



**WEEKLY UPDATE  
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 6, 2021**

**THIS WEEK**

**PROPOSED FEE INCREASES POSTED  
BUT SOME ARE STILL UNDER STUDY - HEARING NOV. 16TH**

**WET GARBAGE RECYCLE MANDATE HITS HARD  
YOU MAY NEED TO BUY A PIG**



**CONSULTANT TO REVIEW TAX SHARING  
FORMULA BETWEEN COUNTY AND CITIES  
WILL IMPACT ANNEXATIONS**

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS FOR NEW WATER  
DIRECTOR AND INTERIM CLERK RECORDER UP  
FOR APPROVAL**

**UNBELIEVABLE MENTAL HEALTH SCAM PROPOSED**  
**COULD COST UP TO \$576K TO PUT PATIENTS IN SOUND PODS**  
**SO THEY CAN GET THEIR CHAKRA STRAIGHT**

**FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 FINANCIAL FORECAST**  
**NO PROBLEMS FORSEEN AT THIS POINT IN THE SHORT TERM**

**THREE-YEAR FINANCIAL FORECAST**  
**THEIR HEARTS ARE NOT IN WORKING ON THIS ONE - TOO BAD**

**DIABLO DECOMMISSIONING PERMIT PROCESSING**  
**STATUS**

**MAJOR POZO AREA CANNABIS APPEAL**  
**THE PC DENIED THE PERMIT AND NEW OWNER IS APPEALING**

**LAST WEEK**

**REDISTRICTING HEARING INFORMATIONAL**  
**FIRST REAL ACTION LIKELY ON NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**EMERGENT ISSUES**

**COVID STATUS**

**WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE HEIDI HARMON NOW**

**COLAB IN DEPTH**  
**SEE PAGE 22**

# RESTORING LOCAL CONTROL OVER LAND- USE DECISIONS

BY SUSAN SHELLEY

## INFRASTRUCTURE: FINDING COMMON GROUND IN CALIFORNIA

BY EDWARD RING

### THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

#### Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, November 2, 2021 (Scheduled)

**Item 1 - Introduction of an ordinance implementing the County Fee Schedule "A" for Calendar Year 2022 and Fee Schedule "B" for Fiscal Year 2022-23. Hearing date set for November 16, 2021.** This item is the pre-notice for the hearing that will take place on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Note that this year the fee increases for Planning and Building are not included here, as there is a major consulting study underway on their presumed adequacy. It is likely that this will result in both the expansion of the number of fees as well as the rates. Cannabis related permitting and inspection fees are also under review. Public Works fees were not listed in the item. Since they are mainly related to land development, they may be under review as well.

Otherwise the report summarizes the results as:

*The total amount of revenue from departments that is anticipated to be generated from fees in FY 2022-23 constitutes an increase of \$2.3 million or 8% over FY 2021-22 budgeted levels. Only accounting for General Fund departments, the total amount of revenue that is anticipated to be generated from fees in FY 2022-23 constitutes a \$601,642 or 5% increase over FY 2021-22. It is not expected that these percentage changes will change the percentage of overall budget that is financed by fee revenue given the expected growth in the overall budget. In addition to changes in the volume of business, some of which is due to reduced impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, two other primary factors for this increase are negotiated wage and benefit increases for various bargaining units, and a CPI increase of 1%.*

The County policy on fees states:

*The Board of Supervisors' Budget Policy 21, Cost Recovery Through Fees, directs departments to recover costs through fees where reasonable and after all cost-saving options have been*

*explored. Each year, the Board reviews its budget goals and policies in advance of the budget preparation process. The policies were reviewed on December 8, 2020, in advance of the FY 2021-22 Recommended Budget; the next review is scheduled for November 16, 2021. As noted later in this staff report, not all fees are set at a level to allow for full recovery of costs (i.e. other funding sources, including the General Fund, offset some portion of these costs). It is important to note, that while the Board's policy is to the recover costs of providing services; this only applies to services which carry a specific benefit to an individual or entity and does not pertain to basic tax-supported services which benefit the broader community (e.g. law enforcement, fire protection, health services, general government administration, etc.)*

This policy results in the fees heavily impacting business operations, land improvement, home building, commercial development, agriculture, economic development, and job creation.

It also means that criminals, the homeless, and other net consumers of government costs get off scot free from any financial or compensatory accountability. Wealth is transferred from productive elements of society to the dependent and less motivated, as the massive Federal and State taxes are being used to fund income maintenance payments; free health care; "education" (such as it is); law enforcement; incarceration; and inadequate capital investment in highways, bridges, and public facilities.

One way to stop the machine would be to cease endlessly raising fees and make the government smaller. It would be a form of revolt by local government. Also, the County is so awash in State and Federal COVID funds and American Rescue Act and Recovery Funds, that it could give the poor farmers and businesses a break.

Some of our favorite examples:

Adoption of a cat \$85.00.

Planning and Building Department "minor" use permit fee \$883.

Review of a "minor" use permit by the Agricultural Commissioner \$550 (remember Planning and Development is the main reviewer already).

Fire Department "minor" use permit fee \$884.

Health Department review of the same "minor" use permit \$786.

Health Department annual review of a produce farm stand \$457. Gotta watch out for those rotten pumpkins.

**Item 3 - Introduction of an Ordinance amending Title 8 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, by adding Chapter 8.99 to comply with the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants<sup>1</sup> legislation Senate Bill 1383; and find that the action is exempt from Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA).** This item is the introduction of a State mandated ordinance which will be also be heard on November 16<sup>th</sup>. It is required pursuant to SB

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<sup>1</sup> The State's euphemism for wet garbage – fish guts etc.

