

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE
APRIL 18 - 24, 2021

COLAB
San Luis Obispo County



DINNER & FUNDRAISER

12th Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday September 9th, 2021

Alex Madonna Expo Center

more details coming soon...

We're Back

& We Will always Be Here!

COLAB San Luis Obispo County
805-548-0340 colabslo@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

WILDLIFE TO GET FEE BREAK

REDISTRICTING WORK TO BEGIN

BOARD TO PROGRAM \$54 MILLION IN TAX SLUSH
BIDEN “AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN” – IT’S ALL DEBT- \$1.9 TRILLION

PASO BASIN WATER BANKING CAPACITY MAPPED
STATE AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY STUDY COMPLETED

PASO BASIN SGMA IMPLEMENTATION MAY START

MORE CANNABIS APPEALS

COVID ON LOW PLATEAU

PLANNING COMMISSION
NEW CAYUCOS HOTEL
OAK SHORES CANNABIS PROJECT

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

WASTE AUTHORITY RETAINS POLYSTYRENE BAN
LEFTISTS USE SUPER MAJORITY VOTE SCAM

**COASTAL COMMISSION REDUCES RIDING AREA
EVEN WITH THE DUNES CLOSING IN 3 YEARS – MORE CUTS NOW**

**LAFCO APPOINTS ROBERT FITZROY DIRECTOR
A SMART CAT**



**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 20**

CAN THE GREAT ‘AWOKENING’ SUCCEED?

Wokeism is creating a future group of politically incorrect Trotskyites on a proverbial rendezvous with a Mexican ice pick, given that by birth they will never be woke enough for the new Stalinism.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

WHITE MALE CHRISTIANS

The central target of the vicious Marxist war on America.

BY DAVID HOROWITZ

MERCHANTS OF REVOLUTION

CALIFORNIA’S ETHIC STUDIES INITIATIVES TRAIN CHILDREN IN MARXIST THEORY – AND OPPOSITION TO THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

BY CHRISTOPHER F RUSSO

THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, April 20, 2021 (Scheduled)

Item 19 - Submittal of a resolution to approve a request by Pacific Wildlife Care, to authorize the waiver of land use and construction permit fees in an amount not to exceed \$207,293 for Minor Use Permit (DRC2021-00020) and subsequent construction permits for a new animal care/rehabilitation facility, located at the northwest corner of Esparanza Lane and Buckley Road, on a parcel adjacent to the City of San Luis Obispo. The not-for-profit which cares for sick and injured wild animals is being evicted from its current site on the Morro Bay Power Plant property. It has requested that County building inspection and permitting fees be waived. The County’s policy for such requests is quoted below.

The adopted County Fee Schedule authorizes the Director of Planning and Building to waive up to \$5,000 in permit processing fees for projects that provide broad public benefit. When fees exceed \$5,000, the Board must approve the fee waiver request. Evidence of public benefit may include but is not limited to:

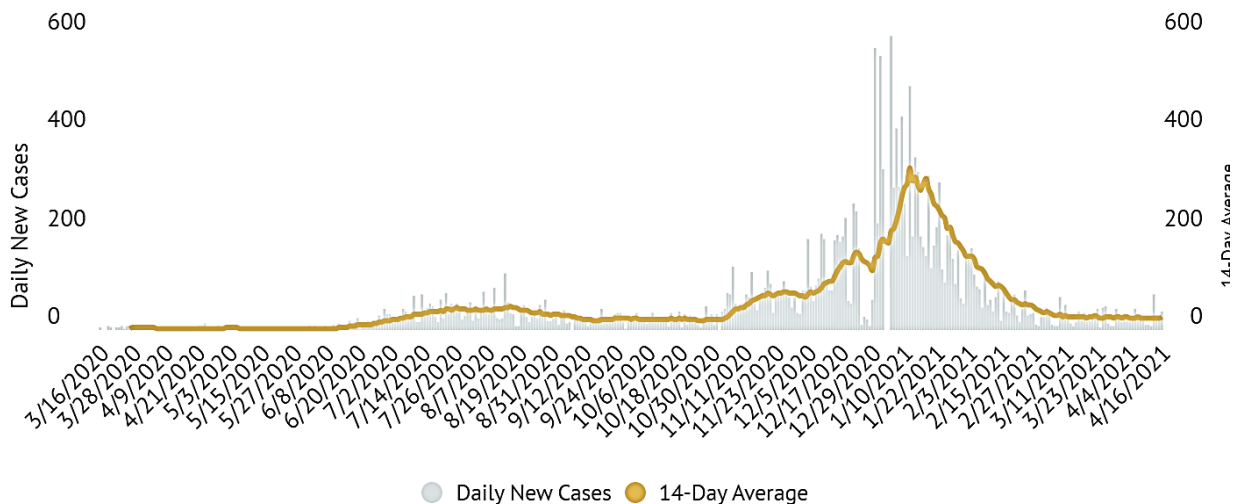
- *The project meets a need previously identified or recognized by the Board of Supervisors.*
- *The project replaces another facility that previously provided benefit.*
- *The project provides a facility not presently available in the community.*
- *The project has generated substantial, obvious community support.*
- *The project would reduce other County costs or increase other County revenues*

This organization provides a valuable and popular service, and the request is likely to be approved. The amount will have to be made up from general tax dollars to balance Planning and Building’s budget.



Item 29 – COVID UPDATE.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



8 (3 ICU) ** This measure actually became a little worse over the week, as it had been 6 and (1 ICU) last week. (SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital)

Item 33 - Submittal of an update on the County’s 2021 redistricting effort; and request to authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$150,139 from General Fund Contingencies to increase appropriation in Fund Center 104 – Administrative Office to fund expenses related to redistricting, by 4/5 vote. Staff is seeking a transfer of \$150,000 from contingency reserves to cover consulting costs, extra labor, and materials to carry out the constitutionally required process to bring the boundaries of the 5 districts as close to population balance as possible. There are other requirements for setting the boundaries, which include not splitting communities of interest and providing relative compactness in terms of the shapes.

All this must be done in a tight time frame that results from the Federal census delay. The data will not be available until August and the job must be legally completed by December 15, 2021.

The stakes are high, as boundaries can alter the balance between left progressives and conservatives and thus impact the future of the County operation as well as larger issues of taxes, fees, preservation of private property, capitalism, and liberty. The schedule is displayed in the table below. There is not any leeway at this point.

Updated Tentative Redistricting Timeline			
Official Hearings	Required Action(s)	Date	Known/Legal Timelines
	Board meeting- Redistricting timeline update, request approval for appropriation for additional resources	April 2021	
	Launch redistricting website and public facing mapping tool	May-June 2021	
Hearing #1	Board hearing - gather preliminary input and identify communities of interest	July or August 2021	
	Release of Census population data	September 30, 2021	Date provided by USCB
Hearing or Workshop #2	Board meeting or public workshop (evening or weekend)	October 2021	
	Prison adjusted information release to counties	October 31, 2021	State has 30 days after receipt of Census data
	Publish 3-4 draft redistricting maps	November 21, 2021	Minimum 21 days after prison adjusted info released to the public
Hearing #3	Board hearing - 1st post draft maps	Week of November 22 (Thanksgiving week special meeting)	
	Publish revised maps based on comments received (at least 7 days prior to adoption)	November 27 or 28, 2021 (weekend after Thanksgiving)	At least 7 days before final adoption (12/14)
Hearing #4	Final hearing to approve redistricting plan	November 29-December 1, 2021 (Special meeting)	
	Legal Metes and Bounds complete and ordinance drafted	December 3, 2021	72 hours agenda publication deadline
	Introduce County ordinance amendment	December 7, 2021	
Hearing #5	Amend County ordinance to reflect Board approved revised redistricting map	December 14, 2021	
	Effective date of ordinance amendment	January 14, 2022	
		*Current legal deadline to adopt (Registrars requesting earlier completion)	December 15, 2021
*Note: All hearing dates need to posted at least 5 days prior to hearing			

Item 34 - It is recommended that the Board receive and file a report on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and provide direction to staff. The County is to receive \$54 million under this round of the COVID financial slush and government expansion program. The general guidelines require that the funding be expended by 2024 for the purposes listed below:

1. Respond to the COVID-19 emergency and address its negative economic impacts, including aid to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and industries such as tourism and hospitality.

2. Provide premium pay to essential employees or grants to their employers. Premium pay could not exceed \$13 per hour or \$25,000 per worker.

3. Provide government services affected by a revenue reduction during the pandemic (relative to revenues collected by the local government in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency).

4. Make investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

5. No funds can be used to deposit into pension funds or to offset revenue resulting from a tax cut.

County lobbying groups are begging the Feds to be more specific, as they are worried about spending the money, then having negative audit findings in the future, and having to pay it back.

Congress should amend the Act to include more types of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and building projects.

State of California	\$26.2 billion
County of San Luis Obispo	\$54.9 million
City of Arroyo Grande	\$ 3.4 million
City of Atascadero	\$ 5.7 million
City of Grover Beach	\$ 2.5 million
City of Morro Bay	\$ 2.0 million
City of Paso Robles	\$ 6.1 million
City of Pismo Beach	\$ 1.5 million
City of San Luis Obispo	\$ 8.9 million

Sample Uses (anticipated)

Likely Allowed

- COVID-19 response
- Business grants/loans
- Some homeless and affordable housing projects
- Aid to households, nonprofits
- Replace lost revenue
- Restoration of impacted / discontinued services

Likely Not Allowed

- Non water, sewer, broadband CIP
- Pension payment
- Set aside for rainy day

The Board of Supervisors should:

1. Take a strategic approach and resolve not to fritter the funding away on small short-term feel-good grants and projects which have no long-term benefit.

2. Prior to taking action on a proposed program budget for these funds, provide an update for the public on:

- How much of the \$27 million provided in the prior round has been expended, for what was it expended, how much remains, and how is any remainder programmed?
- What has been the work/impact of the ad hoc committee of Supervisors Gibson and Peschong on the issue to date? What is planned in the future in this regard?
- Are there any unresolved revenue shortfalls in the current (FY 2020-21) Budget or are any impending in the prospective FY 2021-22 Budget? Are any of these attributable to COVID costs or revenue shortfalls?

