



WEEKLY UPDATE
MAY 30 - JUNE 5, 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



The fools did not realize that they were merely recovering a portion of their own property, and that their ruler could not have given them what they were receiving without having first taken it from them.

Juvenal

THIS WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

**SLOCOG TO REVIEW ITS “EQUITY” TRAINING
IT WILL ALSO REVIEW NEWSOME’S “TRANSPORTATION” FUNDING PLAN**

OTHER ISSUES

COVID DYING OUT

NEWSOME’S BRIBING THE ELECTORATE BILLIONS

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

**PENSION RATES TO INCREASE
UNFUNDED LIABILITY RISES**

**APCD REVISES DUST MEASUREMENT BOUNDARIES
DOWNWIND FROM OCEANO DUNES**

**PLANNING COMMISSION
REVISED SUBDIVISION IN PRICE CANYON
CANNABIS DISPENSARY IN NIPOMO**

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 12**

WHO WILL SUPPORT CALIFORNIA'S POPULISTS?

*Out of nowhere, an army has formed, united in opposition to the symbol
of Democratic one-party tyranny*

BY EDWARD RING

WILL THE 2020 MADNESS LAST?

*As Americans sober up, will they reject the frenzy that took the country
over the cliff during the most unhinged year in American history?*

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

**MAN IN PELOSI'S OFFICE DISCUSSES JAIL
CONDITIONS FOR JANUARY 6 DETAINEES**

*Unfortunately for dozens of political prisoners held hostage by their own
government, freedom appears to be a long way off.*

BY JULIE KELLY

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 (Not Scheduled)

The Board is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, June 2, 2021 (Scheduled)

Item C-1: Staff Equity Assessment Update. The staff participated in training to reveal if they harbor any unconscious biases, as well as to inform staff how to respond to biases of others and how to address biases in the workplace. The write-up does not reveal whether any bias was found, how serious it is, or which officials exhibit it. According the write-up, there will be some sort of final report when the process is complete. It is not clear if any of the elected SLOCOG members took part or if the training is mandatory.

The theory is that if overt or unconscious bias exists, it could compromise various recommendations related to transportation plans and financing and their impacts on protected classes.

*The Equity Assessment project officially began on January 12th, 2021. Within weeks, a series of four one-hour trainings were scheduled. Kari Mansager, Cal Poly's Interim Director of Wellbeing, led these training sessions every Friday between February 19th through March 12th. Both staff and Board members had the opportunity to attend. The sessions included: **How many staff and Board members attended? Which Board members?***

- Part I: Implicit Bias 101-This workshop brought attention to the unconscious biases and provided some strategies for overcoming their impact at work and in relationships.*
- Part II: Stepping In and Stepping Up-This workshop continued the work from Part I by focusing on responding to biases individually and from others. Participants had the opportunity to dig deeper to develop and practice ways to respond to bias, even if the bias was unintentional.*
- Part III: Overcoming Implicit Bias-This was the final piece in the series. The training utilized information from Parts I and II which guided participants through various strategies of examining and addressing biases in the workplace*
- Environmental Justice-This workshop covered the basics of identity and community. Participants discussed environmental issues in local communities, and the systems that create environmental racism. Participants also examined historical and current environmental racism examples, victories won through community organizing, and ways that organizing can build long-term climate change solutions in communities.*

Focus Group Meetings in March, staff focus group meetings were scheduled to include the Leadership, Planning/Rideshare, Programming, Admin, and Equity Teams. These meetings

established baseline information about what is already being done at SLOCOG and the desired outcomes of the Equity Assessment. Staff was given an additional opportunity to provide feedback by completing a web-based needs assessment. Suggestions from the information collected in both the focus group meetings and needs assessment will be included in the final report.

SLOCO hired local Cal Poly administrators to serve as instructor consultants. It is not clear who was paid what, as the write-up is confusing. As noted in the yellow highlighted section above, Cal Poly Interim Director of Well Being (your tax dollars and tuition at work) did training sessions, and another Cal Poly Administrator, Jennifer Pedrotti, served as “Equity Consultant.” The write-up indicates that these services cost \$15,000.

Dr. Jennifer Teramoto Pedrotti was selected as the Equity consultant. Dr. Teramoto Pedrotti is the Associate Dean for Diversity and Curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts and Professor in the Department of Psychology and Child Development at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She currently serves as the Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs in the Office of University Diversity & Inclusion at Cal Poly. Dr. Teramoto Pedrotti included three main tasks leading up the Equity Assessment Report: training, staff focus group meetings, and document and process review.

Cal State VPs are generally paid in the mid-\$250,000s, with benefits and special pays adding another \$120,000 for an average annual compensation of \$370,000. It is not certain what Pedrotti is paid, as she is listed as interim and there is no 2020 nor 2021 data posted as yet. Her salary and benefits in her prior position totaled \$176,024 back in 2019.

How many hours of training did she provide? What happens if an employee is found to be consciously biased?

Pedrotti appears to be the spouse of County Senior Planner Brian Pedrotti. At least they keep it all in the County family. Dr. Pedrotti has received high ratings from her students. Brian Pedrotti has managed complex permitting applications at the County. He recommended against a cluster subdivision on a small portion of property owned by the Laetitia Winery in Nipomo.

For the \$15,000, how many hours of training and consulting did SLOCOG receive?