1383, which requires all manner of new handling of recycling, storage, and disposal of wet garbage.

The County must operate the following programs to be considered compliant.

***Organic Waste Collection.*** Provide organic waste collection services to all residences and businesses and recycle these organic materials at facilities such as an anaerobic digestion facility or composting facility. Part of the organic waste collection service could include waivers for low population, rural, elevation, emergency, and disaster. The County anticipates qualifying for several low population waivers.

***Ordinance and Franchise Agreement Amendments.*** The legislation requires the adoption of a specific SB 1383 ordinance or update of a current Solid Waste Ordinance and amendments to franchise agreements to support compliance include specifics related to the inspection, compliance, and reporting on SB 1383. Public Works is working with our local franchise haulers on a contract amendment and will bring an item before your Board December 2021. This item is to adopt a specific SB 1383 ordinance.

***Create Local Procurement Policies.*** In order to support the purchase of recycled products such as paper products, compost, mulch, renewable natural gas (RNG) and electricity, the County will need to adopt a new policy and purchase, acquire or secure for use, or giveaway, a certain amount of recycled products each year. The County is working on this effort and will come back to your Board with a procurement policy to support SB 1383 requirements.

***Edible Food Recovery Program.*** In an effort to reduce food waste and address food insecurity, SB 1383 requires jurisdictions, by 2025, to recover 20 percent of the edible food that would have otherwise been discarded into a landfill. The County will work with food businesses to create contracts with the local food banks to donate edible food away from the landfills.

**COLAB NOTE:** Perhaps the County could buy each household 2 pigs and each multi-unit building a proportionate larger number. Then, as in **Item 1**, above, the County could inspect your pig operation each year and charge you a fee. As Louisiana’s populist Depression era Governor Huey Long promised, “a brown bottle in every hand and a hog in every garage.”



***Outreach & Education.** Public Works will provide outreach and education to residences and businesses on the new opportunities/requirements in unincorporated areas of the County. Capacity Planning. The County is responsible for taking the lead in collaborating with all local jurisdictions on making sure there is capacity for the processing of the recovered organics as well as capacity for the food recovery efforts within our local food banks.*

***Recordkeeping & Reporting.** Regulated jurisdictions are required to keep records to report as well as prove compliance to CalRecycle. The County will coordinate the franchise haulers as well as other jurisdiction to make sure that reporting meets the requirements of the legislation and will provide accurate information to CalRecycle.*

***Monitoring & Enforcement.** The County will be responsible for monitoring programs, contamination, compliance, and enacting its enforcement authority when necessary. It is the desire of the Department of Public Works and staff, to develop programs that are reasonable and easy to comply with. When compliance does not occur, outreach and education efforts will become the focus. Adoption of Chapter 8.99, a specific SB 1383 ordinance, is the first step in compliance with CalRecycle's mandatory regulations.*

Again the State is relentlessly expanding the intrusion of government into our lives with accompanying increasing costs and fees. You will have to have a new separate wet garbage bucket in your kitchen once this all gets going next year.

**Item 4 - Request to 1) approve a FY 2021-22 sole source contract for up to \$187,400 with The Natelson Dale Group, Inc., together with the cities of Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, and Atascadero to provide financial analysis and modeling to inform a revised tax sharing agreement related to annexations; 2) authorize the County Administrative Officer to approve any amendments to the contract in an amount not to exceed \$19,900; and 3) approve a corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of \$187,400).** Currently, the County operates a master annexation agreement that splits the future property tax growth between some of the cities and the County, 66% to the County and 33% to the cities. The County share helps to cover the cost of the Countywide services that it retains, such as jail, Public Health, Behavioral Health, District Attorney, Public Defender, Elections, regional parks, regional roads, Child Support Services, In-Home Support Services, and local share of welfare, etc. These costs all go up as the annexed areas urbanize.

Some of the cities have been complaining about the formula. For this reason, the County and several of the cities have agreed to hire a consultant to analyze the matter, which has not been studied since 1996.

The sales tax and transient occupancy tax can also be major components, but the County already seems to have surrendered any growth to the cities.

Depending on the resulting numbers, the matter could wind up in a major disagreement. Stay tuned. As the government costs inexorably rise, each entity becomes increasingly desperate.

**Item 5 - Request to approve the employment agreement with Blaine Reely to serve as the Director of the Groundwater Sustainability Department for the County of San Luis Obispo.** As we reported, the new Department was created this past summer, and the County has

now appointed a Director. It will be interesting to observe if he has a substantially different and more transparent view of the ground water management situation than some of the home grown officials in the past. The write-up summarizes his qualifications as:

*Mr. Reely has been a professional engineer for over 40 years. During that time, he has been a Civil Engineer with a national transportation engineering firm, the Public Works Director for the City of Enid, Oklahoma, owned and managed a multi-state engineering firm that provided civil engineering, hydrology and environmental services to a wide range of governmental and corporate clients, and contributed to the design and construction of themed attractions worldwide. Under his leadership, his former firm was named to the Inc. 500 list of fastest growing companies in the United States. His most recent experience with Monsoon Consultants and GSI Water Solutions included a focus in hydrology, including work on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Mr. Reely has a Ph.D. and Master of Science in Civil Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering.*

With more than 40 years of experience, he must be an old guy. Perhaps we can get a straight number on the amount of acre-feet of water per acre-feet of grapes. What number was used to justify the Paso Basin water moratorium?

