COLAB San Luis Obispo County

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE
JULY 18 - 24, 2021

THIS WEEK

BOS MEETING

$11 MILLION DEBT ISSUANCE FOR OLD LOS OSOS SEWER PLANT SETTLEMENT

2020 CROP REPORT – COVID HURT A LITTLE – GRAPES DOWN 2ND YEAR

BOS REDISTRICTING – COMPRESSED TIME & MAJOR IMPACTS ON FUTURE

PLANNING COMMISSION

MANY ITEMS BUT NO BIG POLICY

LAST WEEK

THE BOS SHOULD HAVE STOPPED THE DANCE(s)

TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD PROCESS RAISES SOME QUESTIONS BUT THEY WERE FIRMLY IGNORED

MORE TAX MONEY AND PLANNING FOR BROADBAND – WILL IT GET FASTER? - NO ONE HAS ANY IDEA (HOW DOES THE COUNTY "HELP"?)

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

DIABLO DEMOLITION EIR LAUNCHED – 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 BUT WILL THEY NEED IMMINENT DOMAIN?

DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARED – BUT INDUSTRIAL SCALE DESALINATION HAS BEEN IGNORED
NOW WHAT?

VACATION RENTALS IN AVILA BEACH DENIED
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS IGNORED

CONTROVERSIAL CANNABIS APPEAL EAST OF PASO
CONTINUED

APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CLERK-RECORDER- ELECTION OFFICAL
BOARD MAJORITY UPHOLDS OPEN PROCESS

IWMA APPOINTS PAAVO OGREN AS INTERIM DIRECTOR

LAFCO CANCELLED AGAIN

COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 21

CALIFORNIA NIGHTMARE
BY JOHN HINDERAKER

CALIFORNIA FLEEING
SOME DENY THE GOLDEN STATE'S DEMOGRAPHIC DECLINE, BUT DATA MAKE IT HARD TO IGNORE
BY JOEL KOTKIN AND WENDELL COX

WALL STREET JOURNAL ON INFLATON

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, July 20, 2021 (Scheduled)

Item 15 - County Increases Debt to Fund Los Osos Sewer Plant Mistake. Back in 2018 the County approved a $9,950,000 claim settlement by one of the construction companies (ARB) on the $183 million project. ARB was one of 2 contractors installing the collection and recycled water portion of the project. This portion included the sewer pipes under the roads necessary to connect all the homes and businesses to the plant. ARB sued the County for $23 million to cover cost overruns, which it asserted were caused by faulty design work by the firm that designed the project - Camp, Dresser, and McKee. Also involved was the firm HDR, which was paid at least $9.7 million to supervise the project. In the end the issue was settled for the $9.95 million. The County proffered the excuse that it was preferable to settle rather than go through expensive litigation.

The February 20, 2018 Board Item stated in part:

Mediation between the parties in January of 2018 was successful and resulted in a settlement agreement whereby the County agreed to pay ARB, Inc., $9,950,000 on or before March 1, 2018. The capital project construction fund does not have enough remaining to cover this cost. Additionally, the wastewater system operating fund is new and has not built up reserves to a level which could cover this cost. Therefore, the general fund will need to initially fund the settlement.

Staff is requesting the Board to appropriate $9,950,000 from general fund account 3250367 (Solar Plant Mitigation) and direct the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator to make the payment to ARB, Inc. Public Works staff will continue to explore ways to reimburse the Solar Plant Mitigation Account including, but not limited to, a refinance of the existing State Revolving loan, a new State Revolving Fund loan, a new United States Department of Agriculture loan or a County general fund loan.

To hand over nearly $10 million dollars, the County must have thought it had some culpability. The Board and others made some noise about recovering the cost from the design firms, but nothing has ever transpired to indicate that this was a serious effort. The County was aware of the problem throughout the construction period, as ARB continuously and accumulatively filed change orders which ultimately added up to the $15 for the original claim. It was then escalated for interest and delays.

The sewer treatment plant budget did not have sufficient reserves to cover this cost because all the reserves had already been expended for other change orders. It was determined to provide the Sewer Treatment fund with a $9,950,000 loan to cover the cost. The loan was provided by tapping the Solar Plant Mitigation Designation. This is a fund which the County required the developers of the 2 solar plants in the eastern County to set up to offset the current and future County costs that would occur due to traffic, fire hazard, population growth, and other impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the 2 large solar plants. At one point this designation contained over $15 million dollars. Some was used during the construction phase, and some has been expended for small projects in the Carrizo Plain area.

The plant was financed by debt, which included State notes, a United States Department of Agriculture loan, revenue bonds, and County "due diligence advances."

After interest charges and other adjustments the County will be reimbursing itself and the Solar Plant Mitigation Designation.

The recalculated debt service schedule on the State Loan is displayed below:

California CWSRF Payment Schedule

Project No. 5230-120 - San Luis Obispo, County of
Agreement: 10846 - based on Projected Disbursements

Los Osos Wastewater Project

Principal is paid over: **30 Years**
Interest rate: **2.00000%**

Ref Num	Due Date	Date Received	Principal Payment	Interest Rate%	Interest Payment	Total P and I Payment	Total Payment	Ending Balance	CPI Interest
1	10/15/2017	10/13/2017	770,299.45	2.000	595,616.01	1,365,915.46	1,365,915.46	29,837,582.70	25,279.06
2	10/15/2018	10/12/2018	907,420.40	2.000	697,942.29	1,605,362.69	1,605,362.69	37,188,056.53	25,334.84
3	10/15/2019	10/18/2019	922,079.48	2.000	683,283.21	1,605,362.69	1,605,362.69	39,289,872.85	25,744.12
4	10/15/2020		1,228,394.97	2.000	813,516.50	2,041,911.47	2,041,911.47	41,085,373.68	26,943.51
5	10/15/2021		1,296,466.55	2.000	847,222.49	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	41,852,219.73	27,076.79
6	10/15/2022		1,306,644.65	2.000	837,044.39	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	40,545,575.08	27,289.36
7	10/15/2023		1,332,777.54	2.000	810,911.50	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	39,212,797.54	27,835.14
8	10/15/2024		1,359,433.09	2.000	784,255.95	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	37,853,364.45	28,391.85
9	10/15/2025		1,386,621.75	2.000	757,067.29	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	36,466,742.70	28,959.68
10	10/15/2026		1,414,354.19	2.000	729,334.85	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	35,052,388.51	29,538.88
11	10/15/2027		1,442,641.27	2.000	701,047.77	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	33,609,747.24	30,129.65
12	10/15/2028		1,471,494.10	2.000	672,194.94	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	32,138,253.14	30,732.25
13	10/15/2029		1,500,923.98	2.000	642,765.06	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	30,637,329.16	31,346.89
14	10/15/2030		1,530,942.46	2.000	612,746.58	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	29,106,386.70	31,973.83
15	10/15/2031		1,561,561.31	2.000	582,127.73	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	27,544,825.39	32,613.31
16	10/15/2032		1,592,792.53	2.000	550,896.51	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	25,952,032.86	33,265.57
17	10/15/2033		1,624,648.38	2.000	519,040.66	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	24,327,384.48	33,930.88
18	10/15/2034		1,657,141.35	2.000	486,547.69	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	22,670,243.13	34,609.50
19	10/15/2035		1,690,284.18	2.000	453,404.86	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	20,979,958.95	35,301.69
20	10/15/2036		1,724,089.86	2.000	419,599.18	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	19,255,869.09	36,007.73
21	10/15/2037		1,758,571.66	2.000	385,117.38	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	17,497,297.43	36,727.88
22	10/15/2038		1,793,743.09	2.000	349,945.95	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	15,703,554.34	37,462.44
23	10/15/2039		1,829,617.95	2.000	314,071.09	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	13,873,936.39	38,211.69
24	10/15/2040		1,866,210.31	2.000	277,478.73	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	12,007,726.08	38,975.92
25	10/15/2041		1,903,534.52	2.000	240,154.52	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	10,104,191.56	39,755.44
26	10/15/2042		1,941,605.21	2.000	202,083.83	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	8,162,586.35	40,550.55
27	10/15/2043		1,980,437.31	2.000	163,251.73	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	6,182,149.04	41,361.56
28	10/15/2044		2,020,046.06	2.000	123,642.98	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	4,162,102.98	42,188.79
29	10/15/2045		2,060,446.98	2.000	83,242.06	2,143,689.04	2,143,689.04	2,101,656.00	43,032.56
30	10/15/2046		2,101,656.00	2.000	42,033.12	2,143,689.12	2,143,689.12	0.00	43,893.22
			46,976,880.58		**15,377,586.85**	**62,354,467.43**	**62,354,467.43**		**1,004,464.58**

