



**WEEKLY UPDATE
JANUARY 10 - 16, 2021**

THIS WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

THEY NEED A SPECIAL MEETING ON COVID VACCINATION RAMP-UP

**COASTAL COMMISSION TO APPROVE TEST WELLS
BUT THEY NEED TO LOOK AT THE BIGGER PROJECT TOO**

IWMA TO CONTINUE IN OPERATION

**IT'S SUPPOSED TO STOP GINNING UP BANS BUT WILL IT?
COW POOP SEEMS TO BE ON THE LIST**

LAST WEEK

**SUPERVISOR REDISTRICTING PROCESS APPROVED
ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THEY DO EVERY 10 YEARS**

COUNTY CONSIDERING LAWSUIT ON LOCKDOWNS

NEW AND RE-ELECTED SUPERVISORS SWORN IN

**\$42 MILLION SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM
ADOPTED/NO DISCUSSION OF PERFORMANCE**

**KRISTINA SIMPSON-SPEARMAN APPOINTED TO
PLANNING COMMISSION**

MILITARY AND FEMA EXPERIENCE - WAS AIDE TO SENATOR DASCHLE

**MORE COUNTY ENERGY BEING CONTRACTED
OUT OF STATE – DIABLO STILL CLOSING
& FLOATING FRENCH SOLAR PANELS NO LESS**

KAFOOZALING DEBT ISSUANCES APPROVED

CODE ENFORCEMENT HEARING OFFICER APPROVED

**SLOCOG PROGRAMS ALMOST \$700 MILLION
ROAD MONEY FOR PENSION DEBT & THE SLO TROLLEY TOO**

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 20

**HYSTERICAL FEEDING FRENZY OVER “SAVE
AMERICA” RALLY SPEECH**

TRUMP NEVER SAID SHUT DOWN THE CAPITOL

BY MIKE BROWN

DEFENDERS OF CIVILIZATION?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

THE END OF TRUMP

BY STEVEN F. HAYWARD

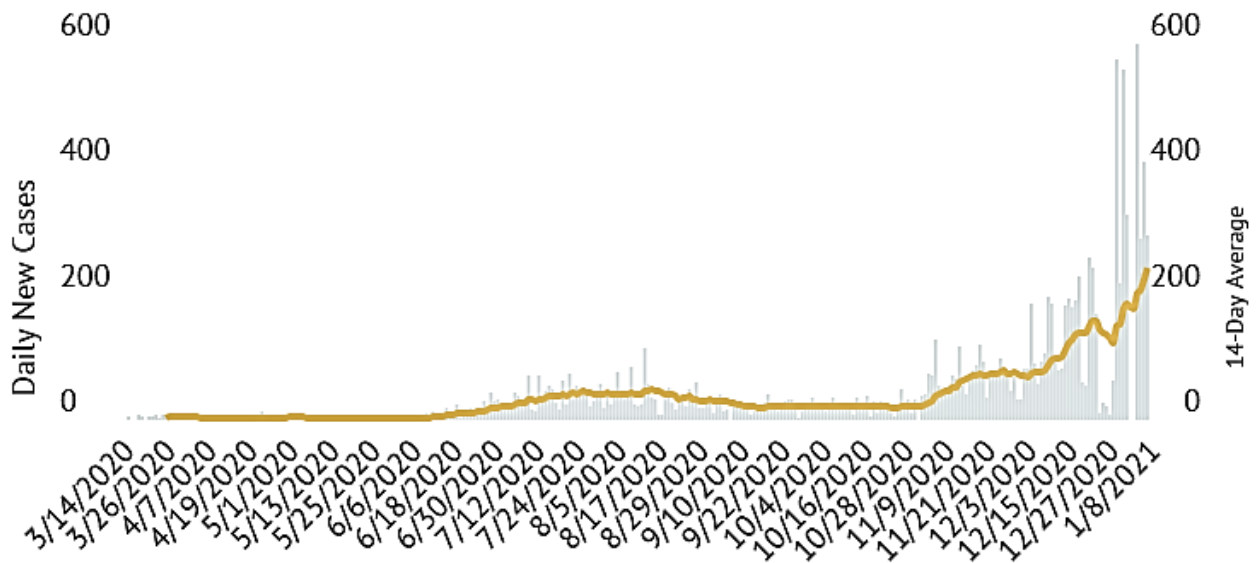
THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

COVID STATUS AS OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021

In California, just 1.1 percent of its 39.5 million residents – or 456,980 – have received the first shot of the COVID vaccine.



Currently Hospitalized

40 (of whom 14 are in ICU)

Note that even with the stay at home order, there was a day when new cases hit almost 600.

Vaccine Distribution - The first tier is going to health workers, doctors, nurses, people who work care institutions, residents of congregate care facilities, and public safety workers. The County is not specific when the 2nd tier will begin. Its website states in part:

Phase 2: Vaccinate the general public

As more supply becomes available, more SLO County residents will be able to receive the vaccine later in 2021. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as sufficient quantities are available.

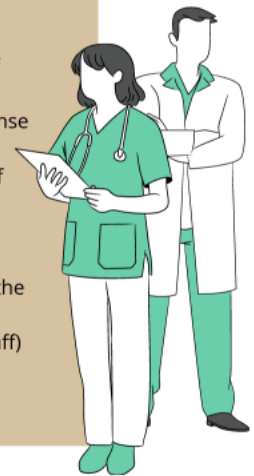
This approach is based on distribution recommendations from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** and/or **California Department of Public Health**.

COVID-19 VACCINE IN SLO COUNTY

CURRENTLY VACCINATING

- Hospital workers*
- Skilled nursing and assisted living facility workers and patients*
- Emergency medical services workers (paramedics and EMTs)
- Dialysis center health care workers and patients
- Primary care clinics
- Urgent care clinics
- Specialty care clinics and practices
- Home health care workers
- Intermediate care facility staff
- Community health workers
- Public health COVID-19 response clinicians and field staff
- Psychiatric Health Facility staff
- Labs (includes blood banks)
- Dental care
- Pharmacies
- Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (staff)
- Adult Residential Facilities (staff)

**Hospital staff and long-term care facility staff and patients are receiving the vaccine directly through employers and pharmacy partnerships*

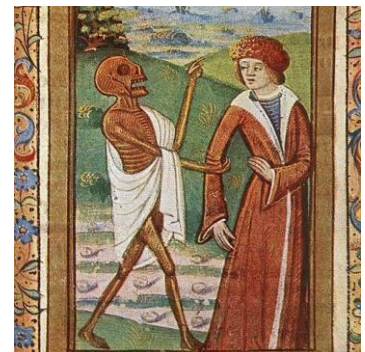


Given the statistics below, they need to get the vaccine into the people over 65. Of the 101 deaths in the County, 89 or 88% are people over 65.

Age	Total Hospitalized	Total Deaths
85+	64	53
65-84	158	36
50-64	107	8
30-49	88	4
18-29	23	0
0-17	5	0

According to the census bureau 21% (59, 850) of the County's population is 65 or older. If 80% (47 880) wish to be vaccinated, the County will need 95,776 doses (2 per patient). Back in the day, the Army could vaccinate a whole brigade for multiple diseases (about 5000 in a few days) with the pneumatic injectors. These are now very safe:

Renaissance depiction of death selecting a noble youth in his prime.



You went through the line and were vaccinated for typhoid, yellow, and dengue fevers. On another trip you had tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough in one shot. It seems as if we could do tens of thousands expeditiously.

A jet injector, also known as a jet gun injector, air gun, or pneumatic injector, is a medical instrument that uses a high-pressure jet of liquid medication to penetrate the skin and deliver medication under the skin without a needle. Jet injectors can be single-dose or multi-dose jet injectors.



Throughout the years jet injectors have been redesigned to overcome the risk of carrying contamination to subsequent subjects. To try to stop the risk, researchers placed a single-use protective cap over the reusable nozzle. The protective cap was intended to act as a shield between the reusable nozzle and the patient's skin. After each injection the cap would be discarded and replaced with a sterile one. These devices were known as protector cap needle-free injectors or PCNFI.^[4] A safety test by Kelly and colleagues (2008)^[5] found a PCNFI device failed to prevent contamination. After administering injections to [hepatitis B](#) patients, researchers found hepatitis B had penetrated the protective cap and contaminated the internal components of the jet injector, showing that the internal fluid pathway and patient contacting parts cannot safely be reused.

