



**WEEKLY UPDATE  
DECEMBER 5 - 11, 2021**

**THIS WEEK**

**BOS MEETING 9:00 AM**  
**WORKFORCE HOUSING ORDINANCE PERMANTIZATION**  
**FY 2021-22 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**PROPOSED 2022 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**  
**BACKGROUND ON COUNTY CHARTER PROCESS**  
**ADOPTION OF SAN LUIS VALLEY GROUNDWATER PLAN**

**REDISTRICTING ORDINANCE SUBMITTAL**  
**TIME - 1:30 PM OR AFTER**

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

**LAST WEEK**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 30**  
**REDISTRICTING MAP CHOSEN ON 3/2 VOTE – LEGAL CHALLENGE EXPECTED**  
**LEFT PROGRESSIVES APOPLECTIC AND RAGING – LEXAPRO NEEDED**

**NO REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**OTHER AGENCIES DORMANT**

## EMERGENT ISSUES



### **NEW COVID TYPE RAISING HYPE**

**DUNES DUST NOT ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE  
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION STUDY REFUTES APCD DUST NUMBERS**

**SUPERVISOR GIBSON ELEVATED TO CSAC VP  
MUST PROMISE TO RUN AGAIN**

**BIDEN TEAM WANTS DIABLO RETAINED  
WILL LOCAL OFFICIALS HELP OR HIDE?**

## COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 20

### **OUR SHIP OF STATE LOOKS LIKE THE TITANIC**

*"Full speed ahead!"*

By Bruce Thornton

# THIRD WORLDIZING AMERICA

*Our elites, like the Third World rich, have mastered ignoring—and navigating around—the misery of others in their midst.*

By Victor Davis Hanson

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, December 7, 2021 (Scheduled)**

**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.** This amendment would make the ordinance permanent. It is a small step. It would have been helpful if the write-up had contained a table showing how many units have been constructed pursuant to the program each year since the ordinance was adopted.

*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).**

**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.

As indicated, the County continues to refuse to budget for some known and estimated salary and benefit costs resulting from labor negotiations.

With respect to the overtime problem, many police agencies are experiencing the same problem of being unable to retain and recruit a sufficient number of officers. Fewer and fewer people in the society are able to meet the physical, mental, and behavioral requirements for the job.

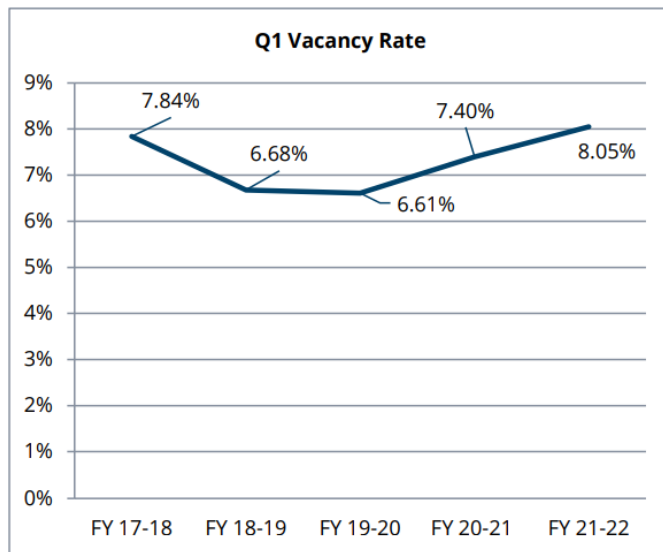
Overall, the employee vacancy rate for all County jobs is fairly high, when one considers that the County jobs pay well, have extensive benefits, and are double protected by civil service and union contracts. The education system is not producing a sufficient stream of professionals to fill many entry-level positions, and housing costs make it difficult for young professionals to live here.

#### **EMPLOYEE VACANCY RATE**

The County's vacancy rate is calculated at the end of each quarter by dividing the number of vacant positions by the number of allocated positions at that point in time. The vacancy rate typically reflects contributing factors including but not limited to the number of new hires, employee exits, and number of difficult-to-fill positions.

The County employee vacancy rate at the end of the first quarter was 8.05%. This equates to 230.25 vacant positions. By comparison, the vacancy rate for the first quarter during the prior fiscal year 2020-21 was 7.40%. This represents an increase of 0.65 percentage points from the prior year;

however, there is no significant variance in contributing factors to the vacancy rate.



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.

**Item 4 - Proposed 2022 Legislative Program.** 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 shutdown. Significantly, the program does not request a major State effort to remove the barriers that have incentivized PG&E to close the plant. See **Item 2** in the Emergent Issues section below on page 18 for a description of new opportunities and Federal support for keeping the plant open.

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 \(ca.gov\)](#)

**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 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 Board would do well to set up a Charter Commission to study the matter, conduct a citizen education and preference process, and develop alternative structures. 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 for the Commission.

Please see Addendum I on page 26 for a copy of the National Civic League's Model County Charter and related annotations. These provide insight into some of the potential alternatives.

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.

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

[138372 \(ca.gov\)](#)

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

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

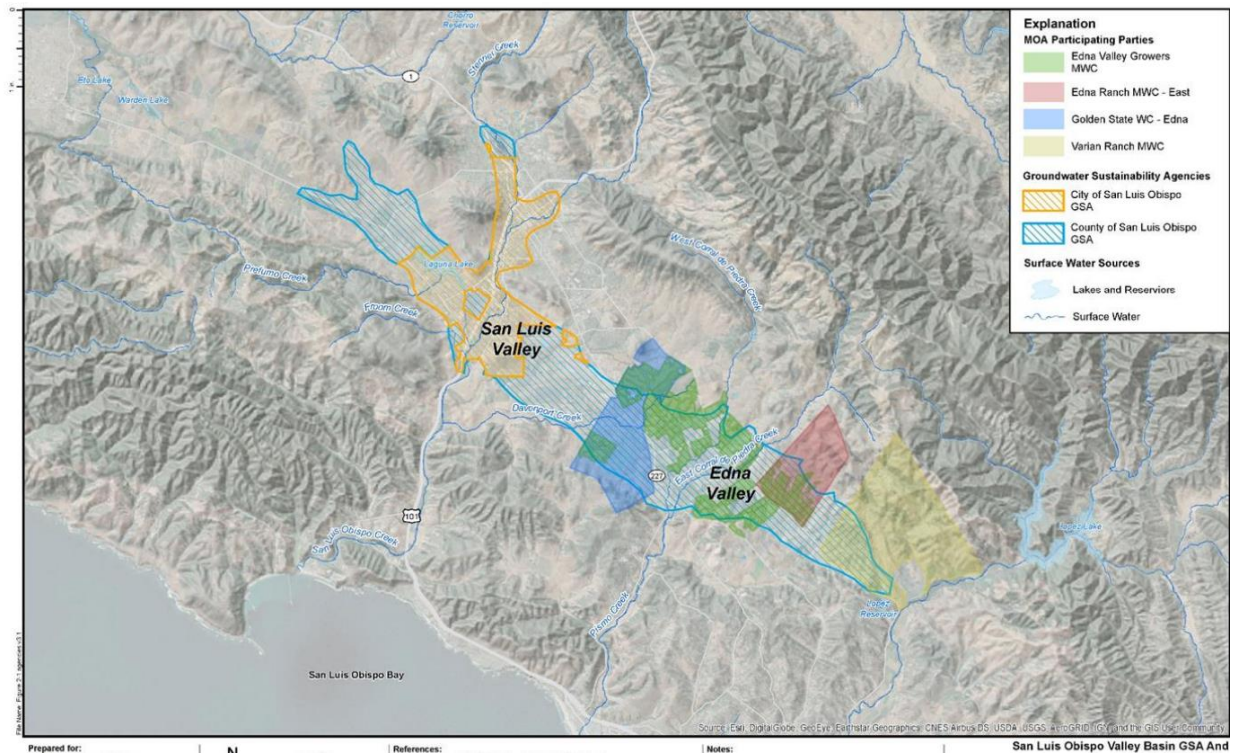
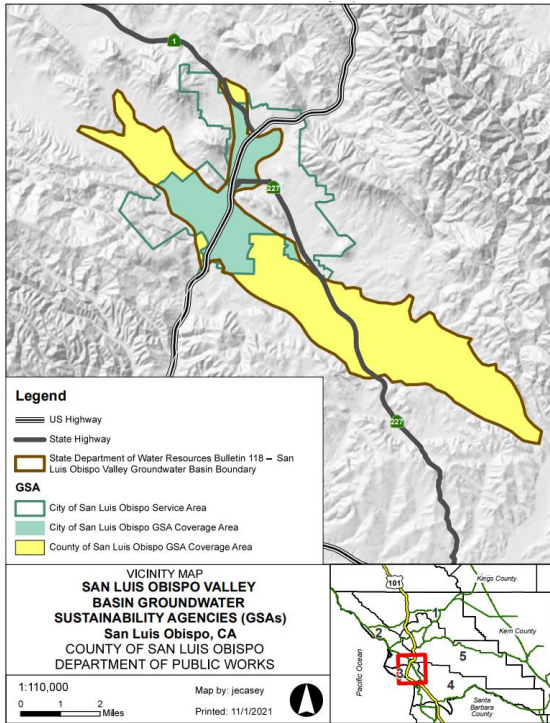
Scenario	Description	Applies to Projects
Baseline	2019 Production	No Projects
1	Reduce Agricultural pumping by 1,000 AFY	SWP for Ag Use City of SLO Recycled Water to Ag
2	500 AFY to Recharge Basin	SWP Recharge Basin
3	Reduce Golden State pumping by 200 AFY. Reduce ERMWC and VRMWC pumping by 50 AFY (combined).	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 \(ca.gov\)](#)

