances. In the age of the Russian-collusion hoax and a pesky Russian under every government bed, no one in the CIA or FBI seemed to worry much when Feinstein's loyal chauffeur of some 20 years proved to be a Chinese Communist spy and informant. Had not every prior chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee from time to time chatted on the phone in front of a spy?

How long can a state suffer the rich Bourbons of the Bay Area?

*Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of *The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won*.
@vdhanson This article first appeared in the September `16, 2020 National Review.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 CIRM 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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LAST PAGE BELOW**



**MIKE BROWN
ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS**



VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



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



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER



MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio Internet Public Hearing Friend

COLAB Member(s) / Sponsor(s): _____

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

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

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

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check Visa MasterCard Discover Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: ___/___ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

(Revised 2/2017)