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San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE AUGUST 1 - 7, 2021

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



12th Annual

DINNER & FUNDRAISER

**2020-2021 What the Heck Happened?
There has never been a more crucial time
To Raise the Lantern of Liberty**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
ALEX MADONNA EXPO CENTER**

5:00 pm Social Hour, Open Bar

6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner including Wine

\$125 a person

\$1,250 a table, seating for 10

For tickets:

On-Line Reservations & Payment can be made **HERE** at
www.colabslo.org/events.asp

or

Mail your check to

COLAB SLO County, PO Box 13601, SLO, CA 93406

Cocktail Attire Optional

More info at (805) 548-0340 or colabslo@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

SLOCOG MEETS AUGUST 4TH

EMERGENT ISSUES

SUMMER DOLDRUMS END IN HILL BRIBE STORM

OTHER DOMINOS WILL BEGIN TO FALL - SEE PAGE 8



GROWING SUPPORT FOR DIABLO RETENTION

COVID INFECTION RATE TIPS UP A LITTLE

SLOCOG

CRITICAL RACE REPORT

\$188 MILLION BIKE PATH PLAN

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

OTHER AGENCIES DORMANT

COLAB IN DEPTH

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SAVE CALIFORNIA TO SAVE YOUR HERITAGE

SPECIAL SECTION THIS WEEK



SOME OF US AREN'T RUNNING AWAY

BY MIKE BROWN

WHILE SURVEY SHOWS CALIFORNIANS
WOULD PREFER LIFE ELSEWHERE, MEDIA
REPORT CALIFORNIA DOING JUST FINE
BUT THE ACTUAL DATA REVEALS THE SAD TRUTH

BY LEE OHANIAN

CRY, THE BELOVED CALIFORNIA

California's elites feign concern over prejudice and the fate of the planet. In reality, their agenda evinces a misanthropy that would make an Afrikaner blush.

BY EDWARD RING

I RECALL BECAUSE I REMEMBER!

BY ANDY CALDWELL

SONG OF THE REDWOOD TREE

EXCERPTS FROM WALT WHITMAN'S CLASSIC ODE TO CALIFORNIA

24 YEARS AFTER TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST

RICHARD HENRY DANA'S FAMOUS TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA IN 1859

SF POOP PATROL



TOAST TO CALIFORNIA

AN ALMA MATER FOR ALL

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE 9:00AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2021 (Scheduled)

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) meeting of Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 8:30 AM (Scheduled)

Item G-1: SLOCOG Equity Assessment. Staff has been processed through interviews and training. The consultants conclude in some very abstract and circumlocutious language that SLO County is primarily a white upper middle-class community and that the SLOCOG staff pretty much consists of a white technocratic bureaucracy. This means that the agency's elected leadership and top management are not sufficiently concerned with the issue. That bureaucracy,

according to the consultants, has not been sufficiently trained (indoctrinated) in doctrines of critical race theory and equity of outcomes, which are camouflaged in the report language as issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Some quotes:

1. *SLO County is **lacking** in in both racial/ethnic and socioeconomic diversity. When looking at averages, the socioeconomic status in the county as a whole is rather high. This means that the State of California’s definition of “Disadvantaged Communities” does not apply to any communities within the County of San Luis Obispo. Though it is important to understand that race and socioeconomic status do not always overlap, it is also true that nationally, there are larger numbers of racial and ethnic minorities in lower socioeconomic groups. As a result, the small numbers of racial and ethnic minorities in the area may be masking additional economic need that does exist in the community.*

2. *Many organizations are beginning to find that some longstanding practices, and/or value hierarchies have inadvertently created barriers toward work in DEI areas. Currently, some perceived needs exist for staff in terms of their ability to do more in the area of DEI. Themes found in comments relayed perception of lack of knowledge and the need for more training to address this, a concern about not having time or funding to engage in this work or training, and a concern that there has not been action in resolving these issues to date (one might argue, to this last point, that the current equity assessment is an initial action that is now being taken)*

3. *The demographics of SLO County in general present some challenges in hiring a diverse group of workers at any organization. Nevertheless, there are ways to attract a more diverse workforce to individual organizations. Before going further, it is important to note that considering race, gender, or other social identity facets in making a hiring decision is prohibited by Proposition 209 in the State of California. Thus, it is important to focus on expertise as opposed to demographics; people of any race, gender, or other social identity facet can have expertise in areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), cultural competence, and other related skills.*

4. *Multiple research sources suggest that bias can creep into the hiring process in ways that are both **insidious and often unconscious**. To address these issues, a best practice might be to require all members of a search committee (or the hiring manager) to address these issues in a preliminary meeting prior to reviewing applications or conducting interviews.*

The following table was generated from the Needs Assessment data as topics selected as desired future training, sorted by interest.

| Training Topic | Count (out of 10 responses) |
|---|--|
| How to deal with –isms during public meetings or when working in the community (e.g., racism, sexism, etc.) | 7 |
| More on Environmental Justice | 7 |
| Microaggressions | 6 |
| Outreach to Non-White Communities | 6 |
| Cultural Appropriation | 4 |
| LGBTQ+ issues | 3 |
| Antiracism | 3 |
| Non-binary gender and pronouns | 3 |
| Language Learning (Spanish, Mixtec, etc.) | 3 |
| More on implicit bias | 2 |

To sensitize staff, the SLOCOG could run a rotating employee exchange program sending the white employees to the Southern California Council of Governments (SCAG) in LA for a year and bringing in minority employees from SCAG to serve in their place. Require that the white employees live in Compton for the year - and that they may not have a car and must use mass transit and/or bikes. It's a quick commute on light rail to SCAG headquarters. Of course, the elected Board members should get to participate too. Leaders should never require the rank and file to do things that they have not done or will not do.

Background: Back on June 2nd the SLOCOG Board received an interim presentation on this project. There were and are many questions, none of which have been answered in this week's report. The staff participated in training to reveal if they harbor any unconscious biases, as well as to inform staff how to respond to biases of others and how to address biases in the workplace.

