

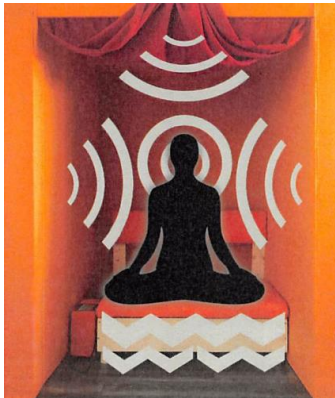


**WEEKLY UPDATE  
DECEMBER 12 - 18, 2021**

**THIS WEEK**

**BOS - TUESDAY  
GROUNDWATER PLAN UPDATES**

**SOUNDWOMB PROJECT BACK – STAFF PUSHING HARD  
(PRESENTS A DILEMMA FOR THE BOARD)**



**CRIMINALS TO BE DEPROGRAMMED WITH GONG MUSIC/\$576,000**

**DROUGHT REPORT – SHORT-TERM ACTIONS, NO STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS,  
MAJOR CONSOLIDATION OF PLANNING AND BUILDING FEES + INCREASES  
(IF NO ONE COMPLAINS, THEY WILL GO INTO EFFECT)  
WORKFORCE HOUSING ORDINANCE TO BE MADE PERMANENT**

**FINAL REDISTRICTING MAP ADOPTION - 1:30 PM**

**LAST WEEK**

## **BOS MEETING**

**WORKFORCE HOUSING ORDINANCE SET FOR HEARING  
FY 2021-22 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT – SHORT SHRIFT  
PROPOSED 2022 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM DELAYED  
COUNTY CHARTER PROCESS AUTHORIZED  
SAN LUIS VALLEY GROUNDWATER PLAN ADOPTED**

**REDISTRICTING ORDINANCE SUBMITTED  
SET FOR 1:30, DECEMBER 14, HEARING AND FINAL ACTION**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
MAJOR WINERY EXPANSION EAST OF PASO ROBLES APPROVED**

### **EMERGENT ISSUES**

**COVID STILL PLATEAUED**

**COLAB IN DEPTH  
SEE PAGE 33**

### **BRIEF GUIDE TO LEFTIST DESTRUCTION**

*THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE ONE NEEDS TO KNOW TO  
UNDERSTAND THE MODERN WORLD.*

**BY DENNIS PRAGER**

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

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, December 14, 2021 (Scheduled)**

**Item 16 - It is recommended that the Board receive and file a report on the implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) efforts in eight local groundwater basins. The report is updated quarterly and is very complete. It provides an overview, and the**

details of each of the subject basins listed below. The full report can be accessed by control clicking on the link: [137991 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov) . It is well organized and is clear.

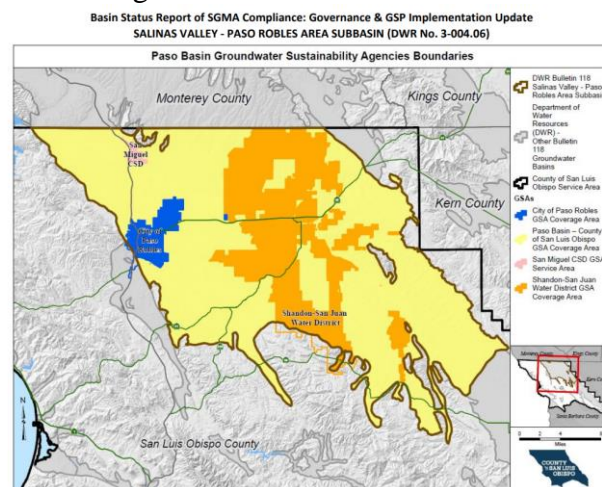
- Cuyama Valley (DWR No. 3-013, “Cuyama”)
- Salinas Valley – Paso Robles Area (DWR No. 3-004.06, “Paso”)
- Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area (DWR No. 3-004.11, “Atascadero”)
- San Luis Obispo Valley (DWR No. 3-009, “San Luis Obispo”)
- Los Osos Valley – Los Osos Area (DWR No. 3-008.1, “Los Osos”)
- Los Osos Valley – Warden Creek (DWR No. 3-008.2, “Warden Creek”)
- Santa Maria River Valley – Santa Maria (DWR No. 3-012.01, “Santa Maria”)
- Santa Maria River Valley – Arroyo Grande (DWR No. 3-012.02, “Arroyo Grande”)

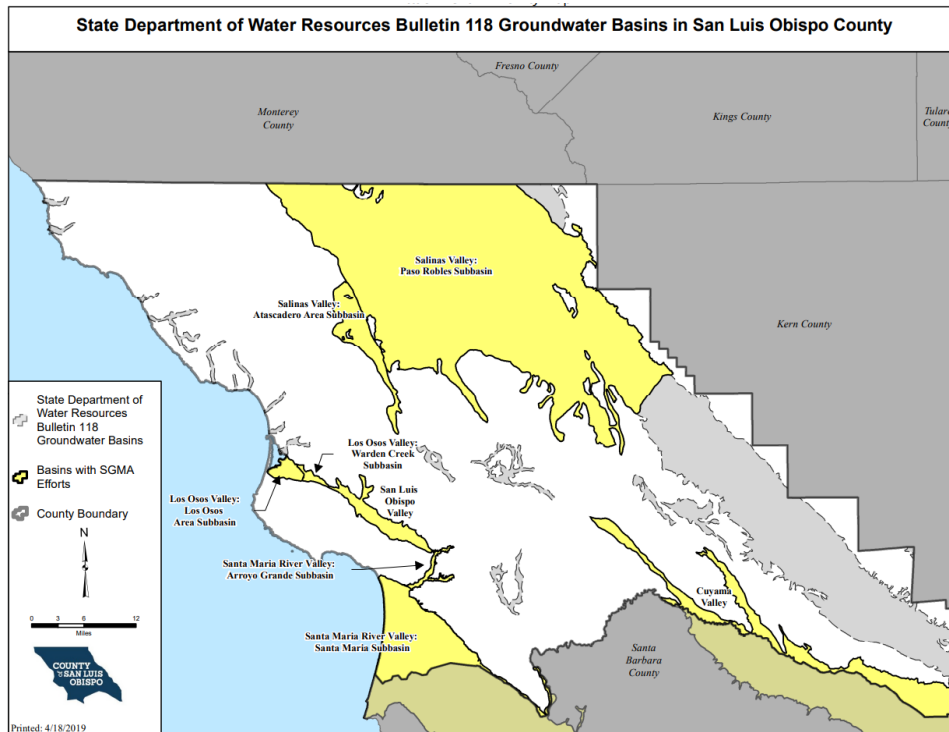
Overall, the County and partner agencies appear to be on schedule and on budget for work required on each of the basins. The Paso Basin is by far the largest and presents the most challenges. It appears that the State has not yet approved the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) submitted by the County and partner agencies. The Plan was submitted in January 2020, almost 2 years ago. The State apparently got around to reviewing the plan last June and determined that there are “deficiencies.” It then appears that the Paso Basin Coordinating Committee (PBCC) engaged the consulting firm Todd Groundwater to work on the deficiencies. The report does not indicate if the State has responded.

*On June 3, 2021, DWR released their initial review of the Paso Basin GSP and provided a Consultation Letter outlining GSP deficiencies that may preclude DWR’s approval. Unless the GSP deficiencies are addressed before DWR finalizes their designation (due by January 30, 2022), it is anticipated the GSP would be considered “incomplete” and the GSAs would need to address the deficiencies within 180 days or be referred to the State for potential intervention.*

*• On October 27, 2021, the PBCC approved Todd Groundwater’s approach to addressing the Paso Basin GSP deficiencies with the understanding that DWR may determine the GSP is incomplete by the January 2022 deadline and the deficiencies could be addressed in the subsequent 180-day “response period” allowed under SGMA.*

In the end, the overlayers and public will end up paying for all of this. It will be decades before anyone knows whether it is working.





The presentation of the budget table, below, has been updated and refined over the years, and presents a great summary of the revenues and expenditures. Something like this on a 5-year scale would be great for selecting and tracking proposed and ongoing long-range projects in the Planning and Building Department.

**Attachment 4  
FY 2021-22 Budget Status Update  
for SGMA Program  
as of 9/30/2021**

The table below represents the County's SGMA Program FY 2021-22 Budget and expenditures by basin. Given the complexity of each basin's approach to funding the GSP development, this table does not attempt to depict the multi-year program costs or cost sharing/in-kind services contributed by partner agencies. See footnotes for other key elements of basin funding approaches.

Basin <sup>(2), (3)</sup>	GSP Development Phase Duration in Fiscal Years <sup>(4)</sup>	Current Fiscal Year Budget Status <sup>(1)</sup>			Total SGMA Costs to Date (7/1/17 - Current)
		FY 2021-22 Budget	FY 2021-22 Costs to Date	Remaining FY 2021-22 Budget	
<b>SGMA Program</b>		1,409,566.49		\$ 1,409,566.49	
<i>Los Osos Basin &amp; Warden Creek Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-21/22</i>		\$ 5,806.35	\$ (5,806.35)	\$ 145,626.54
<i>Cuyama Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-21/22</i>		\$ 301.65	\$ (301.65)	\$ 70,768.08
<i>Paso Robles Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-21/22</i>		\$ 50,134.63	\$ (50,134.63)	\$ 1,170,413.10
<i>San Luis Obispo Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-21/22</i>		\$ 62,206.46	\$ (62,206.46)	\$ 1,492,491.57
<i>Santa Maria Basin &amp; Arroyo Grande Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-21/22</i>		\$ 102,014.74	\$ (102,014.74)	\$ 455,239.89
<i>Atascadero Basin</i>	<i>FY 17/18-21/22</i>		\$ 392.10	\$ (392.10)	\$ 121,170.70
<b>County General Fund (GF) Contribution Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,409,566.49</b>	<b>\$ 220,855.93</b>	<b>\$ 1,188,710.56</b>	<b>\$ 3,455,709.88</b>
General Fund Revenue					
Grants			\$ 87,241.95		\$ 1,650,134.07
FCZG one-time (\$750,000) & Basin Partners					\$ 964,816.49
Total Revenue			\$ 87,241.95		\$ 2,614,950.56
<b>Net General Fund</b>			<b>\$ 133,613.98</b>		<b>\$ 840,759.32</b>
<b>Flood Control Zone General (FCZ) Contribution Total</b>			<b>\$ 228,775.31</b>		<b>\$ 4,951,126.71</b>
<b>SGMA Program Total (GF + FCZ)</b>			<b>\$ 362,389.29</b>		<b>\$ 5,791,886.03</b>

**Item 20 - Request to receive and file a 60-day update on current drought conditions and related management actions for the Board's review of the continuing need for the July 13, 2021, proclamation of local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630.** The report details the lack of precipitation, low reservoir levels, State water project zero deliveries, and steps that the County and other agencies are taking to encourage people to use less water.

**Agriculture is particularly impacted as the report states in part:**

*Despite a wet October, agricultural economic impacts continue to intensify. Rainfall in October was about twice the average amount and started germination and forage growth on rangeland throughout the county. However, since that rain in mid-October, we have not had any precipitation to keep the grasses growing. Plants are currently stressed and perhaps in some areas have already begun dying. This means that a new germination will need to take place when or if we get more rainfall. A second germination can happen if we get more rain, but the number of plants per square foot will be reduced simply because most of the seeds have already germinated. If rain does not come soon, we may have another below normal forage production year, even if the rainfall is heavy later in the year. Most cattlemen cannot afford to feed their cattle throughout a drought and selling or moving livestock remains their options.*

Since the report is a status report, it does not address long-term strategic solutions. Along with COVID restrictions, water rationing, land rationing, electrical energy rationing, housing rationing, medical care rationing, and motor fuel rationing, the public may wish to consider its support for the perpetuation of leftist governments at the National, State, and local levels, which have led society to this debacle.

**Item 21 - Request to: 1) approve a FY 2021–22 contract with Soundheal Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$175,320 to test the effectiveness of sound meditation in improving mental health outcomes; and 2) delegate authority to the Health Agency Director or his designee to sign any amendments to the Contract, including Option to Renew for three additional years (through June 30, 2025) for a total cumulative amount not to exceed \$576,180.** This item is on the regular business agenda today for Board consideration. It appeared back on November 2, as a consent item. COLAB presented questions about the prudence of the contract, its cost, and its justification. The Board, on a split vote (Gibson and Ortiz-Legg dissenting), determined to bring it back for a presentation and discussion. During that meeting Supervisor Gibson criticized two public speakers who questioned the item as being unqualified to raise questions because they are not psychological professionals.

