



**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**JUNE 27 - JULY 3, 2021**

**COLAB**  
San Luis Obispo County



12th Annual

**DINNER &  
FUNDRAISER**

**2020-2021 What the Heck Happened?**  
**There has never been a more crucial time**  
**To Raise the Lantern of Liberty**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**  
**ALEX MADONNA EXPO CENTER**

**5:00 pm Social Hour, Open Bar**

**6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner including Wine**

**\$125 a person**

**\$1,250 a table, seating for 10**

For tickets:

On-Line Reservations & Payment can be made **HERE** at  
[www.colabslo.org/events.asp](http://www.colabslo.org/events.asp)

or

Mail your check to

COLAB SLO County, PO Box 13601, SLO, CA 93406

Cocktail Attire Optional

More info at (805) 548-0340 or [colabslo@gmail.com](mailto:colabslo@gmail.com)

## **THIS WEEK**

**NO BOS MEETING THIS WEEK**

**NEXT MEETING JULY 13, 2021**

**SLO PENSION TRUST**

**RATES TO CRACK 50%**

## **LAST WEEK**

**SPECIAL BOS MEETING PENDS CANNABIS TAX HIKE**

**GIBSON FIRES FIRST SHOT IN NEXT ELECTION CYCLE**

**USES BUDGET & PASO BASIN WATER EIR AS PRETEXTS**

**IWMA EXEC COMM. ILLEGAL SPECIAL MEETING**

**VIOLATES 72-HOUR NOTICING REQUIREMENT BY 2 HOURS/33 MINUTES**

**BOS OFFICIALLY ADOPTS BUDGET**

**BOS WILL STUDY 400 SQ. MILE OCEAN WIND FARM**

**SEEK TO ASCERTAIN HOW COUNTY CAN BENEFIT**

**LOS OSOS SEWER RATE INCREASES APPROVED**

**EMPLOYEE PENSION RATES APPROVED**

**BUT COUNTY PAYS FOR MOST OF THEIR SHARE**

**COUNTY FINALLY BIDS PUBLIC DEFENDER  
CONTRACT AFTER DECADES**

**BUT SAME FIRM WINS IT REGARDLESS – OTHER FIRMS AFRAID TO BID?**

**UPDATE ON SUPERVISORIAL REDISTRICTING  
LATE CENSUS MEANS TIME CRUNCH IN DECEMBER**

**LARGE EIR ON PASO MORATORIUM RELIEF**

**FUTURE OF CANNABIS REVIEW  
THE COUNTY IS LOSING ITS SHIRT FINANCIALLY**

**APCD BUDGET ADOPTED**

**EXEC DIRECTOR WARNS OF SHORTFALLS IN FUTURE WHEN PHILLIPS 66 AND  
THE DUNES CLOSE**

**FIVE DUNES RELATED LAWSUITS CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION  
THE ANNOYING AGENCY SPARKED THE COASTAL COMMISSION SHUTDOWN**

**OTHER ISSUES**

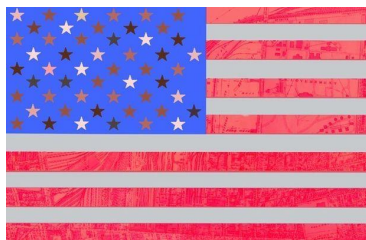
**SOME GOOD NEWS**

**Supreme Court recognized that the Constitution forbids government from requiring you to  
allow unwanted strangers onto your property. And that union activists are no exception.**

**SEE PAGE 20**

**EVEN UC BERKELEY POLY SCI PROFS WORRIED  
ABOUT RACIALIZATION OF THE COUNTRY**

**SEE PAGE 21**



# COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 22

## WHY ARE THEY WOKE?

*The systemic con behind wokeism.*

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

### **No Board of Supervisors Meetings Until Tuesday, July 13, 2021 (Not Scheduled).**

The Board will be taking its summer recess. We think the better practice is to set the summer recess for late August. Late June and early July are too soon, as the ocean and alpine lakes have not warmed up yet. Unfortunately, the schools are starting up in mid or even early August. Accordingly, elected public officials with kids and grandkids are forced to take their vacations in early to mid-summer. The State educationist monopoly should not be permitted to interfere with what were once traditional great August vacations.



A light sailing breeze at Red Fish.



Trunking it at SanO in 73 degree water in August.



Silver Lake stay – a COLAB auction prize.

The kids should not be locked up in a stultifying hot August or early September classroom. What really counts are kid's grades in Math 1-A, 1-B (calculus for math and science majors), as well as the ability to conduct rigorous analysis and write a correct English sentence or two.

**6.** [10 points] The half life of radium-226 is 1590 years.

(A) Let  $m(t)$  be the mass at time  $t$  of the radium-226 in a sample. Write down a first-order differential equation which describes how  $m(t)$  changes with time.

(B) How long does it take for the mass of the radium-226 in the sample to drop to  $1/e$  times its initial value?

If your kid can answer the question above as well as 9 more like it, (and show his or her work), he or she can take an undergraduate science or engineering major at a great university and then obtain a law degree or MBA at a great university age. Imagine a 23 year old with a UC Berkeley BS in Industrial Engineering and an MBA from Stanford.

Three good English sentences:

*The rise of a city, which swelled into an empire, may deserve, as a singular prodigy, the reflection of a philosophic mind. But the decline of Rome was the natural and inevitable effect of immoderate greatness. Prosperity ripened the principle of decay; the causes of destruction multiplied with the extent of conquest; and as soon as time or accident had removed the artificial supports, the stupendous fabric yielded to the pressure of its own weight.*<sup>1</sup>

One more:

*California is a place in which a boom mentality and a sense of Chekhovian loss meet in uneasy suspension; in which the mind is troubled by some buried but ineradicable suspicion that things better work here, because here, beneath the immense bleached sky, is where we run out of continent.*<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

<sup>2</sup> Joan Didion, *The White Album*.

Has your high school senior read either of the authors quoted above? Could anyone at your local high school even tell you the names of the 2 authors of these famous quotes How about your college senior?

How is your local high school doing? Are the kids simply attending to eat their lunches? Will they end up working for the government, getting an ulcer in competitive sales, providing supportive health care in a socialized government clinic, standing at a counter, pushing paper in some dull finance job, or otherwise missing out?

Obviously, some who are beautiful, charming, lucky, or persistent will succeed spectacularly, but it's one in 10,000.

Of course, they can now imbibe the Critical Race Theory (CRT) class and learn how to enslave themselves, not to mention their parents and grandparents.

**San Luis Obispo County Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, June 28, 2021 (Scheduled)**

**Item 5 - FY 2019-20 Annual Financial Report.** The report covers the Period ending December 31, 2020. The table below, which is included in the report narrative, summarizes a sensitivity analysis of the relative amount of unfunded liability at different interest rates.