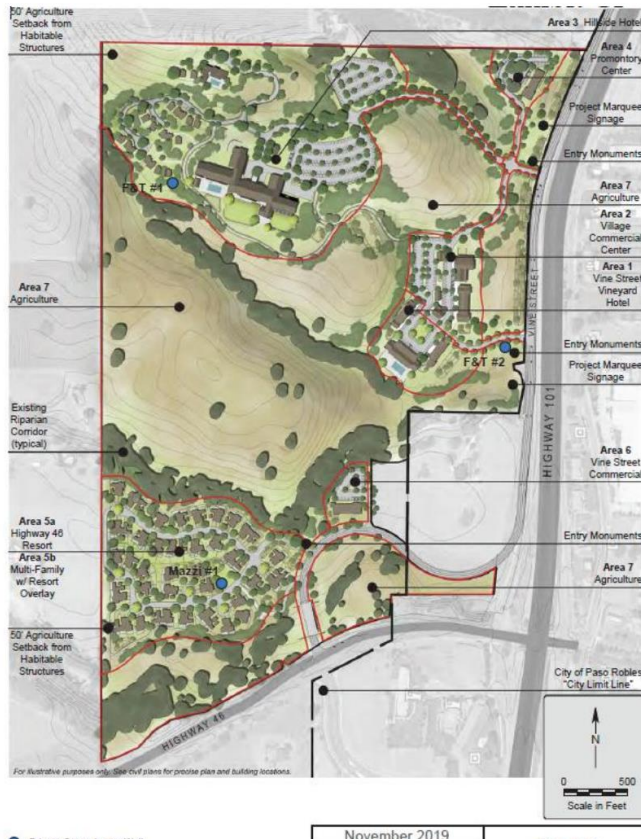
**Item 6 - Request to approve the November 14, 2021 through January 2, 2023 employment agreement with Elaina Cano as the County Clerk-Recorder for the County of San Luis Obispo.** In the end, the Board appointed Elaina Cano to finish out the term of former Clerk Recorder Tommy Gong. During the interview, she stated that she would run for the position in 2022 if appointed now. Long term leftist and government reform advocate Attorney Stew Jenkins has already announced. The Board letter states in part:

*Ms. Cano has been involved in clerking and elections for over 15 years. She started her career at the City of San Luis Obispo, as a Deputy City Clerk, eventually promoting to a City Clerk after five years. In her time with the City of San Luis Obispo, she maximized the community's access to the City's legislative process using a variety of media as well as planned, implemented the City's Public Educational-Government (PEG) Access program, and oversaw enhancements to the City's government access channel. In 2012 she became the City Clerk and Department Head at the City of Pismo Beach. In this position she maintained the City of Pismo Beach Municipal Code, managed and participated in the development and administration of the City Clerk and City Council annual budgets as well as established systems for preserving, protecting and purging public records in accordance with law.*

*Ms. Cano joined the County of San Luis Obispo in 2014 as the Assistant County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters where she assisted with all election processes, maintained the integrity of the Official Records and served as the County Clerk-Recorder in the absence of the administrator or as directed. In 2019, Ms. Cano joined the County of Santa Barbara's Election Division as the Election Division Manager. Ms. Cano received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Laverne in Liberal Studies and maintains licensure as a Certified Municipal Clerk and a has a credential in California Professional Elections*

During her interview, Cano clearly indicated that she believes the job is all about teamwork, expanding services, and “transparency.” She has no idea that it should really be about protecting freedom by protecting the people from their governments.

**Item 10 - Submittal of a resolution accepting the exchange of property tax revenue and annual tax increment for Annexation No. 90 to the City of Paso Robles (Gateway).** Apropos of **Item 1**, above, related to analysis of tax allocation resulting from annexations, this item approves the property tax allocation between the County and the City of Paso Robles.



In this case the County will receive all of the property tax growth. The City will receive all of the transient occupancy tax and all of the sales tax. The deal is subject to the approval of LAFCO.

It would seem appropriate that Board items such as this contain a table that shows the forecasted taxes from the present time until buildout. This would enable the Board and the public to assess the prudence of the policy for both the City and the County.

**Item 18 - Request to: 1) approve a FY 2021–22 contract with Soundheal Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$175,320 to test the effectiveness of sound**

**meditation in improving mental health outcomes; and 2) delegate authority to the Health Agency Director or his designee to sign any amendments to the Contract, including Option to Renew for three additional years (through June 30, 2025) for a total cumulative amount not to exceed \$276,120.** This item, if approved, will authorize a contract with a vendor called Soundheal, Inc., which would put mental patients in a sound pod “to listen to meditative sounds designed to calm and center the body and mind.” The staff request in the Board letter outlines the project as follows:

*One of the projects outlined in the Innovation Plan is SoulWomb. The SoulWomb project aims to provide an additional, ancillary service for the forensic mental health population (pre-and-post adjudication in Behavioral Health Treatment Court and Veteran Treatment Court) enrolled in San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department Justice Services (SLOBHDS). The clinic intends to use a sound meditation pod for a holistic, mindfulness-based treatment of clients. A Non-Competitively Bid (NCB) Contract Justification for this contract was completed August 19, 2021 and approved by the County Purchasing Department. Soundheal Inc. is uniquely suited to carry out the implementation of this test project as it is the inventor and sole proprietor of the*



device required to complete the approved innovation project. Soundheal Inc. and its founder, **Mahesh Natrajan**, have the knowledge in wellness and technology sector to make them an expert in appropriate structural support, resources, and capacity to engage in outreach, education, research, data collection, testing, and reporting.

**COLAB Comment: What a bunch of garbage! Did the people in County Purchasing actually process this request?**

**Who is Mahesh Natrajan?** It turns out the name Natrajan, not Natrajan, is very common. The Board letter lists it as Natrajan. We could find no link on Google with either version related to Soundheal or SoulWomb.

