

**WEEKLY UPDATE
AUGUST 8 - 14, 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

A HEAVY WEEK IN DODGE



**EXTENSION OF PASO BASIN WATER MORATORIUM
(A PROMISE BROKEN)**

**MAJOR REORGANIZATION OF PLANNING & BUILDING
(BUT WHAT ARE THE REASONS AND BENEFITS?)**

**MAJOR HOMELESS SERVICE EXPANSION
(FINALLY INCLUDES HOMELESS CAMPGROUNDS)**

**COUNTY/IWMA DIVORCE NEEDS MORE WORK
ANALYSIS IS NOT APPLES AND APPLES + IWMA BUDGET IS FAKE
BOS MAJORITY SHOULD HANG TOUGH**

**IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WATER
TOOLS AND WATER BANKING?
(DOES THE COUNTY HAVE THE POWER TO FORBID BANKING?)**

IWMA MEETING ON AUG 11TH

BUDGET TRAIN WRECK

PAAVO OGREN (NEW EXEC DIRECTOR) SAYS “LET’S TALK”

COASTAL COMMISSION ON THURSDAY AUG 12TH

(THEY MUST PROCESS REDO ON DUNES CLOSURE FINDINGS)

EMERGENT ISSUES

ABJECT FAILURE ON CLIMATE SCIENCE

PRESIDENT BIDEN’S ILLEGAL ORDER

**RENT DEFERRALS - ANOTHER ENVIRO-SOCIALIST
BEACHHEAD**

CLIMATE SCIENCE DEBUNKED BY SCIENTISTS

(EVEN THE NY TIMES AND SCIENCE MAGAZINE)

COVID SIMMERING – UP A LITTLE MORE

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

SLOCOG MET AUGUST 4TH

MUCKED AROUND IN CRITICAL RACE THEORY

RAN OUT OF TIME AND GAS

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 28

THE DISSIDENT CALIFORNIA RIGHT IS THE FUTURE
The rest of America's Right has a ways to go before it catches up to the dissident California Right. We were here first and you should listen to us
BY LANE SCOTT

WHAT IS WOKE REALLY ABOUT?

Wokeness is many things. But increasingly it seems a cover for careerism, profiteering—and utter incompetence.
BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS
ALL MEETINGS ARE 9:00AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Board of Supervisor's Meeting of Tuesday, August 10, 2021 (Scheduled)

Item 28 - Set a Hearing for September 24, 2021 to amend the Agricultural Offset (Water) Requirements for the Paso Basin (County Land Use Ordinance, Title 22, Section 22.30.204) to (1) extend the requirements termination date from January 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022, and (2) change the water duty factor for table grapes from 1.25 acre-feet per year (AFY) per acre to 3.0 AFY per acre. This is an early alert. The proposed ordinance amendments would (1) extend the water moratorium to August 31, 2022. The urgency ordinance adopted in 2013 was converted to a permanent ordinance that restricts the use of water in the Paso Basin. If a farmer or homeowner wishes to increase water use, that person must first find a way to reduce use on another part of the holdings or pay someone else to reduce their use. These are termed offsets.

The ordinance was originally supposed to sunset when the State Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Basin was completed in January 2020. At that time everyone realized that completion of the plan would actually do nothing to save water or protect the Basin, as it will take decades for the various authorities over the Basin to actually begin to implement the various measures contained in the Plan, especially phased reductions in pumping by large users and construction of works to move water around and recharge the Basin.

The staff is working on major amendments to the ordinance, which will be brought back for Board consideration next spring in an effort to determine how to manage the Basin in the near-term decade. The key action here is to extend the Ordinance until August 2022 to provide time for the work.

Separately from the major issues outlined above is to amend the ordinance to recognize that table grapes use more water than wine grapes. This requires that table grapes be assigned a higher use

factor. The wine grapes use 1.8 acre feet per year. The table grapes use 3.0 acre-feet but had previously been charged the wine grape number.

The whole issue is a huge train wreck, which will culminate in August of 2022 unless they kick the can down the road again. Meanwhile, a number of agriculturalists are trapped in limbo because they suspended pumping during the last drought, and then when it ended, they were told that they could not resume their historical pumping. This is an immediate problem.

Please see **Agenda Item 51**, below, for a related discussion on water banking.

Item 29 - Planning and Building Department Requests Major Staffing Expansion and Managerial Restructuring. The net new cost is reported as about \$500,000. This includes the addition of managerial positions, but the deletion of 6.5 frontline planner positions to help cover the cost would otherwise be over \$1 million more. The Board already approved major additions at Budget time.

FY 2020-21 Mid-Year PAL Changes: *On November 17, 2021, the Board approved the following changes to the Department's PAL:*

- *Deletion of 1.00 FTE Planning Division Manager*
- *Addition of 1.00 FTE Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning Manger*
- *Addition of 1.00 FTE Limited Term Program Manager On February 9, 2021,*

The Board approved the following changes to the department's PAL:

- *Addition of 1.00 FTE Limited Term Principal Environmental Specialist*
- *Addition of 1.00 FTE Limited Term Senior Planner*

1. The fundamental question is: What problem or problems are we attempting to solve by this off-budget set of changes? Will these changes:

- a. Improve the velocity of general permitting through the system?
- b. Improve the velocity of cannabis permitting through the system (remember substantial staff has already been added for this purpose over the past several years)?
- c. Reduce costs to permit applicants?
- d. Build confidence in the cannabis applicant community in the fairness of the process? Some have asserted that the Planners, code enforcers, and reps of other departments are playing favorites and are expressly supportive of large entities, including Helios's Dayspring's Natural Healing Center. At the same time it is asserted that some small applicants are delayed and run ragged in an effort to forestall competition.
- e. Reduce turnover?
- f. Improve customer service?

- g. Make the online permitting system actually work after millions of expenditures that have already occurred?
- h. Finish important policy studies (we have heard nothing) that the Board assigned, such as determine what areas could be rezoned for housing and establish a fair method of financing new affordable housing to eliminate the housing in lieu fee.
- i. Provide adequate water to facilitate such development?
- j. Improve revenue and/or forestall the need for fee increases?
- k. Enable the main Department phone number to be answered from 8:00 AM to 5:00 Monday through Friday by a human?
- l. Restore the in-person hours to a full 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Friday The Department is currently budgeted at about 110 FTE. Someone should be assigned to answer the phone at all times, by rotation if necessary.

2 .Reorganizations that eliminate front line staff and add management, as this one does, require scrutiny. Does SLOCEA agree with this proposal?

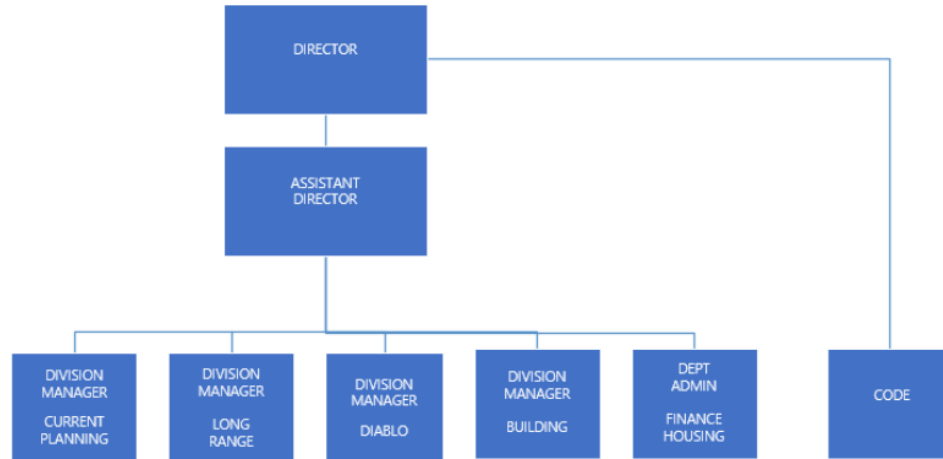
3. The write-up does not contain the proper analysis for the Board or citizens to judge the proposal. The Department displays only 4 performance measures in the current budget and has abandoned providing data for the FY 2021-22 column. How does management or the Board have any idea what they are doing with this proposal? See pages 128 and 129 for the pathetic situation.

- a. The workloads and velocities of the various parts of the Department are not included in the analysis.
- b. There are no efficiency measures of how many cases a case planner carries and how fast the planner can get them to the point of a decision maker.
- c. There is no data about the number of building inspections, plan reviews, site visits per day or per year, or the number per employees assigned.
- d. Do the CAO and Budget staff support the recommendation, and did they analyze the matters listed above?

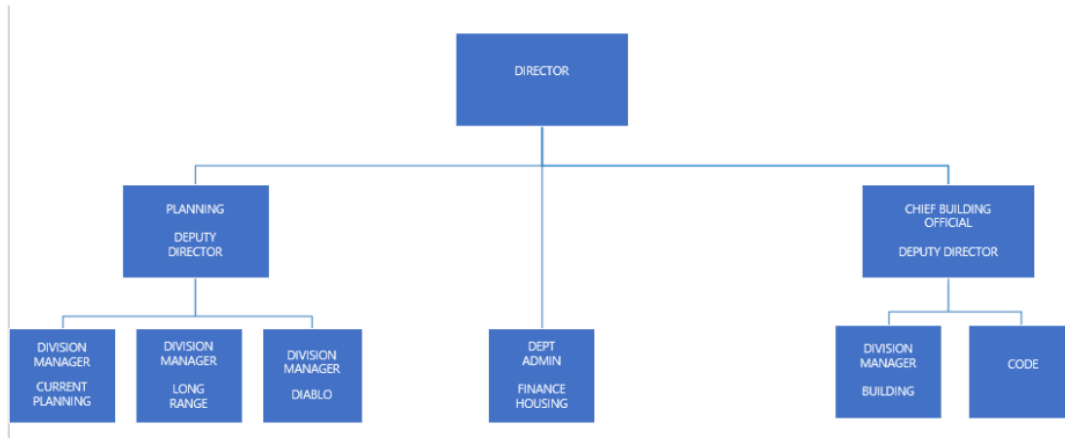
Send it back for a proper report.