*The following presents the net pension liability of the employers collectively, calculated using the discount rate of 6.875%, as well as what the employers' net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower (5.875%) or one percentage-point higher (7.875%) than the current rate:*

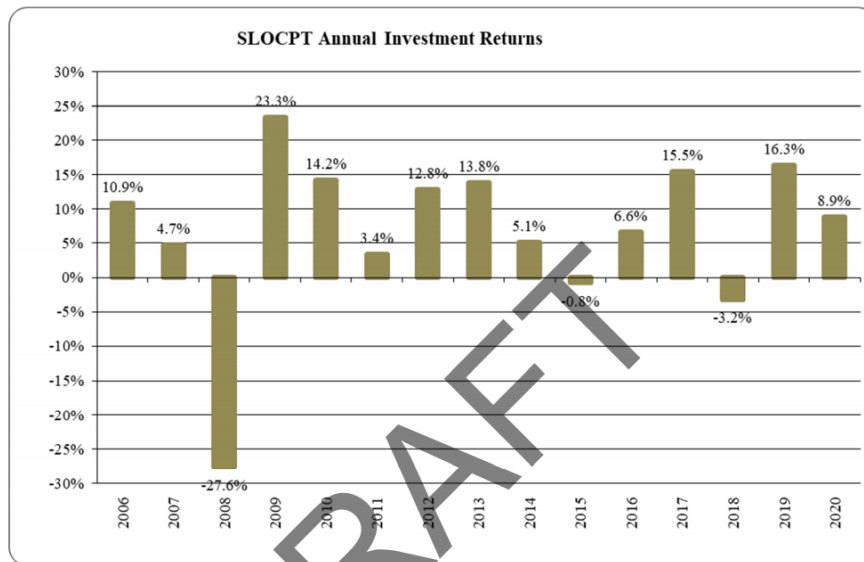
Employers' Net Pension Liability as of December 31, 2020	1% Decrease (5.875%)	Current Discount Rate (6.875%)	1% Increase (7.875%)
	\$ 990,101,705	\$ 680,685,579	\$ 427,590,044

The required annual contribution has climbed steadily

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PENSION TRUST  
SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Fiscal Year Ended December 31,	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Actual Contribution**	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll*	Actual Contribution as a % of Covered Payroll
2011	\$ 30,435,940	\$ 30,435,940	\$ -	\$ 161,783,273	18.81%
2012	\$ 30,942,038	\$ 30,942,038	\$ -	\$ 161,054,639	19.21%
2013	\$ 30,795,872	\$ 30,795,872	\$ -	\$ 164,299,413	18.74%
2014	\$ 32,046,545	\$ 32,046,545	\$ -	\$ 167,343,323	19.15%
2015	\$ 33,618,330	\$ 33,618,330	\$ -	\$ 175,628,910	19.14%
2016	\$ 35,451,409	\$ 35,451,409	\$ -	\$ 180,728,417	19.62%
2017	\$ 42,340,904	\$ 42,340,904	\$ -	\$ 192,735,874	21.97%
2018	\$ 46,243,596	\$ 46,243,596	\$ -	\$ 199,283,713	23.20%
2019	\$ 48,957,564	\$ 48,957,564	\$ -	\$ 200,924,549	24.37%
2020	\$ 56,305,770	\$ 56,305,770	\$ -	\$ 218,911,525	25.72%

The rate of return has, on average, exceeded the target in recent years. Nevertheless, the unfunded actuarial liability continues to grow. The model adopted by most government pension systems seems to experience the same phenomenon. All it would take is a bad year every so often and they can never catch up.



For cumulative periods, the annualized time-weighted total rates of return are as follows:

	<u>1 year</u>	<u>3 years</u>	<u>5 years</u>	<u>10 years</u>	<u>15 years</u>
SLOCPT Total Returns	8.9%	7.1%	8.6%	7.7%	6.2%

Source: Verus 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 report and Pension Trust records for pre-2006 returns

As demonstrated in the table below, the unfunded liability continues to relentlessly grow.

### Schedule of Funding Progress

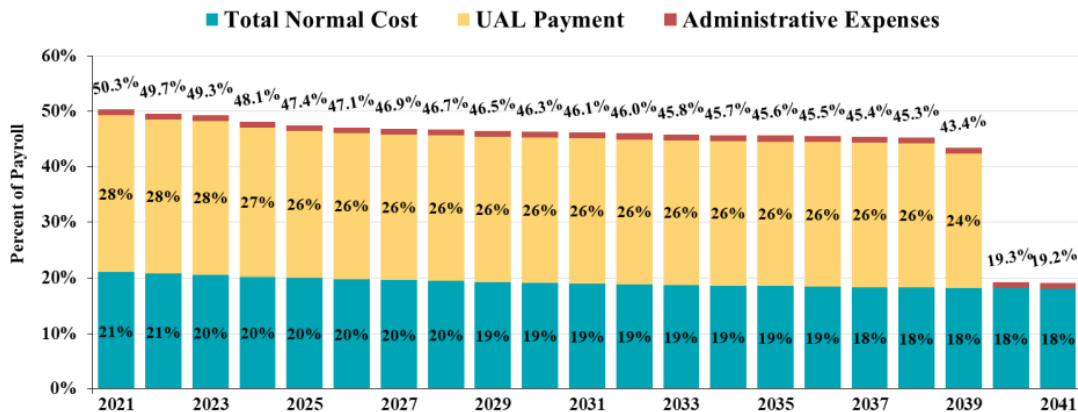
Valuation Date	Valuation Assets <sup>1</sup>	Actuarial Liability <sup>1</sup>	Funded Ratio	Unfunded		Ratio to Payroll
				Actuarial Liability	Member Payroll	
12/31/2010	\$1,000,169	\$ 1,282,058	78.0%	\$ 281,889	\$ 161,783	174.2%
12/31/2011	1,057,922	1,334,545	79.3%	276,623	161,055	171.8%
12/31/2011 <sup>2,3</sup>	1,057,922	1,378,549	76.7%	320,627	161,055	199.1%
12/31/2012 <sup>3</sup>	1,122,151	1,468,001	76.4%	345,850	164,299	210.5%
12/31/2013 <sup>4</sup>	1,182,924	1,518,751	77.9%	335,827	164,704	203.9%
12/31/2014	1,231,474	1,605,591	76.7%	374,117	167,695	223.1%
12/31/2015	1,248,328	1,686,497	74.0%	438,169	177,004	247.5%
12/31/2015 <sup>2</sup>	1,248,328	1,749,342	71.4%	501,014	177,004	283.1%
12/31/2016	1,268,405	1,827,342	69.4%	558,937	185,020	302.1%
12/31/2017	1,328,750	1,937,173	68.6%	608,423	196,848	309.1%
12/31/2017 <sup>2</sup>	1,328,750	1,945,681	68.3%	616,930	196,848	313.4%
12/31/2018	1,362,562	2,029,929	67.1%	667,368	200,537	332.8%
12/31/2019	1,416,763	2,116,700	66.9%	699,938	205,694	340.3%
12/31/2019 <sup>2</sup>	1,416,763	2,170,071	65.3%	753,309	205,694	366.2%

**Item 6 - January 1, 2021 Actuarial Valuation and Pension Contribution Rates.** This item presents the actuary’s recommendations for 2021. For the first time the average contribution rate hits 50%. That is, for every dollar of regular salary paid, the County and employees must contribute another 50 cents. The key action for the Pension Trust Board at this meeting is to approve the higher rate.