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

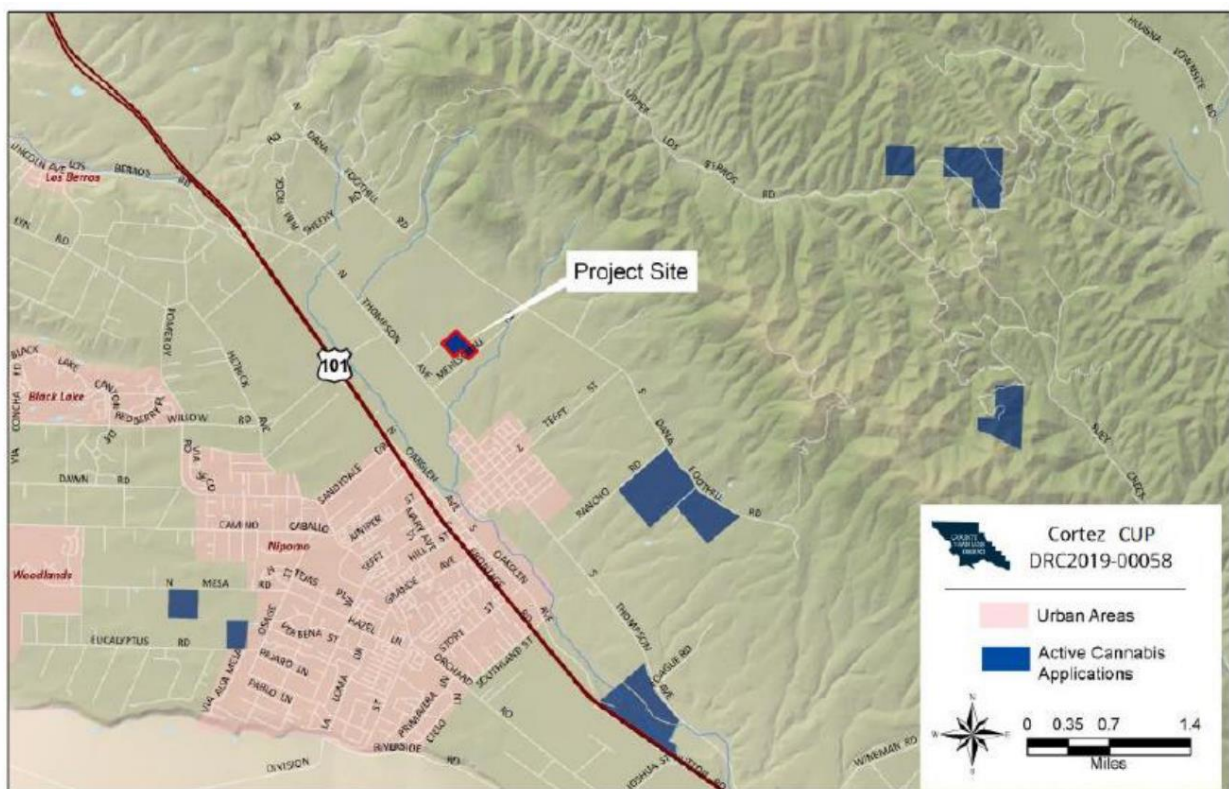
GSP IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST	UNIT	ANTICIPATED TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COSTS (2022 -2027)
Administrative and Finance					
GSP Administration Development	Develop Administrative Approach/Governance Structure for GSP Implementation	\$100,000	Lump Sum	Q1 -4, 2022	\$100,000
Ongoing GSP 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
Monitoring Network Implementation					
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
Project Implementation					
Supplemental Water Feasibility Study					
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.				
Construction					
Reporting					
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>





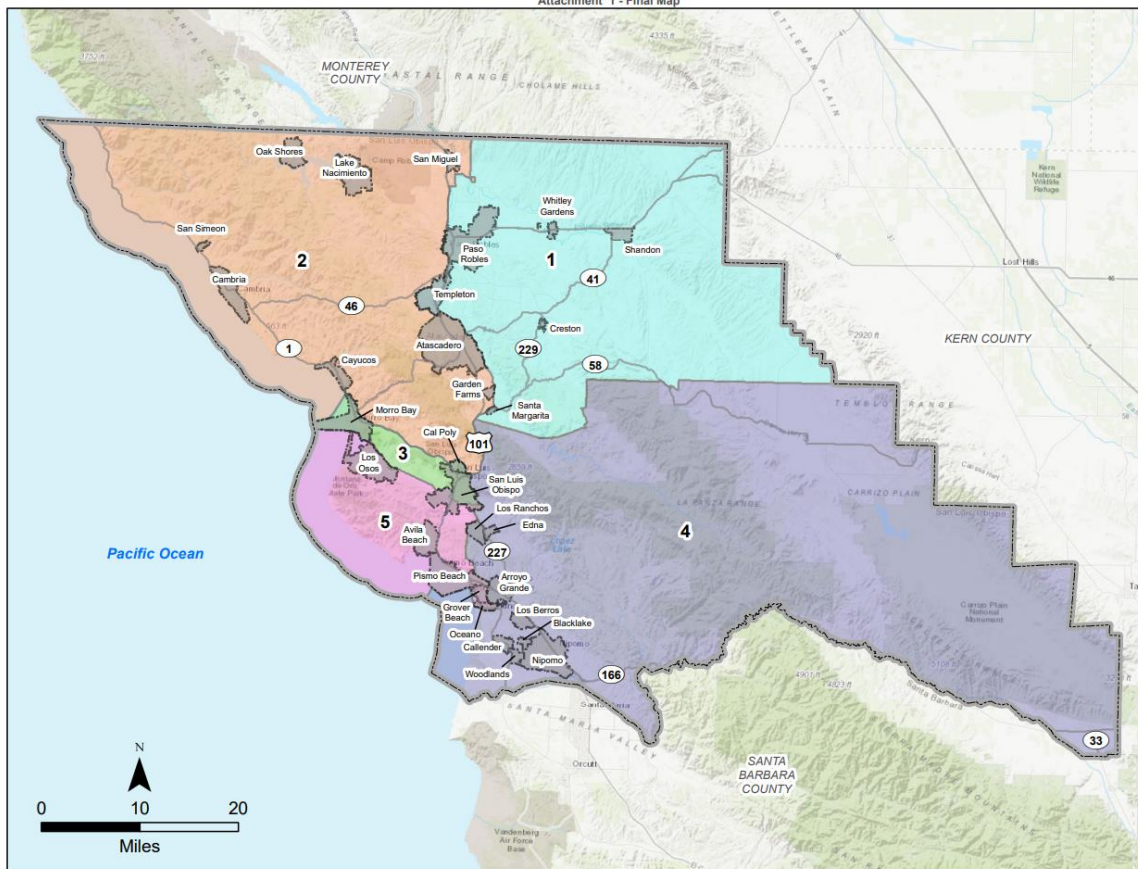
## Matters After 1:30 PM

**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 applicant is appealing some of the conditions imposed by the Planning Commission. This appeal is complicated and could take a while. As they used to say, "smoke 'em if you got 'em."