At this point and all in, the County must reimburse the Solar Plant Mitigation Designation in the amount of $10,060,949 and the General Fund by $1,605,363. To generate the actual cash, the County has renegotiated its $43.4 million loan from the state (one of the financing sources as noted above) from $42,337,416 to $53,360,880, which will result in a $542,069 increase to the debt service payment from $1,605,363 to $2,147,432. This will ultimately be passed through to the Los Osos residents as part of their annual sewer assessments.

When this item appeared on the February 20, 2018 Board of Supervisors Agenda, COLAB had many questions and pointed out that the report was inadequate, as it did not describe the substance of ARB's claim and what mistakes were made in the engineering design which justified a settlement. There has never been a satisfactory answer. COLAB's article is repeated below:

Item 14 - Request to authorize a budget adjustment, to satisfy the terms of the settlement reached with ARB, Inc. in the amount of $9,950,000, for costs related to the construction of the Los Osos Wastewater Project, by 4/5 vote.

Essentially the County lost this lawsuit to one of the contractors on the $183 million project. Two separate contractors had been engaged to install the underground piping portion through the community (under the streets) that connect to the sewer treatment plant. One of the contractors sued the County for extra costs. It asserted that the designs prepared by the County's design engineering consultants were faulty and that therefore the work cost far more than they had bid.

This Board item is deficient in many ways and should be pulled and placed on the business agenda for a complete and transparent discussion.

a. The Board item indicates that there is a March 1, 2018 deadline to "wire transfer" the nearly $10 million to ARB, or the settlement will collapse. Why?

b. It says the original demand was just shy of $23 million. Actually it was $15 million and then increased for interest and delays. As noted above, there were 4 separate projects (by geographic area), which were to be installed by two separate contractors. One contractor was budgeted at $28.8 million and the other at $32.4 million. How much was actually spent on these and which one involved ARB? The $23 million demand seems like a substantial error and even the $10 million is huge in light of the actual budgets for components.

c. By settling the lawsuit for $10 million, is the County agreeing that faulty design work did take place? It paid the engineering firm Camp Dresser & McKee at least $6.2 million for design of the Collection and Recycled Water Design. It paid HDR Engineering $9.7 million for either design or supervising the project. The County staff was paid another $2.6 million to work on this aspect of the project.

If the design was faulty, shouldn't the County be looking for reimbursement from the consulting engineers who provided the faulty design?

d. Where does the overall project budget stand today? How much has been spent and how much is left, and separately from this issue, is it sufficient to complete the project? The write-up states that there is insufficient funding left in the project budget to cover this cost The public should be provided with all the numbers, and the Board should discuss them in public before voting on this matter.

e. Even more bizarre is the source for the payment of the $10 million. The write-up states that it will be funded out of the Solar Plant Mitigation Designation. This was created by requiring the companies that constructed the 2 solar plants in the eastern county to purchase as much of the materials, machinery, equipment, and so forth used to construct the plants in a way that the point of sale was in the County. In this way the County would collect the sales tax.

It was estimated at the time that this would be around $19 million over the life of construction *period. In part it was used as a foil to dismiss criticism that the plants would pay very little property tax because the State made these facilities largely exempt. COLAB has been asking for years how much was collected and has been repeatedly told that the County could not release the information because it would betray business secrets of the private sector tax payers.*

Now we know that there is at least $10 million in the fund. It seems ridiculous at this time not to disclose the full balance. In other words, the County is going to pay off a $10 million dollar 8 lawsuit and not disclose the impact on fund balance. The project has been completed for several years and nobody's competitive business interests are about to be betrayed.

f. Another question is, since the funds were to be used by the County to mitigate the supposed impacts of the solar plants, what happens to that theory? How much has been spent out of the Solar "Mitigation" Fund so far, and what has been mitigated? If the Board can throw this money around for anything at all, how about replacing the $11million Fourth District Parks mitigation funds that were ripped off for other districts?

Did staff ever suggest that some this money could be used to restore the money that was looted from the Fourth District?

h. If the County intends to ever pay back the Solar "Mitigation Fund," what will be the impact on the Los Osos ratepayers?

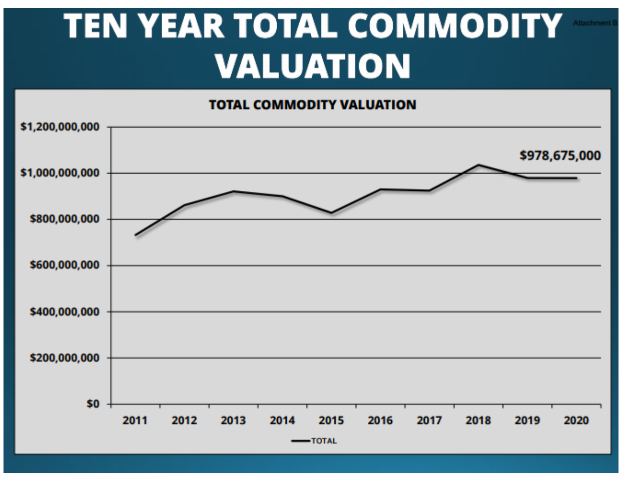
Knowing that this day was coming, did former Public Works Director Pavo Ogren bail out to a provincial small time water district?

