



**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**MAY 16 - 22, 2021**

**COLAB**  
San Luis Obispo County



# **DINNER & FUNDRAISER**

*12th Anniversary*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Thursday September 9th, 2021**

***Alex Madonna Expo Center***

**more details coming soon...**

***We're Back  
& We Will always Be Here!***

COLAB San Luis Obispo County  
805-548-0340 [colabslo@gmail.com](mailto:colabslo@gmail.com)

## **THIS WEEK**

### **IWMA PULLOUT STUDY TO BE CONSIDERED**

**STAFF WANTS 4/5 VOTE BUT FUND CENTER ALREADY SHOWS BALANCE  
THE BOARD MAJORITY SHOULD NOT GET SNOOKERED**

### **COVID UPDATE DATA LACKING**

**REASON OBSCURE - SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE STATE**

### **3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

**TONS OF DETAIL BUT IT'S HARD TO KNOW HOW WE ARE DOING**

### **PROPOSED FY 2021-22 BUDGET SUBMITTED**

**HEARING IS ON JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> - MORE DETAILS COMING SOON**

### **BOARD MAJORITY OPPOSES VACCINATION PASSPORTS**

**OTHERS WANT YOU CHIPPED LIKE A DOG OR CAT**



## **LAST WEEK**

### **NO BOS MEETING LAST WEEK**

### **INTEGRATED WASTE AUTHORITY SUBDUED**

## **COLAB IN DEPTH**

**SEE PAGE 14**

## TUNING OUT WOKEISM

*The current madness is the stuff of history as we watch it predictably unfold, until—and if—a few, a “happy few,” finally say to the mob, “no mas.”* BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

## THE GREEN FANTASY IS A NIGHTMARE

BY JOHN H. HINDERAKER

### THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

#### Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, May 18, 2021 (Scheduled)

**Item 3 - Request to approve a sole source contract with MSW Consultants, in an amount not to exceed \$32,050 to perform a cost-benefit analysis of the County's participation in the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority; and provide staff direction to confirm the scope and schedule for considering withdrawal; and authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$32,050 from General Fund Contingencies to increase appropriation in Fund Center 104 – Administrative Office, by 4/5 vote.** The staff report subverts the Board majority's desire to examine the feasibility of withdrawing from the IWMA. In effect, it sets up Gibson's play.

The 4/5 vote is not necessary. The Administrative Office (Fund Center 104) is forecasting a \$152,000 surplus on June 20, 2021, per the 3rd Quarter Financial Report (28 below). This would appear to be a blocking tactic, as it is pretty certain that Supervisor Gibson and Supervisor Ortiz-Legg will vote against the study.

**There is no need for an extra appropriation in Fund Center 104. The Study can be approved on a regular 3/5 majority vote:** There is a more appropriate budget account to which to assign the cost of the study. It is in the Public Works budget, which specifically provides for work related to the IWMA, source reduction recycling, and their management. As noted below, the relevant fund centers in Public Works are forecasted to end the fiscal year with an \$840,000 surplus.

Per Board direction the staff has returned with a request to fund a feasibility study of the County withdrawing from the Integrated Waste Management District (IWMA). If found to be operationally and financially advantageous, the Board could have the County Public Works Department run source reduction and recycling programs. It is possible that some of the cities would contract with the County for the services.

The proposed feasibility analysis may be doomed, as staff has biased the decision by stating that the Board is required to approve the funding by a 4/5 vote. Four fifths votes on financial matters are required when there is new and unbudgeted revenue being appropriated. The 4/5 vote is also required

when there is no existing appropriation in the adopted budget which is sufficient to cover the costs in a particular Fund Center. The proposed study will cost \$32, 050. As noted below, this small cost is well within the forecasted year end positive balance of Fund Center 104. No additional funding authorization is required.

The Board majority should not be deceived or intimidated. Moreover and separately from the Admin office budget, Public Works already has an approved appropriation of \$10.7 million for facilities management, waste management, and special services. About \$1.4 million of this amount is budgeted for various Solid Waste Management activities. As of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report (see **Item 28** below) these Fund Centers are forecast to underrun their budgets by an aggregate \$840,230 this fiscal year. The accompanying Budget program write-up states:

***Solid Waste Coordination*** *The Solid Waste Programs protect the health and safety of the communities served by ensuring the timely and cost-efficient collection of solid waste, green waste, food waste and recycled materials. Assure the County’s compliance with the state mandated waste reduction requirements (AB 939). Coordinate with the SLO County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA), the franchise haulers and the communities in which the County regulates solid waste, green waste, food waste and recycled material collection, to meet the program goals and objectives. Evaluate franchise hauler rate applications and recommend rates to the Board of Supervisors that are consistent with the County’s rate setting policies. Monitor programs to reduce solid waste and increase recycling in the unincorporated areas of the County. Implement cleanups to remove litter and trash and maintain compliance with surface water quality objectives throughout the County including beneficial use designations and stormwater pollution prevention requirements. Administer franchise contracts with waste hauling service providers and act as a central information source for inquiries from the public and other agencies regarding solid waste matters*

The Budget actually contains 2 performance measures in regard to this allotment:

1. Performance Measure: Percentage reduction of solid waste disposed in regional landfills as required by State law.					
The percentage of recycling and waste diversion reduction from regional landfills.					
	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Target	68.00%	68.00%	60.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Actual	60.00%	60.00%	61.00%	0.00%	
<b>Notes:</b> Data for FY 2019-20 is not available due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Measure being deleted in FY 2020-21. A new measure will be added in FY 2020-21 to be in-line with State reporting.					
2. Performance Measure: State Law requires a 50% per capita diversion target.					
This measure shows the per Capita Disposal Rate (pounds/person/day) of solid waste in regional landfills as required by State Law.					
	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Target	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.40
Actual	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Notes:</b> New measure for FY 2020-21. This new measure falls in line with how the State agency reports of Per Capita Disposal Rate (pounds/person/day) of solid waste disposed in regional landfills.					