The write-up does not reveal whether any bias was found, how serious it is, or which officials exhibit it. According to the write-up, there will be some sort of final report when the process is complete. It is not clear if any of the elected SLOCOG members took part or if the training is mandatory.

The theory is that if overt or unconscious bias exists, it could compromise various recommendations related to transportation plans and financing and their impacts on protected classes. The Equity Assessment project officially began on January 12th, 2021. Within weeks, a series of four one-hour trainings were scheduled. Kari Mansager, Cal Poly's Interim Director of Wellbeing, led these training sessions every Friday between February 19th through March 12th. Both staff and Board members had the opportunity to attend. The sessions included: How many staff and Board members attended? Which Board members?

- Part I: Implicit Bias 101-This workshop brought attention to the unconscious biases and provided some strategies for overcoming their impact at work and in relationships.*
- Part II: Stepping In and Stepping Up-This workshop continued the work from Part I by focusing on responding to biases individually and from others. Participants had the opportunity to dig deeper to develop and practice ways to respond to bias, even if the bias was unintentional.*
- Part III: Overcoming Implicit Bias-This was the final piece in the series. The training utilized information from Parts I and II which guided participants through various strategies of examining and addressing biases in the workplace*
- Environmental Justice-This workshop covered the basics of identity and community. Participants discussed environmental issues in local communities, and the systems that create environmental racism. Participants also examined historical and current environmental racism examples, victories won through community organizing, and ways that organizing can build long-term climate change solutions in communities. Focus Group Meetings in March, staff focus group meetings were scheduled to include the Leadership, Planning/Rideshare, Programming, Admin, and Equity Teams.*

These meetings established baseline information about what is already being done at SLOCOG and the desired outcomes of the Equity Assessment. Staff was given an additional opportunity to provide feedback by completing a web-based needs assessment.

Suggestions from the information collected in both the focus group meetings and needs assessment will be included in the final report. SLOCOG hired local Cal Poly administrators to serve as instructor consultants. It is not clear who was paid what, as the write-up is confusing. As noted in the yellow highlighted section above, Cal Poly Interim Director of Well Being (your tax dollars and tuition at work) did training sessions, and another Cal Poly Administrator, Jennifer Pedrotti, served as “Equity Consultant.” The write-up indicates that these services cost \$15,000.

Dr. Jennifer Teramoto Pedrotti was selected as the Equity consultant. Dr. Teramoto Pedrotti is the Associate Dean for Diversity and Curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts and Professor in the Department of Psychology and Child Development at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She currently serves as the Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs in the Office of University Diversity & Inclusion at Cal Poly. Dr. Teramoto Pedrotti included three main tasks leading up the Equity Assessment Report: training, staff focus group meetings, and document and process review.

Cal State VPs are generally paid in the mid-\$250,000s, with benefits and special pays adding another \$120,000, for an average annual compensation of \$370,000. It is not certain what Pedrotti is paid, as she is listed as interim and there is no 2020 nor 2021 data posted as yet. Her salary and benefits in her prior position totaled \$176,024 back in 2019. How many hours of training did she provide? What happens if an employee is found to be consciously biased? Pedrotti appears to be the spouse of County Senior Planner Brian Pedrotti.

At least they keep it all in the County family. Dr. Pedrotti has received high ratings from her students. Brian Pedrotti has managed complex permitting applications at the County. He recommended against a cluster subdivision on a small portion of property owned by the Leticia Winery in Nipomo. For the \$15,000, how many hours of training and consulting did SLOCOG receive?

“YOUR TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS AT WORK”

Item G-5: SLOCOG to adopt \$188 million Bike Plan. The Board will be asked to include a \$188 million multi-year long term plan to build and operate more bike paths and lanes. The actual action is to amend the Regional Active Transportation Plan to include the updated bike plan. One key purpose is to encourage more people to use bikes to get more exercise. All you yokels eating steak and driving around in \$50,000 pickups are not displaying good health habits. That’s why it’s the Regional “Active” Transportation Plan.

Another purpose is to continue to attempt to wean people away from cars and onto a mixture of bikes and mass transit. As the progressive left destroys our energy sources and reduces the standard of living, people will be forced to bike so they might as well get used to it now. The whole place could regress to Saigon in the 1960’s – but no Vespas or motorized rickshaws please.

As SLOCOG Director Peter Rodgers states in the Preface to the plan:

While the car represents freedom to many, we have awakened to the truth that creating our communities around cars and retrofitting our cities to put the needs of driving first have had a negative impact on our personal health and well-being and our sense of community, and a destructive impact on our environment. I believe this plan, the very first of its kind for our organization, presents us with the opportunity to break down barriers to active, healthy transportation that unfortunately have been planned into existence, often with unforeseen consequences.



Saigon 1965

Huh?

EMERGENT ISSUES HIGHLIGHTS

Item 1 - High Profile Cannabis Businessman Helios Dayspring Admits Bribing Former Supervisor Adam Hill in Plea Deal

DOMINOS BEGIN TO FALL

In a week full of political and personal schadenfreude,¹ remember that there is much more to come. You can hear the sphincters snapping shut as various Democratic Party leaders, mayors, councilmen, bureaucrats, and facilitators realize that they are likely to be next. The pattern of pay to play, patronage, and campaign contribution lubricity is now open for investigation. The snitches will surely be coming of the woodwork to attempt to save themselves.

Also remember that this is not an indictment where a prosecutor must prove the case, but instead is a judicially approved guilty plea agreement in which Dayspring agreed to turn state's evidence and to provide any and all information that he may possess related to cannabis corruption or other corruption in SLO County (or other areas for that matter) forever.