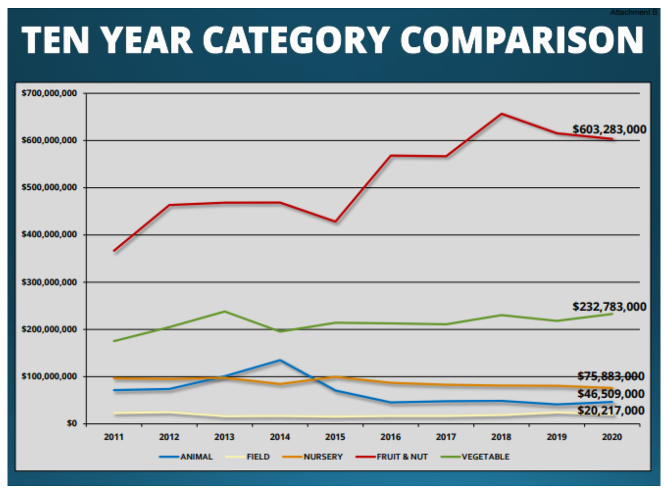
The Board needs to get a lot of straight answers here before they let this one go. Ten million here, five million there, your key jobs for working people shutting down or moving to Wyoming, hamstringing an oil refinery, banning oil wells, shutting down vacation rentals, setting up new governments to sell phony green energy credits to the citizens, taxing home builders, and many more disasters are the legacy of the progressive agenda.

Strangely (or perhaps not), an update of the Los Osos Budget table wasn't provided as part of the item.

Shortly after this debacle began to unfold, County Public Works Director Paavo Ogren announced he was resigning to take a job with a sewer district. After various job changes, he was appointed last week as the Director of the Integrated Waste Management Authority. See Last Week's Highlights below under the **IWMA Item 14** on page 19 for more history. The County family that plays together stays together.

Item 20 - 2020 Annual Crop Report. The Report details the production status of major crops and livestock produced in the County. The total declined slightly due to COVID.





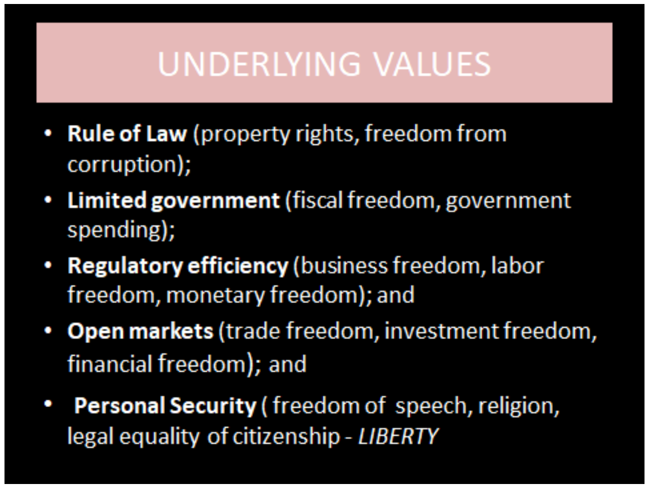
Cannabis is not considered an official agricultural crop and is thus not reported. Notwithstanding the legal and bureaucratic niceties, it would be interesting to see how it stacks up. After all, it is a plant that grows in the ground or a hydroponic facility. Hemp, which is an Ag crop, did not show up on the field crops list.

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 25 - Status and Legal Requirements of Supervisorial Redistricting and Public Hearing.

Background: Redistricting is one of the most important and far reaching functions of a board of supervisors. Underneath the day to day policy and managerial issues that appear on the agendas and in the media are the fundamental value choices that are played out as board members decide each issue incrementally over time.

COLAB advocates for the fundamental values which have guided free societies for millennia and which reached their apogee with the establishment of the United States, the adoption of its Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the evolution of that Constitution over the past 232 years.



The boundaries of the 5 Districts can determine how those voters, who celebrate the principles listed above, are allocated geographically. In some jurisdictions it makes no difference. For example, in several counties such as LA, San Francisco, Alameda, Marin, and Sonoma, the principles have been eroded over many decades and have been replaced with values of rule of elites, government functional expansion, government centralization, ever more draconian regulatory intrusion, government controlled markets, racialism, and wokeism with their attacks on free speech, religion, and equality. The preponderance of the voters in these jurisdictions have been seduced by the doctrine.

San Luis Obispo County teeters at the edge of the political and social abyss as its expanding progressive Left adherents have become a growing portion of the overall demographic. Its undermining of the key values, by means of populist sugar coated dogmas such as climate Armageddon adaptation, therapeutic law and justice, anti-capitalism, equity, "anti-colonialism," confiscation of inheritances, and scientism undergird the so-called progressive movement in the County.

The movement is concentrated in the City of SLO, populated by transient students and the omnipresent left University faculty, Cal Poly Corporation, and others feeding at the public trough in the name of education, much of which is actually leftist indoctrination.
Woke well-pensioned retired Boomers, who attempted to wreck the country in the '60s and who are now fleeing the messes they made in urban areas, have infested the Northwest coast of the County and the large gated golf communities in the south of the County, diluting the traditional long term patriotic regulars. This transitional group (as they are cycling toward senility and death) is constantly repopulated by recently retired younger replacements. It has no real stake in

the long-term economic or social health of the traditional community, as it is passing through just like the university students. Their successful efforts to close Phillips 66, the Oceano Dunes, and Diablo are examples of the destructive agenda.

The redistricting goal of the leftists will be to neutralize any conservative opposition to their self-proclaimed "revolution" by manipulating the redistricting effort insofar as is possible. Fortunately, and for the moment, the three conservatives on the Board of Supervisors will have the final say within the State-required structural mandates. However, you can expect a huge attack from the Left on both the process and substance. This may include demonstrations, legal assaults, and retribution against those who support the current Board majority. We are already seeing sharpened personal attacks by the SLO Tribune, Bruce Gibson, the League of Women Voters, and the SLO New Times.

Note that their avowed purpose is to foment (power) a "Political Revolution"

In the end the exercise is not just about superficial politics and County operations, but it is about our fundamental rights, our property, and our heritage.

The Redistricting Process and Time Constraints: During this meeting the Board will receive a long PowerPoint presentation (68 slides) from its redistricting consultants that outlines the State and Constitutional requirements and provides illustrations of how the key requirements work. The top five are included in the list below:

Under the California Elections Code, new supervisorial districts must be redrawn using the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. To the extent practicable, districts must be geographically contiguous.

2. To the extent practicable, districts must maintain the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and communities of interest.

3. To the extent practicable, districts must minimize division of cities or census designated places.
4. Boundaries must be easily identifiable and, if possible, bound by natural/artificial barriers.