3. Housing projects and investments in capital projects for water, sewer, and housing are listed as specifically eligible under the Federal guidelines. The funding could be invested to help reduce the \$400 million capital investment shortfall in the County's village centers where the General Plan calls for a concentration of housing. These include Nipomo, Oceano, Templeton, San Miguel, and possibly Santa Margarita. The immediate economic stimulus of building infrastructure projects (which in turn could stimulate new housing) could help expand employment. The County could include a requirement for those projects to provide employment of SLO County residents.

4. The County, the State Employment Development Department, and various economic development agencies have not quantified the degree of distress that COVID has caused to small businesses. If there is to be an aid program, it should be cast as a long-term rotating loan program. In line with the Federal requirements, any funds allocated to such a program could be placed in loans by 2024, which should meet the expenditure deadline. The long-term benefit would be that after the ARPA program dries up, the funds could be recycled indefinitely as the loans are paid back. After all and under the current PP program, loans can be for 30 years. The County could partner with area banks to run the program and not find itself in the private loan business. In fact, the dollars could be used as loan guarantees, vastly expanding the amount of capital injected into the business community.

5. Stay away from homeless programs, rent deferrals and bailouts, and utility bailouts. These are already covered under other existing and other prospective programs.

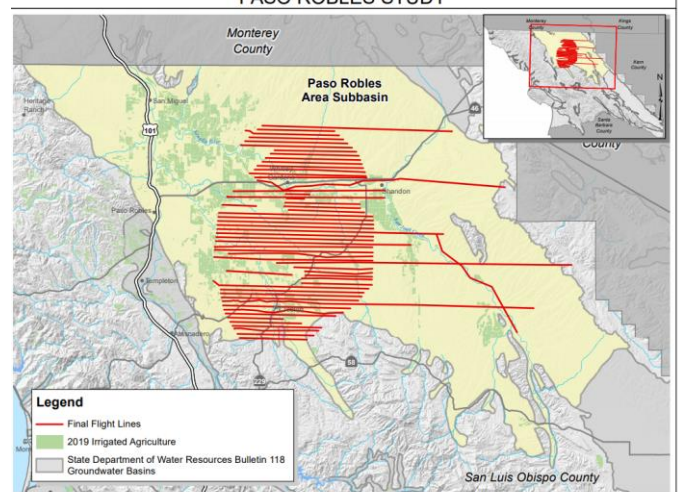
6. Be sure not to build in any recurring service costs which will have to be picked up later by the general fund or departmental revenues. Also the pension costs of staffers paid under the program are prohibited from reimbursement under the Federal rules. These can be as much as 50% of straight salary for some employees.

It is a very rare opportunity to have \$54 million plus whatever remains from earlier \$27 million to program comprehensively for immediate and long-term impact. It would be terrible to piss it all away on programs for the intractable homeless, more staffers, and welfare. As for the homeless, what about creating 2 homeless campgrounds with vehicle camping, tent camping, and tiny houses. Each could have a central service center with bathrooms, showers, medical care, and supportive services. This would be an alternative to jail, living on the streets, and multi-million dollar housing and shelter deals.

Item 35 - Receive and file a presentation of the Paso Basin Aerial Groundwater Mapping Pilot Study. The Board will receive a report on the findings of an aerial survey using underground



PASO ROBLES STUDY



airborne reflective beams to detail permeability of the aquifer at different locations. The study was a joint effort of the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Stanford University. The methodology and results are highly technical. One summary paragraph states:

Potential groundwater recharge areas were interpreted where the AEM data, correlated with information from previous studies, well data, and the Paso Basin Groundwater Model, indicate favorable recharge characteristics of coarse sediments and/or sandy deposits. These areas include the southern Creston area, San Juan Creek, Huer Huero Creek and Shedd Canyon Creek. The HCM Report and MPS Report indicate these areas may benefit from additional investigations to further define the underlying hydrology and confirm other critical factors are suitable for recharge efforts, such as groundwater quality, water availability and conveyance.

One problem is that there does not seem to be any bottom-line number about how many thousand or million acre-feet of storage capacity are available. Of course many Paso Basin overlayers are concerned over DWR’s ultimate intent. It is speculated that DWR does not wish to expend the money to expand California Water Project reservoirs or build new reservoirs, as the enviros, who have the State by the throat, are opposed. It might be easier and less costly to simply store millions of acre-feet in the Paso Basin.

Item 36 - It is recommended that the Board provide direction on the staffing approach for County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) activities in the Paso Robles Sub basin. Staff has returned and, per Board conservative majority direction, provided revised recommendations, which may be less costly. The problem is that the staff did not obtain any preliminary estimates for what it would cost to start the program using a private sector consulting firm. The Board should continue the matter until they have some numbers.

GSA Staffing Workload and Costs	County Staff Option	Consultant Option
Permanent County staff required	5.25 FTE	1.00 FTE
Estimated cost of County staff	\$1,403,768	\$235,000-\$265,000 ¹
Estimated cost of consultant & other expenditures	\$294,724	TBD ²

Background: Back on March 16th staff recommended that the County (as Groundwater Sustainability Agency {GSA} for about 61% of the Paso Basin) move ahead and staff up to begin implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) under the mandatory State Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The joint plan, which is dovetailed with several water districts, the City of Paso, and several community service districts, was submitted to the State Department of Water Resources by the legal deadline in January of 2020. The State has not yet reviewed the GSP, let alone commented on it or approved it. It turns out that the State is actually encouraging GSAs to begin implementing their plans and not wait for formal approval.

Originally, the Public Works Department the staff recommended that the Board fund a large staff expansion to begin to implement the GSP. The PowerPoint at the link below provides an overall picture of the staff recommendation:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/131158>

The cost was hefty and was proposed to be supported by general fund tax dollars or a regulatory fee on the overlayers subject to SGMA. This could be based on the amount of water which they pump. People who use 2 acre-feet or less are exempt from SGMA.

The staff report, however, did recognize that there are alternatives to adding staff, including use of a private consulting firm or cutting other County water programs administered by Public Works to free up individuals to work on the Paso SGMA GSA. Staff favored the in-house employee model, citing continuity and control as being important.

The Board directed staff to do a Request For Information (not a full RFP) to test the issue and see what private sector firms might propose and at what costs generally.

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM (Cannabis Appeals)

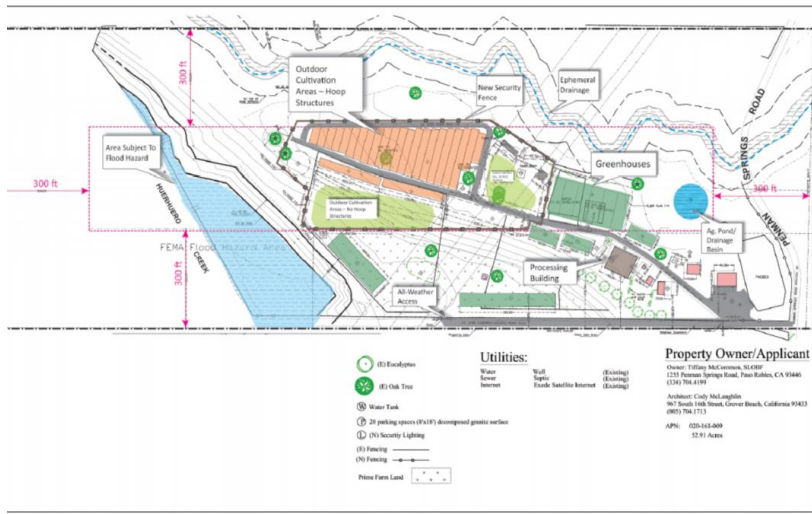
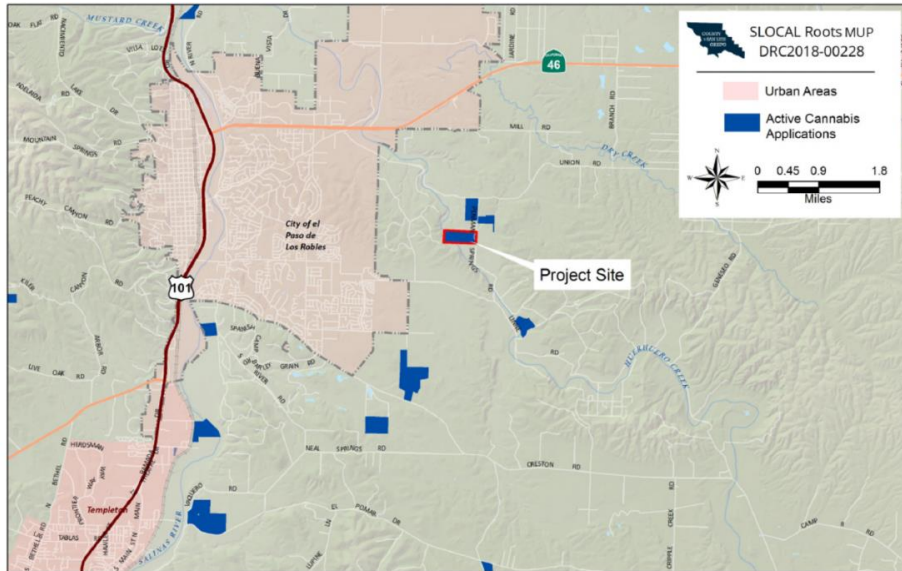
In General: A number of the cannabis projects approved by the Planning staff and/or the Planning Commission are appealed to the Board of Supervisors. The dilemma for everyone is that the applicants comply with the State statutes and local Cannabis Permitting Ordinance standards. The Board has revised the standards 3 separate times to make them stricter. Nonetheless, there is considerable pressure from neighbors to deny the projects. While SLO County voters approved State legalization of recreational cannabis by over 60%, many are now opposed to living in the vicinity of its production or distribution because of odor, hoop houses, traffic, and alleged association with illegal activities. What did all the people living on ranchettes expect?