*Approve the recommendation of the Plan Actuary to increase the current level of County Appropriation and Employee Contribution rates such that a Total Contribution Rate of 50.34% effective January 1, 2021 is received - an increase of 2.16% over the current 48.18% Charged Rate of contributions as of 1/1/21 as recommended by Cheiron in the Contribution Rate Comment of the Valuation.*

*Projection of Contributions The following graph shows the expected total contribution rate or actuarially determined contribution (ADC) based on achieving the 6.75% assumption each year for the next 20 years. This scenario is highly unlikely; even if the Plan does achieve an average return of 6.75% over this period, the returns in each given year will certainly vary. The total contribution rates shown at the top of the graph consist of the total normal cost, the UAL Payment, and assumed administrative expenses (1.07% of payroll over the projection period.*

Note that the actuary warns that the schedule adopted by the Pension Trust Board to pay off the unfunded liability over the next 19 years won’t work. This is true even if the the Plan achieves a rate of return of 6.75 percent over the period. Again as we noted above, it may be impossible for the County, and other similar systems, to ever fix the problem. What if the rates grow to 100%?



As noted in the table below, the liability grew by 579.2 million over the past 13 years. It has now reached a total of \$807 million.

*Table II-1 below numerically summarizes the changes in the UAL for each year over the last 13 years. These totals support our identification of investment returns and assumption changes as the primary risks to the Plan.*



Table II-1

Changes in Unfunded Actuarial Liability (\$ in millions)														
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Assumed Rate of Return	7.75%	7.75%	7.75%	7.25%	7.25%	7.25%	7.25%	7.125%	7.125%	7.00%	7.00%	6.875%	6.750%	
<b>Source</b>														
AVA (Gain)/Loss	\$ 62.6	\$ 17.9	\$ 16.7	\$ 22.2	\$ 11.5	\$ 11.3	\$ 23.3	\$ 51.8	\$ 44.9	\$ 14.3	\$ 43.7	\$ 17.9	\$ (13.5)	\$ 324.6
Liability (Gain)/Loss	3.3	(16.8)	(15.3)	(21.7)	0.3	(7.3)	14.3	10.8	(5.6)	24.7	1.7	9.0	26.1	23.5
Assumption Changes <sup>1</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	0.0	(19.3)	0.0	62.8	0.0	8.5	0.0	53.4	38.5	187.9
Contributions <sup>2</sup>	(18.7)	3.2	1.6	(5.7)	13.4	5.2	0.6	1.5	18.6	10.5	5.0	5.6	2.4	43.2
<b>Total UAL Change</b>	<b>\$ 47.2</b>	<b>\$ 4.3</b>	<b>\$ 3.0</b>	<b>\$ 38.8</b>	<b>\$ 25.2</b>	<b>\$(10.1)</b>	<b>\$ 38.2</b>	<b>\$ 126.9</b>	<b>\$ 57.9</b>	<b>\$ 58.0</b>	<b>\$ 50.4</b>	<b>\$ 85.9</b>	<b>\$ 53.5</b>	<b>\$ 579.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> In 2021, the \$2.8 million difference in the Actuarial Liability for the actuarial transition was included.

<sup>2</sup> Actual contributions (more than) / less than normal cost and interest on the UAL (tread water level)

The total growth of the liability is summarized in the table below. The unfunded liability is now 377% of payroll. If this trend continues unabated, the County will have no money for services and will at some point simply be funding pension debt. When the national debt becomes unsustainable and the Biden depression collapses the economy, the entire house of cards will collapse.

It is estimated that the current total unfunded liability of the State, counties, cities, universities, school districts, special districts, etc. is now about \$1 trillion if one assumes an average rate of return of 7%.

Table VI-1 Schedule of Funding Progress (dollars in thousands)						
Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets <sup>1</sup>	Actuarial Liability	Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL)	Funded Ratio	Covered Payroll	UAL as a % of Covered Payroll
12/31/2011	\$1,057,922	\$1,334,545	\$276,623	79.3%	\$161,055	171.8%
12/31/2011 <sup>2,3</sup>	1,057,922	1,378,549	320,627	76.7%	161,055	199.1%
12/31/2012 <sup>3</sup>	1,122,151	1,468,001	345,850	76.4%	164,299	210.5%
12/31/2013 <sup>2,4</sup>	1,182,924	1,518,751	335,827	77.9%	164,704	203.9%
12/31/2014	1,231,474	1,605,591	374,117	76.7%	167,695	223.1%
12/31/2015	1,248,328	1,686,497	438,169	74.0%	177,004	247.5%
12/31/2015 <sup>2</sup>	1,248,328	1,749,342	501,014	71.4%	177,004	283.1%
12/31/2016	1,268,405	1,827,342	558,937	69.4%	185,020	302.1%
12/31/2017	1,328,750	1,937,173	608,423	68.6%	196,848	309.1%
12/31/2017 <sup>2</sup>	1,328,750	1,945,681	616,931	68.3%	196,848	313.4%
12/31/2018	1,362,562	2,029,929	667,367	67.1%	200,537	332.8%
12/31/2019	1,416,763	2,116,700	699,937	66.9%	205,694	340.3%
12/31/2019 <sup>2</sup>	1,416,763	2,170,071	753,308	65.3%	205,694	366.2%
12/31/2020	1,506,270	2,277,428	771,158	66.1%	214,044	360.3%
12/31/2020 <sup>2</sup>	1,506,270	2,313,128	806,858	65.1%	214,044	377.0%

December 31, 2019 and earlier values were calculated by the prior actuary.

If this wasn't enough to scare you, click on the link below and really gas your mind.

[Microsoft Word - Agenda - June 28, 2021 - v1 \(ca.gov\)](#)

**Item 8 - Monthly Investment Report for May 2021.** The system did okay in the short term so far, given the big stock market loss in March which has since recuperated. The problem is that it doesn't seem to help tame the overall problem.

	May	Year to Date 2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Trust Investments (\$ millions)	\$1,658		\$1,552 year end	\$1,446 year end	\$1,285 year end	\$1,351 year end	\$1,196 year end
<b>Total Fund Return</b>	1.5% Gross	<b>8.4% Gross</b>	8.9 % Gross	16.3 % Gross	-3.2 % Gross	15.5 % Gross	6.6 % Gross
Policy Index Return (r)	0.9%	5.8%	10.0 %	16.4 %	-3.2 %	13.4 %	7.7 %

## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**Integrated Waste Management Authority Exec Committee (IWMA) Special Meeting of Monday June 21, 2021. 2:00 PM (Not Scheduled).** At the end of a special meeting on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, the IWMA set the meeting for 2:00 PM on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup> to work on the appointment of an interim Director and presumably recruitment plans for a permanent Director.

The meeting was called for 2:00 PM, which is 2 hours and 32 minutes short of the 72 hour noticing required by the Open Public Meeting Law (Brown Act). The meeting was illegal if it occurred.

### Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, June 22, 2021 (Completed)

**Item 10 - Submittal of a resolution recognizing the potential of renewable wind power generation for, and clean energy infrastructure, as long-term economic benefits to San Luis Obispo County.** The Board will procure assistance to study the issue in order to attempt to position the County to reap any economic benefits, if possible.