**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.** This is the 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.

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. See last week's BOS special meeting **Item 1**, on page 13, for details of the events leading to the selection of the map, which is displayed below:



**2021 San Luis Obispo County  
Supervisory Districts**

**Legend**

- San Luis Obispo County Boundary
- Freeways and Highways
- City/Town Boundary
- Supervisory 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.

**CERTIFIED BY  
COUNTY SURVEYOR**  
  
EDWARD M. READING, PLS 8081  
12/03/2021

**San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 9:30 AM**

**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. It will be interesting to see how the various SLOCOG Board members sort on this one, given that some members receive large political campaign contributions from big labor.

**Please see the staff recommendation below on the next page.**

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

### STAFF REPORT

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

#### 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.

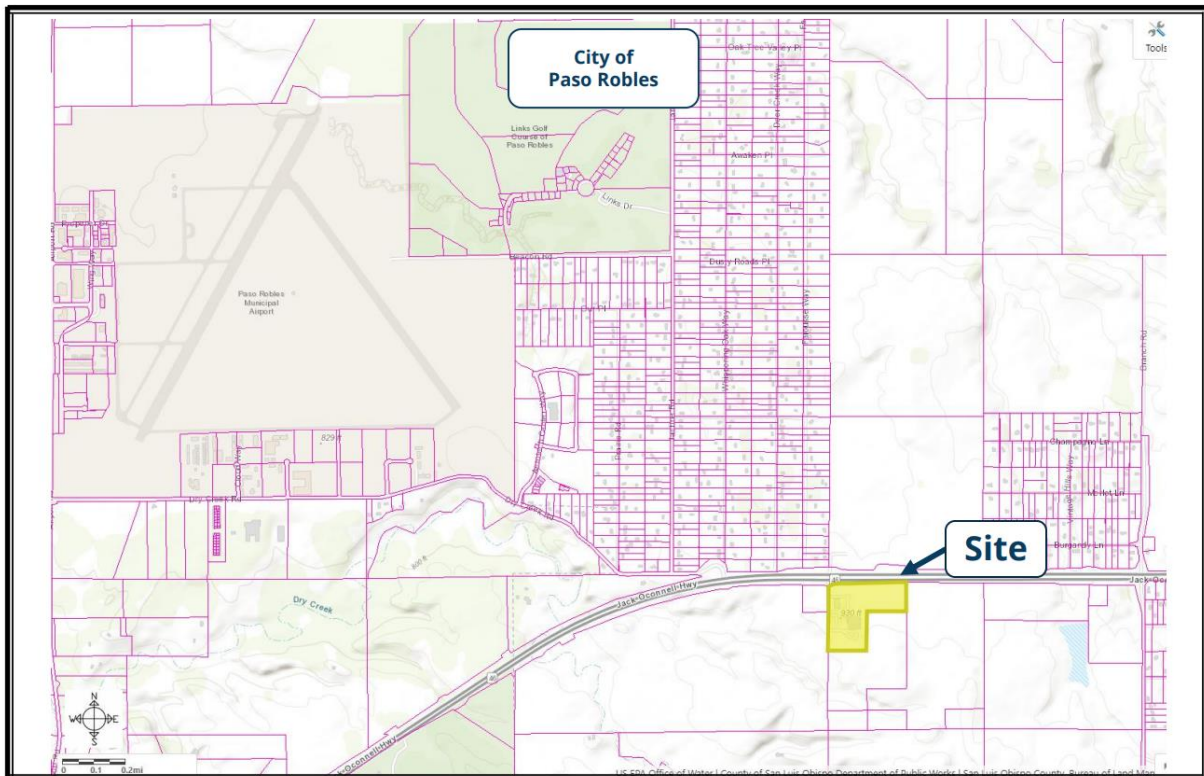
In 2019, the Department of Labor made a decision that PEPRA did not violate the federal Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964. In its October 28, 2021 letter, the Labor Department reversed its 2019 decision. Due to the October 28, 2021 decision, California transit agencies are ineligible for Federal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

**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 supports the permit approval.



## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**No Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, November 30, 2021(Not Scheduled)**

The next regular meeting will take place on December 7, 2021.

**Special Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, November 30, 2021 - Redistricting of Supervisorial Districts (Completed)**

**Item 1 - Hearing to consider two finalist supervisorial district maps and provide staff formal direction on selection of a final map for the 2021 restricting process.** The Board voted 3/2 to choose the so-called Patten map. (See maps below, on pages 14, 15, and 16).

The fundamental issue was which map most benefits conservatives or progressives. Public opinion is sharply divided and partisan. The Patten map has been labeled a Republican Party attempt maintain and/or strengthen its control of the County government. The Chamber of Commerce map is fairly similar to the existing map, which is favored by the progressive left, including its now subservient Democratic Party subcomponent.

It is expected that the leftist opponents of the map will file a lawsuit on the grounds that the map was designed to benefit Republican Party candidates. The Democrats assert that, because Supervisorial elections are conducted on staggered 4-year cycles, the map benefits Republican Candidates in districts where elections will be conducted in the near term. This theory is called acceleration. Similarly, they assert that it benefits Republicans in districts in which elections will not be conducted until 4 years from now. This is termed deferral.

The Democrats apparently hired a consultant to do the calculations, which they say show massive accelerations and deferrals in favor of the Republicans. Their problem is that this is simply a natural consequence of Federal and State mandated decennial redistricting. The map meets all the statutory requirements. If it inadvertently has impacts that may benefit one group or the other, the Court should not invalidate it. Imagine if this analysis were applied to other offices that are on staggered 4-year election cycles, such as State Senate, school boards, many city governments, and other types of jurisdictions.

The map returns for adoption at the regular December 7 meeting, having been converted into precise engineering metes and bounds. It will be incorporated into an ordinance, which will be heard on both December 7 and December 14, 2021. If the ordinance is not adopted by December 15, the Superior Court will determine the districts. It is not known if the left machine will attempt to enjoin the Board majority from adopting the map prior to the 14<sup>th</sup>, or if it will wait until it is a completed action and then file a lawsuit.

**At and After the Meeting:** The leftists were out in full force, moaning and groaning and belittling the conservative speakers. How dare anyone challenge the revealed woke wisdom?

