



**WEEKLY UPDATE
JANUARY 17 - 23, 2021**

THIS WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

MARTIN LUTHER KING REMEMBRANCE & HOLIDAY MON. JANUARY 18TH



LAFCO MEETING THURSDAY JAN 21ST

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

**COASTAL COMMISSION APPROVES TEST WELLS
BUT IGNORES LARGER PICTURE**

**IWMA TO CONTINUE IN OPERATION
IT IS SUPPOSED TO STOP GINNING UP BANS BUT WILL IT?
COW POOP SEEMS TO BE ON THE LIST**

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEES PAGE 15**

DRIVING OUT THE SCAPEGOAT

BY BRUCE THORNTON

Why, with only a week left in his term, expend all this hatred on a lame-duck president?

ON THE ROAD TO DYSTOPIA

BY PHILIP AHLRICH



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2021 (Not Scheduled)

The Board does not usually meet on a Tuesday following a Monday National Holiday – in this case Martin Luther King Day. Other issues move ahead on their own:

Issue 1 - COVID STATUS AS OF FRIDAY JANUARY 15, 2021.

The County posted the announcement below:

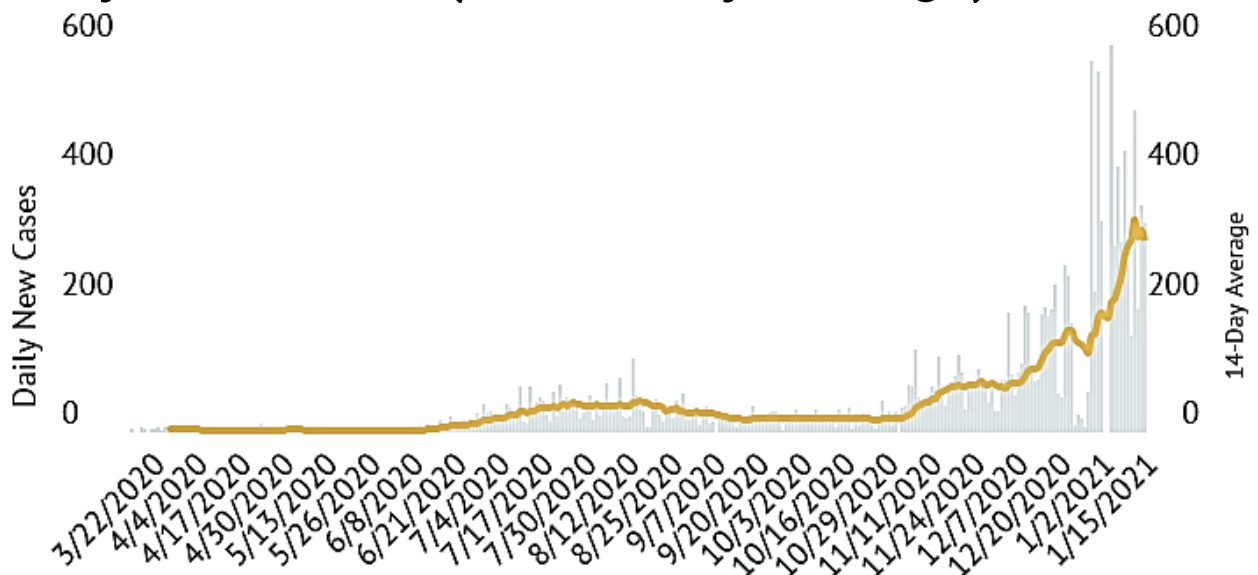
As the County progresses through the first part of Phase 1b (residents over 75), additional groups will be eligible for vaccine. Residents over 75 are first in line in the Phase 1b group because people age 75 and older are at higher risk for serious COVID-19 illness or death than other age groups. Allocating the County's limited vaccine supply to this group will help prevent the most serious outcomes. Only those residing within San Luis Obispo County are eligible.

[Make An Appointment](#)

If you need technical assistance booking an appointment, please call the County Phone Assistance Center at 543-2444. Currently call volume is exceeding capacity; please keep trying if you do not get through on the first call.

As we have been pointing out for weeks, get all the geezers vaccinated and most of the deaths will cease.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



50 (9 ICU)**

SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

Issue 2 - Impacts of the Capitol Invasion on the Local Political Landscape. To date the local response is pretty much what would be expected. The Tribune, New Times, and local Progressive Socialist Democratic Party (PSDP) are baiting the local Republican organization for not sufficiently repudiating the capitol rioters. Similarly the Board of Supervisors majority is under fire for not taking a proverbial knee and excoriating Trump.