Researchers developed a new jet injection design by combining the drug reservoir, plunger and nozzle into a single-use disposable cartridge. The cartridge is placed onto the tip of the jet injector and when activated a rod pushes the plunger forward. This device is known as a disposable-cartridge jet injectors (DCJI).^[4]

The International Standards Organization recommended abandoning the use of the name "jet injector", which is associated with a risk of cross-contamination and rather refer to newer devices as "needle-free injectors".^[6]

If it's good enough for the troops, it should be good enough for the rest of us.

Lockdown Orders: The article quoted below provides a good perspective on the problems of the lockdown as currently in force. Note that dining outside accounts for only 2.3 % of the cases, bars and restaurants only 3.1%. Open schools (K-12) accounted for only .13% among students and .23% among adults.

The Illogical California Lockdown Orders

By Sally C. Pipes

Get ready to stay home indefinitely, my fellow Californians. Gov. Gavin Newsom has suggested that the stay-at-home order he issued Dec. 3 will likely be extended well into January.

So for a few more weeks — at least — most Californians won't be able to engage in a wide range of activities, from indoor and outdoor dining and worship services to overnight camping in state parks. Many cities and counties have imposed their own restrictions on top of the state's. These restrictions aren't merely crippling California's economy and harming residents' mental health. They're also riddled with inconsistencies and often unjustified by public health data. Take Los Angeles County, which until recently had closed all playgrounds and barred small outdoor meetings, even though the risk of contracting the coronavirus outdoors is quite low.

According to a London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine database of more than 20,000 COVID-19 cases, only 461 — 2.3% — were linked to fully outdoor settings.

Meanwhile, outdoor restaurant dining, a relatively safe activity, is currently banned in much of the state. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James Chalfant called L.A. County's outdoor dining ban an "abuse" of power. Bars and restaurants represented just 3.1% of nonresidential outbreak locations in the county, according to court data. Renowned defense attorney Mark Geragos, a restaurant owner himself, recently filed a lawsuit against Newsom challenging the bans.

School closures are also unjustified by the "science" so many lockdown enthusiasts fetishize. More than 99% of California's kindergarten through 12th grade students live in purple tiered counties, where in-person learning is generally prohibited, even though children rarely catch the virus in the classroom. Brown University economist Emily Oster analyzed infection rates among nearly 200,000 students in states with open schools. Over two weeks in September, she discovered an infection rate of just 0.13% among students and 0.24% among adults.

At the same time, indoor retail stores can legally remain open for the holiday rush — but are supposed to operate at 20% capacity. Malls statewide are reportedly violating such restrictions. In other words, Californians can pile indoors to complete their Christmas shopping in fairly risky conditions but haven't been able to go to school or dine outside in relatively safe conditions.

It's hard to take the stay-at-home hectoring from California's political class seriously, given that they've been setting such a poor example. Indeed, as Newsom and San Francisco Mayor London Breed have shown, it's never been easier to get a table at the ritzy French Laundry restaurant in Napa County!

It's not just right-wingers condemning the arbitrary nature of the state's stay-at-home orders. "This seems so counterproductive. In LA, you're not (technically speaking) allowed to go on a masked, distanced jog with one friend? Few people are going to abide by those rules and you lose your claim to being science-driven," tweeted Nate Silver, editor in chief of the data-based news site FiveThirtyEight.

Popular podcaster, former Obama speechwriter, and Los Angeles resident Jon Favreau has called communication about the rules from his county “atrocious” and delivered with “an overly officious chiding tone.”

Prolonged stay-at-home orders simply aren’t sustainable. Millions have lost their jobs. During the first wave of such orders this past spring, California’s weekly unemployment rate shot up from 5% more than to 15%. Today, it hovers above 8%. The number of people who are food insecure is up more than 2 million because of the pandemic.

All the uncertainty and joblessness has also sparked a mental health crisis. By July, 44% of Californian adults had symptoms of depression or anxiety disorders. In San Francisco, drug overdose deaths have actually exceeded those from the virus in 2020.

People will find ways to congregate with or without restrictions, because their sanity depends on it. If they’re barred from safe places like playgrounds and sports fields, they’ll gather indoors in each other’s homes, which will only prolong the spike in cases.

No Californian wants the coronavirus to spread unimpeded. But overly harsh and inconsistently applied rules that wreak havoc on people’s livelihoods can’t be the solution.

Sally C. Pipes is president, CEO, and the Thomas W. Smith fellow in health care policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is “False Premise, False Promise: The Disastrous Reality of Medicare for All” (Encounter 2020). Twitter: [@sallypipes](#)
[This article was originally published by the Pacific Research Institute.](#)

Integrated Waste Management Authority Board Meeting of Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 1:30 PM (Scheduled)

Item 11 - APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC PLAN ELEMENTS

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed Strategic Plan Elements and each of the corresponding objectives, direct staff/consultants to develop action plans for each Strategic Plan Element and begin implementing the Strategic Plan, including immediate authorization for elements. The Board adopted the Strategic Plan. Apparently some of the County Supervisors and other IWMA Board members who were originally thinking about abolishing the pesky agency have changed their minds.

Reportedly, County CAO Wade Horton determined that it would be too expensive for the County to get into the waste and recycling business on its own. The supposed deal is that the IWMA will stick to burying and recycling trash and refrain from fomenting new bans on various materials (usually those derived from fossil fuels).

The thrust of the Strategic Plan is to make sure the agency complies with the latest State Legislation (SB 1383) mandating various recycling initiatives and goals. The Strategic Plan incorporates the various requirements of SB 1383, which means that IWMA Board members

who think they achieved a compromise are probably snookered in the long run. A sample of some of the work tasks is outlined below.

OBJECTIVE 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 1383

1. *Franchise: Adapt CalRecycle's Model SB 1383 Franchise and support use in member agencies.*
2. *Policy: Adapt CalRecycle's Model SB 1383 Ordinance and procurement policy and support use in member agencies.*
3. *Contamination Monitoring: Establish a contamination monitoring program.*
4. *Edible Food Recovery: Establish an edible food recovery program.*
5. *Procurement: Establish education and technical assistance programs for member agencies to support use of required organic waste products and tracking of recycled content paper.*
6. *Education: Conduct annual educational campaigns as required by SB 1383.*
7. *Recordkeeping & Reporting: Establish reporting systems and processes required to ensure and coordinate recordkeeping in order to fulfil CalRecycle inspection and reporting requirements.*
8. *Monitoring & Enforcement: Establish generator-level monitoring, noticing, technical support, and enforcement systems and processes.*
9. *Infrastructure Development: Monitor recycling, composting, and food recovery infrastructure capacity within the county compared to projected demand. Coordinate with member agencies and industry on development of new private infrastructure, when needed.*

SB 1383: *A quick review of the bill summary reveals the wide new fields of operation and regulation which are incorporated.*

SB 1383, Lara. Short-lived climate pollutants: methane emissions: dairy and livestock: organic waste: landfills.

(1) The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The state board is required to approve a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to the statewide greenhouse gas emissions level in 1990 to be achieved by 2020. The state board is also required to complete a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, as defined, in the state.

This bill would require the state board, no later than January 1, 2018, to approve and begin implementing that comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants to achieve a reduction in methane by 40%, hydrofluorocarbon gases by 40%, and anthropogenic black carbon by 50% below 2013 levels by 2030, as specified. The bill also would establish specified targets for reducing organic waste in landfills.

This bill would require the state board, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, to adopt regulations to reduce methane emissions from livestock manure management operations and dairy manure management operations, as specified. The bill would require the state board to take certain actions prior to adopting those regulations. This bill would require the regulations to take effect on or

after January 1, 2024, if the state board, in consultation with the department, makes certain determinations.

This bill would require the state board, the Public Utilities Commission, and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to undertake various actions related to reducing short-lived climate pollutants in the state. The bill would require state agencies to consider and, as appropriate, adopt policies and incentives to significantly increase the sustainable production and use of renewable gas.

(2) The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which is administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, establishes an integrated waste management program that requires each county and city and county to prepare and submit to the department a countywide integrated waste management plan.