The current leadership structure is listed below:



The proposed leadership structure is listed below:



Action	Classification	FTE	Salary	Benefits	Total	Step Estimate
ADD	Deputy Director - Planning	1.00	\$154,107	\$104,683	\$258,791	Step 6 for 12 Months
ADD	Deputy Director - Building	1.00	\$154,107	\$104,683	\$258,791	Step 6 for 12 Months
ADD	Administrative Services Manager	1.00	\$111,342	\$80,350	\$191,693	Step 6 for 12 Months
ADD	Program Manager II	2.00	\$190,362	\$142,331	\$332,693	Step 6 for 12 Months
ADD	Program Manager II - LT	1.00	\$95,181	\$71,166	\$166,346	Step 6 for 12 Months
ADD	Land Use Technician	2.00	\$121,347	\$96,650	\$217,997	Step 5 for 12 Months
ADD	IT Specialist II	1.00	\$85,883	\$62,968	\$148,851	Step 5 for 12 Months
ADD	Supervising Admin Clerk II	1.00	\$68,806	\$52,439	\$121,245	Step 5 for 12 Months
ADD	Secretary II	1.00	\$55,640	\$45,778	\$101,418	Step 5 for 12 Months
ADD	Building Plans Examiner III	1.00	\$102,814	\$69,644	\$172,458	Step 5 for 12 Months
DELETE	Assistant Director - Planning and Building	-1.00	(\$163,530)	(\$110,038)	(\$273,568)	Step 6 for 12 Months
DELETE	Division Manager - Planning	-1.00	(\$129,251)	(\$90,528)	(\$219,779)	Step 6 for 12 Months
DELETE	Senior Planner	-1.00	(\$104,998)	(\$79,319)	(\$184,318)	Step 6 for 12 Months
DELETE	Planner I-III	-4.50	(\$408,096)	(\$295,544)	(\$703,640)	Step 5 for 12 Months
DELETE	Administrative Assistant	-1.00	(\$51,355)	(\$43,611)	(\$94,966)	Step 5 for 12 Months
	Net Change at Max Step	3.50	\$282,360	\$211,653	\$494,012	

Item 45 - Expansion of Near Term Homeless Services. Readers may recall that earlier in the year, the Board approved yet another effort to develop a long-term plan to help reduce homelessness. Over the decades, we have not seen any benefit from such plans, as the problem keeps getting worse and worse. In the end, people who are permanently addicted to alcohol and drugs and/or who are so mentally ill that they cannot function in society must be institutionalized.

In the meantime the Board is being requested to allocate a significant chunk of general fund money to “near term actions” designed to reduce the problems immediately. The write-up states in part:

It is focused on taking near-term actions that bridge homeless individuals into safer situations, while the region’s key stakeholders develop an updated regional strategic plan (i.e. 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness) that identifies the region’s priorities and paths to implementation (e.g. increasing permanent supportive housing).

Finally, after over a decade, the staff is taking action to attempt to set up some homeless campgrounds. To this end the report states:

1a. Safe Parking Pilot Program: During the 2019 point-in-time count, 387 of the total 1,483 unhoused population were considered unsheltered and living in vehicles at that time. While longer term solutions are identified and prioritized during the 10 Year Plan update process this year, the safe parking pilot program allows one strategy for providing a safe and sanctioned place for unsheltered residents living in vehicles to park overnight.

And

County staff, in coordination with partner organizations, is currently working on identifying priority locations for at least three pilot safe parking programs distributed throughout the region in effective and feasible locations. It is important to note that staff is looking for pilot sites in north county, north coast, and south county, to supplement existing safe parking sites already in place in the Cities of San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande. The pilot program sites are recommended to be in place for a period of one-year each, once sites are identified and approved. Staff developed an estimated one year pilot program cost estimate and intends to publish a request for proposal to seek external agency support for site management. The initial cost estimate includes site management, basic hygiene services (i.e. portable bathrooms and showers, hand wash stations), outreach to connect users to services, and security cameras

This and other programs are listed in the 2 tables below.

Table 1. Summary of Today's Budget Adjustment Request for Additional Homeless Initiatives

Program Element	Nature of Funding	Budget Adjustment Request being considered by Board
Near-Term Actions		
1a. Safe Parking Pilot Program	One-time	\$500,000
1b. Blue Bag Pilot Program	One-time	\$225,000
1c. Increase Housing Now units (from 70Now to 80Now)	Ongoing will be continued in subsequent fiscal years	Year one increase: \$149,509
<i>1d. Additional Pilot Program(s) identified in 10 Year Plan update</i>	<i>One-time; to be determined in 10 Year Plan update</i>	<i>To be determined</i>
1e. 1.00 FTE Limited Term Program Manager II or similar	One-time; Limited term position to be in place for two years once hired	Year one: \$125,735.25
1f. 1.00 FTE Behavioral Health Case Manager via contract with Transitions Mental Health Association	Ongoing will be continued in subsequent fiscal years	\$111,540
1g. Encampment Abatement Measures	One-time	\$250,000
Regional Strategic Planning		
2a. Regional Communications Strategy	One-time	\$125,000
2b. Maintenance and Multiagency Licenses for Mapping Tool	Ongoing will be continued in subsequent fiscal years	\$52,600
Total		\$1,539,384.25

1. Program Element - Develop and Implement near-term actions:

Table 3. Summary of Outcomes Expected from Additional Homeless Initiatives

Program Element	Outcome(s)
1a. Safe Parking Pilot Program	Create three subregional sites for vehicle-based unhoused residents to safely park overnight for up to one year
1b. Blue Bag Pilot Program	Create program to reduce health and safety issues at unsanctioned encampments by collecting and disposing of waste, as well as conduct outreach to residents, at seven sites for 12- to 24- week pilot periods
1c. Increase Housing Now units	House an additional 10 vulnerable, chronically homeless persons and provide supportive services
<i>1d. Add'l Pilot Program(s) per 10 Year Plan update</i>	<i>To be determined as a part of 10 Year Plan update</i>
1e. 1.00 FTE Limited Term Program Manager or similar	DSS staff to oversee implementation of pilot programs and related administration of day-to-day efforts
1f. 1.00 FTE Behavioral Health Case Manager via contract with TMHA	Provide roving behavioral health supportive services in relationship with pilot programs and sites throughout the region
1g. Encampment Abatement Measures	Removal of priority encampments, esp. that pose a health and safety risk
2a. Communications Strategy	Develop and implement a consistent and understandable regional message; Effectively communicate resources available for unhoused individuals and communities
2b. Maintenance and Multiagency Licenses for Mapping Tool	Refine and expand an encampment mapping tool to improve coordination and information sharing

Item 47 - Request to receive and file a report by MSW Consultants regarding a cost-benefit analysis of the County's proposed departure from the Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) and provide direction to staff. The analysis was commissioned by the Board majority to ascertain the financial and operational feasibility of the County withdrawing from the IWMA and operating solid waste source reduction and recycling on its own. As outlined below, the consultant determined that a County takeover would cost substantially more, which in turn would require rate increases for both residential and commercial users.

Sudden Changes: Several events happened after the posting of the original report:

1. After posting of the original report, staff posted an update, which due to an arithmetic error in one the calculations in turn affected several of the analytical tables. However, this did not change the overall conclusions.

2. After the consultant finished conducting its analysis and after the original posting of the item, the new Executive Director of the IWMA discovered that the FY 2021-22 Budget, which was adopted in June, contains significant deficiencies, in that certain proposed rate increases will require Proposition 218 approval by each of the member jurisdictions. There is not sufficient time to legally process these changes in time to cover the full fiscal year operation of the agency at the adopted expenditure levels.

This train wreck is detailed below under the IWMA Board meeting **Item 8**, which begins on page 17 below. Readers should consider both items in conjunction.

3. The fact that the IWMA may not be able to execute its adopted budget raises the risk that it may not be able to meet requirements of the massive “new organic materials recycling State mandate” embodied in SB 1383, which became enforceable this year. It is not known how the IWMA will deal with this circumstance, as its meeting on this coming Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

4. Once the IWMA takes action at some unknown point to recast its budget, the numbers within the County consultant’s analysis are likely to become obsolete. This in turn may require a re-analysis once the situation is stabilized and firmed up.

The Report: As noted above, the report found that it will cost the County between \$1,585,400 to \$2,084,000 to operate the system on its own and if no other jurisdictions switch over to the County as customers. There are also variables derived from whether the remaining IWMA will grant the County its accumulated share of the financial and physical assets of the IWMA. The rate impacts are forecast as:

Table B – Required Revenue Needed, Full Cost Recovery from IWMA

Customer Sector	Hauler Revenues	Additional Needed Fee Revenue	Required Rate Adjustment Percent
Residential	\$7,147,000	\$696,400	9.7%
Commercial	5,870,800	782,700	13.3%
Rolloff	<u>3,883,800</u>	<u>106,300</u>	2.7%
Total	\$16,901,600	\$1,585,400	9.4%

But the Analysis is not Apples and Apples – See the table on the next page.

Table 7 – Estimated Annual Expenditures

Description	Education & Outreach	Contamination Monitoring	Monitoring & Reporting	Compliance Review & Enforcement	Household Hazardous Waste	Program Administration	Total Estimated Expenditures
Program Manager II	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$162,200	\$162,200
Solid Waste Coordinator II	163,300	0	163,300	163,300	0	0	489,900
Solid Waste Coordinator I	0	134,000	0	0	0	0	134,000
Department Overhead	26,800	22,000	26,800	26,800	0	26,600	129,000
Division Overhead	<u>35,200</u>	<u>35,200</u>	<u>35,200</u>	<u>35,200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>35,200</u>	<u>176,000</u>
Subtotal - Personnel Expenditures	\$225,300	\$191,200	\$225,300	\$225,300	\$0	\$224,000	\$1,091,100
HHW Contractor					\$400,000		\$400,000
Property Lease Expense					105,000		105,000
Contract Services						200,000	200,000
General and Admin Expense	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000		25,000	125,000
Dept Accounting Support						25,000	25,000
County Legal Costs						50,000	50,000
Office Rent						30,000	30,000
Vehicle Maintenance	8,000			8,000			16,000
Department Overhead	1,500	1,100	1,100	1,500	22,200	14,500	41,900
Countywide Overhead	<u>5,900</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>5,900</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>47,500</u>
Subtotal - Operating Expenditures	\$40,400	\$31,100	\$31,800	\$40,400	\$539,200	\$357,500	\$1,040,400
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$265,700	\$222,300	\$257,100	\$265,700	\$539,200	\$581,500	\$2,131,500

The lower section of Table 7 (Operating Expenditures) itemizes the estimated operating expenditures. The major categories of these operating expenditures include:

A problem with this table and the related supporting analysis (from which the rates were derived) is that the net costs of the implementation of **SB 1383** are included. Thus, the policy makers and Board of Supervisors cannot ascertain how much of the cost is base-cost of the existing program versus base cost-plus the new SB1383 costs. Even if the County remains with the IWMA, its residents and commercial customers will experience significant new costs in any case.