*The SoulWomb project is designed to harmlessly introduce sound meditation practice to participants through a semi-enclosed pod, immersing clients in surrounding meditative sounds, meant to calm and center the body and mind. The key goal of this project is to learn whether this sound meditation technique will be effective for increasing court and diversion clients' wellness participation and ultimately, improving mental health outcomes.*

This swindle will cost the taxpayers \$576,000.

	<b>Contract Expenditure for Soul Womb</b>	<b>MHSA Innovation Component Funding</b>	<b>General Fund Impact</b>
FY 2021-22	\$175,320	\$175,320	\$0
FY 2022-23	\$148,680	\$148,680	\$0
FY 2023-24	\$140,240	\$140,240	\$0
FY 2024-25	\$111,940	\$111,940	\$0
<b>Total Contract</b>	<b>\$576,180</b>	<b>\$576,180</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>SoundHeal SoulWomb Project</b>		
Outcome Measures	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
Percent increase of participants reporting they have the foundation for their own self-meditation or wellness practice, as measured by retrospective surveys.	30%	30%
Percent increase of participants reporting they are more optimistic about their self, as measured by retrospective surveys.	30%	30%
Percent improvement in participant self-awareness, as measured by retrospective surveys.	30%	30%
Percent decrease in participant anxiety, stress, or feelings of detachment, as measured by retrospective surveys.	25%	25%
Percent increase in participant ability to stay calm, relieve stress, and focus, as measured by retrospective surveys.	25%	25%

The SoulWomb website makes it clear that this is simply a huge racket designed to rip people off. To package it as a patented mental health therapy and sell it to a County Health Department is criminal fraud.

**Outrageous:** County staffers making \$200,000 actually made this a “professional” recommendation action in public. They should be immediately dismissed. Who lets this sort of thing on the Board agenda and subjects them to the type of embarrassment that they describe for allowing it to happen.. Wonder what the symbol means?



The SoulWomb is your personal meditation space

Transport yourself to a state of bliss using an **orchestrated sequence of ancient therapeutic sounds and physical vibrations.** The SoulWomb facilitates you to get focused quickly and deeply for the entire duration inside.

Huh?



Will they try some of Bach’s softer stuff or Pachelbel’s Cannon in D?  
<https://youtu.be/PkSp8wc8IKw> Wouldn’t it be less costly for the County to try this on its own?  
Why do they need a \$576,000 guy?



### "Feel the love and light"

As a sound healer, I can say this space is sacred, pure and full of energy to alter mind and physical state, so long as you believe.



### "Invoked a strong sense of security"

The different frequency bells, gongs and sounds were soul comforting.

Is placing the County patients in a cheesy cardboard box with 2 electric candles and playing gong music worth \$576,000 in public taxpayer funds?

## Why do I need to meditate inside the SoulWomb?

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Our affirmation based guided meditation sessions reduce anxiety, stress and improve overall mental health.

Physical gentle healing vibrations reduce physical pain in both internal and external parts of the body.

The 3D immersive and spatial sounds quickly transports you to a place of emotional tranquility in this fast paced world.

Aligns your chakra energy sources in your body for better long term health and prosperity.

Optional chanting sessions immerse you in the energy field similar to that in a temple or a monastery.

Recharges your mind and body for upto a week after your session.

Helps you stay centered, focused & connected to your inner true peaceful self.

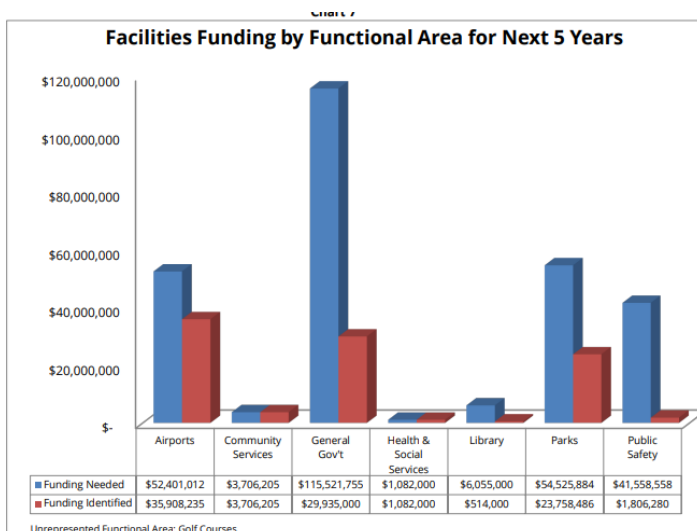
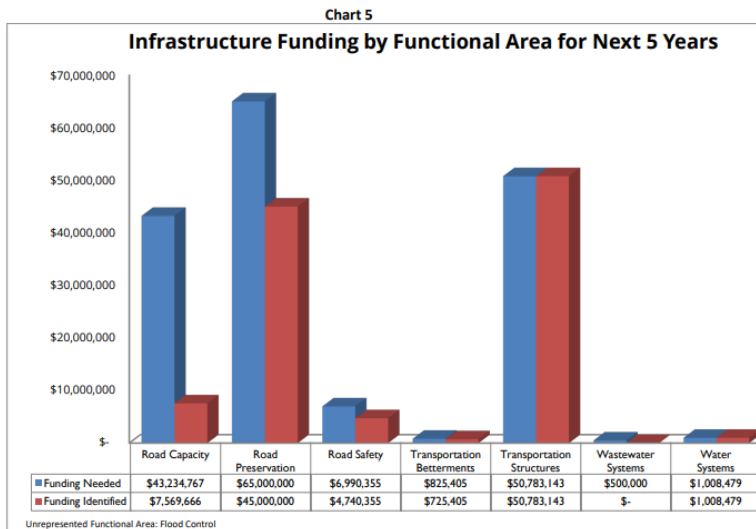
Alters your state of being to stay younger in body, mind and spirit.