The bill would require the department, in consultation with the state board, to adopt regulations that achieve the specified targets for reducing organic waste in landfills. The bill would authorize local jurisdictions to charge and collect fees to recover the local jurisdiction's costs incurred in complying with the regulations. The bill would require, no later than July 1, 2020, the department, in consultation with the state board, to analyze the progress that the waste sector, state government, and local governments have made in achieving the specified targets for reducing organic waste in landfills. The bill would authorize the department, depending on the outcome of that analysis, to amend the regulations to include incentives or additional requirements, as specified. By adding to the duties of local governments related to organic waste in landfills, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

Now the focus shifts from banning polystyrene to banning cow poop.

There is also considerable focus on “educating” children and the public about the importance of recycling, climate change, and what constitutes good citizenship in these regards. Your monthly trash bill as well as chunks of State taxes are being used to “train” you into the woke doctrine. Wonder when they will train you to be Vegans.



EXTINCT? – Especially on a gas grill

California Coastal Commission Meeting of Wednesday, January 13 and Thursday, January 14, 2021 (Scheduled)

Wednesday: Item 17a - City of Pismo Beach Test Wells Appeal. The City received approval from the County to drill 2 test wells prefatory to initiating a very large project to inject state water and well water into the aquifer near the coast. Essentially the County did not consider the broader issues which will be encountered if the full project is ultimately approved. The focus on the test wells is too narrow. Unfortunately, the Coastal Commission Staff agrees with the County. The item is complicated and the report too lengthy to post here. Go to the link below for all the details:

[w17a-1-2021-report.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)

A key portion of the staff report states:

The Appellant contends that the approved project is inconsistent with the LCP's groundwater basin protection policies because the wells can pump up to 1,500 gallons per minute, which could lead to pumping of up to 185 acre-feet (AF) per month. This would be more than what the entire community of Oceano extracts in a one-year period. The Appellant further claims that the water extractions could lead to adverse impacts to the Oceano water supply, which raises environmental justice concerns because Oceano is a Disadvantaged Community⁴ that will not receive any benefits from the project.

The Commission staff does not seem to want to address this issue at this point. In effect it would allow the test wells to go forward. The question is what happens if the City determines to go forward with full project?

Prudently, the Commission should examine this broader issue in detail before allowing large state grant funding to be expended to advance the project. It is like building a highway interchange in the boon docks. Later the extension of the new highway is justified on the basis of sunk costs. The County seemed oblivious when its staff considered the matter last year.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Ceremonial Board of Supervisors Meeting of Monday, January 4, 2021 (Completed)

Item 1 - Ceremonial Swearing in of elected and re-elected County Officials.

Supervisor Arnold was sworn in for her 3rd full term. Supervisor Peschong was sworn in for his 2nd full term. Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg was sworn in for the balance of former Supervisor Hill's term – 2 years. The meeting was quick and to the point. The next day during the regular

meeting each of the newly sworn in supervisors gave brief polite comments of thanks. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg noted that she had been appointed, not elected and that she was filling the remaining term of Adam Hill.

None of the Supervisors noted any particular issues or any overall strategic policy direction that they might have in mind for the year or their terms in general.

Item 2 - Reorganization of the County Board of Supervisors: Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the 2021 term. Supervisor Compton was appointed Chair, and Supervisor Gibson was appointed Vice-Chair. There was no public comment and no conflict.

Background: *In March 2020, District 3 Chairperson Adam Hill requested District 4 Vice-Chairperson Compton to step in and finish the 2020 calendar year as Chairperson. According to the Rotation approved in 2019 (see below) District 4 Supervisor should continue to be Chairperson in calendar year 2021, and District 2 Supervisor should continue to serve as Vice-Chairperson.*

Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, January 5, 2021 (Completed)

Item 11 - Request to appoint Kristina Simpson-Spearman as the District 3 representative to the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission. The appointment was made unanimously on the consent calendar without any conflict or discussion. There was no public comment.

Spearman has extensive experience at the national level with FEMA, past military experience, and a Master's Degree in public Administration. She has also completed a number of Federal Senior Service educational programs including one at Harvard's Kennedy School.

Item 22 - Request to: 1) approve an agreement (Clerk's File) for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 with the Department of Health Care Services in the total amount of \$41,938,524 to provide substance use disorder services under the Drug Medi-Cal Waiver Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS); and 2) delegate authority to the Health Agency Director or his designee to sign any future amendments to the agreement that do not affect the level of General Fund support required by the Health Agency. The package was approved without discussion on the consent calendar. The matter was noteworthy in that it was another example of a program that purports to contain performance measures. The problem is that the measures are all inputs and activities rather than outcomes and efficiency. This is a fundamental problem of government programs at all levels. See last week's Update for all the details. A proper performance measure should include the following data:

❖ **Ideally, performance measure statements contain five elements:**

- ◆ The Action
- ◆ The Problem statement
- ◆ The Current State of the problem
- ◆ The Proposed State or solution
- ◆ The Time Interval during which the solution will occur

Reduce the average number of homeless addicts from the current 220 in the xyz creek bed to 50 by October 2021 by placing them in the abc treatment program.

A good corollary measure would be: Of the 170 actual individuals assisted, 136 would remain clean and sober or 2 years after treatment.

Without this discipline, no one has any idea if these programs, which cost tens of millions of dollars, are working.

Items 26 and 27 - A Complicated Financing For the Oceano Drainage Project. The Board approved County issuance of \$3 million in debt for a 30-year Federal Loan. The County took an internal loan from itself to finance the project, which has been completed successfully. It will now pay that loan back and acquire a new loan from the US Department of Agriculture:

Construction of the Oceano Drainage Project was successfully completed June 1, 2020. By following the recommended actions stated above, the County will acquire a low-interest loan from the United States of America Acting Through Rural Utilities Service (USA-RUS), part of the United States Department of Agriculture, to pay off existing interim financing from the Tax Reduction Reserve Fund and establish a reimbursement agreement with Caltrans for maintenance work within Caltrans right of way.

The full cost over the life of the loan for principle and interest seems to be \$4,301,590. It seems that for a lousy \$3 million, the County should simply grab some of its extensive reserves instead of issuing debt. The explanation of the loan is a little murky.

The County has secured approval for a USA-RUS loan in an amount up to \$3,000,000. The Public Facilities Corporation, by and through the Auditor-Controller acting as Trustee, will act as the intermediary between the County and the USA-RUS that purchases the COPs. The Corporation then receives installment payments from the County and uses the proceeds to pay principal and interest on the certificates. Annual payments, which include the debt service requirement, are expected to average \$115,408 per year for the first 10 years and \$104,917 for 30 years at an estimated interest rate of 1.75%. The final interest rate will be the lower of 3.125% per annum or the interest rate in effect at the time of closing, which is estimated to be at 1.75%.

Item 31 - Floating Solar Solutions at the Los Osos Sewage Treatment Plant. This one also slid through without discussions or questions. The staff proposed and the Board approved that the County should enter into a long-term lease with a private vendor for the production of solar energy, which would offset a portion of the electrical energy costs at the Plant. The solar panels would actually be floating on about 1.6 acres of the Plant’s recycled water ponds. The 25-year projected savings is calculated in the table below. Note that the estimated current PG&E rate is about 17.5 cents per kilowatt hour (\$/kWh), while Solar Solutions rate is 15 cents per \$/kWh according to the proposed contract. PG&E rates are set to go up 8% in March 2021 to cover the cost of the various fire settlements. Some questions include:

1. Solar Solutions is a local franchise LLC which has obtained some kind of exclusive territory for southern California. Thus the staff is asserting that this must be a bid-exempt contract. Solar Solutions is a local franchise of a company called EN-RGY Solutions, which seems to be based in Kansas. EN-RGY in turn seems to be to be backed by a North Carolina entity called Onset Capital Partners. Is staff sure that these are reliable solid business entities?
2. What happens if the Board of Supervisors determines to place the County in the clutches of Central Coast Community Energy (3CE)? Its current commercial rate per kWh does not seem to be obtainable from its website. Is it much lower?
3. The actual panels and anchoring system are produced by a French company called Ciel & Terre.



and Earth?