Thus, there needs to be an apples-to-apples analysis. The report text actually admits this problem:

Finding 7 – For the County to perform the responsibilities currently undertaken by the Authority, and to comply with SB 1383, it will require five (5) additional positions in the Public Works Department. Table 6 on the following page shows the five (5) new positions that would be required for the County to perform the responsibilities now undertaken by the Authority and those that will be required by SB 1383. An outline of the expected responsibilities of each staff member is listed below.

This structural aspect to the report presentation effectively camouflages the true breakdown of the cost increase. The Board should request a separate breakout.

There are also questions related to the cost of household hazardous waste HHW program. Currently and over all, the IWMA cost is about \$900,000 plus per year. The consult assigns a projected cost to the county customers of about \$400,000 per year if the County leaves the IWMA. But the unincorporated County customers constitute only 25% of the base.

Also related to the cost is the method of collecting the paint, oil, chemicals, sharps, and other components of the waste. Separate recycling centers are set up, staffed, and run by a private sector company expert in disposing of the stuff. In some jurisdictions the regular refuse route

trucks contain side bins in which the HHW can be deposited, eliminating the need for a separate contractor. The private haulers would have to be compensated, but the economies of scale and the elimination of special sites could reduce the cost.

Industrial engineering is a wonderful discipline that governments rarely use to analyze the work.

Negotiating with the Ayatollahs: At this point the staff has detected some interest in those jurisdictions that wish to preserve the IWMA to request the County to hold off while some sort of compromise is worked out. The theory is that the leftist entities would agree not to implement bans or regulatory measures that are not mandated by state law. They would also repeal the super majority clause under which the left was able to kill the repeal of the polystyrene ban, which was the straw that originally broke the camel's back in the first place. There is also some chatter about other unspecified amendments to the Joint Powers and Operations Agreements.

Staff packages this idea as an alternative to withdrawing from the IWMA or doing nothing. The staff suggests some time period to explore this option. This is sort of like asking the Supreme Ayatollah of Iran stop manufacturing plutonium when there are already some nukes in his arsenal. If this idea is to have any life, the first good faith step would be for the IWMA to repeal the polystyrene ban. Absent that good faith concrete step, any negotiations with our local ayatollahs of the left would simply be more convoluted tricky stalling.

The Board should forge ahead, get the numbers reworked, and penetrate the lack of an apple-to-apple analysis. The Board should also recruit other jurisdictions to its cause and expand the economies of scale to reduce the rate impacts.

In the end, not one cent for tribute but millions for defense. Abolition of the IWMA eliminates one source of progressive patronage power and corruption. Remember also that the SB 1383 mandate is yet another exploitation of climatist hysteria to get control of your life. Accordingly, this is not just an issue of pennies.

Are Bureaucrats Operating Too Independently? The Interim Solid Waste Manager of Paso Robles (probably a 3rd level manager) wrote in and said that he supported the negotiating alternative. Meanwhile, his Mayor and Council may be interested in going with the County. I wonder if the City has any policy and what the City Manager and Mayor and Council think? Are a bunch of city and county department heads and CEOs in cahoots on driving policy ahead of their elected bosses?

Each day it looks increasingly like the Board conservative majority should just put its collective foot down and jerk the reins back hard. After all, the IWMA was a rogue agency for decades, and in addition to all the talk about costs and programs, the public deserves some accountability.

See the strange letter on the next page.



CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
"The Pass of the Oaks"

August 6, 2021

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Wade Horton, County Administrator
County of San Luis Obispo
whorton@co.slo.ca.us

Mr. Horton:

ANALYSIS OF WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (IWMA)

Regarding Item No. 47 on the Board of Supervisors meeting agenda for August 10, the matter of whether the County should withdraw from the IWMA, I am writing to express City of Paso Robles staff's support for moving forward with your **Option B**, which is to re-negotiate the terms of the Joint Powers Agreement in order to remain a member of the IWMA.

The third-party study results have confirmed that County and/or the City of Paso Robles withdrawal from the IWMA would greatly increase costs and would not be in the best interest of solid waste ratepayers. Remaining a member agency of the IWMA is clearly the most cost-effective way to comply with various solid waste regulations and will enable us to comply with rapidly approaching Senate Bill 1383 compliance deadlines.

If the Joint Powers Agreement is re-negotiated, the City of Paso Robles will actively participate. We will seek changes to ensure the IWMA does not have authority to enact ordinances that go above and beyond State mandates.

Sincerely,

Matt Thompson, P.E.
Wastewater Manager and Interim Solid Waste Coordinator

Can he pledge the Paso Robles City Council to this? Did they vote in public on this policy?

Item 51 - Request to review and provide direction on staff's process for using the new water management tools for future State Water Project water management actions. The term management tools is euphemistic wording for allowing the County and water agencies within the County to conduct water supply exchanges and transfers of State water. "Water supply exchanges and transfers" generally refers to sales of surplus State water in the system to other entities in the State that is being stored on behalf of the County or one of the other water supply entities within the County. It also refers to storage of State water that has reached the County (for example the Paso Basin) and is to be used for water banking. This item should be read in conjunction with its **Background section** to fully understand the issue. That section begins on page 15 below.

Many Paso Basin residents and overlies are concerned that the import and banking of State water within the basin can impact their primary water rights and the legal status of that portion of the basin which contains room for extra water. (Again, see the background section for a schematic which illustrates some of the issues.)

Accordingly, when the Board approved the contract amendment with the State to allow for such exchanges and uses on a split vote, it directed the staff to return with a strict process for implementing any requests for such actions for Board consideration. This is a discussion item in which staff presents such a process and solicits Board direction about whether it is adequate.

The key portion of this item states in this regard:

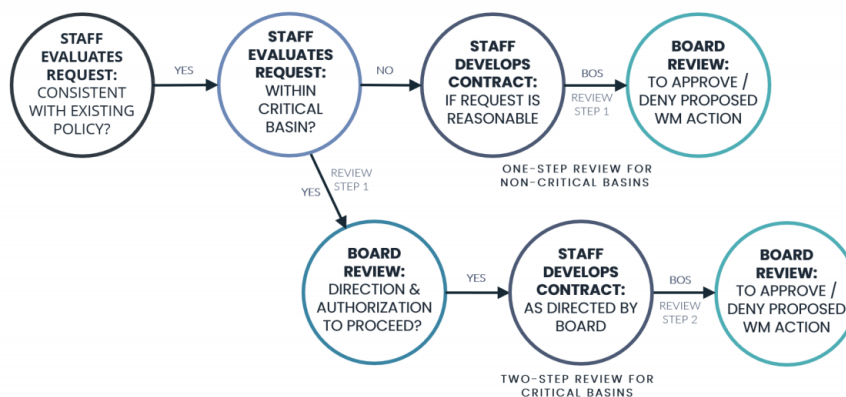
Thus, for SWP water exchange or transfer opportunities that pertain to basins identified by the DWR as “subject to critical conditions of overdraft” (Critical Basins) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code §§ 10720 et seq.), staff will employ a “Two-Step Review” process. This extra step will provide the Board and members of the public with additional time for review (Attachment 3). More specifically, staff will first seek direction from the Board to pursue such transfer or exchange (Step 1) before bringing a contract effectuating an exchange or transfer of SWP water pertaining to a Critical Basin (Step 2). In addition, and in response to Section 8 of the Approval Resolution, this extended process will provide additional time for staff to present, and the Board to consider, the ways in which the District may seek to limit the ability of a buyer or recipient to bank SWP project water. For example, it will afford additional time for the Board to review in context contract language stating that the District is/remains the “importer” of the SWP water such that only the District has the right to “recapture” the water and/or the right to the return flows therefrom. Lastly, and also consistent with Section 8, this process will supply additional opportunity to discuss/complete the necessary review under CEQA.

The staff has provided a flow chart to illustrate the process:

Attachment 3 - Staff's Process Flowchart

State Water Management Tools Requests

Proposed process for vetting requests associated with critical vs. non-critical basins/areas



Some questions arise:

Does the Board have the absolute authority to reject a proposal for storage in an eligible basin? If so, what does this clause of the contract signed by the County with the State mean?

The Agency shall cooperate with other contractors in the development and establishment of groundwater storage programs. The Agency may elect to store Project Water in a groundwater storage program outside its service area for later use within its service area. There shall be no limit on the amount of Project Water the Agency can store outside its service area during any year in a then existing and operational groundwater storage program.

What about storage of such water within its service area?

Background: To better understand this issue please read the article from March 2, which outlines the risks that caused the Board to request staff to return with a process to consider any proposal to store State water.

1. The contract allows sale of “excess water” to other state water contractors rather than simply have it go down the State Water Project canal to benefit others. (This is termed as spilling.) The tables below illustrate the staff policy recommendation:

There are two versions which appear in the County’s agenda packages.

Greater Ability to Move Water Prior to Spills

Year	Annual Allocation %	Stored Water Lost to San Luis Reservoir Spill (AF)	Water Lost Due to Storage Limits (AF)	Total Water Lost to Spill or Storage Limits (AF)
2007	60	12,500	None	12,500
2010	50	No Spill	2,201	2,201
2011	80	6,009	4,160	10,169
2012	65	No Spill	3,139	3,139
2017	85	15,267	6,487	21,754
2019	85	18,639	3,719	22,358
TOTAL		52,415	19,706	72,121

What is the difference between water lost due to Reservoir Spill and Water Lost Due to Storage Limits? Why would the State “spill” a reservoir unless it has reached its storage limits or it expects future flooding?

