COLAB
San Luis Obispo County

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE
JULY 11 - 17, 2021

THIS WEEK

THE BOS SHOULD STOP THE DANCE(s)

TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD PROCESS RAISES SOME QUESTIONS

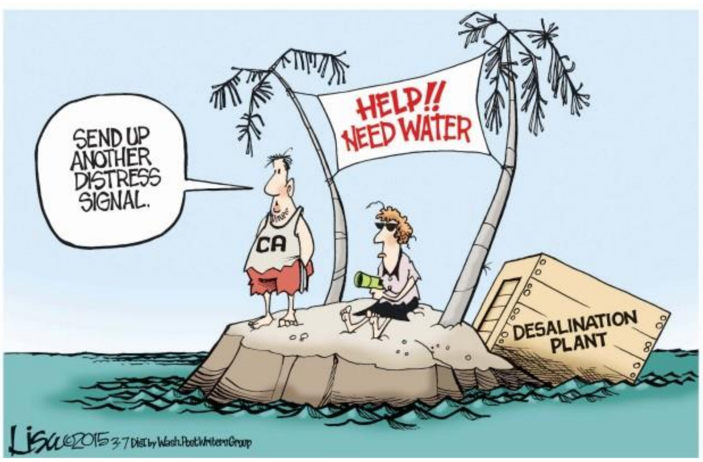
MORE TAX MONEYAND PLANNING FOR BROADBAND – WILL IT GET FASTER?
(HOW DOES THE COUNTY "HELP"?)

MORE MONEY FROM YOUR ELECTRIC RATES TO DO REGIONAL EFFICIENCY PLANNING FOR "HARD TO REACH" CUSTOMERS

DIABLO DEMOLITION EIR READY TO GO – CLOSING IT IS GOING TO HAVE CLASS I UNMITIGABLE IMPACTS LIKE 800 TONS OF CO_2 PER YEAR
NOT TO MENTION BLACKOUTS

$18.2 MILLION GRANT FOR 4.5 MILES OF BOB JONES TRAIL APPROVED
(THIS IS A WEALTHY AND HEAVILY TAXED SOCIETY)
BUT WILL THEY NEED IMMINENT DOMAIN?

DROUGHT EMERGENCY TO BE DECLARED – BUT INDUSTRIAL SCALE DESALINATION HAS BEEN IGNORED
IS THE DECLARATION ONLY SYMBOLIC?



VACATION RENTALS APPEAL IN AVILA BEACH
ARE PEOPLE OPPOSED JUST FOR THE SAKE OF OPPOSING?

CONTROVERSIAL CANNABIS APPEAL EAST OF PASO
ILLUSTRATES COUNTY BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE GENERALLY

APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR APPOINMENT OF AN INTERIM CLERK-RECORDER- ELECTION OFFICAL
SOME FOLKS ARE ALREADY LOBBYING FOR IT
BE READY FOR A LOT OF FAKE TEARS ON THIS ONE

IWMA TO APPOINT PAAVO OGREN AS INTERIM DIRECTOR

LAFCO CANCELED AGAIN

OTHER MATTERS

CENTRAL COAST ENERGY SCAM FURTHER EXPOSED

LAST WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELED

COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 19

THE GENESIS OF OUR AMERICAN COLLECTIVE MELTDOWN
Our adversaries can't quite believe their good fortune. Had they thought up ways to divide and impoverish America, they could not have improved on our own collective meltdown.
BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting (BOS) of Tuesday, July 13, 2021 (Scheduled)

Item 2 - Request to adopt the amended policies and procedures for operation and conduct of hearings before the Assessment Appeals Board. The Administrative Office is recommending that the Board amend/add to some process rules pertaining to the hearings of the Assessment Appeals Board. If you as a property owner disagree with your assessment, you file an appeal. Then, if you and the Assessor cannot come to agreement, your appeal goes to the Assessment Appeals Board.

One of the new provisions indicates that from the time an appeal is filed, it will typically require 2 to 8 months prior to the setting of a hearing. Prior to accepting this one, the Board should ascertain the reason it takes so long. The only performance measure in the Budget related to assessment appeals does not disclose the total number of appeals, the number which are sustained, or the number which are denied. It is therefore impossible for the Board or the general public to ascertain the relative volumes and degree of difficulty. The process should be measured and analyzed prior to approving the change. Is the Budget office analyzing this sort of item prior to allowing Board letters to go forward? Commonly, it would take the relevant analyst only ten minutes to check this stuff out.

3. Performance Measure: The number of assessment appeals filed for every 1,000 assessments.

When property owners disagree with their property's assessed value, they may file for an Assessment Appeal hearing with the Assessment Appeals Board. The number of real property appeals is used as an indicator of accuracy and equity among assessments. A low number of appeals is associated with a greater degree of accuracy and the property owner's satisfaction with their assessments.

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Target	1.00	0.80	0.80	1.50	1.50
Actual	1.10	1.20	1.50	1.40	

Notes: No additional notes.

The measure is okay in and of itself, but there is no way the reader, the Board, or County management can tell if the results are good or bad because absent the ordinate data, no can know how hard or easy it is.

After the filing of a valid and timely application for reduction of an assessment and in consideration of other applications, the Clerk of the Board (Clerk) will set the matter for hearing and notify the Applicant or his or her designated representative in writing of the time, date and place of the hearing subject to the exceptions set forth in Revenue and Taxation Code Section 1605.6. It has historically taken from two to eight months on average for the Clerk to set a hearing on an application for reduction of an assessment; however, this may temporarily change from time to time, including due to the impacts of COVID-19.

The second change provides the Appeals Board with case-by-case discretion over the order in which it will hear appeals as well as the protocol for who presents first and second during the hearing. There is a principle called the "applicable presumption," which should be explained in the Board room, as it is given as part of the rationale by which the Appeals Board determines who goes first.

The Board will determine which party must produce evidence first after the application is read into the record and a determination is made regarding the burden of production of evidence / burden of proof based on the nature of the appeal / applicable presumption. The party against whom the applicable presumption operates must present evidence at the outset of the hearing sufficient to rebut the presumption (e.g. if the presumption operates against the Applicant, the Applicant must present evidence sufficient to rebut the correctness of the assessed value before the Assessor is required to provide evidence substantiating the assessed value). The Board may ask questions throughout the hearing.

Apparently the Board will be able to interrupt citizen presentations rather than waiting until they are finished. For lay citizens who are not used to presenting, this could be an unnerving experience.

Overall, it appears that these changes are for the benefit of the government, and not so much for the appellants.

Big Picture:

The current property tax system is a barrier to the creation and maintenance of workforce housing. This is because the properties are assessed at their full market value upon creation or resale. A significant portion of the cost of creating new homes includes the cost of meeting permitting requirements, processing, hiring experts, and paying the multitude of departmental permitting fees. Additionally, there are the exactions for impacts on roads, parks, public safety facilities, government owned utilities, schools, and housing in lieu fees. These of course are passed through to the purchaser.