The PSDP and Tribune are also castigating the District Attorney, Sheriff and former City Police Chief.

No amount of self-abasement will ever satisfy the woke ideologues who are promoting illegal activities by Antifa and BLM in downtown SLO. The Tribune and the local Progressive Socialist Democratic hypocrites are railing against the “desecration” of the Capitol Building as a symbol of our Republic. What do they think of the flag being trampled and spat upon right on Higuera Street, a block from the County Building?



This is a Tribune photo. Why do they promote and defend rioters who desecrate the actual symbol of our Republic? What do they thereby desecrate the memory of those of died for that flag? The double standard is outrageous for a newspaper which claims to be fair. Any SLO business people who

advertise in the Tribune should be ashamed of themselves. The rest of us should refuse to patronize businesses that help perpetuate the double standards.

From top to bottom the whole multi-decade leftist attack on our country and civilization must be rejected and opposed at every turn. As they themselves say and we must take to heart:



As Winston Churchill warned:

No Socialist Government conducting entirely the life and industry of the country could afford to allow free, sharp, or violently worded public discontent. They would have to fall back on some form of Gestapo, no doubt very humanely directed in the first instance. And this would nip opinion in the bud; it would stop criticism as it reared its head, and it would gather all power to the supreme party and the party leaders, rising like stately pinnacles above their vast bureaucracies of civil servants, no longer servants and no longer civil.

One need only reflect on how the big tech platforms are annihilating conservative sites this week to realize the relevance of this prescient warning.

Issue 3 - National Guard Operation in Washington DC. Looks Like a Cluster. The large National Guard deployment to the Capitol, reported at 21,000 as of this writing, appears to be what soldiers refer to as a “cluster f..k.” The pictures of the citizen soldiers lying on floors suggest that the operation is very uncoordinated and haphazard. Why aren’t these soldiers being logistically supported with tents, mess tents, showers, and all the rest? There are reports that even though it is bitter cold, there are no hot meals.

Some units have been quartered in hotels, which are much better. This is likely a decision by some of the their individual unit commanders at the company level. But where is the overall operation? It all appears to be very unprofessional. From the standpoint of potential rioters or, separately, terrorists, it suggests a lack of preparedness, coordination, and support. Just how vulnerable are we?

What a shameful spectacle. The article below details one soldier’s experiences:

Conditions for the Troops are Better in Afghanistan:

'It hasn't been a good deployment' | Mom describes her National Guard son's experience protecting DC

"In many ways he felt he was better cared for by the Army in Afghanistan than he feels he's cared for now."



Author: Tom Dempsey (WUSA)

Published: 8:40 PM EST January 13, 2021

Updated: 9:24 AM EST January 14, 2021

WASHINGTON — Among the men and women now serving on the front lines to protect the Nation's Capital is a Maryland National Guard member who saw combat in Afghanistan.

He also works as a police officer and has a wife and young son waiting for him to come home.

Years after fighting in the Middle East, his current deployment has him stationed at the US Capitol.

The shifts are long, the outside conditions are cold, and the overall experience of being there has been anything but pleasant.

"I just got off the phone with him and he said some of the young men that he's with don't have enough money to buy some extra gear they might have so they're wearing three pairs of extra socks to keep their feet warm," his mother said on Wednesday.

"He went online today to order some more gear from Amazon that he's going to have delivered to my nephew who lives in DC and then my nephew is going to walk over some of the stuff."

The guardsman's mother asked WUSA9 not to broadcast their last names due to the sensitive nature of her son's deployment.

Mom said her son served in Afghanistan before joining [@MDNG](#)

Deployment to DC has meant LONG shifts, being cold, and eating bad food.

"He said in many ways he felt he was better cared for by the Army in Afghanistan than he feels he's cared for now."

However, after hearing about the conditions her son is living in now, she wanted to let others know about the experience facing the men and women working to keep DC secure.

After her son deployed last Thursday, she said he and other Guardsmen have been forced to use trash bags and armor for pillows and blankets.

The service members aren't allowed to drink coffee "because of the optics," according to her son.

No laundry service is available after her son brought enough clothing for two days, the mother claimed.

By the time dinner rolls around, the guardsman's mom said troops could be greeted with an unappetizing option.