Year	Annual Allocation %	Total Water Available and Not Delivered (AF)	Unused Water (AF)	Water Lost to Spill (AF)	Total Unused Water and Water Lost to Spill (AF)	Estimated Average Annual Cost for Right to Water (\$/AF)	Estimated Value of Lost Asset & Potential Cost Recovery (\$)
2007	60	10,170	0	12,500	12,500	\$75	\$937,500
2010	50	7,670	2,201	No Spill	2,201	\$75	\$165,075
2011	80	15,170	4,160	6,009	10,169	\$75	\$762,675
2012	65	11,420	3,139	No Spill	3,139	\$100	\$313,900
2017	85	16,420	6,487	15,267	21,754	\$125	\$2,719,250
2019	85	16,420	3,719	18,639	22,358	\$125	\$2,794,750
TOTAL	62%	246,410	19,706	52,415	72,121		\$7,693,150

This year’s State water annual allocation is only 10%. How does this work in low allocation years? Is there a table that shows all the years so that the public and

Supervisors can have a perspective? What are the impacts of out-of-County transfers on water supplies for the County and the subcontractors? (See the table below.)

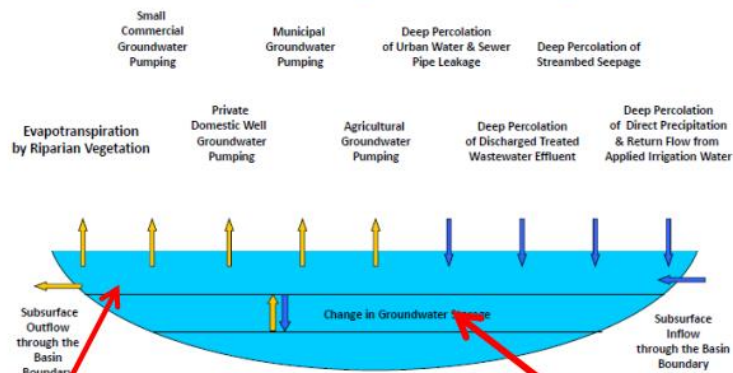
State Water Project Subcontractor Water Amounts

SUBCONTRACTOR	Water Service Amount (AFY)	Drought Buffer Amount (AFY)	Total Water Amounts (AFY)
CSA 16 (Shandon)	100	0	100
City of Morro Bay	1,313	2,290	3,603
CHC	400	400	800
County Ops Center	425	425	850
Cuesta College	200	200	400
City of Pismo Beach	1,240	1,240	2,480
Oceano CSD	750	750	1,500
San Miguelito MWC	275	275	550
Avila Beach CSD	100	100	200
Avila Valley MWC	20	20	40
San Luis Coastal USD	7	7	14
Subcontractor Total =	4,830	5,707	10,537
Unsubscribed "Excess Allocation" =			14,463
District's Total Contract Allocation =			25,000

2. What will be the potential impact of sale and transfers of water supply from the San Luis Reservoir to out-of-county contractors? The Board has made a big deal about prohibiting export of water from within the county to outside the county. Does it make sense to allow export of water allocated to the County, which is still in the state system? In other words, does it make any difference whether water reserves are exported from within the county or outside the county storage? In either case, shortages will be made up from groundwater.

3. The Water Resources Advisory Committee, in recommending the proposal, contemplates the use of supplemental State Water for “recharge and stability of high priority ground water basins...”
 Actually, recharge is water which is naturally occurring from within a basin. It comes from rain, recycled municipal water, ag runoff percolation, and so forth, per the graphic below. Note that imported state water is not included in recharge.

Groundwater Recharge and Discharge Terms



Water which is injected from outside the basin, such as State Water is banked water. Once banked water such as State water is introduced from outside, who owns the rights to **the water** and who owns the right to **the space**? Is it the State, County, water purveyor which imports the water, or who? Do the water bankers have superior rights to the overlies? The Board needs a well-researched expert analysis on this subject so it can understand the future implications as it considers this matter. One clause of the contract amendment states:

Groundwater Storage Programs

The Agency shall cooperate with other contractors in the development and establishment of groundwater storage programs. The Agency may elect to store Project Water in a groundwater storage program outside its service area for later use within its service area. There shall be no limit on the amount of Project Water the Agency can store outside its service area during any year in a then existing and operational groundwater storage program.

There could be substantial interest by other project contractors (agencies) and the State itself for storing water in the very large and drawn down Paso Basin Aquifer. What does **shall cooperate** mean contractually? Is the County obligated to negotiate water storage in the Basin once it signs this contract?

Another clause states:

In accordance with applicable water rights law and the terms of this Article, the Agency may exchange any Annual Table A Amount stored on or after the effective date of the Water Management Amendment in a groundwater storage program outside its service area with another contractor for use in that contractor's service area. These exchanges must comply with the requirements in Article 56(c)(4)(i)-(v). The Agency shall include these exchanges in its preliminary water delivery schedule pursuant to Article 12(a).

4. As a result of the adjudication many overlayers in the Paso Basin have senior appropriative water rights to the County, City of Paso Robles, and other entities. (The judge awarded these prescriptors only 2000 acre-feet per year.) The new El Pomar Water District and the new Shandon-San Juan Water District will be last in line if they seek to pump the basin. Nevertheless, do the County staff and Board of Supervisors know if there are plans by any of these entities to sell allotments which they have or may have in the future that is in excess of customer demand in the adjudicated Paso Basin and adjudicated Santa Maria Basin? Do they plan to import State water and bank it?

5. Would the State Department of Water Resources envision the Paso Basin as a major groundwater storage facility (water bank)? It would be less costly than building the Bay Delta Water Project, raising Oroville and Shasta Dams, and building new reservoirs.

6. It has been asserted by opponents of the Bay Delta Project that one reason the State Department of Water Resources is now willing to allow water exchanges and sales within its system is that in addition to the normal charges for moving and storing the water, it will be able to charge new fees in exchange for the extra benefit under the rubric of Bay Delta water. In this way and if contractors do not vote to support the Bay Delta project, the State could nevertheless capture new revenue to help build and run it.

More significantly, if the project is built and more water becomes deliverable south of the Delta, will contractors that signed amended contracts be deemed to have to pay towards the Bay Delta Project either in the future and/or retroactively?

The ability to sell the surplus water in storage may be fine. The Board needs firm expert answers to these any many other questions. Its job is to be skeptical and ask penetrating questions, especially on major issues.

Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Meeting of Wednesday, August 11, 2021 (Scheduled) 1:30 PM

In General: It should be a hot meeting at the IWMA – Dodge City roundup.

Item 8 - Discussion of the 2021-2022 Budget with Anticipated Revenue Shortfalls and Board Direction As Deemed Appropriate (IWMA BUDGET TRAIN WRECK). It turns out that the adopted FY 2021-2022 Budget is a fake. The Budget was increased 53% to incorporate the significant new activities mandated by SB 1383. The problem is that there is not enough time for the IWMA, its member jurisdictions, and its contractors to take the necessary legal actions or raise charges to the citizens, haulers, and landfill operators to generate the new funding.

The IWMA Budget is based on several significant changes from the prior year 2020-21 budget. The expenditure plan increased \$1,548,650 (53%) from \$2,941,885 to \$4,490,535. To fund the

increase in expenditures, existing reserves are budgeted to cover approximately \$1.1 million in expenditures and budgeted revenues are estimated to increase slightly more than \$1.0 million.

1. The use of reserves to fund recurring operating expenses is a terrible practice.
2. Worse yet, a separate reserve was previously committed to cover closure costs of some of the household hazardous waste recycling sites. As the narrative continues:

IWMA operating reserves are budgeted to decrease from approximately \$1,745,474 to \$601,734. In addition to operating reserves, separate IWMA reserves include \$1,500,000 held for closure of Household Hazardous Waste facilities (\$1,000,000), as required by DTSC, and for emergencies (\$500,000).

It is very dangerous for a utility such as a recycling program to have almost no reserves.

3. The plan to generate new revenues to cover a portion of the new cost beyond the use of reserves is to raise \$1 million in new hauler fees (these are passed through to the homes and businesses) and \$250,000 in land fill fees, which also will be passed through to residents and business.
4. But another problem occurs, as each member jurisdiction must submit the proposed increases to a Constitutional Proposition 218 challenge and referenda process. If 50% + 1 or more of the rate payers in any jurisdiction protest the increase, it then must be placed on the ballot and be subject to a vote in that jurisdiction. Given the recent uproar, there may be a very large protest.

The write-up, while attempting to explicate the matter, is not very clear:

The timing of the increase in revenues from haulers is unpredictable because the implementation of the IWMA rate increases also requires Member Agencies to approve rate increases pursuant to franchise agreements between the Member Agencies and local haulers. Staff has already received feedback from Member Agencies that the timing of their Proposition 218 processes will not be able to meet the timing assumed in the IWMA 2021-21budget.

IWMA Resolution No. 21-06-02 provides the Executive Director with the authority to “extend the effective date if reasonable and necessary to accommodate a member agency making good faith efforts towards SB 1383 compliance deadlines.” In responding to Member Agency concerns, feedback has been provided that an extension of time will be granted. Specific timing and formal granting of the extension will follow additional outreach and coordination with all Member Agencies, special districts, and haulers so that a more realistic understanding of implementation details and timing is known

The budgeted increase in landfill fees may be less predictable. Although a recent amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) relating to Landfill Fees was recently adopted by IWMA to increase those fees, the MOA amendment requires approval by Member Agencies, which at this time is not certain.

Meanwhile, the IWMA and its members are subject to State imposed penalties if they do not implement the provision of SB 1383 timely. The write-up does not explain how the deadlines relate to the issues raise in this train wreck.