What if the Board, Assessor, and civic groups led an effort (ultimately Statewide) to discount property tax assessments by these costs, which the ultimate owner already paid? These could amount to tens of thousands of dollars or more. Isn't it double dipping by the County and other governments? The rapacious desire for ever more revenue will untimely outstrip the alleged benefit being provided by the County and other governmental entities. After all, for every dollar of salary being expended in the County, 50 cents additional must be pumped into the pension system, most of which is a County cost, one way or the other.

Long term property holders are buffered by Prop 13, but upcoming generations are screwed. Many X'ers, Millennials, and Z'ers cry about the housing costs, yet at the same time generally support expanded government, especially the whole climatista ideology. If they ever wake up, there could be a real wake up call.

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Generation	Birth year range	Age in 2019
Generation Z	After 1996	22 and under
Millennials	1981 to 1996	23 to 38
Generation X	1965 to 1980	39 to 54
Baby Boomers	1946 to 1964	55 to 73
Silent Generation	1928 to 1945	74 to 91

Figure 2 - Pew

Item 3 - Request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) and allocate $25,000 from the General Fund Designation SB1090 Proceeds-Economic Development to Fund Center 104, by 4/5 vote, for use as the County match for the related County-wide Broadband Strategic Plan. What the heck are they attempting to accomplish here? The write-up recommends that the Board authorize $25,000 as a match on a $100,000 US Commerce Department Economic Development Administration grant. The stated purpose is to use the funding to somehow improve broadband internet speed in the County as a stimulus for more economic development.

The write-up presents a group of tables which show that internet speed available from various providers in the county is slow.

Table 1.2 - Broadband download speeds								
Cable download speeds - claimed throughout service area								
Charter Communications	100 Mbps							
Comcast	150 Mbps							
Cox Communications	150 Mbps							
Time Warner Cable	300 Mbps							
AT&T	**768 Kbps**	**1.5 Mbps**	**3 Mbps**	**6 Mbps**	**12 Mbps**	**18 Mbps**	**24 Mbps**	**45 Mbps**
San Luis Obispo County	361	1,074	800	377	1,215	394		
Ventura County	85	634	242	93	1,171	1,084	113	156
Verizon	**1 Mbps**	**1.5 Mbps**	**3 Mbps**	**5 Mbps**	**7 Mbps**	**10 Mbps**	**15 Mbps**	**100 Mbps**
San Luis Obispo County	8	5	4	8	3	39	18	
Santa Barbara County	57	357	450	331	1,156	594	1,992	67
Ventura County	106	427	458	278	751	251	780	3,131

*data as of 2016 report

The funding would be spent to develop a "County Broadband Strategic Plan." We thought that a plan was already funded back in 2012 or thereabouts. Whatever happened to that one? Also, there was other work funded having to do with the County tapping into various fiber optic utilities. Whatever became of that project?

The big question is, how does having a County Broadband Strategic plan obtain faster services? The providers are huge national private sector corporations. Their decisions are based on strategic business plans using data about subscriber penetration, revenues, regulatory matters, etc.

What will this project do in this regard to provide faster speeds? The County is already complicit in shutting down Diablo and Phillips 66, who are probably big customers of some of these companies.

Item 15 - Request to authorize the Director of Planning and Building to execute a Memorandum of Understanding, and future agreement and any amendments to enter into a Rural Regional Energy Network with the Rural Hard to Reach Working Group. This is yet another expansion of government into what has traditionally been the role of the private sector investor owned utilities.

A Regional Energy Network (REN) is a structure that allows local governments to organize, collaborate, and operate as an energy efficiency program administrator to deliver regional-scale energy efficiency solutions. Comprised of local and regional government agencies, a REN is an alternative to Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) energy management programs. A REN receives ratepayer funding from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to design and implement regional energy efficiency programs.

It is not clear who will deliver these services or how they will do it. There is no problem definition explaining the degree of the problem or how many people in SLO County are affected. The program has been running in the past, but there is no data on what has been accomplished or even if there still is a problem in SLO County.

• *Workforce Education and Training – this program offers technical energy efficiency training courses, in-field installation, and business development and management trainings and certifications to local building professionals including contractors, engineers, architects, raters, realtors, appraisers, and local jurisdictions'.* ***.*** *3C-REN partners with local educational providers and professionals to deliver trainings that meet the needs of local building professionals.*

• *Residential Direct Install – this program works with hard-to-reach customers including renters and owners of single family and multi-family properties, and Disadvantaged Communities to provide customers access to Energy Advisor Consultation, no-cost and low-cost/co-pay energy upgrades, and the various benefits associated with those upgrades. 3C-REN partners with local, non-profits (e.g., CAPSLO) who currently deliver income-based programs.*

• *Codes and Standards – this program supports local municipal building department staff and design-side building professionals; and offer customers access to an over the counter, on-call, and/or in-the field Energy Code Coach Service, as well as tools, resources, and trainings to increase awareness and application of California building codes and standards. 3C-REN assists local building officials in improving code compliance, permit processes, and customer service.*

As noted above in the yellow highlight, the program is funded from ever increasing electric rates. Are the people promoting this pushing natural gas bans? How does the Central Coast Community Energy scam fit into this one?

Item 26 - Request to approve the special services consulting contract with Aspen Environmental Group, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $1,667,851 to prepare the Environmental Impact Report for the PG&E Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant decommissioning and authorize the Department of Planning and Building Director to execute amendments to the contract. Aspen has worked on thousands of projects since the 1990s, primarily in California and the west. The firm prepared the EIR for the Topaz Solar Plant, now operating in the eastern county. This will be a huge project. As various questions build up we would expect the cost to increase over time. One significant question is how will the 8 million metric tonnes of CO_2 per year forestalled by the operation of the plant be mitigated as it is largely replaced with natural gas?

PG&E and you the rate payer will be paying for this huge EIR.

Item 38 - Submittal of a resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works, or designee, to accept the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 5 Grant funding in the amount of $18.2 million from the State of California and authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee, to act as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including but not limited to, agreements, payment requests, program supplement agreements, etc. for the Bob Jones Trail Gap Closure prioritized capital improvement project. The County has received an extraordinary State grant under the State's Active Transportation Program (ATP) for completion of the Bob Jones Trail. The $18.2 million funding is the 2nd largest grant in the State for this funding cycle. While this is a locally popular project, one must wonder where the State's transportation priorities lie, given that the highway system was designed for 20 million people and now serves 40 million people.

Driving in urban portions of the State as well as on Interstate 5 and Highway 99 is becoming like a scene out of the film Road Warrior.

