



## WEEKLY UPDATE MARCH 28 - APRIL 3, 2021

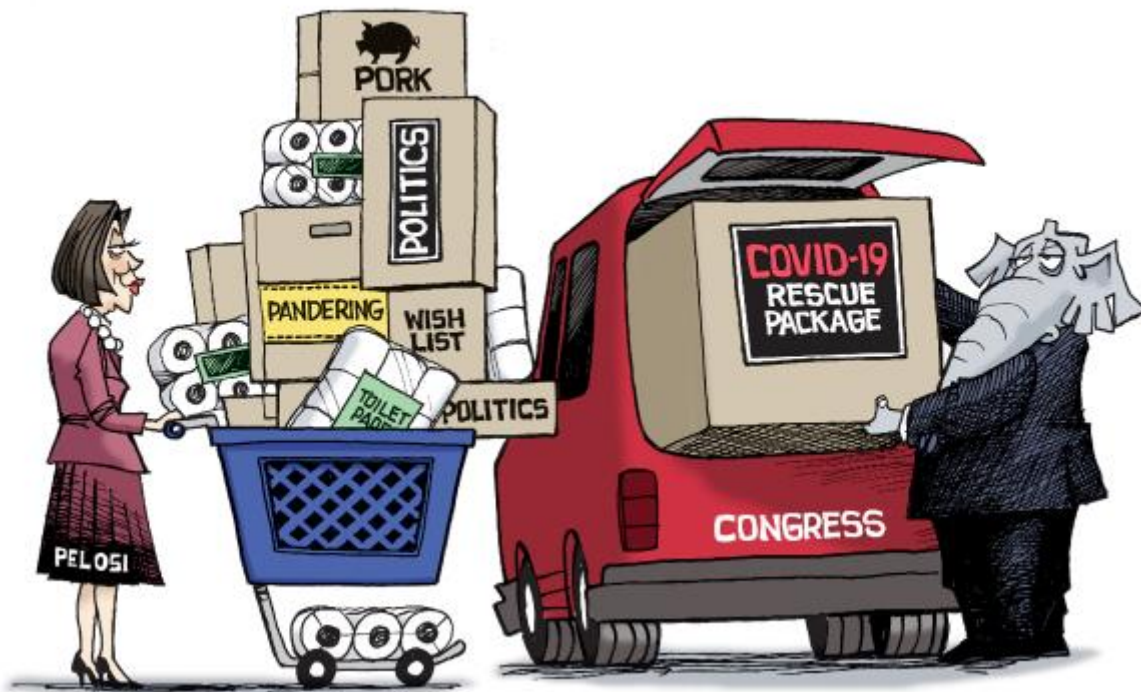
### THIS WEEK

**NO SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**OTHER REGIONAL AGENCIES DORMANT**

**CONGRESS, PRESIDENT, & STATE LEGISLATURE  
CONTINUE THEIR ASSAULTS ON MANY FRONTS**

*LFA 2020 3-25 Dist by Wash Post/Writers Group*



## **LAST WEEK**

### **NO SUPERVISORS MEETING**

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

**CHEVRON SOIL CLEANUP IN GUADALUPE DUNES APPROVED  
LARGE CANNABIS PROJECT NEAR LAKESHORE ESTATES DENIED**

## **COLAB IN DEPTH**

**SEE PAGE 6**

### **AFTER \$1.9 TRILLION SPENDING HIKE, BIDEN IS PLANNING \$3 TRILLION IN NEW SPENDING**

*This time with tax increases too!*

**BY ERIC BOEHM**

### **QUESTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA'S NEXT GOVERNOR**

**BY EDWARD RING**

## **THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

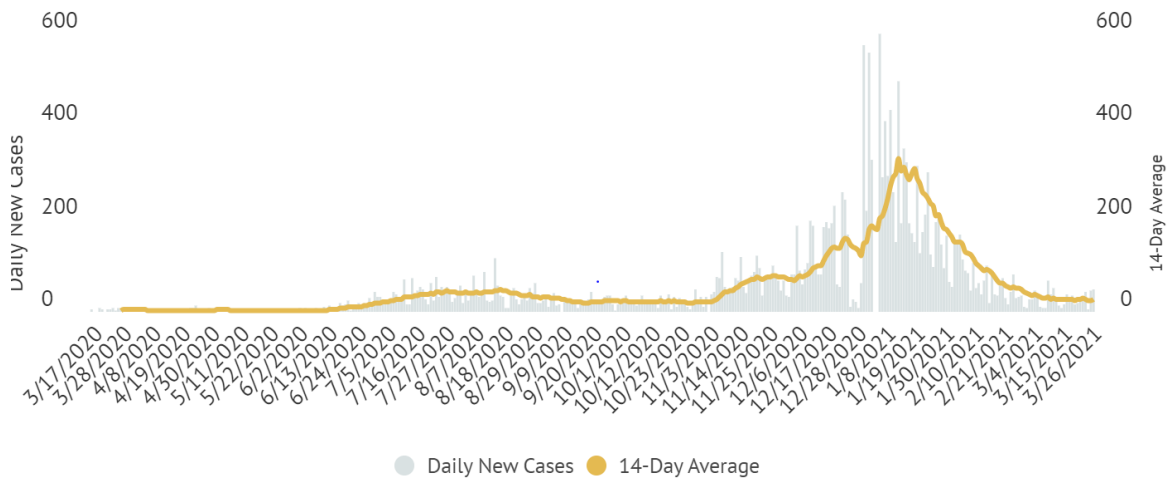
This week is light in that it does not have any meetings of the key regional agencies. The next Board of Supervisors meeting is set for Tuesday, April 6, 2021. It will probably include a discussion of how to give some relief to farmers and other property owners who are trapped in the Paso Basin water moratorium. A serious problem is that the moratorium was crafted as a zoning ordinance. County Counsel is insisting that it cannot be made more flexible without a program environmental impact report (EIR). Worse, some applicants under a reformed version would have to do project specific EIRs. This circumstance presents a huge precedence and potential extension problem for agriculture. We have been working with the County to attempt to find a solution, as we oppose subjecting agriculture to environmental review. The right to farm is sacred, and no governments should impinge on this core right.