Cannabis legalization had been a key part of the left progressive platform for decades prior to its legalization. If people are now having buyer's remorse, they might consider the current slew of left progressive programs being jammed down their throats by the Feds, State, some of the leftist municipalities, and school districts. For example, while you may be seduced by the idea of fossil fuel bans and bans on gas powered cars, you may not be so happy when the government tells you to stay home and can turn off all the vehicle charging stations in the state with one or two switches on a hot August afternoon.

You may be sympathetic to the idea of Medi-Care for all, but when the tax bills come due, you may have to move because you can't afford to live in your current home with huge tax rates. As you spend your "golden years" in a stack-and-pack apartment next to a strip mall, you may reflect on your prior "liberalism." Whom and what you vote for have real life consequences. Contemplate all this as you whiff the "progressive" future.

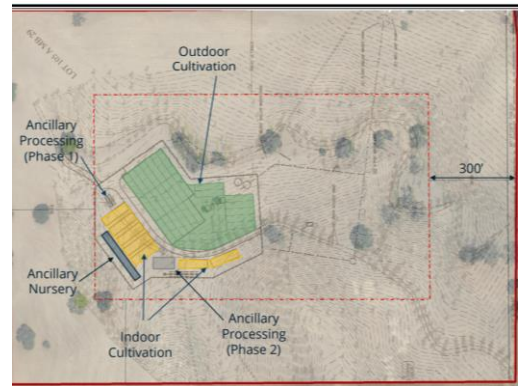
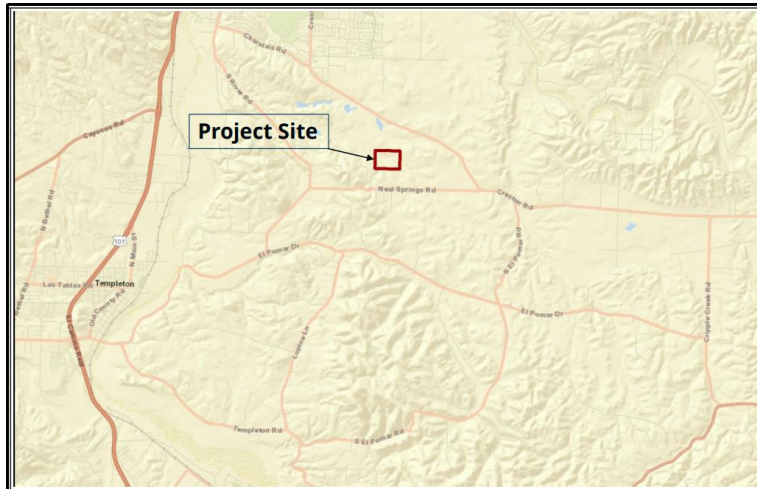
Item 38 - Hearing to consider an appeal (APPL2020-00022) by Christina Maldonado of the Planning Department Hearing Officer's approval of a Minor Use Permit (DRC2018-00228) for SLO Cal Roots to establish: 3.39 acres of outdoor cannabis cultivation area; 27,500 square feet (sf) of indoor cannabis cultivation area; 34,800 sf of indoor ancillary nursery;

6,000 sf of ancillary indoor cannabis processing; and approximately 25,000 square feet of related site improvements. The project would result in approximately 6.2 acres of disturbance including 5,000 cubic yards of cut and fill on an approximately 54-acre site located at 1255 Penman Springs Road, approximately 1.25 miles east of the City of Paso Robles. The staff recommends that the appeal be denied.



Item 39 - Hearing to consider an appeal (APPL2020-00015) of Cliff Bianchine of the Planning Department Hearing Officer's decision to conditionally approve the application of Copper Creek Farms, LLC, for a Minor Use Permit (DRC2019-00042) to establish a phased cannabis cultivation operation including up to three acres of outdoor cannabis cultivation canopy, 22,000 square-feet of indoor mixed-light cannabis canopy, 5,000 square-feet of ancillary nursery, and 3,000 square feet of ancillary processing on a portion

of a 54-acre project site and reduce the required number of parking spaces from 55 to 3. The proposed project would result in the disturbance of approximately 5.7 acres. The project is located on the north side of Neal Spring Road, approximately 2.5 miles east of the Templeton Urban Reserve Line. The staff recommends denial of the appeal.



Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, April 22, 2021 (Scheduled)

Item 4 - Hearing to consider a request by Jay and Lisa Cobb for a Development Plan/Coastal Development Permit (DRC2019-00297) to allow for the construction of a three-story, 17-unit hotel with onsite public amenities for passive and active recreational activities. The applicant is requesting a modification to the off-street parking standards from 77 spaces to 21 per the exceptions process in Section 23.08.012.b. The applicant is also requesting a modification to the parking design standards per 23.04.162.h. The project would result in disturbance of approximately 0.7 acres on a 1.1-acre property. The proposed project is within the Recreation land use category and is located on the south side of North Ocean Ave within the Locarno area of the community of Cayucos. The item was on the March 11, 2021 agenda but was continued when the Coastal Commission sent a [last minute] letter on the morning of March 11, 2021 raising issues at the last minute. It is not known at this point if the Coastal Commission’s concerns have been resolved. However, the County Planning Commission will hear the matter this Thursday.

Note that the Coastal Commission’s letter (see page 13 below) seeks to require the applicant to provide an unspecified amount of low-cost access to the property. Perhaps a nice homeless camp with free cocktails included next to the pool will satisfy them.

Background: Last month the project application was continued off calendar because the Coastal Commission sent a letter opposing many aspects of the application just one-half hour

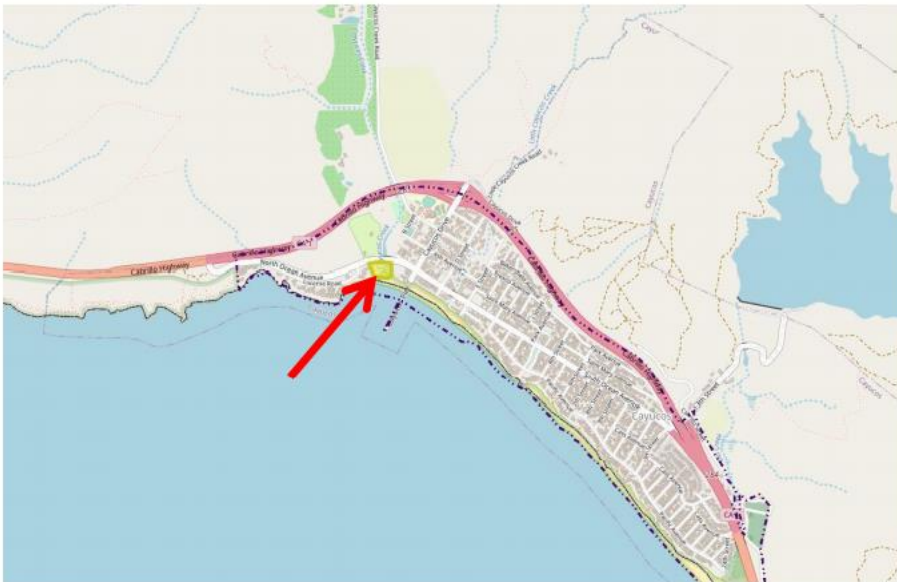
before the hearing began. The Planning Commissioners didn't see the letter until the meeting started, and the applicant didn't see it until the hearing was in progress. Just think, the Coastal Commission staff is unable to complete its work in a timely fashion, and an applicant is therefore penalized by time and costs. This is the outrageous arrogance of the Coastal Commission and other public agencies. They repeatedly hurt citizens all the time, and there are no 20 consequences. Late reports from the Coastal Commission should be deemed moot by statute and should end the Commission's jurisdiction on the related subject at that point.

In any case, the staff has recommended approval but has imposed 10 pages worth of 60 separate backbreaking conditions. God only knows what the exaction fees will be. The conditions expropriate private property for public use:

Approved Development 1. This approval authorizes the construction of: a. A three-story, 20,114 square foot, 17-unit hotel with the following guest amenities: an 870-square-foot day spa / health center, a 960-square-foot gift shop, a 1,120- square-foot dining facility, a 550-square-foot bar, and an outdoor swimming pool. b. A public coastal access walkway along the bluff and public recreation amenities, including outdoor games and lounge areas.

Does this mean that people not staying at the hotel or eating in the restaurant can use the games and lounge areas?

Prior to issuance of construction permits, the applicant shall execute and record an offer of dedication in a form subject to the approval of County Counsel for lateral access which shall include 25 feet of dry sandy beach available at all times during the year (pursuant to the requirements of Section 23.04.420 of the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance).





**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE 725
FRONT STREET, SUITE 300 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4508 VOICE (831) 427-4863 FAX
(831) 427-4877**

March 11, 2021

Planning Commission
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: Agenda Item 5. Cobb Development Plan / Coastal Development Permit, DRC2019-00297

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Our office would like to provide the following comments on the above-reference item for the development of a 17-unit hotel on a vacant bluff-top parcel in Cayucos. We have concerns regarding setbacks and public access, as well as the apparent lack of low-cost visitor accommodations provided.

We apologize for the late submittal, but we have previously spoken about our concerns with Mr. Cobb and it appears that no changes have been implemented to address our concerns. With regard to setbacks and public access, the project as proposed appears to include significant hotel-related development within both the blufftop and creek setback areas, which is prohibited by the LCP. The pool lounge chairs, recreational games, firepit, etc. are not clearly separated from the hotel bar and pool; which would make these amenities far more likely to be used by hotel guests than members of the public and essentially an extension of the private commercial use into the LCP-required setback area, which is prohibited. Moreover, the public pathway and benches, the only amenities likely to be utilized by the public, are located mere feet from the bluff edge, putting these features in immediate danger from erosion.

Wonder if they would cover the costs of the delay?

Finally, the project appears to be relying on the neighboring properties beach staircase to provide a vertical accessway as required by the LCP. The materials available do not confirm that the neighboring property has agreed to this arrangement and it is not clear what entity would be responsible for future maintenance and repairs.