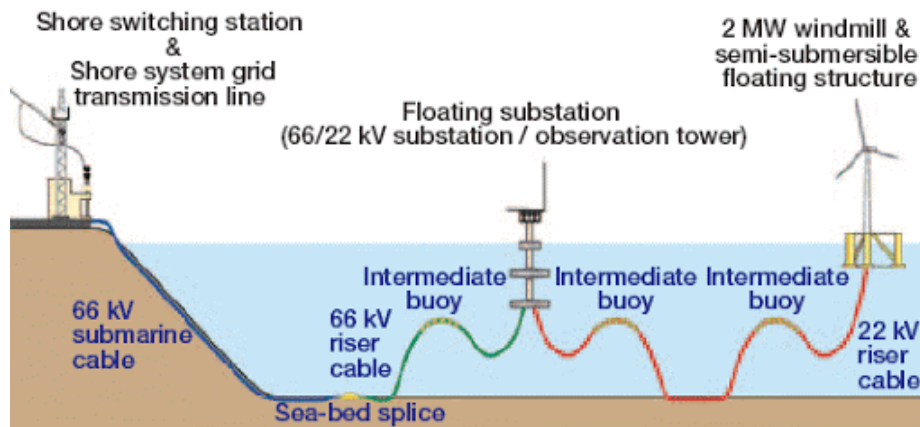
**Background:** The Resolution supports the 400 sq. mile floating windfarm off the Coast of SLO County. It hedges a little bit in terms of protecting the fishing industry and the ancestral homelands of the yak tityu tityu yak tilhini Northern Chumash people, the Aboriginal titleholders. Otherwise, the Board is hopeful about plans that need to be developed to improve existing waterfront facilities that could support a range of floating offshore wind energy development activities. These might create nearly 12,000 specialized temporary wind port construction jobs over 5 years and up to 650 operations and maintenance jobs annually in perpetuity for a 3GW wind farm.

The County, as the regional jurisdiction, should have its former Community Choice Energy consultant, Willdan Financial Services, take a look at the matter. Willdan is an expert in all aspects of electrical energy and could advise the Board on the particulars of the offshore wind

farm proposal. Likewise, just what will be the economic benefits to the County in terms of taxes, permanent jobs, and economic multipliers?

There are several versions of the project, which will have different levels of benefit, cost, and impact. How does this stack up with retention of Diablo? At some point and if the project moves forward, the County is likely to become involved in permitting outside the City of Morro Bay, as a large construction port is proposed and there will be facilities for construction mobilization and ultimately electrical transmission outside the County.

The County might as well get some expert help now in deciding if it supports the project.



**Item 21 - Submittal of a resolution approving 1) increases in employee-paid pension contribution rates and employer appropriation rates for the listed San Luis Obispo County Employees Retirement Plan’s Contracting Agency employers per applicable instructions of officers of said agencies, and 2) amendments to the San Luis Obispo County Employees Retirement Plan Appendices for employees in the San Luis Obispo County Superior Courts, the San Luis Obispo County Local Agency Formation Commission, and the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority.** The Board approved the rates. Note, per the table below, that the County picks up the largest percentage share of the cost increase. The Board item does not disclose the actual dollar cost or whether the County’s share is included in the new budget.

The data presented above in current week matters before the Pension Board demonstrate that the employees have a great deal, as the County pays most of their cost. The table below shows the percentages of salary that the County pays for retirement for various groups of employees:

Contracting Agency Employer	BU	Employees	Pension Rate Increase Effective 7/1/2021	Employee Share	Employer Share
SLO County Superior Court	BU17 – Interpreter BU18 – Technical BU19 – Supervisory Employees BU20 – Court Employees BU24 – Management BU25 – Subordinate Judicial Officers BU26 – Confidential BU27 – Professional BU28 – Attorney	120	3.91%	1.96%	1.95%
LAFCO	BU07 – LAFCO Staff	1	3.91%	1.96%	1.95%
RTA	BU71 – Employees hired before 01/12/2020 BU72 – Employee hired on or after 01/12/2020	12	3.91%	3.91%	0.00%

These pension rate increases shall be effective and implemented the pay period including July 1, 2021.

Employee Group	Tier 1 and Tier 2 Retirement			Tier 3 Retirement		
	County 2020-21	POBs 2020-21	Total	County 2020-21	POBs 2020-21	Total
Elected Officials	25.53 %	6.00 %	31.53 %	25.04 %	6.00 %	31.04 %
Deputy County Counsel Attorneys	26.27	6.00	32.27	25.78	6.00	31.78
Deputy District Attorneys	26.42	6.00	32.42	25.93	6.00	31.93
Management and Confidential Public Services, Clerical and Supervisory	25.53	6.00	31.53	25.04	6.00	31.04
Trades, Crafts and Services	24.22	6.00	30.22	23.73	6.00	29.73
Probation Management	24.79	6.00	30.79	24.30	6.00	30.30
Probation Officers/Supervisors	23.43	6.00	29.43	22.93	6.00	28.93
Law Enforcement Safety Management	25.67	6.00	31.67	25.17	6.00	31.17
Law Enforcement Safety (Patrol)	38.31	6.00	44.31	31.26	6.00	37.26
Law Enforcement Safety (Corrections)	42.59	6.00	48.59	41.98	6.00	47.98
Law Enforcement Non-safety	42.01	6.00	48.01	41.40	6.00	47.40
District Attorney Investigators	25.75	6.00	31.75	25.26	6.00	31.26
	37.30	6.00	43.30	36.69	6.00	42.69

The next table below displays the additional contributions that the County pays to employees to offset their contribution to retirement. It is called the “pick up.” You, the taxpayer, may think of it as picking your pocket. Neither the Budget document nor any other public report details the actual dollar costs for these “percentages.”

Additionally, the County pays a portion of the employee's retirement contribution (Employer Paid Member Contribution, or “EPMC”) for Tier 1 and 2:

Employee Group	2020-21
Elected Officials	13.55 %
Attorneys	9.29
Management and Confidential	9.29
Public Services, Clerical and Supervisory	8.75
Trades, Crafts and Services	10.38
Probation Management	9.29
Probation Officers/Supervisors	5.75
Law Enforcement, Safety	7.00
Law Enforcement Non-Safety	4.20
District Attorney Investigators	7.20

**Item 22 - Request to approve a contract with Rincon Consultants, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$244,668 to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Paso Basin Land Use Planting Ordinance, contingent on adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Recommended Budget.** The Board approved the contract and expenditures on a 4/1, vote with Gibson dissenting. Gibson is opposed to the potential of allowing more of Paso Basin water to be used prior to the full implementation of SGMA, which could be years off. He described the item as an “assault on the Paso Groundwater Basin.”

**Background:** The EIR is required for the Board to process ordinance amendments to the Paso Basin water moratorium that would provide relief to some small and medium users who are trapped between SGMA implementation and the moratorium.

**Item 26 - It is recommended that the Board adopt the attached resolution implementing increases in sewer service charges for Fund Center 430 - Los Osos Wastewater System from Ordinance No. 3413 adopted on April 21, 2020.** The new rates were approved on the consent calendar. There were no speakers in opposition.

Last year's rate increase was postponed due to COVID. The write-up states in part:

*At that time, estimated revenue of \$842,000 was expected to be lost due to the delay in enacting the new rate ordinance. Based on actual data, the true loss in revenue for FY 2020-21 is about \$774,000. If the rate ordinance is postponed for another fiscal year, an additional \$1,745,450 in revenue is expected to be lost for FY 2021-22, which would put the System in further financial uncertainty. If the Board reinstates the approved rate ordinance, The System will be able to complete the postponed maintenance over time and start to build reserves in order to better stabilize the System's financial position and health.*

The Board might as well raise the rates, as most of the people are Gibson supporters and he pushed the plant through in the first place. It is not prudent to run up a maintenance and capital deficit.