"He gets cold food at about eight o'clock at night. He gets a box of cold food left out on the sidewalk for him. Cold spaghetti at eight o'clock," she said. "He feels like he really isn't getting enough food, so he's bought some of his own food. He's gone to local convenience stores."

As the guardsman's mother, she can even hear the discomfort in her son's voice when they speak to one another on the phone.

"I can hear stress in his voice. He sounds tired," she said. "It hasn't been a good deployment and he doesn't feel like he has a defined mission."

With the world still dealing with a pandemic, the concerns have also stretched to COVID-19.

Her son says troops often sleep close to one another at night, with some often taking their masks off. "He said he's not allowed to request a test unless he has obvious symptoms," she said.

After many photos of guardsmen sleeping on floors were posted to social media on Wednesday, the National Guard released a statement saying the photos likely showed the troops when they were considered on-duty.

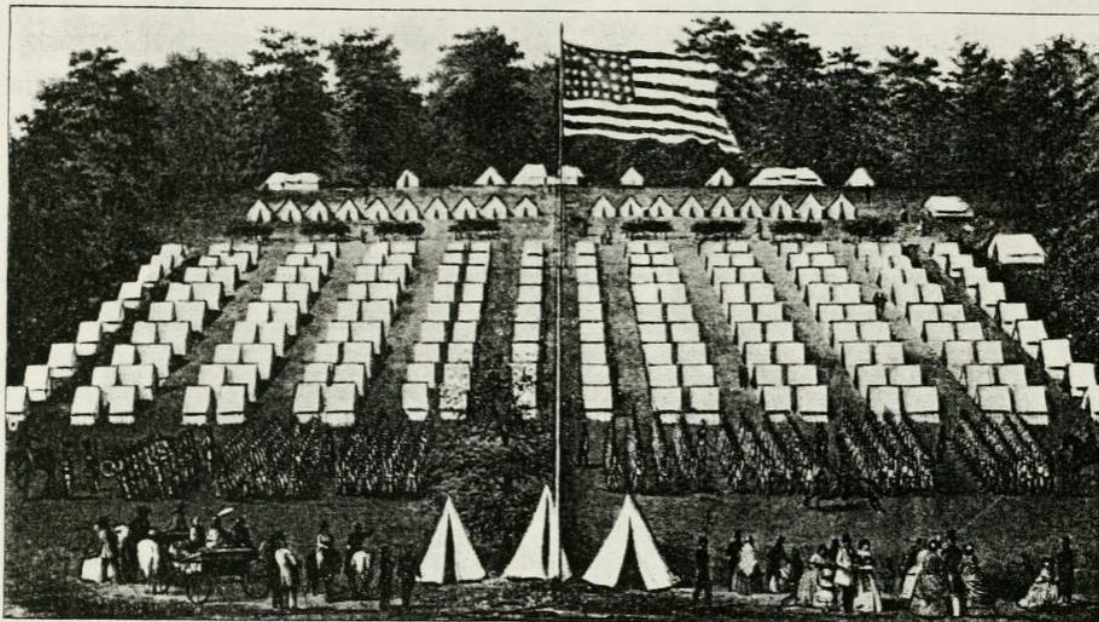
"Please know our National Guardsmen have appropriate lodging for when they are off-duty; the photos circulating are of them on-duty, in a designated rest area between shifts," the statement read. "Being present is the first step in ensuring the safety of our citizens and our Nation's Capital. Our security personnel work in shifts and rest when they can as others stand watch."

With many people reaching out about how they could help, the National Guard added that it cannot logistically accept donations of any kind.

Moving forward, the mother of the Maryland National Guard member who spoke to WUSA9 hoped her son's time on the front lines would be over soon.

"It's hard and we'll be thankful when all of our soldiers can come home," she said. "He said in many ways he felt he was better cared for by the army in Afghanistan than the feels he's cared for now."

At least back in the Civil War they had tents, bedrolls, and mess tents when they guarded Washington.



CAMP UNION, 118TH REGIMENT, QUEEN LANE, FALLS OF SCHUYLKILL,
August, 1862.

Washington and the immediate area are full of military installations where forces could bivouac. What a shame.