The County Board appropriates funding at the Fund Center Level. Its official policy in this regard states:

***Fund Center:*** *The lowest entity in the budget hierarchy including all accounts for which a legal appropriation is approved by the Board of Supervisors. A department or agency may have one or*

more fund centers assigned to it. Each fund center is a collection of account numbers necessary to fund a certain division, department or set of functions.

There is already more than sufficient funding than is required for the \$32,000 study. The amount is clearly so far below the Fund Center appropriation that no Board action is required. Significantly, if the Board were to intrude into the Budget at this level, it would be violating its own budget policy and would be intruding into the CAO's separate allotment powers.

**There is no need for a 4/5 vote to provide the financing. Accordingly, The Board may direct the study be undertaken on a regular 3/5 majority vote.**

The schedule is contained in the table below:

REQUIRED ACTION(S)	DATE	TIME CONSTRAINTS
<b>Board Direction re: Consultant services contract; authorize Budget Adjustment</b>	<b>May 18, 2021</b>	
<b>Board Update from consultant; direction on how to proceed</b>	<b>August 10, 2021</b>	Last meeting before hiring process deadline; item due 7/30 (publication 8/3)
<b>Approve PAL change/BAR to add FTEs</b>	<b>August 24, 2021</b>	Hiring process deadline
Begin hiring Process for FTEs (application period, background, etc.)	August 24, 2021	Hiring process takes appx. 10 weeks
Release of RFP for contract services (if directed)	October 18, 2021	RFP process takes at least 4 weeks
New FTEs on board	November 1, 2021	Staff on board for two months before Go-Live
Contractor Selection	November 19, 2021	Agenda item due 12/3; 2 weeks for contract negotiations
<b>Approval of contract/BAR</b>	<b>December 14, 2021</b>	Final Board meeting of 2021
Go-Live	January 1, 2022	
* Board action required in BOLD		

The write-up states in part:

*Staff is recommending the cost benefit analysis be performed by MSW Consultants (MSW). Public Works staff contacted three solid waste consulting firms in order to solicit proposals to complete the analysis no later than August 2021. Due to workload related to SB 1383, one declined to submit a proposal. The second firm expressed some interest but indicated that this type of analysis was not their specialty and there are other more appropriate firms. The third firm was MSW who expressed interest in completing the analysis within the required timeframe. MSW is a solid waste consulting firm that has been performing financial and policy analysis for local governments for over thirty years. The consulting team for this analysis will be led by their President David Davis, who is a Certified Management Accountant. MSW is well qualified to perform this analysis and performed a similar service for Monterey County in 2011 when they considered withdrawing from the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority. Staff believes that due to the unique nature of this analysis and the required timeframe, MSW has both the solid waste and accounting background which justifies the sole source approval of this contract*

*The study will examine the following issues*

*Criteria necessary to be reviewed so your Board can make an informed decision, include, but is not limited to:*

- 1. What County Departments, in addition to Public Works, will be impacted?*
- 2. What programs must be created to achieve compliance with Senate Bill 1383 requirements?*

3. *How many permanent employees will be necessary?*
4. *What work efforts could be accomplished by consultants or waste haulers?*
5. *Will withdrawal result in a cost savings or cost increase to the County?*
6. *How does the County end the JPA and other contractual agreements?*
7. *How will the County negotiate cessation of tipping fees paid under the MOU with the cities?*
8. *What assets are retained by the JPA?*
9. *What assets may be transferred to the County?*
10. *How is risk (fines/liability) exposure changed?*

**Item 26 - COVID Update.** As we observed over the past month, the various levels of government have lost control of the public vis-a-vis lockdown regulations, masks, gatherings, and vaccination acceptance. This has resulted in a seeming rush to end many of the requirements. The Board of Supervisors has announced that it will be resuming in-person meetings in June. Curiously, we have been consistently told that only the County Health Officer and the County Administrative Office have the power to restore live meetings of the Supervisors. This is reportedly because the County Counsel has opined that when the Board declared the COVID emergency, it delegated these powers to those administrative officials. We always thought this was a mistake because the Board could rescind the declaration, and the Governor's declaration did not include the controls of the allocation of the powers in each city, town, and ground squirrel village in the State.

Schools are still in various conditions of lockdown, rotating classes, and negotiations with teachers' unions about return to work. There is increasing evidence that much of the public is fed up, and we are seeing school board recall petitions in some districts. The entire education establishment (pre-K through the UC graduate schools) is long overdue for a complete dismantling and reform. But that is a discussion for another time. Only an enraged and aggrievedly organized public will be able to slay the monster which has been erected over the past 70 years.

The County did not report the detailed statistics on Friday May 14<sup>th</sup>. Instead it posted the message:

*\*\* Please note: We are pausing updates to this detailed stats page for May 13 and 14, while our local epidemiology team reviews updated case information provided by the State. These statistics will be updated on Monday, May 17. \*\*\**

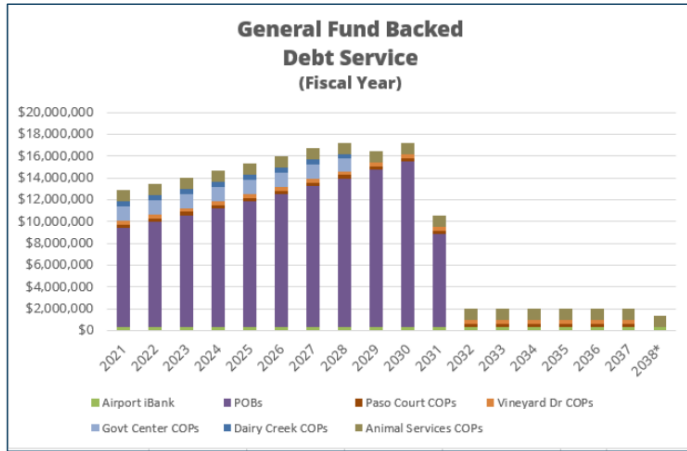
This is too obtuse. Why are they reviewing the information? Is there a suspected problem?