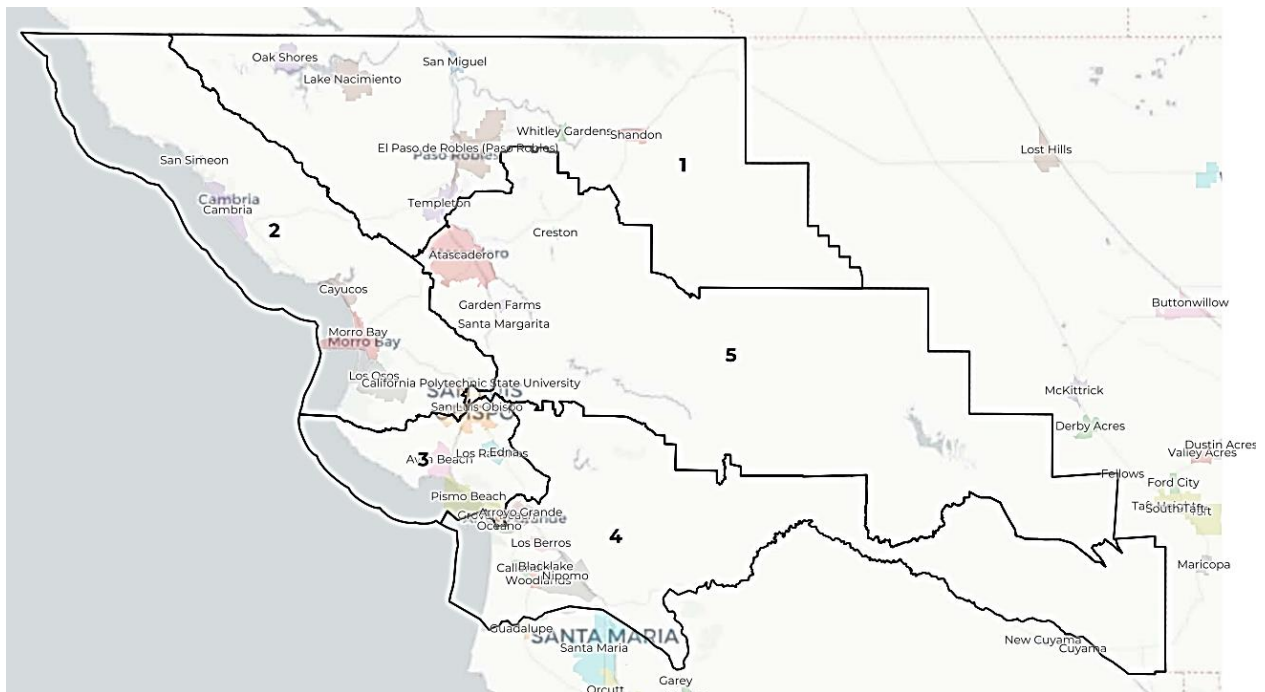
**Background:** Previously, 41 proposed maps were winnowed down to two for further consideration. In order to meet the State deadline of December 15, 2021, the Board had to pick a map on Tuesday, November 30 in order to provide the time necessary to draw up the official meets and bounds engineering map and adopt it by ordinance. On November 19, the Patten map (so named for its proposer) and the SLO Chamber of Commerce maps were chosen on a vote of 4/1, with Supervisor Dawn Ortiz Legg dissenting. Supervisor Gibson voted for the package under protest, as he is adamantly opposed to the Patten map, but as a matter of hedging his bets, he wanted to give the Chamber map a chance.

Gibson then proposed staff map B, which is very similar to the current map. The motion failed 3/2 with Arnold, Compton, and Peschong dissenting.

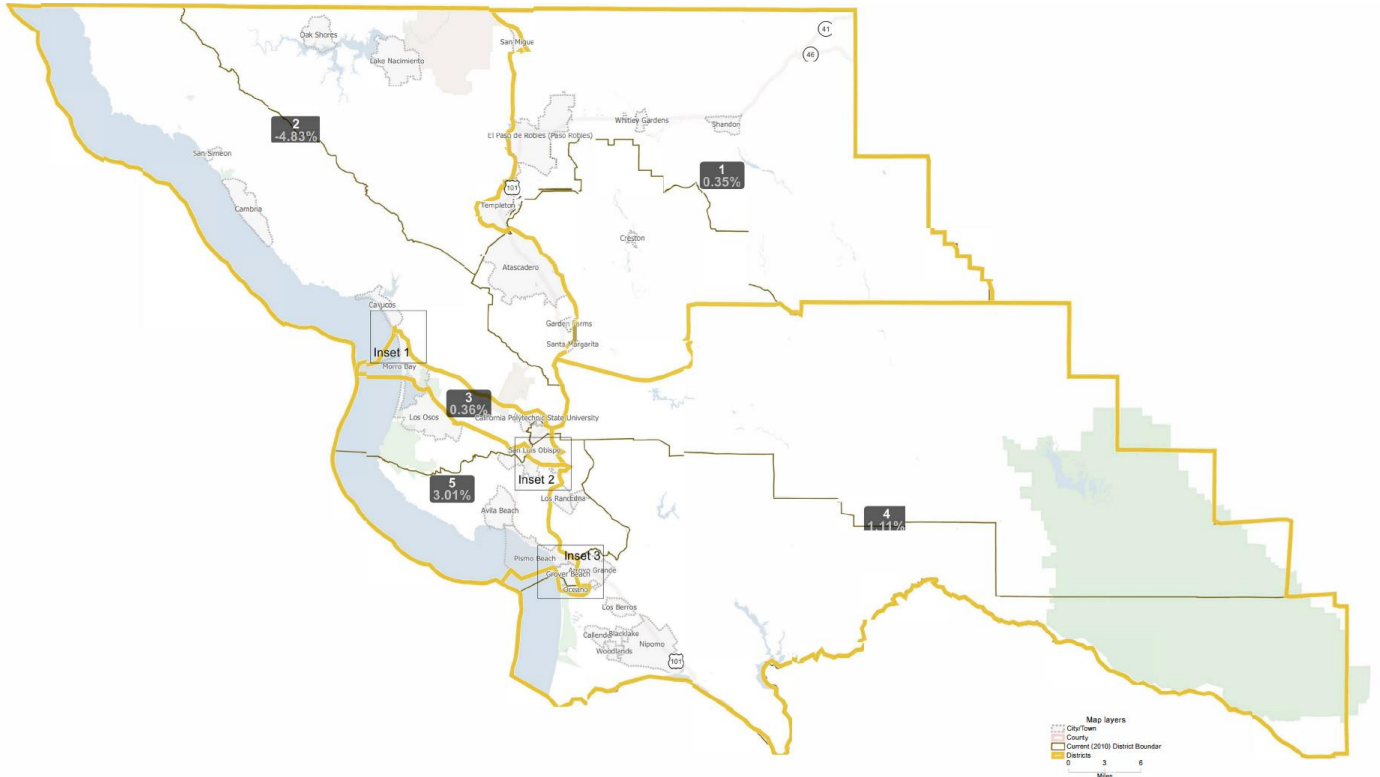
Maps displayed below include:

1. The current districts map
2. The Patten proposed map
3. The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce proposed map