The County applied for, and received, $18.248 million in ATP Grant funds for continued design, Right of Way, and construction of the project from the CTC on March 24, 2021. This was the County's third attempt at securing ATP Grant funds for this project. The program is consistently oversubscribed, and the region has seen few awards over the previous four funding cycles. This is one of the largest transportation grants ever awarded to the County and the second largest award in the state for this grant cycle. Adoption of the attached resolution will allow Public Works, in coordination with Parks and Recreation, to execute grant funding documents to complete the design, Right of Way acquisition, and construction of the Bob Jones Pathway between the County's staging area on Ontario Road in Avila Beach, to the Octagon Barn in the City of San Luis Obispo. Finalization of the plans, specifications and estimates is expected to be complete in February 2022. Right of Way acquisition is expected to begin this fall and be complete by February 2023. The project currently has verbal agreement for rights of way along approximately 90% of the alignment. Construction is currently projected to begin in spring of 2023 with completion by spring of 2025

A problem is building up because not all of the right of way for the trail has been acquired. There is the possibility that imminent domain might be considered for certain properties where the owners have expressed an unwillingness to sell right of way. In the past various Boards of Supervisors have promised not to invoke imminent domain on this project and even included provisions stating that it would not use imminent Doman on the project in the County General Plan.

The unconstructed portion is shown by the red dashes and is the subject of the grant and the right of way issues.

Some people whose land might be taken are worried about privacy. 43,000 people used the trail last year. What is the ultimate projection? You can't have a vacation rental but 100,000 people can wander through your place? Will the County ban development or cannabis within 500 feet of the trail? Could it host homeless campgrounds? Just about every trail and creek in SLO City is swarming with vagrants.

Item 39 - Request to 1) receive and file a report on current drought conditions and related Management actions and 2) adopt a resolution issuing a proclamation of local Emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County. The County will declare a drought emergency. The upshot seems to be that people will be encouraged to use less water. Some provisions of the last drought emergency which ended in 2017 apparently remained in place. These include:

On April 7, 2017, Governor Brown ended the drought state of emergency for most of California and issued Executive Order B-40-17, directing state agencies to update temporary emergency water restrictions and transition to permanent, long-term improvements in water use, making conservation a California way of life. The State mandated water conservation regulations that continue to remain in effect:

• No watering of outdoor landscapes that cause runoff
• No using hoses without shut-off nozzles
• No using water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated
• No washing of driveways & sidewalks
• No outdoor irrigation during and 48 hours following rain
• Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers upon request
• Hotels and Motels must provide guests with the option of not having towels and linens laundered daily

Again, it is too bad that SLO County and Santa Barbara County have not combined to conduct a feasibility study of the capital costs, operating costs, environmental issues, and finances of industrial scale desalination serving the urban coastal areas

Item 40 - Hearing to consider an appeal (APPL2020-00019) by HDFT Investments, LLC of the Planning Commission's denial of a Development Plan/Coastal Development Permit (DRC2020-00081) to amend approved condition of approval 1.g of recorded Tract 3091 (SUB2015-00026) to allow any unit to be utilized as a vacation rental, subject to Land Use Ordinance 23.08.165 (Residential Vacation Rentals). The project is located On the southwest corner of First and San Antonia Streets, within the community of Avila Beach, in the San Luis Bay Coastal Planning Area. This one has been brewing since 2016, when the Planning Commission approved a new 8-unit condo in Avila Beach. One of the conditions imposed was that only one unit (a one-bedroom) could be used as a vacation rental. The current project owner appealed the one unit restriction to the Planning Commission in 2020 and was denied. That denial is being appealed to the Board of Supervisors.

The area is full of lodging facilities, as demonstrated on the graphic below in blue. The site, although not zoned commercial, is very commercial in tone and full of people wandering around eating ice cream. Some of the Avilians are opposed to more vacation rentals because of the already existing traffic and parking congestion. It is unlikely that the Board will overturn their Planning Commissioners, who unanimously denied the addition of more vacation rental units.

It may be difficult to sell the units in this setting without the possibility of their being used as vacation suites. Buyers will probably be out of town part time residents who would enjoy the income when they are not in town. More fundamentally, and not withstanding some problems with vacation rentals generally, should the government be able to regulate a legitimate residential use on the basis of prohibiting rentals for less than 30 consecutive days? Will the COVID eviction prohibitions become increasingly more permanent as governments find out that it will be difficult to wean people off the subsidies? As the number of regulatory intrusions accumulate over the years, property rights are cumulatively eroded. Housing costs rise inexorably.

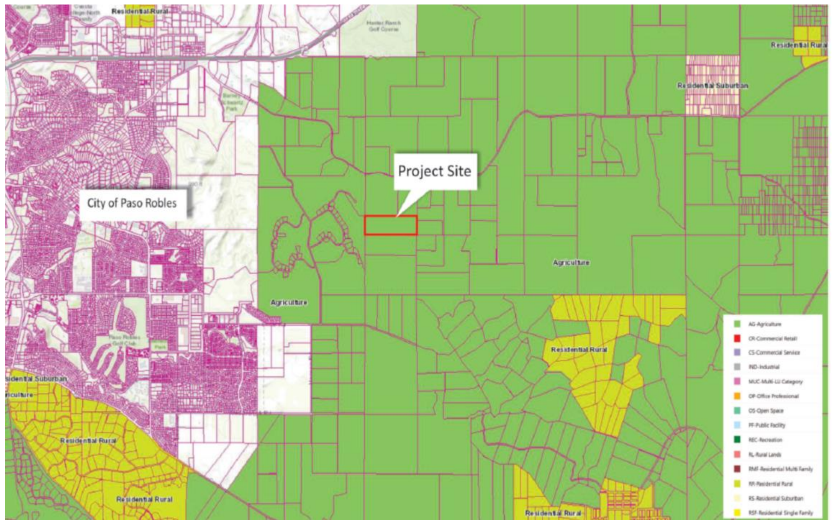
MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

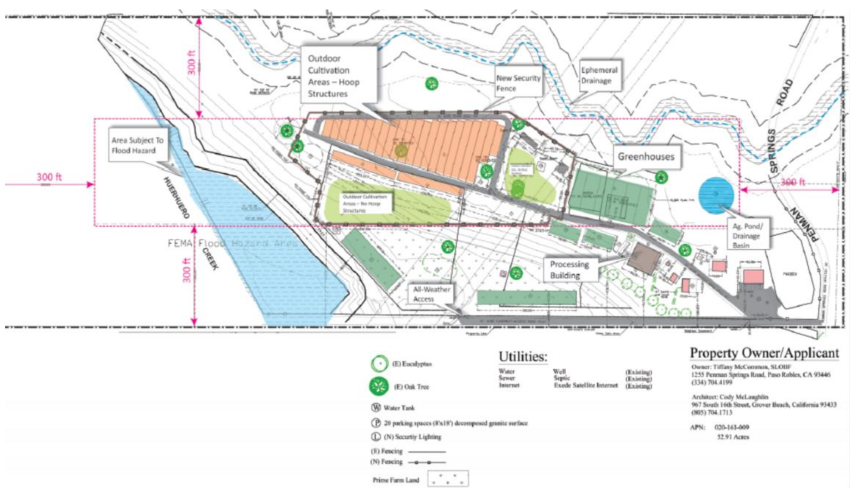
Item 42 - Hearing to consider an appeal (APPL2020-00022) by Christina Maldonado of the Planning Department Hearing Officer's approval of a Minor Use Permit (DRC2018-00228) for SLO Cal Roots to establish: 3.39 acres of outdoor cannabis cultivation area; 27,500 square feet (sf) of indoor cannabis cultivation area; 34,800 sf of indoor ancillary nursery; 6,000 sf of ancillary indoor cannabis processing; and approximately 25,000 square feet of related site improvements. The project would result in approximately 6.2 acres of disturbance including 5,000 cubic yards of cut and fill on an approximately 54-acre site located at 1255 Penman Springs Road, approximately 1.25 miles east of the City of Paso Robles. The neighbors are appealing the Hearing Officer's approval of the project. They are concerned about water use and impact on their wells, odor, large buildings, hoop houses, traffic, visual blight, noise, and the appearance of "unsavory" characters on the site.