**Item 28 - Third Quarter FY 2020-21 Financial Report.** Although the report provides no overall forecast, it appears that the County will end its fiscal year in the black. The document contains many pages of anecdotal written detail covering those departments which are experiencing higher than projected expenditures and/or lower than projected revenues. At one point the document reports a \$20 charitable contribution to the \$128 million Social Services Department. The Board actually has to vote to accept the twenty bucks.

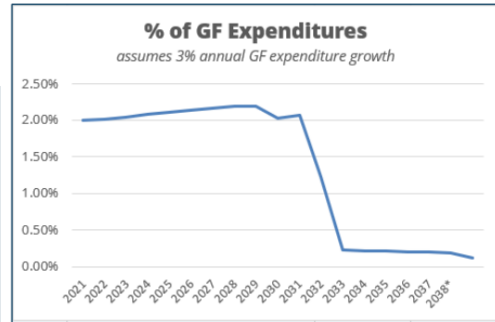
Meanwhile there is no projection for how the overall County budget will end the current fiscal year on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Is there any real problem, and if so, how will it be addressed? Likewise, what will be the impact on next year's budget? What is the big picture?

There is a substantial section on County debt .Some highlights include:

## Annual Debt Review Debt Inventory – General Fund Backed

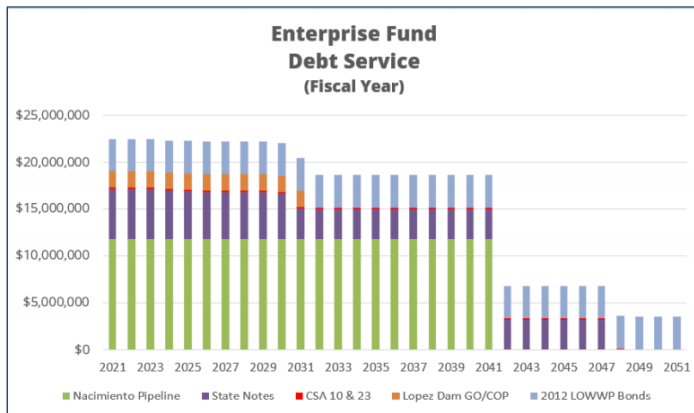


\* After 2038 only remaining debt is Airport Terminal (2046 payoff)



Issuance	Balance 6/30/20
2003 POBs	\$93,733,000
2007 Paso Courthouse COPs	\$3,675,000
2020B Vineyard Drive COPs	\$4,235,000
2012 New Govt Center COPs	\$8,693,000
2012 Dairy Creek COPs	\$3,207,000
2016 Airport Terminal – State iBank	\$5,636,000
2020A Animal Services Facility	\$16,145,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$135,324,000</b>

## Annual Debt Review Debt Inventory – Enterprise Funds

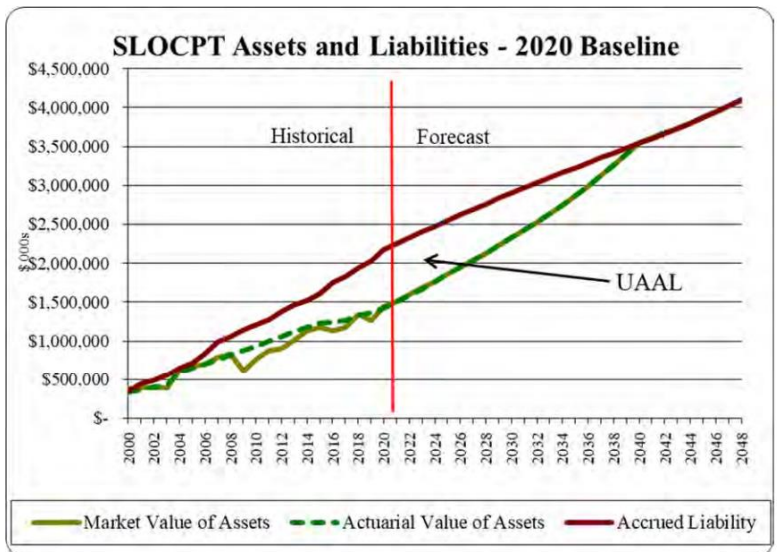


Enterprise debt service provided by charges to users, contracting Cities and Special districts

Issue	Balance 6/30/20
1998 Cayucos Water- State DWR	\$494,000
2004 Lopez Rec Area – State DWR	\$79,000
2006 Lopez Water Treatment – State DWR	\$14,484,000
2007 Nacimiento – Rev Bonds	\$159,841,000
2007 Airport Fuel Farm – State DOT	\$378,000
2009 CSA23 Water- COPs	\$1,423,000
2011 Lopez Dam – COPs	\$7,830,000
2011 Lopez Dam – GO Bonds	\$7,025,000
2012 Los Osos Wastewater – State DWR	\$65,644,000
2012 Los Osos Wastewater - AB	\$73,943,000
2013 CSA10A Water - COPs	\$1,448,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$332,589,000</b>

The figures above only include principal. Substantial interest will have to be paid off as well. These funds are not available for current government operations.

Note that the PowerPoint includes \$93.7 million of pension obligation bonds (POB's) but omits \$753 million of Pension Unfunded Accumulated Actuarial Liability.