Any staff people who did Hill's bidding or played favorites with cannabis operators will be having trouble sleeping at night. Hopefully the FBI is interviewing staff people in the County and various cities such as Grover Beach and San Luis Obispo about any instances in which a mayor, councilmen, or supervisor contacted them directly about a pending cannabis permit – especially retail dispensaries. Such contacts are in violation of operating procedures and must be reported to the city manager or County CAO as a matter of course.

Clearly the disclosures in the plea agreement are designed to start the ball rolling and are only the tip of the iceberg. The \$35,000 of bribes plus a few joints given to Hill are chump change.

¹ Schadenfreude is the experience of pleasure, joy, or self-satisfaction that comes from learning of or witnessing the troubles, failures, or humiliation of another.

Dayspring's campaign contributions and hosting of campaign events places a huge black cloud over the Democratic Party, which deliberately failed to police itself as Hill ran amok for years.

Meanwhile, they had the audacity to chastise the Board of Supervisors' conservative majority for not apologizing for a knuckle headed public commenter at a public meeting who frivolously accused the then Clerk-Recorder-Election official, Tommy Gong, of being a Chinese Communist during random public comment. Where is the Democratic Party's apology for promoting and defending Hill for 14 years?

Equally guilty is the San Luis Obispo Tribune Newspaper which completely failed over more than a decade in its duty to investigate, objectively report, and expose public corruption. The paper was so in the tank for Hill and the county progressive machine that it was totally blinded by its own editorial ideology and incompetence.

Where is its apology after not only failing in its journalistic responsibility, but viciously excoriating Investigative Reporter Karen Viele of the Cal Coast News who tenaciously and fiercely investigated Hill's and others' calumny² and corruption for over a decade. Her heroic work led to the FBI investigation.

Separately but relatedly, the Tribune also joined the Gibson-inspired leftist chorus by chastising the Board of Supervisors' conservative majority for not hypocritically and symbolically groveling at the feet of Woke Correctness in the Gong matter. They even amplified Gibson's false charges that the Board majority drove Gong out. As we have reported here, Gong was already in the loading chute for a new position in Contra Costa County months before the public comment incident. When will the Tribune apologize and take responsibility for these deliberate errors?

Relatedly, what about the charges that former officials of the Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) waived requirements and provided vehicles to various private sector contractors for favors? Hill was an influential meddling member of the IWMA Board. Those from the past and any who remain from the Hill era should be interviewed about private direction from individual IWMA Board members.

The County's arrogant Democratic-Progressive-Socialist Party is rotten and must be repudiated at every opportunity. A good start will be to throw out Governor Newsome as a warning to the others.

Those businesses which advertise in the Tribune (it appears that their largest contributors are cannabis companies) are simply funding their own and others' eventual economic destruction.



² The making of false and defamatory statements about someone in order to damage their reputation; slander.

Item 2 - California's Nuke Follies by Steven Hayward

See last week's Update for the full Sac Bee editorial and related impacts reported by Steven Hayward here. Hayward is nationally syndicated and is pointing out the failed State and local policies with respect to nuclear and Diablo in particular. This is no longer just a local or California issue. The climatists can't have it both ways. Without nuclear power, reducing greenhouse gases to adopted State and Federal policies will devastate society economically.

Of all of the endless follies of California these days—I know, it's hard to enumerate all of them let alone put them in rank order—closing our last nuclear power plant at [Diablo Canyon](#) ranks perhaps at the top of the list. It provides more than 10 percent of California's electricity, and can run 24/7, unlike wind and solar power. As one of the last nuclear power plants built and brought online in the 1980s, it easily has another 40 years of potential service left in it, if not more.

The perverse energy policy of California, which excludes nuclear along with any new dams from its legal definition and mandates for clean or "renewable" energy, virtually compelled the closure of Diablo Canyon, and the corporate socialists who run PG&E simply lied to the public that they can make up the shortfall with wind and solar power and magic batteries. In fact, they will make up electricity shortfalls in large part with natural gas and power imports from other states. It will likely cause California's CO2 emissions (and utility rates) to rise, just as closing nukes in Germany has halted and perhaps reversed the greenhouse gas emissions decline in Germany, while doubling their electricity prices.

*Even the very liberal **Sacramento Bee** has figured out that closing Diablo Canyon is a mistake. It [editorialized](#) earlier this week (and hat tip to our lefty friends at the Breakthrough Institute for breaking through to the **Bee**'s editorial board):*

The closure of Diablo Canyon and the driving forces behind the decommission project show that California's ambitions are once again being humbled by the constraints of reality. The prospects of delivering on the promises of the 2016 agreement have sharply divided scientists, analysts and think tanks around the state.

This Editorial Board recently met with the Breakthrough Institute, an organization that argues that a carbon-free energy producer like Diablo Canyon needs to remain open. For decades, we've been told that closing nuclear plants is a good thing, yet a [growing body of research shows](#) that it's far safer and cleaner than coal and gas. State regulators are failing to eliminate fossil fuels from California's energy stock, and with alternatives lacking in scale, Breakthrough's experts believe a more realistic path to achieving California's climate goals is by salvaging our last nuclear facility.

Meanwhile, have a look at this short video on nuclear power from the brand new “Kite and Key Media” project, whose work we intend to feature more regularly here on Power Line. Control click on the link:

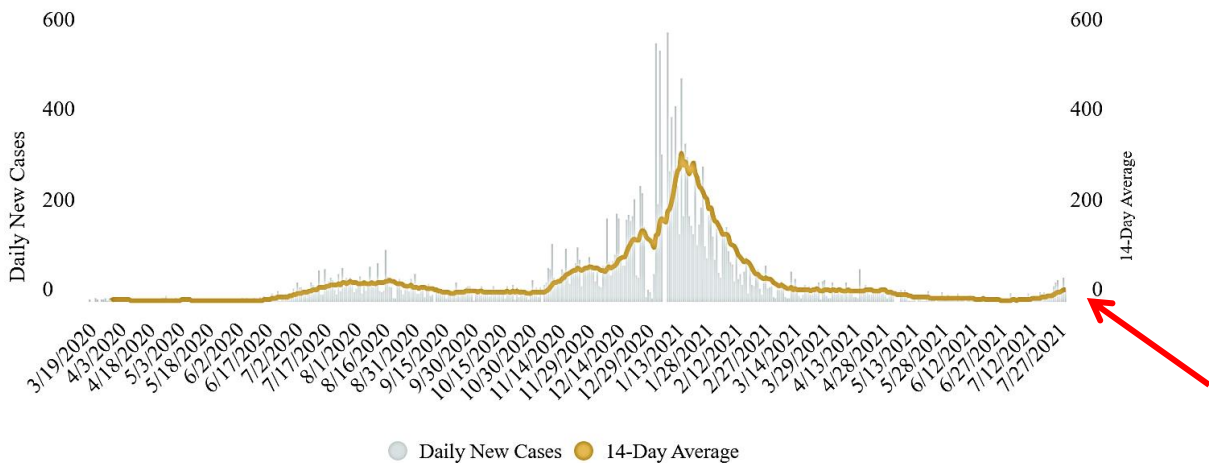
<https://youtu.be/47UQ4IPn7Zk?t=3>

*This article first appeared in Powerline of July 29, 2021. **Steven F. Hayward** is an [American conservative](#) author, political commentator, and policy scholar. He is a senior resident scholar at the [Institute of Governmental Studies](#) at UC Berkeley, and a visiting lecturer at Berkeley's Boalt Hall Law School. He was previously the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Public Policy, and was the inaugural visiting scholar in conservative thought and policy at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2013–14.*

Item 3 - COVID Infection Rate Tips Slightly Upward

The infection rate has tipped up a little in SLO County. In LA and other metro areas it has climbed substantially, driven by the Delta strain. If a general increase accelerates both locally and nationally, restrictions could be re-imposed. School closures and business lockdowns would be a disaster at this stage and would provoke broad civil unrest. Watch the tan colored line on the graph below each week.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



5 (1 ICU)**

SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

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

**SAVE CALIFORNIA TO SAVE YOUR HERITAGE
SPECIAL SECTION THIS WEEK**



SOME OF US AREN'T RUNNING AWAY

BY MIKE BROWN

Many corporations, famous billionaires, sports celebrities, and regular citizens are departing from the state. As the pace quickens, the state's leftist elites should be called out and shamed for the negative impacts of their policies.

The departure of these emigrants who seek to escape the oppressive costs, regulatory environment, declining standard of living, packs of vandals, and downright insanity imposed by the progressive left are testimony to their failed policies. The phrase "we told you so" summarizes the burgeoning exodus.

Notwithstanding the enviro-socialist-progressive devolution which has overtaken our State, many of us will not run away and will remain to fight this disgraceful and pernicious plague every day.

We grew up here, were educated here, have children and grandchildren here, and have our cemetery plots in the local church yard. Some of our most tender memories were formed here. Often our greatest adventures took place here. We surfed Malibu and Rincon, climbed mountains, skied Mammoth, raced cars, rode horses, and presented our animals at the Fair.

Our doctor, priest, dentist, car mechanic, butcher, barber and friends are here.

Where would we go? Why would we abandon our birth right? Would we surrender our property? Will we accept the dominance of foreign invaders promoted by the overlords of California and the nation? Will we tolerate the encroaching socialist lie?

Not on your life.

The articles and excerpts below remind us of our precocious heritage.

**WHILE SURVEY SHOWS CALIFORNIANS
WOULD PREFER LIFE ELSEWHERE, MEDIA
REPORT CALIFORNIA DOING JUST FINE
BUT THE ACTUAL DATA REVEALS THE SAD TRUTH
BY LEE OHANIAN**

Virtually every major California media source reported last week that a [new UC San Diego study](#) concludes that there is no California exodus, and that most Californians are happy and believe the “California Dream” remains in reach for them and their children.

“Despite the popular notion of unhappy Californians leaving the state en masse, our robust research shows there is actually no exodus,” said Thad Kousser, chair of the political science department at UCSD and the lead researcher of the most recent survey. “Most residents say that they still believe in the ‘California Dream.’”

Good news, yes?

Well, no. Not at all. Look into the survey a bit deeper and you will see about as large a disconnect as one can imagine between the publicized answers and how survey respondents compared California to other states on a number of detailed quality-of-life questions.

When asked about out-of-state job prospects, cost of living, housing, overall quality of life, taxes, schools, and the quality of government services, the majority answered that every one of these categories would be better outside of California. Every single one.

This includes roughly 2/3 believing their overall quality of life would be better out of California, 62 percent believing schools and government would be better, and 85 percent believing housing costs and other living costs would be better outside of California.

These detailed answers dovetail with the statistics and facts about California’s cost of living, housing, school quality, quality of governance, and job opportunities.

California's cost of living exceeds the national average by 50 percent, largely reflecting housing costs that have skyrocketed in the last decade, [with the median-priced California home at about \\$720,000](#) and the median-priced condominium at about \$535,000. Affordability? That median-priced home requires a household income of over \$130,000, not to mention a down payment of about \$150,000. The median-priced condo requires a household income of nearly \$100,000 and a down payment of about \$110,000.

You may be thinking that professional couples should be able to hop this hurdle, but keep in mind that [doctors leave medical school with about \\$250,000 in debt](#), which means that our hypothetical, young two-physician household that moves to California has about \$500,000 in debt right off the bat, which means spending about \$50,000 per year to pay those loans off over 15 years.

Job opportunities? Talk to those who live in the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley, home to the highest-paying jobs in the state, and where only around 20 percent of those high earners can afford the median-priced home. California's median household income is about \$75,000, compared to national average of about \$66,000, a difference that doesn't come close to offsetting California's higher cost of living. Just how far does your housing dollar go in Silicon Valley? Well, if your budget is around \$2 million, meaning that you have a down payment of \$400,000 and your household income is nearly \$400,000 annually, [then you get less than 1200 square feet in Mountain View](#), home of Google.