One dilemma for the Board is that the staff and the Planning Commission found that the project, as modified several times, complies with the County's cannabis zoning ordinance.

A second dilemma is that the record demonstrates extensive opposition. The opponents have taken out ads in local publications to rally opposition to the project.

A third dilemma is that the County is losing money on cannabis as the regulatory process, inspections, enforcement costs, and processing overhead are all costing more than the County is receiving from fees and taxes. This is ostensibly because so few applicants have made it through the process and even fewer cannabis operations are in taxable. The black market remains a formidable force. In effect the Board can neither retreat nor advance. While voters supported legalization of recreational cannabis, many do not like living near its production. This is somewhat analogous to everyone riding around in their large pickups but at the same time opposing fossil fuel development in the County.





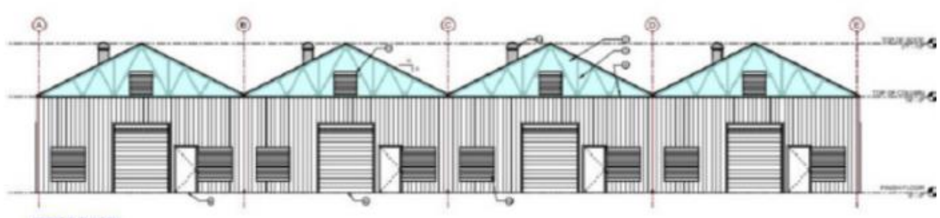


Table 1

Project Summary SLO CAL Roots (DRC2018-00228)						
Proposed Cannabis Activity	Project Component	Quantity				
		Canopy		Gross		
		SF	Acres	SF	Acres	
Outdoor Cultivation	Areas 1, 2, & 3 (Within *Hoop Houses)*	55,950	2.96	74,600	3.39	
	Areas 4-7 (*No Hoop Houses)*	73,000		73,000		
Indoor Cultivation	New Greenhouse (6 @ ~4,578 sf each)	22,000	0.51	27,500	0.63	
Indoor Ancillary Nursery	New Greenhouses (3 @ 3,600 sf each, 2 @ 12,000 sf each)	34,800	0.80	34,800	0.80	
Ancillary Processing New Steel Building	Processing / Cannabis Storage	*5,680*	0.13	6,000	0.14	
	Other Uses (Office & Restroom)	*320*	*> 0.01*			
Storage (Nutrients, Pesticides, & Equipment)	New & Existing Structures	*none*	*n/a*	4,580	0.11	
Trash, Recycling, Compost	Proposed	*n/a*	*n/a*	1,000	0.02	
Compost Waste Area	Proposed	*n/a*	*n/a*	4,400	0.10	
Drainage Basin & Ag Pond	Proposed	*n/a*	*n/a*	14,500	0.33	
Shade Structures for Water Storage Area	Proposed to shade the water storage tanks	*n/a*	*n/a*	1,200	0.03	
Well/Water Tank	Existing well & 1 existing 5,000 gallon water tank. Five additional water tanks are proposed. 4 @ 5,000 gallons each for irrigation & 1 for fire storage purposes, sized between 10,000 & 50,000 gallons.	*n/a*	*n/a*	600	0.02	
Parking	20 spaces @ 8' x 18' plus & one ADA accessible space	*n/a*	*n/a*	3,255	0.07	
Estimated Total				*245,435*	*5.63*	

Item 43 - Discussion and direction regarding the appointment of a person to fill the Office of Clerk-Recorder to complete the remainder of the unexpired term of office following the vacancy created by the resignation of Clerk-Recorder Tommy Gong. State Law requires that the Board of Supervisors appoint a Clerk-Recorder (who is also the Chief County Election Official) but does not set a deadline. The State Attorney General advises that the appointment must be made in a "reasonable" time frame. County Counsel has provided legal background and a recommended process for the Board to make an appointment. The person selected would serve until December 2022. He or she would have to run for election in 2022 to retain the job. The proposed schedule is detailed on the next pages below:

ATTACHMENT 2
PROPOSED SELECTION PROCESS TO FILL
UNEXPIRED TERM OF OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

Recruitment Timeline and Process

1. August 1-31	Human Resources advertises that the Board is accepting applications for appointment to fill the remaining term of office.
2. September 1-30	Human Resources will: Compile applicant resumes, verify submission of Declaration of Residence and Voter Registration (as noted above, an “applicant” need not be a county resident and registered voter of the county until the time of appointment) Review resumes for minimum qualifications Convene the subcommittee to review applications and select top five applicants to send to background and refer to the Board for interview. Conduct applicant background checks of finalists
3. October/November	Schedule applicants who have passed background for open session interviews with the Board Board interviews applicants and appoints at a special meeting and designates effective start date

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3. October/November	Schedule applicants who have passed background for open session interviews with the Board Board interviews applicants and appoints at a special meeting and designates effective start date

3. At the conclusion of deliberations, a member of the Board makes a motion to appoint a specified applicant as the Clerk-Recorder, and the Board would designate an effective start date.

San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) meeting of Wednesday, July 14, 2021; 1:30 PM (Scheduled)

Item 14 - Pavvo Ogren to be Appointed as Interim Executive Director. Ogren had served as Director of Public Works of the County for 7 years. He also served as Director of the Oceano Community Services District. His compensation will be $186,000 per year.