### 2011 EXISTING DISTRICTS

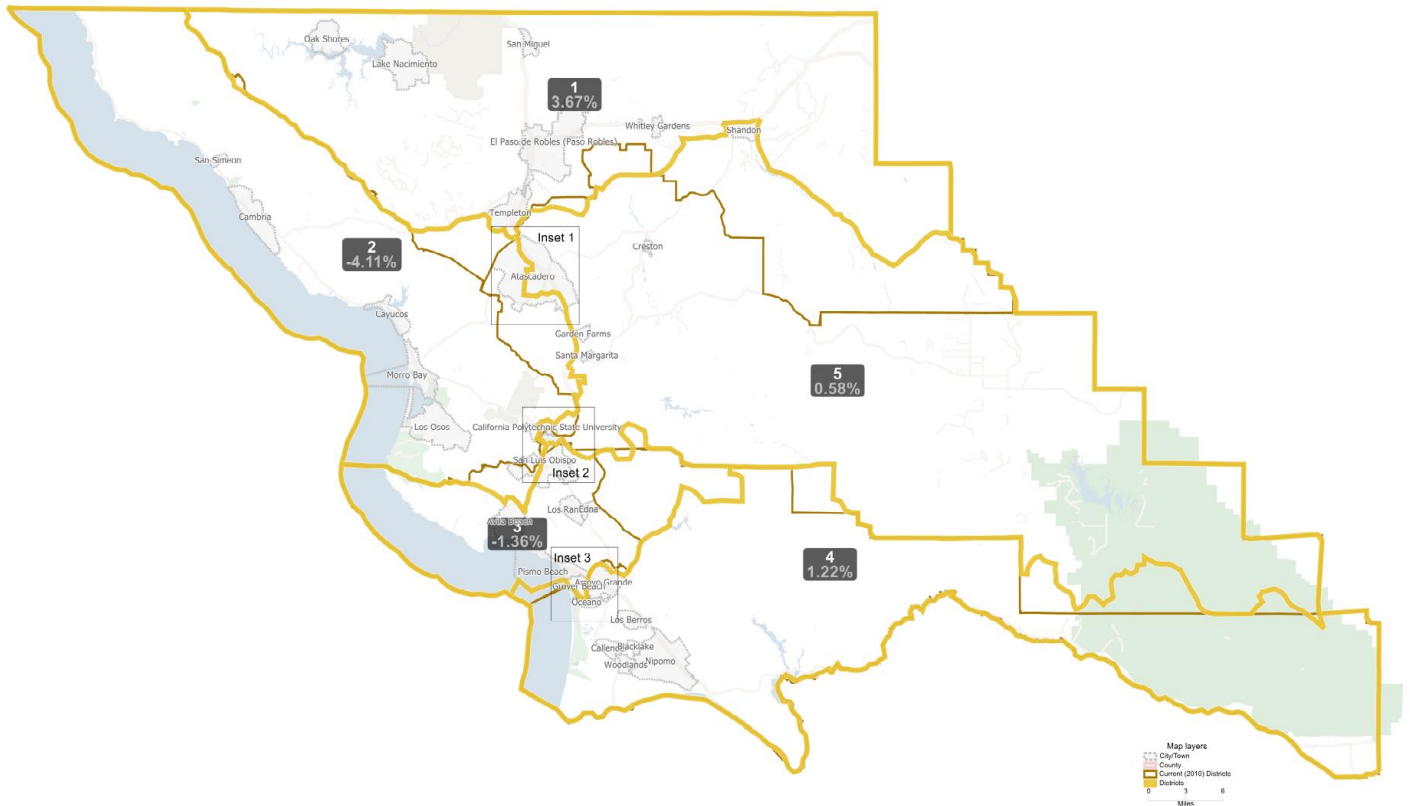


## PATTEN PROPOSED MAP BELOW 74786



*Map ID 74786 Map ID 74786, titled “Richard Patten Rev1” and submitted by a resident creates a new architecture for the five Supervisorial Districts. District 1, situated in the northeast corner of the county, includes Paso Robles, Templeton, Whitley Gardens, Santa Margarita, and Creston all whole within the district. District 2 is the northern coastal district and includes the coastal communities of San Simeon, Cambria, and Cayucos and the inland communities of Atascadero, Oak Shores, Lake Nacimiento, San Miguel and Garden Farms. District 3 is an oblong district connecting Morro Bay to Cal Poly and a portion of the City of San Luis Obispo along Highway 1. District 4 includes the remaining portion of the City of San Luis Obispo (the southwestern portion) and the coastal communities of Los Osos, Avila Beach, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Oceano, all whole within the district. District 5 includes the southeastern portion of the district, including Arroyo Grande, Los Berros, Callender, Blacklake, Woodlands, Nipomo, Los Ranchos and the large unincorporated eastern parts of the county.*

**SLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROPOSED MAP BELOW 75760 ON THE NEXT PAGE**



*Map ID 75760 Map ID 75760, titled “2030 County Plan” and submitted by the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce keeps the cores of current districts largely intact, making some changes. District 1 includes the northeast portion of the county, including the communities of Oak Shores, Lake Nacimiento, San Miguel, Paso Robles, Whitley Gardens, and Templeton. District 2 is the northern coastal district and includes the coastal communities of San Simeon, Cambria, Cayucos, Morro Bay and Los Osos. It also includes a western portion of Atascadero and an eastern portion of the City of San Luis Obispo. District 3 includes a portion of the City of San Luis Obispo (the southeastern portion), Avila Beach, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Los Ranchos. District 4 is the southern coast district and includes the communities of Oceano, Arroyo Grande, Los Berros, Callender, Blacklake, Woodlands, and Nipomo; it also includes much of the southeastern unincorporated portion of the county. District 5 is the northeastern district within the county and includes Cal Poly and a northern portion of the City of San Luis Obispo. It also includes the eastern portion of the City of Atascadero, much of the unincorporated part of the county and includes the communities of Santa Margarita, Garden Farms, Creston, and Shandon.*

All the draft maps which were submitted are displayed at the link:  
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Administrative-Office/Countywide-Projects-Programs/Redistricting/Draft-Maps-Publicly-Submitted-Maps.aspx>  
 When it opens, there is a list of hot links to each map.

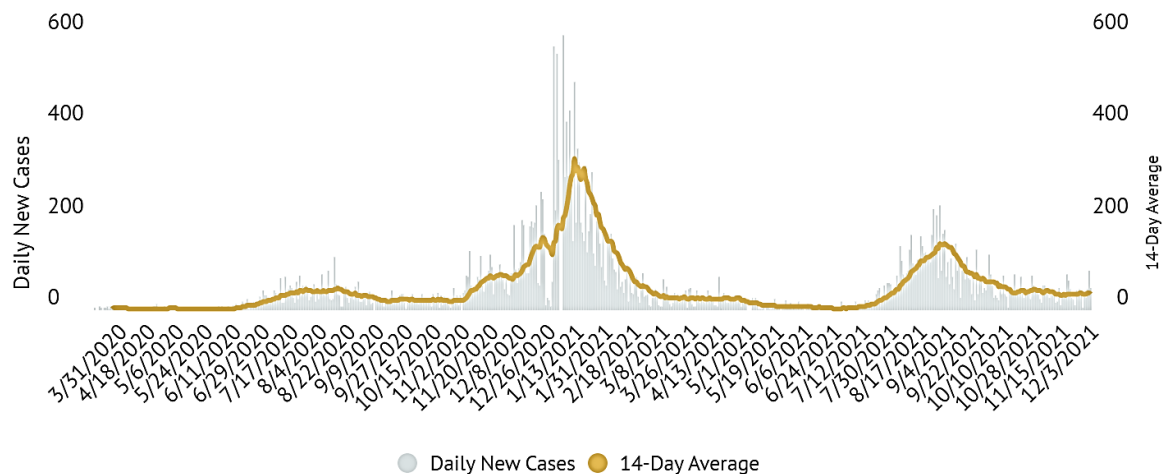


## EMERGENT ISSUES

**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). It started up in South Africa and seems to be both highly infectious and potent. Authorities have not yet determined if current vaccines are effective against Type O. A number of countries have prohibited travel from infected regions. Expect a new surge of lockdowns, restrictions, and economic damage, as governments grab onto this power extension opportunity.

Masks, vaccines, lockdowns, and trillions of dollars in related expenditures haven't broken the current versions yet.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



[Download data](#)

### Local Occupied Beds **12 (5 ICU)**

**Item 2 - Well look here. The climatists have belatedly figured out that they need Diablo to prevent CO2 from rising even faster. Now will the Supervisors, Mayors, and City Council members wake up and get behind it? Where is the SLO Chamber of Commerce? Where is REACH? For years their silence has shown their subservience to the woke green illusion.**

We recognize that PG&E is a stockholder-owned private company and that the government should not compel them to remain in the nuclear power business. However, as the recent MIT-Stanford University study demonstrates, State legislative reform regarding the definition of carbon free energy, which excludes nuclear, could help immensely. Likewise, leveling the playing field between government-subsidized solar and wind projects and extending that designation to the plant would also be important. Additionally, solar and wind projects are exempt from property tax for all the facilities that produce and transmit energy.

Relatedly, the California State Land Use Commission has required that PG&E build a new cooling system if it were to continue operation of the plant. The plant uses ocean water to cool the internal water system, which in turn cools the reactors. The ocean water does not touch the reactors themselves, but cools the internal water system, which does not discharge water. The ocean water is then returned to the ocean. The State Lands Commission has determined that the returned water is not sufficiently cooled and therefore must be returned at a cooler temperature than it is now. This, in turn, would require PG&E to build what is called a “twice-through cooling system” at a new cost for the ratepayers of \$12 billion. The State Lands Commission will not extend PG&E’s oceanwater discharge permit unless it undertakes this expenditure.

The State Land Commission’s opinion is that the discharge water, which is only slightly warmer than the surrounding ocean water, is a problem for marine life. In fact, marine life in the area of the discharge is thriving, as everything from sea anemones, crustaceans, fish, and marine mammals all enjoy the slightly warmer water and gather there. An imposition of the \$12 billion twice through cooling requirement for extension of the plant’s cooling water discharge permit will need to be reworked.

Of course, if President Biden and Governor Newsome get behind the effort, the bureaucrats should figure out how to help.