Hard to believe? Yes. How about if your budget is \$3 million, which means an annual income of around \$600,000? [Here is a 2,400-square-foot home, with just two bathrooms, at \\$3 million](#). A brand-spanking-new high-end 2,400-square-foot-home with four bedrooms and four baths will set you back just [\\$650,000 in the rapidly growing tech city of Nashville](#).

Now, Nashville's climate is rough about four months out of the year, but you will have plenty of cash left over for a second home in the summer months. And in the other months, there is an outstanding music scene to enjoy, along with excellent restaurants, museums, you name it.

How about school quality in California? Well, California, along with Oregon and Seattle, Washington, is ground zero for the inclusion of critical race theory in K-12 schools, where convicted police murderers are portrayed as martyrs and Martin Luther King is nowhere to be seen.

[California school quality is 38th in the country](#), far lower than in states that have similar high tax burdens in the Northeast, including New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey.

Speaking of taxes, [California has the 10th highest overall tax burden](#), and the fourth highest individual income tax burden.

You want to enjoy the benefits of California's mild climate with a beautiful garden? Well, about 35 percent of the time, California is mired in drought, along with water rationing. You will be inundated with advertisements from Sacramento to convert your lawn and rose garden into one of cacti and rocks.

I am afraid that what this survey reveals is a remarkable case of cognitive dissonance on the part of the respondents, in which they very well understand California's myriad problems but stay here anyway.

It goes something like this. You live in California. Maybe you are here because of family reasons, or you highly value the weather and the natural beauty, or you don't want to leave your friends. So you leave reality for a moment and rationalize your decision to stay by believing that the "California Dream" is achievable for you and your children. And you continue to dream the dream.

But facts are stubborn things, even for dreamers. And while it is true that people are not leaving California in droves—at least not yet—[California has lost many major businesses](#). It lost Bank of America's headquarters to North Carolina and many businesses to Texas, including large chunks of Tesla, Oracle, and Hewlett-Packard, the latter of which is one of the oldest and best-known tech firms in Silicon Valley. Et tu, HP? And there are many, many others that have left.

So the next time someone tells you that California is doing just fine, thank you, please share these facts with them. By the way, did I mention that nearly 40 percent of Californians are living in poverty or near poverty, per the US Census's definition? And that there are nearly 14 million Californians on Medicaid, the health plan for the poor, who would by themselves form the fifth largest state in the country? Or that more than 25 percent of the country's homeless are in California? Or that there are more drug addicts in San Francisco than high school students? Or that crime has increased so much that both LA's and San Francisco's DAs are facing recalls?

Plenty of facts to quote to friends and family who are dreamers. And please ask them why they keep voting in the same type of politicians in every voting cycle, and what it will take for them to stop dreaming and face the ugly realities of what California has become. Facts are indeed stubborn things.

This article first appeared on July 13, 2021 in the Hoover Institution of Stanford University's California On Your Mind. Lee E. Ohanian is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and a professor of economics and director of the Ettinger Family Program in Macroeconomic Research at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

He is associate director of the Center for the Advanced Study in Economic Efficiency at Arizona State University and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, where he codirects the research initiative Macroeconomics across Time and Space. He is also a fellow in the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory.

His research focuses on economic crises, economic growth, and the impact of public policy on the economy. Ohanian is coeditor of Government Policies and Delayed Economic Recovery (Hoover Institution Press, 2012). He is an adviser to the Federal Reserve Banks of Minneapolis and St. Louis, has previously advised other Federal Reserve banks, foreign central banks, and the National Science Foundation, and has testified to national and state legislative committees on economic policy. He is on the editorial boards of Econometrica and Macroeconomic Dynamics. He is a frequent media commentator and writes for the Wall Street Journal, Forbes,

and Investor's Business Daily. He has won numerous teaching awards at UCLA and the University of Rochester.

CRY, THE BELOVED CALIFORNIA

California's elites feign concern over prejudice and the fate of the planet. In reality, their agenda evinces a misanthropy that would make an Afrikaner blush.

BY EDWARD RING

Back in the waning days of the apartheid era, South African Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi made an observation that echoes across the centuries. “We cannot have freedom if we don’t have bread.”

Such a predicament does not exactly repeat itself in California today, but there are echoes aplenty. Californians are oppressed, in different ways, for different reasons, than the blacks of South Africa during the apartheid years. But instead of demanding the equivalent of bread, in the form of affordable and reliable water, energy, and housing, Californians are divided into two warring tribes, with one side demanding pedagogy and policies oriented to critical race theory, and the other side rising up to stop them.

Meanwhile, in California today, water is rationed, energy is expensive and unreliable, and the prices of homes and rentals consume the incomes of all but the most fortunate.

It might be forgivable to obsess over issues of race and gender if California’s people of color, women, and gays were subject to anything remotely akin to the brutal regime of the Afrikaner. But California is the most tolerant state in the most tolerant nation in the most tolerant era in the history of the world. The hardships that members of California’s so-called protected status groups endure are indeed the result of systemic oppression. But this oppression is not the product of discrimination. It is caused by a ruling oligarchy and its retainers making the calculated decision that there is power and profit in denying economic opportunities to ordinary Californians.

There is utility in convincing Californians they are victims of phony oppression based on race and gender. It prevents Californians from uniting to fight their true enemies. An entire industry has been propped up in the service of this lie. The function of this industry is to identify a group, any group, so long as it isn’t white, straight, and male, and either demonstrate that this group does not achieve desirable things at a rate proportional to their percentage of the general population, or that they suffer undesirable things at a rate greater than their percentage of the general population.

This concept, disproportionate outcome, devoid of any normalizing nuances, is the tactical bludgeon used to demand a host of dysfunctional and epic shifts in policy. Defund the police. Empty the prisons. “Mainstream” students who should be expelled. Abandon advanced placement courses in the public schools. Construct prohibitively expensive low-income housing

in the most expensive parts of town. Force people to sign diversity pledges and submit to sensitivity training. Rewrite history to accentuate the negative.