Issue 4 - A Grim Weekly Summary From the California Public Policy Center:

CALIFORNIA POLICY CENTER



The attack on free expression: Just as we warned *last week*, union-backed politicians in California and across the country are exploiting the Capitol riots to try to quash free speech. This week, former union leader, and current California Democratic Party chair, Rusty Hicks repeatedly called the (lower-case “d”) democratic effort to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom “a coup.” He claimed, “This recall effort, which really ought to be called the California coup, is led by right-wing conspiracy theorists, white nationalists, anti-vaxxers, and groups who encourage violence on our democratic institutions.”

Social media has recently purged the accounts of countless conservatives. Google and Apple banned Parler from their app stores, then Amazon pulled its hosting, banished it from the internet altogether. The moves have been widely celebrated by the mainstream media, which, ironically, seem to be among today's worst defenders of free speech.

This week, a Twitter employee leaked audio of CEO Jack Dorsey *saying* this clampdown is only the beginning. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) *suggested* creating a federal commission (a Ministry of Truth?) to “rein in our media environment so that you can't just spew disinformation and misinformation.” A new legislative effort in *California* seeks to create Patriot Act-style agencies, ostensibly to root out right-wing extremism. But government grows—that’s an iron law of political science—and Californians rightly wonder how long before such laws will target people like us, men and women who reasonably dissent in the face of policy failures.

For years, progressives have been trying to quash opposition by suggesting that conservatives are “racist.” Now they’re leveling up by calling conservatives “dangerous” and “extremist” to shut down debate -- in some cases literally. Doing so allows them to Zamboni the ice to more easily slide their agenda forward.

The clampdown: On the latest *episode* of National Review's RadioFree California, CPC President Will Swaim and board member David Bahnsen consider California reactions to the pro-Trump mayhem at the U.S. Capitol, including Trump-free Facebook and Twitter, the electronic shutdown of a nonpartisan policy conference in Sacramento, new legislation to recreate a California Patriot Act, and the California Democratic Party’s attempt to label the Recall Newsom campaign a “California coup.”

A budget full of union giveaways: Last Friday, Gov. Gavin Newsom *proposed* a budget that will only worsen the problems facing California. The proposal calls for roughly \$90 billion in education funding, the highest level in state history at a time when teachers unions continue to insist on failed distance-learning models and increased pay. Given that it will be months before teachers are back in classrooms, shouldn't the government be returning tax dollars to parents who have had to contend with classroom closures instead of spending more?

The budget directs a total of \$7 billion in pandemic-related support to schools and students. These funds are in addition to the billions of dollars that California schools have already received in federal aid. Given that Covid-19 safeguards can be purchased relatively cheaply, Newsom's additional funds are little more than a payoff to teachers unions to try to get them to reopen classrooms. The budget also directs roughly one billion dollars to expand transitional kindergarten, which offers teachers unions an opportunity to further grow their ranks by organizing early childhood educators.

Tax-hike Groundhog Day: *With businesses fleeing California for more business-friendly states, union-backed state legislators announced this week more reasons to leave. As the Associated Press [explains](#), "Assembly Bill 71 would raise the corporate income tax from 8.84% to 9.6% on companies that make more than \$5 million annually in profits in California... rais[ing] an estimated \$2.4 billion a year." The tax hike proceeds would go to the black hole that is "housing for the homeless." The AP reporter helpfully notes that California "suffers from prohibitively high housing costs and wages that can't keep up, resulting in an ever-widening gap between rich and poor." And who is responsible for these higher costs and "wages that can't keep up"? Largely, the coalition of unions and environmentalists who raise taxes, increase regulations, and reduce new home construction.*

California's General Fund relies on the top 0.5 percent: *In his latest [analysis](#), CPC contributor Edward Ring discusses just how much of California's budget relies on the wealthy: "There were 89,000 Californians in 2018 who reported taxable income of over \$1 million . . . one-half of one percent of the total filers." This top 0.5 percent pay 40 percent of all personal income taxes that California collects. It takes only a couple thousand of these seven-figure earners leaving the state to put a big dent in total tax revenues. Union-backed legislators looking to chase away even more of these earners by raising taxes even further should take note.*

Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, January 15, 2021 (Scheduled)

Per the agenda below, the meeting is largely devoted to administrative matters. Thus there are no annexations, boundary changes, additions, or deletions to the functions of any special districts. Nevertheless, and if you are dying of curiosity, just control click on any of the times and they will open up.