We have previously suggested that a separate public access management plan be developed and that the plan clearly delineates and separates the public access area from the hotel uses, includes adequate public signage to ensure members of the public understand all amenities are

available for their use, allows for additional separation between the bluff edge and the public access amenities, and provides for the long-term maintenance of the beach staircase.

With regard to low-cost visitor accommodations, Recreation and Visitor Serving Facilities Coastal Plan Policy 2 states that “[l]arger visitor-serving projects shall make provisions for services which are geared to a range of costs, including low-cost facilities.” The Coastal Act also requires the protection and provision of lower-cost visitor and recreational facilities, including overnight accommodations, pursuant to Section 30213 of the Coastal Act.

Can anyone just drop in and use the pool or patio furniture? Isn't this government confiscation of private property in exchange for a permit? This is not a public health and safety issue.

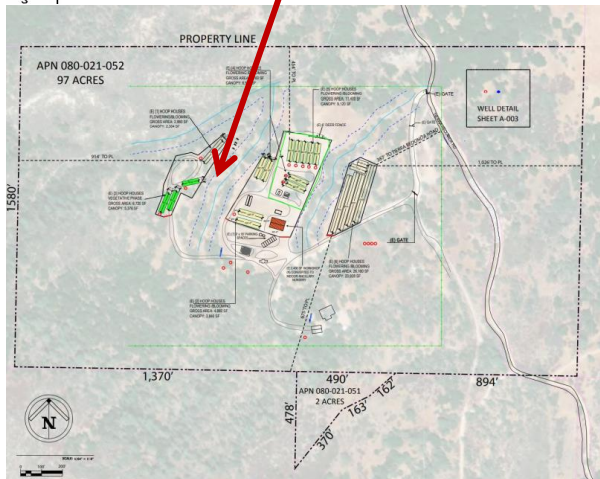
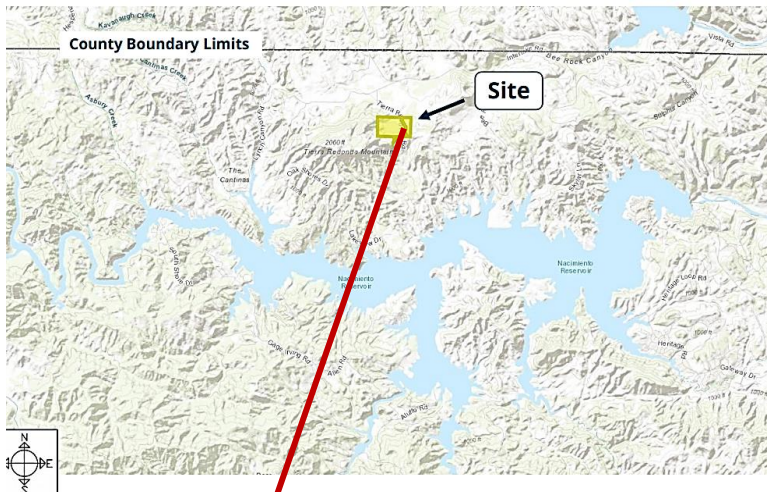
The available materials do not analyze the proposed project for consistency with these standards and it is not clear the project provides or supports ATTACHMENT 5 Page 1 of 18 Cobb Development Plan / Coastal Development Permit, DRC2019-00297 2 a range of costs as required by the LCP, nor is it clear whether Cayucos generally suffers from a lack of low-cost options. Our office would suggest that the County delay approval of the project in order to update the public access portion of the project consistent with the LCP and comments above, as well as to allow for further analysis of the low-cost visitor accommodations issue.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely, Brian O'Neill Coastal Planner Central Coast District Office

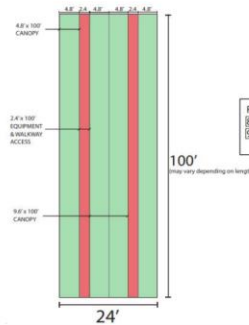


Item 5 - Hearing to consider a request by Bradley Canyon Farms, LLC for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2018-00110) to establish 1.23 acres (53,400 square feet) of outdoor cannabis cultivation area and 6,720 square feet of outdoor ancillary cannabis nursery within 21 existing hoop structures, and 2,400 square feet of indoor ancillary cannabis nursery on a 100-acre parcel. The project would also include installation of new security fencing, surveillance cameras, eight new water tanks, portable restrooms, and two seatrain containers for storage of planting materials and equipment. The project would result in approximately 48,702 square feet of site disturbance, including 49 cubic yards of cut and 49 cubic yards of fill, to be balanced on-site. The project site is located within the Rural Lands land use designation category and is located at 1255 Tierra Redonda Road, approximately 0.75 miles north of the community village of Oak Shores in the Nacimiento sub-area of the North County Planning Area. The staff report indicates that the project complies with the Cannabis Permitting Ordinance. There is significant neighborhood and area opposition. The Oak Shores association, other neighborhood groups, and ranchers have filed extensive letters of opposition. This will be a dilemma for the Planning Commission, as it is supposed to approve projects which meet the zoning and environmental requirements. The situation confronts them with a rule of law versus popular consent paradox. The Commission will have to make concrete findings of fact if it determines to deny the project.



HOOP HOUSE INTERIOR/FLOOR PLAN

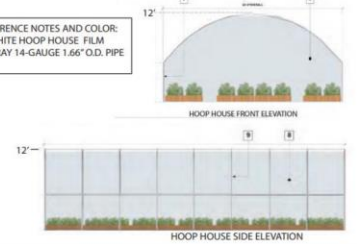
* THE SAME HOOP HOUSE WILL BE USED FOR OUTDOOR CULTIVATION AND OUTDOOR NURSERY
 HOOP HOUSE SIZE: 100' x 24' = 2,400 SF (with varying depending on hoop house length)
 CANOPY = 1,520 SF
 WALKING & EQUIPMENT = 480 SF (25% OF CANOPY)



Structure Type	Use	Size	Count	Total SF	Walkway SF	Canopy SF
Hoop House	Outdoor Cultivation	80' x 24'	1	1,920	152	768
	Outdoor Nursery	80' x 24'	2	3,840	304	1,536
	Indoor Nursery	80' x 24'	5	11,520	908	4,536
	AG Barn	100' x 24'	1	2,400	2,400	0
	AG Barn	100' x 24'	1	2,400	0	2,400
TOTAL			10	34,080	3,668	17,240

Note: All Hoop Houses are on existing.

REFERENCE NOTES AND COLOR:
 WHITE HOOP HOUSE FILM
 GRAY 14-GAUGE 1.66" O.D. PIPE



LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**Integrated Waste Management Authority Meeting of Wednesday, April 14, 2021
(Completed)**

Item 9 - PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2021-3-1 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-1 REGARDING THE REGULATION OF POLYSTYRENE AND EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (EPS) FOOD CONTAINERS AND PRODUCTS Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board (1) approve ORDINANCE NO. 2021-3-1 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO 2019-1 REGARDING THE REGULATION OF POLYSTYRENE AND EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (EPS) FOOD CONTAINERS AND PRODUCTS; (2) waive the second reading of the Ordinance following a reading of the title in full; and (3) direct Staff to publish the Ordinance in a newspaper of general circulation within 15 days after adoption with the names of the members voting for and against the Ordinance. The vote to repeal the ordinance was numerically approved on a 7/6 vote. However, as noted below, any member can demand a super majority vote. In this case Councilwomen Marx of the City of San Luis Obispo invoked the procedure. Consequently the vote to repeal the ordinance failed, as there were not 8 votes for repeal.

There were a number of public commenters, of whom some were SLO Progressive troops who were nasty. In a misplaced and crude analogy, one said that if the Board repealed the polystyrene ban, it might as well repeal laws prohibiting slavery.

Councilwomen Marx played coy with Supervisor Arnold and said that some residents of the City were of course also residents of Arnold's 5th District. The Mayor assumed that, as city residents, none of them supported repealing the ban.

Supervisor Compton revealed that she, other officials, and some businesses have received threats from supporters of the ordinance. She will make these public and expects the IWMA to take the issue up at its next meeting.

The County can do a cost benefit analysis (using an expert refuse rate consulting firm) to determine the relative costs of the current system or using Public Works to take over refuse disposal and recycling. The actual running of the landfills and collecting trash is already largely privatized at this point. Some members of the current JPA could simply contract with the County.

This would eliminate the overhead of the IWMA staff, lawyers, advocacy, and all the trappings of a separate government agency. Moreover, there would be no meeting and no board overhead. This is how it works in Santa Barbara County, which has no IWMA and is fully compliant with AB 939 which passed way back in the 1990's and mandated regional recycling. The current guy who runs the IWMA, and who seems reasonable, could be moved over to County Public Works to run the program without all the drama.

Many residents and businesses might even be willing to pay a few cents more per can per month to get the current envro-socialists on the IWMA Board off their necks and teach them a lesson.

Background: By a 7/6 vote last month, the IWMA Board voted to agendize the ban for repeal. The progressive left, dominated by the south county cities, went crazy over the idea. They geared up last month, attempting to get one of the member agencies to replace one of those officials who voted for the opportunity to rescind the ordinance. At this point they took advantage of the fact that the Rules of Procedure of the IWMA contain a provision by which any member agency can demand a super majority vote. It is likely that repeal of the ordinance would not obtain 8 votes. In other words, they ignored and undermined the democratic process.

4.2 Vote Required No action shall be effective without the affirmative votes of a majority of those present. However, eight (8) affirmative votes shall be required for taking any action in the event any agency demands such a vote.

Some members explored the legality of this provision, which violates the one man one vote provision of the Constitution by giving an agency an effective veto, as illustrated by this case. **This did not impress the IWMA's contract lawyer, who went right along with the progressives. Patronage is alive and well in SLO County.** Remember, these Rules of Procedure are not the Joint Powers Agreement, which created and set the overall authority of the IWMA. The Board that adopted it decades ago may have had no knowledge of whether it was and is even legal.