As these pointless excesses are carried out, they occupy center stage in the minds of activist proponents and activist opponents alike. Meanwhile, projects that might restore a reliable supply of electricity and water are denied with barely a squeak of protest. Reforms that might lower housing construction costs are shelved without comment.

None of this is happening by accident. Where there is scarcity, there is profit. Where there is rationing, there is power.

There was a time when there was nothing Californians *couldn't* do. They built the best freeways, the best water infrastructure, and the best universities in the world. They exported energy and food, and led the world in aerospace engineering. But those men and women have come and gone.

Their descendants are a different breed. A new consensus exists among California's elites, and it goes something like this: If we ration water, energy, and housing, prices go up but our costs stay the same. Since we are the ones who either privately own these productive assets, or wield public regulatory control over them, engineered scarcity will make us more money and we will wield even more political power. At the same time, our friends in Big Tech can embed surveillance devices in every water or energy consuming appliance, and into every modern home. Not only will this "help" people ration their consumption, but over time this will result in additional hundreds of billions in profits, with the added benefit of data collection and political monitoring.

What could possibly go wrong?

These are the overlords of California. Convincing even themselves, they feign concern over prejudice and the fate of the planet. But in reality their agenda evinces a misanthropy that would make an Afrikaner blush.

California's reality today is one defined by owned, monitored space. Cars that watch you drive. Utility meters that track every drop of water or electron of energy you use. Televisions, phones, palmtops, virtual reality goggles, browsers, and social media accounts that watch, listen, and record your every move. This is the 21st-century version of apartheid. This is the high-tech Bantustan. You can't see it. You can't cross its border. But it's all around you.

A famous book published in 1948 in South Africa during the heyday of post-World War II apartheid was *Cry, the Beloved Country*. In this desperate novel, the protagonist travels across South Africa, observing the inequalities and injustices tearing the nation apart.

But California's inequalities and injustices are not rooted in racial prejudice. That is the great deception. That is the great distraction.

Californians must unite not to demand freedom from racial injustice, because they already have that freedom. They must demand *bread*. They must demand more water projects, more diverse and more conventional energy solutions, and fewer housing regulations to lower construction costs. That is the challenge that can unite them. That is the pathway out of poverty and that is the escape from **oppression**.

Edward Ring is a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness and co-founder in 2013 of the California Policy Center. This article first appeared in the July 23, 2021 edition of American Greatness,

I RECALL BECAUSE I REMEMBER!

BY ANDY CALDWELL

Gavin Newsom is facing a recall on Sept. 14. It couldn't happen to a more fitting career politician. To be fair, he is just one in a long line of politicians who has so failed the State of California that it is now a failed state. Accordingly, I would ask everyone who reads this piece to send it to others to help emphasize our dire situation. I will state a fact and it is up to you to sound the refrain and the pledge "I do recall" (Gavin Newsom)!

Do you remember when California was known as the Golden State, but now it has the highest poverty rates in the country? I do recall!

Do you remember when we had ample water supplies for farmers and urbanites, whereas now, all of us are subject to rationing? I do recall!

Do you remember when California had the best schools in the nation, whereas now, we have nearly the worst out of all 50 states? I do recall!

Do you remember when California had the best roads and best freeway system in the country, but now our roads are falling apart and our undersized freeways are in a constant state of gridlock. I do recall!

Do you remember when California had the most wealth of any state in the nation, but now we have over \$1 trillion in debt and deficits and no means to repay the same? I do recall!

Do you remember when California had the most beautiful parks, beaches, and downtown communities that have since been overrun, degraded and defiled by more than 100,000 homeless people living in squatter settlements? I do recall!

Do you remember living in safe neighborhoods and communities, whereas now California is in the final phases of releasing 75% of the felons in our state prisons, including more than 20,000 people who were sentenced to life in prison? I do recall!

Do you remember when California had the best-paying jobs in manufacturing, industry, aerospace, and the energy sector, whereas now, those jobs were forced to leave because of regulations and taxes to places like Texas or even worse, China? I do recall!

Do you remember when California had affordable housing to either purchase or rent, but now we have the least affordable housing in the nation, due to overwrought land-use restrictions, fees, and regulations? I do recall!

Do you remember when California had affordable and abundant electricity supplies and we were not subject to regularly occurring blackouts, brownouts, and flex alerts? I do recall!

Do you remember when gasoline was affordable in California, not like today when it costs upwards of 40% more than the rest of the country? I do recall!

Do you remember when forest fire conflagrations were rare in California, whereas now, due to the overwrought protection of forest fuel loads, including dead trees and brush, a significant portion of the state is on fire each and every year, killing people, destroying property, and decimating our wildlife? I do recall!

Do you remember when all businesses were considered essential, when church attendance was promoted while going to strip clubs was frowned upon, when outdoor activities and exercise were considered essential to healthy living via a robust immune system, and when our elected politicians themselves followed the mandates they imposed on the people? I do remember. And, that is why I am urging you to recall Gavin Newsom by voting yes on Sept 14!