Item 9 - Developing A Process To Address Possible Changes To The IWMA Joint Powers Agreement And / Or Other Actions To Align IWMA Efforts With Member Agencies And Stakeholders Under Scenarios Based On 1) Current IWMA Membership And 2) Changes In IWMA Membership. The new executive director solicits Board direction on whether the Board should consider amendments to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to prevent the agency from adopting regulation ordinances beyond state mandates. It also contains recommendations for other changes, particularly the problem that rate increases must be approved in a separate Proposition 218 process by each agency.

This situation has now brought on a fiscal crisis for the agency, as noted in the item above.

California Coastal Commission Meeting of Thursday, August 12, 2021 (Scheduled)

Item Th20 - Oceano Dunes Coastal Development Permit 4-82-300 Review – Re-adoption of the Dunes Closure Phase Out Order. The Commission staff has determined that the order, which it adopted back on March 18, 2021, must be resubmitted to the Commission because the Commission changed three of the recommendations of the staff in the original order. This is because the findings to justify the changes must be amended. The write-up states in part:

When the Commission follows the staff recommendation on a CDP item, the action the Commission takes is typically the only action necessary to effect that action. Here, however, the Commission did not follow the entirety of the staff recommendation, but rather approved changes that were slightly different than what staff was recommending that day. Specifically, the Commission made the following three changes that differed from staff’s recommendation:

- 1. Reduced Phase Out Duration. Whereas staff had recommended that OHV use at Oceano Dunes be phased out completely, and that street-legal vehicular use and camping be confined to the beach area between West Grand and Pier Avenues, by January 1, 2026, the Commission retained the construct of the recommended condition, but shortened the time frame by two years to instead require those same restrictions by January 1, 2024.*
- 2. Extended Time Frame for Pier Avenue Closure. Whereas staff had recommended that the Pier Avenue vehicular entrance to Oceano Dunes be eliminated and the area restored with non-vehicular beach access amenities by July 1, 2021, the Commission retained the construct of the recommended condition, but extended the time frame by one year to instead require same by July 1, 2022.*
- 3. Nighttime Vehicular Use. Whereas staff had recommended that all nighttime vehicular use at Oceano Dunes be prohibited, the Commission retained the construct of the recommended condition, but provided an exception for vehicular use to accommodate ingress, egress, and bathroom going associated with overnight camping.*

The entire massive 837 page report is included in the item as one file. Scores of pages of findings which are changed are highlighted in yellow. Suffice it to say that the Commission's Counsel probably figured out that, absent these changes and the rehearing process, the order would be more vulnerable to the various pending lawsuits, on a technicality basis, which have been brought against the Commission, State Parks, and the County (as a party in interest because it owns the LA Grande tract portion of the Park).

The Commission is fearful that hundreds of people will show up to oppose (the write-up says "re-litigate the decision"). It takes pains to assert that the public comment must be very narrowly limited to the issue of whether the findings correspond to Commission's changes:

IMPORTANT HEARING PROCEDURAL NOTE

Staff recognizes that it may be confusing to some as to why the Commission is holding another public hearing related to Oceano Dunes and the Commission's March 18, 2021 action. Usually, the Commission doesn't hold additional hearings after taking a CDP action. But here, where the Commission's decision differed from staff's recommendation, albeit slightly, another hearing is needed for the Commission as a body to identify and verify that the Commission has adopted final findings and conditions that accurately reflect the action taken on March 18, 2021. So while it may seem unusual to some, it is actually a quite normal – and required – technical process.

At the same time, staff recognizes that there are many passionate parties on all sides of Oceano Dunes issues, and that many parties continue to have strong feelings about the Commission and the Commission's March action. However, the hearing on August 12th is not an opportunity to air opinions about the outcome of the Commission's action on March 18, 2021. Rather, public participation on August 12th is limited to the question of whether the proposed revised findings and conditions accurately reflect the action that the Commission took, not whether the Commission should have taken that action to begin with.

The hearing is not an opportunity to re-litigate the Commission's March decision, or even parts of it. The Commission's decision in that respect is final and incontrovertible. Staff requests that interested parties narrowly focus their comments and testimony to only the revised findings and conditions question that is before the Commission, and not to others. Testimony is welcome, but testimony that is not narrowly focused to that question, including any attempts to rehash the appropriateness of the March 18, 2021 decision, will be cut off. We appreciate all parties' cooperation in that regard, and all parties' respect for the Commission's process.

“The Commission's decision in that respect is final and incontrovertible.”

We need a different governor who will appoint different Commissioners. The absolute arrogance of the Coastal Commission staff has no bounds.

See the full report at the link: [California Coastal Commission](#) . When it opens click on Thursday's agenda a scroll down to item Th20.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, August 12, 2021 (Scheduled)

The agenda is light in that there are only 2 hearing items, one for a previously approved project extension and one for addition of new Agricultural Preserves.

EMERGENT ISSUES HIGHLIGHTS

Item 1 - Rent Deferrals – Another Enviro-Socialist Beachhead

For over a year COLAB has been warning about the perils of government imposed rent deferrals. If a family builds up an accumulated 80% rent deferral for an entire year, how are they going to start paying the current rate when it starts up and at the same time pay off one year's worth of accumulated back rent?

At this point the Federal Government, states, and localities don't know how to end the programs. They fear political reprisal, civil unrest, and out-and-out rebellion, especially in the inner cities. Back in the late '60s and early 70's, the urban riots were often sparked by urban renewal projects which removed dilapidated but affordable housing.

It turns out that the policy also reduces the amount of housing available and has caused huge rent increases. See the article below:

ABJECT LAWLESSNESS AND A MORAL ATROCITY BY NOAH ROTHMAN

It is unfortunately not all that rare for American presidents to do unconstitutional things. It is blessedly rare to hear them announce on national television that they're prepared to knowingly do something unconstitutional. It's even rarer for presidents to announce that they are taking that illegal action of their own volition, not because Congress compelled them to do so. But that is precisely what Joe Biden did on Tuesday evening. Not only did he affirm that the policy he was prepared to extend via fiat likely violated America's founding charter, the policy itself is a failure on its own terms and morally bankrupt to boot.

Minutes before Biden addressed the press on Tuesday, his administration announced that it would cave to the ironic demand from congressional progressives to extend a Trump-era initiative halting evictions nationwide. But where did the authority come from for such a sweeping intervention into the private economy, Biden was asked. His answer was simple: It didn't exist.

“Are you sure it's going to pass Supreme Court muster?” [one reporter asked the president](#). Good question. After all, the [Court had recently ruled](#) that the CDC-administered

moratorium on evictions would have to expire last month, and the administration had previously suggested that it would abide by that verdict. Biden assured the reporter that he had sought out the expertise of constitutional scholars on the matter, but only to ignore their advice. “The bulk of the Constitutional scholarship says that it’s not likely to pass Constitutional muster, number one,” Biden bizarrely confessed. But his assault on American law and custom didn’t end there. Biden continued: “There are several key scholars who think that it may and it’s worth the effort.” In other words, while conceding the illegality of this executive order, the White House believes it will take time for the courts to make that determination. In the interim, this act of lawlessness could have the desired effect.

Brazen doesn’t even begin to describe this.

Biden’s admission alone would be an unforgivable—indeed, impeachable—display of contempt for the president’s oath of office even if the policy Biden sought to extend was a sound one. But it is not. The eviction moratorium has had a terribly distorting effect on the American housing market, and many victims of what was supposed to be a temporary emergency measure are precisely the people progressives insist they want to help.

The government-backed prohibition on imposing consequences on derelict renters has contributed to an [8.1 percent year-over-year increase](#) in the median rent price in America in the month of June. But that average price increase masks the true scope of the scandal. Rental prices in 44 of the nation’s 50 largest metropolitan areas posted gains over 20 percent. The shortage of available rental units and the soaring price of homes is contributing to a dearth of available rental properties, forcing people to put their lives on hold.

Moreover, the lack of any incentive to cater to the rental market has led property owners to sell rather than rent, contributing to the national inventory shortage. “A year ago, a three-bedroom two-bath that would’ve rented for say \$1,350,” one [New Mexico-based realtor](#) pointed out, “well now, it will get \$1,800 or \$1,900 a month.” And though his average monthly listings are halved from where they were a year ago, the number of applications for any listed property has skyrocketed. [Americans are desperate for a place to live.](#)

While there is a shortage of rental units, there is no dearth of horror stories from property owners who are trapped in abusive relationships with squatters. One representative story published in the [Washington Post](#) tells the enraging tale of a New York state landlord whose life’s investment is being stolen—brazenly and without remorse—out from under him. [Reason provides another:](#) an outrageous account of a Chinese immigrant who saved just enough to buy an investment property only to watch as her tenant—a recent dropout from an elite private college—squat on her land without paying any rent or taking advantage of programs that help bridge financing for renters in financial distress. And [so on](#), and [so on](#). And if the Biden administration has its way, violators of his executive edict could face six-figure fines and even jail time.

If there ever was any justification for this, there is no longer. The job market has recovered from the immediate after-effects of the pandemic—indeed, there are [millions of available employment opportunities](#), and employers are desperate to hire talent. The federal government’s intervention in the rental market has contributed to a condition in which housing is unrealistically priced, young people cannot start their lives, and distressed renters cannot house themselves and their families. It is contributing to a moral atrocity in which the federal government provides a backstop for scofflaws while stealing from prudent investors the fruits of their labors. And to top it all off, it is almost certainly illegal by the president’s own admission.

The Biden administration should be ashamed of itself.

This article first appeared in the August 4, 2021 edition of *Commentary*. Noah Rothman is the Associate Editor of *Commentary* and the author of [Unjust: Social Justice and the Unmaking of America](#).

Item 2 - Socialist Beachhead

Soon we will see the Feds, the Newsome administration, and numerous woke counties and cities announcing that the deferrals are somehow permanent and that there will be new supplemental programs to amortize the accumulated rent debt. In effect, this will begin the nationalization of private housing.

Beachhead:

A secure position that has been gained in adverse territory, and that can be used for further advancement; a foothold.



Item 3 - Climate Crises Debunked

Nationally syndicated columnist and SLO County resident Steven Hayward debunks climate hysteria and underscores the growing schism in the Scientific County in the article below. Moreover, he points out how even the New York Times notes that calls to save the planet have been false alarms. Similarly, Science Magazine is questioning the models and predictions.