This circumstance again raises the question of citizen and elected officials' control of administrative experts. In this case, the staff has worked on procuring the Soundheal program since 2019. They engaged various client groups in securing their local support. They have worked very hard to coach Soundheal on how to develop a proposal which complies with County and State MHSA<sup>1</sup> standards. They have worked hard within the County organization to qualify Soundheal as a sole source vendor. There are close to 100 emails between and among staff and

---

<sup>1</sup> Mental Health Services Act

Mahesh Natrajan, the owner of Soulheal (a Delaware Corporation), related to development of the proposal which is now before the Board.

If the Board does not approve the project, staff and some client groups are likely to accuse members who vote “No,” as not listening to their experts. Staff may suffer a morale letdown after all of their work. The Board is loath to disappoint staff in these situations. This is a problem and is not limited to this particular contract.

The other side of the issue is that the general public knows that these types of esoteric projects reflect an overstuffed and self-absorbed bureaucracy that is out of touch with the society in general. “We pay you to catch and lock up the crooks and people who are so sick that they are destructive. We would rather have more Deputy Sheriffs than more consultants and staff to teach criminals to meditate and listen to gong music.” This puts the Board in a vice. Staff, which is paid by the Board, does not seem to understand this. In private business if you front out the boss or Board, you are usually fired. In the military you are banished to Greenland or Antarctica.

**One basic question:** Should the County be posing as a medical researcher over 3 or 4 years to test Natrajan’s product and methodology? Wouldn’t this be a better role for the UCLA Medical School or others qualified to do clinical research? Another basic question is that when anyone reads the proposed contract, related internal emails, the program description, and other documents, does the program make logical sense from a scientific standpoint?

**Control Group:** For example, will there be a control group of patients to compare those who receive the treatments and those who don’t? Since the patients are to be people in the criminal justice system, in jail or on probation, how would such selection process work, given varying crimes and sentence lengths? Both the contract and other documents seem silent on this critical issue.

**Offenses:** Another question is, which types of offenses have the patients in the program committed? Is it vagrancy, petty theft, shoplifting, rape, spousal abuse, and homicide?

**Patient Types:** Relatedly, early drafts of the contract defined the patients as criminal. Management internally directed staff and the vendor to use, instead, the word “forensic.” Was this a politically correct tactic to camouflage the fact that the proposed patients are in the criminal justice system? Should the County, the taxpayers, and society be coddling criminals with pleasant field trips to the soundwomb? Wouldn’t cleaning ditches along roads in the Carrizo Plain in August provide both a public benefit and motivational inspiration not to reoffend? After all, along with rehabilitation, and in light of an increasingly lawless and behaviorally incompetent society, shouldn’t deterrence be a major aspect.

**Other issues and questions:**

1. Who within the organization is the sponsor of this project? In other words, is it the Behavioral Health Director, a Division Head, a Commission, or someone else?
2. The staff recommends a \$175,320 contract, which can be extended for three successive years for a total of \$576,000. The staff report summarizes the authorization:

*It is recommended that the Board:*

- 1. Approve a FY 2021–22 contract with Soundheal Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$175,320, to test the effectiveness of sound meditation in improving mental health outcomes; and*
- 2. Delegate authority to the Health Agency Director or his designee to sign any amendments to the Contract, including Option to Renew for three additional years (through June 30, 2025) for a total cumulative amount not to exceed \$576,180.*

Note that the Board is being requested to delegate to the Health Agency Director to reauthorize the second, third, and fourth years of the contract or \$400,860 for what is termed an “innovative program.”

The following table summarizes the annual expenditure and revenue associated with the SoundHeal contract:

	<b>Contract Expenditure for Soul Womb</b>	<b>MHSA Innovation Component Funding</b>	<b>General Fund Impact</b>
FY 2021-22	\$175,320	\$175,320	\$0
FY 2022-23	\$148,680	\$148,680	\$0
FY 2023-24	\$140,240	\$140,240	\$0
FY 2024-25	\$111,940	\$111,940	\$0
<b>Total Contract</b>	<b>\$576,180</b>	<b>\$576,180</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**2. Program not Innovative:** The program is being justified on the basis that it is “innovative, novel, creative, and ingenious.”

*MHSA Innovation funding was created for the purpose of developing a new mental health practice or model, testing the model, evaluating the model, and sharing the results with the statewide mental health system. As per the Department of Health Care Services Guidelines for the Innovation Component: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), section 5830 provides for the use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds for innovative programs. **INN projects are novel, creative and/or ingenious mental health practices/approaches that contribute to learning, and that are developed within communities through a process that is inclusive and representative, especially of unserved, underserved and inappropriately served individuals.***

The project is described in the Board letter as:

*One of the projects outlined in the Innovation Plan is SoulWomb, a program provided through Soundheal, Inc. The SoulWomb project intends to use a sound meditation pod for a holistic, mindfulness-based treatment of Behavioral Health clients. A Non-Competitively Bid (NCB) Contract Justification for this contract was completed August 19, 2021 and approved by the County Purchasing Department. Soundheal Inc. is uniquely suited to carry out the implementation of this test project as it is the inventor and sole proprietor of the device required to complete the approved innovation project. **The key goal of this project is to learn whether this***

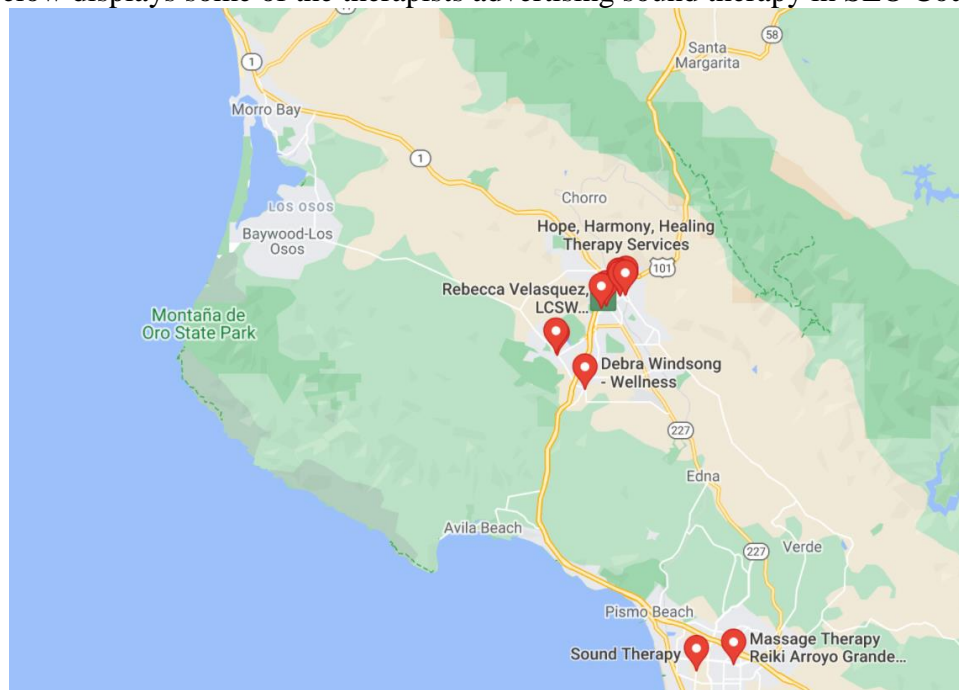
*sound meditation technique will be effective for increasing court and diversion clients' wellness, participation and ultimately, improving mental health outcomes.*

Why should the taxpayers fund “learning” for its staff and contract (locum tenens) professionals, many of whom are licensed psychologists, psychiatrists, or psychiatric social workers, and whose salaries and benefits exceed \$150,000 in many cases and \$200,000 in some cases. Are any educated in sound therapy already?

In fact, sound therapy is not innovative and has been widely practiced since the 1940's. There is extensive literature describing the success of and or lack of success of sound therapy. The County does not need to spend \$576,180 of taxpayer money to determine if sound therapy is effective. See the annotated article at the link below:

[Psychiatry and music v.2 \(2\).pdf](#)

The map below displays some of the therapists advertising sound therapy in SLO County.



Board of Supervisors members and County management staff can review these sites online in just a few minutes. See that the costs for sessions are infinitesimal compared with the average imputed cost in this proposed contract. Sessions cited in the list below run from \$45 to \$160 per hour.



<https://www.newtimeslo.com> › sanluisobispo › Event

### [Guided Sound Healing Meditation | Halcyon Store Post Office](#)

936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande South Coast SLO County CA 93420 · 35.10315;-120.59183 · phone 805-489-2432 · (based on 7 user reviews) ...

<https://www.facebook.com> › events › slo-yoga-center

### [Fresh Frequencies: Sound Healing 101 - Facebook](#)

FRESH FREQUENCIES WORKSHOP \$45 Join this Hands-on **Sound Healing** 101 workshop for yoga enthusiasts, ... 3840 Broad St, Suite 1, **San Luis Obispo, CA** 93401.

<https://www.wildhearthealingarts.com> › reiki-and-sound...

### [Reiki & Sound Healing](#)

For those new to reiki or new to me. 105 minute session w/ reiki **healing** attunement / \$160. Sessions held in my office in **San Luis Obispo, CA**.

<https://www.meetup.com> › Central-Coast-Energy-Healing

### [Central Coast Energy Healing \(San Luis Obispo, CA\) | Meetup](#)

We learn how to harness the sacred **healing** power of our own breath and **sound** so we can find and embrace our inner healer. Read more. Upcoming events ...

Sat, Dec 18 [Floating Hammock Sound ...](#)

Sun, Dec 19 [Solstice Yoga, Sound ...](#)

<https://www.letsgettuned.com> › services

### [Learn about all of our sound healing & yoga offerings.](#)

This in-person **Sound Healing** training is a weekend long immersion of learning and hands-on experience. ... Just 20 mins north of **San Luis Obispo** off HWY 1.

<https://www.letsgettuned.com> › events

### [Learn about sound healing trainings, yoga classes and public ...](#)

We are based in **San Luis Obispo County**. Learn about our next teacher training, public **sound** baths & yoga classes.

---

<https://www.newtimeslo.com> › sanluisobispo › Event

### [Guided Sound Healing Meditation | Halcyon Store Post Office](#)

936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande South Coast SLO County CA 93420 · 35.10315;-120.59183 · phone 805-489-2432 · (based on 7 user reviews) ...

<https://www.facebook.com> › events › slo-yoga-center

### [Fresh Frequencies: Sound Healing 101 - Facebook](#)

FRESH FREQUENCIES WORKSHOP \$45 Join this Hands-on **Sound Healing** 101 workshop for yoga enthusiasts, ... 3840 Broad St, Suite 1, **San Luis Obispo, CA** 93401.

<https://www.wildhearthealingarts.com> › reiki-and-sound...

### [Reiki & Sound Healing](#)

For those new to reiki or new to me. 105 minute session w/ reiki **healing** attunement / \$160. Sessions held in my office in **San Luis Obispo, CA**.

<https://www.meetup.com> › Central-Coast-Energy-Healing

### [Central Coast Energy Healing \(San Luis Obispo, CA\) | Meetup](#)

We learn how to harness the sacred **healing** power of our own breath and **sound** so we can find and embrace our inner healer. Read more. Upcoming events ...

Sat, Dec 18 [Floating Hammock Sound ...](#)

Sun, Dec 19 [Solstice Yoga, Sound ...](#)

<https://www.letsgettuned.com> › services

### [Learn about all of our sound healing & yoga offerings.](#)

This in-person **Sound Healing** training is a weekend long immersion of learning and hands-on experience. ... Just 20 mins north of **San Luis Obispo** off HWY 1.

<https://www.letsgettuned.com> › events

### [Learn about sound healing trainings, yoga classes and public ...](#)

We are based in **San Luis Obispo County**. Learn about our next teacher training, public **sound** baths & yoga classes.