This company reports to have 240 projects installed worldwide. For the North American region it manufactures the panels in Indiana. Our perfectly good taxpaying nuclear plant, which employees 1800 people, is closing, and the County continues to send its energy money out of County, state, and country in the name of CO2 reduction. Ciel means sky, and terre means earth. So the County is contracting with Heaven

Table 1: Cashflows for Floating Solar System

PPA Rate, (\$/kWh)*	\$0.1500
Current Blended Electricity Rate, (\$/kWh)	\$0.1775
kWh Consumed From PG&E, 2019	1,591,557
kWh Generated From Solar, Year 1	1,239,084
kWh Required from PG&E After Solar (Consumed – Generated)	352,473
Annual Historic Bill Without Solar, 2019	\$280,384
PPA Payment, Year 1 (PPA Rate x kWh Generated)	\$185,863
New PG&E Utility Bill (New PG&E Consumption x Blended Electricity Rate)	\$62,564
New Total Electricity Costs (PPA Payment + New PG&E Payment)	\$248,427
Year 1 Savings (Annual Historic Bill – New Total Electricity Costs)	\$31,957
25 Year PPA Savings**	\$3,144,191

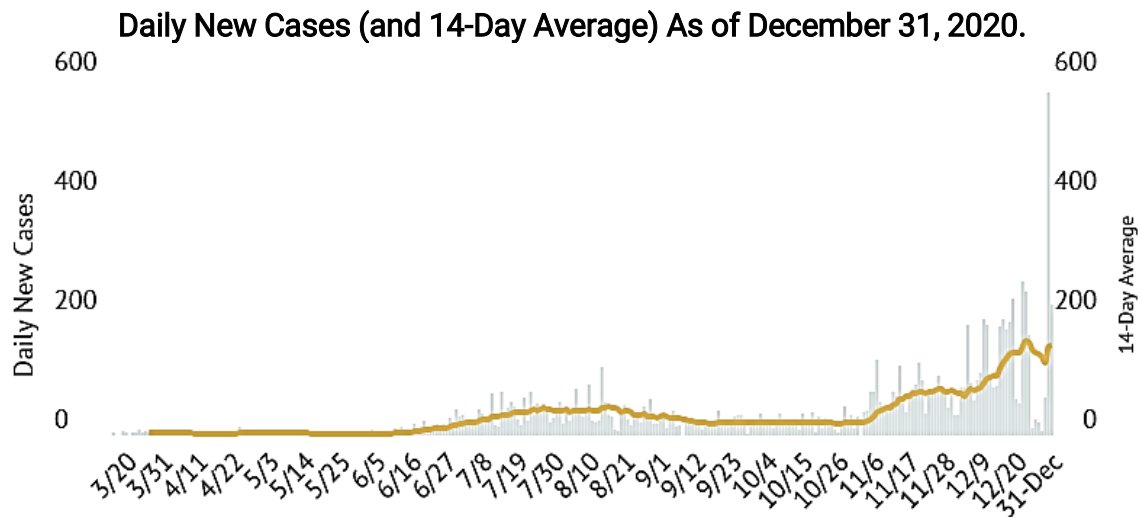
* Fixed for 25 years

** Assumes an industry-standard 3% utility rate increase per year. Actual rate increase from 2018 to 2019 was 4.9%



Item 35 - COVID Status. The Board held a lengthy discussion which primarily focused on how to escape from the Governor’s Stay at Home Order while being included in the Southern California Region (LA etc.) for COVID regulatory purposes. Staff is to return with an analysis of the potential success of such a suit. County Counsel has already opined that it would fail.

Gibson said that the County should work with the State to create a funding program for distressed businesses – loans and grants.



Currently Hospitalized

60 (of whom 13 are in ICU)

Policy Issues:

A key issue for this week is whether the County should sue the Governor for exceeding his legal authority on the renewed lockdowns. (It was just renewed indefinitely.) The County could sue directly or join a suit on the same subject, which has already been filed by San Bernardino

County. At this point the issue may be moot, as the focus is moving to vaccine. What is the plan to get everyone vaccinated fast?

But are restaurants and saloons large transmitters? They do not seem to be the big transmitters that family gatherings have proven to be. Could the counties as a group convince the Governor of this fact?

There is mounting despair from small businesses that have been especially hard hit. They are asking the Board to do something or anything to rescue them from the rules which are putting them out of business. The State has preemptively taken over the issue and removed local control from counties and cities. Putative President-Elect Biden announced last Tuesday that he intended for the Federal Government to take a much more aggressive and centralized control of the situation than now obtains under leadership by the states. This could pertain to lockdown standards, vaccine distribution, medical standards, and a number of non-medical issues such as rent deferrals, travel, and freedom of assembly.

Bigger Picture: If Biden and the progressive left can combine to annihilate as much of the middle class as possible, they will have gone a long way in accelerating the implementation of the centralized socialist state in America. The further expansion of the functions of government, the diminution of the Federalist model of powers reserved to the states which are not expressly granted to the Federal Government under the Constitution, and prohibition of public gatherings (only for conservatives and religious services) are all in train.

Plans to eliminate the Electoral College, add Senate Seats for Puerto Rico and Washington DC, and pack the Supreme Court are all being teed up. Power will be concentrated in California, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Illinois, Oregon, Washington State, and the DC - Virginia/Maryland suburbs. Government Unions, techno billionaires, the mainstream media, climatists, racialists, and big education will consolidate their control. Once these steps are completed, there is no going back.

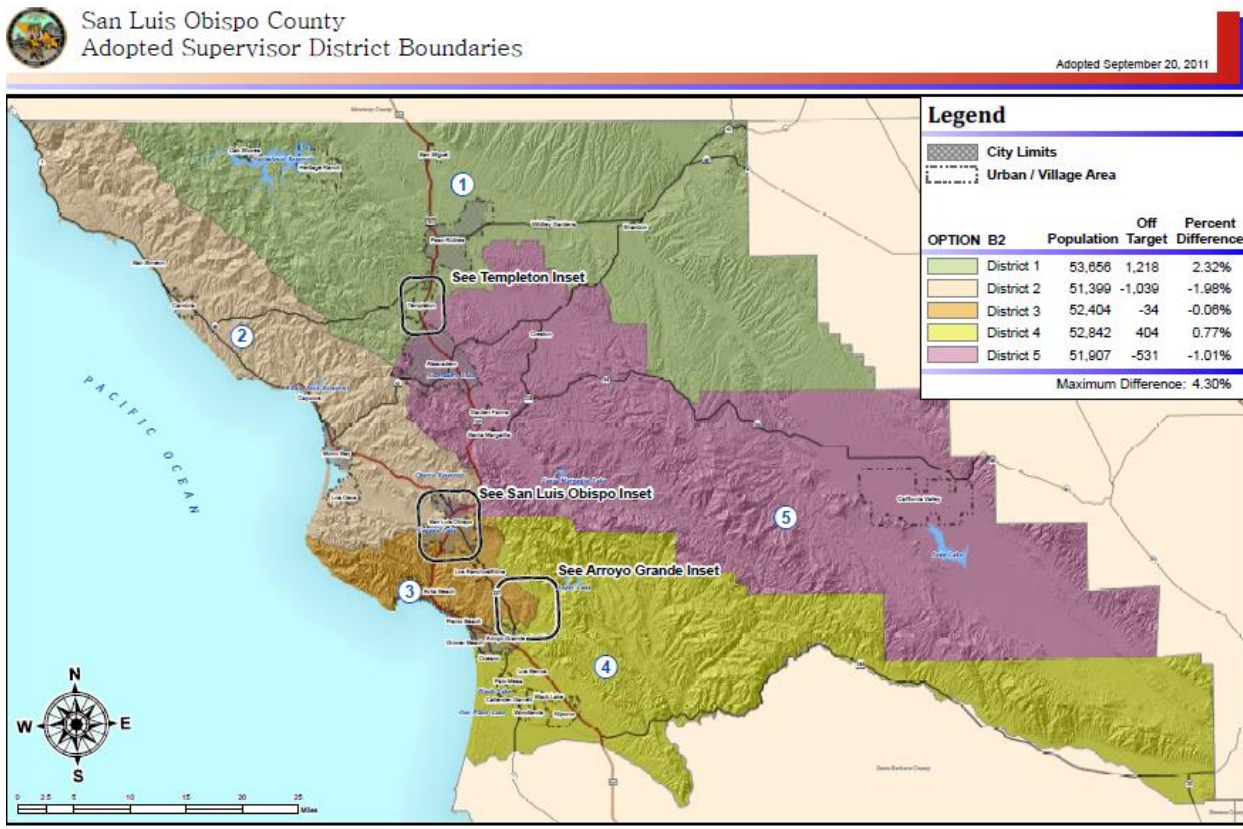
In these regards the millennial generation, which is about to replace the boomer generation in societal leadership, has been dealt a harsh hand. Globalism, technocracy, the rise of China, the government induced obliteration of the housing market through land rationing, massive undocumented illegal immigration and anti-assimilation, and climatist regulation has rendered them the first generation in American history that will be worse off than their parents. They are ripe for accepting socialism.