Item F-3: State Legislative Update. The report provides a gruesome summary of Governor Gruesome Newsome’s “transportation” funding pork package:

Transportation Funding:

• Los Angeles Olympics—\$1 billion General Fund to deliver critical projects in time for the 2028 Olympic Games. They already spent \$4 billion on the Santa Monica to downtown light rail line which runs past 2 stops at the LA Colosseum Sports Complex. The train is so slow and has so many stops that it takes an hour to get from Santa Monica to the Colosseum.

• Priority Transit and Rail Projects—\$1 billion General Fund for transit and rail projects statewide that improve rail and transit connectivity between state and regional/ local services.

• Active Transportation—\$500 million General Fund to advance projects that increase the proportion of trips accomplished by walking and biking, increase the safety and mobility of nonmotorized users,

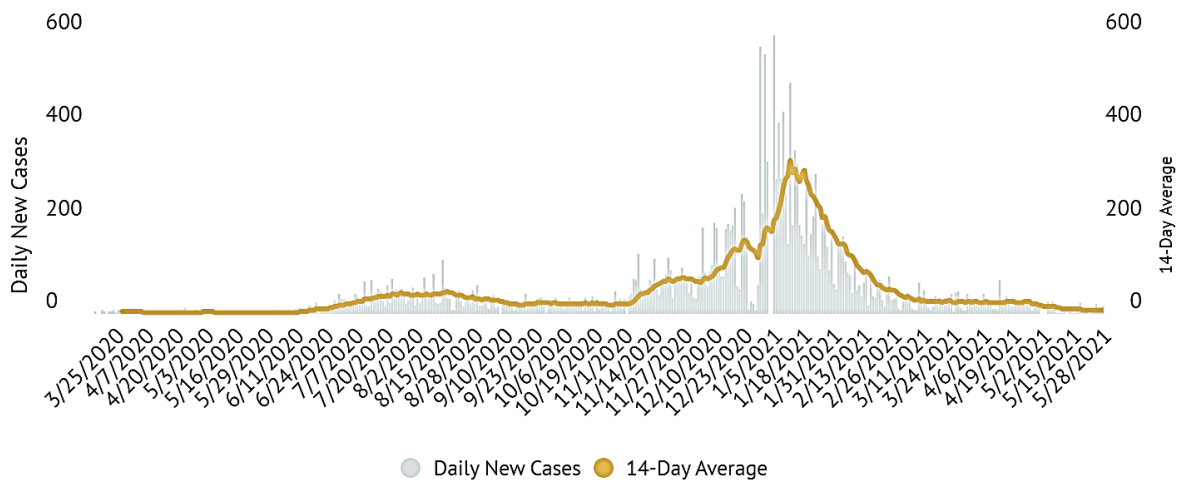
advance efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals, enhance public health, and benefit many types of users, especially in disadvantaged communities. **Do you really want to show up at the office in your sweat soaked suit or have to take a shower and change, which means you would have to start to work much sooner?**

- *High Priority Grade Separations and Grade Crossing Improvements—\$500 million General Fund to support critical safety improvements throughout the state.*
- *High-Speed Rail—\$4.2 billion Proposition 1A to complete high-speed rail construction in the Central Valley, advance work to launch service between Merced and Bakersfield, advance planning and project design for the entire project, and leverage potential federal funds. **This is the old 1950's trick of building a major interchange out in the boon docks, which connects to nothing. The government cries that there are such large sunk costs that the project must be connected to a larger system.***
- *State Highway Rehabilitation and Local Roads and Bridges—\$2 billion (\$1.1 billion special funds through 2028, and \$968 million federal funds) to support the advancement of priority State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects, Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) projects, and local road and bridge investments. This amount includes \$912 million from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act that was enacted by Congress in March.*
- *Zero-Emission Rail and Transit Equipment Purchases and Infrastructure—\$407 million (\$100 million General Fund, \$280 million Public Transportation Account, and \$27 million federal funds) to demonstrate and purchase or lease state-of-the-art, clean bus and rail equipment and infrastructure that eliminate fossil fuel emissions and increase intercity rail and intercity bus frequencies. **Where will the power come from for these electric vehicles?***
- *Zero-Emission Buses and Trucks—\$1.4 billion (\$1.3 billion General Fund, \$87 million Air Pollution Control Fund) to demonstrate and purchase or lease green buses and trucks. These funds are budgeted outside of the transportation budget and are included and described in the Climate Resilience Chapter.*
- *Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure— \$826 million for a total of \$1.8B, and \$3.2B over three years for ZEV infrastructure. **This is simply a government subsidy to electric vehicle manufacturers and the community choice energy authorities. Where will the power come from for all the electric vehicles?***
- *Litter Abatement- One-time funding of \$1.5 billion General Fund will be used for a three-year effort to clean up garbage statewide, beautify the state's transportation network, educate the public about the harms of litter, and create long-lasting litter deterrents. **Why not make all the convicts that they are letting out of jail do this work instead of padding government budgets or hiring patronage contractors?***

OTHER ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID Status: The news continues to trend in a positive direction.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



2 (0 ICU)**

SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital



Item 2 - Governors’ California Comeback Plan. Governor Newsome is playing Roman Emperor by bribing the mob to keep is throne. Of course, the magnitude of the bread and circuses makes Nero, Caligula, Domitian, and the rest look like amateurs.