Action at the March Meeting: The Board approved introducing the ordinance to repeal the ban on a 7/6 vote. The actual hearing and vote was scheduled for the April 14, 2021 IWMA meeting. Supervisor Gibson was highly critical of rescinding the ban and labeled the proponents of the rescission as "ideological." Supervisor Ortiz-Legg proposed a compromise that would limit the ban to coastal areas, where the polystyrene cups and packaging get into the ocean. Supervisor Arnold refuted Gibson and pointed out that people are sick of the activism, don't want a regulatory ordinance countywide (one size does not fit all), and proposing countywide regulatory ordinances is far off the mission of the IWMA. The usual lefties City Council members such as Jan Marx, Karen Bright, and Jeff Heller were among those opposing the rescission and supporting the ban.

The polystyrene ban was adopted back in 2019. It never took effect because the IWMA Board pended it due to the COVID lockdown.

Even the looniest enviro-sycophantic elected official figured that banning polystyrene containers during the restaurant lockdown would result in public outrage. The ordinance would automatically go into effect in April 2021 if no one stopped it. The progressive left was running all around the county attempting get either one of the cities or the Special District Association to replace one of the Board reps who voted to bring the issue back for possible rescission. Apparently, they were unsuccessful. The County Board majority had floated the idea of withdrawing from the IWMA if it does not drop the ban. This got everyone's attention. Everyone is sick of this agency conjuring up bans, posturing about global warming, and other ideological politicking instead of efficiently running landfills and recycling.

Item Thursday 11b - Certification Review for San Luis Obispo County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) Amendment Number LCP-3-SLO-20-0043-1 (Industrial Hemp Ordinance). For whatever reason the County withdrew the item. The staff had recommended that the Commission certify the County's Hemp Regulatory Ordinance in the Coastal Zone.

Executive Director's Recommendation. *Staff recommends that the Commission concur with the Executive Director's determination that the action of San Luis Obispo County in accepting the Commission's certification of LCP Amendment Number LCP-3-SLO-20-0043-1, with modifications, is legally adequate.*

Item Thursday 11e - Concurrence with the Executive Director's determination that the request by San Luis Obispo County to amend the Implementation Plan's existing cannabis ordinance is minor (BO-SC). Similarly, the item was withdrawn from the agenda. The staff had recommended that the Commission certify the County's cannabis regulatory ordinance in the Coastal Zone if no one complained about it.

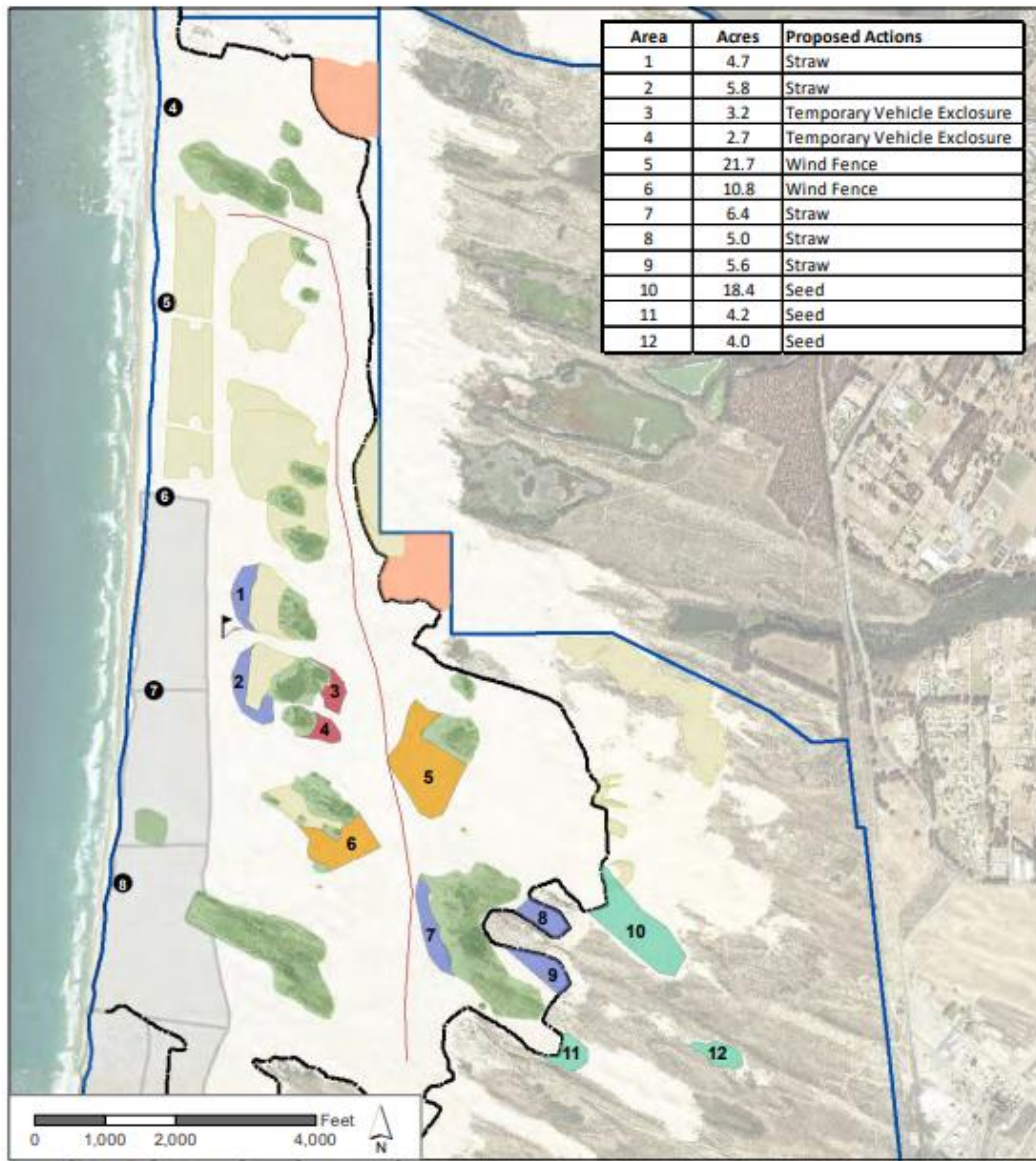
Item Thursday 12a- Appeal by Jeff Edwards of San Luis Obispo County decision granting permit with conditions to the Phillips 66 Company for remediation of 14,520 cu. yds. of soil impacted with hydrocarbons, asbestos, and domestic waste, and revegetation of this impacted area, at existing Phillips 66 oil refinery at 2555 Willow Road, Arroyo Grande, and San Luis Obispo County (AM-SC). The Commission unanimously found that the appeal was not ripe in that it did not contain a substantial issue vis-a-vis the Coastal Act. The staff had recommended that the appeal be rejected. Edwards requested that the Commission require Phillips 66 to provide a permanent beach access across its property connecting to Highway 1 in exchange for the permit.

Figure ES-1 Proposed Project Location



Item Thursday 13 - Application of State Parks to amend CDP No. 3-12-050 (which authorized a five-year program between 2017 and 2022 to reduce dust and particulate matter emissions at State Parks' Oceano Dunes park) to: allow an additional 93 acres of permanent dust control mitigation (with 66 acres in the OHV riding and camping areas and 27 acre outside of these areas) in the dunes, for a total of roughly 250 acres (222 acres in the OHV riding and camping areas and 27 acres outside of these areas). All at Oceano Dunes, which spans the City of Grover Beach and the unincorporated community of Oceano in southern San Luis Obispo County? The Commission approved the addition to the closed areas. Interestingly, the Chairman took time out to note that it is not in the Commission's purview to judge the effectiveness of the dust reduction measures but to simply determine if they are consistent with the Coastal Act. This is

strange, given their prior action last month of shutting the whole area down in 3 years. The decision was partially supported due to “health concerns.” The map below depicts the areas already closed and the new closures approved here.



Source: CDFW, Desert Research Institute 3/11/2021

- 2021 Proposed - Seed (native & sterile grain) (27 acres)
- 2021 Proposed - Straw (27 acres)
- 2021 Proposed - Temporary Vehicle Exclosure (6 acres)
- 2021 Proposed - Wind Fence (33 acres)
- Seasonal Wind Fencing Projects (2019-WF-01 and 2019-WF-02)
- Prior Vegetation Projects
- Existing fenced vegetation islands (186 acres)
- Open riding and camping area boundary fence
- Sand Highway, approx.
- Marker post
- Nesting exclosure
- Park boundary
- S1 wind tower

Exhibit A, Figure 2 - SOA Dust Control Treatment Areas

Oceano Dunes SVRA 2021
 Exhibit 2: State Parks' Proposed Dust Control Program Amendment
 CDP 3-12-050-A2
 Page 1 of 2

Background: The Commission had pressured the State Parks Department to add 93 acres to the hundreds which are already off limits. Thus, the item here approves the action which it had already imposed. This is your State dollars at work. Remember that last month the Commission

ordered shut down of the dunes riding and camping in 3 years. Thus this action is simply further reducing the riding area in the interim.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, April 15, (Completed)

Item B-1: Appointment of Robert Fitzroy as Executive Director of LAFCO. The Commission appointed Fitzroy unanimously. He is regarded as smart and someone who can actually answer the questions which elected officials ask.

Background: Mr. Fitzroy worked previously for County Planning and Building. The Commission agenda item states in part:

The annual salary of the under the Contract is \$166,742 payable in bi-weekly increments. The Contract provides for a salary adjustment to including any consumer price index (CPI) increase provided to other LAFCO employees. In addition, the Contract provides that salary increases may be approved by the Commission based on performance. In addition to salary, the Contract provides for benefits which on an annualized basis will be \$86,396.00.

Mr. Fitzroy is currently the Director of the Community Development Department for the City of Arroyo Grande. Prior employment includes working for the County of San Luis Obispo in the Planning & Building Department with the most recent position being Assistant Director. Prior to his work for the County, Mr. Fitzroy was employed by Rincon Consultants as a Planning & Environmental Impact Consultant. Mr. Fitzroy graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor's Degree and he also has a Masters of Natural Resource Management, Environmental Planning & Public Policy.

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

CAN THE GREAT 'AWOKENING' SUCCEED?