COVID has provided the left expedited cover. The question then becomes: should local officials revolt? But will the citizens who are advocating for the revolt simply front out their elected officials and then abandon them? Is the remaining middle class too morally weak and afraid to take to the streets in large numbers, or are they too economically comfortable and trying to hide out in the hope that this will pass? It is one thing to call in for 3 minutes to the Board meeting. It's another to show up and lay your body on the line on Monterey Street – COVID or not. Obviously, the other side is more than willing.

Item 38 - Request to: 1) receive and file a report on redrawing supervisorial districts for the 2021 redistricting process; 2) provide staff direction regarding the Board’s preferred methodology for the 2021 redistricting process; and 3) set a Special Board Meeting for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 or for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 to serve as the first required hearing related to redistricting. The Board approved the alternative I process below on a 4/1 vote with Gibson dissenting. Gibson advocated for alternative II, the creation of a citizen redistricting commission. This was simply a ploy to dilute the power of the Board majority in processing the issue.

The Board will receive updates in February and April. It is expected that the new census numbers may be available in April.

Background: Redistricting of the Supervisorial districts due to decennial changes is one of the most important tasks facing the Board of Supervisors every 10 years after the census is completed. The existing boundary map is displayed below:



The item is very important. For this reason please open the link below and read it end to end so that you can fully participate when the County starts to solicit public input, which is required under State law. Control click on the link. It takes a few seconds to open and may ask you to allow it to proceed.

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/129144>

Three groups of requirements must be dealt with during the redistricting project.

A. The process requirements: There are 4 possible structures by which the project may be executed. The staff Board letter summarizes these as follows:

***Option 1 – County Staff Advisory Committee:** The Board may appoint an internal County Staff Advisory Committee. This approach was used during the 2001 and 2011 redistricting processes. This approach will have the fastest timeframe, as County staff is prepared to begin work immediately. Additionally, it is anticipated that some of the County staff resources can be absorbed within the departments' existing budgets. The following represents the recommended makeup and responsibilities for the committee: 1) Administrative Office – Project management, Board liaison, public engagement 2) Planning & Building or Information Technology – GIS and map development 3) Public Works – Legal descriptions (metes and bounds) 4) County Counsel – legal advice 5) Information Technology – Website development 6) County Clerk Recorder – Public notices, elections perspective, implementation of new districts for elections/voting ballots.*

***Option 2 – Citizen Advisory Committee:** The Board may appoint a Citizen Advisory Committee to develop new district boundaries. The Board may determine the manner in which members are appointed, provided that elected officials, their family members, staff members, or paid campaign staff of the local jurisdiction, may not be appointed to serve on the commission.*

This method allows for the most direct public input and is used by the State and many of the largest counties, generally in accordance with established State statute(s) or county ordinances governing those counties' processes. County staff and resources will still be required to provide support in the form of GIS information, mapping, legal boundary descriptions and coordination and public outreach.

The Citizen Advisory Committee approach would extend the timeframe to complete redistricting by estimated three months or more depending on the length of the process to set rules and procedures for the committee, as well as to determine the process of and then implement the selection of committee members. It is expected that several additional items would need to be brought to your Board for discussion, direction, and approval.

Generally, counties that use this approach have multi-level selection processes to ensure fairness, equal community representation and to avoid future legal challenges alleging unfair representation or bias in the development of new boundaries .

The County of San Luis Obispo does not have an ordinance in place governing the supervisorial districts redistricting process. For example, the County of Santa Barbara selected its committee in a three-level selection process, including application screening for criteria set forth in the county's ordinance, random lottery selection of 5 members, followed by allowing the 5 randomly selected members to select an additional 5 and one at large members. The County of Santa Barbara's independent redistricting commission process started with a two-

month application period in the summer of 2020 and the last seats on the commission were filled, over six months later, in December 2020.

Option 3 – Consultant Contract: *The Board may also enter into a contract with a consultant to develop new district boundaries. Many counties have opted for this approach to take advantage of the expertise of consulting firms with a history of involvement in redistricting process in California. This approach is generally considered the most likely to avoid future challenges to the updated boundaries. The Board may direct staff to retain a consultant to conduct all redistricting activities, including all drawing of draft maps, public outreach and coordination of public hearings and workshops.*

This approach would require the least information and support from County staff. Alternatively, the Board may direct staff to retain a consultant on a limited basis only to provide advice and guidance (a subject matter expert) to ensure that redrawn maps are compliant with applicable laws and not subject to challenges.

Under this approach, County staff will continue to lead with map development, legal descriptions and public outreach and coordination, and will use the consultant on an as needed basis. Depending on the cost of the consulting contract, certain to be higher for a consultant conducting all redistricting activity, there will be up to two months of delay in the timeline for redistricting to allow for staff to complete a request for proposals (RFP) and/or vendor selection process.

Should the Board elect to use the approach of a consultant to conduct nearly all redistricting activities, staff will immediately begin developing a RFP and return to your Board with a contract for the selected consultant. Staff will also return to the Board with recommendations for any funding necessary for County staff backfill, services and supplies related to public hearings and workshops, and software costs.

Option 4 – County Staff version as in Option 1 above but assisted by an expert legal technical consultant: *Alternatively, the Board may direct staff to retain a consultant on a limited basis only to provide advice and guidance (a subject matter expert) to ensure that redrawn maps are compliant with applicable laws and not subject to challenges. Under this approach, County staff will continue to lead with map development, legal descriptions and public outreach and coordination, and will use the consultant on an as needed basis.*

We recommended option 4 (which the Board ultimately adopted) as cost effective, expeditious, and providing sufficient expert quality control. **Option 2**, the Santa Barbara County version, is very cumbersome, expensive, and subject to manipulation. Even though the underlying state legislation and County ordinance attempts to severely limit partisan political influence and/or cronyism, once interested citizens are placed in control they are subject to the ordinary pressures and subjective feelings. In other words they are only human. There is no such thing as apolitical citizens, especially ones who will serve on such a time consuming and intense commission.

Worse yet, the left would no doubt find volunteers who meet the criteria, such as having no background in political campaigns, donations, etc., but who would serve as secret agents to manipulate the process.

C. Participation and Meeting Requirements: The County may set up as extensive a process as it wishes. At a minimum it must comport with those listed in the schedule below. It is likely there will be additional meetings and educational forums by district and/or community advisory council, etc. There is some pretty nifty software which allows both officials and lay people to draw potential boundaries. It calculates how many people would be in each district and allows users to draw up maps.

Attachment 1

2021 Redistricting Tentative Timeline

January 5, 2021	(Planned) Initial Board Business Item to seek direction on methodology for redistricting; set special Board meeting for February
February-April 2021	Special Board meeting (<i>1st Public Hearing</i>)
January-May 2021	Depending on January 5, 2021 direction - Form County staff team and coordinate roles/responsibilities, begin RFP process or begin Citizen Committee Selection Process
April 1, 2021	US Census Bureau provides 2020 Census data

County Staff Advisory Committee	Full-Service Consultant or Citizen Committee	Action
	May 2021	(Tentative) Consultant contract approval at BOS/Citizen Committee Final selection
April 2021	June 2021	Launch redistricting webpage to post data, Board-approved methodology, hearing/workshop dates, allow for public input; seek input from cities and Special Districts
May-June 2021	June-July 2021	Develop 3-4 redistricting plans/draft maps
June 22, 2021	August 10, 2021	Present plans/maps to Board for direction (<i>2nd Public Hearing</i>)
June-July 2021	August-September 2021	After-hours Public Workshop with modified plans/maps (<i>3rd public hearing/workshop</i>)
July 22 or August 10, 2021	September 14 or September 28, 2021	Present updated plans/maps and public input summary to Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First possible date to approve redistricting plan – August 1, 2021
August-September 2021	October 2021	Finalize options per Board direction
September 28, 2021	November 2, 2021	Hearing to approve redistricting plan/maps (<i>4th Public Hearing</i>)

November 15, 2021	Recommended adoption; 30 days prior to final adoption due date – allows updated ordinance to be effective by December 15, 2022 (avoid potential delays in implementation if challenged)
December 15, 2022	Last date to adopt redistricting plan

If the County fails to adopt a legal plan by the deadline, a Court will impose the new boundaries.