A NEW CRISIS FOR CLIMATE SCIENCE?

BY STEVEN HAYWARD

We are just weeks away from the two major climatista jamborees of 2021. The first is the UN COP 26 meeting in Glasgow next month, which the usual people (John Kerry, etc) are calling “the last chance to save the planet,” because all of the previous 25 “last chance” meetings were a false alarm. (You think I exaggerate? Check out the **New York Times** from June 30: “[Democrats Have a Year to Save the Planet.](#)”)

The second is the release of the next comprehensive report of the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which typically issues a new 5,000-page report every five to seven years that collects and summarizes the latest state of “the science” of climate change. Suffice it to say that not much has changed since the first IPCC report almost 30 years ago. There might be some small, subtle changes in the next report, however.

The latest report was supposed to be done a year ago, but was delayed by you-know-what. But it is also possible that there are enough climate scientists involved in the process who are expressing concern that the climate models the political class is using to generate panic aren’t really working right, and want to dial it back a bit. If this turns out to be the case, these subtle changes in emphasis will likely be buried deep in the full IPCC report, and the 25-page “summary for policy makers” that the IPCC produces for media consumption will still say the end of the world is nigh if we don’t hand over our car keys.

One clue to this inside-baseball drama comes from an unlikely place—**Science** magazine, which is about as dead center in the scientific establishment as you can get. Last week **Science** published a remarkable article—remarkable for implicitly ratifying what climate “skeptics” have been saying about climate models for at least a decade, namely, that they are running “too hot.”

The article is entitled, “[U.N. climate panel confronts implausibly hot forecasts of future warming](#),” and it is a real jaw-dropper:

[A]s climate scientists face this alarming reality [of a warming world], the climate models that help them project the future have grown a little too alarmist. Many of the world’s leading models are now projecting warming rates that most scientists, including the modelmakers themselves, [believe are implausibly fast](#). In advance of the U.N. report, scientists have scrambled to understand what went wrong and how to turn the models, which in other respects are more powerful and trustworthy than their predecessors, into useful guidance for policymakers. “It’s become clear over the last year or so that we can’t avoid this,” says Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

The story goes on to explain that many of the worst-case warming model predictions—of more than 5 degrees C—are surely wrong, and it appears the next IPCC report may narrow the range of possible warming in the year 2100 to 2.6 to 3.9 degrees C, with this upper bound down from about 4.5 degrees C that has appeared in previous IPCC assessments. You can be assured that the new IPCC report will emphasize that **nothing has essentially changed**—that even 3.9 degrees

will be the end of the everything. But parts of the **Science** story, even though cautiously written so as not to underline The Narrative, is really devastating for the “certainty” of climate prediction that we’re endlessly told to trust.

Like this:

In the past, most models projected a “climate sensitivity”—the warming expected when atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) is doubled over preindustrial times—of between 2°C and 4.5°C. Last year, a landmark paper that largely [eschewed models and instead used documented factors](#) including ongoing warming trends calculated a likely climate sensitivity of between 2.6°C and 3.9°C. But many of the new models from leading centers showed warming of more than 5°C—uncomfortably outside these bounds.

The models were also out of step with records of past climate. *For example, scientists used the new model from NCAR to simulate the coldest point of the most recent ice age, 20,000 years ago. Extensive [paleoclimate records suggest](#) Earth cooled nearly 6°C compared with preindustrial times, but the model, fed with low ice age CO₂ levels, had temperatures plummeting [by nearly twice that much](#), suggesting it was far too sensitive to the ups and downs of CO₂. “That is clearly outside the range of what the geological data indicate,” says Jessica Tierney, a paleoclimatologist at the University of Arizona and a co-author of the work, which appeared in **Geophysical Research Letters**. “It’s totally out there.”*

In addition to the difficulty climate models have in understanding the complex dynamics of the atmosphere (especially clouds), there is the additional problem of what emissions scenarios you feed into the computer models. Suffice it to say that most of the biggest temperature predictions you hear about are based on future emissions estimates that almost no one believes are remotely realistic (often referred to as the RCP8.5 problem).

Roger Pielke Jr. and Justin Ritchie give a [comprehensive takedown](#) of this problem in a recent article in **Issues in Science and Technology**. A few brief samples:

In our research on the plausibility of IPCC scenarios, we have discovered it is not just RCP8.5 that is implausible, but the entire set of baseline scenarios used by the IPCC. . .

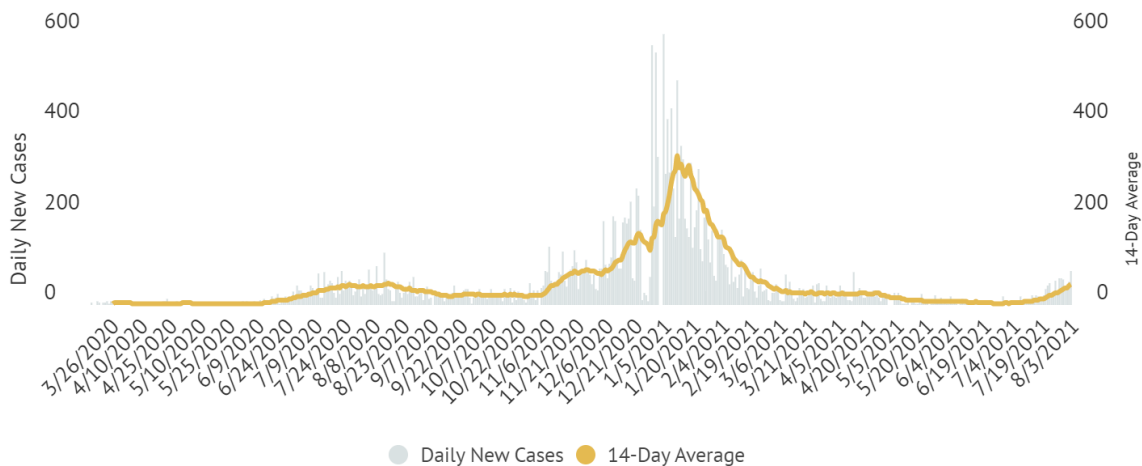
The consequences of pervasive, implausible climate scenarios extend far beyond the IPCC process and the academic literature these scenarios have enabled. A continued focus on implausible emissions scenarios in climate research is a failure of science’s supposed internal quality assurance mechanisms and thus a failure of scientific integrity. The persistent use of implausible scenarios introduces error and bias widely across climate research. They are now woven through the climate science literature in ways that will be very difficult to untangle. . .

Many of these thousands of published papers project future impacts of climate change on people, the economy, and the environment that are considerably more extreme than an actual understanding of emissions and forcing pathways would suggest is likely. . . And so, with any attempts at scientific nuance lost in technical language, these implausible projections of apocalyptic impacts decades hence are converted by press releases, media coverage, and

advocates—as in an extended game of telephone—into assertions that climate change is now catalyzing dramatic increases in extreme events such as hurricanes, droughts, and floods, events that foreshadow imminent global catastrophe.

Item 4 - COVID Status. The slight uptick, which began last week, continues. At the lowest point, only 1 person was in the hospital and none were in the ICU from COVID. As the graph demonstrates, we are about where we were back in November 2020 in terms of average daily cases. It will be highly problematical if the Delta virus variant repeats the pattern of the original versions. It appears that the unvaccinated are most susceptible.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



Hospitalizations

14 (3 COVID)

Local Occupied (ICU) Beds

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

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

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

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

Item G-1: SLOCOG Equity Assessment Report Received. It is likely to sit on the shelf. After a report by the consultant and some discussion, the SLOCOG Board voted unanimously to

receive the report. Both Supervisor Gibson and Arroyo Grande City Councilman Paulding expressed concern that the report's recommendations will not be implemented. Other than some ideas about translation services and having evening meetings, they provided no specifics. Apparently those who support the study don't have any real idea what to do. No doubt most members realize that it's a hot potato. Now that they have virtue signaled by conducting the study, they may be satisfied to have it simply vanish into the bureaucratic ether for now.

Background: 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

“YOUR TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS AT WORK”

Item G-5: SLOCOG to adopt \$188 million Bike Plan. The matter was continued to the September 1, 2021 meeting. The Board ran out of time to consider the last 3 items on the agenda. They had set a hard 12 o’clock noon adjournment time.

From time to time SLOCOG runs out of time for its often heavy agenda. We have frequently suggested that they allow more hours. The staff is often admonished to hurry up its presentations and the Board must consider some complex matters in a hurry. In the end, this gives the staff more independence and power to shape policy and leaves the elected policy makers little time for questions and debate. The agency is allocating hundreds of millions of dollars for highway and road capital construction, mass transit, paratransit, bikeways, and traffic safety.

Background: The deferred Board item recommended a \$188 million multi-year long term plan to build and operate more bike paths and lanes. The actual proposed action was 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.

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

THE DISSIDENT CALIFORNIA RIGHT IS THE FUTURE

The rest of America's Right has a ways to go before it catches up to the dissident California Right. We were here first and you should listen to us

BY LANE SCOTT

Despite appearances, the Right in California is actually the closest to offering a solution to the Left's war on civilization. Of course, I do not mean the GOP when I say "the Right." The GOP is more or less nonexistent in the Golden State. But perhaps this is also why almost all of the most vibrant, confident, and influential writers on the Right today are from California.

The strongest institutions on the Right, inoculated as they have been against the disease of wokeness—institutions like this magazine and the Claremont Institute—originated in California. Californian writers like Victor Davis Hanson and Angelo Codevilla were the first to describe the defining political struggle of our time between the ruling class and the country class, the great oligarchy and the plebs, the bicoastal masters and the great servant interior, as all of these national struggles were present in California decades ago. California native Michael Anton was the first to describe the actual parameters and ramifications of the 2016 presidential election. Sadly, the Californian with perhaps the most exemplary attitude towards the Left is no longer with us. Andrew Breitbart knew wokeness was best combated with confidence and laughter.

California is the capital of the new Right, and the rest of the country will have to get to where we are before anything constructive can be done. Because we don't have to guess about how bad things can get. We know.