January 21, 2021, Agenda

- [Draft November 19, 2020, Minutes](#)
- A-1: [Biennial Update of LAFCO's Conflict of Interest Code \(Recommend Review and Approval\)](#)
- A-2: [Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2020-2021 LAFCO Budget Status Report \(Recommend Review and Direct Executive to submit to the County Auditor\)](#)
- A-3: [2020 Annual Report and 2021 Proposed Work Plan-Meeting Schedule \(Recommend Review and Approval\)](#)

- A-4: [Process to appoint a Regular and Alternate Public Member LAFCO Commissioner to the Commission \(Recommend Review and Approval\)](#)
- A-5: [Consideration of the Recruitment Process and Job Description for the position of LAFCO Executive Officer \(Recommend Review and Approval\)](#)
- B-1: Closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - Public Employee/Employee Appointment – Title: Executive Officer
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 Conference with

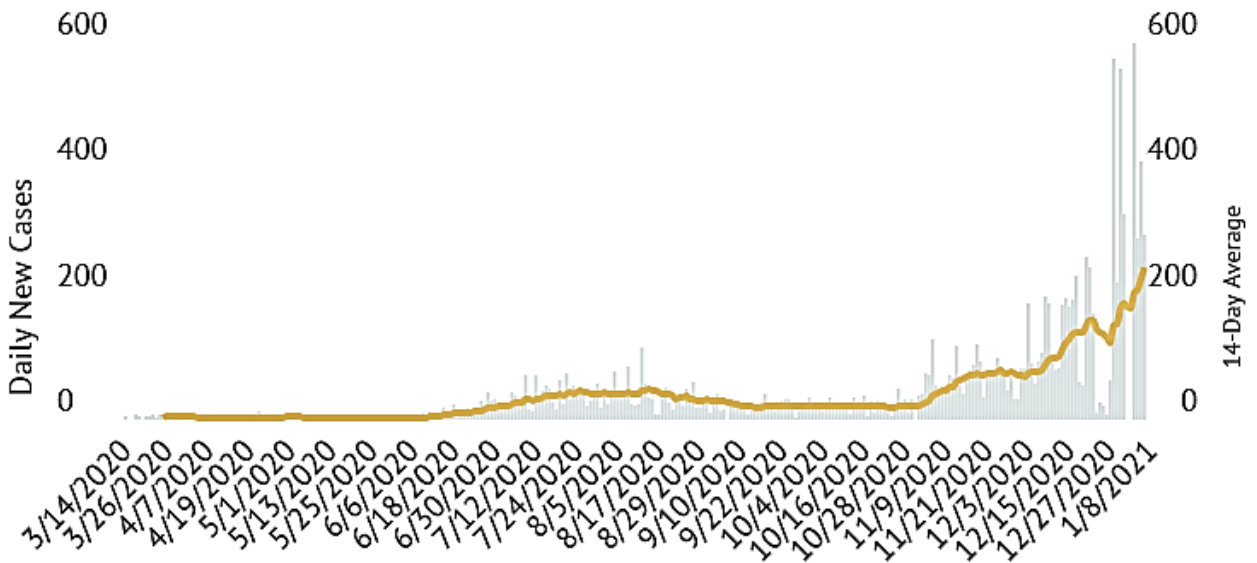
LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

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 in care institutions, residents of congregate care facilities, and public safety workers. Last week the County was not specific as to when Phase I(b) people over 75 would begin. As noted above in this week’s presentation, it was suddenly announced on Friday that these individuals should make an appointment.

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

<p>CURRENTLY VACCINATING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
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**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
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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).

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

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.*

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?

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

Wednesday: Item 17a - City of Pismo Beach Test Wells Appeal. The Commission denied the appeal. It found that that wells may or may not be permanent. If they are to become permanent they might have had to deny the permit. The Commission staff and Pismo City Manager asserted that the wells were temporary. The write-up suggested that they could become permanent.

Background: 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 agreed 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 did not want to address this issue at this point. It allowed the test wells to go forward. If the City and its agency partners (Arroyo Grande, Oceano Community Service District, and

Grover Beach) determine to go forward, with the full project, a new conditional use permit will have to be issued by the County, and it could be subject to review by the Coastal Commission.

The Commission should have examined 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.

Wednesday Item 17b - San Luis Harbor District Proposal to install Limited Paid Parking. The Commission voted to allow the District to install 30 paid parking places near the restaurant and other businesses. The remaining 216 spaces will remain free. During the discussion the Commission digressed and went on a long admonition to the District to install electric charging stations. The Commission is aware that the district is preparing a long-range plan which will ultimately have to be approved by the Commission. They basically served notice that they plan on yanking the chain to compel electric vehicle charging stations.