[21509.](#)

(a) If the board does not adopt supervisorial district boundaries by the deadlines set forth in Section 21501, the board shall immediately petition the superior court of the county for an order adopting supervisorial district boundaries. If the board does not petition the superior court within five days after the deadline, any resident of the county may file that petition and shall be entitled to recover the resident's reasonable attorney's fees and costs from the county for doing so.

Item 41 - Hearing to adopt the attached Ordinances amending Title 22 (Land Use Ordinance), Title 23 (Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance), and Chapter 1.05 (Administrative Fines) of Title 1 (General Provisions) of the San Luis Obispo County Code to establish a hearing officer for traditional code enforcement cases and make additional amendments to facilitate a more effective and efficient code enforcement process. The Board unanimously approved the proposed hearing officer process, which would hear cases and appeals of fines and would attempt to obtain compliance without going before the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors or ending up in Court. This is already the process for cannabis violations and seems to be working well. Other jurisdictions use this process successfully.

The Board clarified that violations of major land use permits would continue to come to the Board.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments Meeting of Wednesday, January 6, 2021 (Completed) 8:30 AM

Item C-1: 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). While the politicians are always crying about not having enough road money, this item showed that they expect to receive approximately \$617 million over the next 5 years from Federal, State, and local sources. See last week's Update for all the details.

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

HYSTERICAL FEEDING FRENZY OVER "SAVE AMERICA" RALLY SPEECH

TRUMP NEVER SAID SHUT DOWN THE CAPITOL

BY MIKE BROWN



The Democrats, many Republicans, most news outlets (including the Wall Street Journal), retired general officers, social media, large corporations, and even many of Trump's appointments and heretofore supporters are calling for the President's ritual excoriation only a few days before the new administration takes over. Given the time and process difficulties of an Article XXV coup or an expedited impeachment and Senate trial, many are demanding his immediate resignation.

In actuality, these posers could care less about Trump at this point. They could care less about "desecration" of the halls of democracy. Their actual agenda is to marginalize the 70,000,000 who voted for him and tens of millions more who support his program. This is all about the 2022 election and the 2024 election and destroying the movement forever.

This is why the incident is being portrayed as a desecration of America's House – the symbol of freedom and democracy to the world. Hello: leftist mobs have been shutting down city halls, county administration buildings, university administration buildings (not to mention the Board of Regents for years), the Oakland-SF Transbay Bridge, courthouses, city downtowns, and whole neighborhoods for the past 6 decades with relative impunity. Where have all the sanctimonious officials and media people been for almost 2/3 of a century?

Angela Davis is revered as a UC Santa Cruz Department Head, Justice Advocate, and Time Magazine Woman of the Year. The Berkeley Free Speech Movement and Peoples Park riots are now venerated as one of the most cherished periods in the history of the University and the State of California. Jane Fonda has been redeemed and the Chicago Seven are now regarded as heroes. One day, Wednesday, January 6, 2021, may be venerated too.

Contrary to the official line, hundreds of thousands of citizens at the protest and scores of millions of Americans at home did not need Donald Trump to convince them that ballot

harvesting, street money, same-day voter registration, voting without picture ID's, lack of chain of custody in the transport of ballots, failure to allow count monitors to stand next to the ballot counters, vast public union campaign contributions, abolition of signature verification, and all the rest are key tools of the socialist revolution taking place before our eyes. The Democrats have assiduously made all these historically illegal techniques "legal." It is easy to say, "No one could find anything illegal about the elections in the various suspect states." Right, they have turned the illegal into legal.

In any case and if they can cast enough discredit on Trump now, they can stain his heritage and break up any successor movement. The old-line establishment checked-pants Republican elite and the Socialist Democratic Party left share the same agenda in this regard. This week's events have pushed it out into the open. Trump's supporters are too brash, too threatening, too numerous, and therefore too dangerous.

The Speech:

A close reading of the hour and twelve minute speech demonstrates no call for violence, no insurrection, no criminal acts, no riots, or no other extra-legal methods to overturn the election. It does not call for an invasion of the Capitol Building.

It actually calls for the Congress to reject the elector certifications of the suspect states, including Arizona, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan. It calls for their legislatures to review the alleged violations before certifying the elections. The speech also calls for an independent Federal Commission to investigate the matters in those states. This is a legal process, not a call for an insurrection. You might not like it, but it is a call for the Congress to vote for such processes. Trump specifically does not call the on protestors to invade the Capitol to compel a vote rejecting the election certification.

In fact much of the speech was a dissertation on what Trump believes to be the examples of fraud in certain states. Separately much of the speech was a litany of what he believes are his administration's accomplishments. The actual portions of the speech dealing with the protest rally are very limited and quoted verbatim below. Note that the numbers next to the text are the number of minutes expired into the speech.

Donald Trump: *After this, we're going to walk down and I'll be there with you. We're going to walk down. We're going to walk down any one you want, but I think right here. We're going walk down to the Capitol, and we're going to cheer on our brave senators, and congressmen and women. We're probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them because you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong.*

Donald Trump: (18:16)

We have come to demand that Congress do the right thing and only count the electors who have been lawfully slated, lawfully slated. I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard. Today we will see whether Republicans stand strong for integrity of our elections, but whether or

not they stand strong for our country, our country. Our country has been under siege for a long time, far longer than this four-year period. We've set it on a much straighter course, a much ... I thought four more years. I thought it would be easy. We created-

Donald Trump: (01:12:43)

*So we're going to, we're going to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue, I love Pennsylvania Avenue, and we're going to the Capitol and we're going to try and give... The Democrats are hopeless. They're never voting for anything, not even one vote. **But we're going to try and give our Republicans, the weak ones, because the strong ones don't need any of our help, we're going to try and give them the kind of pride and boldness that they need to take back our country.***

Donald Trump: (01:13:19)

***So let's walk down Pennsylvania Avenue.** I want to thank you all. God bless you and God bless America. Thank you all for being here, this is incredible. Thank you very much. Thank you.*

1. Where is the exhortation to riot?
2. Where is the exhortation to insurrection?
3. **I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard.** Is this an exhortation to illegal acts?

Trump is being accused of treason, betrayal of his office, fomenting an insurrection, criminal acts, inciting a riot, and all manner of nefarious deeds in order to overturn the November election. Short of a Cuban Airborne Division seizing Washington in the next few days and proclaiming Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez President, it's hard to fathom how this could happen. After all, 99.9% of the hundreds of thousands of protestors were mechanics, insurance salesman, grandmothers, veterans, school teachers, and patriots similar to folks you would meet protesting at the local school board or Board of Supervisors. Only a few hundred ultimately went into the Capitol.

What if the Police had simply allowed them to parade through the rotunda instead of fighting them?

Context:

Of course, in the near term, most of these people who are attacking Trump had nothing to say this past summer when whole strip malls, police stations, city blocks, and whole downtowns were being looted and torched for days and weeks on end. This was all written off as a fair attempt to make us aware of systemic racism and inequality.

Parenthetically, remember this has been the local experience as the SLO Tribune and SLO Progressive Democratic Party have attempted to justify flag burning, traffic impedance, breaking windows, and causing damage in downtown SLO. At the same time they have attacked the

District Attorney, Sheriff, Police Chief, and anyone who doesn't go along with their rant. Why is burning the flag not desecration of a national symbol?

Another Governmental Botched Job:

The local police agencies and the military forces assigned to protect the government were never able to get control during the actual incident. It was only after most of the people were streaming away from the area on their own that the police began to appear to be achieving order.