---

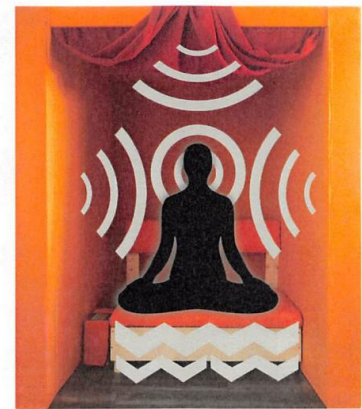
## 3. The Program: Documents state in part:

*The proposed project is to deploy sound meditation/healing spaces, called “the SoulWomb” across various mental health facilities in the county within the county jail/justice system. Sound meditation sessions will be prescribed & scheduled by a clinician or therapist to augment patient’s usual treatment plan. The patients sit inside the SoulWomb which plays short 12-15 min audio pre-recorded orchestrated sequence of **ancient therapeutic** sounds all INN*

*. These sounds envelope’s the patient in the soothing music, getting them to a stress free, happy and comfortable state of mind almost immediately - much like a baby experiences inside the womb of their mother. This **private & sacred environment** facilitates patients to get focused quickly and deeply for the entire time they are in the SoulWomb and even after, when they exit the SoulWomb and continue on with their day.*

**COLAB Note:** Just exactly what is “sacred” about the orange-colored pod with a cheesy futon inside?

If the County experts believe that these patients would benefit from a sacred environment, why not take them to religious services of the various faiths that are available in the community? Literally billions of humans have benefited from participation over the centuries. Many religions also teach accountability and responsibility for one’s actions. Many liturgies, especially those with music (some of it from history’s greatest composers) are emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually transformative. Many participants also enjoy fellowship forgiveness, calmness, and cleansing. If the County will pay \$576,000 for Soundheal’s “sacred services,” what about free services from the community’s spiritual institutions?



Sounds and Vibro-acoustics played inside the Heal pod

**List of alleged Benefits:** The write-up below sounds like a tonic from a 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine show.

*These sessions can be used by those in recovery, in prevention of relapse after recovery and even help family members of those in recovery to succumb to behavioral health issues themselves. The SoulWomb is aimed at relieving stress, irritability, anxiety, physical pain and can be used to address and treat a range of other mental health symptoms and concerns.*

*The goal of the SoulWomb session is to prevent burnout, perform optimally at work/home, enhance overall mental health and improve quality of life that is associated with recovery. Sound meditation has been successfully used for 1000’s of years to improve one’s well being with gongs, crystal bowls, tingshaws, drums, didgeridoos, chanting etc.*

*There is a precise science of how sound frequencies from these instruments work on our body and overall well being. It’s this same science that is used in recording these sounds from the instruments & then used in the SoulWomb. We have curated a set of sound meditation tracks that are intent based and provide very specific benefits over time. The idea is to use what has worked in the non-mental health context to the mental health system.*

*Each SoulWomb session lasts anywhere from 12-20 mins. In our trials done with over a 100 people, we have seen that a typical 15 minute session provides the same benefits as a 1 hour silent meditation session or a 1 hour sound meditation session. Part of the reason for this is how the SoulWomb envelopes you in the sound and the other part is because the you are devoid of the typical distractions in a room full of people.*

*With the assumption that in a given day, a SoulWomb can be available and used for a total of 6 hours a day. This means 12 sessions/patients in a day (or 60 sessions a week or 300 sessions a month). Typically the clinician/therapist can schedule the SoulWomb sessions before or after their regularly scheduled visits/meetings.*

*We have a curriculum and sequence of intent based meditation sessions the therapists/clinicians will review with the clients when they start and use questionnaires and journals as a means to indicate how they are doing along with taking vital biometrics for a more scientific assessment of health. These data points will give us a clearer picture of current mental health status as well as be able to track progress week over week.*

The actual Program Plan document lists a somewhat different set of benefits:

*The key learning goal of this project is to learn whether this sound meditation technique will be effective for increasing forensic mental health court and diversion clients’ wellness participation and, ultimately, improving their mental health outcomes. The learning goals align with the direct intervention and assess the impact in various factors associated with coping, decreasing depression and anxiety symptoms, better medication management, and overall health and mental improvement. The intervention process assessment and results are based on non-invasive biofeedback devices to measure improvement related to mental health experiences over time, as well as the completion of short assessments on a weekly basis, which will allow the fine tuning of the frequency use of the intervention and the time spent for the meditation sessions.*

What is a non-invasive biofeedback device? A thermometer, a blood pressure cuff, – probably not in this case. What is the meaning in the context of this program?

**The measures for the program are entirely subjective:**

<b>SoundHeal SoulWomb Project</b>		
Outcome Measures	FY 2021–2022	FY 2022–2023
Percent increase of participants reporting they have the foundation for their own self-meditation or wellness practice, as measured by retrospective surveys.	30%	30%
Percent increase of participants reporting they are more optimistic about their self, as measured by retrospective surveys.	30%	30%
Percent improvement in participant self-awareness, as measured by retrospective surveys.	30%	30%
Percent decrease in participant anxiety, stress, or feelings of detachment, as measured by retrospective surveys.	25%	25%
Percent increase in participant ability to stay calm, relieve stress, and focus, as measured by retrospective surveys.	25%	25%

**Do the patients self-report on a survey on the “outcome measures” above, or does a clinician evaluate them? What would be the measures of an objective clinical evaluation by**

**diagnosis: more self-control, staying off drugs, ability to cooperate, need for less medication, or what?**

**4. Sole Source Vendor:** The County states that Soundheal, the proposed vendor, is unique and should be selected as a sole source vendor without bid or comparative/competitive requests for proposals. The form which the Department submitted to justify the no-bid process is excerpted below:

**Non-Competitively Bid (NCB) Contract  
Justification**

For use on goods above \$5,000 or service acquisitions  
between \$5,000 - \$100,000.

**Provide a brief description of the acquisition, including model #'s, proposals or quotes:**

The Behavioral Health Department is requesting a sole source exception to initiate a contractual relationship with Mahesh Natrajan, CEO of Heal Meditation Pod, for a total of four (4) years as part of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation component for the total amount of \$516,180 (**under \$200k annually**). The contractual agreement will require the adaptation of a new holistic, mindfulness-based sound meditation therapeutic practice & pod to be tested with forensic mental health court & diversion clients. No other business nor individual in the county possesses the expertise and knowledge in the county to implement and test the new project.

**A. THE GOOD/SERVICE REQUESTED IS RESTRICTED TO ONE SUPPLIER FOR THE REASONS STATED BELOW:**

**1. Why is the acquisition restricted to this good/service/supplier?**

(Explain why the acquisition cannot be competitively bid. Explain if this is an emergency purchase or how the supplier is the only source for the acquisition.)

Mahesh Natrajan is a tech yogi and CEO of Heal Meditation Pod, and the inventor and sole proprietor of the device required to complete the approved Innovation project, called "Soul Womb." Currently, there are no other local professionals with the amount of expertise and accessibility to provide the required services for the Behavioral Health Department. Mahesh Natrajan's experience in sound meditation pods make him a clear choice lead, design, and implement the MHSA Innovation project. Mahesh Natrajan possesses the knowledge and appropriate structural support, resources, and capacity to engage in outreach, education, research, data collection, testing, and reporting, as his sound meditations pods are used in three businesses across California.

**2. Provide the background of events leading to this acquisition. Describe the uniqueness of the acquisition. (why was the good/service/supplier chosen?)**

Upon local approval by the Behavioral Health Board and the Board of Supervisors, the State's Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), gave final approval for the Behavioral Health Department's Innovation Plan for FY 2021-2025 on June 25, 2021. This included the SoulWomb project. Mahesh Natrajan was active in the planning and design of the project and provided direction to County staff on the development of the project's testing and hands-on implementation. At the completion of the project development with stakeholder input, Mahesh Natrajan was selected to lead and provide the necessary support to implement the MHSA Innovation project.

**COLAB Note: Incomprehensibly, Mr. Natrajan designed the project for the County, and then the County gives him a \$576,000 no-bid contract to implement it. This looks like a blatant conflict of interest. How much was he paid to design the project? Didn't the County**

**follow some of the same process with respect to the design, construction, and project management of the Los Osos Sewer Treatment Plant?**

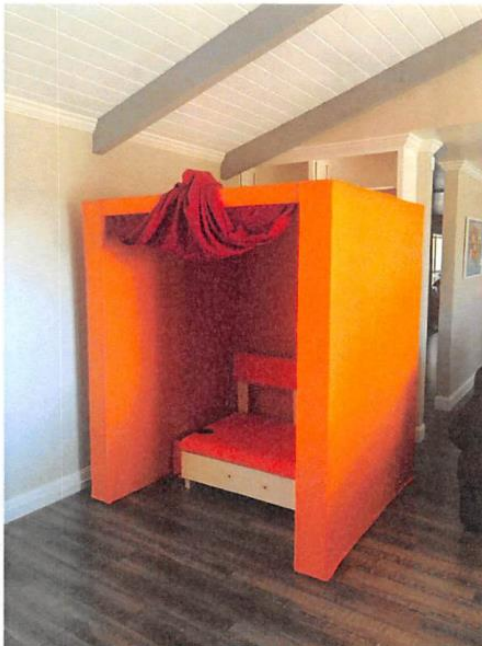
**3. What are the consequences of not purchasing the good/service or contracting with the proposed supplier?**

The County must choose the most viable and appropriate supplier with the local knowledge, research and educational skills, structure, and organization to begin testing the threat assessment curriculum successfully. There are no local providers of a sound meditation pod. Mahesh Natrajan has the experience and expertise to provide the implementation, as well as the four-year continuity, capacity, and management of the Innovation project in the community. If the Department is not able to provide a sole source contract with Mahesh Natrajan, it will need to conduct a lengthy proposal process which would incur unnecessary costs.

*Question 4*

SoulWomb

4. We reviewed all local businesses offering self-care for mental health services clients. Because the project focuses on a forensic population, we researched local organizations which may offer non-invasive, self-reliant, and non-physical (e.g. yoga, equine therapy) interventions. Because the funding is based on "innovation" we also looked for programs locally which had not been tested within a mental health continuum of care. While there are plenty of wellness, fitness, or spa like businesses in the county that offer meditation practices, the services would not meet the requirements of innovation for the justice population. All businesses offer services in facilities or in group settings where there is a high barrier to entry. The provider chosen has a scalable and movable pod where the client chooses their own selection of sound meditation that can be curated based on desired affect like relieving anxiety, stress, relaxation, etc. The provider also offers options for clients to use heart rate variability technology that no other local provider has for clients to capture their own coherence and heart rate variability over time on their own personal devices while using the pod.



**Soundheal's Pod: An orange-colored foam crate with a cheesy futon?  
How does the curtain keep out extraneous sounds?**



**A \$3,500 Pod on the market.**

There are many pods on the market. These run anywhere from \$1,500 to \$15,000, depending on the quality, design, and sound reproduction features.

According to another email, the Soundheal pod and program operates as follows:

**Technology:** *The sound inside the pod: the speakers, subwoofer concealed inside the pod & the touch screen interface for participants to select meditations. b. The heart rate monitor (optional for the user) - to be able to track heart rate and heart rate variability during each of their sessions using a smart phone.*

The Board should ask staff to play some sample meditations as part of its assessment of the prudence of approving the contract. The public should also judge the likelihood of success.

**How Heal/SoulWomb works:** *Heal is a schedulable, on-demand sound meditation pod used either separately or in conjunction with current services provided by the county to help enable long term lifestyle changes with the following benefits: No need to learn meditation, sounds put you in meditation. Guided meditations in multiple languages to serve a wider population's needs. Available throughout the working day at the participant's convenience before and after their therapy/counselor sessions. Sounds & vibrations help in coping with anxiety, depression, addiction and stress facilitate deeper therapist/client relationship with the Heal curriculum integration (attached) Outcomes-based meditation, where participants will be able to track progress over time. Voluntary bio-metric feedback data to record heart rate variability using tools like Heartmath to show that Heal/SoulWomb sessions work.*

**5. is the contract retro-active?** Has the pod already been delivered, and are staff being trained and services rendered prior to Board approval of the contract? The contract states in part:

**Service Date.** *a. Services shall commence on or after October 1, 2021 and shall end upon the end of the duration date, as outlined in section 3 of this Exhibit, below.*

**COLAB Note:** **The contract was not submitted to the Board until the November 1, 2021 meeting and was then continued to December 14. Is the County liable for any costs that have been incurred so far without Board approval?**

*b. County specifically acknowledges that in anticipation of execution of this Contract, services within the scope of this Contract may have been provided in reliance on assurances that this Contract would be executed by the Parties by October 1, 2021. Services may have been rendered from October 1, 2021 to the date the Parties are executing this Contract, and which were intended in the best interest of the public health and welfare. County expressly authorizes the retroactive effective date under this Contract to be October 1, 2021. County also expressly authorizes payment for those services accepted by County at the same rates and under the same terms and conditions as stated in this Contract, even though this Contract is being signed after October 1, 2021.*

*c. If any services from October 1, 2021 until the date of execution of this Contract have been paid by a purchase order via County Purchasing Agent, that amount shall be deducted from the maximum allowed expenditure under Exhibit B of this Contract.*

What if the Board does not approve the contract or the Budget transfer required to fund the program? Again, what is the role and responsibility of the Board to control the administrative organization?