The Left, no longer the party of the common man, the little man, or the forgotten man, is now a party entirely for the *made* man. Those already among the rich and powerful are automatically accepted, and the Left graciously allows plebs to join and minister unto them, so long as they attend the proper institutions, perform the proper induction ceremonies, and devote their lives to the bureaucracy or mechanism of the state.

The lowest rung of the leftist coalition is composed of the sainted hordes, which—as is obvious to every Californian not currently making money or gaining influence by servicing the Left's one-percenters—is defined roughly as any group of disadvantaged people likely to vote for leftists. Much of the time the sainted hordes are synonymous with immigrants, but not always. The Left is very meticulous in its support for the lowly. Only those likely to be made useful in further empowering the made Left are welcome. Cubans, Eastern Europeans, and those who (like the California Right) might properly be called "dissidents" are wise to the game and are, therefore, unwelcome.

This new Left, which bears almost no resemblance to the party of FDR and blue-collar unions, squeezes every possible drop of power and cultural significance out of industries and institutions built long ago by parties and individuals long dead. Critical race theory is only the latest iteration of their signature move—critical theory—which essentially takes something worthwhile and critiques the living shit out of it for power and profit. The more shrill and bitter the criticisms, the better—for the tacit premise of the modern Left is that *those who critique loudest deserve to rule*.

Like everything else prevalent on the Left, critical deconstruction started in academia and eventually spread into government bureaucracy and popular culture. As the size and influence of the state expanded following World War II, the party of deconstruction infiltrated society as the managerial class. Its influence now is so great that its origins in academia and bureaucracy are obscured, so it appears endemic. But this is an illusion.

The political rule of those who critique the loudest or those who harbor the most exquisite sensitivity to slights can thrive only within the mostly talentless, enervated, and hollowed out wastelands that academia, Hollywood, and our large bureaucracies have become. Were it not for the inherent postmodern weakness of these institutions, such people would not have gained a foothold. They would have been mocked and discarded. They would have been among the unemployable.

It was all well and good to dismiss California's fruits and nuts accepting the yoke of such people. But white rural voters, the military, the police, those with no political connections and no obvious fidelity to either Left or Right are experiencing critical deconstruction right now, and they don't know how to process it. Until recently, most have preferred not to believe it. The professional grifters must think there is enough weakness and lack of confidence in these institutions that their "only I see how bad this is, and therefore I should rule over it" routine just might work.

The Plague of the Locusts

Today's made men of the Left are closer to locusts than they are to the big union or party bosses of mid-century America, because the woke Left does not concern itself with the interests of anyone outside its top two rungs: the "haves" and their priestly class of handmaidens that minister the massive state apparatus.

The old Left concerned itself somewhat with the results or fruits of its power—it was interested in whether Democratic Party victories brought jobs, influence, happiness, or wealth to its voters. Today's made Left does not have to concern itself with what it provides for the lowly or unconnected. It needs only to critique what others, theoretically, have failed to provide. It is entirely a theoretical or mental exercise divorced from reality.

This racket has been going on in California for decades, and it is the main reason political dissidents in California are clear-eyed about the general rules of the game in post-woke America.

Compromise, moderation, coming together across the aisle, gangs of eight and all the rest might have been laudable efforts a half-century ago because the underlying assumption of such politicking was that a true statesman is able to find some common ground, some way to scratch the backs of his constituency while also giving something of value to his political opponents. Politicians in this mold could be very successful in mid-century America.

But this is all folly now. If the woke Left exists only to promote, flatter, and enrich its made men by critiquing and pulling down the institutions and leaders of the past, what can possibly be gained by compromising with it? Or, to put it more bluntly, what would be the difference

between doing this and being one of those grifters who buy into the Left's nonsense just enough to make a living off of it? The only compromise with this kind of self-interested rule would be to go along with some or all of it in order to get a piece of the pie for ourselves. And it seems like we have had enough people step forward to fill that role on the Right already.

If the basis of rule in America 2021 is that those who are the most exquisitely offended *on behalf* of an insulted class or ecosystem are the rightful rulers, how is compromise or moderation possible? How can anyone not in on the scheme behave "reasonably" according to the Left and hold their ground? We reach out, compromise, and end up renouncing only half of our heroes and cherished institutions?

Beyond Nostalgia and Faux Reasonableness

Despite *en vogue* calls to move to red states to conserve "what's left of America," California remains the locus of the intellectual Right simply because Californians are more savvy to this game, having played it all of their lives. Almost no one alive remembers a California that was anything but silly. The reason the California Right has a hard time identifying with the word "conservative" is that there is nothing left to *conserve* in California.

What we have instead is an abundance of malignant nonsense to uproot and cast out. The new Left came to power convincing voters to let it run the state on behalf of multiple imagined victims and social inequities, but it has been so long since their leftist politics delivered anything of actual use to anyone that no honest person in the state can be ignorant of the *actual* political system and its objective anymore. California is now composed of an enormous priestly class of state and municipal workers, together with myriad quasi-independent contractors and semi-private companies which are essentially dependent upon state government contracts and largesse for their economic survival, united with extremely profitable nonprofit activists and the already fantastically wealthy using the sympathetic story of the state's enormous homeless, poor, and immigrant population to ensure perpetual rule for themselves.

It doesn't matter that nothing ever gets better for this last group—that homelessness increases exponentially, or that the poor are increasingly without decent housing, energy, education, or healthcare. The Left rules on the basis of its argument that it *sees* these unfortunates in a more meaningful way than those who would actually try to *improve* their lot. It's a ridiculous argument and the only reason it has worked so well for so long is that California has enough money to spread around to all the Left's allies who require buying off, while also boasting the largest collection of fantastically naïve and stupid people in the country.

Those who have managed to stay in the state without the benefit of the Left's financial or social remunerations comprise the country's largest bloc of Trump voters, and the largest collection of radicalized political dissidents. They know that there is no middle ground to be found with what is essentially mafia-like rule of their state. They hate the Republican Party even more than the Democrats do, if only because its deception of and uselessness to the people it was supposed to represent adds a dead animal stench to what is mostly a comically inept artifice of a once-useful organization.

California's dissident Right also knows there can be no cultural or social response to the Left other than derision and contempt. The problem with much of the American Right is that it is not

yet confident enough to make fun of the ridiculous fraud that is the modern Left. Too many of us still desperately want to be the reasonable people the Left *knows we can become*. We remember that feeling, but we find it cringe-inducing now.

The only way forward is to engage with a near-obsessive focus on the goal, which is not nostalgia or a return to a more conservative era: it is striving for civilization, *now*, among the ruins of chaos, fear, selfishness, and deception that are a constant throughout human history. The differences between the Right and the Left don't have to do with race, class, or privilege. They are separated by a fundamental disagreement on reality.

One side gains power by selling a lie that life is destined to be a beautiful, organized, triumphant, and shining commune that can only be taken away by selfish, racist retrogrades. They don't even have to deliver utopia! They just have to convince you that their political enemies have taken utopia from you.

The other side believes that civilization is incredibly difficult to achieve, perpetually fragile, and constantly threatened by various forces of chaos and disorder. This second side is now coming around to the realization that there aren't enough fumes of Western Civilization to coast comfortably anymore. We can't continue to cling desperately to the ashes of formerly civilized and civilizing institutions while leftists lecture us about our past injustices and further weaken our confidence.

California dissidents lead the intellectual Right because they have turned away from the futile task of critiquing the Left's deconstructionist critique, and have begun *building* the alternative institutions and culture necessary for survival. Everything from alternative education and medical insurance to socializing and working with like-minded people are already part of the California culture. Now, after COVID lockdowns and the rapid acceleration of woke leftism, the rest of the country increasingly finds itself similarly cut off and cast out from "polite" American society. The difference is that it's still fresh and painful for them. Californians no longer waste their energy fretting about it.

We must have some new font of culture that *produces* something. There cannot be anything new while we are constantly responding and reacting to the Left's latest critical deconstruction of some formerly strong aspect of American life. We don't have to answer these people. And we have to stop thinking that there must be some red state out there where we can buy an affordable house and move back to 1986. It doesn't exist.

The more we cling to our nostalgia for what we have lost, the more our instinct is to conserve or reconnect with the past rather than move forward into the unknown future, the more we empower the new Left to control our culture, harnessing this very nostalgia to continue empowering itself. Nostalgia will rule the day until the Right develops its own culture and institutions capable of presenting a viable alternative to woke American life.

California's Dissident Right Has the Confidence to Build

In the meantime, there is nothing to be gained by attempts to appear reasonable to the Left. Their objective is to continue to enrich and empower the few made men at the top, and the Left's

signature appearance of empathy for the downtrodden remains their golden ticket to power. But the total destruction of our great cities in the last 70 years by monopolistic leftist rule should immediately put the lie to their faux concern. They don't care about the poor. They don't care about immigrants. They don't care about the abysmal schools poor kids have to attend. If they did, they would do something to make things better for these groups. They would *do something* with all that power. They would be scandalized by their own lack of advocacy.

No—the faux sympathy is a show *for us*: to make us lose confidence in ourselves, to make us question our motives, and to make us think *wow, they care so much more than I do. They should probably be in charge.*

A confident Right would see these people for what they are: a circus of talentless hacks incapable of building anything, singing for their bread with a tune of constant mockery for the genius of others who came before them. No one is remaking “An Inconvenient Truth,” raking in money while deconstructing it to oblivion. No one is updating “The Day After Tomorrow” with an all-LGTBQ cast, challenging the leftism of the early aughts. Leftism cannot bear that kind of criticism; the cultural products of the woke Left are so devoid of inherent artistic worth they are useless to deconstructionists.

But they will remake “Superman” 850 times, with increasingly ridiculous far-Left tropes pasted onto its classic themes, because that is the closest they can ever get to genius.

Any reasonably confident student of Shakespeare should be able to laugh a critical deconstructionist right out of the classroom. Any decent student of economics should be able to laugh the Green New Deal off the pages of our most important newspapers. It should be a thing of derision. It's a joke. But we lack the confidence to laugh. For some insane reason, we believe what these grifters say.