Highlights of the “California Comeback Plan” proposes to make the following investments:

- \$20 billion to transform public education by expanding after school programs, tutoring, universal meal programs, the arts, sports, and mental health programs.
- \$12 billion in tax rebates. People making under \$75K will receive \$600 -2/3 of all Californians, families with kids will receive an additional \$500, and an additional \$1500 for ITIN filers, which are those that do not have a social security number. This is simply a wealth transfer program. The top 10% of tax payers pay 90% of the State personal income tax. By limiting the payments to people with \$75,000 or less income, Newsom is simply transferring the money from the higher taxed people to the lower, and/or non-taxed people. Of course those who don’t have social security numbers are the illegal aliens. What a stupendous racket.

• \$12B to provide housing for the state's 65,000 homeless population (\$7 billion for 46,000 units, \$1.75B for affordable housing; \$447 million for student homeless housing, \$193 million for encampment strategies, \$150 million for Project Room Key). **This would be an average of \$152,174 per unit.**

• \$7 billion to close the digital divide by providing broadband for all. **This is a huge patronage payment to Sprint, Verizon, and all the rest to obtain their support for the Democratic Enviro - Socialist machine.**

• \$5.1B for drinking and wastewater infrastructure.

• \$5.1B for mental health services.F-3-6

• \$3.5B to end homeless in five years, provide rent support, and grants to local governments (\$40M). **We have heard this song before.**

• \$5.2 billion to assist low-income renters pay 100% of their back-rent and utilities

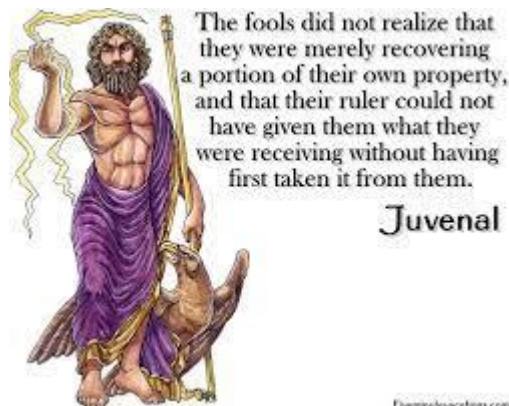
• \$2 billion to assist renters with past due utility bills. **Again, what happens when the program ends? How much has been spent so far from prior funds?**

• \$1.75B for affordable housing

• \$1.5 billion towards litter abatement to clean highways and corridors. **The volunteer civic groups are not doing enough? Will this create a whole new flock of government employees?**

• \$1.5B for small business grants (\$4 billion overall) to assist with COVID recovery.

• \$300 million for traffic fine forgiveness for fines incurred between January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021 for low-income residents. **Is this even legal? Does the Judicial Branch of government agree? What is the budgetary impact on the courts and counties?**



¹ Decimus Junius Juvenalis, known in English as Juvenal, was a Roman poet active in the late first and early second century AD. He is the author of the collection of satirical poems known as the Satires.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors on Monday, Tuesday, May 25, 2021 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

San Luis Obispo County Pension Trust Board of Monday, May 24, 2021 (Completed)

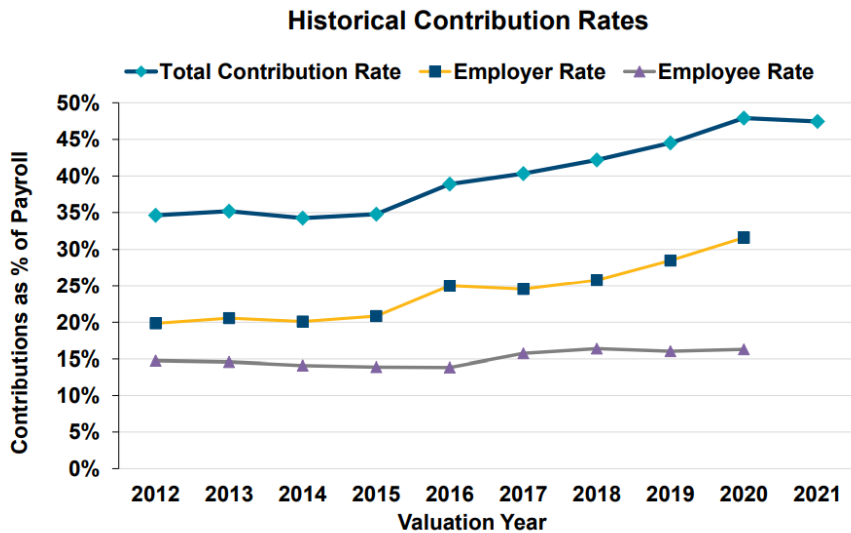
Item 11 - Actuarial Valuation – 2021 Actuarial Assumptions Approval. The quasi-independent Pension Trust Board adopted the rates that it will charge the County and the employees for FY 2021-22. It will also consider the assumption rate (the estimated return on investments) for FY 2021-22. See last week's Update for all the details at the link:

[Weekly Update May-23 May-29 2021.pdf \(colabslo.org\)](#)

Background: These decisions are properly not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors set the salaries and pension benefit levels through labor negotiations with the County's 11 employee unions. The employee unions provide campaign contributions and election assistance to some Supervisors, which in turn can influence the level of pay and benefits that are negotiated. The general public is pretty much out of the loop and oblivious to the closed system cycle, which endlessly ratchets up costs. SLO County, to its credit, has attempted to limit salary increases (so called cost of living adjustments) to about 2.5% per year.