5. To the extent practicable, districts must not favor or discriminate against any political party.

One of the slides presents the Board's adopted schedule for the process:

REDISTRICTING PARTNERS

San Luis Obispo County Redistricting

Timeline for Upcoming Meetings

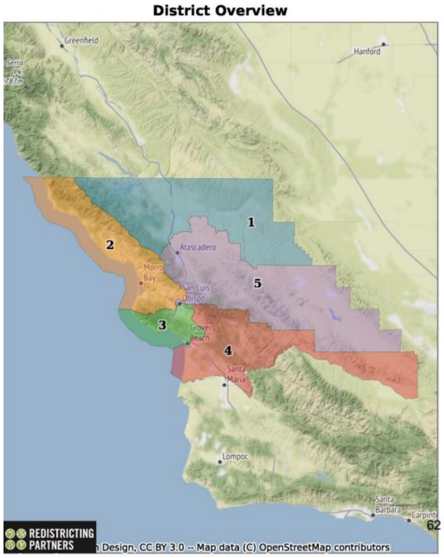
July 20th	First Board of Supervisors Meeting
Sept. 23rd	*Probable Release of final Census Data*
Oct. 26th	Second Board of Supervisors Meeting
Nov. 19th	Third Board of Supervisors Meeting
Nov. 30th	Fourth Board of Supervisors Meeting
Dec. 14th	Fifth Board of Supervisors Meeting

The current population of the districts is illustrated in the slide below:

County of San Luis Obispo

Current Population Estimates

District Overview



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Current population

	1	2	3	4	5
Population	56,412	58,842	53,015	56,415	56,680
Deviation	139	2,569	-3,258	142	407
Deviation %	0.2%	4.6%	-5.8%	0.3%	0.7%
No Eth	37,316	44,239	38,695	37,512	45,127
No Eth %	66.1%	75.2%	73.0%	66.5%	79.6%
Latino	17,743	9,080	10,888	16,108	9,166
Latino %	31.5%	15.4%	20.5%	28.6%	16.2%
Asian	570	3,420	2,252	2,366	1,617
Asian %	1.0%	5.8%	4.2%	4.2%	2.9%
Black	783	2,103	1,180	429	770
Black %	1.4%	3.6%	2.2%	0.8%	1.4%

Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

	1	2	3	4	5
Total US 18+	39,685	49,858	40,592	41,431	45,380
No Eth CVAP	30,225	39,433	32,565	31,375	37,907
No Eth CVAP %	76.2%	79.1%	80.2%	75.7%	83.5%
Latino CVAP	8,308	5,666	5,515	8,434	5,696
Latino CVAP %	20.9%	11.4%	13.6%	20.4%	12.6%
Asian CVAP	469	2,804	1,644	1,353	1,321
Asian CVAP %	1.2%	5.6%	4.1%	3.3%	2.9%
Black CVAP	683	1,955	868	269	456
Black CVAP %	1.7%	3.9%	2.1%	0.6%	1.0%

A major concern is that the census data on which the redistricting relies will not be delivered to the State by the Federal Census Bureau until September 24th. The State then has 30 days to make adjustments and deliver it to the counties. Normally the data is delivered in April of a redistricting year. The entire process must be completed by December 15, 2021. This means that it will be very compressed process.

The Clerk Recorder's office has a software program which allows modeling of different shaped districts and which calculates the population. Citizens and officials should be able to make appointments to test their theories. During the last redistricting in 2011, Templeton was split up, violating the "no dividing of census designated places" goal. A Templeton resident sued and carried the matter through to the Court of Appeals, which ruled in the County's favor. It allowed District 2 to contain substantially more population than the others (per the table on the page above).

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, July 22, 2021 (Scheduled)

The agenda is fairly busy and contains requests for project approval extensions, a cell tower, a Peoples Self Help affordable project in San Miguel, and a Peoples Self Help affordable project in Nipomo. There are also 12 market rate single family homes proposed for Teft Street in Nipomo. Additionally, a cannabis dispensary is proposed at 660 South Frontage Road in Nipomo. None of these projects seem to contain any large policy issues impacting the overall County situation.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, July 13, 2021 (Completed)

Item 2 - Request to adopt the amended policies and procedures for operation and conduct of hearings before the Assessment Appeals Board. The Board unanimously adopted the new 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.

The Board letter revealed 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 have ascertained 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 that are sustained, or the number that 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.

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.

One new rule will allow the Appeals Board 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.

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. The Board unanimously authorized $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 funding will 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 effort funded having to do with the County tapping into various fiber optic utilities. Whatever became of that project?

There was no response to these questions and there was no deliberation.

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.

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. The Board approved the item on a unanimous consent calendar vote. This is yet another government expansion 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 was 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 who are promoting this also 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. The contract was approved unanimously. 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 Board approved receipt of the grant on a 3/1 vote (Arnold dissenting), but there is considerable opposition from neighbors along the proposed right of way. If the County staff is not able to reach agreement about right of way acquisition, with some holdouts, it is possible that the Board conservative majority will not be willing to invoke imminent domain?

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 domain 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.

Background: 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.

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

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 Board unanimously declared the meaningless and symbolic drought emergency. When staff was asked what the benefit is, they stated that a state of emergency would allow them to skip bureaucratic purchasing procedures, reassign staff, and better coordinate matters. This is bureaucratic blather. They have no idea what to do about the drought.

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.

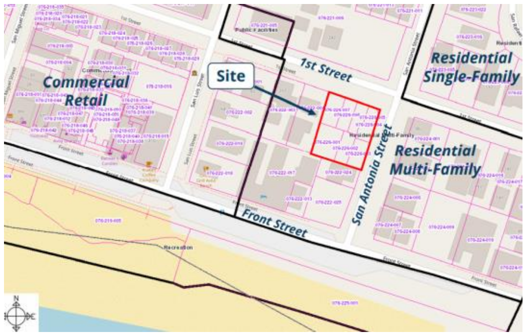
Background: On April 7, 2017, Governor Brown ended the drought state of emergency for most of California and issued Executive Order B-40-17, directing state agencies to update temporary emergency water restrictions and transition to permanent, long-term improvements in water use, making conservation 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. The Board demonstrated no interest in reviving this discussion.

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. The appeal was denied (the vacation rentals were prohibited) on a 3/2 vote, Arnold and Peschong dissenting).

Background: 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 additional vacation rentals because of the already existing traffic and parking congestion.

More fundamentally, and notwithstanding 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.

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

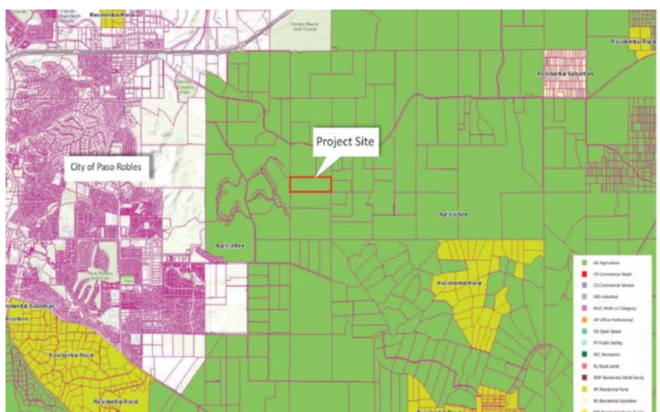
Paso Robles. The project was continued off calendar (no date certain for a hearing) at the request of the applicant.