Why not just bring in some exorcists and have them drive the demons out of the patients?

**Items 34 and 35:** Note: **Items 34** and **35** comprise financial forecasts for next fiscal year (2022-23) and 3 fiscal years (2022-23, 23-24, and 24-25) respectively. The data in **Item 34** is used to build the forecast for the subsequent fiscal year. The 2 items should be read in order.

**Item 34 - Consideration of a report regarding the County’s Fiscal Year 2022-23 financial forecast.** Overall, the County should be fine next fiscal year, as it has ample reserves, growing local (non-departmental) revenues, and growing departmental revenues. Both the County and the State are awash in accumulated COVID-related revenues, including \$28 million in Carona Virus Relief funds , \$54 million from American Rescue and Recovery Act, an unspecified amount in State COVID relief, and more potential program funding, if the currently pending so-called Federal Infrastructure Act is approved by the Congress.

The rosy projections ignore the significant road and building maintenance deficits. If the presentation included a plan to reduce these hundreds of millions of dollars in unfunded infrastructure, the Budget would not be balanced.



Funding for capital investment, which would allow expansion of areas for zoning of single family homes and large scale apartment house development, is totally absent from the analysis.

The table below forecasts growth in non-departmental general revenue categories. except for the Unitary Tax<sup>2</sup>, which will decrease as Diablo to shuts down. So-called “departmental” revenue is revenue that is received for a legally restricted purpose, which is usually attributable to a specific department or set of programs across certain departments. The term “departmental” is unfortunate, as it can connote limited Board of Supervisors authority over it. This in turn can lead bureaucrats and the Board to give programs funded by such revenue less scrutiny than those funded by general revenues, such as the property tax.

Departments game the system by programming all of their respective “departmental” revenues in the base of the program and then seek additional general revenue or “non- departmental revenue” on the margin to expand programs.

General administration and the Board should examine budget requests closely in these regards. Even though a particular department is flush with “departmental revenue” from a State or Federal source or “dedicated fees,” the Board and administration need to closely scrutinize their use in terms of actual benefit and efficiency.

**Non-Departmental Revenue (Discretionary Revenue):**

The table below outlines the assumptions for the FY 2022-23 forecast for non-departmental revenue:

Revenue	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Projection	2022-23 Forecast	% Diff: 21-22 Bud & 22-23 Forecast
Secured Prop Tax	\$127,088,111	\$131,861,780	\$135,649,256	\$137,129,325	\$142,670,655	5.2%
Unitary Tax	\$6,388,331	\$5,840,519	\$5,254,038	\$4,945,652	\$4,425,948	-15.8%
Supplemental Prop Tax	\$2,498,049	\$2,515,309	\$2,169,000	\$2,169,000	\$2,255,760	4.0%
Prop Tax in lieu of VLF	\$39,107,615	\$41,119,225	\$42,763,994	\$42,715,055	\$44,423,657	3.9%
Prop Transfer Tax	\$3,862,915	\$4,264,099	\$3,263,355	\$3,263,355	\$3,328,622	2.0%
Sales Tax	\$12,534,591	\$13,617,485	\$12,840,041	\$15,000,000	\$14,000,000	9.0%
TOT	\$9,956,380	\$14,983,551	\$11,500,000	\$12,000,000	\$12,500,000	8.7%
All Other	\$42,765,034	\$20,238,674	\$19,074,051	\$18,502,174	\$19,447,985	2.0%
<b>Total (Non-Dept. Rev.)</b>	<b>\$244,201,026</b>	<b>\$262,023,399</b>	<b>\$232,513,735</b>	<b>\$235,724,561</b>	<b>\$243,052,627</b>	<b>4.5%</b>

Departmental Revenue:

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with [Section 19, Article XIII of the California Constitution](#), the BOE is responsible for assessing property owned or used by certain public utilities and other specified companies operating in California, enabling counties to use those values to collect local property taxes. Utilities and railroads are examples of properties assessed by the State.

Revenue	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Projection	2022-23 Forecast	% Diff 21-22 Bud & 22-23 Forecast
Prop 172	\$24,952,552	\$27,216,509	\$27,216,509	\$31,874,708	\$32,830,949	20.63%
1991 Realignment	\$20,340,460	\$20,604,421	\$23,046,919	\$25,394,426	\$25,329,933	9.91%
LEHC 91 and 2011 Realignment	\$1,805,140	\$1,615,913	\$2,109,790	\$2,061,788	\$2,092,290	-0.83%
Health Agency	\$76,440,916	\$83,943,992	\$91,163,663	\$96,107,434	\$97,582,769	7.04%
Social Services	\$100,632,030	\$98,046,417	\$106,794,181	\$105,645,254	\$108,055,993	1.18%
Other	\$74,431,864	\$92,010,749	\$78,161,392	\$78,161,392	\$78,561,392	0.51%
<b>Total (Dept. Rev.)</b>	<b>\$298,602,962</b>	<b>\$323,438,001</b>	<b>\$328,492,454</b>	<b>\$339,245,002</b>	<b>\$344,453,326</b>	<b>4.86%</b>

Note that salaries and benefits will be \$10.1 million higher than shown below, due to new labor contract costs, which are known but which don't occur until next year. This is a good inclusion, which has been made part of this analysis. Relatedly but not estimated, what is the likely impact of labor agreements that are now under negotiation or are likely to be completed before next July 1<sup>st</sup>? The County uses a general policy forecasting rate of 2.7%. The staff should include a line for this estimate as well.