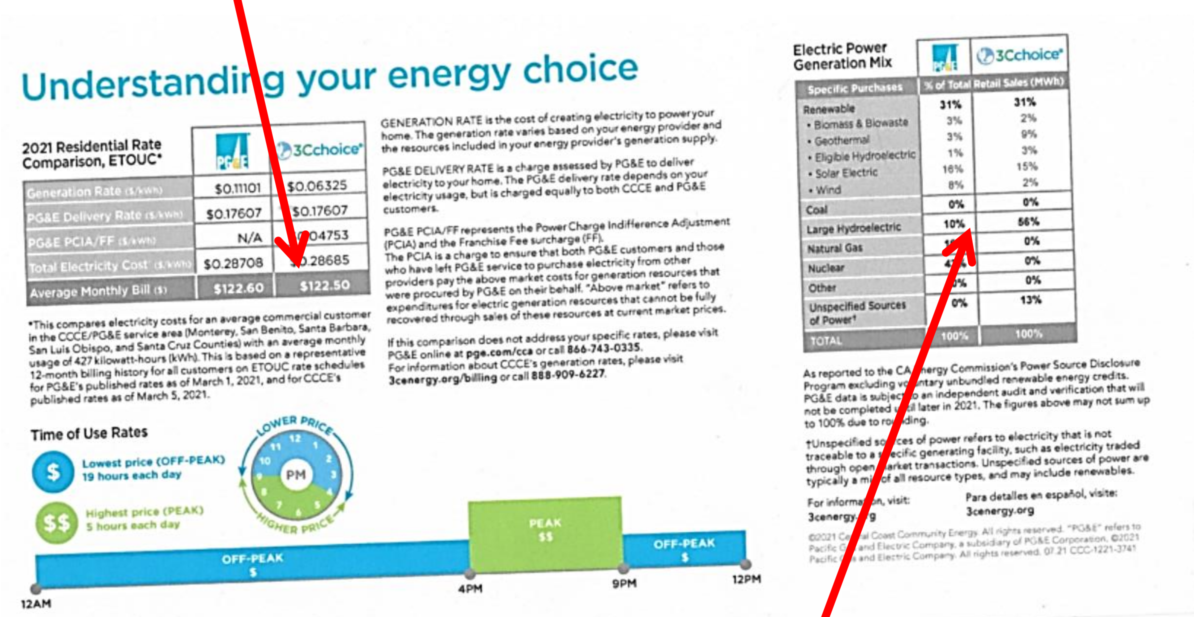
The IWMA will conduct a search for a permanent Executive Director.

The meeting has been cancelled. No reason for the cancellation was provided.

OTHER MATTERS

Item 1 - Central Coast Community Energy Authority (CCCE) to "decouple" its rates from PG&E. Reality is closing in on the community choice energy scam. The CCCE promised to provide lower rates than PG&E. It started out providing slightly lower rates ($1.30 per month) for its least green plan but the gap has been closing. Per the latest mailing from CCCE, the "savings" is down to 10 cents per month for the average household. As the trend continues, CCCE members' rates will soon exceed PG&E's.

Separately, PG&E is requesting a general rate increase. If approved by the California Public Utilities Commission, it will impact CCCE customers as a portion of PG&E's rates are passed through to the CCCE for delivery costs and the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PICA) for amortization of capital costs attributable to CCCE participants prior to its formation.



Understanding your energy choice

2021 Residential Rate Comparison, ETOUC*	PG&E	3Cchoice®
Generation Rate ($/kWh)	$0.11101	$0.06325
PG&E Delivery Rate ($/kWh)	$0.17607	$0.17607
PG&E PCIA/FF ($/kWh)	N/A	$0.04753
Total Electricity Cost ($/kWh)	$0.28708	$0.28685
Average Monthly Bill ($)	$122.60	$122.50

*This compares electricity costs for an average commercial customer in the CCCE/PG&E service area (Monterey, San Benito, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz Counties) with an average monthly usage of 427 kilowatt-hours (kWh). This is based on a representative 12-month billing history for all customers on ETOUC rate schedules for PG&E's published rates as of March 1, 2021, and for CCCE's published rates as of March 5, 2021.

GENERATION RATE is the cost of creating electricity to power your home. The generation rate varies based on your energy provider and the resources included in your energy provider's generation supply.

PG&E DELIVERY RATE is a charge assessed by PG&E to deliver electricity to your home. The PG&E delivery rate depends on your electricity usage, but is charged equally to both CCCE and PG&E customers.

PG&E PCIA/FF represents the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) and the Franchise Fee surcharge (FF). The PCIA is a charge to ensure that both PG&E customers and those who have left PG&E service to purchase electricity from other providers pay the above market costs for generation resources that were procured by PG&E on their behalf. "Above market" refers to expenditures for electric generation resources that cannot be fully recovered through sales of these resources at current market prices.

If this comparison does not address your specific rates, please visit PG&E online at **pge.com/cca** or call **866-743-0335**. For information about CCCE's generation rates, please visit **3cenergy.org/billing** or call **888-909-6227**.

Electric Power Generation Mix

Specific Purchases	PG&E (% of Total Retail Sales (MWh))	3Cchoice® (% of Total Retail Sales (MWh))
Renewable	31%	31%
• Biomass & Biowaste	3%	2%
• Geothermal	3%	9%
• Eligible Hydroelectric	1%	3%
• Solar Electric	16%	15%
• Wind	8%	2%
Coal	0%	0%
Large Hydroelectric	10%	56%
Natural Gas	[illegible]	0%
Nuclear	[illegible]	0%
Other	[illegible]	0%
Unspecified Sources of Power†	0%	13%
TOTAL	100%	100%

As reported to the CA Energy Commission's Power Source Disclosure Program excluding voluntary unbundled renewable energy credits. PG&E data is subject to an independent audit and verification that will not be completed until later in 2021. The figures above may not sum up to 100% due to rounding.

†Unspecified sources of power refers to electricity that is not traceable to a specific generating facility, such as electricity traded through open market transactions. Unspecified sources of power are typically a mix of all resource types, and may include renewables.

For information, visit: 3cenergy.org

Para detalles en español, visite: 3cenergy.org

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What happens when Diablo shuts down? CCCE customers are getting their electric energy from PG&E. The energy which CCCE claims is coming from Large Hydro is actually based on the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs). See the explanation below:

Central Coast Community Energy falsely claims that it is proving more green energy than PG&E. As we reported in these pages last year, the whole system is a house of cards based on a scheme of so-called Renewable Energy Certificates (RECS).

After conducting a massive PR campaign to lure brainwashed climate crazy city councils and boards of supervisors into the program, 3CE has now admitted the truth. A long and complicated report, buried deep in its November 4, 2020 Board meeting agenda, stated in part:

Carbon Free Attributes – A Paper Product with No GHG Reduction Benefit
CCCE—like all other CCAs—meets its "carbon reduction" commitment in two ways. First, the procurement California based renewable credits from eligible renewable resource generation to meet the current state mandate (33% of energy demand in 2020, increasing to 60% by 2030).3 Second, and as an accounting exercise with no environmental benefit,CCCE—like all other CCAs—acquires renewable credits from ineligible resources like large hydro in order to offset unspecified power purchases (purchased to balance MBCP's load on an hourly basis) on its Power Content Label.

CCCE's ability to rely on CFAs to comply with Power Content Label accounting rules to appear "carbon free" is increasingly a non-workable solution for the following reasons: (1) appearing to be carbon free is simply not enough; (2) Northwest large hydro CFAs are increasingly scarce and more expensive; (3) spending money on CFAs is impacting CCA's ability to be cost competitive with Investor-Owned Utilities ("IOUs") considering the volatility of the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment ("PCIA"); and, (4) changes to the Power Content Label under AB 1110 will require MBCP to report some emissions (related to geothermal and biomass) regardless of large hydro CFAs.

They never made this explicit during their massive marketing campaign and ignored COLAB in both SLO and Santa Barbara Counties every time we brought it up. The dumb left politicians and progressive green advocacy groups had their way.

As can be seen in the 2 paragraphs highlighted above, the whole phony model is at risk of collapsing. The resulting financial maneuvering could mean that 3CE will have to burn down its reserves and hope that they and their sister agencies throughout the State can get the Legislature to bail them out by abolishing the PICA charge (which would have to be replaced by the taxpayers) and admitting legally that large hydro and nuclear are carbon free energy.