Closing of the gap assumes that the system will achieve an annual investment return which averages 7% over all the gap years.

During the first 3 quarters of the fiscal year the County continued to expand its workforce, even though it is continuing to experience a substantial vacancy rate. It should cut half the vacant positions and reallocate the balance to the high priorities such as safety.

**SUMMARY OF POSITION ALLOCATION CHANGES**

FY 2020-21	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Quarter Start	2,807.25	2,815.00	2,827.50	
FTE Additions	17.75	19.25	11.50	
FTE Deletions	10.00	6.75	1.50	
Quarter End	2,815.00	2,827.50	2,837.50	
Net Change	7.75	12.50	10.00	
% Change	0.28%	0.44%	0.35%	

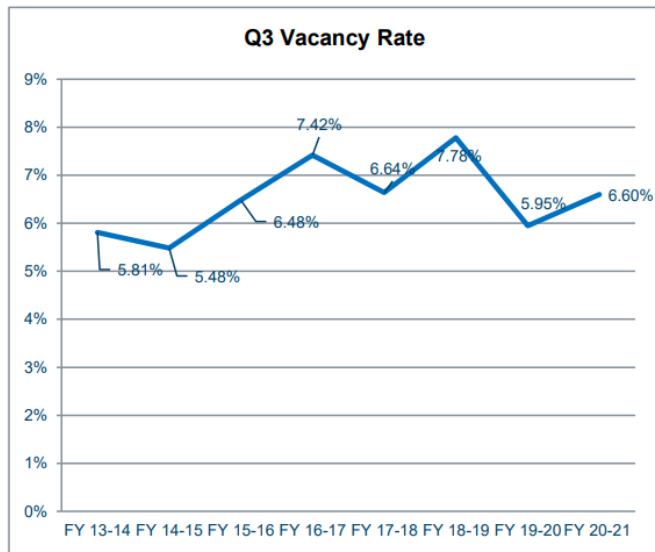




## EMPLOYEE VACANCY RATE

The County's vacancy rate is calculated at the end of each quarter by dividing the number of vacant positions by the number of allocated positions at that point in time. The vacancy rate typically reflects contributing factors including but not limited to the number of new hires, employee exits, and number of difficult-to-fill positions.

The County employee vacancy rate at the end of the third quarter was 6.60%. This equates to 187.25 vacant positions. By comparison, the vacancy rate for the third quarter during FY 2019-20 was 5.95%. This represents an increase of 0.65 percentage points from the prior year.



**Item 30 - Submittal of the Proposed FY 2021-22 County Budget.** The County Administrator has submitted a \$693.3 million Proposed Budget for next year, which contains an overall \$13.9 million increase. By way of perspective, the Budget has increased from \$594.0 million in 2018-19 to a recommended \$693.3 million this year, a \$99.3 million increase in 4 years, which is an average of about \$25 million per year.

Citizens might ask, how can the latest version be only \$13.9 million? A key concern is that the summary table does not contain a column projecting the true total for the end of the current fiscal year. This gap in the presentation makes it very difficult to understand what is actually going on.

As noted above under **Item 28**, the 3rd Quarter current year Financial Report does not contain a forecast for the yearend total.

Consequently, both the Board and the public lack essential perspective. We brought this problem to the attention the Board and staff for the past several years. Apparently they do not consider the issue important.

Troublingly, over the past 11 years, the Board has given the Budget very cursory attention. For many years the entire proposal was reviewed in one morning before lunch. Last year the review continued into the afternoon, still less than 8 hours of review for nearly 3 quarters of a billion dollars of taxpayer money.

Again, we suggest that beginning next week the Board set Budget workshops for several afternoons each week between now and June 14, 2021, which is the first day of formal consideration. This would provide the members an opportunity to examine proposed expenditures in more detail, consider the relevance and actual results of the performance measures, and determine if each program is necessary.

### Financing Sources and Uses Summary

Description	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Final	2021-22 Recommended
<b>Financing Sources</b>				
Taxes	209,372,811	220,423,832	221,650,580	233,442,082
Licenses and Permits	12,156,793	11,426,188	12,127,391	12,749,136
Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties	4,480,593	3,843,176	5,262,189	4,568,467
Revenue from Use of Money & Property	7,420,990	7,743,115	4,282,169	2,423,841
Intergovernmental Revenues	265,470,304	297,285,285	288,345,284	298,190,401
Charges for Services	34,571,017	29,802,426	31,854,315	33,882,347
Other Revenues	29,179,373	43,993,139	34,047,773	35,697,608
Fund Balance	0*	0*	44,880,217	35,480,239
Use of Reserves & Designations	0*	0*	11,788,387	11,773,924
Other Financing Sources	31,438,362	36,796,014	25,188,301	25,129,089
Decreases to Fund Balance	0	0	0	0
*cancellation of reserves and designations and use of fund balance included in Other Financial Sources				
<b>Total Financing Sources</b>	<b>594,090,243</b>	<b>651,313,175</b>	<b>679,426,606</b>	<b>693,337,133</b>
<b>Uses of Financing by Function</b>				
Land Based	61,463,537	69,646,020	63,135,685	63,702,075
Public Protection	163,725,205	172,461,145	180,434,461	185,295,334
Health and Human Services	227,934,832	243,627,450	259,865,655	276,038,757
Community Services	21,886,634	23,897,423	22,747,329	23,847,487
Fiscal and Administrative	26,190,133	29,174,207	27,835,955	28,855,075
Support to County Departments	31,891,586	32,471,236	36,654,631	36,695,268
Financing	31,011,020	32,665,435	21,567,214	23,022,914
Capital and Maintenance	12,954,994	14,105,305	10,285,084	11,853,987
Contingencies	0	0	28,035,891	28,723,663
Reserves & Designations	0	0	28,864,701	15,302,572
Increases (Decreases) to Fund Balance	17,032,302	33,264,954	0	0
<b>Total Financing by Function</b>	<b>594,090,243</b>	<b>651,313,175</b>	<b>679,426,606</b>	<b>693,337,133</b>
<b>Uses of Financing by Type</b>				
Salary & Benefits	291,782,613	307,285,080	321,304,541	342,825,761
Services & Supplies	186,045,716	201,164,873	216,897,950	219,499,571
Other Charges	101,469,538	109,704,017	101,199,956	102,996,506
Fixed Assets	24,689,409	31,680,223	18,475,845	21,251,283
Transfers	(26,929,335)	(31,785,971)	(35,352,278)	(37,262,222)
Increases to Reserves/Designations	0*	0*	28,864,701	15,302,572
Increases/(decreases) to Fund Balance	17,032,302	33,264,954	0	0
Contingencies	0*	0*	28,035,891	28,723,663
*use of reserves and designations and contingencies are included in individual financing types				
<b>Total Financing by Type</b>	<b>594,090,243</b>	<b>651,313,175</b>	<b>679,426,606</b>	<b>693,337,133</b>