Wokeism is creating a future group of politically incorrect Trotskyites on a proverbial rendezvous with a Mexican ice pick, given that by birth they will never be woke enough for the new Stalinism.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

We all know that we are living in revolutionary times. The origins, ascendance, values, laws, and future of the United States are all under assault by self-described, though accurately described, revolutionaries.

It is a Jacobin, Bolshevik, or Maoist moment. All aspects of life, well beyond politics, are now to be ideologically conditioned. Everything from kindergarten messaging, cartoons, workplace reeducation, and television commercials to college admissions, baseball games, and the airlines are to be “fundamentally transformed” along racial lines.

Long gone is Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream of a colorblind society. Gone, at least at the state level, is confidence in the melting pot of assimilation, integration, and intermarriage (although mixed marriages and multiracial children are at an all-time high).

Gone are even the affirmative-action doctrines of proportional representation and disparate impact. (Yet the two mandates were always arbitrarily applied, in the sense that the U.S. Postal Service and the professional football and basketball leagues never paid much attention to racial quotas based on demographic percentages, which apparently only applied to white and Asian “overrepresentation” elsewhere).

Wokeism, however, is essentially tribal. It seeks to identify particular nonwhite constituencies, unite them not by identical class, not by similar skin color, not by collective similar history, not by shared experience, not by mutual cultural affinities, not by longstanding historical alliances, but simply by two premises:

1) Those of the woke collective are either claimants to being “nonwhite,” and thus victims of racism, or they are architects and supporters of the wokeist agenda, and: 2) they can thereby all either directly leverage reparatory concessions in hiring, admissions, careers, compensation, and general influence or ensure the revolutionary guillotine exempts themselves.

A cynic might add that much of this new racialism is a product of globalteering, and seeks to cater to huge foreign markets—China especially—by both “looking more like the world,” and delighting America’s critics, while appeasing far less moral audiences and consumers abroad than a perceived shrinking market at home.

Still for the woke revolution to succeed, a number of experiments will have to go its way.

Merit Was Always a Sham?

Wokeism assumes that merit was mostly an arbitrary white construct. Its use was to insist on ethnocentric and culturally exclusionary criteria to ostracize the Other. Otherwise, “merit” had not much relation with real competency.

Is that allegation true? We shall soon see.

But note first that few are saying to keep bar-exam grading static, or SAT minimum scores for admission the same, and thereby instead create a Marshall Plan effort in the inner-city to stop the violence, turn failed schools into stellar academies, and honestly critique single-parent households, illegitimacy, and inordinate criminality—as an effort to ensure African American

youth are not just qualified, but better qualified meritocratically than those who are deemed to hold these monopolies.

Instead, take the United Airlines idea that it won't necessarily train the most qualified would-be pilot candidates. Now it will target applicants by racial groupings and, by fiat, limit white males to 2,500 of 5,000 slots in its pilot-training schools. If a nonwhite applicant has less prior experience with flight, scores lower on a test, or compiled a less than competitive high school or college record, it won't matter then. These were all always useless benchmarks apparently.

In today's age of computer-driven avionics, the prerequisite ability to do math, to know something about navigation, to understand computers, or to have the proper temperament to fly a plane doesn't really matter. The fact that thousands will enter pilot training, and soon aircraft controlling, in part on the basis of their gender or race, will not in any way affect the safety or efficacy of travel.

We will know fairly soon the answers to this woke experiment by two criteria: Will pilot error, whether fatal or incidental, increase? And will our elites, whether in Air Force One, or in their own Gulfstreams, follow suit and hire pilots on the basis of their diversity first, and avionics record second.

We can ditto race-based criteria now used at the corporate and financial level, in high-tech, the military, entertainment, education, and in likely everything from movie roles to book contracts to national awards.

Again, such emphases assume that our current managers, professionals, and directors of the last 50 years were heretofore racists or were hired by racists. Or at least they satisfied artificially constructed high standards that bore little relation to actual skills required on the job.

Or they must no longer enjoy percentages in the workplace simply representative of their demographic percentages, but rather in reparatory fashion become underrepresented rather than just demographically correct.

To sum up, in other words, if there were similar race-based/diversity criteria applied to the current meritocratic NBA, would it matter all that much?

If African American athletes were by protocol and statute kept to between, say, 12-20 percent of the NBA player roster, to reflect the black 12-13 percent of the U.S. population, would it make that much difference?

Would the starting L.A. Lakers five, with one African American forward, one white player, a Latino guard, an Asian center, and a Punjabi shooter be all that less exciting, skilled, or successful a team? Are the current standards that accept or reject an NBA player constructed or weighed to favor African Americans that can be judged by their "overrepresentation"?

In the logic of wokeness, would the resulting appeal of a team—that “looks more like” a multiracial America—make up in diversity, unity, cohesion, equity, inclusion, and appeal what it lost in sheer abilities to make plays, dribble, shoot, rebound, dunk, or block? Were the all-white racist and exclusionary teams of the 1940s really no different in skill and ability than the purely meritocratic 2021 teams? Of course not.

Again, we are going to find out, and in a number of professions, what happens when traditional meritocratic standards are replaced by woke guidelines.

Some Racism Is Not Racism

Wokeism assumes asymmetry. That is, it assumes, for recompensatory purposes, that the spirit of slavery remains, that the hatreds propelling Jim Crow from 1879 to 2021 are very much alive, that the civil rights movement of “equality of opportunity” of the last 55 years was more or less a noble dud. And the result is wokeism’s doctrine that reparatory bias is not bias. Or if it is, the people will understand, Animal Farm-style, why some discrimination is good and different from other discrimination that is bad or why some prejudice is more tolerable than other prejudices.

If asymmetrical wokeism then operates with a necessary and correct imbalance accepted by most, then there will be nothing wrong. There will follow no backlash, no social chaos, in using race to denigrate others collectively.

There will be nothing wrong in ad nauseam using “whiteness,” “white privilege,” “white supremacy,” and “white terrorists” in pejoratively stereotypical terms—collectively to apply to all 230 million deemed whites, whether the unemployed welder or the part-time junior college instructor or Bill Gates—in a way that it would be terribly wrong to talk pejoratively and collectively in terms of any other group.

If one collates all the things that have been said over the years about whites in general by Al Sharpton, Louis Farrakhan, or Maxine Waters, and yet more recently in more sophisticated fashion by the new generation of racist-obsessed intellectuals such as Ta-Nehisi Coates, Ibram X. Kendi, Damon Young, or Elie Mystal, and then switched the terms white to black, would there be any outcry that it was becoming wrong to deductively extrapolate from individuals collective values and beliefs, and then, in circular fashion, reapply them to individuals as an innate trait?

We shall soon discover whether this tenet of wokeism—asymmetrical use of collective stereotyping—is widely accepted by 330 million Americans. We will soon see one of three consequences from this unapologetic woke racial generalizing:

- 1) The American people are so inured to their hateful origins and history, that they do not mind at all when whites are collectively demonized as enjoying positions they never earned and thus logically should not continue to enjoy.

Or,

2) Given that no one objects to stereotyping 230 million people, no one objects to anyone stereotyping others on the basis of race, in the manner that once fostered the civil rights movement.

Or,

3) We will all for survival, as Rwanda, the Balkans, and Iraq teach us, group together by first-cousin affinities and tribes. Recalling Hobbes' bellum omnium contra omnes, we will freely stereotype, denigrate, and separate from other groups on the premises that our particular generalizations and deductions are the one and only true and accurate typecasting.



Artur Widak/NurPhoto

Dr. Frankenstein and His Woke Monster

What made a 90 percent white population of the late 1950s and 1960s finally sicken of racial bias? Many things—protests, boycotts, the force of moral persuasion. But three things stand out.

One, segregation and bias were always contrary to the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

Two, these assumptions of racial prejudice were not predicated on any discernible science, logic, or coherent basis other than tribal bias, hatred, and ignorance.

Three, racial unfairness robbed the United States of critical talent by ignoring merit and substituting pseudo-scientific tribal affinities.

Yet by the emerging 1960s did anyone really believe that Perry Como de facto had a better voice than Harry Belafonte or Sammy Davis, Jr., that Sidney Poitier must be a less gifted actor than Frank Sinatra, that Hank Aaron was innately less impressive than Roger Maris, or that Senator

Edward Brooke was less competent an American senator than Senator Herman Talmadge?
Again, no.

Wokeness is returning to such tribal separation and crackpot categorization on the one assumption that its arbitrary rules will not alienate Americans as they finally did in the past.

So now are we to believe that non-whites can pick the race of their future roommates in colleges without audit or complaint? Farm aid shall be doled out to all except whites? Welfare in Oakland must exclude poor white recipients? Vaccinations will be targeted to non-white groups first? Will 330 million Americans grow to accept that racial typology will govern all state policy—in following a noble and successful historical precedent?

In each mass shooting, we shall broadcast the horror only if the shooter is white and his victims not so, but mute the story if the opposite should be true?

For noble purposes, criminal suspects shall not be identified by race unless they are white? It will be fine in advance to announce the gender and race of a vice-presidential candidate that mostly alone will determine the selection? We will massage data, and suppress or publicize statistics depending on their usefulness to the woke movement?

If blacks are disproportionately responsible for hate crimes against Asian Americans, we will keep still, or better yet nobly lie that whites are.

Such wokeness assumes that the Eastern Europeans never tired of their ministry-of-truth propaganda, that the cynical Soviet citizen never ignored Pravda's assertions, or that Cubans really believe the Castro communiques.

Wokeness is either unaware of, or unconcerned with, the seething religious, caste, and racial tensions that plague India, or wrecked Lebanon, or unwound Yugoslavia. That is, the woke believe their Byzantine books of race-based exceptions, exemptions, and absolutions will convince 330 million Americans that segregation, or official untruth, are permitted, given historical circumstances and the common good.

But they will not.

Finally, wokeness takes for granted that its elite white Dr. Frankenstein architects will always control the prejudicial woke monster they created—on the assumption that one will never devour its creators. But history suggests ideologies often do just that.