Finally, the playing field between the community choice energy aggregators, such as Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) and PG&E, need to be leveled. Although 3CE is tax exempt, PG&E has to transmit its energy and pay property taxes, income taxes, sales taxes, and all manner of exactions and shakedown fees to subsidize State clean energy patronage programs.

The article below describes the current discussion:

## THE SACRAMENTO BEE

### **CALIFORNIA’S LAST NUCLEAR PLANT WILL CLOSE SOON.**

*Why the Biden administration wants it open*

**BY DALE KASLER**

It’s California’s last nuclear plant, destined to be mothballed <sup>1</sup>in four years amid concerns that its closure could leave a gaping hole in the state’s power supply. Now the Biden administration is pushing the idea that PG&E Corp.’s Diablo Canyon power plant should stay open, after all. U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, in an interview this week with Reuters, said California might want to preserve Diablo Canyon, located on the Pacific coast in San Luis Obispo County, as a source of low-carbon energy in an era of climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> Note the article is in error. The plant is not slated to be “mothballed”. It is to be demolished and the site and surrounding thousands of acres turned into a highly regulated nature preserve.

California has been very bullish on zero-carbon emission energy,” Granholm said. Keeping the plant open “may be something that they decide to take a look at, given that I think there is a change underfoot about the opinion that people may have about nuclear.” Although PG&E says it still plans to close Diablo Canyon, the energy secretary’s comment comes as others are pushing for a reprieve. In November, a high-profile study produced by scientists at Stanford and MIT called for the plant to stay open. Opponents of Diablo Canyon said they fear a bandwagon effect is emerging to prolong the plant’s life.

“It’s like a freight train coming toward us,” said Linda Seeley, of the group San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace. “They’re not looking at the issue of having a 40-year-old nuclear power plant on 13 faults.” Diablo Canyon produces about 9% of the state’s electricity supply, and state officials have warned that its planned shutdown in 2025 could undermine the state’s efforts to keep the lights on. California already experienced two nights of rolling blackouts in 2020 and narrowly avoided more blackouts during this year’s heatwave in July. “The period after the Diablo Canyon retirement will be a critical point for system reliability,” the Independent System Operator, which manages the state’s power grid, said in a May 2020 report to the Public Utilities Commission. Officials with the grid operator and the utilities commission weren’t immediately available for comment. And some critics of Diablo Canyon say the state’s energy picture isn’t as dire as it seemed even a few months ago. Mark Specht, an energy analyst with the Union of Concerned Scientists in Oakland, said state officials have done a good job of forcing utilities to procure more clean energy as a means of plugging the gap that Diablo Canyon will leave.

“I’ve seen the state make some significant progress...they’re taking this issue pretty seriously,” he said. Still, Granholm’s comments gave hope to those in the region pushing for Diablo Canyon to stay open. “We need the reliable power,” said Gene Nelson, a leader in a San Luis Obispo County group called Californians for Green Nuclear Power. “We definitely have optimism that sane minds do exist within PG&E.” Dawn Ortiz-Legg, a county supervisor whose district includes the area around Diablo Canyon, said she’s “encouraged that the conversation is continuing .... If we are serious about climate change, we can’t take any conversation off the table.”

## **PG&E ‘UNWAVERING’ ON NUCLEAR SHUTDOWN**

Nevertheless, PG&E insists it’s committed to closing the plant — largely because of economic reasons — and is moving ahead with plans to add more renewable energy such as solar and wind power to its portfolio. “As a regulated utility we’re required to follow the energy policies of the state of California. We are committed to California’s clean energy future,” utility spokeswoman Suzanne Hosn said Thursday. “That is our unwavering position.” The Legislature and the Public Utilities Commission have signed off on PG&E’s plan to close Diablo Canyon’s two operating units in 2024 and 2025. Granholm said that while the decision is up to California, she might talk to state officials about saving the plant. “Perhaps it’s something that they might reconsider,” she said. The plant opened in the mid-1980s and has performed reliably. In 2013 questions about plant safety arose when an inspector with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission raised concerns about earthquake faults around the facility.

Three years later, PG&E said it would close the plant but cited financial and operational concerns, not earthquake risks. “As more solar generation comes on line over time, and when its

output is at peak supply (e.g., in the middle of the day), there is less room on the electric system for energy from inflexible and large baseload resources such as Diablo Canyon,” the company said in a 2016 report to the utilities commission.

*Dale Kasler covers climate change, the environment, economics and the convoluted world of California water. He also covers major enterprise stories for McClatchy’s Western newspapers. He joined The Bee in 1996 from the Des Moines Register and graduated from Northwestern University. This article first appeared in the December 2, issue of the Sacramento Bee.*

**Item 3 - Bruce Gibson Selected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC).** Normally, as they go through the chairs, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and ultimately President. CSAC requires that supervisors in the rotation pledge to run if their term ends before the full rotation takes place. This means that Supervisor Gibson will likely be running for another term. Insofar as we know, he lives in or near Cayucos, which means that he would be running in the reconfigured 2<sup>nd</sup> District. We wonder if he will support the Biden administration’s effort to keep Diablo open.

**Item 4 - Dunes Dust May Not Be All It’s Cracked Up to Be.** A recent news article in the SLO Tribune reports that Oceano Dunes dust may only be 14% dunes particulate matter. The APCD has insisted for years that it is up to 90% dunes particulate matter. The new study by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography will result in serious questions about the validity of the APCD’s Dust Regulation Rule. Stay tuned for more lawsuits to be defended at taxpayer and fee payer expense.

## 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

## OUR SHIP OF STATE LOOKS LIKE THE TITANIC

*“Full speed ahead!”*

By Bruce Thornton



The “ship of state” metaphor first appears in the works of the late 7<sup>th</sup> century BC poet Alcaeus. An aristocrat from the important Greek city of Mytilene on the island of Lesbos, Alcaeus’s

metaphor of a ship endangered by a storm represents the political upheavals caused by a succession of tyrants vying for control of the city—the surges and waves of civic violence, political turmoil, and tyranny that have damaged the ship’s hull, sails, and tackle, and threaten to sink it.

Though tired after 2600 years, the metaphor is still useful. We also are in the midst of political storms—political violence, the “soft despotism” of federal overregulation, the illiberal “wokeism” attacking our unalienable rights, and the serial damage to the Constitutional institutions that have kept us sailing free for over 200 years. But a variation of the metaphor more telling for our predicament is the sinking of the *Titanic*, the “unsinkable” ocean liner that fatally struck an iceberg in 1912. However, rather than one iceberg likely concealed from the *Titanic*’s watchmen by a nighttime optical illusion, we are confronted in broad daylight with an archipelago of icebergs that have been visible for decades now.

Take the looming federal debt, deficits, and unfunded liabilities. Our national debt has reached \$28.43 trillion, 133% of GDP; annual budget deficits hover around \$3 trillion; and there are \$162 trillion in unfunded liabilities, including Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security—all relentlessly growing without any serious effort to reform the “big three” entitlement programs that eat up half the annual budget. More ominously, these frightening numbers have occurred during a time of anomalously low interest rates. Just a one percent rise in rates would swell interest payments to \$530 billion a year—more than we spend on Medicaid.

Yet despite decades of warnings about the approaching fiscal calamity, both parties cannot summon the political will to turn the ship away from disaster. At best, we have one party occasionally trying to slow it down. Worse, the covid panic last year added to the debt \$4 trillion in mitigation spending. Biden so far this year has added just under a trillion more, and another \$1.9 trillion—\$4.6 trillion if its provisions are extended for 10 years—in the pork-laden “bipartisan infrastructure” bill. And instead of slowing down, he’s angling for yet another \$5 trillion in spending of money we don’t have.

It’s as though the captain of the *Titanic* ordered “Full speed ahead!” when warned about the iceberg.

Abroad, multiple threats to our ship of state are relentlessly drawing near. The disastrous, hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan has damaged our country’s interests and prestige, just as Jimmy Carter’s feckless handling of the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis emboldened not just jihadists like Osama bin Laden, but a nuclear-armed rival, the Soviet Union, which went on a geopolitical rampage during Carter’s tenure. Today Russia is partnering with China to check America’s influence in Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East, the latter the great repository of fossil-fuel reserves. Oil is now up to \$80 a barrel, gas prices have doubled in some states, natural gas supplies, especially in Europe, are low, and the president of the most powerful military in history is reduced to begging Middle East petrocrats to increase production. As we saw in the Seventies, growing inflation and rising gas prices are omens of economic and social storms.