# ISSUES

**Even though there are no policy laden meetings this week, there are issues running in the background which impact our private property, businesses, free association, and other liberties.**

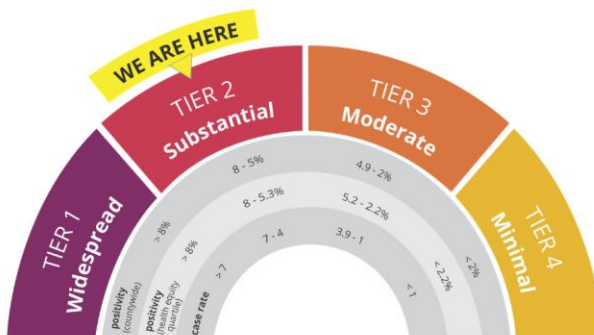
Item 1 - COVID Status: If the infection rate remains low, the County could move into tier-3 (Orange) in another week. At this point the State and localities have pretty much lost control, as people are gathering in various ways. The Board should resume meetings with public attendance. There is also space in the adjacent classrooms to spread out the public.

## Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average) As of March 26, 2021



### 7 (2 ICU)\*\*

SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital



Headlines from around the state (see below) are indicative of the rapid deployment of vaccine to just about everyone. Is the phased reopening plan even needed at this point? It seems that restaurants are crowded, and people have already begun to gather in groups. There is a plateau in the SLO County infection rate, as an uptick occurred due to people gathering for St. Patrick's Day and "St. Fratty's Day" in the university community. Young male mammals are risk takers. The human type should spend a few years in the infantry before being admitted to state funded universities.

[AP: California opens vaccination eligibility to all adults](#)

[LAT \\$: All California adults can get COVID-19 vaccine next month](#)

[CG: California To Make COVID-19 Vaccine Available To All Adults Beginning April 15th](#)

[OCReg: All Californians 50 and older eligible for COVID vaccine April 1; 16+ April 15](#)

[CalM: Californians 50 and older eligible for vaccinations next week](#)

## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 (Not Scheduled)**

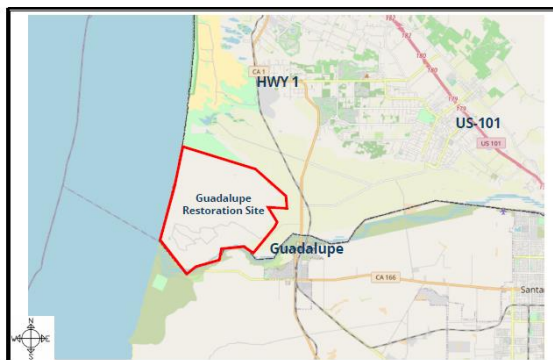
The next scheduled meeting is set for April 6, 2021. It will contain a major policy discussion with respect to the Paso Basin water moratorium.