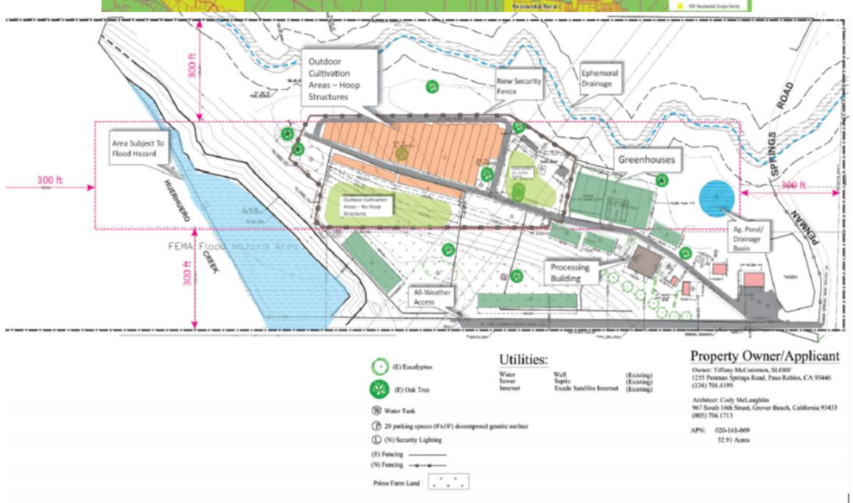
The neighbors are appealing the Hearing Officer's approval of the project. They are concerned about water use and impact on their wells, odor, large buildings, hoop houses, traffic, visual blight, noise, and the appearance of "unsavory" characters on the site.

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 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.





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. The Board adopted an open competitive process that was recommended by the County Counsel, HR Director, and County Administrative Officer. Gibson and Ortiz-Legg wanted the Board to skip a process and immediately appoint the Deputy Recorder, Helen Nolan. Nolan is regarded as a nonpolitical civil servant. She can apply with everyone else in the open competitive process.

If the Board did appoint her and she then determined to run for the position in 2022, people would suspect that the appointment was wired to give her the advantage of incumbency. For her sake, and if she turns out to be very competent, she is better off not being appointed in a non-competitive process now.

Gibson, Ortiz-Legg, the left progressive mafia, and the SLO Tribune protesteth too much. Why are they so keen on forcing her into the positon now? All they are doing is raising suspicions and hurting her chances in the future.

Why would anyone sane support appointment of a public officer vigorously supported by Gibson and the radical left without competition?

Background: 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.

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

Item 14 - Paavo Ogren to be Appointed as Interim Executive Director. In a contentious meeting, the IWMA Board voted 6 -3 (Arnold, Compton, and Peschong dissenting) to appoint Ogren.

Apparently the left progressives cut the deal in private (could be a Brown Act violation). There was no advertisement or open competition. The move by the progressive left further underscores the need for the County and other sensible jurisdictions to withdraw from the Authority. The County can run source reduction and recycling programs just fine without the overhead of a separate government entity.

Ogren had served as Director of Public Works of the County for 7 years. He also served as Director of a community services district. His compensation will be $186,000 per year.

The IWMA is supposed to conduct a search for a permanent Executive Director, but who knows if they actually will follow through now that Ogren is aboard.

San Luis Obispo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) meeting of Thursday, July 16, 2021 (Cancelled)

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

COLAB IN DEPTH

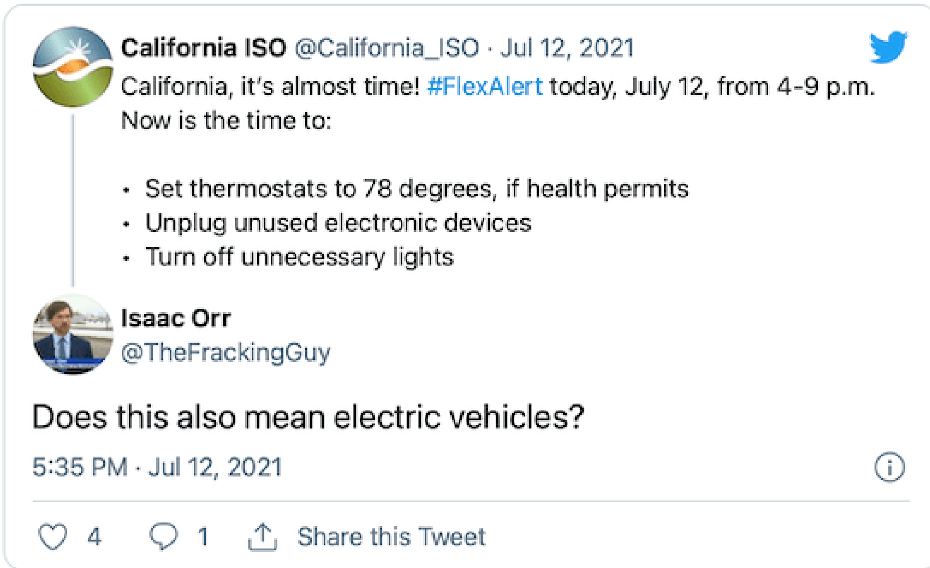
IN FIGHTING THE TROUBLESOME, LOCAL DAY-TO-DAY ASSAULTS ON OUR FREEDOM AND PROPERTY, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE LARGER

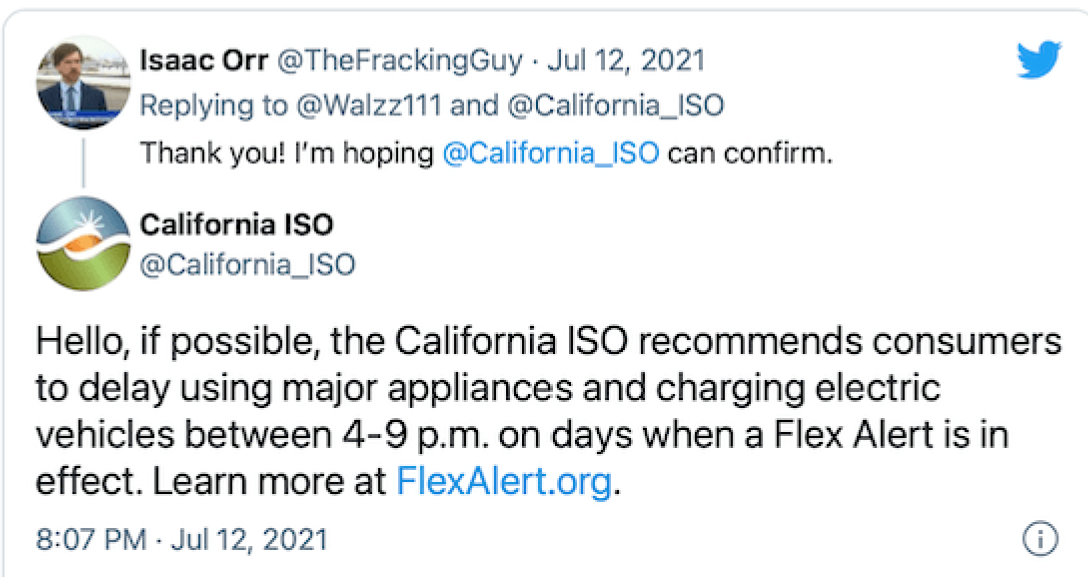
CALIFORNIA NIGHTMARE

BY JOHN HINDERAKER

It wasn't easy to ruin California, but the Democrats have accomplished it. California's descent is reflected in the most basic marker of third-world status: it can't keep the lights on. My colleague Isaac Orr writes:

The abject failure of California's energy policies is becoming more apparent every day. The Golden State has taken the lead in shutting down reliable coal, natural gas and nuclear power plants and jumping feet first into a grid powered largely by unreliable wind and solar.
***
An overreliance on wind and solar has resulted in a grid that is so unreliable that the California grid operator, the California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO), has resorted to asking Californians to reduce their electricity consumption, which Center of the American Experiment has confirmed means not charging electric vehicles.





Ponder that for a moment: between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m., in other words when you are home from work, you are not supposed to use “major appliances,” like, say, your washer and dryer. They want you to unplug appliances that you are not actively using, like, I suppose, your television set, and go around your house turning off lights where possible. All of this with your house at 78 degrees. And, of course, if you have an electric vehicle, you aren’t supposed to charge it. This may sound like Bangladesh, but it is California. And the situation is only going to get worse.

“Green” energy policies don’t work. This is a matter of physics, not politics, so California and other states are on a collision course with reality.

This article first appeared in the Powerline of July 17, 2021.

CALIFORNIA FLEEING

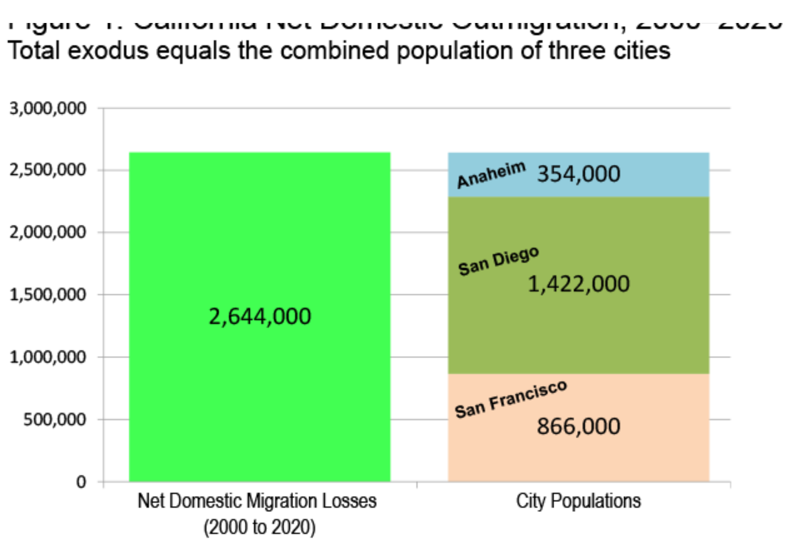
SOME DENY THE GOLDEN STATE'S DEMOGRAPHIC DECLINE, BUT DATA MAKE IT HARD TO IGNORE

BY JOEL KOTKIN AND WENDELL COX

Californians view the continued net outmigration from their state as a worrisome sign, but most others in the Golden State's media, academic, and political establishment dismiss this demographic decline as a "myth." The Sacramento Bee suggests that it largely represents the "hate" felt toward the state by conservatives eager to undermine California's progressive model.

Local media and think tanks generally concede the migration losses but comfort themselves with the thought that California continues to attract top-tier talent and will remain an irrepressible superpower that boasts innovation, creativity, and massive capital accumulation.

Reality reveals a different picture. California may be a great state in many ways, but it also is clearly breaking bad. Since 2000, 2.6 million net domestic migrants, a population larger than the cities of San Francisco, San Diego, and Anaheim combined, have moved from California to other parts of the United States. (See Figure 1.) California has lost more people in each of the last two decades than any state except New York—and they're not just those struggling to compete in the high-tech "new economy." During the 2010s, the state's growth in college-educated residents 25 and over did not keep up with the national rate of increase, putting California a mere 34th on this measure, behind such key competitors as Florida and Texas. California's demographic woes are real, and they pose long-term challenges that need to be confronted.



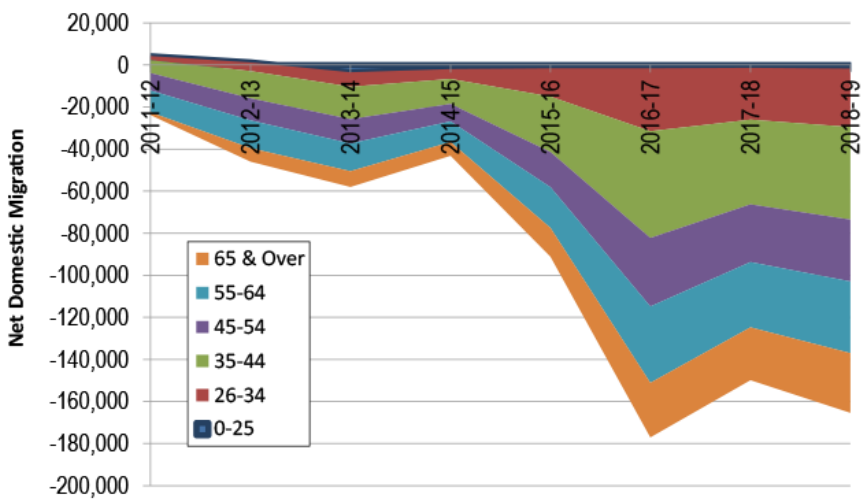
U.S. Census Bureau Estimates

The state has suffered net outmigration in every year of the twenty-first century, but its smallest losses occurred in the early 2000s and the years following the Great Recession, when housing affordability was closer to the national average. Home prices have risen since then—and so have departures. Between 2014 and 2020, net domestic outmigration rose from 46,000 to 242,000, according to Census Bureau estimates.

The outmigration does not seem to have reached a peak. Roughly half of state residents, according to a 2019 UC Berkeley poll, have considered leaving. In Los Angeles, according to a USC survey, 10 percent plan to move out this year. The most recent Census Bureau estimates show that California started falling behind national population growth in 2016 and went negative for the first time in modern history last year.