The article below from the Santa Maria Sun provides further insight into the scam.

Central Coast Community Energy overhauls electricity rates, looks to ramp up local energy programs

BY PETER JOHNSON

Since Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) first launched in 2018, it's made two promises to its ratepayers from Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara counties: that it will provide carbon-free electricity, and it will provide that electricity at a discounted rate.

NEW RATES

Central Coast Community Energy, which buys power for most of SLO and Santa Barbara counties, is changing its electricity rates—untethering them from PG&E.

While the regional public power provider says it still intends to keep both of those promises, 3CE is about to officially untether its rates from PG&E's.

On June 16, the 3CE policy board approved a new three-year rate structure that's based on its own costs, not its competitor's prices.

"Discounts themselves—that goes away entirely," 3CE Chief Operating Officer Rob Shaw told the policy board. "We need to be able to demonstrate our customer value separate from just where our relationship to PG&E rates are, because we have our own costs of providing service. We still need to remain competitive, and our cost-of-service proposal allows us to do so."

As a community choice aggregation utility, 3CE buys power on behalf of nearly a half-million customers on the Central Coast—including for six San Luis Obispo County cities, Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Solvang, and unincorporated Santa Barbara County—while PG&E continues to manage the grid.

During its four-year history—from its beginnings in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties to its recent southward expansion—3CE has promised rate reductions from PG&E ranging from 2 to 6 percent, creating an easy cost-savings pitch to customers.

But that model also had flaws, according to 3CE officials. It meant 3CE had to make constant rate adjustments—73 in all—to keep up with PG&E's ever-fluctuating rates. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate roller coaster impacted 3CE's budget to a point where it's now ending the 2020-21 fiscal year in a deficit, according to CEO Tom Habashi.

"When we started the year, we thought we'd end up with $26 million of surplus," Habashi told the 3CE policy board, which includes three elected officials from the SLO and Santa Maria area. "We are now projecting about $500,000 of deficiency."

While 3CE still has about $120 million banked in reserves, Habashi said that the loss is indicative of how the old rate model hurt 3CE's ability to effectively plan its finances—something he said will be even more important in the coming years as Diablo Canyon Power Plant is slated to shut down in 2024 and 2025.

The upcoming few years will be an anxious time for power providers across California, Habashi said, as they'll be expected to fill the carbon-free energy void left by Diablo Canyon. 3CE has pledged to grow its share of renewable energy to 60 percent of its total portfolio by 2025, and 100 percent by 2030, but regulators are ramping up the pressure now, Habashi said.

"For the next three years, there'll be a lot of push coming from the CPUC [California Public Utilities Commission]," he said. "They're not saying to PG&E, 'You're going to have to figure out a way to replace Diablo Canyon.' They're coming to all the load serving entities, like us, and saying, 'You've got an allocation of a certain amount of capacity you're going to need to bring online.'"

In addition to that stress, 3CE is also grappling with increases to the exit fees charged to customers leaving PG&E for 3CE, which are set by the CPUC for community choice aggregation utilities statewide.

"The squeeze is going to continue," Habashi said.

3CE's new rate plan—which is effective January 2022—will provide more financial stability and still allow it to charge competitive rates, officials said.

The rates are designed to generate 1 percent less revenue than PG&E's rates, with potential savings varying by 3CE customer class. According to estimates, residential customers are likely to see a 1 to 2 percent discount under the new rates.

In response to public feedback, 3CE axed a proposed fixed monthly charge on residential customers of $4.50—opting instead for an all-volumetric rate model.

Customers complained in public comments that a fixed charge unfairly impacted those who consumed less energy, like homeowners with rooftop solar systems or renters in smaller apartments. That change, in turn though, will place more of a financial burden on high-energy-use customers.

In another win for home solar advocates, 3CE also increased the rate it'd planned to pay customers who generate more energy for the grid than they consume each year.

Jumpstarting energy programs

Along with 3CE's rate overhaul, the policy board also talked about 3CE's local energy programs—which include incentives and rebates for electric car (EV) purchases, EV charging port installations, and building upgrades—and how they can get more investment and participation.

Energy programs receive 3 percent of 3CE's annual rate revenues, and despite budgeting as much as $7 million for them between 2018 and 2020, 3CE spent only $530,000 during that time, due to a lack of demand.

"What can we do to make sure the program budget is more utilized?" Santa Barbara County 1st District Supervisor and 3CE policy board member Das Williams asked at the June 16 meeting.

The programs picked up more steam in 2020 and 2021—dishing out more than $4 million in rebates, including a chunk to SLO developers to build the 577-home San Luis Ranch as all-electric. The policy board budgeted a record-high $12 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

"$12 million will be a challenge but I think it's a challenge staff is excited to meet," Shaw said.

According to Jon Griesser, director of energy programs, participation in the 3CE programs is as much linked to the overall progress of the clean energy industry on the Central Coast as it is to simply raising more awareness about 3CE's programs.

"There needs to be a lot of work done to put the necessary pieces in place to have market transformation," Griesser said. "There needs to be greater awareness of EVs, greater inventory at dealerships, both new and used, and they need to be in a position to not just have those cars on their lots, but effectively sell them. People need to be confident that once they buy them, they have the capability of charging them reliably and conveniently."

3CE is preparing to roll out six energy programs for the 2021-22 fiscal year. They include rebates and incentives to buy EVs and electric bikes, to install private and public EV charging stations, to electrify residential buildings with appliances like induction ranges and electric water heaters, and to electrify agricultural equipment like water pumps and tractors.

COLAB NOTE: What a bait and switch.

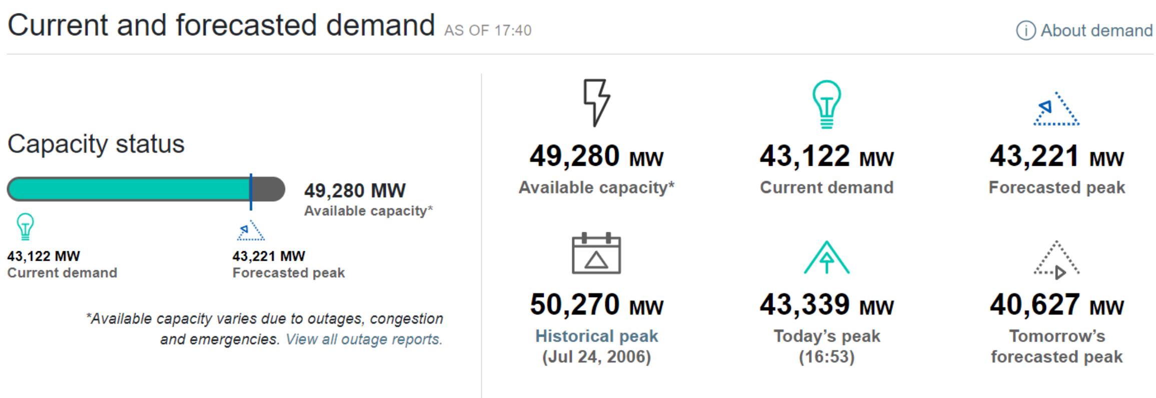
Those draft programs are out for public comment through July 13. Customers can review the details at 3ce.org and provide feedback at programs@3ce.org.