The Pension Board then independently determines the costs over the long term and sets rates to attempt to cover them. Factors such as raises, employee average years of service, age of retirement, length of retirees' lives, lengths of surviving spouses' lives, return on investment, and the retirement plan benefits are all analyzed in a study called an actuarial evaluation. The Board also analyzes past and projected long-term investment return along with all the other data to set the rates.

The rates are important because the portion assigned to the County (the taxpayers) impacts the budget by driving out service funding. The costs assigned to the employees impact the Budget because they put pressure on labor negotiations for bigger raises. As noted in the table below, the employees carry about 15% of the cost while the County covers about 35%. The overall rate is around 45%. Thus for every dollar of salary expended, the County (the taxpayer) puts in 35 cents.



San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of Wednesday, May 26, 2021 (Completed)

In General: Most of the meeting was devoted to housekeeping matters, such as financial reports and extending the Air Pollution Control Officer’s contract.

Item B-4: Monitoring Forecast Map Revisions.

The District Board received a technical report which changes some of the boundaries of how they classify the severity of the dust in certain monitoring areas that experience Oceano Dunes dust. The changes seem to remove some small areas from the most severe zones. It is not clear how the new data boundaries will impact policy in the future. Of course, the whole issue may be moot if the Coastal Commission is successful in shutting down the off-road riding and camping.

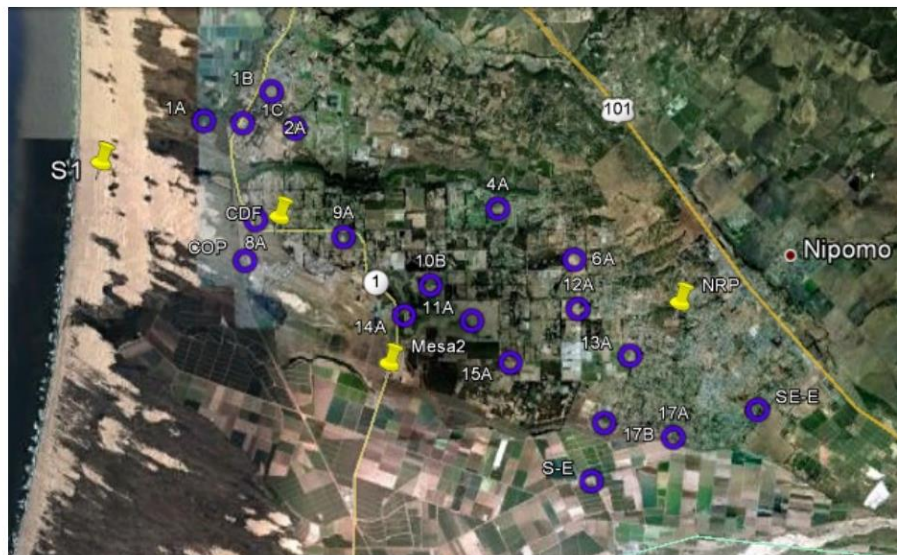


Figure 4: Nipomo Mesa Monitoring Locations in the South County Community Monitoring Project. Reproduced from Figure 6 in Reference 2

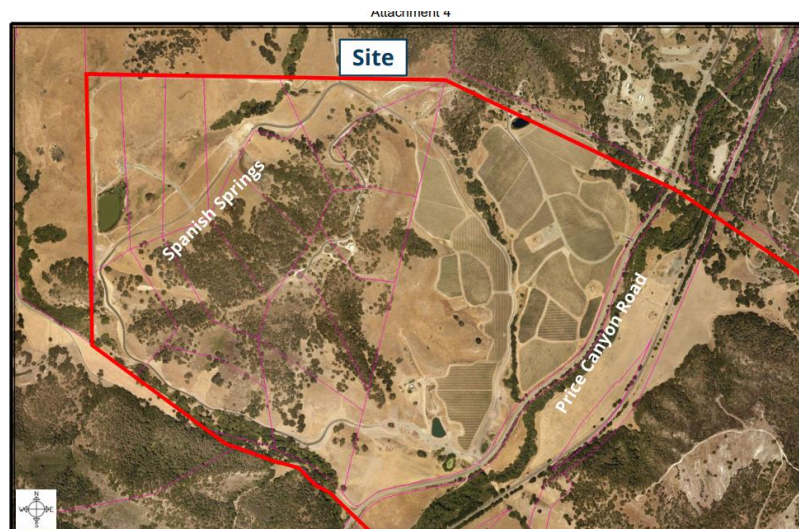
Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, May 27, 2021 (Completed)

Item 4 - Hearing to consider a request by VRE Spanish Springs, LLC to amend the conditions of approval and the additional map sheet for Tract 2388, a 17-parcel subdivision that includes 16 residential parcels, one agricultural parcel, and one remainder parcel. The subdivision is located on the east and west side of Price Canyon Road approximately 0.5 mile north Of the City of Pismo Beach. The Commission will consider revisions to previously approved subdivision off Price Canyon Road. The project amendments were approved unanimously.