The assumptions noted above result in the following expenditure forecast:

Amount	Description
332,389,767	FY 2021-22 Adopted General Fund Salary & Benefits
10,062,789	Incremental General Fund cost of labor agreements already negotiated and approved but not budgeted in the current year, cost of expected pension rate increase, cost of expected increase in Other Post Employment Benefits costs, and expected increased charges to departments to support the Liability and Workers Compensation programs
257,935,571	FY 2021-22 Adopted General Fund non-salary costs
5,158,711	2% Consumer Price Index (CPI)
636,116	Department of Social Services increased costs
3,756,426	Health Agency increased costs
(602,241)	Decreased cost for various one-time expenditures in FY 2021-22
439,384	Increased cost for homeless programs, authorized by Board on 8/10/21
700,000	Increased cost for fire equipment replacement
2,378,396	Transfer of SB 1090 revenue into a designation for future use
(17,042,657)	Adjustments to General Fund contributions to non-General Fund budgets
29,790,613	5% General Fund contingency
<b>625,602,875</b>	<b>Total Expenditure Forecast</b>

**The Board letter summarizes the difference between the total revenue forecast and total expenditure forecast, stating**

*Per the assumptions noted above, the forecasted structurally balanced budget for the General Fund for FY 2022- 23 is:*

*\$620,590,383 Total financing sources (revenues)*

*\$625,602,876 Total financing uses (expenditures)*

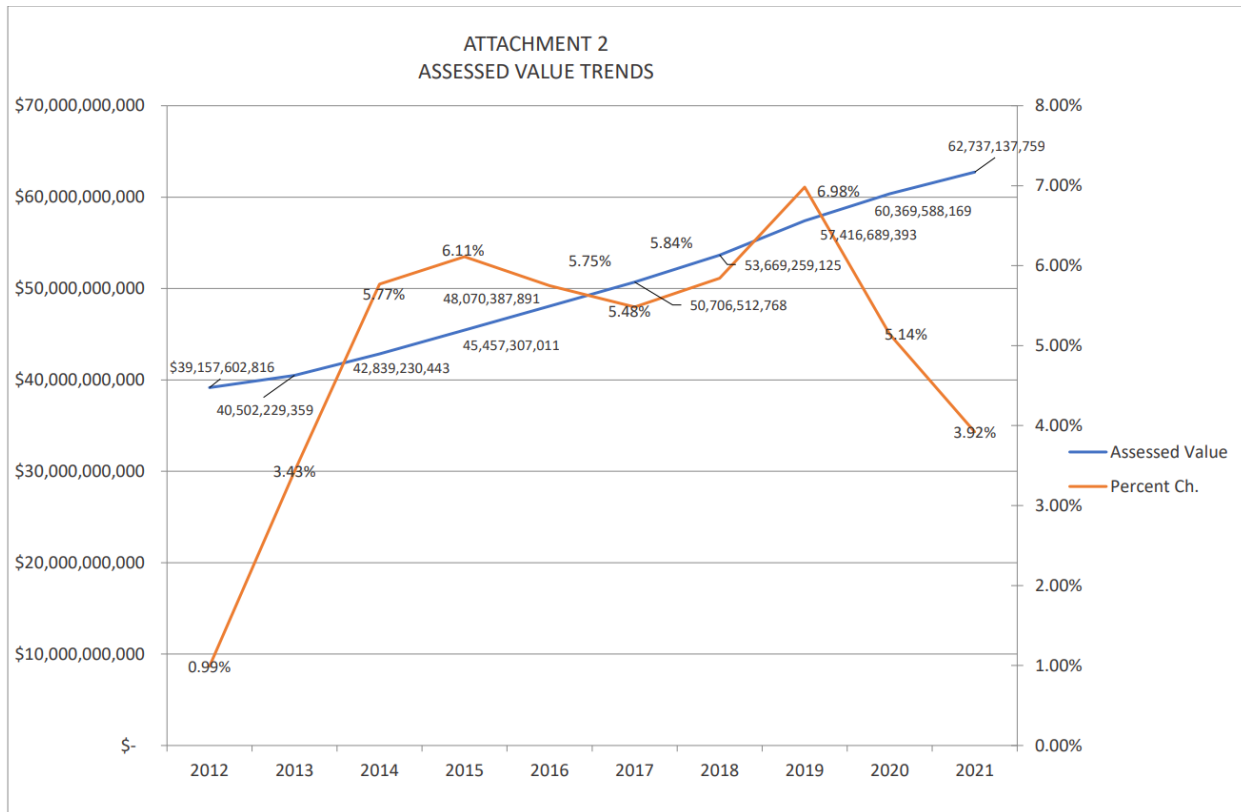
*(\$5,012,493) Total forecast surplus/ (gap)*

A projected gap of \$5 million at this juncture in the cycle is not problematical. It is likely that all or most of it will reconcile over the next 8 months. In fact, note that \$29.8 million of the Budget is contingency, which although targeted at \$29.8 million, is a swing amount which can be decreased in a bad year.

One vitally missing analysis from this presentation is the status of all the COVID and related Federal and State funding. For example, the County has received large injections of both over the past year. What are the categories, how much and for what has it been expended, and what balances are remaining?

How will the balances be applied to the budget?

The rosy projections ignore the significant capital investment, roads maintenance, and building maintenance deficits. If the presentation included a plan to reduce the hundreds of millions of dollars in unfunded infrastructure, the Budget would not be balanced.