Refreshingly, and for the first time, we see a mention of the total amount of COVID funding that has been received by the County up until now. We still don't have a real plan for its expenditure, let alone how much has been expended to date, how much remains, and how could this much slush in the system will be leveraged for larger purposes while staying within the Federal and State rules for the expenditures.

*COVID-19 Pandemic As has been reported over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the County's operations and budget. From a budgetary perspective, the last year and particularly the last several months are most accurately characterized as chaotic. The disease itself has been somewhat unpredictable in its surges, and as a result, the Emergency Operations Center and organization as a whole have had to pivot many times over. Both the response to COVID-19, as well as the statewide and local protective orders Budget Message County of San Luis Obispo 17 Fiscal Year 2021-22 Recommended Budget Message have fundamentally changed the*

way that the County has provided many of its services, and at various points, put a pause on the delivery of some services. Beyond the County organization, the protective orders have also resulted in higher unemployment rates and less consumer spending Statewide. The former has increased demand for some services that the County provides, and the latter has significantly impacted revenue streams for some County programs. As of the writing of this Budget Message, the County has received just over \$91 million in COVID-19 related funding. This amount comprises grants to support specific programs to address issues related to the pandemic (including direct response), as well as more broad allocations to generally assist local governments. Specific allocations have been made to support expenditures related to: Shelter, support and emergency housing to the homeless population and other low-income individuals; Conduct of the 2020 election, which was modified in order protect voters, poll workers and staff from COVID-19; Provision of personal protective equipment for staff responding to the pandemic; Re-employing dislocated workers; Direct Public Health response to COVID-19, including but not limited to health care and medical response coordination, COVID-19 testing, and epidemiological surveillance; Provision of telehealth services to behavioral health clients; Airport operations; Increased services to the Post Release Community Supervision population, due to the early release of some inmates; and Providing services for which the State has realigned responsibility to counties.

In addition to the broad categories noted above, the County received an allocation of \$28.3 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and is on the cusp of receiving its first installment of an estimated \$54.9 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Beyond those significant allocations, the County has also received financial assistance in the form of expanded eligibility for COVID-19 expense reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Each of these significantly reduces the impact of pandemic response expenditures on the County's budget and operations.

Apparently, the County is controlling the \$91 million out of a designation instead of a separate accounting fund, which would be the better practice. We still have no idea how much has been expended, how much is remaining, how it is being spent this year, and how it is being plugged into next year's budget.

Again and once the funding dries up, are there any cliffs expected in future years? As we are seeing, there is so much loose cash being injected into the economy that inflation is beginning to accelerate. This, in combination with green energy policies and the suppression of gas and oil production, is ratcheting up food prices, construction material prices, and energy prices, as well as putting pressure on the Fed to raise interest rates. Meanwhile, there are such lush unemployment benefits, along with rent deferment payments and stay-at-home benefits, that there is a problem getting people in the lower service sector to come back to work.

**Bigger Picture:** At some point these accumulative impacts will drive up inflation and interest rates, and along with the vastly proposed tax increase, will bring on stagflation. At that point, the interest rate payments on the \$30 trillion of national debt will savage the Federal Budget, which will drive out expenditures for actual service programs and defense just at the time that the Chinese, Iranians, North Koreans, and Russians are becoming ever more well-armed and bellicose.

Meanwhile the County, other local governments, and the blue states are happily wallowing in the trillions of slush dollars, oblivious of the fact that the piper will have to be paid sooner or later.

Shouldn't the County be spending these dollars on one time expenditures to the greatest extent possible?

We will provide more commentary on the Budget as the June 14<sup>th</sup> Board review date approaches.

It is all so disappointing.

## MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

**Item 38 - Request for approval of a letter of support for AB 327 (Kiley) and amend the County's 2021 Legislative Platform pertaining to COVID vaccination status.** This item, if approved, would amend the County's Legislative Program to support Kiley's bill, which would prohibit the institution of vaccine passports. The debate over the issue may be extensive, as the Board Majority opposes the imposition of vaccine passports while Gibson and Ortiz-Legg insist that it is a non-issue and a waste of the Board's time.

Relatedly, the leftist media in the County has chastised the Board majority for even considering the matter. Also the SLO Tribune has raised the specter of limiting public comments as a result of the protracted public comment during the last meeting where hundreds chimed in to oppose vaccine passports.

It was OK with the Fib Trib and the SLO Bad Times to have 3 days of public comment opposing parking more tank cars at Phillips 66 several years ago. Many of those hundreds of speakers were not even SLO County residents, but were professional activists from LA and Bay Area.