The write-up summarized the request as follows:

The applicant, VRE Spanish Springs, LLC is requesting an amendment to the conditions of approval and the additional map sheet for Tract 2388, a 17-parcel subdivision that includes 16 residential parcels, one agricultural parcel, and one remainder parcel. The amendments and clarifications include:

- 1) Reducing the 300-foot agricultural buffer on parcels 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 to 200 feet to create a uniform Residential Building Exclusion Areas along the northern and western property line,*
- 2) Prohibit the planting of vineyards within 200 foot Residential Building Exclusion Areas on the additional map sheet,*
- 3) Clarifying that all residential structures within the subdivision will maintain a minimum 300-foot buffer from vineyards within the subdivision, and*
- 4) Amending the additional map sheet to show the adjusted lot lines between Lots 6 and 12 consistent with the Lot Line Adjustment that was approved and recorded in 2017.*



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

WHO WILL SUPPORT CALIFORNIA'S POPULISTS?

Out of nowhere, an army has formed, united in opposition to the symbol of Democratic one-party tyranny

BY EDWARD RING

A recent article published in the *Kennedy School Review* by *American Affairs* editor Julius Krein makes a strong case that conservatives have no future as a political force in America. The one flaw in this article, entitled "Can Conservatism Be More than a Grudge," is it may be a little *too* pessimistic. It's well argued and is a must-read for anyone serious about reviving conservative political power in places like California.

The only hope Krein offers is the power of populism, harnessing a multi-racial coalition of working-class and middle class Americans. But conservative populism, ascendant today in California, is about to be squandered by an establishment that lacks the leadership and authenticity to tap this extraordinary energy.

One of Krein's understated but most powerful points regards patronage. He writes: "The Democratic coalition is no less incongruous than the Republican one. There are, however, two important differences between them. First, the Democratic economic base is composed largely of ascendant and prestigious economic sectors and firms, from Silicon Valley to Goldman Sachs, while Republicans are predominantly supported by declining sectors, like natural resource extraction. Second, the Democratic patronage system is coherent, even if the Democratic coalition is not. In other words, the Democratic Party is capable of using policy to directly benefit its various constituencies and to create new ones. Together, both of these factors ensure that Democrats' patchwork constituencies have reasons to overlook their coalition's internal contradictions. That is simply not the case on the Republican side."

This single paragraph cuts to the heart of the Republican disadvantage, especially in California. "Using policy to directly benefit its various constituencies." For examples, think no further than the ongoing "Blue city bailouts," "green" mandates and infrastructure boondoggles.

These rivers of money enable Democrats to "overlook their coalition's internal contradictions." The Republicans have no such luxury. There's no Silicon Valley coterie of billionaires with plans for everyone, and money to back it up. There's no public employee union machine that, just in California, collects and spends nearly a billion dollars per year. California's Republican big money, to the extent they ever have big money, comes from intermittent pop-up donors, willing to blow a few million on a pet project then disappear for another twenty years. Republican contenders often are

dilettantes running vanity campaigns, or they're vapid, underfunded establishment candidates, peddling Democrat-lite policies, thinking that makes them relevant. In a sea of pretenders, authentic candidates get stereotyped and dismissed.

Meanwhile, over the past year and by complete surprise, a grassroots populist movement has arisen in California. Out of nowhere, an army has formed, united in opposition to the symbol of Democratic one-party tyranny, Governor Gavin Newsom. In a few months, Newsom will fight for his political life in a special recall election. Disaffected Californians, by the millions, will vote against Newsom keeping his job, many of them indifferent to who replaces him. Newsom may or may not survive. But what's next for California's populist conservative movement?

One of the ways that Republican candidates to replace Newsom can distinguish themselves would be to embrace solutions to the problems that have put Newsom in trouble to begin with. These issues aren't a mystery: Housing, homeless, education, law and order, water, electricity, transportation, forestry, to name the obvious.

Solutions to these issues are also not mysterious. Deregulate housing permits. End the disastrous "housing first" policies and instead give the homeless safe housing in inexpensive barracks where sobriety is a condition of entry. Repeal Prop. 47 which downgraded property and drug crimes. Build reservoirs, desalination, and wastewater recycling plants. Build nuclear power plants and develop California's abundant natural gas reserves. Recognize that the common road is the future of transportation, not the past, and widen California's freeways and highways. Let the timber companies harvest more lumber in exchange for maintaining the fire roads and power line corridors. Done.

Instead, the Republican's titular frontrunner, Kevin Faulconer, has made a plan to cut taxes the centerpiece of his campaign. For this, big Republican donors are willing to spend millions of dollars. Imagine if Faulconer's campaign centerpiece was *spending* public money efficiently on things that would make a difference: energy, water, transportation, while cutting spending in areas of failure by, for example, introducing private sector competition to the public school system, and releasing the timber industry to thin the overgrown forests? Imagine Faulconer betting his campaign on a promise to create millions of new jobs and lower the cost-of-living by making it easier to build homes and develop natural resources?