Per the email below, staff was talking to Soulheal about delivery of the pod back in July.

*On Wed, Jul 21, 2021, 2:45 PM Timothy Siler wrote: Hi Mahesh! I have a quick question: will the pod be coming assembled and we just place and plug it in? Or will a little bit of assembly be required? Feel free to call, if you're free! Timothy Siler, M.P.P. Administrative Services Officer II Prevention & Outreach Behavioral Health Department County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency P: (805) 781-4064*

*Hi Tim - The pod will require a bit of assembly and setup. Everything will take about 1-2 hours. Once installed it's plug and play. Best. Mahesh*

For a “plug and play” system, it is pretty expensive over the 4 years. Most of the contract is for technical IT type services, including:

- **Project Manager (PM) \$256,800 (full-time)** – The PM will manage end client needs, assist with scheduling, incident tracking, incident prioritization, enable communication with stakeholders, provide regular scheduled project status readouts to update team and stakeholders. Work with the project director and help schedule meetings with clinicians to assist in documenting and building out curriculum, planning scheduled updates/upgrades and overall asset and resource management.
- **Project Data Analyst \$218,400 (full-time)** – The Project Data Analyst will assess, manage, and evaluate usage and generate project status reports to the PM and the Project Director. This person will analyze usage trends for forecasting and provide reports to the PM, report on curriculum efficacy, report on adherence to curriculum, and help the project manager optimize operations and scheduling based on historical usage data and trends.
- **Accounting \$29,120 (part-time)** – Accounting contractor to manage financial record keeping of the project.
- **Technical support \$24,960 (part-time/as needed)** – Tech Support to help with physical space upkeep, upgrade of physical space, parts upgrade, electronics upgrade, and overall maintenance.
- **Sound Meditation Consultant \$5,760** – This person will help with providing voice overs and sound meditation instruments for recording sounds.

The agreement states that the contractor will work with the County Innovation Evaluator team throughout the program to provide program data, information, and documentation on SoulWomb. What is the cost of the County evaluator team?

**Staffing:**

- 1) 0.40 FTE Project Manager
- 2) 0.58 FTE Project Data Analyst

- 3) 0.10 FTE Accountant
- 4) 0.05 Technical Support
- 5) 0.01 Sound Meditation Consultant

How does this deployment of the consultant staff jive with the annual budget amounts over the 4 years?

**What are the staff and overhead costs for the County to fund its operation of the program?**

The consultant cost is \$576,000, but there must be someone from the County internally responsible for the project, scheduling the training, scheduling the patients, etc. The write-up is silent on this cost. Thus, the total cost for the project over 1 or 4 years has not been presented.

**Cost benefit:**

The Plan states that the County expects to serve from 160 to 240 individuals per year. This would be an average of 200 per year. The average cost per year per patient over the 4-year \$576,000 version of the contract would then be \$2,880 per year. This does not include whatever costs will be incurred for the County operation of its side of the program. It is not clear if these are unduplicated individuals or individuals who remain in the program for more than one year. The sessions are from 12-20 minutes long.

It further states that the process includes 3 sessions per week, but it does not indicate how many weeks will be provided to a typical patient.

**The section goes on to say:**

*The SoulWomb experience is designed to be used with a curriculum created and curated after SoulWomb creator team interviews of several clinical psychologists and therapists in the medical field and recovery centers. SoulWomb therapists will work with participants and use journals, questionnaires, and group discussion to assess the participant's engagement and results from the SoulWomb session.*

**But the County response to our records request states in part:**

*No therapeutic services are being provided by SoulHeal. SoulHeal staff will operate the pod but County Justice Division clinical staff provide all therapy. "SoulWomb" is not a therapy, but an ancillary self-care activity.*

The Plan, Board letter, internal documents, justification form for a sole source contract, and other related writings are rife with such inconsistencies and filled with jargon designed to, perhaps, impress and/or confuse upper County management, the Board, and general public into believing that this Board item should be approved.

Overall, the Program appears to be a jumble of half-baked ideas, and further, claims to justify spending \$576,000 of State MHSA-funded taxpayer money before some deadline expires.



**Item 22 - Hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance amending Land Use Ordinance Section 22.30.470, Residential – Workforce Housing Subdivision Ordinance, to eliminate the December 22, 2021 expiration date of the ordinance.** This amendment, if approved, will make the workforce housing ordinance permanent. It is a small step.

*On November 22, 2016, the Board adopted Land Use Ordinance Section 22.30.470 (Residential – Workforce Housing Subdivision Ordinance) to incentivize the construction of small single family detached dwellings on individual lots. This ordinance, which was developed with significant input from the local building community, eases development and subdivision standards and provides other incentives in exchange incorporating new dwellings that are affordable to households earning up to 160 percent of the median income (“workforce housing”). The ordinance was initially adopted as a pilot program with an expiration date of December 22, 2021.*

**The ordinance has not been used very often, but it has potential. Staff reports:**

*While the pilot ordinance has not been widely used by developers, it’s another tool in the “tool kit” that gives builders more flexibility and helps to facilitate the construction of affordable housing. The ordinance was successfully used by Peoples Self Help Housing (PSHH) to subdivide a 1.68-acre parcel in Nipomo into 10 lots ranging from 4,151 to 12,324 Page 3 of 3 square-feet and the development of 10 workforce housing residences. Now that the first project has successfully gone through the process, more projects are likely to follow. One local Realtor informed staff that they have clients who are actively preparing applications for workforce housing subdivisions.*

**Item 23 - Hearing to consider amendments to the Building and Construction Ordinance, Title 19 of the San Luis Obispo County Code which will allow the County to enforce State regulations California Green Building Standards Code, 24 CCR, Part 11, known as CALGreen. Exempt from CEQA.** The ordinance integrates the provisions of the wet garbage recycling ordinance with the Building Ordinance by requiring new development to provide container facilities for storage of the wet garbage.

*(2) For projects covered by CALGreen or more stringent requirements of the County of San Luis Obispo, the applicants must, as a condition of the County of San Luis Obispo’s permit approval, comply with the following: a. Where five (5) or more Multi-Family dwelling units are constructed on a building site, provide readily accessible areas that serve Occupants of all buildings on the site and are identified for the storage and collection of Recyclable Materials Container and Organic Materials Container materials, consistent with the three or more-container collection program offered by the County of San Luis Obispo, or comply with provision of adequate space for recycling for Multi-Family Premises and Commercial Premises pursuant to Sections 4.408.1, 4.410.2, 5.408.1, and 5.410.1 of the California Green Building Standards Code, 24 CCR, Part 11 as amended provided amended requirements are more stringent than the CALGreen requirements for adequate recycling space effective January 1, 2020.*

*b. New Commercial or Multi-Family construction or additions resulting in more than 30% of the floor area shall provide readily accessible areas identified for the storage and collection of*

*Recyclable Materials Container and Organic Materials Container materials, consistent with the three or more-container collection program offered by the County of San Luis Obispo, or shall comply with provision of adequate space for recycling for Multi-Family Premises and Commercial Premises pursuant to Sections 4.408.1, 4.410.2, 5.408.1, and 5.410.1 of the California Green Building Standards Code, 24 CCR, Part 11 as amended provided amended requirements are more stringent than the CALGreen requirements for adequate recycling space effective January 1, 2020.*

**Item 24 - Hearing to consider 1) an ordinance amending Planning and Building Fees in the County Fee Schedule “A” and County Fee Schedule “B” for Fiscal Year 2022-23; and amending the Position Allocation List (PAL) for Fund Center (FC) 142 – Department of Planning and Building by adding the following positions: 1.00 FTE Department IT Manager, 1.00 FTE IT Supervisor, 3.00 FTE Business Systems Analyst I-III, 2.00 FTE Software Engineer I-III; and deleting the following positions, 1.00 FTE Supervising Planner, 1.00 FTE Department Automation Specialist II, 1.00 FTE Administrative Services Manager, 1.00 FTE Planner II, 1.00 FTE Supervising Admin Clerk II.** The material contains the annual cycle of fee increases for the Planning and Building Department. This year’s version is more significant in that it includes a major restructuring and consolidation of the fees. Separately, it proposes a creation of an expanded organic information technology unit within the Planning and Building Department. The 2 subjects, while tangentially related, seem to be a great amount for the Board to choke down at one sitting.

The Department has attempted to provide an apples-to-apples comparison of the impact. It is difficult, because the total revenue received depends on the number of permits processed, which in turn is a function of building volume, which in turn is a function of the economy. Thus, it is difficult to predict.

In this regard, the write-up states:

*Change in Fee Revenue For purposes of this fee submission, the Department is assuming no decline or increase in the use of Land Use and Cannabis fees from the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget. For Building fees, there is a significant change in the number of fees and the calculation of fees. The Department has prepared its best estimate for calculating the impact of the changes to how current fees are budgeted, however, these are only estimates. The Department (in partnership with the consultant) carefully prepared the proposed fees to capture the budgeted appropriation and to create neither shortfall nor surplus. The Department will continue to monitor and evaluate the actual fee usage for impact on forecasted revenue.*

The table below would suggest that at current volumes, the cost would go down and then increase substantially next year in the FY 2022-23.

**Fee Revenue Comparison Chart**

Budget to Budget Fee Revenue Comparison			
	\$ Amount	Year to Year \$ Difference	Year to Year % difference
19-20 <b>Budget</b>	7,147,344		
20-21 <b>Budget</b>	6,581,190	(\$566,154)	(8%)
21-22 <b>Budget</b>	\$6,123,499	(457,691)	(7%)
22-23 <b>Projected *</b>	\$7,705,031	\$1,581,532	26%

\*Calculation based on 21-22 Budgeted activity at the 22-23 Proposed Fee amounts.

Actual to Actual Fee revenue Comparison			
	\$ Amount	Year to Year \$ Difference	Year to Year % difference
19-20 <b>Actual</b>	\$5,890,298		
20-21 <b>Actual</b>	\$5,466,716	(\$423,582)	(7%)

When the item was first set for hearing, COLAB suggested that the staff provide the Board and public with some sample apples-to-apples total aggregate fee rates when the increases and decreases are totaled and then compared from the current schedule to the new schedule?

They have done this in some of the PowerPoints, which is helpful:

**Accessory Dwelling Unit (600 sf)** Attachment 5

Planning and Building Department	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase / (Decrease)
Plan Check	\$943	\$726	(\$217)
Inspection	\$1,851	\$504	(\$1,347)
Intake & Issuance	-	-	-
Septic	\$466	\$668	\$202
Plot Plan Review	\$99	\$199	\$100
Addressing	-	-	-
Allotment	-	-	-
CWMP Recycling	\$73	\$189	\$116
Technology	-	\$137	\$137
<b>Other County Departments</b>			
Inclusionary Housing	-	-	-
Public Facilities Fees	-	-	-
Public Works Intake Review	\$83	\$288	\$205
County Fire Plan Review	\$590	\$590	-
Env Health Verification Drinking Water	-	-	-
<b>State Fees</b>			
SMIP Earthquake	\$10	\$10	-
BSAF Building Standards	\$4	\$4	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,119</b>	<b>\$3,315</b>	<b>(\$804)</b>

### Single Family Residence (1200 sf with 450 sf garage and 200 sf porch)

Planning and Building Department	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase / (Decrease)
Plan Check	\$1,640	\$2,239	\$599
Inspection	\$2,185	\$1,554	(\$631)
Intake & Issuance	-	-	-
Septic	\$466	\$668	\$202
Plot Plan Review	\$99	\$199	\$100
Addressing	\$109	\$253	\$144
Allotment	\$94	\$32	(\$62)
CWMP Recycling	\$73	\$189	\$116
Technology	-	\$308	\$308
<b>Other County Departments</b>			
Inclusionary Housing	-	-	-
Public Facilities Fees	\$7,185	\$7,702	\$517
Public Works Intake Review	\$83	\$288	\$205
County Fire Plan Review	\$590	\$590	-
Env Health Verification Drinking Water	\$207	\$216	\$9
<b>State Fees</b>			
SMIP Earthquake	\$29	\$29	-
BSAF Building Standards	\$9	\$9	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,769</b>	<b>\$14,276</b>	<b>\$1,507</b>