**Item 38 - Hearing to consider adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Recommended Budget including: 1) a resolution adopting budgets for the County and Board of Supervisors governed Special Districts; and 2) a resolution adopting the FY 2021-22 position allocation list.** The Budget was adopted unanimously. COLAB was the only entity (there was one other individual) which spoke on the key annual policy document.

Supervisor Gibson said he was going to vote for the Budget but did not agree with some of the historic and current underlying policy. Basically, he asserts that beginning eight years ago the Conservatives (Arnold was the only one at the time) began flowing some unspecified portion of the general fund (millions) for the Paso Basin water costs, roads, and safety. He argued that the County's "real values," such as funding homeless programs, should have a higher priority.

He went on to conflate the matter with the Board majority's examination of the feasibility of the County withdrawing from the Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA). In the vein of rhetorical puffery, he further asserted that "this kind official deceiving will threaten our financial future, reputation, and is a failure of our standards."

Perhaps all this is some sort of manifesto to kick off the next election season. It appears that he is going to characterize the past 8 years, during which conservative presence on the Board grew from 0 to 3 votes, as a policy of disaster.

The Board completed its review of the \$807 million dollar budget on Monday, June 14, 2021. This year they spent about 4 hours, or about \$201.75 million per hour.

Fund Name	Total Financing Sources				Total Financing Uses		
	Fund Balance Available as of June 30, 2021	Decreases to Obligated Fund Balances	Additional Financing Sources	Total Financing Sources	Financing Uses	Increases to Obligated Fund Balances	Total Financing Uses
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Governmental Funds</b>							
General Fund	\$34,535,239	\$6,891,554	\$558,771,962	\$600,198,755	\$597,249,938	\$2,948,817	\$600,198,755
Special Revenue Fund	661,000	4,882,370	62,444,003	67,987,373	59,469,418	8,517,955	67,987,373
Debt Service Fund	284,000	0	16,885,251	17,169,251	13,333,451	3,835,800	17,169,251
Capital Projects	0	0	7,981,755	7,981,755	7,981,755	0	7,981,755
<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>	<b>\$35,480,239</b>	<b>\$11,773,924</b>	<b>\$646,082,971</b>	<b>\$693,337,134</b>	<b>\$678,034,561</b>	<b>\$15,302,572</b>	<b>\$693,337,133</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>							
Special Revenue Fund	\$7,563,335	\$48,659	\$8,048,642	\$15,660,636	\$13,664,967	\$1,995,668	\$15,660,635
Enterprise Fund	0	2,299,836	26,065,116	28,364,952	26,016,627	2,348,325	28,364,952
Internal Service Fund	0	9,678,788	60,748,628	70,427,416	70,126,254	301,162	70,427,416
<b>Total Other Funds</b>	<b>\$7,563,335</b>	<b>\$12,027,283</b>	<b>\$94,862,386</b>	<b>\$114,453,004</b>	<b>\$109,807,848</b>	<b>\$4,645,155</b>	<b>\$114,453,003</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$43,043,574</b>	<b>\$23,801,207</b>	<b>\$740,945,357</b>	<b>\$807,790,138</b>	<b>\$787,842,409</b>	<b>\$19,947,727</b>	<b>\$807,790,136</b>

**Item 39 - Supervisorial District Redistricting.** The staff presented an updated schedule based on the continued delays in obtaining Census information. Special Board meetings will be held in the fall where citizen input can be received. The work will be very compressed, as the final product must be completed in December for adoption in January. The political parties and other interest groups will attempt to calculate and then manipulate the process to secure their best advantage within the rules. The overarching rule is that the 5 districts must be as close to equal in population as is physically possible.

Please see the schedule on the next page:

Updated Tentative Redistricting Timeline			
Official Hearings	Required Action(s)	Date	Known/Legal Timelines
	Board meeting- Redistricting timeline update, request approval for appropriation for additional resources	April 2021	
	Launch redistricting website and public facing mapping tool	May-June 2021	
Hearing #1	Board hearing - gather preliminary input and identify communities of interest	July 20, 2021 (Regular Meeting - afternoon)	
	Release of Census population data	September 24, 2021	New date provided by USCB
	Prison adjusted information release to counties	October 24, 2021	State has 30 days after receipt of Census data
Hearing or Workshop #2	Board meeting or public workshop (evening or weekend)	October 26, 2021 (Special Evening Meeting)	
	Publish 3-4 draft redistricting maps	November 15, 2021	Minimum 21 days after prison adjusted info released to the public
Hearing #3	Board hearing - 1st post draft maps	November 19, 2021 (Special Meeting)	
	Publish revised maps based on comments received (at least 7 days prior to adoption)	November 23-24	At least 7 days before final adoption (12/14)
Hearing #4	Final hearing to approve redistricting plan	November 30, 2021 (Special Meeting)	
	Legal Metes and Bounds complete and ordinance drafted	December 3, 2021	72 hours agenda publication deadline
	Introduce County ordinance amendment	December 7, 2021	
Hearing #5	Amend County ordinance to reflect Board approved revised redistricting map	December 14, 2021	
	Effective date of ordinance amendment	January 14, 2022	
<p>* Updated dates in red            *Current legal deadline to adopt (Registrars requesting earlier completion) December 15, 2021            *Note: All hearing dates need to posted at least 5 days prior to hearing</p>			

**Item 40 - Request to 1) award a four (4)-year contract to private attorney firm San Luis Obispo Defenders, a Professional Law Corporation in the amount of \$4,920,401 for the first year, FY 2021-22, as well as other negotiated compensation as outlined in the attached contract for such services; and 2) authorize the County Administrative Officer to A) execute two (2) additional two (2)-year extended terms to the contract and B) provide consent for the vendor to change physical office locations.** The contract was authorized on a unanimous vote. There was no public opposition, and the staff presented an abbreviated history of the matter, leaving out some of the salient details.

**Background:** San Luis Public Defenders is the law firm that has held the contract for decades. Over eight years ago the County Administrator did not bid the contract. Some Board members complained. He promised to bid the contract the next time (a four year cycle). By then there was a new County Administrator, but no one on the staff remembered to tell him to bid it.

The proverbial manure hit the fan, and there was a serious conflict between the County and the law firm over the provisions of the ensuing contract.

This time the County bid it and sent 67 firms copies of the bid documents. Only one firm responded. You guessed it, the San Luis Obispo Public Defenders. The costs are displayed below:

Item	FY 2020-21	CPI	Additional Resources	FY 2021-22
Base Services	\$4,758,634	1.5%	\$9,387	\$4,839,401
Specialty Court Advocate	\$83,430	0.0%	-\$2,430	\$81,000
Witness Fees (up to)	\$174,735	0.0%	\$1	\$174,736
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,016,799</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>\$6,958</b>	<b>\$5,095,137</b>

Item	Term	Change
PRCS/Parole Hearings (Section 2(h) and (i) Cases)	\$300/Case	No Change
Capital Cases	Reimbursed Per PC 987.9 and PC 987(d)	No Change
Service of Process Fees, Routine Discovery, Transcripts, Translators	Provided at no charge or reimbursed with Court Approval	No Change
Change in Venue Cases (Section 11)	\$100/hr + expenses	No Change
Representation After Termination Cases (Section 4)	Hourly rate for appointed counsel + expenses	No Change
All Other Expenses not Specifically Noted	No additional reimbursements for expenses not noted	No Change