Don't blame Faulconer. Blame the system that thinks the only "safe" campaign for a GOP candidate is to say they'll lower taxes. Blame the conventional wisdom that polling and focus groups should govern political campaigns instead of leadership and vision. You can't focus group your way to leadership. It has to come from the heart and the mind. Politicians have to be willing to challenge voters, defy the polls, and explain why what they believe is the right thing to do. They have to do the work of the policy wonk, and then translate the result into impassioned rhetoric while preserving the substance. They have to be willing to lose if their explanations are unconvincing, shouted down, outspent, or arrive before their time.

The saddest thing in this epic failure of leadership on the part of California's Republican donors and the politicians they support is that as they concoct formula driven pablum in a futile attempt to out Democrat the Democrats, California's populist conservative movement, coherent and active as never before, is not being offered anything that might motivate them to stay united and fight. This is a tragedy. Where is a new and daring contract with California? Where is a 21st century Fix California agenda? Where is the platform that dares to step on the toes of every special interest that owns the

state – the public sector unions, the environmentalist lobby, the litigators, the tech billionaires, the Hollywood progressives, and every corrupted corporation and trade association that plays ball just to survive?

Without leadership, California’s populists will be offered solutions that are extreme. While the GOP’s handful of elected officials offer legislation that never makes it out of committee, that is, while these politicians go through the motions, and know they are just going through the motions, what could make a difference, ballot initiatives to fix all of the above – housing, homeless, education, law and order, water, electricity, transportation, forestry – are not given serious consideration.

Another two year cycle comes, another two year cycle goes. But this time, we will remember that there was an army, begging for logistical support. It costs as little as \$10,000 to do legal work and file a California state ballot initiative with the California Attorney General. The filing deadline for something to appear on the November 2022 ballot is this August, because the entire process including signature gathering takes 15 months. *Ten thousand dollars*. Kevin Faulconer will spend more than that for just one 30 second spot in a major television market. Much more. So will his rivals.

Where are these initiatives? Why aren’t California’s trade associations putting some forward? Why aren’t donors funding initiative drafts to be filed for title and summary? Why don’t they get the process started, to provide populists – as well as potential big donors – with material to evaluate and possibly support? It’s cheap. Even the rivulet of ongoing GOP patronage can easily afford to do this. Just the dialog and excitement generated by a slate of initiatives that are filed and posted on the Secretary of State’s website, initiatives that might actually do some transformative good, would be worth the preparation expense.

Nature abhors a vacuum. Thanks to what is arguably negligence on the part of people who could do so much, demagogues and grifters will offer causes with extreme emotional resonance to California’s populist army. Causes guaranteed to animate about 5 percent of the population, while the other 95 percent either laugh at their Quixotic absurdity or cry at their wasted energy. Into this vacuum, California’s populist army will splinter and their energy will dissipate. Volunteers, fragmented and forsaken, will see their signature gathering energy wasted in the streets, with nothing to show for it but a suntan. And California’s Republican opposition will prove, yet again, that they are utterly irrelevant.

Edward Ring is a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. The California Policy Center is an educational non-profit focused on public policies that aim to improve California’s democracy and economy. He is also a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness.

WILL THE 2020 MADNESS LAST?

As Americans sober up, will they reject the frenzy that took the country over the cliff during the most unhinged year in American history?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

The COVID-19 pandemic is ending with mass vaccinations. So is the national quarantine. The riots, arson, and looting of the 2020 summer are sputtering out—leaving violent crime in their wake.

The acrimony over the 2020 election fades. Trump Derangement Syndrome became abstract when Donald Trump left office and was ostracized from social media.

In other words, the American people are slowly regaining their senses after the epidemic of mass hysteria and insanity that gripped the nation in 2020.

But Americans will wonder whether what Antifa, Black Lives Matter, and the hard Left wrought last year will last when the nation is no longer gripped by 2020 madness.

Teachers and academics are notorious for furious opposition to administrative bloat. For the last 50 years, administrations have proliferated, while the ratio of non-teachers to teachers has skyrocketed—to the chagrin of teacher unions.

But in the last year, schools and colleges have gone mad in hiring thousands of “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” administrators. Their job descriptions may be vague. But certainly, they will not contribute to classroom education. Instead, they will monitor the speech and thoughts of those who do.

How long will mostly left-wing teachers’ unions continue to support such vast diversions of money to armies of new left-wing non-teaching administrators?

Before 2020, the Left demanded “proportional representation” in hiring and admissions. And if minority groups and women were not represented in the workplace according to their percentages of the American population, then prejudice was automatically assumed (“disparate impact”). Reparatory measures were then made to hire by race and gender.

“Affirmative action” was the euphemism for such quotas. It was nevertheless more or less institutionalized because proportional representation was not entirely illogical in a multiracial society. And there was still the common goal to follow Martin Luther King, Jr.’s notion of integration and assimilation to make race incidental not essential to who Americans are.

Not now. The foundations of the new woke race agenda are mostly anti-white. African American Chicago mayor Lori Lightfoot recently decided not to call on reporters who were white. The city of Oakland’s entitlement payouts, like those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are designed not to be distributed to white people.

A number of black intellectuals now openly envision American life segregated from whites—and far worse. *The Nation*’s Elie Mystal envisions his life as “whiteness free.” Damon Young, a senior editor of *The Root* and an occasional *New York Times* contributor, claims, “Whiteness . . . kills people.” And Barnard College English instructor Ben Philippe recently wrote a novel envisioning mass gassing and blowing up of white people.