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

DRIVING OUT THE SCAPEGOAT

BY BRUCE THORNTON

Why, with only a week left in his term, expend all this hatred on a lame-duck president?



After last Wednesday's Trump rally at the Ellipse in D.C., some of the up to 100,000 present walked over to the Capitol, where Congress was meeting to ratify the Electoral College vote. While there an even smaller number, a few hundred at the most, broke into the Capitol lobby, with some proceeding into a few Congressional offices. So, a rally attended peacefully by the majority of people, was taken over by a small mob of knuckleheads and day-trippers who invaded the Capitol. Sadly, a woman and a police officer were killed, and three other protestors died from "medical emergencies." Scores more including police officers were injured.

The police authorities in D.C. had bungled badly their security preparations, and bear a large share of the responsibility for this fiasco. But as always, the guilt lies with those who broke the law and should be punished. "The doer suffers," as Aeschylus says.

But after five months of incessant rioting, vandalizing, and looting tolerated, ignored, rationalized, [excused](#), encouraged, or even celebrated by the progressive Democrat leadership, media, commentators, mayors, and governors, this half-day-long violent episode is pretty far down on the list of civic mayhem—and the only one of hundreds of protests this year that was fomented by supporters of the President. Indeed, maybe security was light because Trump has conducted massive rallies for four years without any significant violence.

Reaction, however, to the Capitol riot has elicited even more-intense hysterical attacks on the President. Worse, now Republican and conservative lawmakers and commentators have indulged the bathetic rhetorical excesses that mechanically issue from Dems and NeverTrump Republicans skulking in digital hovels like The Lincoln Project and the Bulwark. They are demanding the President's resignation, impeachment, or removal from office via the 25th Amendment, some preposterously professing anxiety that Trump will launch a Parthian nuclear strike as he leaves office.

Clearly, the D.C. bipartisan establishment has had enough of the outsider Trump's presence and can't even wait a week for him to go away, with diehard NeverTrumpers seeking vengeance as well. The invasion of their company headquarters just pushed them over the edge.

The scapegoat must be driven into the wilderness.

The hysteria of the rhetoric can be seen in the hyperbolic words and phrases flooding the commentary on the incident: the riot was a "Pearl Harbor" and a "day of infamy"; an "insurrection" or "coup" perpetrated by "traitors"; a "conspiracy to commit sedition"; the president has "blood on his hands," and is guilty of a "flagrant dereliction of duty." Such hyped-up rhetoric used to describe a half-day riot has no connection with reality, but instead reflects the deep irrationality Donald Trump has aroused in the so-called "cognitive elite" who manage Leviathan Inc., the hypertrophied federal government that has expanded its reach into, and power over our lives based on their arrogant pretensions to superior technical expertise.

As many of these phrases show, stupider yet are the many claims that Trump "instigated" the attack on the Capitol or "egged on" the relatively few participants to attack the government and violate the peaceful transfer of power. As such he is guilty of an indictable crime—one House Speaker Pelosi is

promising will result in impeachment. His alleged nefarious aim was to disrupt and stop Congress from certifying the election results, which of course still happened on the same day.

This fantasy is belied by the transcript of the speech, as FrontPage's Joseph Klein [reported](#). Trump says nothing that any reasonable person would construe as suggesting the protestors turn to violence in order stop the certification of the election results. As for indicting the President for "incitement" to commit a crime, UCLA law professor Eugene Volokh [points](#) out that Supreme Court precedents like *Brandenburg vs. Ohio* have made the bar for criminalizing protected speech as incitement very high, requiring a proof of intent beyond all reasonable doubt.

Similarly, the elevated rhetoric about the Capitol as the "temple of democracy" or the "people's temple" is pure bathos. It's also strange considering that the "people" year after year express in polls their contempt for Congress. And such dislike is well deserved, given how serious problems like ballooning debt and unfunded liabilities are kicked down the road year after year, or pork-laden spending bills are passed, like the recent \$1.4 trillion [one](#) crammed with superfluous goodies for various political clients. We know that with few exceptions, members of Congress continue to monetize their "public service" after they leave office, joining consultant businesses and white-shoe law firms, and sitting on corporate boards. With a few noble exceptions, there are not many Solons or Lincolns stalking the halls of Congress.