It is time to learn a lesson from this. Conservative forces should rally and generate hundreds of speakers when necessary to oppose the insidious projects of the progressive left socialists.

The Board will vote on sending the letter displayed below:



### COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**John Peschong** District One Supervisor

**Bruce Gibson** Vice-Chairperson, District Two Supervisor

**Dawn Ortiz-Legg** District Three Supervisor

**Lynn Compton** Chairperson, District Four Supervisor

**Debbie Arnold**, District Five Supervisor

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*May 18, 2021 The Honorable Kevin Kiley State Capital Room #5128 Sacramento CA 94814 RE: AB 327 – COVID Vaccination Status: Prohibition on required disclosure - SUPPORT Dear Assembly member Kiley: On behalf of the County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of AB 327 which would prohibit any state agencies, local government and/or state governmental authority, as well as any public or private entity who receives state funds from requiring individual to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination aka "VAX passport."*

*Current Federal law recognizes that everyone has the option to accept or refuse a vaccination. Decisions such as that, as well as other health information, is and should be a private one, and no governmental entity should compel our residents to disclose their vaccination status.*

*The County of San Luis Obispo supports AB 327, which would prohibit our residents from being required to show documentation that they have received the COVID-19 vaccination in order to receive service or gain entrance from any place. Please do not hesitate to contact us if the County can assist further in promoting this important legislative effort*

Sincerely,

LYNN COMPTON  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

c - Senator John Laird  
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham  
Members, Board of Supervisors  
Wade Horton, County Administrator  
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmeizer & Lange

Vaccine passports would be a dangerous infringement on personal liberty, and proposed electronic versions could be used to track private citizens. Governments might as well put electronic bracelets on every one or chip us like dogs. Later other data could be added, such as race, sexual preference, voter record, memberships, and if we have passed mandatory racial and wokeness training. Ultimately our physical location could be monitored. Of course anyone with a smart phone can be tracked now.

Oppose one more brick in the wall.



**Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, May 20, 2021 (Scheduled)**

The meeting agenda contains no large policy items and is focused on internal housekeeping matters and the esoterica of State Association of LAFCOs' (Support for adjustments to LAFCO governance legislation).

**LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Not Scheduled)**

The next meeting is set for May 18, 2021.

**Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Meeting of Wednesday, May 12, 2021 (Completed)**

The agenda was light, containing updates to various service contracts such as accounting and bill paying, which is now performed by the County for a fee. Strangely, and as of the close of business last Friday, there was no agenda packet with the actual documents and write-ups. The link for those legally required details states:

*If required, the agenda packet information will be here once published.*

**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, May 13, 2021 (Scheduled)**

The agenda contained several permit applications for smaller projects but no matters of general policy.

**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**

**TUNING OUT WOKEISM**

*The current madness is the stuff of history as we watch it predictably unfold, until—and if—a few, a “happy few,” finally say to the mob, “no mas.”*

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

If wokeness should continue and “win,” by now we all know where it will end up. After all, this is not a prairie-fire, peasants-with-pitchforks, spontaneous bottom-up revolution.

The woke Left seeks a top-down erasure of America, engineered by the likes of LeBron James from his \$40 million estate talking revolution to Oprah at her \$90 million castle, as Mark Zuckerberg throws in \$500 million here, and his colleagues \$400 million there, and as the top executives of Coke, Target, and Delta Airlines believe their \$17 million-a-year salaries make them experts on the crimes of non-diversity, exclusion, and inequity. Anytime revolutionaries at the outset of their enterprises seek exemption from the consequences of their own ideology, we know their plans will end badly for everyone else.

### 911 No Longer

As big-city prosecutors choose not to prosecute “property crimes” or “brick and mortar” arson and thefts, or what they consider “minor” misdemeanors or “nonlethal” felonies, crime spikes. The ancient principle of human nature then reigns supreme. The criminally inclined conclude the upside of hurting the weak, killing the innocent, stealing, destroying, looting, or simply causing mayhem far outweighs the rarer downside of being arrested, convicted, incarcerated, or worse. So all deterrence is lost. A cycle of *chacun pour soi* prevails.

Police in response make the necessary adjustments. Consider their bleak choices. Either they:

- 1) Go into increasingly high crime areas *and get attacked or shot* in the failed effort to make an arrest or restore calm; or
- 2) proceed to make an arrest, but the suspect, usually with prior felony convictions, resists, bolts, or attacks, and they use force to subdue him. In some cases, they can make a decision to risk doing so lethally, if they judge, rightly or wrongly, that the arrested is a threat to their lives. As a result, they are suspended, ruined, doxxed, vilified in the media, and their families and homes are put in danger; or
- 3) they apprehend the suspect, make the arrest without incident, but the woke district attorneys decide the suspect was not worth the time and controversy of prosecuting or find that the police acted in a way that might be suspect or at least alienate a jury of the suspect’s peers. Therefore, the arrested is released—*omnis effusus labor*; or
- 4) they safely arrest the suspect without incident. The state successfully indicts and prosecutes the accused. And if he is found guilty, he is incarcerated to protect society and to pay for his crimes.

In these revolutionary times, I think plenty of police officers—if they still have career choices and can afford temporary financial losses—will make the necessary adjustments. So they will decide that the odds of scenarios one through three are *as great or greater than* number four.

Therefore they will quit, retire, or move to rural, mostly crime-free jurisdictions. Or if not, they simply will *not* respond promptly to 911 calls from high-crime areas, and perhaps suggest that other police, those less likely to inspire community wrath, go in their stead.