**Item 35 - Consideration of a report regarding a multi-year financial forecast, Fiscal Year 2022-23 through FY 2024-25.** A 5-year analysis would be more meaningful. The staff’s heart is not in this presentation, and they are simply doing it because the Board asked them to do it.

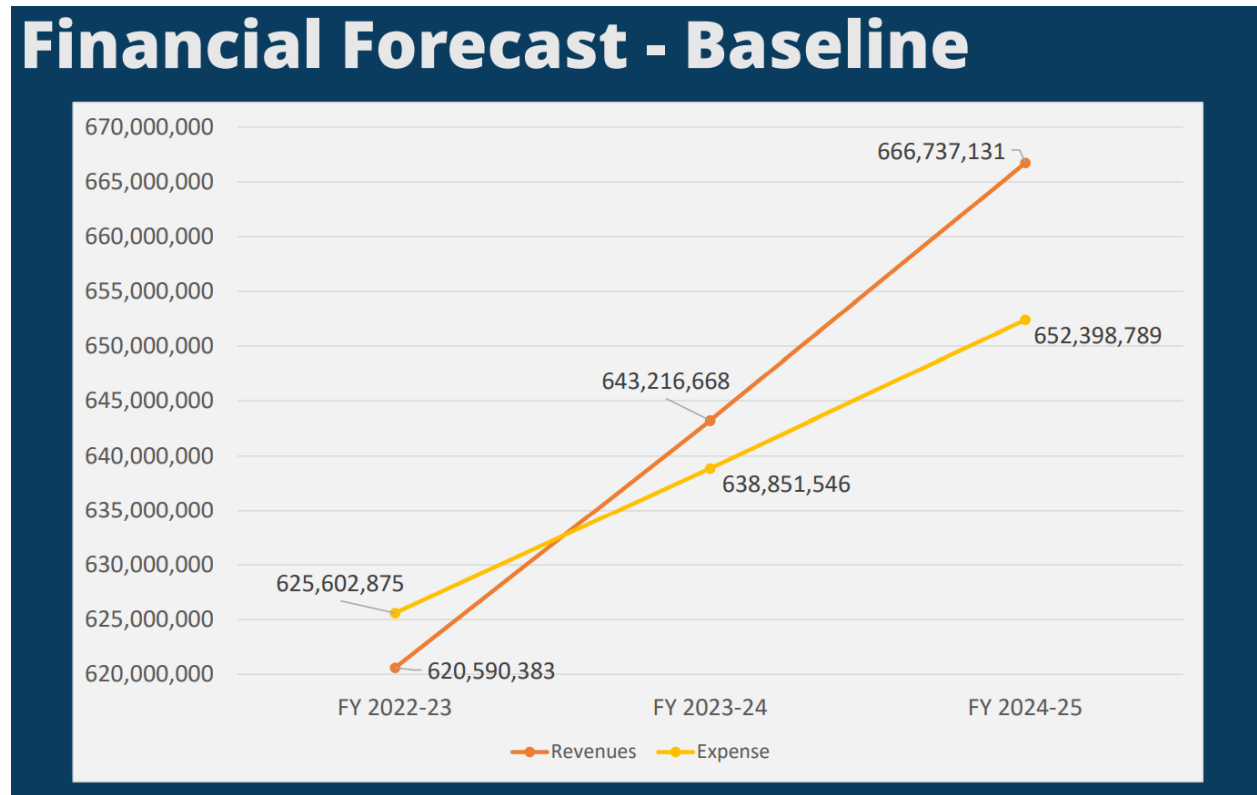
They provide a few abstract scenario charts but ignore key economic impact issues, such as the impact of the closure of Diablo, closure of the Oceano Dunes to off road recreation, the closure of Philips 66, the ultimate termination of State and Federal COVID rental assistance payments, massive inflation, the negative economic impacts of the State’s “All Electric by 2030” mandates,

the inability of solar and wind to provide sufficient energy for the economy within such mandates, the one-time Federal revenues which the State has built into its budget, supply chain problems, impact of massive illegal immigration on health and social services, labor force reluctance, and all the rest.

What should be County public policy response to an environment which contains so many risks with larger negative fiscal impacts?

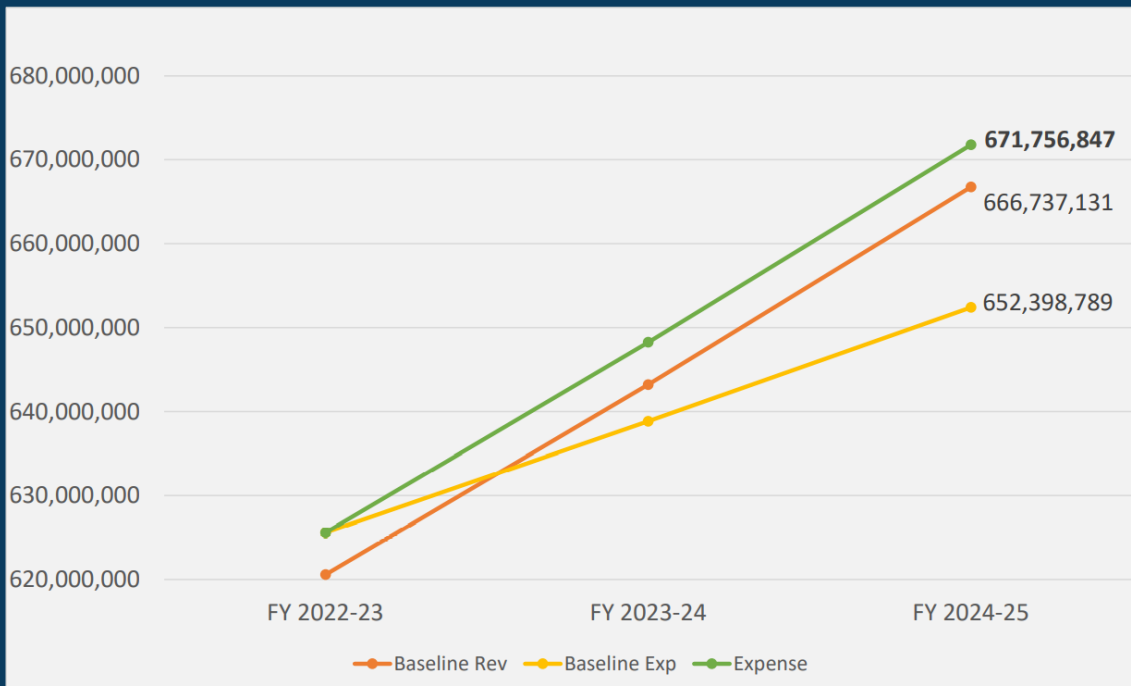
Again as noted above, the analysis omits unfunded capital facility and building maintenance accumulated deficits.