**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 25, 2021 (Completed)**

**Item 5 - Hearing to consider a request by Chevron Environmental Management Company for Development Plan/Coastal Development Plan (DRC2019-00069) to amend previously approved Development Plan/Coastal Development Plan (D890558D) for the Guadalupe Restoration Project, to construct and operate a Soil Management Area (SMA) for handling hydrocarbon affected soils that are generated as part of the ongoing restoration activities at the former Guadalupe Oil Field. The proposed SMA will be placed at the T-9 site, which currently has a large sump. The sump would be excavated prior to construction of the SMA as part of the ongoing Guadalupe Restoration Project. When completed, the SMA would be re-vegetated with Coastal Dune Scrub. The SMA is estimated to take approximately three to five years to complete. The project would disturb approximately 18 acres of previously disturbed area on two parcels totaling 939-acres (092-041-001 & 092-041-005), including 1.2 million cubic-yards of earthwork. The project is located at 2184 West Thornberry Road, approximately 5 miles**

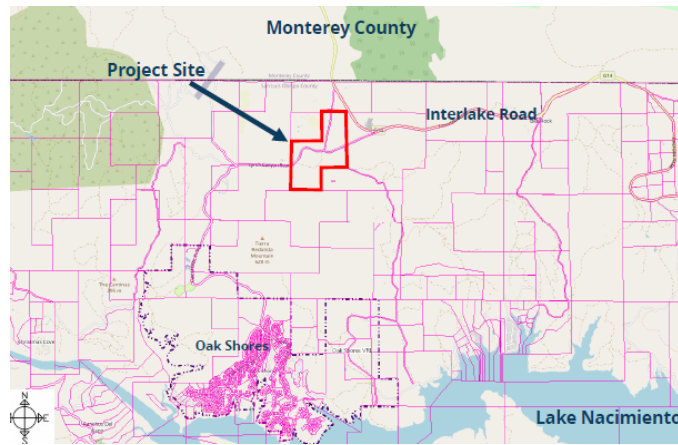
southwest of community of Nipomo, in the South County Coastal Planning Area. Also to be considered at the hearing will be adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the item. The Environmental Coordinator, after completion of the initial study, finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not necessary. Therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and CA Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.) has been issued on January 20, 2021 for this project. Mitigation measures are proposed to address Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Hydrology & Water Quality are included as conditions of approval. This is a big cleanup project required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The permit was approved with some questions about containment of the stored material (so it will not leak back into the ground).

**Background:** The staff write-up does not indicate how much the permitting fees are or what the County will be charging them for the 5 years during which the remediation will take place. It looks like permanent employment for some of the County staff and the Regional Water Control Board staff. You will be paying for it at the pump for years. We believe that Board letters should include a brief analysis of the costs of permitting to applicants as a measure of government efficiency and accountability.



**Item 7 - Hearing to consider a request by Greenmilk LLC for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2018-00223) to establish cannabis operations with up to 3.75 acres of outdoor cultivation area in hoop houses, 22,000 square feet of indoor cultivation, 17,388 square feet of indoor commercial nursery, and 19,250 square feet of manufacturing, processing, non-storefront dispensary and offices. The manufacturing/processing and dispensary activities will be housed within a new 19,250 square foot building; indoor cultivation and nursery activities will take place within a 40,572 square foot greenhouse attached to the processing building. In addition, the project includes a 10,000 square foot building to be occupied in the future by offices and a warehouse.** The Commission unanimously denied the permit with vigor. The staff was directed to prepare a list of findings for the denial which was so extensive and pointed that it required about an hour to complete. The application was found to be inconsistent with the General Plan. It was also found that there were many data inaccuracies within the application.