Over the last two weeks, many of America's most elite colleges seem to have deliberately restricted white admissions to around 30-40 percent of their incoming classes—on the altar of diversity and post-George Floyd wokeness. Yet, not every high-earning, bicoastal white liberal can give \$10 million to Yale or Stanford or sire a likely future Major League Baseball star.

For the woke white elite, then, it will be hard to find some exemption from the rules that 70 percent of the population will be artificially recalibrated to 30 percent of the successful admissions.

A white liberal may have said “Who cares?” when hard-working Asians who represent six percent of the U.S. population were deliberately restricted to no more than 30-40 percent of the nation’s “best” colleges. But now? Will he really preen, “Bravo, my super-prepped, hyper-achieving prodigy got rejected at all the good schools and I’m so proud he took one for the woke team?”

Or what happens to the wannabe woke CEO who offered every sort of humiliating “unearned” confession, but nevertheless was still of the wrong color? Or what will be the mindset of the progressive, white male lieutenant colonel who found that his loud wokeness was mostly useful in preparing him to better understand why he should not be promoted to brigadier general?

It is OK for woke whites to be constantly accused of “unearned privilege” as long as their bicoastal billets were tolerably reduced by just 20 percent due to racial gerrymandering. But does their magnanimity extend to a 30-40 percent white jizyah, that cuts so close to progressive homes?

Will the brilliant actress in a blockbuster classic mumble, if even just privately, that she was the wrong color to be nominated as best actress?

Sure, some may feel that these are elite psychodramas. But for that reason, they will become mostly the angsts of the Left. The liberal white elite class engineered a system of woke racialism that they assumed rested on some sort of unspoken 70 percent white/12 percent black/10 percent Latino/six percent Asian, and two percent “other” formula that would always still leave them plenty of spoils while the unhappy consequences fell instead on Dotty the Deplorable, Charlie Chump, Cliff the Clinger, and Irene Irredeemable. They did not sign up for a 30-40 percent white allotment that cuts into the white woke; that is, the good and the morally superior whites.

So this, too, will be another of wokeism’s greatest tests, when elite writers, professors, actors, lawyers, newsroom grandees, and CEO magnificoes learn that they, too, can be of the wrong color under the new tribal prejudice they fostered.

Wokeism is creating a future group of politically incorrect Trotskyites on a proverbial rendezvous with a Mexican ice ax, given that by birth they will never be woke enough for the new Stalinism.

Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends

related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of *The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won* and *The Case for Trump*. This article first appeared in the April 12, 2021 edition of *American Greatness*.

WHITE MALE CHRISTIANS

The central target of the vicious Marxist war on America.

BY DAVID HOROWITZ



*This article is excerpted from David Horowitz’s newly published book, **The Enemy Within: How a Totalitarian Movement Is Destroying America**. Mark Levin has described *The Enemy Within* as “a book for all patriots who understand that our country is in a fight for its life.”*

Today Americans are more divided than at any time since the Civil War. So deep and intractable are the divisions that our most fundamental rights – to religious liberty, freedom of speech, and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty - are under relentless attack. We can no longer even agree on so basic a principle as the need for a legal immigration process to protect our sovereignty and civic culture.

The two parties are now guided by outlooks that are so divergent their adherents seem to inhabit alternative universes. For four years slander has been a weapon of first resort for the “resistance” to President Trump, and its goal his removal from office in advance of an election. This is a political agenda at odds with the core premise of our democratic system.

The effect of the anti-Trump resistance has been to all but eliminate the politics of compromise and respect, which are the essential components of a democracy, and specifically the democracy America’s Founders created. Ending politics at the water’s edge and presenting a common front to America’s enemies, long the hallmark of a loyal opposition, has been cast aside by Democrats bent on sabotaging Trump’s presidency, while ignoring the effects of their defection on America’s security.

In the course of the anti-Trump wars, we have become two nations with little shared ground for agreement on the core issues that previously defined us: whether individuals should be judged on their merits, or on the basis of their skin color, gender and sexual orientation. Whether “resistance” to a duly elected government is compatible with a democratic society or a dagger aimed at its heart.

The source of these conflicts is a reactionary ideology usually referred to as “Identity Politics,” which has engulfed the Democrat Party and reversed its liberal instincts. It is an ideology that is racial and collectivist, that privileges groups over individuals, and that demonizes those who fall on the wrong side of its social equations. As an ideology, Identity Politics is fundamentally at odds with America’s core principles of individual freedom, accountability and equality, which have been the foundations of the nation’s progress until now.

Identity Politics is often referred to as Political Correctness, but it is more accurately understood as Cultural Marxism – the idea that American society is characterized by oppressive hierarchies, and thus divided into warring races, genders and classes. Political Correctness is a term that describes a left-wing party line. It was coined by the mass murderer Mao Zedong in the 1930s to keep his followers under the heel of his party. Adherents of the progressive party line today regard white Americans, males, Christians and Jews, as “oppressors,” and themselves as warriors for social justice.

Communist Origins of Identity Politics

According to Wikipedia, the term “Identity Politics” first appeared in a 1978 manifesto written by self-described black feminist “revolutionaries,” who were members of the “Combahee River Collective. The manifesto proclaimed their unalterable hostility to the American system:

“Black women’s extremely negative relationship to the American political system (a system of white male rule) has always been determined by our membership in two oppressed racial and sexual castes.... [F]ocusing upon our own oppression is embodied in the concept of **identity politics**. We believe that the most profound and potentially most radical politics come directly out of our own identity,..”

Citing their debt to lifelong Communist **apparatchik** Angela Davis, the Combahee radicals paid homage in their manifesto to the Marxist roots of their outlook and its anti-American agenda: “We realize that the liberation of all oppressed peoples necessitates the destruction of the political-economic systems of capitalism and imperialism as well as patriarchy.”^[1] In other words, identity politics originated as an anti-American, Marxist ideology dedicated to America’s destruction.

Identity politics is a totalitarian ideology that regards all aspects of human activity as political, therefore requiring management and control. As an outlook, it erases individuals by assigning them to the categories, “oppressor” and “oppressed,” thus ignoring their particular circumstances, achievements, failures, and choices. Individuals are judged first and foremost on the basis of their race, gender and sexual orientation.

These categories take precedence over their individual origins, attitudes and deeds.

Identity Politics is based on the false premise that America is a society in which people are consigned to “castes,” which define their roles, and stamp them for life. In reality, the opposite is true. America is the most upwardly mobile society in human history. All its citizens are afforded the right to climb the ladder of opportunity, and also to fall from its economic and social heights.

Identity Politics is a collectivist ideology that is the antithesis of what has been America’s self-conception and aspiration since its founding – the belief that individuals are created equal and are to be judged on their merits not their origins or on characteristics they cannot alter. Identity Politics ignores the dedication and sacrifices that millions of Americans of all races and genders have made to defend the principles of “created equal,” and “born free;” and ignores the actual American achievement: the creation of a nation through two centuries of struggle that is today the most inclusive and tolerant, multi-ethnic and multi-racial society in human history.

In one form or another Identity Politics now forms the core conviction of America’s political progressives and the Democrat Party. Its reactionary outlook was recently featured in an ABC News column by Matthew Dowd, a sometime Republican, current Democrat, and charter member of the Washington establishment. Dowd’s column appeared – not coincidentally - two days after the conclusion of a ferocious party-line battle over the Supreme Court nomination of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, in which Identity Politics played an ugly and defining role (see Chapter Five below).

The headline of Dowd’s column was a summation of its thesis: **“Us white male Christians need to step back and give others room to lead.”**[2] In normal times, the transparent bigotry of this remark and its agenda would have been sufficient to make American hairs stand on end. But bigotry on behalf of groups that are designated as victims of oppression has become so ingrained in the politics of the left, and so influential in the political culture at large, that Dowd’s comment passed unnoticed. In Dowd’s view – which is the view of leftists generally, what is wrong with America is that there are too many white males – white Christian males - occupying positions of power and influence, and allegedly keeping diverse, “marginalized” and “under-served,” minorities ‘in their place.’”

The idea that blacks are “marginalized” when they are obviously front and center in America’s culture and consciousness, as well as in the distribution of race-based privileges and benefactions, is absurd. Recognizing these facts is not to deny that a significant but minority segment of the black population is poor and lives at the social margins. But skin color can hardly be an explanation for their plight when the majority of black Americans are comfortably in the middle-class and better off than the populations of any black-run society on earth.

The view that blacks still suffer systemic racist oppression in America, and in order to advance need white elites “to step back,” is a fiction that provides an excuse for failure, while imbuing social justice advocates with a false sense of moral superiority. The Matthew Dowds of the world assume the posture of warriors against injustice, which leads them to condemn not only the American present but the American founding and its framework of individual freedom.

Progressives dismiss the creation of America as the malicious work of slave-owning white Christian males. This is an incitement to dismantle that most successful project in creating a

multi-racial, multi-ethnic society on record. It is also historically false. Those same Christian males were responsible for the first moral condemnation of slavery in 3,000 years. They organized and led a pioneering campaign to abolish slavery in the Western hemisphere, created a political framework, which laid the groundwork for the integration of all Americans in a diverse polity with equal rights for all citizens regardless of creed or color. Unfortunately, the attack on these ideas and this legacy is now the core curriculum of America's schools and the reigning bias of its popular culture, thanks to the dominant presence of progressives in the nation's teaching professions, entertainment industry, tax-exempt advocacy culture and media.

Even though America is an electoral democracy whose Constitution guarantees that the rights of any citizen are equal to the rights of any other, progressives believe – and believe passionately – that America is actually governed by racial and gender “hierarchies” that keep non-white, non-male citizens down. These hierarchies are said to oppress minorities, and exclude them from rising through “glass ceilings” and other invisible barriers erected by a white male “patriarchy” to keep them “marginalized” and subordinate.