Assistant Editor Peter Johnson from the Sun's sister paper can be reached at pjohnson@newtimesslo.com.

Share:

Recently an authority in Riverside County went bankrupt. The truth is coming sooner than later. Meanwhile, all the politicians who support this have aided and abetted the destruction of a 100-year-old private sector investor owned company.

Oh, by the way: The fragility of the grid in California is illustrated below. On the hot afternoon of Friday July 9th, the energy demand closed to within 6,158 megawatts (mw) of the available capacity. Imports from out of state made up for 5,000 mw in the 5PM to 6 PM peak. If this were not available and even one large power plant had to shut down, there would have been blackouts. What if we had needed 50,000 mw?



We are importing energy from coal and nuclear plants in Arizona in the name of green energy!!!

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 (Not Scheduled)

The Board was on its summer recess. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, July 8, 2021 (Canceled)

The meeting was cancelled with no explanation.

COLAB IN DEPTH

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

THE GENESIS OF OUR AMERICAN COLLECTIVE MELTDOWN

Our adversaries can't quite believe their good fortune. Had they thought up ways to divide and impoverish America, they could not have improved on our own collective meltdown.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

This Fourth of July holiday we might pause for a moment from our festivities to ask how we collectively lost our minds over the last 15 months—and are we yet regaining any semblance of our sanity.

A pandemic caused by the leak of a Chinese-engineered virus and its cover-up was cause enough for nationwide madness. But the spread of COVID–19 was followed by a nationalized and often politicized "flatten-the-curve" quarantine that soon ensured a stir-crazy nation. Tens of millions saw no people, and heard nothing human other than what was fed to them through television and computers. No wonder they grew paranoid, conspiratorial, and angry, and soon forgot the therapeutic nature of personal interaction and the shared humanity of being in the physical presence of others.

Our first self-induced recession came next and lasted over a year, destroying all the hard work of the prior three years. Next ensued the death of George Floyd and a subsequent 120 days of rioting, looting, and arson. The immediate costs were $2 billion in damage, over 25 deaths, 14,000 arrests, and a *Lord of the Flies* anarchy with no-go zones in our major cities. A McCarthyite frenzy followed, as remote-controlled America hunted down the supposed "racists" among us—while career agendas, personal grudges, and ideological hatred fueled the cancel culture.

All this was antecedent to our first election in which Election Day voting was incidental, not essential, to the outcome. This was also our first presidential campaign in which the incumbent was stricken by a pandemic virus. And his opponent, due to his age and infirmity, simply reverted to the 19th century style of staying home and outsourcing the electioneering to the Democratic-media complex. Biden's basement became the equivalent of the "front-porch" of homebound candidates of a century and more ago.

The derangement was then capped off, first, by a buffoonish riot at the Capitol followed by a Reichstag-fire style militarization of Washington, D.C., in a "never let a crisis go to waste" psychodrama. Then came a novel *second* and unprecedented presidential impeachment, without a special prosecutor, witnesses, or cross examinations. It was based on the myth of a deadly "armed insurrection" fueled by President Trump, which purportedly led to the murder of a police officer. Later most of the writs of the House impeachment were proven fantasies, from the idea of "armed" and "well-organized" to "murderous" revolutionaries. The only mysteries were the identity of the unnamed officer who fatally shot an unarmed female protester and military veteran, and why the government has still not released thousands of hours of video detailing the riot.

That impeachment charade was followed by a trial in the Senate—without the chief justice presiding—of a president, who was no longer in office.

The finale was the promise of a "moderate" good ol' Joe Biden from Scranton—the supposed correction to Trump. In reality, Biden's first 150 days proved, as the cynics predicted, that he was mere cover and conveyance for the implementation of the most radical agenda since the 1930s.

So we can cut America some slack when we ponder why the entire country is now descending into a collective madness, given the amount of propaganda and media distortion pumped out during the quarantine, and since.

The Chaos of Daily Living

Within the space of about 6 months in 2021, the costs of the essentials of life have skyrocketed—food, gasoline, housing, appliances, cars and trucks, and building materials. Non-ending streams of stimulus money, huge deficits, and pent-up demand so far have ensured that Americans would pay such spiking prices. And soon radical inflation may trigger 1970s stagflation and then recession, as the "why-go-to-work?" checks and consumer zeal finally cease, but the government printing machine keeps going. What good is free government money if spiraling prices eat away the entitlement?

California is the worst run of our states. But it is also always a helpful bellwether of where we are descending. The state has plenty of oil and natural gas. There are still remnants of a once thriving nuclear and hydroelectric industry. But power outages are now commonplace—to the point that, like Third-Worlders, we merely shrug when the lights go out as if it were a green way of reducing carbon emissions.

Forty million people driving on roads and highways intended for 20 million people—27 percent of them not born in America—becomes a "Road-Warrior"-like wildness intended to discourage the kind of driving to which we became accustomed in the 20th century. Any trip over 200 miles cannot be calibrated by traditional "arrival times." *Ad hoc* repairs on ancient roads paralyzes traffic not already slowed by accidents. Speeding and traffic violations are commonplace. Either the population ignores or does not know the law, or a paranoid law enforcement is reluctant to enforce the laws, or there are simply too few patrol cars responsible for too many drivers.

Gas can range from $4.00 to over $5.00 a gallon; $100 fill-ups are common. To go to a California Home Depot or Lowes store is to be amazed at grades of plywood priced at nearly $90 a sheet.

Californians are leaving in droves, but housing costs are still soaring. Californians love nice houses. But those who have them don't like to allow anyone to build new ones for others.

A horrendous drought has dried up reservoirs and dropped the water tables of most aquifers. Privately, Californians know that it was madness not to build reservoirs, all cancelled over 30 years ago, or to allow the California Water Project's infrastructure to decay, or to continue to allow scarce fresh water to flow into the sea, or not to invest in new technologies of underground water savings and storage.

But they also know that as long as the Bay Area's activists have sufficient supplies of water (from their own early 20th century, far-seeing politicians who created the huge Hetch Hetchy transference and won first-dibs allotments from the subsequent California Water Project), they will continue to push green agendas, the disastrous consequences of which the elite avoid, given their own wealth and power.

High-speed rail is a tragic joke. It is inert and unfinished. The ostentatious half-built overpasses stand like modern graffiti-stained versions of Stonehenge. Its only ostensible purpose seems to have been a green plan to siphon money from road repair and expansion.

Mention San Francisco to a Californian, and the same, monotonous warnings arise: don't go there! And if you must, don't park there—since smashing into a car and stealing its contents are viewed as understandable redistribution rather than criminal acts. Others advise to check constantly the soles of your shoes: human and animal excrement is ubiquitous as the city's sanitation regresses to something resembling Old Cairo or medieval London.