### Conditional Use Permit - With Initial Study

Planning and Building Department	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase / (Decrease)
Land Use	\$15,073	\$6,841	(\$8,232)
Environmental	\$3,731	\$6,534	\$2,803
Filing Fee	\$50	\$50	-
<b>Other County Departments</b>			
Ag Commission CUP Review	\$753	\$794	\$41
Public Works CUP Application	\$1,903	\$1,904	\$1
County Fire CUP Review	\$884	\$885	\$1
Environmental Health CUP Review	\$841	\$880	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,235</b>	<b>\$17,888</b>	<b>(\$5,347)</b>

### Minor Use Permit III- With Initial Study

Planning and Building Department	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase / (Decrease)
Land Use	\$7,669	\$4,251	(\$3,418)
Environmental	\$3,731	\$6,534	\$2,803 deposit
Filing Fee	\$50	\$50	-
<b>Other County Departments</b>			
Ag Commission MUP Review	\$526	\$554	\$28
Public Works MUP Application	\$441	\$459	\$18
County Fire MUP Review	\$884	\$885	\$1
Environmental Health MUP Review	\$756	\$790	\$34
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,057</b>	<b>\$13,523</b>	<b>(\$534)</b>

Also provided are comparison tables with other jurisdictions for the various types of permits:

**Comparison - Single Family Residence (1907 sf)**

	County of Santa Barbara	County of Monterey	City of San Luis Obispo	City of Arroyo Grande	City of Grover Beach	City of Morro Bay	City of Paso Robles	City of Pismo Beach	SLO County Current	SLO County Proposed
<b>Planning and Building Department</b>										
Plan Check	\$2,839	9,463	\$2,402	\$2,577	\$4,029	\$6,474	\$2,720	\$3,797	\$1,659	<b>\$2,307</b>
Inspection	\$4,620	-	\$2,433	\$2,906	-	-	\$2,720	-	\$2,215	\$1,602
Sewer	\$280	-	\$79	\$213	\$35	-	-	\$301	\$86	\$289
Planning Plan Review	-	-	\$395	-	\$500	-	\$188	-	\$99	\$199
Addressing	-	-	-	-	\$61	-	-	-	\$109	\$253
Allotment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$94	\$32
CWMP Recycling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$73	\$189
Technology	-	\$666	\$36	-	\$101	\$1,868	\$534	-	-	\$457
<b>Other County Departments</b>										
Inclusionary Housing	-	-	-	-	-	\$744	-	\$4,980	-	-
Public Facilities Fees	\$1,475	-	\$30,703	-	\$5,660	\$13,349	\$11,527	\$39,829	\$7,185	\$7,702
Public Works Review	-	-	-	-	\$200	-	-	-	\$83	\$288
County Fire Review	-	-	\$397	-	-	\$2,739	-	-	\$590	\$590
Env Health Verification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$207	\$216
<b>State Fees</b>										
SMIP Earthquake	\$32	\$32	\$32	\$32	\$32	\$32	\$32	\$32	\$32	\$32
BSAF Bldg Standards	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Approximate Total	\$9,256	\$10,196	\$34,086	\$5,738	\$10,628	\$25,216	\$17,731	\$48,949	\$12,442	\$14,002

**Comparison - Minor Use Permit**

	County of Santa Barbara	County of Monterey	City of San Luis Obispo	City of Atascadero	City of Grover Beach	City of Morro Bay	City of Paso Robles	City of Pismo Beach	SLO County Current	SLO County Proposed
Land Use	\$1,863	\$5,500	\$3,395	\$4,533	\$2,500	\$2,351	\$1,200	\$3,285	\$7,669	\$4,251
Environmental	Deposit + cost	\$11,000	Contract Cost + 30%	\$1,687	\$5,000	\$6,793	\$1,500	Deposit + cost	\$3,731	\$6,534
Technology Fee	\$28	\$1,162	\$104	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$647
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,891</b>	<b>\$17,662</b>	<b>\$3,498</b>	<b>\$6,220</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>	<b>\$9,144</b>	<b>\$2,700</b>	<b>\$3,285</b>	<b>\$11,400</b>	<b>\$11,432</b>

1. There are no indicia in the Board letter or supporting materials that the County staff or the fee consulting firm used by the County included or conferred with any major impacted community groups in the design or setting of the proposed fee structure of fee amounts. Accordingly, the input of home builders, land developers, commercial developers, building trades, housing not-for-profits, and other constituents seems totally absent. The timing to study and respond includes the Thanksgiving Holiday and the run-up to the Christmas /New Year’s holiday season.

The hearing should be set in late January. If there are a few Schedule A items, the Board could limit the December hearing to those and adopt them in time for the new year.

Secondly, the Board should direct staff to meet with impacted industry groups to understand any concerns or recommendations. These would include homebuilders, developers, utilities, general contractors, repair contractors, electricians, plumbers, and many others. Again, the holiday season is not the time to impose such a missed step on these entities.

2. Most businesses in the county, including those that are regulated by Planning and Development, have suffered along with everyone else due to COVID 19’s economic damage.

The County itself lost sales tax and TOT revenue and suffered extraordinary expenses. Federal and State aid has been provided to assist in the County’s restoration and recovery from these impacts. As a result, the County is awash in cash.

**Recommended Action:** Why not defer fee increases until 2023 as a way of providing parallel assistance to the those involved in agriculture, land devolvement, home development, affordable housing efforts, construction, building repair, and so forth?

3. There has been a major consolidation of almost 1,000 P&D fees down to 250. No more a la carte menu. You will have to get the chef's special, which includes a number of reviews and inspections. Tracing the impact of the changes would require analysis of the 144-page report, which lists the new and abolished fees, and then going back and looking at the old fee codes.

**Recommended action:** The staff did present some sample comparisons of what common types of projects cost under the existing system with the current fees. Then they presented the cost under the new system with the consolidated fees. These can be seen above.

4. What are the apples-to-apples total aggregate fee rates when the increases and decreases are totaled and then compared from the current schedule to the new schedule? The write-up is confusing:

*The consultant’s review of the Department’s fees determined that the Department is currently under-charging for its services. This includes a cost recovery shortfall of \$890,857 (\$2,381,591 in current fee revenue versus calculated costs of \$3,272,448) for Planning/Land Use/Code Enforcement/Operations fees and a cost recovery shortfall of \$1,716,173 (\$4,224,611 in current fee revenue versus calculated costs of \$5,940,784) for Building permit fees. In addition, there was a calculated surplus of \$81,889 for cannabis fees (\$770,180 in current fee revenue versus calculated costs of \$688,291), which would indicate that deposits for certain cannabis fees should be reduced. However, for deposit based fees, the actual cost of the permitting is applied against the deposit. When project costs are more than the deposit, the applicant is invoiced for the additional cost. However, if there any remaining surplus at the end of the project, it is refunded to the applicant.*

If there is the same volume of activity for all types of permits and other services in 2022-23 as there were in 2020-21 (the last fully completed fiscal year), what will be the net increase?

Permit type	Fee Revenue	Fee Expense	Surplus/(Shortfall)
Planning / land use / code enforcement	\$2,381,591	\$3,272,448	(\$890,857)
Building permits	4,224,611	5,940,784	(\$1,716,173)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,376,382</b>	<b>\$9,901,523</b>	<b>(\$2,525,141)</b>

The table just above from the consultant report shows the shortfall. Is this it? Or is more or less? The table below seems to be the detail for the Building permits. How do the construction permits in the lower table, which are listed as \$1.8 million underfeed, relate to the table?

	Revenue	Cost	Revenue minus cost	Revenue / Cost
Table 1 Construction Permits	2,288,332	4,130,829	(\$1,842,497)	55%
TABLE 2 Mechanical	30,139	50,463	(\$20,324)	60%
TABLE 3 Plumbing/Gas Permits	168,796	232,407	(\$63,611)	73%
TABLE 4 Electrical	307,210	216,265	90,945	142%
TABLE 5 Miscellaneous building permits	1,277,250	1,189,381	87,869	107%
TABLE 6 Other building permit fees	152,884	121,440	\$31,444	126%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,224,611</b>	<b>\$5,940,784</b>	<b>(\$1,716,173)</b>	<b>71%</b>

**MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM**

**Item 26 - Hearing to Amend Chapter 2.60 of the County Code to change Supervisorial District boundaries and submittal of a resolution confirming the Board’s findings in support of the new district boundaries.** Adoption of the ordinance is the final required action to adopt the new district map. The legal deadline is the next day - December 15<sup>th</sup>. If the Deadline is not met, the Superior Court draws or chooses a map.

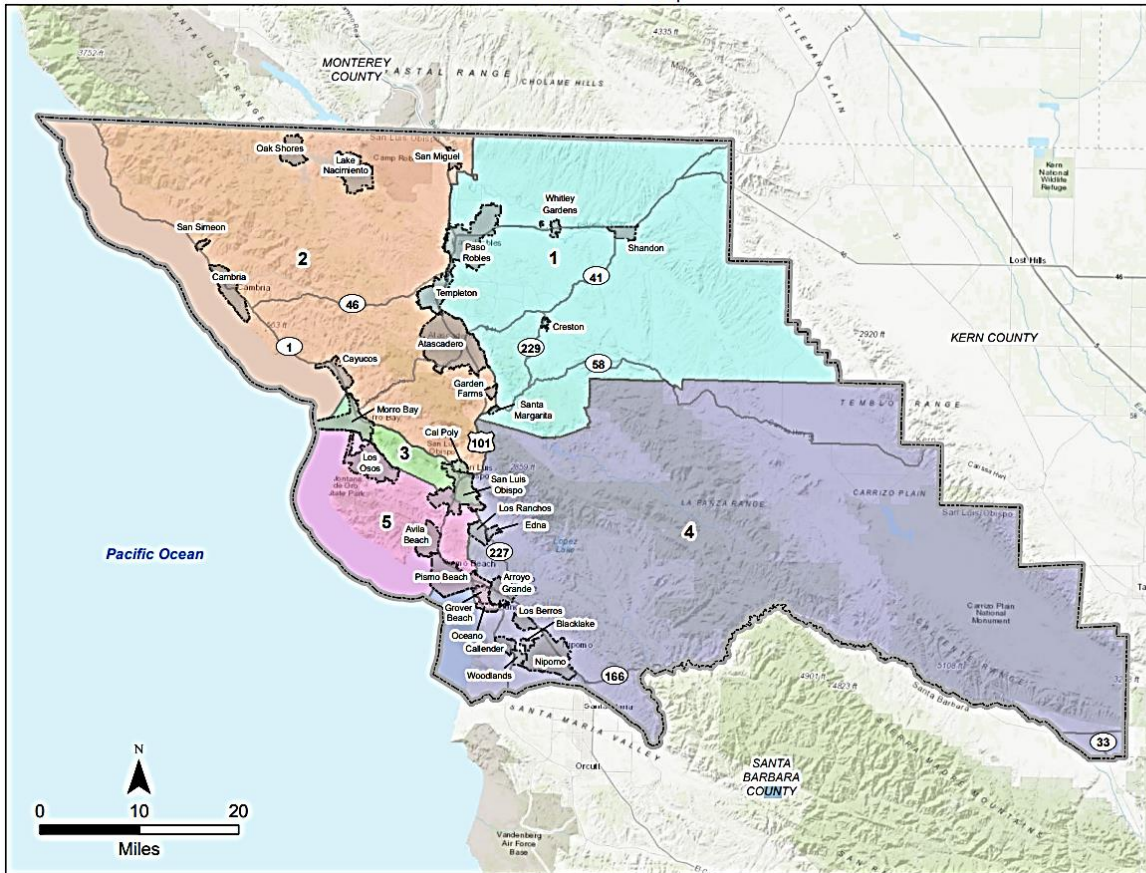
*Adoption of the attached ordinance to amend Chapter 2.60 of the County Code will change Supervisorial District boundaries to reflect the final map, as amended, which was approved by the Board at the November 30, 2021 Redistricting Hearing. Per the Board’s direction, staff amended the selected map to include the entirety of the San Miguel Community Services District within District 2. The ordinance uses Census blocks and tracts to define the newly adopted Supervisorial District boundaries.*

It is not known at this point if the progressive left has any immediate strategy to delay or disrupt the adoption of the map. Individuals have asserted that there will be a lawsuit or a citizen referendum attempt once the map is adopted.

The San Luis Obispo Tribune, League of Women Voters, some retired former public officials, the Democratic Party, and the usual clique of leftists all assert that the map is illegal because it was drawn by the Board majority to benefit the Republican Party candidates.