The logic of these choices results in another series of likely unfortunate consequences:

Either: Police are still dubbed racists for not responding to the cries for help of vulnerable inner-city residents and for putting greater onus on minority officers who then must take greater risks than their colleagues. I think the above is already occurring and explains in part deracinated police forces, dangerous increases in crime, and essential no-go zones of chaos in our major cities. The upscale who demanded these changes are exempt by their own security measures or ZIP codes from suffering from them.

Or: All the above become irrelevant. Our major cities revert to 1970s criminal badlands, and most people steer clear. Others cannot worry about cause and effect, because, as the trapped, they struggle to survive in the fashion of Mad Max or Robocop. In response, the government likely will propose a nationalized police force, properly trained in uniform wokeness. Or maybe some well-insulated experts will continue to insist that crime is social justice, and so hope it spreads to the suburbs in justified redistributive and compensatory fashion.

### Wokeism Everywhere

The public is now increasingly bombarded by 360-degree, 24/7 wokeness in the fashion of the Maoist Red Guard gangs. There appears little refuge from it. Not in television commercials. Not from CEOs. Not from professional sports. Not from movies or television shows. Not from Wall Street, the internet, and social media. Not from the administrative state, and not from the military. Not from the K-12 teachers, much less the professors.

It is largely the well-off professionals, the “privileged” and the rich—CEOs, news anchors, actors, star athletes, college presidents, foundation heads, corporate board retired military brass, Wall Street grandees—who usually do the woke remonstrating (or fund it) to the supposedly non-privileged but guilty un-woke.

So how does half a nation of proverbial Winston Smiths react to this revolutionary panopticon? The targeted seek escapes. They craft a mental refuge from the progressive lynch mob outside the Western jail. And half the country is also doing that already.

Does the propaganda of NPR and PBS news and editorialization cancel out their good programming of art and culture, such as they are, that is not propagandistic? Sadly, yes. People will tune both out. They’ve had one too many sermons from one too many condescending, nasal-toned grandee.

Do they put up anymore with network news? No, half the country has no idea who is currently the NBC, ABC, or CBS evening news anchor. Do they care about the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*? Nope. For a large number of Americans, being an editor at those places is not prestigious but an embarrassment. Is the nerdy Silicon Valley billionaire their model of can-do entrepreneurship? No, again. To half the country, they appear either like Charles Manson or those peach-faced adolescents who are really 40 or 50.

Movies? Tens of millions have not gone to a theater in years. Many never will again. They find watching revived 1960s comic book heroes, dressed up as narcissistic social justice warriors, boring



and pathetic—a “see Spot run” primer script, a Kindergarten experience, despite the pyrotechnics and surrealism of computer-created special effects that poorly hide the lack of ideas.□

Sports? Ditto. The NBA is an ancient memory. The NFL Superbowl half-time show has become politicized soft-porn and easily tuned out. The last rampart of Major League Baseball is breached. Multimillionaires too, baseball players cannot put up with three minutes of reverence, despite their \$5 million-a-year salaries (about \$30,000-a-game per season), for the flag and National Anthem.□

Ask anyone to distinguish a Grammy from a Tony from an Emmy from an Oscar, and you encounter, “Who gives a f–k?” about these strange runes.□

Does anyone but some captive students and a few faculty read the periodic communiques of terrified university deans, provosts, or presidents?□

Is there a sort of Turbo-Tax formula that churns them out, “We will not tolerate systemic racism . . . ,” “We confess that our past was . . . ,” “We will immediately hire the following . . . ,” “We will take steps to make amends by . . . .” These are the psychodramatic versions of the 1930s-era Soviet show trials, when terrified provincial officials testified to all sorts of counterrevolutionary thought crimes in hopes of saving either themselves or their families. Do most Americans know the name of a single university president? Do they care if they don’t?□

What is saving the country, for now, is not the third of Americans who have bachelor’s degrees, given the university has become a woke deductive, anti-empirical, anti-Enlightenment institution. For now, the more practical two-thirds of the population who did not graduate, and either never experienced the academic mind or got out quickly after they did, are our rear guard at Thermopylae. I concede, with the sadness of a former believer in higher education, that an entire institution has failed its pledge to the Enlightenment and we are back 2,700 years to Hesiod’s warning that with material progress comes moral regress.

### An Epidemic of Cynicism

Most non-woke don’t always know which words in a given day are dangerous, so they listen more than speak. If referring to a high-crime area, the correct terminology is “an underserved” or “marginalized” area to virtue signal the fault is society’s, not any individual’s. If they hear there is an epidemic of “white” anti-Asian crimes, they assume there is not, in the sense the qualifier “white” signals “nonwhite” perpetrators. If they read the latest post that someone wants to gas whites, Auschwitz-style, or promises to avoid whites when the quarantine ends, or compares them to an infestation that destroy the human and natural world, they shrug a sort of nonchalance, “Hmmm, he must be a professor, a journalist, a lawyer or some sort of privileged elite or one of the wealthy—and all that much unhappier and angrier for it.”□

The public translates the woke ethos into the vocabulary of reality—like segregation, racism, hatred, and derangement. Jaded, they decipher rather than read the news: if a suspect is not described and not pictured, they assume he is intersectional; if he is, he is not. A story appears if the victim and the victimizer fit narratives; ignored if they do not. Half the country has become like wary Poles and Hungarians circa 1956, with the D.C. bureaucracy now a politburo of sorts.□

The most law-abiding of Americans now, rightly or wrongly, seem terrified of the law—the FBI of James Comey vintage, John Brennan’s legacy at the CIA, the same old IRS of Lois Lerner, the Justice Department once branded by Eric Holder, and the predictable court order of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Enlisted men fear their inquisitorial officers, and why not if they listen to what they hear from the active and retired military in 2020?]