Andy Caldwell

SONG OF THE REDWOOD TREE

EXCERPTS FROM WALT WHITMAN'S CLASSIC ODE TO CALIFORNIA

At the beginning of the poem (not included here) Whitman lamented the cutting of magnificent redwood trees, which he viewed as symbols of the rich natural heritage of the State. He saw the trees as an enduring symbol. At the end of the poem he celebrates the climate, industrious people, great natural resources, and future. In just a few priceless words, "The flashing golden pageant of California," Whitman introduces his summation. Some verses from Walt Whitman's "Song of the Redwood Tree":

“Song of the Redwood Tree” (A California Song)

The flashing and golden pageant of California,
The sudden and gorgeous drama, the sunny and ample lands,
The long and varied stretch from Puget sound to Colorado south,

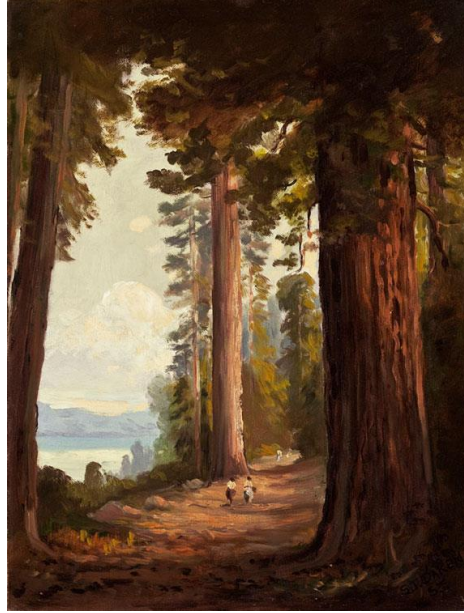
Lands bathed in sweeter, rarer, healthier air, valleys and mountain
cliffs,
The fields of Nature long prepared and fallow, the silent, cyclic
chemistry,
The slow and steady ages plodding, the unoccupied surface ripen-
in, the rich ores forming beneath;
At last the New arriving, assuming, taking possession,
A swarming and busy race settling and organizing everywhere,
Ships coming in from the whole round world, and going out to
the whole world,
To India and China and Australia and the thousand island para-
doses of the Pacific,
Populous cities, the latest inventions, the steamers on the rivers,
the railroads, with many a thrifty farm, with machinery,
And wool and wheat and the grape, and diggings of yellow gold.

But more in you than these, lands of the Western shore,
(These but the means, the implements, the standing-ground,)
I see in you, certain to come, the promise of thousands of years,
till now deferr'd,
Promis'd to be fulfill'd, our common kind, the race.

The new society at last, proportionate to Nature,
In man of you, more than your mountain peaks or stalwart trees
imperial,
In woman more, far more, than all your gold or vines, or even
vital air.

Fresh come, to a new world indeed, yet long prepared,
I see the genius of the modern, child of the real and ideal,
Clearing the ground for broad humanity, the true America, heir
of the past so grand,
To build a grander future.

The original appeared in *Leaves of Grass* in 1855, which has been published, republished, and amended scores of times as the author kept adding poems over the course of his life. Whitman, America's greatest poet, documented much of the 19th Century growth of the nation and its people. A native of rural Long Island, he also described farm life and the life of the baymen fishers and clammers. Whitman, a pacifist, served in the Civil War as a nurse and cared for wounded and dying Union soldiers. He was profoundly opposed to slavery and was perhaps Lincoln's greatest memorialist. His poem "When Lilacs Last Bloomed in the Dooryard" is regarded as one of the greatest tributes to Lincoln.



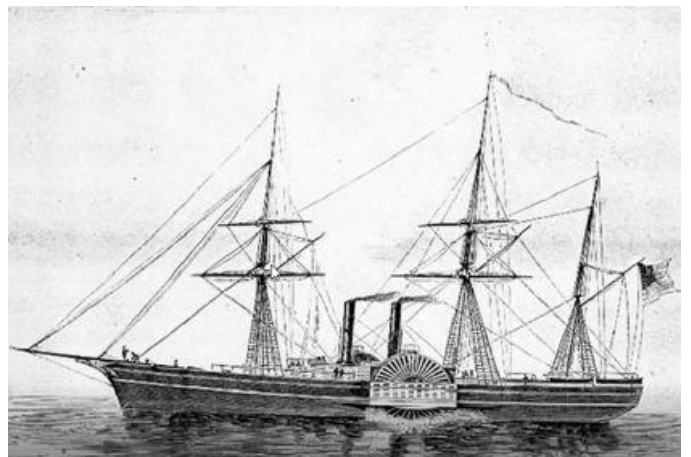
24 YEARS AFTER TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST RICHARD HENRY DANA'S FAMOUS REPRISE OF CALIFORNIA CIVILIZATION IN 1859

Dana, who had been a sailor on a Boston trading ship which came to California in 1835 to purchase hides for the leather industry back in New England, described the rough and rudimentary wild conditions that he found here during his voyage. His journal, "Two Years before the Mast," became a classic of American literature.

Twenty-four years later, after he had become successful, Dana again visited California and was astonished by the progress of San Francisco and its promise for the future of California and the nation. His observations have become a codicil to Two Years Before the Mast, of which a portion is excerpted here.

TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AFTER

It was in the winter of 1835-6 that the ship Alert, in the prosecution of her voyage for hides on the remote and almost unknown coast of California, floated into the vast solitude of the Bay of San Francisco. All around was the stillness of nature. One vessel, a Russian, lay at anchor there, but during our whole stay not a sail came or went. Our trade was with remote Missions, which sent hides to us in launches manned by their Indians. Our anchorage was between a small island, called Yerba Buena, and



a gravel beach in a little bight or cove of the same name, formed by two small projecting points. Beyond, to the westward of the landing-place, were dreary sand-hills, with little grass to be seen, and few trees, and beyond them higher hills, steep and barren, their sides gullied by the rains. Some five or six miles beyond the landing-place, to the right, was a ruinous Presidio, and some three or four miles to the left was the Mission of Dolores, as ruinous as the Presidio, almost deserted, with but few Indians attached to it, and but little property in cattle. Over a region far beyond our sight there were no other human habitations, except that an enterprising Yankee, years in advance of his time, had put up, on the rising ground above the landing, a shanty of rough boards, where he carried on a very small retail trade between the hide ships and the Indians. Vast banks of fog, invading us from the North Pacific, drove in through the entrance, and covered the whole bay; and when they disappeared, we saw a few well-wooded islands, the sand-hills on the west, the grassy and wooded slopes on the east, and the vast stretch of the bay to the southward, where we were told lay the Missions of Santa Clara and San José, and still longer stretches to the northward and northeastward, where we understood smaller bays spread out, and large rivers poured in their tributes of waters.