Such hatred has never been condemned by Black Lives Matter or other civil rights groups. When the country returns to life after COVID will such 2020 venom still be tolerable?

Or for that matter, will the media be able to get away with not covering frequent attacks on Jews in major cities by mostly pro-Hamas or Arab American youth? Will they still be able to promulgate the lies that Asian American hate crimes are the work of white supremacists rather than overwhelmingly committed by young black males?

Before 2020, the American people tired of the media farces surrounding such events as the Duke lacrosse team, the lies about the Covington kids, and Jussie Smollett's hoax about being attacked by white racists. Will they return to their earlier skepticism about media hype when it increasingly seems like the media and the government mostly lied when denying the possibility that the coronavirus leaked from a Wuhan lab engaged in "gain-of-function" engineering of dangerous viruses?

Will people still believe that "armed insurrectionists" on January 6, 2021 planned a "coup" and killed officer Brian Sicknick? As the hysteria fades, we are learning there were no arms anywhere. No one has been charged with treason, conspiracy, or insurrection. There are no conspiracy kingpins in custody. And Sicknick tragically died a day later *from natural causes*.

By the end of the year, will the media-hungry Anthony Fauci still be a national icon, as the country finally adds up his contradictory communiqués that were constantly changing and often flat-out wrong, without ever apologizing for his deliberate misinformation?

What will the country make of the formerly derided "conspiracy theory" that Fauci himself helped to steer U.S. funding to the Chinese viral lab in Wuhan, the birthplace of COVID-19, when it increasingly is shown to be true?

From March 2020 to March 2021 the country went through a mass hysteria. Despite its ideological pretensions, the collective insanity was not unlike the Tulip mania in early 17th-century Holland, the 1950s hula-hoop craze, or the great June bug hysteria of 1962.

But as Americans sober up, will they institutionalize or reject the frenzy remaining from the destructive stampede that took the country over the cliff during the most unhinged year in American history?

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.



MAN IN PELOSI'S OFFICE DISCUSSES JAIL CONDITIONS FOR JANUARY 6 DETAINEES

Unfortunately for dozens of political prisoners held hostage by their own government, freedom appears to be a long way off.

BY JULIE KELLY

In one of the most iconic images of January 6, a man is pictured with his feet up on a desk inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) office.

Richard Barnett, 60, traveled from his home in Arkansas to hear Donald Trump's speech then made his way to the Capitol complex. He entered Pelosi's office, where a few photojournalists just *happened* to be stationed; Barnett put his feet on the desk, posed for the cameras, and left Pelosi a note. (He is quite a character, I can safely say after a lengthy phone interview.)

Two hours later, the photos went viral. Pelosi's daughter, Christine, posted the picture of Barnett at 3:21 p.m. that afternoon. "The Trump rioter did vandalize her office," she tweeted. "The trash will be removed and the seditionists will be prosecuted."

That incident started a legal and personal nightmare for Barnett, who spent nearly four months behind bars before a federal judge finally released him in April.

By the time Barnett arrived home on January 7, his family already had received death threats and the FBI was at his door. Barnett was arrested January 8; he was indicted January 29 on various trespassing and disorderly conduct charges, including possessing a "dangerous or deadly weapon," a walking stick that can also be used as a stun gun. (It had no batteries.)

“I was transported to a prison in Oklahoma City for two weeks,” Barnett, who goes by the nickname “Bigo,” told me in a phone interview Tuesday afternoon. “I had never been to prison before, it was my first experience. I thought how awesome it was that even though you’re in prison, you’re treated with respect and everyone follows the rules.”

But Barnett’s inaugural experience in America’s prison system quickly soured after he was transported to the nation’s capital. Like dozens of people charged with offenses related to the Capitol building protest, Barnett was ordered to remain behind bars in a D.C. jail with no chance to make bail even though he has no criminal record and faces no violent charges.

Joe Biden’s Justice Department, nonetheless, is seeking pretrial detention orders for many Capitol Hill protestors; in some cases, prosecutors argue the defendants pose a threat to society because they doubt the outcome of the 2020 presidential election.

This has led to the creation of a Shawshank of sorts for January 6 detainees. The government, according to Barnett, opened up a shuttered jail facility specifically to house January 6 detainees. The accused are in restrictive housing, ostensibly to protect them from the jail system’s general population—but the conditions are anything but special.

Upon arrival at the D.C. jail, January 6 defendants are ordered to quarantine for two weeks to follow COVID-19 rules. Detainees are not allowed to leave the quarantine cell for any reason.

Once the quarantine period is over, detainees are moved to another permanent unit, which is not unlike the quarantine quarters. “First off, all the cells are contaminated with black mold, even the sink we are supposed to drink out of,” Barnett said. “The guards gave us some kind of cleaner but it didn’t really work.” The cells are roughly 70 square feet with a concrete slab for a bed, a toilet, and a sink.

Detainees are held in solitary confinement conditions for 23 hours a day. Breakfast, Barnett said, arrives at 3:30 in the morning and is inedible “slop.” Dinner usually consists of bologna.

During their one hour of free time each day, detainees must attend to all personal business including hygiene such as a shower. The men don’t have access to shaving gear or haircuts. “The barbershop is closed. The best we could do was use a toenail clipper they gave us.”