These claims are as factually baseless and politically destructive as the Marxist ideas that inspired them. Nothing could constitute a more direct assault on America's founding principles, which regard every citizen as unique, equal before the law, and accountable for themselves. Is it actually the case that whites stand in the way of blacks and women in their quest for authority and power? That white males need to step back to make room for others to solve the nation's problems? These are peculiar claims about a democracy in which women and minorities constitute a majority of the population and – thanks to the patriarchal Founders and subsequent male majorities – are constitutionally guaranteed rights identical to those of other citizens – whites and males included. It is even more peculiar coming on the heels of an eight-year presidency whose chief executive, Barack Obama, national security chief, Susan Rice, and chief law enforcement officers, Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch, were all black Americans, along with thousands of elected officials at the national, state and local levels.

Among the women and blacks who have administered America's foreign policy as secretaries of state in the last two decades are Colin Powell, Condoleeza Rice, Madeleine Albright and Hillary Clinton. As a measure of this achievement, consider that there is not a single majority black, or brown, or Asian nation in the world that has elected a white president or made a white person its chief law enforcement authority, or entrusted one with its national security and foreign policy.

To justify his hostility to white Christian males and America's founding principles, Matthew Dowd offered this sweeping, historically illiterate statement: “In the great span of world history, nearly all change and progress has come from an under-served and out-of-power group pushing, prodding, and pounding on those who hold power to expand it to include a wider and more diverse population.” These are clichés of the left, commonly deployed to energize its troops. However, few statements so brief in nature can be said to contain so many obvious falsehoods. Factually speaking, the opposite is nearer to the truth. In the great span of world history, virtually all civilizational advances and social progress have been the work of groups that were already socially powerful, and that shared ethnicity, religion and gender with the ruling groups they overthrew.^[3]

The forces of progress have generally not been what Dowd describes as the “under-served,” or as representatives of a more “diverse population.” In the West, unquestionably the greatest social progress of the last 250 years has been the creation of liberal societies that support the principles of individual liberty, equality, tolerance and inclusion. The groundwork of liberty was laid by documents like Magna Carta, which was the work of a group that belonged to the same social stratum as the authority whose power it curtailed: white, Christian, male, and aristocratic. The general progress of liberty was advanced by England and America, majority white Christian nations that led the world in abolishing the 3,000-year-old institution of slavery, which is still practiced in black and Muslim Africa today.

This progress was made possible by principles and actions that originally were entirely the work of white Christian males, who were under no pressure from “diverse,” “under-served” and out of power groups to do what they did. There were no successful slave revolts in North America. Once slavery was abolished by white males, freed black Americans spear-headed a civil rights movement that eventually ended segregation and institutional discrimination. But they did so in an indispensable alliance with white Americans, who put their lives on the line and provided the financial and political support that made it possible to overthrow the southern regime of segregation and Jim Crow.

The U.S. Constitution does not contain the words “white,” “black,” “male” or “female,” precisely because the Founders believed they were creating a society in which equality would eventually prevail. It took nearly two hundred years, hundreds of thousands of lives, and the greatest social revolution in history, to bring about the changes to realize that dream. It is a grim irony, therefore, that for the last fifty years progressives and the Democrat Party, which claim to represent “under-represented” and diverse communities, have been working to turn back this clock, and reverse the gains of the civil rights movement by introducing racial and gender categories and quotas into virtually every aspect of social life, from college admissions to job applications to positions on the United States Supreme Court.

It is this progressive left attack on America’s fundamental principles that is the source of the irreconcilable conflicts and ugly passions that are currently tearing the nation’s fabric apart, and are the subject of this book.

Notes:

[1] “As Angela Davis points out in ‘Reflections on the Black Woman's Role in the Community of Slaves,’ Black women have always embodied, if only in their physical manifestation, an adversary stance to white male rule and have actively resisted its inroads upon them and their communities in both dramatic and subtle ways.”

[2] When I published an article on Dowd’s column, his response was to ban me from his Twitter feed. This is characteristic of the left which rarely chooses to engage an actual argument, responding, either with defamatory name-calling or silence.

[3] A classic instance of this is the French Revolution. Cf. Simon Schama’s classic **Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution**, 1989.

This article first appeared in the FrontPage Magazine of April 12, 2021. The David Horowitz Freedom Center is unique among conservative think tanks whose emphasis is on public policy

and institutional reform in that it sees its role as that of a battle tank, geared to fight a war that many still don't recognize. For 27 years, since its founding in 1988, the Center has been warning that the political left has declared war on America and its constitutional system, and is willing to collaborate with America's enemies abroad and criminals at home to bring America down. For most of those years the Center was a voice crying in the wilderness with few willing to recognize the threat from the enemy within, a fifth column force that was steadily expanding its influence within the Democratic Party. With the election of a lifetime radical to the White House in 2008, the perceptions of conservatives began to change. But the Center remains unique as an organization dedicated to the war and to developing strategies to win it.

MERCHANTS OF REVOLUTION

BY CHRISTOPHER F RUSSO

CALIFORNIA'S ETHNIC STUDIES INITIATIVES TRAIN CHILDREN IN MARXIST THEORY – AND OPPOSITION TO THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

California public schools are embarking on a new experiment: education as social justice. Earlier this year, the state Department of Education approved an ethnic studies model curriculum, and individual school districts have begun to implement programs that advocate “decolonizing” the United States and “liberating” students from capitalism, patriarchy, and settler colonialism.

This will likely come as a surprise to most California residents, who may be familiar with the movement's euphemisms—“ethnic studies,” “educational equity,” “culturally responsive teaching”—but do not understand the philosophical and political premises of these programs. As the state and many school districts begin to implement the state ethnic studies curriculum, however, details are emerging.

I have obtained documents from one such program, the Santa Clara County Office of Education's Ethnic Studies Initiative, that paint a disturbing picture of the ethnic studies curriculum and the activists leading the charge. According to the documents and to sources within the district, the Office of Education held a series of teacher-training sessions on how to deploy ethnic studies in the classroom. The leaders, including district staff, an advisor for the state Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, and a professor from San Jose State University, encouraged teachers to inject left-wing politics into the classroom and to hide controversial materials from parents.

According to slides and contemporaneous notes from the session, the Santa Clara Office of Education began the presentation with a “land acknowledgement,” claiming that Santa Clara County and the public school system “occupy the unceded territory of the Muwekma Ohlone Nation, the sovereign nation and original people of the skies, land, and waters.” The premise of this ritual, which has become common in progressive organizations, is that the American

government, founded by white settlers, is an illegitimate colonial power that should return the land to the Native American tribes.

Next, Jorge Pacheco, president of the California Latino School Boards Association and advisor for the state Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, presented the movement's conceptual framework. Pacheco explained that the ethnic studies curriculum is based on the work of Brazilian Marxist Paulo Freire, who invented the concept of the "pedagogy of the oppressed," which holds that students must be educated to understand their oppression and develop the practical skills, or "praxis," to challenge and eventually overthrow their oppressors. Pacheco acknowledged that the Marxist underpinnings to ethnic studies "scare people away" but insisted that teachers must be "grounded in the correct politics to educate students."

Pacheco then argued that the United States is a political regime based on "settler colonialism," which he describes as a "system of oppression" that "occupies and usurps land/labor/resources from one group of people for the benefit of another." The settler colonialist regime, Pacheco continues, is "not just a vicious thing of the past, but [one that] exists as long as settlers are living on appropriated land." The white colonialist regime of the United States is a "parasitic system" responsible for domestic violence, drug overdoses, and other social problems. In a related PowerPoint slide, Pacheco presented examples of this oppression, including "men exploiting women," "white people exploiting people of color," and "rich people exploiting poor people." What is the solution? Pacheco argues that teachers must "awaken [students] to the oppression" and lead them to "decodify" and eventually "destroy" the dominant political regime. The first step in this process is to help students "get into the mind of a white man" such as Christopher Columbus and analyze "what ideology led these white male settlers to be power and land hungry and justify stealing indigenous land through genocide." Pacheco describes this process as transforming students into "activist intellectuals" who "decodify systems of oppression" into their component parts, including "white supremacy, patriarchy, classism, genocide, private property, and God."

Teachers must be careful, though: Pacheco and the other panelists suggested that local educators hide this revolutionary pedagogy from administrators and families. "District guidelines and expectations are barriers," said one panelist. "[We] have to be extra careful about what is being said, since we can't just say something controversial now that we're in people's homes [because of remote learning]." In addition, teachers must acknowledge that they, too, can become oppressors in the classroom. "Inherently, [it is the] oppressor who sets the rules." Teachers must "recognize [their] own privilege and [their] own bias" in order to align themselves with the oppressed and work toward dismantling systems of oppression.

The goal, according to the presenters, is to "develop, pilot, and refine an adaptable and scalable Ethnic Studies program design plan and curriculum that can serve as standalone courses or be integrated into core content areas." This is already happening. Last month, the California Department of Education approved the statewide curriculum, which will bring the "pedagogy of the oppressed" to schools throughout the state. But for the movement's leaders, the goal is to go further. At the end of the presentation in Santa Clara, Pacheco argued that schools should start transforming children into "activist intellectuals," beginning in first grade. "[It's] never too

young,” he said, arguing that educators should be “cashing in on kids’ inherent empathy” in order to reshape their ideological foundations.

This is a dystopian project. As these pedagogical theories make their way into the classroom, California schools will be teaching millions of children to hate their own country. They will be oriented toward the work of “decolonizing,” “deconstructing,” and “dismantling” their own society. The ethnic studies activists grasp the destabilizing nature of their project—and believe that it provides them leverage for their broader political ends. During the Santa Clara presentation, Pacheco and the other instructors provided the audience with a handout quoting Freire: “Critical consciousness, they say, is anarchic. Others add that critical consciousness may lead to disorder. Some, however, confess: Why deny it? I was afraid of freedom. I am no longer afraid!” Though they are coy about their ultimate intention, the ethnic studies activists seek, at a minimum, a moral revolution—and, out of such tumults, political revolutions often follow.

California voters may not realize it, but they have installed a radical movement in the state educational bureaucracy.

Christopher F. Rufo is a contributing editor of City Journal. Sign up for his weekly newsletter and watch his latest documentary, America Lost, which tells the story of three “forgotten American cities.” This article is part of an ongoing series on critical race theory. This article first appeared in City Journal of April 13, 2021.



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