The comforting tale that only the old, bitter, and uneducated are moving out simply does not withstand scrutiny. An analysis of IRS data through 2019 confirms that increasing domestic migration is not dominated by the youngest or oldest households. Between 2012 and 2019, tax filers under 26 years old constituted only 4 percent of net domestic out-migrants. About 77 percent of the increase came among those in their prime earning years of 35 to 64. In 2019, 27 percent of net domestic migrants were aged 35 to 44, while 21 percent were aged 55 to 64. (See Figure 2.)

Figure 2: Net Domestic Migration by Age of Filer
California: 2011/12 to 2018/19

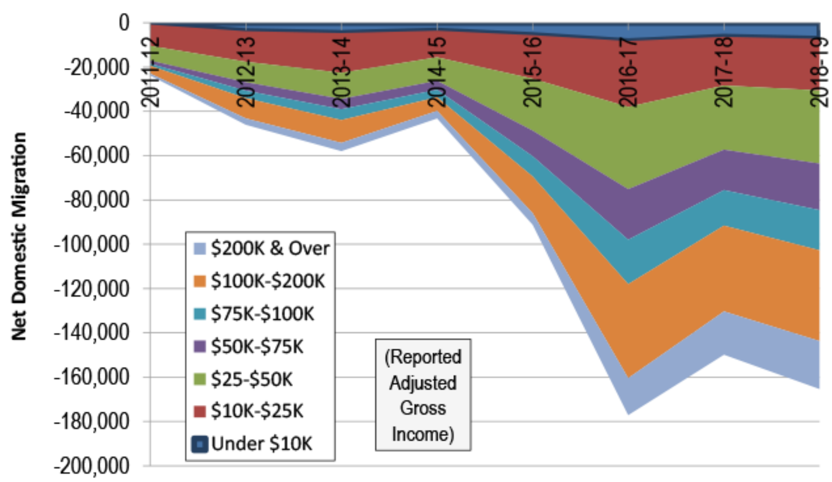


Source: IRS data

To be sure, the largest increase in net domestic migration was among those aged 65 and over. But the second-largest increase came in the 25 to 34 categories—with the state's exorbitantly high cost of living the likely culprit.

Nor is it primarily an exodus of the poor driving the trend. Of the increased net domestic migration from 2012 to 2019, only 14 percent came from those in the under-$25,000 income category. Those with higher incomes accounted for 82 percent; indeed, 38 percent of the increase came among the over-$100,000 category. (See Figure 3.)

Figure 3: Net Domestic Migration by Income
California IRS tax returns: 2011/12 to 2018/19



Source: IRS data

In fact, the largest increases in net domestic outmigration from 2012 to 2019 came from the top four income categories ($50,000 to $75,000; $75,000 to $100,000; $100,000 to $200,000; and over $200,000).

Most alarming has been the loss of the young, who have traditionally driven the state's innovative, entrepreneurial economy. In fact, Los Angeles between 2012 and 2017 ranked behind only New York City for the largest net losses of millennials, notes the Brookings Institution. Many younger people who traditionally headed to California, notes Brookings, now choose Dallas-Fort Worth, Seattle, Austin, Houston, or Denver.

The foreign-born population, which for years floated California's demographic boat, appears to have had a change of heart. In the last decade, according to a recent study we conducted for Heartland Forward, Los Angeles suffered a net decline in the foreign-born, while such rivals as Dallas-Fort Worth, Nashville, Houston, Phoenix, and Las Vegas enjoyed double-digit growth—with gains that approach 30 percent.

These patterns contribute to a plummeting birth rate. As people at peak age for family formation leave, Los Angeles and San Francisco rank last and second-to-last in birthrates among the 53 U.S. major metropolitan areas. In California, only Riverside/San Bernardino exceeds the national average in births among women aged 15 to 50, according to the 2014–2018 American Community Survey. Since 2007, the fertility rate across the country has fallen from 2.1 to 1.6, but California's rate fell faster—from 2.2 to about 1.5, spanning race and ethnicity. Notably, Latina women experienced the largest decline in California and now have below-replacement fertility.

California was once seen as a paragon of youthful energy, but it is gradually ditching the surfboard and adopting the walker. From 2010 to 2018, California's population aged 50 percent more rapidly than the rest of the country, according to data from the American Community Survey. By 2036, seniors will be a larger share of the state's population than will people under 18.

Golden State businesses likely will face a severe shortage of skilled graduates, as baby boomers retire and the new generation moves elsewhere. In 2015, over 50 percent of all jobs in California could be classified as middle-skill, but only 39 percent of the state's workers were trained at that level. Demand for these competencies should remain robust in the coming decade. A study from the Public Policy Institute of California says the state will need approximately 1.1 million more college graduates by 2030 and projects that the demand for graduates by then will exceed the supply by 5.4 percent.

The pandemic-driven shift to online and dispersed work has further eroded the once-unchallenged attractiveness of California cities for tech and other skilled workers. Such leading tech firms as Facebook, Salesforce, and Twitter now expect a large proportion of their employees to continue to work remotely after the pandemic and have announced policies to facilitate these preferences. Some three-quarters of venture capitalists and tech-firm founders, notes one recent survey, expect to operate totally or mostly online. Since the pandemic began, according to a study by Big Technology, tech growth has been most evident in metros like Madison, Wisconsin; Cleveland; and Hartford, while New York, the San Francisco Bay Area, Boston, and Chicago have declined.

Tech bigwigs, not to mention property owners in San Francisco, may try to force a return to the mothership. But Apple CEO Tim Cook's haughty demands for people to go back to the office received immediate blowback from workers, reflecting national sentiments. In a recent survey of more than 5,000 employed adults, four in ten American workers expected some level of remote-work flexibility after the pandemic.

A recent report from Upwork finds that between 14 million and 23 million Americans are looking to move to less expensive, less crowded places. Los Angeles and San Francisco have been losing migrants at an accelerating rate; L.A. County, the nation's largest county, lost 745,000 net domestic migrants over the decade. Other areas, including parts of the Central Valley and the Inland Empire, have enjoyed higher population and job growth. But the hottest growth may be in the Sierra counties, which offer bucolic, scenic locales ideal for knowledge workers fleeing dysfunctional cities.

In past cycles, California accommodated growth largely by expanding its urban footprint. But the state's ever-more draconian regulatory regime, seeking to limit "sprawl" to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from cars, has driven up land prices and inhibited the growth of desired suburban alternatives. These policies—as well as delayed regulatory approvals, zero-emissions mandates, and mandatory solar power—have made building new homes, particularly single-family ones, a huge challenge. During 2020, when national house construction grew 6.1 percent from 2019, California's rate declined 3.7 percent, according to Census Bureau data. Over the same period, Texas homebuilding increased 9.8 percent, Florida 6.3 percent, Arizona 29.5 percent, and Tennessee 20 percent. California's housing construction in 2020 was its lowest since 2016.