As for venerating buildings and monuments, such talk from the Dems is utterly shameless, given how they have endorsed and celebrated the toppling of public monuments to our history, and shrugged off the burning of federal buildings by BLM and their Antifa black-shirts.

In any case, what we should admire and respect is not the bricks and marble of the Capitol, but the Constitution and the ideals that the Capitol represents: political freedom, separation of powers, accountability to the citizens, and federalism. The progressives have been vandalizing these Constitutional bulwarks of our freedom for going on a century; it is likely that a Biden administration and Democrat control of Congress will further that destruction. That outcome will be more consequential and shameful than the broken windows in the Capitol building. "Men make the city," the Athenian Nicias exhorted his beleaguered hoplites in Sicily, and no amount of stately architecture can make up for corrupt men.

Finally, the real question is, why? Why, with only a week left in his term, expend all this dudgeon and hatred on a lame-duck president?

Because Donald Trump blew up the whole technocratic elite paradigm with his candidacy, election, his success in office. All the big-government fiefs and their received dogmas that had year after year failed even as they grew more powerful, were exposed as staffed by tenured clerks at best, and globalist grifters at worst. He scorned the bipartisan consensus that "democratic norms," "bipartisanship," and federal agency guild loyalties are more important than defending the Constitution, protecting the freedom of citizens, and tending the nation's security and interests. And he did it by succeeding both at home and abroad. In any endeavor, success by an outsider is the unforgiveable sin.

Most important, he exposed the "woke," politically correct tyranny over the culture, schools, and government that too few Republicans, again with some noble exceptions, fought against. Indeed, they

preemptively cringed like a battered housewife and legitimized many “woke” shibboleths by using their Orwellian vocabulary like “sexist” or “racist” or “xenophobe,” instead of vigorously repudiating them. Trump spoke for the working class and the patriots whom their party solicited for votes, but whose interests the D.C. elite neglected and culture they deplored.

Trump’s exposure of that bipartisan failure, along with the elite’s class and credential snobbery, was so painful that a sitting president—Barack Obama—instigated an illegal investigation of the newly elected president by corrupting and weaponizing officials in the FBI and DOJ. They failed, but a pandemic gave the Dems an opportunity they did not let go to waste. And even though they have won—under suspicious circumstances, we should always note—they still want to take vengeance and humiliate their tormentor.

As for Republicans who didn’t descend into the NeverTrump swamps but gave Trump his due, they now figure there’s no more upside to being tainted by association with such an allegedly reprehensible character and possible criminal. Their rhetoric about the D.C riot is a form of preemptive virtue-signaling to assure the new regime that they’re done with Trump and Trumpism, and are ready to go back to the postwar paradigm of fundamental agreement about the redistributionist federal Leviathan, and the “rules-based international order.” Sure, there will remain disagreements here and there over details like marginal tax-rates or budget items, but there will be no revolutionary changes like Trump’s. Our one chance for rolling back a hundred years of progressive abuse of the Constitution will be lost.

So all the disorder, tweet-storms, fake news, “cancel culture,” riots, vicious attacks, and social ostracizing instigated by the progressives will be loaded onto Trump’s back. He will be driven from the public square into the political wilderness, and we all can return to our cherished “democratic norms” and bipartisan bonhomie.

I don’t think so. The further assaults on our freedom, our traditions, our history, our faiths have only just begun.

Bruce Thornton is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article first appeared in the Stanford University Hoover Institution Update of January 11 2021.

ON THE ROAD TO DYSTOPIA

BY PHILIP AHLRICH

When O'Brien, the interrogator from the Thought Police in Orwell's 1984, holds up four fingers and asks Winston Smith, an imprisoned member of the underground opposition, how many he sees, poor Winston persists in saying he sees four. But that is not what O'Brien wants to hear. "No, Winston, you are insane. There are five fingers." The interrogations continue until Winston, wracked with pain and exhaustion and persuaded of his insanity, agrees finally through his tears that he was lying to himself, that he had always been lying to himself, and admitted that he saw five fingers. He understood that two and two make five. Emptied of his individuality and broken by the inquisition, he also knew that he had won the victory over himself. He knew he was a flaw in the social pattern. He learned, he understood, he accepted. And in the end, he knew that he loved Big Brother.

The new liberal programs of revisionist history and psychological persecution now directed toward the American people are not at all dissimilar to the enforcement techniques of Orwell's Thought Police. Whoever controls the present controls both past and future. The Democrats are telling us to live with a lie and to believe the lie, for the lie is stronger than the truth. They do not tell us that such compulsory instructions are the instruments of a totalitarian regime.