The state of play in America 2021 is reminiscent of Kenneth Clark's description of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire:

The late antique world was full of meaningless rituals, mystery religions, that destroyed self-confidence. And then exhaustion, the feeling of hopelessness which can overtake people even with a high degree of material prosperity. There is a poem by the modern Greek poet, Cavafy, in which he imagines the people of an antique town like Alexandria waiting every day for the barbarians to come and sack the city. Finally the barbarians move off somewhere else and the city is saved; but the people are disappointed—it would have been better than nothing.

Clark's contention that a civilization's confidence is the key factor for survival suggests that there is more to deconstructionism than the swindle itself. It is designed to defeat cultures by robbing them of their confidence.

The Right's habituated response to the *Left's* critique of Western Civilization is so many levels removed from anything constructive that it's almost completely useless. The proper response is disregard, mockery, and eventual indifference to woke claims. The proper response is a quiet confidence.

Throughout the pandemic, California offered two examples of life going forward: the almost complete conformity, fear, and slavery of the locked-down coastal cities, and the near-total freedom of the hidden places in the red California interior. Despite the blue politics of the state, life in some conservative areas of California remained relatively normal. This was not because we appealed to our overlords for exemption and were granted leniency. It is because people in the deep red areas of California together with our local law enforcement, have recaptured the idea of self-government and we confidently *refused to comply*.

When COVID cases spiked in December 2020, people masked up and quarantined themselves. Businesses that had been quietly open, closed. We isolated our elderly to minimize their risk. Several of the young families chose to move freely, determining that they were better off contracting the virus and inoculating themselves. When the outbreak was over and case numbers fell four weeks later, most people unmasked and resumed their lives. No one asked for permission. A quiet confidence in two essential facts ruled the day: first, that we are capable of self-rule and do not need to be taken care of by our nanny state, and two, that the bonds between ourselves and our local businesses, churches, law enforcement, and schools were strong enough to support us.

Throughout the pandemic, I was in contact with several friends and family in Idaho, Texas, Tennessee and Arizona. At one point we took a poll: how many Sundays were you unable to attend Mass in person? Are your kids attending school in person? Are businesses open, do they make you mask up, are restaurants open? Are your kids participating in extracurricular activities? Are you comfortable spending time outside in your community? None of these other places were more free than California's conservative interior in 2020. I am convinced the reason for this is because, together as a small society, we were confident enough to live as free people. Because of California's hostile political climate, we had already established alternative institutions for ourselves that we retained control over and were able to open and close as we deemed necessary.

The great hope for the Right is not in escapism or nostalgia, but rather in a renewed confidence that the principles of civilization have not changed. We have hope in a consistent, fixed human nature and therefore in the centuries of good political theory exploring how to build institutions and societies conducive to self-rule and flourishing. We have a handful of institutions with integrity enough to aid us in our quest to replace what is lost in this country and we can build more. Many of our laws and much of our political system and culture remain salvageable. But we cannot continue to fall for this ridiculous claim to rule put forth by the exquisitely offended. An overly sensitive and critical soul is not synonymous with political legitimacy. It is time to start asking ourselves how on earth such a weak, ridiculous political philosophy was ever allowed to escape the padded halls of our academic institutions and run rampant in our country.

In California, we are outnumbered and surrounded—but we are not defeated. The mistakes others have made in our collective past are not our own. We arrive on this earth with the same privilege every other generation has had before us, and that is to assess ourselves and our culture in the here and now, free from both the guilt and the assurance of our forebears.

Our old institutions, that we neither conceived nor built, are at present largely useless and in some cases destructive to society. But we are not hidebound by our great-grandfathers'

institutions or by what they have become. We can build something else, something new. We are alive in this time for a reason, and its challenges are not beyond us.

Lane Scott is an assistant editor of American Greatness. She was a John M. Olin Foundation Fellow at the School of Politics and Economics at Claremont Graduate University. She received her undergraduate degree from Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California. Lane and her husband own a small farm in the California Gold Country where they live with their five young children.

WHAT IS WOKE REALLY ABOUT?

Wokeness is many things. But increasingly it seems a cover for careerism, profiteering—and utter incompetence.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Most Americans were as indifferent to the unexpected loss of our Olympic women’s soccer team as they were once excited about their World Cup win.

In between was the team’s nonstop politicking, from whining about compensation to virtue signaling their disrespect for the United States. The celebrity face of the team, perennial scold Megan Rapinoe, is going the way of teenage grouch Greta Thunberg—becoming more pinched and scowling the more she is tuned out.

BLM co-founder and self-avowed Marxist Patrisse Marie Khan-Cullors Brignac used her corporate grifting to buy four homes. The last in Topanga Canyon, surrounded by a new \$35,000 security fence.□

Critical race guru Ibram X. Kendi offers virtual, one-hour workshops for \$20,000 a pop. He is franchising woke reeducation kits—in between bouts of damning capitalism as a catalyst of racism.

The woke movement, in other words, is a slicker, more sophisticated, and far more grandiose version of the Al Sharpton-Jesse Jackson corporate shakedown cons of the 1990s.□

The latter, at least, were far more honest in leveraging corporate cash with unfounded charges of racism—and came without the academic gobbledygook of critical race theory.□

Our freeways are jammed. Airports are crammed. Labor is short. Huge pent-up consumer demand for essentials and entertainment outpaces supply. Yet Major League Baseball’s recent All-Star Game saw record low television viewership—about a fourth of the audience of 40 years ago when there were 100 million fewer Americans.

The Summer Olympic Games are looking dismal with anemic American viewership. Ditto the reduced interest in the recent NBA playoffs.□

Professional basketball's crashing ratings followed the downward trajectory of the NFL. Woke sports earn the same public disgust as the accusatory and boring Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards.□

Cable news networks CNN and MSNBC fueled the Russian collusion hoax. They contextualized (to excuse) the 120 days of summer looting and rioting in 2020. And both cheered on two impeachments—as a prelude to their 24/7 woke drumbeat. Their ratings, too, have now dived.

Never has TV been more politicized. Sitcoms, dramas, and commercials are designed more to resonate race and woke messaging than to entertain. So naturally their dismal TV ratings reflect the expected public boredom when art serves politics.□

How many times will a disingenuous Dr. Fauci appear on television to swear that he never sent federal money to the Wuhan virology lab for gain-of-function research, or blame his critics for pointing out his gyrating advice on masks, or offer yet another noble lie on herd immunity?□

In short, Americans are worn out from elite virtue signaling and woke performance art from the critical race theory capitalists, multimillionaire corporate CEOs, revolving-door Pentagon brass, Malibu celebrities, and credentialed elite.

The problem is not just that most of America is exhausted from being smeared as racists, or hearing that a wonderful country—the most free, just, equitable, affluent, and leisured in civilization's history— must continually pay penance for its past and present.□

The public is even more tired of projectionist hypocrisy. Those who scream the loudest are usually the most guilty of woke crimes.□

Joe Biden sees a racist under every American bed—except his own bigoted son who texts racist slurs about blacks and Asians.□

Meanwhile finger-pointing Marxist activists get rich peddling their critical race theory snake oil. Can we insist that those who scream at us about “equity” at least not live in mansions worth over \$10 million?□

Yet the woke madness coincides with an epidemic of crises that go largely ignored as a distracted America cannibalizes itself.□

The border is wide open at a time of pandemic. Two million are scheduled to enter America illegally. They barge in without either COVID-19 testing or vaccinations—during a coronavirus spike when the government promises to go door-to-door to roust out American citizens to get vaccinated.□

Whiteness is supposedly the cause of America's problems. But our inner-cities are suffering historic violent crime waves. Commonplace looting and assault are now daily urban events. Could not our critical race theory accusers first take time out of their merchandising to address the black-on-black murders and soaring violence among young males in the inner-city?

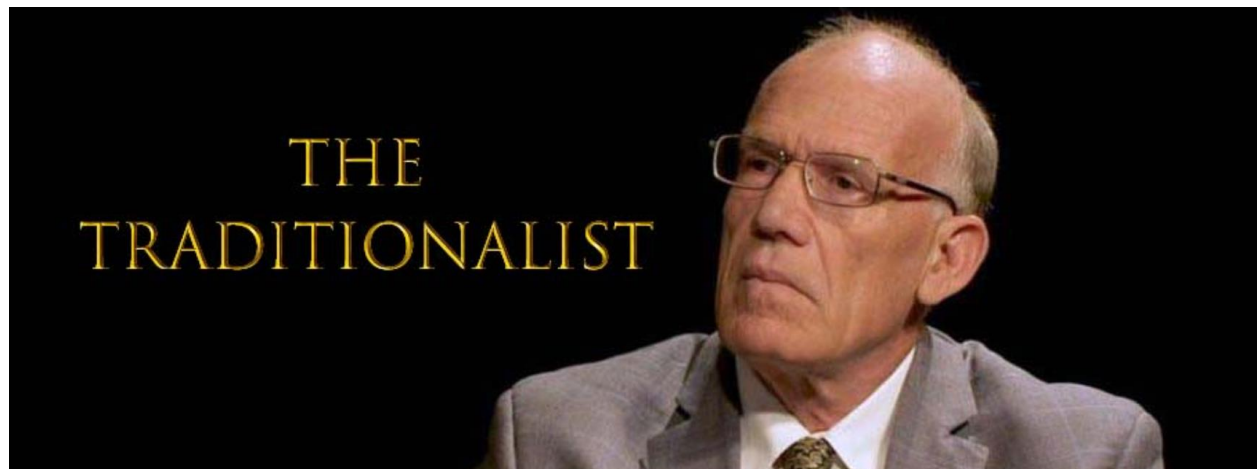
The Biden Administration denies that huge deficit spending and generous cash payments to workers fueled inflation. But a seething public hasn't seen anything like the current price hikes and labor shortages in the last 40 years.

The military, CIA, and FBI have lost the confidence of the public—and not just because of their woke politicking. Instead, they are perceived as distracted and ignoring their primary missions of winning wars, catching terrorists before they strike, and offering superb intelligence about our enemies.

A finger pointing Hollywood's movies are increasingly trite, predictable, and boring.

Wokeness is many things. But increasingly it seems a cover for careerism, profiteering—and utter incompetence.

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.





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