Meanwhile, Russia is amassing troops on Ukraine’s eastern border, an ominous harbinger of annexation similar to Putin’s seizure of Crimea, and his occupation of eastern Ukraine’s Donbas

region, and Georgia's disputed territories Abkhazia and South Ossetia. He's also using the energy weapon to intimidate and control Europe's foreign policy. We should have known long ago that Russia, like Germany in 1919, hasn't accepted the Free West's victory in the Cold War, what Putin called "the greatest geopolitical disaster of the century." Flush with increased energy revenues, and supported by China, Putin may calculate that the time is right for recovering Russia's "near abroad" empire lost in the collapse of the USSR.

For its part, China, emboldened by the public displays of weakness by our president and diplomats, is threatening Taiwan and our other allies like Japan and the Philippines. Its publicly professed aim is to replace the U.S. as the regional hegemon in the South China Sea, and weaken our chain of island allies that comprise a barrier to China's control of the region's vital sea-lanes. China's ambitions have also been empowered by the corporate globalists' "money doesn't stink" strategies for colluding with the communist overlords to increase profits. A flashing sign of their amoral worship of the bottom line is the upcoming Beijing Olympics. Our corporate sports plutocrats, with the exception of the Women's Tennis Association, have no interest in punishing China with a boycott for its brutal treatment of the Uighur minority, or its destruction of Hong Kong's democracy.

Finally, the current administration's groveling eagerness to resurrect the feckless Iran nuclear deal has given new life to that country's fanatically brutal regime. Now we hear that Iran is very close to manufacturing at least one nuclear weapon. When that happens, Israel, which Iran has vowed to "wipe off the map," will be confronted with an existential decision. Other enemies of Iran in the region will scramble to acquire their own nuclear weapons as well. It's one thing when liberal democracies ruled by law and accountable to their peoples, like the U.S., France, England, and Israel, possess nuclear weapons. But unaccountable tyrannies like North Korea and potentially Iran dangerously elevate the risk-level. Just one nuclear attack would be the mother of all icebergs.

Again, all these dangers are the consequence of appeasement and a failure of nerve. Most important have been the ossified foreign policy paradigms that shape our strategies and decisions, and that give cover to actions that originate in short-sighted partisan and economic interests. The delusion of a "rules-based international order," the idea that transnational laws and institutions can keep the peace and protect our security and interests, have camouflaged decisions that originate in one faction's self-interest.

The World Trade Organization, for example, benefits large corporations with multinational interests. The globalists lobbied for the inclusion of China, with its huge market and opportunities for lucrative investment, into the WTO. Though for twenty years China's cheating and gaming of the WTO's rules have been obvious, no one has been interested in holding the CCP to account. Human rights violations like forced labor, torture and organ-harvesting of political prisoners, and the slow-motion genocide of the Uighurs, have drawn a shrug at best, and some feeble diplospeak bereft of any actual consequence other than very selective economic sanctions. The result has been the swift growth of the Chinese iceberg.

Or consider the EU's volunteering to subject its energy needs to Putin and his geopolitical machinations. The same threat that European NATO members used to berate Donald Trump is now holding the energy trump card Putin can play whenever he needs to. But the Biden

administration is doing something similar to the feckless Europeans by waging war on carbon and pushing “renewable” energy like wind and solar. As a result, we’ve gone from energy independence to begging the Saudis to pump more oil—all to gratify the anticapitalist Left’s desire to weaken our economy, even as “clean-energy” grifters rake in billions.

Most important are the dangers that have arisen from changes in our culture and politics. The transformation of both that started in the Sixties has reached critical mass, with illiberal Leftist and progressive ideas and policies on sex identity, race, the economy, and the American social-political order dominating schools, universities, popular culture, media, corporate boards, sports, and entertainment. Tolerance for diverse views, ideas, and opinions has been eroded, riots and looting are used to intimidate political enemies, “cancel culture” destroys lives and careers, and anti-American Orwellian history infects the schools, popular culture, and media.

The aspiring new political-social order, moreover, enshrines unsettled scientific questions— such as human influence on global warming, the existence of “systemic racism,” or the notion of multiple optional sex identities—as infallible truths to which all must make obeisance or face ostracism and persecution.

These fancies and hallucinations of the cultural Left have been eagerly adopted by the ruling progressive elite, for they create crises to be exploited, and leverage over their political rivals. The technocratic administrative state provides the muscle for these changes, and furthers the long progressive aim of dismantling the Constitutional order of unalienable rights, divided and separated powers, and a federalism that empowers the true diversity of the citizens inhabiting the fifty states. Just like the tyrants who endangered Mytilene, our new technocratic tyrants are driving our ship of state deeper into the perfect storm.

Storms and icebergs are beyond our control. But the dysfunction of our culture and politics are the bitter fruit of bad choices, the passion for power, and selfish interests. Thus our response to this looming catastrophe must be like Alcaeus’ advice to his troubled city:

*Let us strengthen the ship’s sides  
As fast as we can and hurry into a safe harbor.  
Let no weak hesitation take anyone.  
For a great contest is clearly before us.  
Recall your previous toil.  
Today, let every man be dedicated.  
And may we never cause shame  
To our noble parents who lie beneath the earth.*

The greatest historical champion of freedom deserves no less from its people.

*Bruce Thornton is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article first appeared in the December 2, 2021 edition of Front Page Magazine.*

## THIRD WORLDIZING AMERICA

*Our elites, like the Third World rich, have mastered ignoring—and navigating around—the misery of others in their midst.*

By Victor Davis Hanson

In a recent online exchange, the YouTuber [Casey Neistat](#) posted his fury after his car was broken into and the contents stolen. Los Angeles, he railed, was turning into a “3rd-world s—hole of a city.”

The multimillionaire actor Seth Rogen chastised Neistat for his anger.

Rogen claimed that a car’s contents were minor things to lose. He added that while living in West Hollywood he had his own car broken into 15 times—but thought little of it.

Online bloggers ridiculed Rogen. No wonder—the actor lives in multimillion-dollar homes in the Los Angeles area, guarded by sophisticated security systems and fencing.



Vineyard roadsides used as dumps—a normal scene along rural avenues near my home

Yet both Neistat and Rogen accurately defined Third Worldization: the utter breakdown of the law and the ability of the rich within such a feudal society to find ways to avoid the violent chaos.



After traveling the last 45 years in the Middle East, southern Europe, Mexico, and Asia Minor, I observed some common characteristics of a so-called Third-World society. And all of them might feel increasingly familiar to contemporary Americans.

Whether in Cairo or Naples, theft was commonplace. Yet property crimes were almost never seriously prosecuted.

In a medieval-type society of two rather than three classes, the rich in walled estates rarely worry that much about thievery. Crime is written off as an intramural problem of the poor, especially when the middle class is in decline or nonexistent.

Violent crime is now soaring in America. But two things are different about America's new criminality.

One is the virtual impunity of it. Thieves now brazenly swarm a store, ransack, steal, and flee with the content without worry of arrest.

Second, the Left often justifies crime as a sort of righteous payback against a supposedly exploitative system.

So, the architect of the so-called 1619 Project, Nikole Hannah-Jones, preened of the summer 2020 riotous destruction of property: "Destroying property, which can be replaced, is not violence."

Third Worldization reflects the asymmetry of law enforcement. Ideology and money, not the law, adjudicate who gets arrested and tried, and who does not.

There were 120 days of continuous looting, arson, and lethal violence in summer 2020. The riots were variously characterized by the burning of courthouses, police precincts, and an iconic church.

And there was also a frightening riot on January 6, where a mob entered the Capitol and damaged federal property.

Among those arrested in the latter Washington, D.C. violence many are often held in solitary confinement or under harsh jail conditions. That one-day riot is currently the subject of a congressional investigation.