The great lie is that America is a racist nation, that the Constitution of the United States is a racist document, and that you are a racist if you believe otherwise. We are told to believe these things or we are judged insane by those who are insane. Unfinished minds that accept these misguided narratives in pursuit of political identity and power are mistaking a disease of reason for a virtue. Any political movement toward unrestricted power requires pervasive thought and behavioral controls upon targeted populations, and we are now watching the Democratic Party, a faction entirely without conscience, accelerating rapidly down these lines of force in pursuit of one-party rule and eventual socialism.

Liberalism is the excuse for insanity. It is the kind of insanity that thinks itself sane. It puts reason in chains and makes the victim dance to the anarch's music. If liberals cannot understand that the people are the better guardians of their own interests, it is because their ideology does not permit that understanding. Their doctrinaire habits of thinking have made them as stupid as their madness has made them blind. They see nothing of the evil within themselves, nothing of the evil of their teaching, and nothing of the evils that wait upon a nation weakened by internal strife. When the strong argument of freedom is set against the weaker argument of force, only a doctrinaire liberal, unfamiliar with the qualities of reason, will choose the latter.

America cannot survive without understanding who the left are. Their operating principle is the very soul of intimidation and force. The BLM separatist movement proudly proclaims its ties to Marxism on its website. Leftist anarchists burned and rioted all summer in America's cities, and New York's governor Andrew Cuomo ridiculed the idea that protests should be peaceful. Democrats, including Kamala Harris, applauded and encouraged these rioters and offered bail for those few who were arrested. Restrictions and lockdowns on private enterprise in Democrat-controlled cities and states are destroying the nation's economy as the lights of entrepreneurial activity, by the thousands, are blinking out across America. Wherever Democrats go, threat, violence, and censorship follow, and small businesses fail. These are the inevitable consequences of the left's malignant influence, and the algorithms for despotism are programmed throughout their party's doctrine. Political persecution and dependency on government are not merely features but are the very structure of the Democratic Party's rising scaffold of perpetual one-party rule.

Despotism always believes in its own righteousness. There can be no question that one-party rule is the definition of democracy in the dictionary of liberal-speak. To that end, America's current electoral system, established by individual state legislatures, is the means by which the worst elements of subversion may enter and occupy the centers of governing authority. During the 2020 national elections, county election boards in several key states, under the cover of COVID restrictions, unlawfully overruled their state legislatures by creating new mail-in balloting and vote-counting schemes that allowed for significant uncontested fraud. The consequences of this flawed election are soon to be realized in further repeated attempts by progressives upon the nation's democratic institutions.

It is the ultimate irony that an America restored to her radical founding principles would be considered "too radical" by modern liberal instruction. Neither party can hold a copyright on human rights. The

most fundamental principles of civil society and government are above the small matters of politics -- but when one party chooses to abandon these principles in pursuit of power, it remains for the other to protect them with greater care. The American people, long accustomed as we are to civility, free expression, and political reconciliation, were not sufficiently prepared for the left's foreign influence nor their poisonous hate and brutality.

Neither were we prepared for their further entrenchment at the highest levels of state and federal government. The Democratic Party, now the servant of leftist gangsterism, will soon become the faction that rules America, and already its activists are guilty of numerous attempts to infringe upon the protected rights of the American people. But it is not the function of government to protect the guilty from the innocent. The world should not be surprised by the upsurging waves of civil disobedience that are yet to come.

Unlike Winston Smith's fatal conversion to political correctness, American conservatism and common sense will triumph in the end because the authoritarian alternatives to Western democracy are serial phases of social engineering, political repression, economic decline, and ultimate collapse.

Conservatism, like mathematics, works every time it is tried. Its governing philosophy sustains a commitment to the nation's fundamental principles: to constitutionalism and the separation of powers, to equality and freedom under law, to the protection of individual rights, and to the preservation of self-government. Conservatism requires that the institutions necessary for the survival of free and open societies are protected. It insists that civil rights are not to be considered as privileges of tribal identity politics. It affirms that every citizen shall enjoy the right of free expression without fear of intimidation or censorship. Conservatism means, in brief, that political ideology cannot interfere with truth. It means that, without liberal interference or totalitarian designs on power, two and two are four -- and that alone is victory.

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