It was over and also it was freezing cold and getting dark. Some protesters were at the cocktail lounge over at the Hyatt Regency while the Congress was still cowering in basements somewhere. God forbid one of those MAGA hatted grandmothers from dull middle class America had cornered Nancy Pelosi in the Capitol Beauty Shop. Of course the actor with bison horns could have been a Sioux Medicine Man about to scalp some of the carefully coiffed, puffed up, and lacquered hair on the distinguished male Senators.

The Senators and Representatives should have stood their ground and carried on with the meeting, but they are too gutless. The protestors would have hung back in awe.



DEFENDERS OF CIVILIZATION?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Our grandees seem too exhausted, too guilty, or too ignorant to pass on and improve the civilization they inherited for others to come.

The year 2020 witnessed a long series of writs lodged against an America beset with plague, quarantine, recessions, riot and arson, and the most contested election since 1876.

What was strange was not so much the anarchist Left's efforts in the present to wipe away the past to recalibrate our Animal Farm future. What was odder were both the absurdities of the complaints against American civilization, and the unwillingness or inability of Americans to rebut them and defend their own culture.

Demonizing Our Past

In just a year, thousands of memorials and icons have vanished. Names have changed, words are banned. Careers were ruined. As new totalitarian rules were enshrined, old freedoms became despised.

Yet most of the country sat in lockdown quiet, as it was told that it, and its history, were toxic and culpable—and by whom exactly? Moralists like Labron James? Steve Kerr? Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez?

Were Americans in their 244th year suddenly to write checks, apologize, and pay penance to their angry self-described moral superiors?

A few schools apparently are no longer to be named after Abraham Lincoln, the president who saved the Union, destroyed the slave-holding Confederacy, and freed the slaves at a cost of nearly 700,000 American lives. Now 155 years after his assassination, the present generation—the most leisured, entitled, and wealthiest cohort in civilization's history—deems him unworthy and unfit for any commemoration. Do any of the street-brawling Antifa radicals seem tough guys in comparison to the Union troops at Gettysburg or those who marched with Sherman?

Who or what does the Left offer in place in Lincoln—Che? Fidel? Malcolm X? Cesar Chavez? Margaret Sanger? Xi Jinping? FDR? Barack Obama? All would fall well short of the alleged standards applied by cancel culture. So what are we left with other than nothing? Diversity Academy A? Equity High School No. 3? Inclusion College IV? Campus 1619?

What happens if one principal, just a single superintendent, a few parents, three board members say, “Nope, we are not erasing Lincoln's name, no way, no how”?

Little need be said of increasing tense racial relations, given that the collective optimism of a year ago during the booming 2019 economy—record low minority unemployment and the undepreciated powers of assimilation and integration were beginning to make race more incidental than essential—has dissipated. That was then, and this is now after pandemic, lockdown, recession, George Floyd's tragic death, riot and looting, a bitter election, and an ongoing cultural revolution.

Cornell University is now mandating flu shots for its on-campus students, but with allowances for nonwhites to petition for exemptions, in the manner of those pedigreed epidemiologists who all but said science should be ignored in ranking those to be vaccinated by their race. Had

someone in 1980, 1990, or 2005 predicted such things, he would have been written off as a dystopian crackpot.

What happens if an elderly so-called white person dies of COVID-19, when a state medical policy ignores science and substitutes racial preference instead? Will his estate file a class action suit that the state has violated the Constitution and is culpable for needless death?

What Legal System?

Is there really a legal system any more, at least as we once knew it, in our major cities—New York, Portland, Seattle, and Los Angeles? Violent crime has soared. Murders are up 30-50 percent in many of those places.

In 2020, whether an arsonist, looter, or rioter was arrested, indicted, and jailed depended on the ideology of the perpetrator and the political context of the crime. Old ideas like “broken windows” preventative enforcement went down the memory hole. Did Rudolph Giuliani’s crime-reduction miracle in New York City ever really exist? Is it legal for a district attorney simply to announce that he will no longer enforce the legal code? Can victims of ensuing crimes sue such somnolent prosecutors?

Police forces operate under a “defunding” sword of Damocles amid a general collapse of spirit. Officers assume that if they arrest violent criminals, three things are likely to happen and all of them are likely deemed bad.

Either police can make an in-vain arrest in their no-bail, Soros-funded prosecuting attorney jurisdictions and see the arrested subject released, angry or defiant or both. Or they can risk being attacked or shot by emboldened criminals, given police deterrence has vanished. Or, in extremis, they can use force and find themselves charged with a felony and likely to have their careers ruined.

So police pull back, deterrence is lost, the elite rely on their money, influence, connections, and distance from the mayhem for their security. The poor and middle classes fend on the front lines as they can. Will the working classes establish their own security teams to police their neighborhoods? If they did, would that be vigilantism, or is vigilantism what the rich already practice with their armed guards who patrol their properties?

The homeless population of more than half-a-million seems to grow ever larger, as they line the boulevards of our major cities. How could a wealthier more sophisticated society of 2020, the greenest in world history, allow feces on its sidewalks, random harassment of its passersby, and garbage, and worse, strewn in its parks? Are there homeless outside the French Laundry restaurant? Do they camp at the curb outside Gavin Newsom’s mansions? Why could not our Silicon Valley multibillionaires endow a health campus, or Ivy League campuses translate their abstract caring into concrete welcoming of the homeless into their empty summertime dorms?

Americans know that purging the word “vagrant,” “liberating” the ill from mental asylums, and allowing public urination and defecation did not solve the problem. They sense they know the solution is the restoration of hospitals and health care halfway houses, but are too weary to hear the furious outcry.



Losing a Generation

The American university, once the global model of higher education, is in veritable shambles in ways that translate the value of its steep tuition reduced to laptop zooming.

There is no First Amendment on campus. The culture of the Salem Witch Trials applies: save yourself by going woke while going on the offensive to accuse others of witchcraft.

Administration has become a memo-writing contest, as both endangered and aspiring white males issue edicts condemning items in the news to illustrate their superior woke bona fides. Most pay as much attention to them as did the vandals to purple toga magistrates reading edicts to the wind in Rome circa fifth-century A.D.

We hope only that the firebreaks thrown up around the social sciences and humanities can prevent their infectious nihilism from crossing into the sciences and professional schools. What is most striking is the self-righteousness of the university faculty, administration, and students, despite their collective culpability for the current chaos.

Statue topplers were taught to hate dead white males, but never taught about the particular historical, literary, or cultural contexts that fuel their deductive hate. Is spray painting easier than reading?

All the ingredients for civilizational stasis—delayed or nonexistent marriage and child-bearing, massive unsustainable student debt, ideological indoctrination without learning, and superficial credentialing—originate in the university.

And yet no one in academia steps forward to offer ways to slash costs, or to promise the campus will guarantee its own student loans, or to take some responsibility for the current demographic, financial, and ideological crisis of our twentysomething lost generation, as it stagnates in

prolonged adolescence. Can we at least have the university endowment substitute for the federal government as the last guarantor of student loans?

The media has proven deadly but not serious. Few believed in the “Russian collusion” yarn; all assumed its weaponizing of the original Christopher Steele/Hillary Clinton/Fusion GPS mythology was to paralyze the Trump Administration.

All knew that Trump was far harder on Russia than his predecessor. And none cared. The Ukrainian hysteria that led to impeachment—like the Brett Kavanaugh hit and like the news blackout of Biden Inc.—did the country terrible damage, but again was so farcical that even the purveyors of the lies knew that their charges were not serious.

Now after they have destroyed their credibility and lost the trust of the American people, what is next for the media? We are left with a bad version of a Ministry of Truth, as supposed muckrakers and young Zolas vie with each other to find out what color socks or which flavor milkshake “President-elect” Biden prefers. Like Pravda that often translated Leonid Brezhnev’s incoherent mutterings into truth speak, so too after January we will be reminded that an often incoherent Biden is really Cicero.

Importing and Nurturing Ingratitude and Decline

There are more immigrants in the United States than at any time in its history. More arrive here each year, legally or illegally, than to any other nation. And they do so not for the New Green Deal or abortion on demand. Instead, as mostly minorities, they expect to find more freedom, economic prosperity, meritocracy, and personal safety in America than they did as majorities in their home nations. Do they know, but cannot say, that?