<b>Total Estimated Four (4)-Year Initial Term Cost</b>	<b>\$21,237,934</b>	
FY 2025-26	\$5,669,703	2.7%
FY 2026-27	\$5,820,517	2.7%
<b>Total Estimated Two (2)-Year Extended Term #1 Cost</b>	<b>\$11,490,220</b>	
FY 2027-28	\$5,975,343	2.7%
FY 2028-29	\$6,134,287	2.7%
<b>Total Estimated Two (2)-Year Extended Term #2 Cost</b>	<b>\$12,109,629</b>	
<b>Maximum* Total Expenditure Authorized by this Contract</b>	<b>\$44,837,783</b>	
<i>*Does not include expenses for PRCS/Parole Hearings, Capital Cases, Service of Process Fees, Routine Discovery, Transcripts, Translators, Out of County Cases, Cases Ongoing at Time of Termination</i>		
<i>**In FY 2022-23, the prior year amount to which the CPI is applied is increased by \$9,387.42, per the contract terms</i>		

**Item 42 - Cannabis Update – Submittal of the 2021 Countywide Cannabis Program Update and request to approve, in concept, the Compliance Monitoring Program Plan and provide staff direction as deemed necessary.** The Board enjoyed a long afternoon of public lashing by cannabis growers who are unable to make it through the permitting process. Depending on whose numbers you use, there have been only 8 to 20 grows actually approved over the past 3 years. It is not clear how many of these are in operation.

**News Flash:** Separately, as part of this item, the BOS called a special emergency meeting to freeze the Cannabis tax at 6%. It was set to go to 8% on July 1. Given the permitting problem, the BOS figured it had better not make it any worse with a tax hike.

There are 126 potentials, and though the Report presented tables on their general status in the permitting process, the current forecast is that very few will get through.

This means that the County is spending more on regulation, permitting, inspection, and enforcement than it is receiving in cannabis revenue. As the Report notes:

*The total cost of the Cannabis Program (both legal and illegal) from July 1, 2017 through March 31, 2021 has been evaluated to equal \$7 million, total revenue, including revenue from the Cannabis Business Tax, has been \$3.8 million indicating a total General Fund support impact of \$3.2 million. Of the General Fund support impact, an estimated \$2.4 million is attributable to legal cannabis, \$1.4 million is attributable to illegal cannabis, both civil and criminal, and the Cannabis Business Tax has provided \$586,518 in revenue to the General Fund after accounting for the development and administration of the tax.*

The industry reps, growers, and potential growers recommend that the Board conduct a program environmental impact report (EIR). Since the EIR would examine many of the impacts, the applicants for individual permits would presumably have less work to do, and therefore the County would have less work to do. This could theoretically mean that the applications could flow faster.

Don't hold your breath. Slow, tedious, interrupted, and goal post moving permit processing is baked into the DNA of all the County departments involved in permitting for anything. Ask any developer, oil company, agriculturist, homebuilder, or anyone else who has to deal with the County on land use matters.

This is a very extensive 54-page report, which details the costs and revenues and the County's losses. The PowerPoint is an excellent summary of the situation. The slow process of permitting the grows in SLO County has raised the question of whether the County should conduct a program EIR, which if completed could make the permitting process for individual applicants shorter and easier. The production of the EIR could cost in excess of \$800,000 and take a year.

**The full Report can be read at this link:**

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/133904>

**The Power Point can be reviewed at this link:**

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/133906>

These are quite sobering and informative.



**Background:** Santa Barbara County, which rolled out the red carpet for cannabis, is expected to generate \$20 million in taxes this coming fiscal year after costs. The bottom line is that the County is spending more money on regulating cannabis than it receives in revenue. One thrust of the Report is to raise fees and taxes. This is likely to have the exact opposite effect from that which the County is attempting to achieve. Consider some of the problems:

**Page 31** - Staff recommends that they increase the compliance monitoring fee because it was based on non-cannabis businesses, but they just raised the fee by about \$300! How much more will they have to raise it to cover the additional employees contained in the table below?

Table 13: Additional Needs for the County Cannabis Compliance Monitoring Team

Resource	Description
<b>Ongoing Resource</b>	
1.00 FTE Sheriff's Sergeant	A full time Sheriff's Sergeant is needed to oversee the Cannabis Program. Most recently, the position was filled by a Temporary Reserve Sergeant at 20 hours per week. The Sergeant would manage and direct the Cannabis Program and provide the leadership and direction needed by a full-time Sergeant.
1.00 FTE Compliance Monitoring Program Manager	Given the management needed for a successful Compliance Monitoring Program coordinated with the three County departments, a new position is recommended. The Compliance Monitoring Coordinator would work in conjunction with Planning and Building and ACTTC but would be located in the Sheriff's Office. With compliance monitoring for cannabis businesses, the proximity to Sheriff's deputies is ideal for a seamless transition from a civil situation to criminal if needed. This position would be responsible for the oversight of Cannabis Code Enforcement, the designated auditor from ACTTC and would coordinate with County Fire.
1.00 FTE Auditor-Analyst	A full-time Auditor-Analyst fully dedicated to Cannabis Tax Enforcement is proposed to accompany Code Enforcement and Sheriff staff on site visits to conduct in-person audit procedures.
1.00 FTE Senior Planner	A Senior Planner is needed to focus on the quarterly monitoring inspections to ensure project conditions are met.
1.00 FTE Resource Protection Specialist	A new Resource Protection Specialist position is needed to make these quarterly inspections and program as efficient as possible for operators and County departments.
1.00 FTE Administrative Services Officer	A new Administrative Services Officer position is needed to assist with the administrative role of program and work with the operators and various County departments participating in this program.
Services and Supplies	Outside of salaries, additional costs would be necessary including services and supplies and equipment.

**Page 32** - Talk about government overreach: How many levels of monitoring are they now proposing? Third party vendors for cannabis fee study, development of a tax enforcement program, and a new County cannabis compliance monitoring team? All this is for only 20 operators and a few more as they trickle in?

**Page 32** - They recommend the creation of a cannabis monitoring team: sheriff deputy, senior planner, code enforcement, auditor/analyst - all to make sure growers are compliant with their conditions of approval, and then that they are reporting their taxes correctly?

Whatever one thinks about cannabis in general, the regulatory overreach and costs are ridiculous, given that the County chose to allow the industry in the first place. The State has made matters worse. Instead of reforming the permitting process, the Governor has authorized \$100 million more for the counties and cities to process the applications faster. Unbelievable!!!