So Americans, conservatives especially, fear that the once-revered FBI can become analogous to the Stasi, the once indomitable CIA after 2015 began emulating the KGB, and the federal prosecutor has become a vindictive Inspector Javert. And just when you think they are crazier for such fears, another couple is rousted out of bed by agents for supposedly being at a riot they were not at, or a federal attorney is on TV, virtue signaling how the law can be warped to go after “them.”]

One-hundred million Americans fear not that they are targeted for committing a real crime, but rather accused of an even more dangerous thought crime.]

### Our Oceania

In dystopian novels from *Nineteen Eighty-Four* to *Fahrenheit 451*, the dissident from the omnipotent state seeks refuge in an alternate universe. So now some Americans quietly still revere Jefferson, Lincoln, and Washington—as if they are Christians reading their gospels in secret under Diocletian. They pray their neighborhood school will not be renamed. They think their school’s or corporation’s “diversity training” is not much different from what they saw in “The Manchurian Candidate,” or popular stories of “brainwashing” from North Korea. So they prep for it, and are ready to nod, smile, parrot “yes” and “of course” but have pre-programmed themselves to have the edicts and commands of the “facilitator” or “trainer” and “educator” go in one ear, pass unnoticed, and zoom out the other.]

They trade private tips on how to endure the mandatory three-hour video on racism, sexism, and the potpourri of -isms. That is, how best to multitask and see whether a brief tap-in to the 10-minute screed suffices to pass the moronic multiple-choice, endless gotcha questions that follow.]

When they pass by a statue of a president, a general, a donor at a university or municipal square, even if a liberator, an abolitionist, or a philanthropist, the non-woke assume the stone and bronze are doomed. If it is skipped over by this month’s mob, it won’t be by next year’s. After all, can any reader cite the case of a statue toppler, or a monument defacer who has ever been arrested, prosecuted, and convicted of a felony?]

So most of the beleaguered are defiant, but in silence and in refuge. They know most, when canceled, issue profuse apologies, and play the part of Gollum rather than Aragorn.]

The current madness is the stuff of history as we watch it predictably unfold, until—and if—a few, a “happy few,” finally say to the mob, “*no mas*”, and pop this nightmarish balloon.

*Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin*

*grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won and The Case for Trump. May 9, 2021 American Greatness*

## **THE GREEN FANTASY IS A NIGHTMARE**

**BY JOHN H. HINDERAKER**

California is cruising toward a 100% “green” energy future, or so the state’s leaders tell us. But how, exactly, will that objective be brought about? In March of this year, the responsible state agencies issued a plan to achieve 100% carbon dioxide-free electricity by 2045. That is an achievable goal if you use nuclear power. Unfortunately, California is trying to do it with wind and solar.

Francis Menton weighs California’s plan in the balance and finds it wanting:

*Wind and solar don’t work all the time, so to start with you need to build far more capacity than your peak usage. California’s peak power usage is currently about 40 GW, and that is projected to increase substantially as more of the economy gets electrified, for example automobiles. So the Plans call for the addition of some 97.6 GW of solar capacity and 22.6 GW of wind capacity by 2045, on top of 26.5 GW of those two currently existing. ... With the additions, California would have a total of some 146.7 GW of wind and solar capacity, which may be around triple peak usage after you account for incremental electrification of the economy by 2045.*

Of course, the intractable problem with wind and solar is that most of the time, they don’t generate any electricity. California’s solution to this problem is battery storage. But this is where elementary mathematics comes in:

How much storage will we need? They give a very specific figure: 52.8 GW.

Which will cost, including the new wind and solar facilities, a mere \$6.4 billion more per year. But there is a problem with California’s arithmetic:

All discussion in the Plans of storage needs and capacity is expressed in units of gigawatts (GW). Now, GW of capacity can certainly be relevant in this context, because assuring that power can be delivered from these massive batteries quickly enough to satisfy peak demand is definitely an important engineering challenge. But another whole subject is gigawatt hours (GWH); in other words, is the total amount of energy stored by the system sufficient to carry you through the longest possible period when demand will exceed supply? How about if there are entire seasons — like “winter” — when days are short, cloudiness is high, the wind has extended periods of calm, and batteries could be getting drawn down for weeks or even months on end? How much will you need in the way of GWH of storage capacity to support this entirely-wind-and-solar system; and how much will that cost?

Not to keep you in suspense, the answer is something like \$6.7 trillion, given that electricity would have to be stored for up to seven or eight months. California's gross domestic product is less than half that amount.

My colleague Isaac Orr carried out a similar calculation for just one state, Minnesota. Isaac found that to store enough electricity to meet Minnesota's needs for one day would cost around \$38.7 billion. He used a battery cost, \$250 per kilowatt hour, that is in the same range that Francis used, based on pricing data from Tesla, which ostensibly will supply California's batteries.

Battery storage is prohibitively expensive, and if you think it is expensive now, just wait until the world's supplies of lithium and cobalt are further depleted by governments' voracious appetite for "green" energy.

The idea that wind and solar power will ever fuel our power generation sector, let alone our entire economy, is ludicrous. But the amount of damage that will be done by pursuing that chimera will be incalculable.

*John H. Hinderaker practiced law for 41 years, enjoying a nationwide litigation practice. He retired from the practice of law at the end of 2015, and is now President of [Center of the American Experiment](#), a think tank headquartered in Minnesota. Mr. Hinderaker lives with his family in Apple Valley, Minnesota. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School. During his career as a lawyer, he was named one of the top commercial litigators and one of the 100 best lawyers in Minnesota, and was voted by his peers one of the most respected lawyers in that state. He was repeatedly listed in The Best Lawyers in America and was recognized as Minnesota's Super Lawyer of the Year for 2005. This article first appeared in the May 11, 2021 edition of Powerline,*



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(Revised 2/2017)