There was considerable public opposition. Some Commissioners expressed the view that the applicant would appeal the denial to the Board of Supervisors.



## **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**

**AFTER \$1.9 TRILLION SPENDING HIKE, BIDEN IS  
PLANNING \$3 TRILLION IN NEW SPENDING**

*This time with tax increases too!*

**BY ERIC BOEHM**

It's been a whole 11 days since President Joe Biden signed a \$1.9 trillion spending bill, so naturally the White House is already planning the next, even bigger spending package.

**The New York Times** reported Monday that Biden's advisors are prepping a \$3 trillion hike in federal spending. The money would go to infrastructure projects, climate change initiatives, community colleges, and a variety of other Democratic priorities. The plan may also include higher taxes on businesses and wealthy individuals, but it seems unlikely that the tax increases would offset such a massive spending binge. And that means Biden's plan is almost certain to add to the \$28 trillion (and rapidly growing) national debt.

This is the big-time spending package that Biden has been promising since last year's presidential campaign. The pandemic bill passed earlier this month was merely a prelude.

The numbers here are simply staggering. Consider the fact that in 2019, the last full budget year before the pandemic, the federal government spent a grand total of \$4.4 trillion. Combined with the bill that already passed in March, this plan represents nearly \$5 trillion in **new** spending.

Though the specifics of the proposal are in flux, it seems to bear some similarities to the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) that Biden signed into law earlier this month. That bill was ostensibly a COVID-19 relief measure, but only a small percentage of the money was actually directed toward dealing with the pandemic. The upcoming \$3 trillion package will be called an infrastructure bill, but the **Times** says only about \$1 trillion would be directed toward such traditional infrastructure items as roads, bridges, ports, and improvements to the electric grid.

The rest of the package will probably be packed with progressive policy items—stop me if you've heard this before—including a new paid family leave program, free community college, and universal pre-K education. The estimated \$3 trillion price tag does not include the cost of extending temporary tax cuts, such as the child tax credit expanded by the ARP.

The **Times** reports that Biden is aiming to raise the top individual income tax rate from 37 percent to 39.6 percent, and that he may propose lowering the threshold for that top rate to \$400,000. Currently, it applies to individuals who earn more than \$500,000 annually and couples who earn at least \$600,000. Biden's team has been kicking around ideas like raising the corporate income tax rate from 21 percent to 28 percent and imposing a higher capital gains tax on individuals who make over \$1 million annually.

The corporate tax hike alone would kill 159,000 jobs and reduce long-term economic growth, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Foundation. Raising the federal corporate tax rate to 28 percent would make the average state-and-federal tax burden for American businesses 32.34 percent—the highest rate in the developed world.

As significant as the tax increases might be, the mounting national debt probably represents the more serious consequence of the Biden administration's plans. Before ARP passed, this year's budget was estimated to be \$2.2 trillion. It may be close to twice that high now, before any further borrowing for an infrastructure bill is included.

Top Articles **READ**

Thanks to a splurge of federal spending before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, the national debt is now larger than the entire American economy. On its current trajectory—that is, even without any additional new spending—the debt is projected to grow to double the size of the economy within the

next 25 years. Even if outlandish amounts of debt don't trigger a major fiscal crisis in the years to come, merely making the interest payments on it will reduce long-term economic growth and Americans' standard of living.

Politically, Biden's proposal will be a major political test for both parties in Congress. With slim congressional majorities, Democrats will have to convince potentially vulnerable members from purple districts and states to support a massive spending bill packed with progressive agenda items. Republicans, meanwhile, have abandoned pretty much any interest in making fiscal policy a political battleground and have retreated into nonstop culture wars.

Speaking on the Senate floor Monday afternoon, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R–Ky.) warned that Biden's "so-called infrastructure proposal" might "actually be a Trojan horse for massive tax hikes and other job-killing left-wing policies." That seems like an apt description of what Biden's advisors are preparing.