This is the typical government approach. If a program fails, throw more money and staff at it. Check out the related article below:

## California Wants To Throw \$100 Million at Its Mismanaged Retail Marijuana Sector

By Scott Shackford



*California's nascent legal recreational marijuana industry is so heavily taxed and regulated that the [black market still dominates](#). It's so burdensome to try to get conventional permission to grow and sell marijuana the "legal" way that thousands of dispensaries operate without proper licenses. Government officials have been attempting to crack down on the problem and force them to close their doors.*

*On Monday California lawmakers attempted to address this problem in a very California way:*

*Assembly members [authorized a \\$100 million subsidy](#) to help potential marijuana vendors get properly licensed.*

*As the [Los Angeles Times](#) explains, the subsidy isn't going to the dispensaries or growers themselves—not that it should. The \$100 million is instead going to local government agencies and cities so they can "hire experts and staff to assist businesses in completing the environmental studies and transitioning the licenses."*

*California's environmental regulations, most specifically the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), make it extremely expensive (and sometimes even impossible) to build anything new or improve anything in the state. CEQA requires businesses, entrepreneurs, and developers to pay for extensive environmental impact studies. It also permits pretty much anybody to [file suit to try to stop construction](#) using any sort of claim of potential environmental harm, no matter how tenuous. It is being used by opponents of marijuana operations (typically neighbors who don't want them around) to [try to block cannabis operations](#).*

*In order to give marijuana dispensaries and growers time to arrange these complicated studies, the state launched a provisional licensing system after recreational marijuana was made legal in California in 2016. Five years later, 82 percent of marijuana dispensaries in the state are still operating with just the provisional licenses, according to the governor's office.*

*Rather than confront the regulations that make it impossible for cannabis entrepreneurs to comply with state law, lawmakers are essentially rewarding bad governance. Jerred Kiloh, president of the United Cannabis Business Association [tells the Times](#) that even that might not be*

*enough, because cities have been slow to organize their own local cannabis policies. That's exactly what happened in Los Angeles, where one of the major reasons the city had so many unlicensed dispensaries was because the city's own bureaucracy could not get its act together. Two years after marijuana legalization, the city still had not been able to actually roll out business licenses to new dispensaries.*

*Los Angeles will get \$22 million of this new state funding, essentially a financial reward for its bureaucratic failures.*

*Gov. Gavin Newsom also wants to add a six-month extension to the compliance deadlines for full licensing. This is being resisted by a coalition of environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club.*

*Environmentalists have been complaining about the potential impact of large marijuana grow operations, particularly in matters like pollution and water and energy consumption. The resistance here is comically misguided. A piece from the Sierra Club from 2017 notes the massive scope and impacts of illegal grow operations and drug cartel operations on public lands as part of a call for tight regulations of the legal industry.*

*But those massive illegal grow operations are still happening because of how difficult California and CEQA make it to operate a legal cannabis business. This is much, much worse for the environment than the prospect of the state being more flexible on environmental regulations for the benefit of those who are actually trying to follow the rules. After all, the drug cartels don't care about restrictions on pesticide use.*

This article was originally published by Reason.com on June 17, 2021. Scott Shackford is an associate editor at *Reason*. His main beats include tech surveillance and privacy, criminal justice reform, LGBT issues, national security policies, and sometimes wedding cakes.

Shackford comes to *Reason* after nearly a decade of serving in various editing positions for Freedom Communications, a libertarian-leaning media chain. He was formerly editor in chief of the Desert Dispatch in Barstow, California, where he wrote editorials focusing on libertarian issues like wasteful municipal spending, school choice, the drug war, and abuse of police authority. He also editorialized about state and federal transportation and energy spending. Living in the midst of heavily subsidized solar developments in the Mojave Desert, he warned about potential problems with the Department of Energy's guaranteed loan program months before Solyndra actually filed for bankruptcy. He was one of the few newspaper editors in California to endorse Proposition 19 to legalize marijuana.

### **San Louis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Meeting of Wednesday, June 23, 2021 (Completed)**

**Item B-1: Adoption of FY 2021-22 Annual Budget.** The Board approved the Budget unanimously. The Executive Director, known as the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO), warned of trouble in the future with the revenue losses from the impending closure of Phillips 66 and closure of the dunes.

**Background:** The annoying agency continues to exist by State mandate. It made so much fuss about the dunes riding that the Coastal Commission took notice and decided to force closure of the dunes in 3 years.

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
SUMMARY BUDGET REQUEST - FY 2021-2022 06/23/21

	BUDGET 2020-21	ESTIMATED 2020-21	REQUESTED 2021-22
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Property Taxes	\$ 413,060	\$ 412,658	\$ 417,642
Operating & Authority to Construct Permits	1,982,000	1,995,387	1,954,000
Other District Fees (Asbestos, Environ Assess, Burn Fees)	226,932	318,381	248,304
Mutual Settlements	64,000	106,561	75,000
Interest Revenue	40,000	44,160	40,000
DMV Air Fees	1,075,000	1,094,332	1,080,000
State & Federal Aid	593,004	663,796	298,997
Other Sales & Miscellaneous Revenues	26,508	44,007	16,853
Cancelled Reserves & Designations	0	0	0
Fund Balance From Prior Year	1,251,955	1,251,955	1,184,137
Encumbrance Reserve From Prior Year	55,387	55,387	0
<b>TOTAL FINANCING</b>	<b>\$ 5,727,846</b>	<b>\$ 5,986,624</b>	<b>\$ 5,314,933</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Salaries, Benefits, & Taxes	\$ 3,981,055	\$ 3,576,957	\$ 3,838,612
Communications - Phones, Mail	32,940	20,323	32,940
Computers, Software, & Computer Support	183,083	144,945	195,240
County Services (excluding Computer Support)	117,713	102,520	118,683
Insurance	47,500	50,006	54,000
Leases & Rents	4,000	4,400	4,000
Maintenance - Equipment & Facilities	161,990	150,544	156,190
Office Supplies & Copies	29,986	9,649	33,786
Other Department Expenses	19,140	30,952	20,210
Professional Services	316,678	171,129	293,300
Public Outreach & Education	58,000	58,000	53,000
Training & Travel	51,754	5,332	51,754
Utilities	19,700	11,600	19,700
Vehicles - Maintenance & Fuel	24,400	17,734	24,400
Subtotal - Services & Supplies	1,066,884	777,134	1,057,203
Other Charges / Contributions to Other Agencies	2,500	1,000	6,000
Fixed Assets	230,992	142,375	192,000
Contingencies	141,394	0	152,814
Increased Reserves & Designations	305,021	305,021	68,304
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>5,727,846</b>	<b>4,802,487</b>	<b>5,314,933</b>
Net District Cost	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (1,184,137)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Separately, Supervisors Arnold and Compton attempted to have a conservative appointed to the APCD Hearing Board public member slot. The leftists knocked an applicant out on a 6/3 vote.

## OTHER ISSUES



### Item 1 - Good News

*For some superstitious folks, the number 13 is bad luck. Not for PLF and the U.S. Supreme Court, which today struck down a California union access regulation and freed private property owners from government-sanctioned illegal invasions.*

*The ruling in [Cedar Point Nursery v. Hassid](#) is our 13<sup>th</sup> win in the 15 cases we've litigated before*

*the Supreme Court.*

*The relentless work behind this win took nearly six years and involved all of us at PLF. I'm deeply grateful to our attorneys, staff, and loyal [pro-liberty allies](#) across the country who dedicated their time, talent, and patience to bring this case to the nation's highest court.*

*But the true victory belongs to our clients, Cedar Point Nursery and Fowler Packing Company. Their fight began in 2015 when United Farm Workers sent activists to storm their workplaces to badger workers.*

*The union acted under cover of an access regulation that was baked into California's labor laws in 1975.*

*We're thrilled the Supreme Court recognized that the Constitution forbids government from requiring you to allow unwanted strangers onto your property. And that union activists are no exception.*

*As Chief Justice Roberts wrote in his opinion, "[N]o one disputes that, without the access regulation, the growers would have had the right under California law to exclude union organizers from their property. And no one disputes that the access regulation took that right from them."*

*[Cedar Point Nursery v. Hassid](#) also stands out as the only property takings case out of the 64 cases heard by the Court this entire term—a true testament to PLF's property rights expertise and footprint throughout the nation.*