One thing is sure. The left in its various manifestations is absolutely apoplectic about the map. Of course, this phenomenon suggests that it is the absolutely correct map to adopt. \$5 gas, million-dollar housing, \$11 bacon, closure of the Dunes, and the closure of Diablo should convince people that the time for passivity has passed.

As has been often stated, left progressivism is a form of mental disturbance. Let them use the Soundwomb to calm them, reduce their anxiety, and learn to meditate.



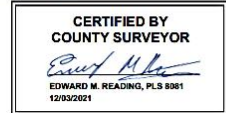
**2021 San Luis Obispo County Supervisorial Districts**

**Legend**

- San Luis Obispo County Boundary
- Freeways and Highways
- City/Town Boundary
- Supervisorial District Boundaries**
- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5

District	Population	Deviation
1	55,880	0.07%
2	53,304	-4.55%
3	56,045	0.36%
4	56,465	1.11%
5	57,522	3.01%

NOTE: This map is a graphical representation of the Census Data Tracts and Blocks listed for each district. The listing of Census Data shall be paramount in any discrepancy between this map and that data listing.



## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

### Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, December 7, 2021 (Completed)

**Item 2 - Request to introduce the attached ordinance amending Land Use Ordinance Section 22.30.470, Residential – Workforce Housing Subdivision Ordinance, to eliminate the December 22, 2021 expiration date of the ordinance. Exempt from CEQA. Hearing set for December 14, 2021.** The item was set for hearing on the 14<sup>th</sup>. (See Item 22, above). It is a small step.

*On November 22, 2016, the Board adopted Land Use Ordinance Section 22.30.470 (Residential – Workforce Housing Subdivision Ordinance) to incentivize the construction of small single family detached dwellings on individual lots. This ordinance, which was developed with significant input from the local building community, eases development and subdivision standards and provides other incentives in exchange incorporating new dwellings that are affordable to households earning up to 160 percent of the median income (“workforce*



housing”). The ordinance was initially adopted as a pilot program with an expiration date of December 22, 2021.

**Item 3 - Submittal of the FY 2021-22 First Quarter Financial Status Report and request to 1) approve a resolution amending Position Allocation Lists for various departments; and 2) approve various financial actions as detailed in Section 4 of Attachment 1 (one or more actions require a 4/5 vote).** The report was received without comment or discussion. The County has ample reserves and contingency funds. The revenues and expenditures appear to be on schedule overall for the First Quarter, which closed on September 30. The report does not seem to present an overall projection for where the Budget will end up on June 30, 2022.

**Problems which have arisen in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter displayed in the table below:**

Table 2 Summary of Notable Issues Included in the Attached Report Issue Status Updates		
Department	Issue	Potential Impact to General Fund
<b>Public Protection</b>		
132 - District Attorney	\$345,852 unbudgeted expenditures	\$345,852
136 - Sheriff-Coroner	\$3.4 million unbudgeted salary and benefit expenses and \$1.3 million revenue shortfall	\$4.8 million
<b>Support to County Departments</b>		
114 - Information Technology	\$726,000 unbudgeted salary and benefits expenditures	\$726,000
<b>Fiscal and Administrative</b>		
119 - Administrative Office - Communications and Outreach	\$25,725 unbudgeted expenditures	\$25,725 (absorbed)

**Background:** The item narrative states that impending problem in the Sheriff’s Office is due to under-budgeting for labor contract cost increases. A memo from the Sheriff’s office states in part:

At the end of the first quarter, the Sheriff’s Office is estimating it may exceed its budgeted level of General Fund support by \$4,875,986 at year-end, due to unbudgeted salaries and benefit expenditures, overtime expenditures, Cannabis expenditures and revenue shortage. This is due to:

- On November 5, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the period July 1, 2019, to December 31, 2022, for the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Management Association (SLOCSMA). The MOU included increases that took effect after the Fiscal Year (FY) 21/22 budgets were submitted. The amount unbudgeted was \$ 172,319, which includes Wages at \$ 168,804 and Pension Equity of \$3,515.
- On December 17, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the period January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2022, for the Deputy Sheriff Association (DSA). The MOU included increases that took effect after the FY 21/22 budgets were submitted. The amount unbudgeted was \$ 713,941, which includes Wages at \$675,424, Pension Equity of \$11,914, Healthcare, and miscellaneous expenditures of \$26,602.

- On April 20, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that included Unrepresented Management (BU07). The MOU included increases that took effect after the Fiscal Year (FY) 21/22 budgets were submitted. The estimated impact to the Sheriff's Office budget is \$220,206.
- The Sheriff's Office is estimating an overage is in overtime of \$ 1,533,627. This is largely due staff shortages in patrol and custody related to employee injuries and retirements. The hiring process continues and an estimated \$743,681 for the remaining nine months are included for positions that are currently in the hiring process.
- Although departments are expected to cover any board approved increases, the total estimated salaries and benefits shortfall of \$ 3,383,774 which also includes, Mutual Aid to other agencies, unbudgeted payouts and expenses related to new hires, is too much to absorb.
- The Sheriff's Office is estimating to be over budgeted levels in Services and Supplies by \$68,177 largely due to increase in fuel and Cannabis cost. Capital Outlay savings of \$10,000 along with a shortage of \$123,459 from Interfund Transfers totals an overall expense deficit of \$181,636.
- Revenue is estimated to be under budgeted levels by \$1,310,576 19 largely due to Trial Court Security Realignment, Home Detention Programs, State Aid SAFE, DMV Vehicle Theft and Civil Revenue.

**Item 4 - Proposed 2022 Legislative Program.** The Board majority rejected adoption of the program absent the ability of the Board members to question staff and make amendments. As a result, the staff will have to place the program on a future agenda. Supervisor Gibson objected because he wanted the program adopted immediately.

**Background:** The legislative program is a compendium of issues and requests to the State for additional program funding, preservation of County independence from unwarranted State interference, and prohibition of unfunded mandates. Many of the provisions have been included for years, and a few are new.

This year's version continues to request additional state funding, as the taxes and other benefits related to the Diablo Nuclear Power plant go away. Significantly, the program does not request a major State effort to remove the barriers that have incentivized PG&E to close the plant.

The Legislative program also calls for the State to fund a major expansion of dental programs for the indigent, low income, and moderate-income people in the County.

**The full Program can be accessed at the link below:**

[138096 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov)

**Item 34 - Request to 1) receive and file a report on the process to adopt a Charter County and 2) provide direction to staff as necessary.** The Board deliberated and ultimately on a 3/2 vote directed staff to prepare a Charter for possible submission to the voters in November 2022.

Supervisor Gibson is adamantly opposed, stating in part, that the idea is a solution in search of a problem. He may realize that modernization of the County government could lessen his ability to penetrate the bureaucracy and co-opt staffers.

**Background:** The Board had previously asked for a staff report on what the process is for adoption of a County Charter. Most counties are governed under provisions of State Statute. The law provides that as an alternative, counties may adopt a charter as their overall governing document. Charters provide more flexibility to customize the structure and efficiency of a county than are provided in the Statutes. A charter provides counties with a modicum of protection from State interference. It also enables them to undertake some programs and activities which are not expressly permitted by the statutes.

The County could contract with the International City/County Management Association or the National Civic League, both apolitical not-for-profit experts, to provide assistance.

COLAB would be available to provide assistance to the Board and Commission at no cost, as we have extensive experience with government reform and charter jurisdictions. So far the County isn't rushing to take advantage of this offer.

The full Board Item, prepared by the County Counsel, is also very informative and can be viewed at the link:

[138372 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov/138372)

**Item 36 - Adoption of the San Luis/Edna Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).**

The Plan was approved unanimously with no controversy. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg expressed some admiration that the Plan was processed so positively. Peschong replied wryly that the County has gotten a lot of prior experience in the Paso Basin.

It appears that the basic Plan is to bring the basin into balance by using a combination of pumping restrictions and/or recharge of imported State water and San Luis Obispo City treated water. A problem is that State water will not be available in the near term. Thus, the Plan could be a Trojan horse, which would depend entirely on pumping reductions.

**Table 9-5 Description of Modeled Scenarios**

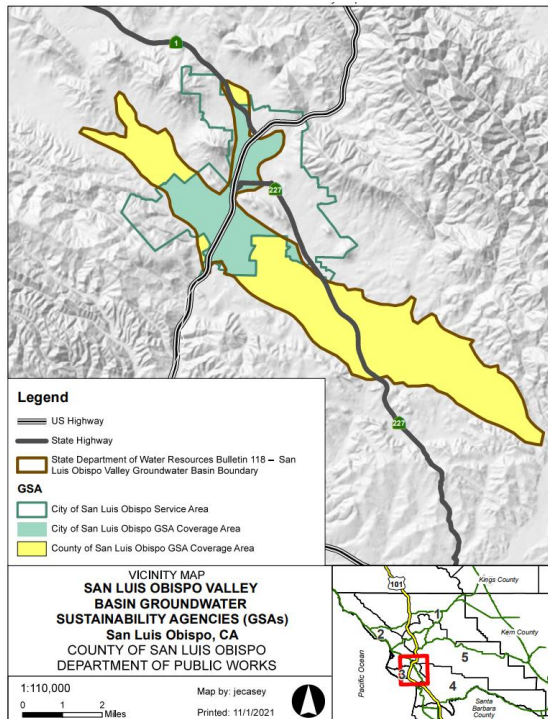
Scenario	Description	Applies to Projects
Baseline	2019 Production	No Projects
1	Reduce Agricultural pumping by 1,000 AFY	SWP for Ag Use City of SLO Recycled Water to Ag
2	500 AFY to Recharge Basin	SWP Recharge Basin
3	Reduce Golden State pumping by 200 AFY. Reduce ERMWC and VRMWC pumping by 50 AFY (combined).	SWP to GSWC, Varian Ranch MWC AG Subbasin Wells, SWP to Mutual Water Companies
4	Discharge 500 AFY as input into West Corral de Piedras Creek at its entrance to the SLO Basin	Price Canyon Discharge Relocation
5	Scenarios 1 through 4	All Projects Listed Above

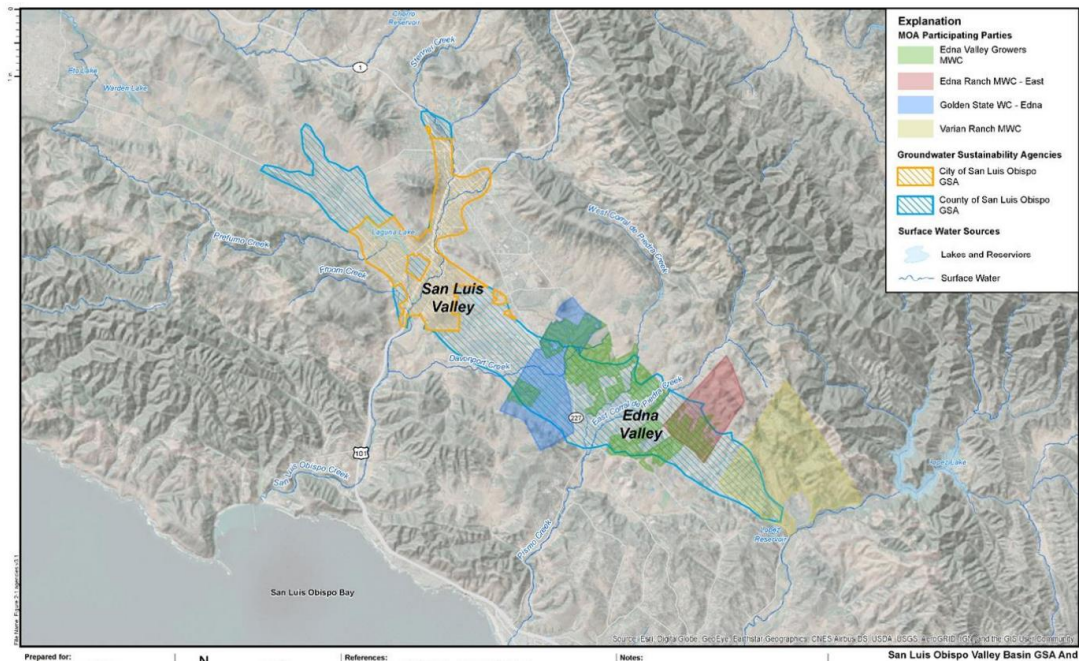
It is estimated that the implementation will cost \$4,250,000 over the first 5 years, from 2022-2027.