There were no settlements on these bays or rivers, and the few ranchos and Missions were remote and widely separated. Not only the neighborhood of our anchorage, but the entire region of the great bay, was solitude. On the whole coast of California there was not a lighthouse, a beacon, or a buoy, and the charts were made up from old and disconnected surveys by British, Russian, and Mexican voyagers. Birds of prey and passage swooped and dived about us, wild beasts ranged through the oak groves, and as we slowly floated out of the harbor with the tide, herds of deer came to the water's edge, on the northerly side of the entrance, to gaze at the strange spectacle.

On the evening of Saturday, the 13th of August, 1859, the superb steamship Golden Gate, gay with crowds of passengers, and lighting the sea for miles around with the glare of her signal lights of red, green, and white, and brilliant with lighted saloons and staterooms, bound up from the Isthmus of Panama, neared the entrance to San Francisco, the great centre of a world-wide commerce. Miles out at sea, on the desolate rocks of the Farallones, gleamed the powerful rays of one of the most costly and effective light-houses in the world. As we drew in through the Golden Gate, another light-house met our eyes, and in the clear moonlight of the unbroken California summer we saw, on the right, a large fortification protecting the narrow entrance, and just before us the little island of Alcatraz confronted us,—one entire fortress. We bore round the point toward the old anchoring-ground of the hide ships, and there, covering the sand-hills and the valleys, stretching from the water's edge to the base of the great hills, and from the old Presidio to the Mission, flickering all over with the lamps of its streets and houses, lay a city of one hundred thousand inhabitants. Clocks tolled the hour of midnight from its steeples, but the city was alive from the salute of our guns, spreading the news that the fortnightly steamer had come, bringing mails and passengers from the Atlantic world. Clipper ships of the largest size lay at anchor in the stream, or were girt to the wharves; and capacious high-pressure steamers, as large and showy as those of the Hudson or Mississippi, bodies of dazzling light, awaited the delivery of our mails to take their courses up the Bay, stopping at Benicia and the United States Naval Station, and then up the great tributaries—the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Feather Rivers—to the far inland cities of Sacramento, Stockton, and Marysville.

The dock into which we drew, and the streets about it, were densely crowded with express wagons and hand-carts to take luggage, coaches and cabs for passengers, and with men,—some looking out for friends among our hundreds of passengers,—agents of the press, and a greater multitude eager for newspapers and verbal intelligence from the great Atlantic and European world. Through this crowd I made my way, along the well-built and well-lighted streets, as alive as by day, where boys in high-keyed voices were already crying the latest New York papers; and between one and two o'clock in the morning found myself comfortably abed in a commodious room, in the Oriental Hotel, which stood, as well as I could learn, on the filled-up cove, and not far from the spot where we used to beach our boats from the Alert.

Wonder what Dana would say if he visited San Francisco today?

Today's San Francisco Treat ain't Rice-A-Roni.



SF POOP PATROL

SAN FRANCISCO – There's a crap job available in San Francisco that's a complete waste, but it pays up to \$185,000 a year for those who are interested. The city where Tony Bennett left his heart has an enormous feces problem that has gotten so bad, officials decided to create a poop patrol to clean up the streets. According to the [Daily Wire](#), patrol applicants were few and far between until it was announced salary with benefits for the position would total almost \$185,000. The five member team now walk up and down San Francisco streets and sidewalks cleaning up human feces, and we would assume, feces from other living beings. Perhaps they stuff their noses with \$100 bills to avoid the smell.

This article was first published on August 23, 2018 by Local10. WPLG INC



TOAST TO CALIFORNIA A CALIFORNIA SONG FOR ALL

A Toast to California is a beautiful UC Berkeley anthem, but it is more than for just for the college in that it expresses the historic aspirations of San Francisco, California, and its people past, present, and future. Control click on the link below to listen

https://youtu.be/Cne_sA-islg

*California, here's to Thee;
Honor to thy name;
Alma Mater, carry on
To fortune and to fame.
Queen beside the Western Sea
Rule our destiny;
Stand for right,
Let there be Light,
California, Here's to Thee.*

"Toast to California" Performed by UC Alumni Chorus Nov 16, 2010

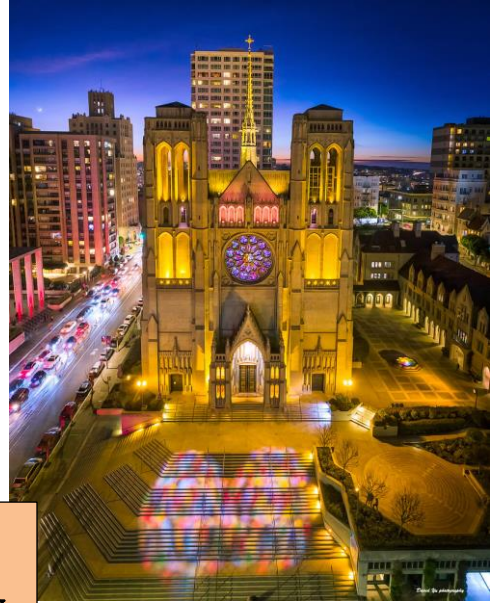


Tadich Grill, oldest restaurant in SF. In continuous operation since 1849. Dana could have eaten there in 1859.

QUEEN OF THE WESTERN SEA

The start of a glowing evening: A ride up the hill on a cable car for drinks at sunset at the Top of The Mark, dinner at Bix, dancing later at the Venetian Room at the Fairmont, a quiet walk back to the hotel with the foghorns starting up, and the music of the cables ringing under the now empty street. The progressive leftists are destroying the best city in America and our heritage as fast as they can.

THE YANKEE "COLONIALISTS" DIDN'T DO SO BADL'Y



The cathedral is catty corner from the Mark Hopkins Hotel. Why are we allowing the progressive left to destroy our heritage.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

Now you can listen to THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW
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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



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(Revised 2/2017)