I drive often to the central Sierra. For the last 4 years the talk there was "Why don't *they* do something about the millions of trees that have died from drought and bug infestation?" The locals now say of the incinerated forests "Why don't they do something about the millions of those charred black trees?" Such sincere questions assume people matter more than ideology. They don't.

In a state where defecation on the sidewalks apparently hurts no one, drought and fires consuming a forest are also OK—as long as it is likewise deemed a function of nature. In California, logging an acre of timber is insurrectionary; 400,000 acres going up in smoke is "stuff happens."

Policies and Politicians

The truth is that the necessities of life—safety, affordability of the essentials, transportation, power, and fuel—are now iffy. If 15 years ago, Americans more or less saw each other as fellow citizens rather than as members of rival tribes, now they are resegregating into Dark Age bands. In place of oral bards and mythic sagas, we have dry and racist "critical race theory."

There is no media credibility left after assuring us for years that the Steele dossier was the gold standard, that Robert Mueller's dream team would prove "collusion," that Donald Trump sicced the federal police on demonstrators for a cheap photo-op stunt, that Hunter Biden's laptop was Russian disinformation, and that only conspiracists could make a looney connection between COVID-19's ground zero origins in Wuhan and a nearby level 4 virology lab, with ties to the Chinese military.

The current chaos of everyday life of course follows from national policy and politics. The streets are on a reverse trajectory into the 1970s, since crime is redefined as either tolerable collateral damage, "equity," or a collective indictment of society rather than one of individual culpability. When mayors claim that burning a police precinct is a mere loss of "brick and mortar," or taking over downtown Seattle is just part of a "summer of love," or when the architect of the "1619 Project" claims looting is not violence, then crime is no longer crime.

The Left says it has not defunded the police because there are still police to be seen. But progressives have done something far more insidious: America has destroyed police deterrence by a year of antipolice venom, by prosecutors selectively and asymmetrically exempting the arrested, and by prompting police retirements, resignations or simple slowdowns. There is now in the minds of all big-city cops a constant cost-to-benefit calculation: going into the inner city has become a lose/lose/lose/lose/lose proposition in which a 911 call from the danger zone can get an officer killed, injured, fired, suspended, imprisoned, or rendered a fool, as the successfully arrested are summarily let go.

The country has gone mad with debt. Both parties are responsible for the massive spending. The Republican defense is that Democrats would spend even more—and, if *they* are lavishing entitlements to buy votes, why shouldn't *we*?

The Left's excuse is not just the old idea of redistribution, but a new revolutionary myth that money and debt are really irrelevant constructs. A novel economic pseudoscience has revised or discarded the oppressive idea of having to pay back what was borrowed.

Traditionalists and conservatives always assumed that the military, the intelligence and investigatory agencies, and the prosecutorial industry were at least above politics, defenders of traditional and constitutional norms, and completely professional in their service.

No longer. There is now a new military-industrial-intelligence-legal complex. Its hierarchy is politically weaponized, and amply renumerated. The careers of John Brennan, James Clapper, James Comey, Andrew McCabe, General Mark Milley and a score of retired 4-stars officers, Robert Mueller and his dream team, and the Department of Justice are characteristically determined and calibrated by politics rather than competence.

The usual consequences follow: half the country no longer trusts it's once esteemed FBI, CIA, or military. And when these agencies veer from their assigned tasks, it is no wonder that they miss impending signs of terrorism in Boston, Fort Hood, and San Bernardino, had little clue that the "JVs" of ISIS were expanding in Iraq, and never really informed the American people about the costs, the benefits, the stakes and the likely future of the two-decade Afghan war. In the 1960s the Left sought to tarnish the reputation of what they saw as hated government institutions and failed; in the 2020s, the Left diminished the reputation of what they now saw as useful and malleable institutions and succeeded.

America does not quite know what will follow from the first months of the Biden Administration. Already, it has managed to destroy the idea of a border, with an anticipated 2 million entering the country illegally over a 12 month period. It demolished the idea of the police and prosecutorial deterrence curbing crime. It is ending the trajectory of America's natural gas and oil renaissance that enriched the country, and freed it from Middle East entanglements. And it killed off the notion that government should seek to ensure that race is not how we collectively define the content of our individual characters.

ABROAD

Meanwhile, our enemies and rivals—China, Iran, and Russia especially—are giddy at what America has become. The American Left, they believe, has done a much better job of denying Chinese culpability for a Chinese-engineered virus than had the Chinese communist media.

When billionaires, such as Michael Bloomberg, see China as essentially democratic (“The communist party wants to stay in power in China, and they listen to the public . . . Xi Jinping is not a dictator.”), when Charles Munger applauds their clampdown on outspoken capitalists like Jack Ma (“I don’t want the, all of the Chinese system, but I certainly would like to have the financial part of it in my own country, . . . Communists did the right thing. They just called in Jack Ma and say, ‘You aren’t gonna do it, sonny.’””), and when Bill Gates believes that in the midst of the pandemic, a lying China had done “a lot of things right in the beginning,” we can conclude America’s richest are placing their bets on a Chinese-Communist controlled 21st century, and will adjust accordingly.

“Tyrant, to be sure, but he had some good ideas.”

Our adversaries can’t quite believe their good fortune. Had they thought up ways to divide and impoverish America, to see its cities burned, and looted, to weaken its economy and currency, to erode the unity of its once feared military, and to entrench the most effective critics of America *in* America—not in Beijing, Moscow, Pyongyang, or Tehran, but in corporate boardrooms, campuses, newsrooms, Hollywood, Wall Street and the Pentagon—they could *not* have improved on what has happened in 2020-21, the era of our collective meltdown.

Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won and The Case for Trump. This article first appeared in the July 4, 2021 edition of American Greatness.

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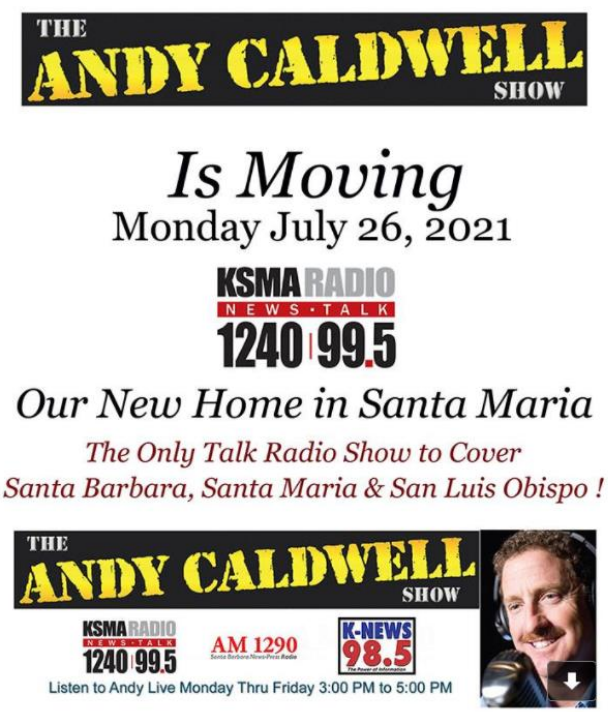

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