Yet we are hellbent on transmogrifying the immigrant experience into one in which the newly arrived must lodge complaints against their hosts, as if we are to assume they chose to immigrate to what they didn’t like and to abandon what they did. What happened to requiring every immigrant to have familiarity with English, a high school diploma, and legal entry? Does anyone believe such requirements would make newcomers less successful? Or is the rub that they would arrive more independent, more upbeat about America, and less inclined to be patronized—and therefore not so needed by the Left?

Some days decline is ascendent. On Sunday, I drove through Fresno on Highway 41. The landscaping on the berms of both sides has become a veritable homeless village of the desperate and forgotten. Oddly, some abodes were subterranean, as the homeless, in World War I fashion, had dug under trees to pitch tents over their burrows.

Last night, walking through our almond orchard, a truck was parked on the alleyway, the driver standing outside with an automatic rifle. I had no idea whether he was working for a neighbor to shoot squirrels, or the renegade who shoots doves that sometimes drop wounded or dead in our yard, or the one who shot the majestic red-tail hawk who rotted for weeks on a power pole transformer with a bullet in him. The stranger was polite and put the gun down, but spoke no English as I walked on by with four dogs. Does Nancy Pelosi encounter such people in her environs?

In between these two incidents I read the local news, with its daily fare of gang shootings, and fatal drunk-driving wrecks—both are way up in the San Joaquin Valley in 2020. During this lockdown, there are the now-familiar details that the lethal driver was out without bail or had a host of prior DUIs—the equivalent of mere traffic tickets in 2020. There seems a new boldness too in the modus operandi of speeders, drunks, and criminals ramming police cars when purportedly pulling over.

Not long ago when two young women were having sex in the back of their car parked in the orchard, then gave me the finger when I walked by, and then spun out and sped away, it was deemed a calm day—no drug injectors, no trash tossers, no stolen car strippers.

Searching for Common Denominators in Our Malaise

Is there some common denominator in our malaise? A look back at Athens 340 B.C., or Rome 440 A.D., or Constantinople 1440, or France 1940? Perhaps.

Is the culprit an estranged elite of the keep—wealthy enough to ensure that the consequences of its own toxic ideology fall only upon others?

Our grandees seem too exhausted, too guilty, or too ignorant to pass on and improve the civilization they inherited for others to come. Instead, the elite justifies its leisure, privilege, and affluence by medieval penance, virtue signaling and offering confessionals about their own “unearned” white privilege. It is strange to see the Volvo brigade of our most privileged Americans on the metaphorical barricades, as if they are the real revolutionaries who fuel BLM and Antifa.

Why do \$20,000 refrigerators, trying to torch a federal courthouse, and spitting in a policeman’s face all seem to have something vaguely in common? Revolutions with ensuing chaos usually follow from the professional and upper-classes joining the mob, either in expectation their solidarity will earn exemption, or as a lark out of boredom, or in ignorance about the venom of those who destroy monuments and burn, or in furor their own upward mobility did not quite land them among the most chosen of the elite.

For now we wait for one local PTA member to refuse to change the name of his Lincoln school, or a crusading prosecutor who issues 40 federal racketeering indictments the next time Antifa drives in to town to take over a house, torch a courthouse, or reclaim a street, or a judge who sentences a violent arsonist to a 20-year sentence pour encourager les autres, or an exasperated college dean who will say no to segregating dorms or no-go zones by race, or one honest journalist who finally presses Joe Biden to answer what have Hunter and his family done.

About Victor Davis Hanson

*Victor Davis Hanson is an American military historian, columnist, former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He was a professor of classics at California State University, Fresno, and is currently the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. 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 (Basic Books). This article first appeared in American Greatness on January 4, 2021.

THE END OF TRUMP

BY STEVEN F. HAYWARD

The Republican Party has just experienced its worst day since the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, or at least since the resignation of Richard Nixon. On top of losing two winnable Senate races and thereby control of the upper chamber, the party has watched as the Capitol was stormed by a mob, which disrupted the tallying of the electoral votes before Vice President Mike Pence. Trump, still the party's leader, badly misjudged the effect of his words and deeds on the Georgia Senate races, and on the crowd gathered in Washington to support him the next day.

Now would be a good time for everyone—especially Republicans—to reread Abraham Lincoln's Lyceum Address of 1838, which warned against the threat of mob rule alongside the peril of overweening political ambition. Though the speech's language and style are archaic, its message is just as timely now as it was then, and for the same reason: political violence, whether localized in Portland, Oregon, or the nation's capital by a comparatively small number of people, is a harbinger of the end of democratic self-government if it grows more frequent.

Lincoln warned:

The operation of this mobocratic spirit, which all must admit, is now abroad in the land, the strongest bulwark of any Government, and particularly of those constituted like ours, may effectually be broken down and destroyed—I mean the attachment of the People. Whenever this effect shall be produced among us; whenever the vicious portion of population shall be permitted to gather in bands of hundreds and thousands, and burn churches, ravage and rob provision stores, throw printing presses into rivers, shoot editors, and hang and burn obnoxious persons at pleasure, and with impunity; depend on it, this Government cannot last.

Even if Lincoln were alive today and agreed with President Trump's claim that the presidential election was rife with fraud, he would not countenance a mob uprising. In the Lyceum speech he directly criticized the mob actions of abolitionists, whose aim he shared, but whose violent means, he saw, would undermine their goal. Some of the pro-Trump protesters speak of invoking the "right to revolution" as contemplated in the Declaration of Independence: "When a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

How we are to judge when our government is trampling our natural rights such as to trip the Declaration's right of revolution is a difficult matter, but it is doubtful that Lincoln would have thought that the allegations of vote fraud rise to that awful threshold. As he argued in the Lyceum Address:

When I so pressingly urge a strict observance of all the laws, let me not be understood as saying there are no bad laws, nor that grievances may not arise, for the redress of which, no legal

provisions have been made. I mean to say no such thing. But I do mean to say, that, although bad laws, if they exist, should be repealed as soon as possible, still while they continue in force, for the sake of example, they should be religiously observed. So also in unprovided cases. If such arise, let proper legal provisions be made for them with the least possible delay; but, till then, let them if not too intolerable, be borne with.

There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law. In any case that arises, as for instance, the promulgation of abolitionism, one of two positions is necessarily true; that is, the thing is right within itself, and therefore deserves the protection of all law and all good citizens; or, it is wrong, and therefore proper to be prohibited by legal enactments; and in neither case, is the interposition of mob law, either necessary, justifiable, or excusable.

Students of Lincoln and his reverence for the Founding will recognize this as a restatement of the counsel of moderation in Lincoln's favorite founding document, the Declaration of Independence: "Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

The controversy over the fairness of the recent election needs to be seen in a broader context of the broad swath of the American people—perhaps a majority—who believe that the government is not presently protecting their individual rights and the principle of self-government. This is a serious issue—maybe the central issue—in our politics today. Judging the scene, and what to do about it, are matters requiring statesmanship of the highest order. In his Lyceum speech, Lincoln expressed worry that mobocracy increased the possibility of Caesarism—of the ambitious man thirsting for distinction on the public stage by whatever means, who “would as willingly, perhaps more so, acquire it by doing good as harm; yet, that opportunity being past, and nothing left to be done in the way of building up, he would set boldly to the task of pulling down.”

Donald Trump has shown great perception of the defects of our political order; he has had many salutary achievements in office; he has fought hard for worthy objects against the intransigent opposition of the permanent government; his love of country is undoubted; he has given new hope to many unheard and hitherto unrespected Americans.

At the same time, his reckless public pronouncements have fallen short of the standard of the high statesmanship most needed—never more so than his remarks on the Capitol Mall on Wednesday. He has left himself vulnerable to the charge that he will exit office amid a flurry of “pulling down” not only fellow partisans, but the very institutions of our government itself.¹

*Steven F. Hayward is a visiting lecturer at Berkeley Law, and author of the two-volume study, **The Age of Reagan**. This article first appeared in *City Journal* on January 7, 2021. He writes daily at Powerlineblog.com. Steve Hayward was to be COLAB'S Key Note Speaker at last Marches Annual Dinner Fundraiser which was cancelled due to the COVID Lockdown. He is a resident of San Luis Obispo County.*

¹ As we state in our article above, we can't find an appeal to riot in Trump's remarks.



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