*On behalf of our clients and everyone at PLF, I invite you to join me in celebrating our vindicated right to include—and exclude—people from our own private property.*

***Thank you** for making it possible for us to empower Americans to defend liberty and justice for all, before the highest court in the land.*

*Steven D. Anderson, President and CEO*

## **Item 2 - A Portion of the Course Catalogue Description for Political Science 116 – “SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL THEORY: DEMOCRACY AND DIVERSITY”**

The UC Berkeley Political Science Department raises a significant and disturbing question in light of current events:

*Does democracy work exclusively in homogeneous societies? Only in such societies, it has long been maintained, can a people be sufficiently similar to form shared political understanding and purpose. Absent considerable commonality—religious, linguistic, ethnic, racial—it is feared that democracy deteriorates into the tyranny of the majority or a war of all against all. But we are in the midst of a dramatic shift in which democratic societies are increasingly diverse and their*

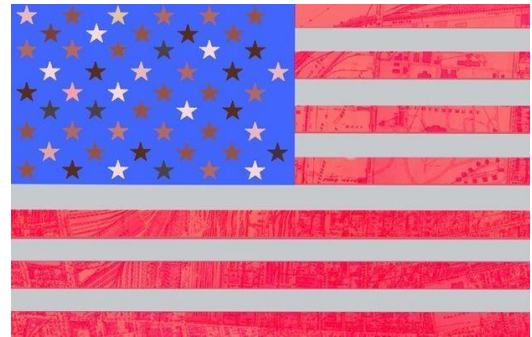
*citizens less willing to ‘forget’ their many differences to melt into a dominant national culture. These developments raise some basic questions. Is it possible to achieve sufficient agreement on fundamental political issues in a diverse society to sustain democracy? Can the character of political community or the nation be reconceived and reformed? If not, is democracy doomed? Or might it be possible to reform democracy to render it compatible with conditions of deep diversity? If so, does the democratic claim to legitimacy also need to be transformed? This course will explore these questions in a number of ways.*

They seem to be saying it’s almost too late. What are the “reforms”?

### And a new American Flag:

Singer song writer Macy Gray, on June Teenth, called for a new version of the flag which reflects the main racial groups in the US. The white stripes would be converted to grey.<sup>3</sup>

We’re not sure where the hammer and sickle, a big red star , or the enviro green stuff would go. Perhaps they will make the grey stripes green.



## 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**

## WHY ARE THEY WOKE?

*The systemic con behind wokeism.*

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**



<sup>3</sup> Natalie Hinds, known by her stage name Macy Gray, is an American R&B and soul singer-songwriter, musician, record producer and actress. She is known for her distinctive raspy voice and a singing style heavily influenced by Billie Holiday.

There are lots of reasons why wokeism spread like wildfire once America lost its collective mind during the pandemic, quarantine, self-induced recession, and rioting of 2020.

Wokeism was never really about racism, sexism, or other -isms. Instead, for some, it illustrated a psychological pathology of projection: fobbing one's own concrete prejudices onto others in order to alleviate or mask them.

So should we laugh or cry that Black Lives Matter's self-described Marxist co-founder turns out to be a corporate grifter? Patrisse Cullors has accumulated several upscale homes and is under investigation by the IRS for allegations of the misuse of funds from one of her foundations.

Is it the case that the more Cullors professes Marxist ideology and damns toxic whiteness, so all the more she feels at home living in a \$1.4 million Topanga Canyon home, in an almost exclusively ritzy white neighborhood?

Consider outspoken liberal icon Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.). He's one of the Senate's most woke. Yet Whitehouse turns out to be a mostly unapologetic member of a *de facto* all-white prestigious "beach club" of elites in Newport, Rhode Island. Is Whitehouse committed in the abstract to rooting out white privilege so he can concretely relax amid it with fellow bluebloods?

Barack and Michelle Obama occasionally venture out of either their multimillion-dollar Washington, D.C. mansion or their Martha's Vineyard estate to lecture the country on its systemic racism. They express worry over the dangers that apparently white people pose to the very safety of their own daughters.

Does such sermonizing square the circle that the Obamas have no desire to return to their Chicago home—a city where nearly 700 African-American males were murdered in 2020, the vast majority by other black men? So far, Chicago in 2021 is on a trajectory to suffer over 30 percent more murder victims than last year.

Joe Biden about every two weeks lectures America on its racism. And he unleashed the bureaucracies of the federal government to root out mythical white supremacist conspiracies.

Does Medieval penance explain Biden's fixation on systemic racism? After all, when he condemns anonymous white racists, does his outrage mitigate his son Hunter's habitual use of the N-word and anti-Asian riffs?

No Washington politico has compiled a longer record of racist put downs than Joe Biden. So apparently, the more Biden hunts for a white racist under every bed, the less necessary it becomes to look in the mirror or at least to beg his son Hunter to knock off his racist slurs. □

The second catalyst of wokeism is the distraction it provides from scary problems that threaten the very existence of American civilization. While the country consumes itself in demanding more than 12 percent representation of black actors in television commercials, it is nearing \$30

trillion in national debt. Eventually, the astounding red ink will require recessionary belt-tightening, more inflationary money printing, or both.

The woke Biden Administration cannot stop 2 million immigrants this year from crossing illegally and with exemption into the United States. Almost all are in need of free American health care, housing, food, and legal subsidies. Violent crime is spiking at an astonishing rate. Yet few dare say why that is—or how to stop it.

America also cannot face the likely truth that Chinese researchers engineered a gain-of-function virus—with oversight from the Communist Chinese military, and subsidies from Drs. Anthony Fauci and Peter Daszak.

So instead of offering real solutions to these crises, we war with each other whether the deceased children's book author Dr. Seuss or the plastic toy Mr. Potato Head was racist or otherwise exclusionary.□

When our elites are clueless about national debt, inflation, illegal immigration, crime, soaring gas prices, and a global pandemic, they reassure themselves that at least they can cancel out Father Junípero Serra or knock down another statue of Robert E. Lee.□

Finally, the hysterias of wokism are being channeled for profit—if they do not already reflect the reality of many of our most woke being the richest among us.

One reason why Oprah Winfrey, Meghan Markle, and LeBron James hype charges of white racism is that their oppression reminds America that one can become rich as Croesus yet remain sympathetic victims.

For next-generation grifters, like Ibram Xolani Kendi (a.k.a. Ibram Henry Rogers) and Robin DiAngelo, to claim that America was, is, and always will be racist, means more than just speaking gigs and book sales.

The solutions for the pseudo-crises they invent are mass reeducation of self-confessional whites—with lucrative consulting fees for both, and tens of thousands of others.

America is systematically being conned by those who disguise their hypocrisy, who manipulate the guilt-ridden, who have no interest in solving America's most dangerous problems, and who get or stay richer by hyping an America in need of massive rebooting—and with it their own careerist remedies.

*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 Trump. This article first appeared in the June 23, 2021 edition of American Greatness.



## 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



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 WEEKDAYS

You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and previously aired shows at:

A promotional graphic for "THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW". It features the show's title in large yellow letters on a black background. Below the title, it lists two radio stations: "AM 1440 KUHL the information station" and "AM 1290 Santa Barbara News-Press Radio". At the bottom, it says "Listen to Andy Live Monday Thru Friday 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM". On the right side of the graphic is a small photo of Andy Caldwell, a man with a mustache wearing a headset.

**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**



**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)