The Plan is humongous, with 922 pages plus many pages of exhibits. It can be reviewed at the link: [GSP-Final-Draft.pdf \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov/gsp-final-draft.pdf)

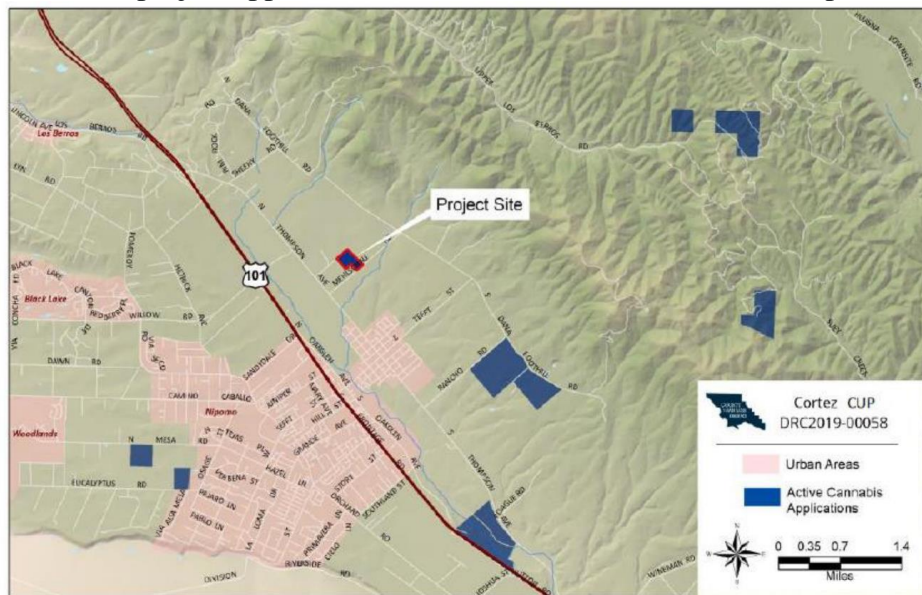
**Table 10-1. GSP Implementation Costs (2022-2027)**

GSP IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST	UNIT	ANTICIPATED TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COSTS (2022 -2027)
<b>Administrative and Finance</b>					
GSP Administration Development	Develop Administrative Approach/Governance Structure for GSP Implementation	\$100,000	Lump Sum	Q1-4, 2022	\$100,000
Ongoing GSP Implementation	Routine GSP Administration (including staffing, overhead expenses, equipment, outreach and communication, etc.)	\$500,000	Annual	2021 - 2025	\$2,500,000
Fee Study	Prepare a fee study to evaluate and provide recommendations for GSP implementation funding mechanisms	\$150,000	Lump Sum	Q1-4, 2022	\$150,000
Funding Mechanism Implementation	Implement and begin collecting GSP Implementation fees	\$100,000	Lump Sum	Q1-4, 2023	\$100,000
Demand Management Plan	The demand management plan will include the documentation of water conservation measures, and develop programs for volunteer water efficient crop conversion, volunteer fallowing of crops, and pumping reductions, etc. in a stakeholder driven process.	\$100,000	Lump Sum	2022 - 2023	\$100,000
<b>Monitoring Network Implementation</b>					
Groundwater Metering and Reporting Plan	Develop a plan to establish and maintain a groundwater pumping, metering, and reporting plan (does not include meters and installation)	\$150,000	Lump Sum	Q1-4, 2022	\$150,000
Monitoring Program	Conduct survey of proposed monitoring well network to verify locations and elevations, and video logging if applicable	\$100,000	Lump Sum	Q1-4, 2022	\$100,000
	Construction of 5 new monitoring wells and 5 surface water gages for GW/SW interaction, transducers and surveying	\$500,000	Lump Sum	Q1-4, 2022	\$500,000
Annual Monitoring	Complete annual monitoring (Field work)	\$25,000	Annual	Q1-4, 2022	\$125,000
<b>Project Implementation</b>					
<b>Supplemental Water Feasibility Study</b>					
Planning/Design	Costs estimates for the Supplemental Water Feasibility Study, Planning/Design and Construction of Supplemental Water Projects not included in the initial 5-Yr budget.				
<b>Construction</b>					
<b>Reporting</b>					
Annual Reports	Compile data and prepare GSP Annual Report	\$100,000	Annual	2021 - 2025	\$500,000
5-Yr GSP Updates	Compile data and prepare 5-yr GSP Updates, including Integrated Model updates	\$500,000	Lump Sum	Q2, 2026 - Q1, 2027	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS (2022 - 2027)</b>					<b>\$4,825,000</b>
<b>AVERAGE ANNUAL ESTIMATED COST (2022 - 2027)</b>					<b>\$965,000</b>





**Item 38 - Hearing to consider an appeal (APPL2020-00023) by Salvador Perez of the Planning Commission’s approval of a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2019-00058) to establish 25,200 square feet (sf) of indoor cannabis cultivation area (20,412 sf of canopy), 6,048 sf of ancillary indoor cannabis nursery area (5,103 sf of canopy), 2,612 of indoor cannabis manufacturing and ancillary processing, ancillary transport, and related site components / improvements (e.g., composting area, trash / recycling area, water tanks, parking, portable restrooms, storage shed, indoor office / restroom building, etc.). The appeal was denied and project approved on a 3-2 vote, with Arnold and Compton dissenting.**

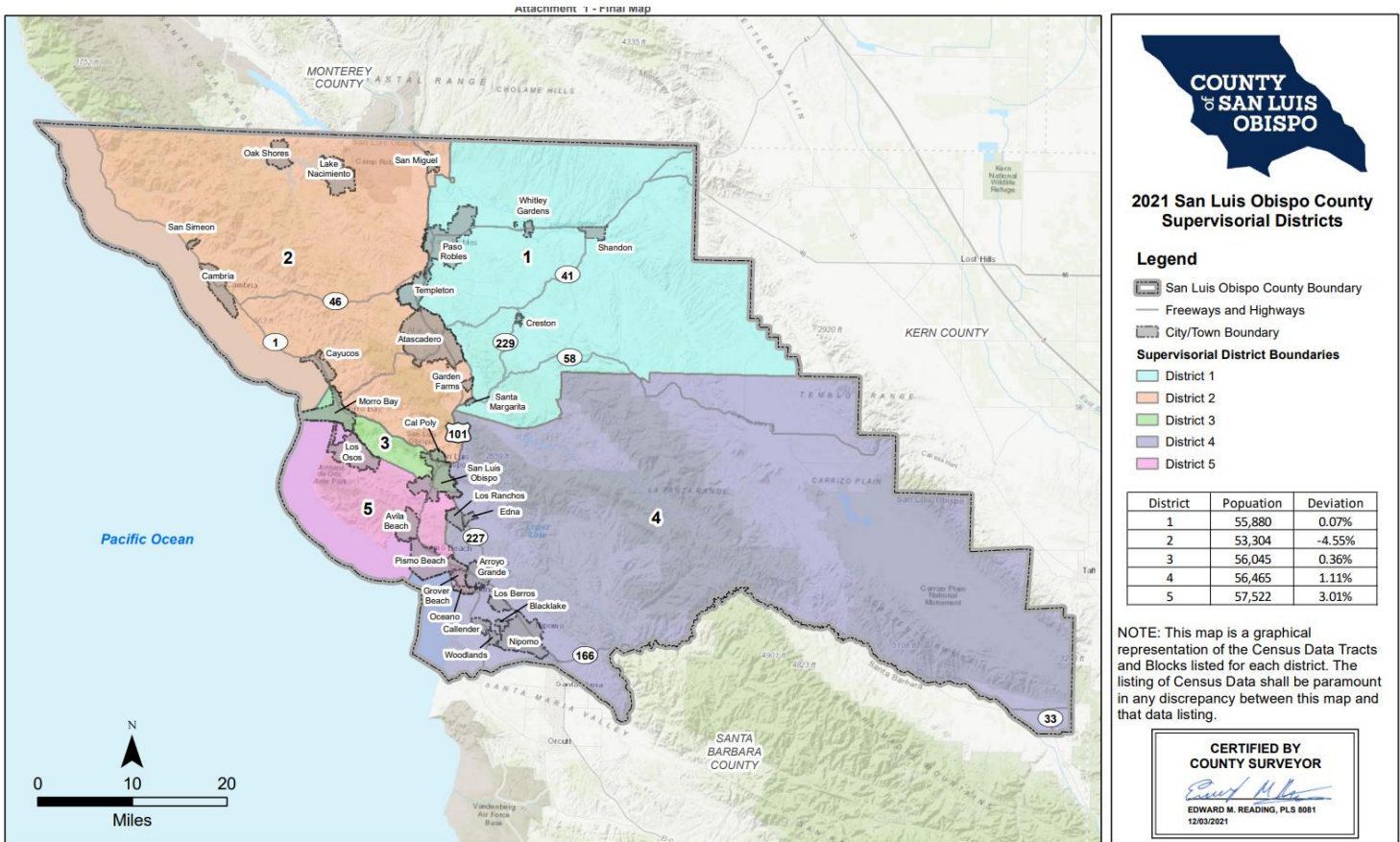


**Item 39 - Adding Consent Item #39 - Introduction of an ordinance amending Chapter 2.60 of the County Code to change Supervisorial District boundaries. Hearing date set for**

**December 14, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.** The Board approved official introduction of the final map certified by the County Surveyor. The actual hearing will take place during the regular meeting of Tuesday, December 14, 2021 (See **Item 26**, above). The vote was 3/2 with Gibson and Ortiz-Legg dissenting extensively and forcefully. Many conservatives spoke in favor of the map and thanked the Board majority for its courageous action,

Supervisor Ortiz-Legg is asserting that the switch of Oceano from the 4<sup>th</sup> District to the reconfigured 5<sup>th</sup> District violates the communities-of-interest rule for redistricting, because it dilutes Latino voters.

**Background:** At this point, it is not known what legal or other devices the progressive left and their captive Democrats may employ to attempt to derail the process.



**San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, December 8, 2021, (Completed)**

**Item B-5: Proposed Letter to US Transportation Secretary Opposing Pension Shakedown.** As we noted last week in the Emerging Issues section, the Biden Administration is attempting to

wipe out California's 2013 pension reforms by threatening to withhold \$12 billion in mass transit funds. Surprisingly, the matter was approved without discussion on the consent calendar.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

### STAFF REPORT

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	<b>DECEMBER 8, 2021</b>	<b>ITEM B-5</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Letter to US Department of Labor regarding Decision on Pension Reform</b>	
<b>STAFF CONTACT:</b>	<b>Sarah Woolsey</b>	

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to ask the Board to ratify a letter to Secretary Marty Walsh of the US Department of Labor regarding their October 28, 2021 decision on pension reform making California ineligible for Federal transit grants. The letter will be provided in the agenda addendum.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**Staff:** Authorize/ratify letter to US Department of Labor regarding decision on pension reform making California ineligible for Federal transit grants (*Letter to be provided in addendum Dec. 3*)

#### DISCUSSION

SLOCOG staff are preparing a letter to send to Secretary Marty Walsh of the US Department of Labor regarding a decision made on October 28, 2021 that the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013, or PEPRA, constitutes an "impermissible interference" with the collective bargaining rights protected under the federal Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964.

The 1964 law stipulates that in order for state and local transportation agencies to receive certain federal mass transit funding assistance, the Labor Department must certify that "fair and equitable" arrangements are in place to protect the interests of affected employees. California's pension law made a number of changes that included lowering pension benefits of state workers hired after January 1, 2013, and raising employees' contributions.

In 2019, the Department of Labor made a decision that PEPRA did not violate the federal Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964. In its October 28, 2021 letter, the Labor Department reversed its 2019 decision. Due to the October 28, 2021 decision, California transit agencies are ineligible for Federal transit grants.