Some of those arrested are still, 10 months later, awaiting trial. The convicted are facing long prison sentences.

In contrast, some 14,000 were arrested in the longer and more violent rioting of 2020. Most were released without bail. The majority had their charges dropped. Very few are still being held awaiting capital charges.

A common denominator to recent controversies at the Justice Department, CIA, FBI, and Pentagon is that all these agencies under dubious pretexts have investigated American citizens with little or no justification—after demonizing their targets as “treasonous,” “domestic terrorists,” “white supremacists,” or “racists.”

In the Third World, basic services—power, fuel, transportation, water—are characteristically unreliable: In other words, much like a frequent California brownout.□

I’ve been on five flights in my life where it was announced there was not enough fuel to continue to the scheduled destination—requiring either turning around or landing somewhere on the way. One such aborted flight took off from Cairo, another from southern Mexico. The other three were this spring and summer inside the United States.

One of the most memorable scenes that I remember of Ankara, Old Cairo, or Algiers of the early 1970s were legions of beggars and the impoverished sleeping on sidewalks.□

But such impoverishment pales in comparison to the encampments of present-day Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, or San Francisco. Tens of thousands live on sidewalks and in open view use them to defecate, urinate, inject drugs, and dispose of refuse.□

In the old Third World, extreme wealth and poverty existed in close proximity. It was common to see peasants on horse-drawn wagons a few miles from coastal villas.□

But there is now far more contiguous wealth and poverty in Silicon Valley. In Redwood City and East Palo Alto, multiple families cram into tiny bungalows and garages—often a few blocks from tony Atherton.□

On the main streets outside of Stanford University and the Google campus, the helot classes sleep in decrepit trailers and buses parked on the streets.□

Neistat was right in identifying a pandemic of crime in Los Angeles as Third Worldization.□

But so was Rogen, though unknowingly so. The actor played the predictable role of the smug, indifferent Third World rich who master ignoring—and navigating around—the misery of others in their midst.

*Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of [The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won](#), [The Case for Trump](#) and the newly released [The Dying Citizen](#). This Article first appeared in the December 1, 2021 edition of Great*

## **ADDENDUM I**

### **NATIONAL CIVIC LEAGUE MODEL CHARTER**

[supplement-1-national-civic-league-model-county-charter-1990.pdf \(miamidade.gov\)](#)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Publication of the Revised Edition of the Model County Charter reaffirms the long-held commitment of the National Civic League to the increasing importance of county government in the American federal system. During the last half of the twentieth century, counties have experienced significant changes in both their role and structure, but they must continue the process of adjustment as they are required to cope with critical social, economic and environmental problems in urban, suburban and rural areas. Considering the enormous diversity of counties, it may be considered presumptuous to present a "model" form which obviously will not fit all or even a majority of American counties.

Repeated is an assertion made in the introduction to the 1956 edition of the Model County Charter: No model charter or law can be drafted which should be adopted anywhere without change. The vast differences in the size, resources and problems of the 3,000-plus organized counties would in themselves make it impossible to prescribe a single basic law or charter equally applicable to all. When to these differences are added the differences in constitutional and legal provisions for county government and differences in political habits and traditions, it is clear that there can be no single neatly packaged answer to the whole problem of governmental organization and power for every county. ...The Model is offered, therefore, not as a panacea but as a resource, seeking to embody as much as possible of the best and most up-to-date thinking on the basic structure of county government ... goals for drafting home rule or special county charters ... for the preparation of optional county charter laws or for amendments of provisions of state constitutions and laws where those provisions prevent or impede the modernization of county government.

The revised Model County Charter continues to endorse a structure in which all the powers of the county are vested in the elected governing body which appoints as the county's chief executive a professional manager who is continuously responsible to and removable by the elected governing body. As was indicated in the earlier edition, the Model must be modified to fit local circumstances. Some alternatives are provided in the model text, others suggested in the commentary, and a basic departure from the endorsed form is covered in an appendix dealing with an elected chief executive structure.

#### **PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS**

Prospects for Progress Critics of county government have subjected it to more political invective than any other level of government. It has been described as clumsy, antiquated, ramshackle, headless, crooked, and, of course, inefficient and expensive. It was called the "dark continent" of American politics and "the courthouse gang" was the label given to what some considered the "last ditch" stand of the old-fashioned political system.

While the name-calling was going on, leaders of the National Municipal League (now the National Civic League) were urging that the same approach they were proposing for the reform of municipal government was applicable to counties. As early as 1913 the council manager plan based upon the "short ballot" principle was seen as the way to simplify county government. Unfortunately, most people didn't read beyond the title page of the National Short Ballot Organization's little 1917 book, *The County: The Dark Continent of American Politics*. It was a plea for reconstruction of county government. It lauded California's 1911 County Home Rule Constitutional Amendment and the Los Angeles County Charter adopted in 1912.

At the same time Reformer Richard S. Childs, leader in both the Short Ballot Organization (which he and Woodrow Wilson had founded a few years earlier) and the National Municipal League, had launched the campaign for council-manager government in cities. He also was talking about the "prospect for progress" in county government and stated the essentials of county reform:

A satisfactory solution of the many problems can be worked out only by a steady process of evolution, under conditions that give scope for experiment, free from needless Constitutional restrictions. The counties must be free to advance individually and not be in perpetual lock step. Let the more progressive counties feel their way cautiously forward, to be followed by others when the value of a given step is clearly proved by experience.

The path of progress will surely be in the general direction of unification and simplification. Some of the elective officers must be transferred to the appointive list, and those, who remain elective must be built up in power, influence, and conspicuousness until they command the discriminating attention of the electorate. The ballot must not continue to be too long to remember, but must be shortened sufficiently to come within the complete oversight of the voters. Responsibility must be clearly located. The county must be given a definite head. The limbs and body must be joined together and put under the easy control of a brain. Not otherwise can the people of a county secure an organism that will be an effective and efficient servant.

### **PRINCIPLES OF A MODEL**

By 1930 Mr. Childs and the other reformers in the National Municipal League, seeing the success of the Model City Charter in fostering adoption of the council manager plan by cities, were confident enough to prescribe the "Principles Commentary on Initiative and Referendum ... 82 INTRODUCTION Publication of the Revised Edition of the Model County Charter reaffirms the long held commitment of the National Civic League the increasing importance of county government in the American federal system

Principles of a Model of a Model County Government":

- Provision of a wieldy but representative policy-determining body, elected by the people and responsible to them for the conduct of county government.
- Creation of a single responsible executive head chosen by the policy-determining body and accountable to it for the administration of county services and operations (i.e., a manager).
- Appointment of administrative officers by the chief executive, providing a short ballot and centralized administrative control.
- Concentration of activities in a few departments on the basis of function.
- Provision of a substantial degree of flexibility to permit adjustment to varying local situations. Subject to state constitutional requirements, the proposed plan is suitable for embodiment either in a county government law of statewide application or in an individual county charter (see NATIONAL MUNICIPAL REVIEW, August 1930, p. 565, and September 1933, p. 456).

In 1930 the League published A Model County Manager Law based on these principles. This was almost an act of faith on the part of the reformers. There was little enthusiasm among incumbent county officeholders to undertake change, and very little civic support for doing so, due to lack of confidence in the capacity of counties to emerge from long-held practices. Also, many citizens considered the county an extraneous, unnecessary layer of government, and saw no reason to improve it. For local government services they looked to "city hall." Some residents of incorporated municipalities just didn't think they needed the county. "Give its state functions to the state and its local functions to the city," they said with a closed mind to the possibilities of a greater role for counties.

Moreover, state constitutions presented formidable obstacles to county reform. Often a uniform system of county government was prescribed in the constitution for counties large and small. The idea of a chief executive, appointed or elected, had very limited appeal. There was, however, some pioneering experience in a number of counties. By 1933, nine California counties had taken advantage of the county home rule amendment and had adopted charters. Most of these had appointed administrators. An appointed administrator for a non-charter county had been originated in North Carolina. Three Virginia counties already had managers following the lead of Virginia cities. The first two elected county chief executives were created when Nassau and Westchester counties in New York adopted charters in the mid-1930s



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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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)