Most detainees, however, spend the hour on the phone with family. “They are worried about their family, about their finances.” Barnett, a former firefighter and bull rider, said he counseled the younger inmates whenever he could. “Nothing fazes me but these men are worried about losing their homes and this was three months ago. Many of them are young and have never been in jail before. I prayed with them when I could, tried to talk them through it.”

The guards, Barnett said, go out of their way to make life harder for the detainees. “It is purposeful and deliberate collusion, to make every facet of your existence miserable,” Barnett said. This includes instances of physical abuse; guards slammed Barnett’s face into the concrete floor at one point. After confronting the guards for not following prison rules—Barnett read the Department of Corrections inmate handbook when he arrived—and accusing one guard of sexual harassment, Barnett was placed in the D.C. prison’s general population as punishment.

Another detainee, Barnett recounted, was attacked in his cell in the middle of the night, handcuffed and beaten “senseless,” Barnett said. He suffered extensive injuries. “They damn near killed him.” Another young man with evident emotional issues was heavily maced by guards one night when he had some type of breakdown. “I shouted at them to leave him alone.”

Religious services are not allowed so Barnett and a few others organized a Sunday morning service. The guards, Barnett said, were “nasty and insulting” about their attempts to practice their religion. “We couldn’t even talk about God.” There is “no doubt” in Barnett’s mind that the January 6 detainees are treated differently because of their political views.

The prison’s library, the guards told the detainees, is closed. Access to law books and other reading material is nonexistent, Barnett said. The detainees started their own newsletter with paper and pencils purchased through the commissary. They also sing the National Anthem at 7:00 each night to lift morale. “These guys are patriots.”

Attorney-client privilege also is nonexistent, Barnett and his lawyers, Joseph McBride and Steven Metcalf, told me. There is no privacy during discussions and video calls can take up to two weeks to schedule.

Barnett’s experience supports descriptions by other inmates; earlier this month, I wrote about Jacob Lang, who has been imprisoned in the D.C. jail since his arrest in January. Lang told his parents the detainees are “being abused mentally, physically, socially, emotionally, legally, and spiritually.”

I asked Barnett what he would like to tell the American people about what’s happening. “Very simple, pray for the guys who are still in there,” he said. “They’re not working and have a family to support. Help pay their bills.”

Barnett and his lawyers will soon launch a website where people can donate and learn more about his experiences and follow his trial. (GoFundMe, his lawyer said, won’t permit accounts to help raise money for January 6 defendants.)

“Freedom is not free,” Barnett said.

Unfortunately for dozens of political prisoners held hostage by their own government, freedom appears to be a long way off.

Julie Kelly is a political commentator and senior contributor to [American Greatness](#). She is the author of [Disloyal Opposition: How the NeverTrump Right Tried—And Failed—To Take Down the President](#). Her past work can be found at [The Federalist](#) and [National Review](#). She also has been featured in the [Wall Street Journal](#), [The Hill](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [Forbes](#), and [Genetic Literacy Project](#).



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Rebecca Campbell, 2021

New Assistant County Administrative Officer to be Appointed

Author: Administrative Office

Date: 5/21/2021 3:05:18 PM

The County of San Luis Obispo is pleased to announce that Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer (CAO) for Kings County, has accepted a job offer as the Assistant County Administrative Officer.

Ms. Campbell has worked for the County of Kings since 2005, where she served as both the Assistant CAO and most recently as the CAO, since 2017. In this role, Ms. Campbell manages the day-to-day operations of all County functions and activities, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors, including management of a \$443 Million budget.

During her time with Kings County, Ms. Campbell's significant accomplishments have included successfully bringing in over \$100 Million in competitive construction grants and managing those projects, negotiating a multitude of diverse contracts, including her most recent 25-year Intergovernmental Agreement with the Tachi-Yokut Tribe of the Santa Rosa Rancheria Indians, and leading the county during the longest period of growth, including her direct involvement in increasing the County's credit rating from an A- to an A. In addition, she has served as an influential member of a number of professional organizations. These include Secretary/ Treasurer of the Statewide California Association of County Executives Organization, Chairperson of the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Central Planning Area, Pioneer Elementary School Site Council Committee member, and Rotary member.

Prior to working for the County of Kings, Ms. Campbell served ten years in the United States Navy as an Electronics Technician and, while stationed in Keflavik, Iceland, she led the building and relocation of a North Atlantic communications facility. She also served as a Career Counselor to assist sailors with their career paths. Ms. Campbell was named Navy Sailor of the Year in 2001, and received multiple medals for her outstanding service. Ms. Campbell has a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

Ms. Campbell will replace Guy Savage, who is retiring after serving seven years as the Assistant CAO and five years as the Director of IT. CAO Wade Horton stated, "I'm grateful to Guy Savage for his steadfast leadership and service to our County, and excited to welcome Rebecca Campbell to our executive team. She brings proven experience, a fresh perspective, and dedication to service. I'm looking forward to welcoming her and the commitment to excellence she has demonstrated in her life and career."

Ms. Campbell stated, "I'm very excited about the opportunity to work with an extraordinary group of department heads and one of the best management teams in the state serving the people of San Luis Obispo County."

As the Assistant CAO, Ms. Campbell will support CAO Wade Horton in overseeing an annual budget of \$808 Million and a County staff of approximately 2,800. Ms. Campbell is scheduled to start in her new role on June 28, 2021.

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