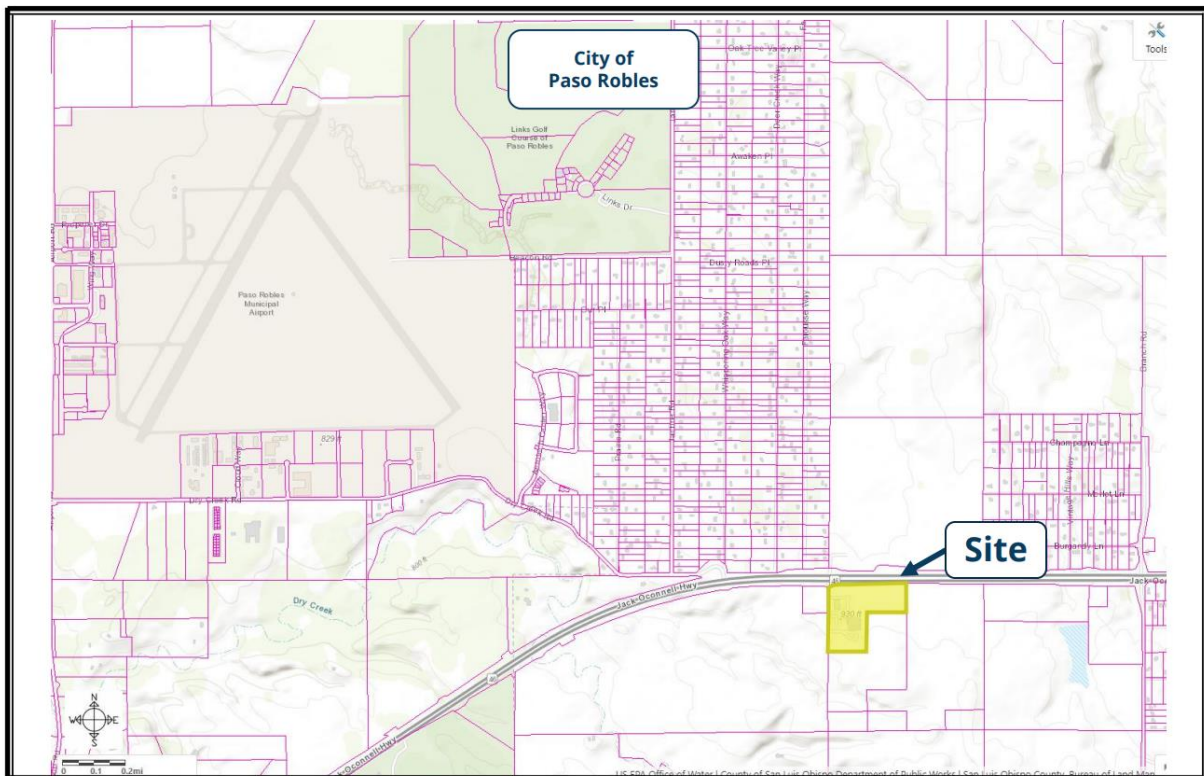
On Wednesday, November 10, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla wrote letters to Labor Secretary Marty Walsh to restore the state's access to federal transit grants. SLOCOG staff are preparing a letter supporting the same. The letter will be provided in the agenda addendum.

### Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, December 9, 2021 (Completed)

**Item 5 - Hearing to consider a request by Craig Stoller (Paris Valley Road Winery) for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2020-00051) to allow the phased expansion and update to an existing 102,000-square-foot winery facility and visitor serving uses to include: A 2,447-square-foot restaurant (limited food facility) that includes the remodel of the existing 905-square-foot-kitchen, conversion of a 542-square-foot-tasting room to indoor seating, and new 1,000-square-foot outdoor seating area; construction of a new 8,500- square-foot, two-story, eight-unit Bed & Breakfast and a 924-square-foot-pool; construction of a new 7,300-square-foot winery building; construction of a new 26,000-square-foot winery building; New covered outdoor work areas for wine production activities; Construction of a new 6,000-square-foot, two story office building; Interior remodel of the existing buildings to support existing and proposed uses; and Site improvements including grading and new landscaping to accommodate the configuration of the existing visitor access locations and**

parking areas. The project also includes a request to host up to 40-winery special events annually with a maximum of 300 guests. The applicant requests to participate in wine industry events as allowed by the Land Use Ordinance. The applicant is requesting a modification to Section 22.30.570.E standard that limits a restaurant to 800 square feet to allow a 2,447-square-foot restaurant, a modification to Section 22.30.570.D standard to allow the restaurant to operate beyond the tasting room hours, to 9 p.m., 7 days per week, and a modification to Section 22.30.070.D.2.h. (3) to allow second tasting room for the distillery operation. Section 22.30.020.D allows a standard to be modified through a Conditional Use Permit if it can be proven to be unnecessary and the project meets all other development standards. The project will result in approximately 4.5 acres of site disturbance on a 59-acre parcel, including 14,605 cubic yards of cut and 7,000 cubic yards of fill. The proposed project is within the Agriculture land use category, located at 5625 Highway 46 East, adjacent to the City Paso Robles.

There were no objections in the file, and staff supported the permit approval.



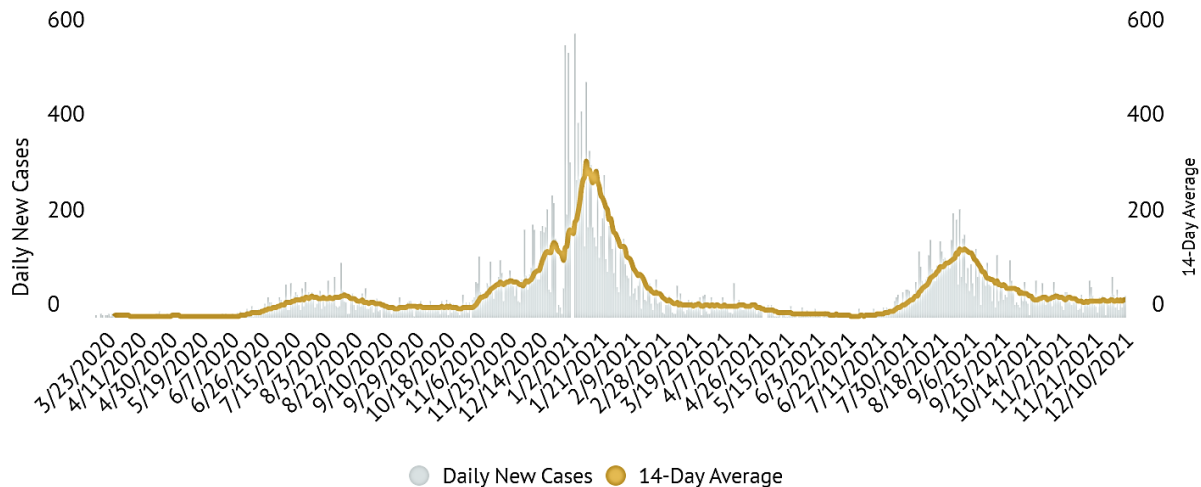
## EMERGENT ISSUES

**Item 1 - COVID.** Not much changed last week at the local level. National and international news media are reporting a rapidly spreading new variant (Type O for Omicron). At this point



some health officials are reporting that the Omicron variant is less nasty than the Delta, but the jury is still out. Locally the infection rate seems to still be on a plateau.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



**16 (4 ICU)** SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

## 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

### A BRIEF GUIDE TO LEFTIST DESTRUCTION

*THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE ONE NEEDS TO KNOW TO UNDERSTAND THE MODERN WORLD.*

BY DENNIS PRAGER



To understand the modern world, perhaps the most important rule one needs to know is this: Everything the Left touches it ruins.

This first became clear to me years ago during my radio show. I was talking about the Left's war on the Boy Scouts (for not accepting announced gay people). It was becoming clear that this would ultimately lead to the decline of the Boy Scouts, which led me to ask: "Will the left replace the Boy Scouts with a left-wing Boy Scouts?"

Then I answered my own question: Of course not. Because the Left only destroys; it doesn't build anything (other than government).

In support of that observation, here is a list of many of the things the Left ruins and often destroys.

No. 1: Art.

The Left long ago conquered the art world. Consequently, since the 20th century, most modern art has been ugly, meaningless and nihilistic — the opposite of what Western art had always been.

No. 2: Music.

What the Left did to the eyes in art, it did to the ears in music. As a part-time conductor, I can say with some knowledge that since the invention of atonal music (an oxymoron if there ever was one), most contemporary classical music is also ugly, meaningless and uninspiring. The people who like such music are almost all music critics and, of course, music professors. Most lovers of classical music never listen to the stuff.

No. 3: Journalism.

Journalists were once highly respected. Unless a piece was listed as "opinion," people generally believed they were getting, to the best of a journalist's ability, as truthful a report as possible — "just the facts." Today, on virtually any controversial issue, they are getting opinion, not truth. The purpose of nearly every major newspaper and other "news" outlet is the same purpose Pravda had in the Soviet Union: to transmit the party line.

No. 4: Colleges and universities.

The Left has destroyed universities as places of learning devoted to seeking truth and therefore welcoming, even cultivating, diverse opinions. Virtually every left-wing idea was born at a university.

No. 5: High schools and elementary schools.

Most schools in America — private as much as public — teach children that America is systemically racist and that they are not born male or female, but at a later age will choose

whether to be one or the other — or neither. And increasingly, American educational institutions deny objective truth exists, even in mathematics.

No. 6: Happiness.

You can meet happy and unhappy liberals and happy and unhappy conservatives, but you are unlikely to ever meet a happy leftist. The only question is whether the unhappy gravitate to leftism or whether leftism makes people unhappy. Both are probably true.

No. 7: The family.

People on the Left increasingly choose not to get married and not to have children — in other words, not to make families. And their welfare policies serve to disincentives the creation of families.

No. 8: Women.

The rates of depression among young people, especially young women, are higher than ever recorded in American history. One reason is that for half a century, women have been told, as one famous feminist saw put it, "A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle." But the fact is that the vast majority of (heterosexual) women need a man to be fulfilled, just as the vast majority of (heterosexual) men need a woman to be fulfilled.

No. 9: Childhood.

One reason young people on the Left don't want children is that the Left doesn't particularly like children. The teachers unions' adamant refusal to open schools for over a year has opened many Americans' eyes to this fact. So has the war on children's innocence - like prematurely talking to them about sex and having schools introduce them to drag queens from the age of five.

No. 10: Black life.

Like the Democratic Party historically, the left is racist. And it is so in precisely the way the word was always used — the Left believes in black inferiority. That is why leftists advocate lowering standards for blacks. That is why they advocate policies that always result in more blacks dying at the hands of other blacks. That is why they believe the state must take care of blacks more than any other group. That is why left-wing policies, from the Great Society to today, have destroyed so much of black life, especially its family life — and they don't care.

No. 11: Black-white relations.

According to polls and according to just about every American who remembers life from about a decade ago, black-white relations were far superior then and both groups were optimistic about relations continuing to improve. The Left shattered that with its anti-white, "America is systemically racist" propaganda shouted from almost every major media and relentlessly pushed in almost every school and big business. The Left knows that when blacks and whites feel good about one another, the Left loses its appeal and loses elections.

No. 12: The military.

As the military gets more and more woke — recall the testimony of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff testifying before Congress about the need to teach the military about white racism — soldier morale declines. Add to this the utterly gratuitous and cruel mandate that every member of the military get vaccinated or be discharged and you understand why military morale is in steep decline.

No. 13: Late-night television.

Americans who remember the titans of late-night comedy — Johnny Carson and Jay Leno — remember how their sole aim was to bring some smiles and laughter to Americans before they went to sleep. Few people had any inkling of the political views of either host. That is now history. The Left has destroyed late-night comedy. It now consists of little more than angry rants against conservatives.

No. 14: Superman.

Superman was an iconic American hero. Thanks to the Left, he is no more. About a decade ago, Superman stood in front of the United Nations to announce he was renouncing his American citizenship to become a "citizen of the world." And the Left has now changed his motto from "Truth, Justice, and the American way" to "Truth, Justice, and a Better Tomorrow."

No. 15: Free speech.

Never before has freedom of speech been threatened as it is today. As has been true since the communist revolution in Russia, everywhere the Left has gained power — from Russia in 1917 to the university and social media today — it has suppressed free speech. There is no exception.

No. 16: Sports.

Until last year, sport was a great American unifier. It was one place Americans could go and, leaving politics behind, Left and Right, Democrat and Republican could root for the same team. No longer. The Left has ruined it by radically politicizing baseball, football and basketball.

The great American tragedy is just about every liberal knows the above is true, but nearly everyone will still vote for the Left.

***Dennis Prager is a nationally syndicated radio talk-show host and columnist. This article first appeared in the December 8, 2021 edition of FrontPage magazine.***



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

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

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



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

3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and previously aired shows at: 3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and Previously aired shows at:

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

**MIKE BROWN IS THE REGULAR MONDAY GUEST AT 4:30 SUPPORT COLAB!**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM ON THE LAST PAGE BELOW**



**MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS**



**VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM**



**DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM**



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



**NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER**



**MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN.**



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

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

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

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

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

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

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

### How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio  Internet  Public Hearing  Friend

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

### NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

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

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

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

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

### PAYMENT METHOD:

Check  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Amex NOT accepted.

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

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

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

(Revised 2/2017)