This article first appeared in Reason on March 22, 2021. Eric Boehm is a reporter for *Reason*. His work has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, National Review Online, *The Freeman Magazine*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The American Spectator*, *The Washington Examiner*, *The Daily Signal*, FoxNews.com, and elsewhere. He was a national regulatory reporter for Watchdog.org and bureau chief of the (now-defunct) *Pennsylvania Independent* in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

## QUESTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA'S NEXT GOVERNOR

BY EDWARD RING

The Recall Gavin campaign appears on track to gather just over 2.0 million signed recall petitions before their March 17 deadline. If there is a special election, the recall ballot will have two questions. The first will be “do you support removing Newsom from office, yes or no?” The second question, on the same ballot, will be “if voters remove Newsom from office, who do you vote for to replace him?”

If a lot of candidates run to replace Newsom, there is still a way that one candidate can excite the electorate to stand out from the pack and beat the odds. That is not by attacking the other candidates, but by emphasizing solutions to the challenges Californians are facing.

To that end, here are some questions for candidates that aspire to become the next governor of California:



Are you willing to stand up to the teachers' unions and fight for [school choice](#) via universal vouchers where the money follows the student, and/or massive improvement in the ability to open and keep open independent charter schools?

Are you willing to direct California's attorney general to fight to overturn *Jones v. the City of Los Angeles*, the flawed court ruling that requires homeless people be offered free "permanent supportive housing" before they can be removed from their public encampments?

Are you willing to build state-run encampments where able-bodied drug addicts can be hauled off and given the help they need for pennies on the dollar, or are you going to allow the [Homeless Industrial Complex](#) to keep on [abusing taxpayers](#) and solving nothing?

Are you willing to tell the truth, that we ought to [drill for more natural gas](#) here in resource-rich California to create jobs since we import so much of it anyway? Will you prevent the destruction of California's natural gas distribution infrastructure?

Are you willing to keep the [Diablo Canyon](#) nuclear power plant open? Will you support mining California's [abundant lithium deposits](#) so California's EV battery suppliers don't have to import these raw materials from slave states?

Are you going to fight to bring [back logging to 1990 levels](#) (triple what it is today) so we can thin the overgrown forests and at the same time the timber companies will clear around the power lines and maintain firebreaks and fire roads like they used to, at no charge?

Will you tell the [truth about open space](#), that we are *not* running out of it, and will you fight to bring back streamlined permitting for subdivisions on open land along the major freeway corridors up and down the state?

Will you spend [public money on water infrastructure](#)—reservoirs, aquifer storage, desalination, sewage reuse—instead of putting Californians onto water rationing?

Will you invest in [widening and extending California's roads](#) and freeways instead of wasting money on high-speed rail? Do you understand that [smart cars and passenger drones](#) are just around the corner, making roads the most versatile transportation investment?

Will you tell the identity politics warriors and social justice warriors they're barking up the wrong tree, that [California is not "racist,"](#) and that if they truly want to help they can encourage individuals to take responsibility for their lives?

These are bold positions that, if translated into policies, would make a positive difference in the lives of ordinary Californians. Explaining the compelling rationale for these policies will build consensus among voters. This means an articulate, uncompromising new governor could bypass California's corrupt state legislature and take every one of these positions to the voters in the form of state ballot initiatives.

Forcing Newsom to defend himself in a recall election is going to be a tremendous accomplishment, but it is only half the battle. Offering a coherent alternative to what Newsom and the Democrats he represents have done to Californians is the vital other half of this struggle.

Even in the event of a nightmare outcome, the replacement of Newsom with someone like the even more extreme Lorena Gonzalez, there is a silver lining. Californians will experience, to the extent they haven't already experienced it, the full weight of one-party rule by leftist fanatics, environmentalist extremists, social justice "woke" warriors, public sector unions, corrupt business special interests, and the billionaire oligarchs that pull the strings. It will be a clarifying experience.

If things go from bad to worse in California, and voters have to endure a doubling down of failed leadership from Democrats, they will be ready to vote for ballot initiatives and reform candidates that offer new policies to an electorate that is finally paying attention.

*This article originally appeared on the website [California Globe](#). March 23, 2021. Edward Ring is a contributing editor for the California Policy Center.*



## **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

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**COUNTY UPDATES OCCUR MONDAYS AT 4:30 PM**

MIKE BROWN IS THE REGULAR MONDAY GUEST AT 4:30  
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LAST PAGE BELOW**

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ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS





VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM  
See the presentation at the link: <https://youtu.be/eEdP4cvf-zA>



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



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## 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

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**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)