Regulations favoring densification, particularly in the Bay Area and Los Angeles, have not prevented those areas from having the nation's highest-priced housing. California also has the nation's highest urban density and increased the most in the last decade at an incremental rate of 11,000 people per square mile—a density comparable to that of the city of Chicago—and 5.5 times the national rate. Yet prices relative to incomes have grown far faster than in the rest of the country, including in such thriving areas as Dallas–Ft. Worth and Austin, where prices remain far lower. Housing, according to a recent Berkeley poll, was by far the biggest factor cited by people wanting to move. As the state's media and academic apologists point out, California has bounced back before. Yet if the state has recovered from its most recent slump, it has done so in increasingly unequal fashion. California has the fifth-highest Gini Inequality index in the nation in 2019, according to American Community Survey data—not to mention the highest rates of cost-of-living-adjusted poverty (even worse than Mississippi or West Virginia), the worst housing affordability in the continental U.S., and a devastating shortage of mid-skilled workers. These factors may not affect the state's elite, but they could persuade middle class families to move out—or not to come in the first place.

The Golden State has emerged from the pandemic flush with money from Washington and a spate of IPOs but suffering from the highest unemployment rates, continued corporate flight, and deteriorating social conditions in its big cities. This is not the California of the “dream” but a declining state for all but the most favored and those most dependent on government subsidies. The political establishment may continue to deny what is happening, but unless the state confronts some unpleasant facts and shifts direction, California’s demographic decline will likely continue. *Joel Kotkin is a fellow at Chapman University and the executive director of the Urban Reform Institute. Wendell Cox is the principal of Demographia, a public policy consultancy. This article first appeared in the City Journal of July 14, 2021.*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Powell Gets His Inflation

How do you define transitory? Three months? A year? Or is it two? Inquiring minds want to know after Tuesday’s report that the consumer price index rose 0.9% in June. Consumer prices are now up 5.4% from a year earlier, so what the Federal Reserve means when it dismisses these price increases as “transitory” takes on growing economic and political significance.

‘Transitory’ price increases are now up 5.4% year-over-year.

The June increase was nearly twice what economic forecasters predicted, which isn’t reassuring. The inflation optimists are dismissing the June increase as the result of “special” factors that are likely to ease. Used car and truck prices rose 10.5% in the month, accounting for about half the increase in core CPI. No doubt vehicle prices won’t keep rising at that rate, but then that’s also what we were told when they rose 10% in April. This won’t reassure the non-affluent Americans who buy used cars.

Price increases were widespread across the economy, which suggests factors that may not be transitory. Food prices rose 0.8%, and energy prices 1.5% in the month. The Fed likes to strip out food and energy prices, which are volatile, to examine core inflation. But the core increase was also 0.9% in June.

Year-over-year core prices are up 4.5%, which is less than for all consumer prices, but is still well above the Fed’s target of 2% a year. The last time core prices rose 4.5% in a 12-month period was 1991 and the Fed’s benchmark short-term interest rate was above 5%. Today it’s near zero.

These price jolts aren’t likely to stir Fed Chairman Jerome Powell when he testifies on Capitol Hill this week. That’s because Mr. Powell is getting the inflation he wanted. The Fed’s new policy, which it unveiled last year, says that to achieve its 2% inflation target it is willing to tolerate inflation above that for some time. Congratulations, you’ve got it.

One risk for the Fed is that more months of these price increases will become what consumers and businesses come to expect. To use the Fed jargon, prices would no longer be “well-anchored.” That may be happening. The NFIB’s small business survey for June, released Tuesday, found the share of owners raising average selling prices rose seven points to 47%, the highest reading since January 1981.

Owners are under pressure to raise prices because their costs are rising, especially for labor. Some 46% of small-business owners reported job openings that couldn’t be filled in the month. This is one result of the market distortion caused by excessive federal jobless benefits that exceed what people can make by working.

The political implications of this inflation spike could be potent. The price increases mean that real average hourly earnings fell 0.5% in June. They are down 1.7% in the last year. If real wages continue to fall, workers will demand higher pay untied to productivity increases, which will further increase inflationary pressure. It will also take the shine off the post-pandemic boom that President Biden wants to take credit for.

The price increases put Mr. Powell in a monetary and political bind of his own making. Some at the Fed may feel obliged to tighten money sooner than Mr. Powell would like. But if he does, that would raise the cost of financing the trillions of dollars in new spending that Democrats in Congress have passed, or soon will.

All of which makes us wonder why Republicans would want to put their fingerprints on any of this Democratic spending. Democrats and the Fed own this inflation spike. If Republicans help pass a $1 trillion infrastructure bill, Democrats will make them co-owners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

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

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

K-NEWS 98.5
The Power of Information

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

3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYSYou can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the Tune In Radio App and previously aired shows at:

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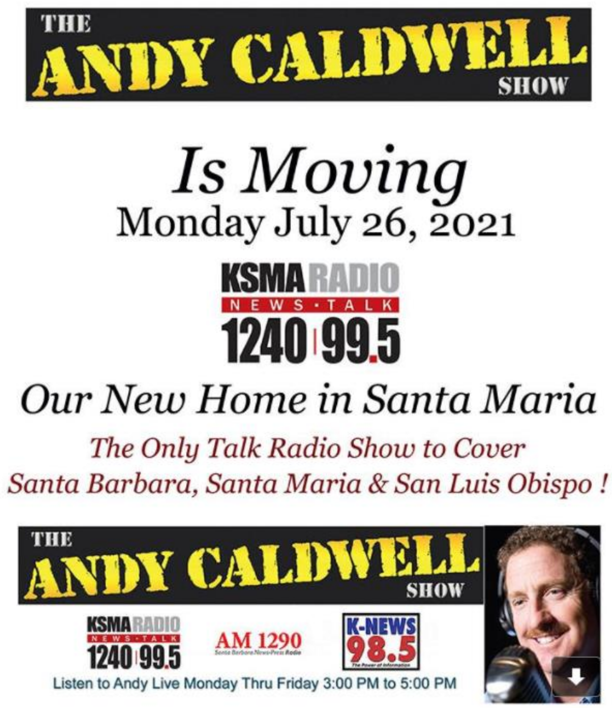

COUNTY UPDATES OCCUR MONDAYS AT 4:30 PM

MIKE BROWN IS THE REGULAR MONDAY GUEST AT 4:30

SUPPORT COLAB!

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

MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS
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VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM

DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM

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

NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER

MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: $100 – $249 ❑ $ _______ **Voting Member: $250 - $5,000 ❑ $ _______**

Sustaining Member: $5,000 +❑ $ _______
(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)

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

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: ______________________________

Company: ______________________________

Address: ______________________________

City: ______________________ State: ____________ Zip: __________

Phone: ______________ Fax: ______________ Email: ____________________

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio ❑ Internet ❑ Public Hearing ❑ Friend ❑

COLAB Member(s) /Sponsor(s): ______________________________

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

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

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.
Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.
Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership ❑

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Discover ❑ Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: ____________________ Signature: ______________________

Card Number: ____________________ Exp Date: ___/___ Billing Zip Code: ______ CVV: ____

TODAY'S DATE: ____________________

(Revised 2/2017)