While the County can pay its current bills in the near term, it is essentially broke in terms of its long-range accumulative operating expenses and capital investment needs. Add in unfunded pension liability, and it reveals a kind of hand-to-mouth existence.





# CPI (2.7%) Annual Salary Increases



In this more realistic version, the lines don't split so well.

## Matters After 1:30 PM

**Item 37- Submittal of a project update on the PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Project application and environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.** This item contains a status report on the processing of PG&E's application to dismantle the reactors, support facilities, roads, and other structural elements of the site.

The issue in this report is not whether to retain the plant or to discuss the negative economic, social, and energy impacts.

At this point, the application is on hold, as the County has requested additional information prior to accepting it for processing. At some point there will be a schedule for the processing and the conducting of a massive environmental impact report, publication, hearings, and all the rest.

What a waste.

The plan covers two phases:

## Phase 1: 2024 - 2031

- Temporary Infrastructure & Building Modifications
- Decontamination & Demolition of Buildings
- New Buildings/Structures Construction in Future PG&E Owner-Controlled Area
- Spent Fuel & GTCC Waste Transfer to ISFSI and New GTCC Storage Facility

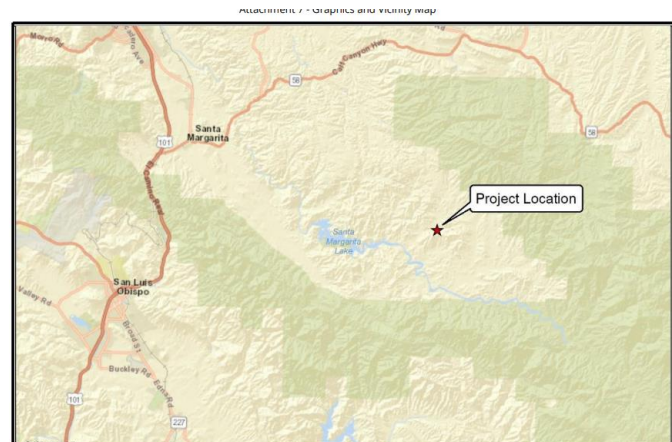
## Phase 1: 2024 – 2031, cont.

- Removal of Nuclear Reactor Pressure Vessels & Internals, Steam Generators
- Removal & Restoration of Discharge Structure
- Site Characterization to Identify Contaminated Areas
- Soil Remediation & Final Status Surveys
- Modification & Utilization of Off-site Railvards

## Phase 2: 2032-2039

- Continue Soil Remediation & Final Status Surveys
- Remove Infrastructure Not Needed for Retained Facilities
- Final Site Restoration
- Site Restoration Monitoring (up to 5 years)
- Termination of NRC Part 50 DCPD Operating Licenses
- Transition to ISFSI & GTCC Storage Operations

**Item 38 - Hearing to consider an appeal (APPL2020-00021) by Michael Aniff, Pegaso, Inc., of the Planning Commission's denial of a Conditional Use Permit DRC2018-00177 to establish cannabis activities in multiple phases including approximately three acres of outdoor cultivation, 22,000 square feet of indoor cultivation, 16,000 square feet of ancillary nursery, 9,500 square feet of ancillary processing, and a parking modification to reduce the required parking spaces from 80 to 26. The project is within the Agriculture land use category located at 12415 River Road, Pozo approximately 2.2 miles northwest of Pozo Village. This is an appeal by the applicant of the denial of his application by the Planning Commission. The community is opposed to the project and has been well organized.**



The hearing is likely to be lengthy and well attended.

**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, November 4, 2021 (Scheduled)**

**Item 4 - Hearing to consider a request by SLO Driver, LLC for a Coastal Development Permit / Development Plan to establish a non-storefront dispensary, manufacturing, and distribution facility within a 2,225 square-foot suite of an existing 12,035 square-foot commercial building. No new structures or site improvements are proposed. The project site is within the Industrial land use category, and it is located at 2115 Willow Road (State Route 1), approximately two miles west of the community of Nipomo in the Callendar-Garrett Village Area of the South County Coastal Planning Area. The staff recommends approval, and there does not appear to be any opposition in the record. The facility will be used for manufacturing cannabis products.**



**LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**Special Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, October 26, 2021 (Completed)**

**Item 1 - Hearing to consider initial draft maps for the County's 2021 redistricting of**

**Supervisory districts and give staff formal direction for any modifications, as necessary.**

The hearing lasted a little over 2 hours. which was largely consumed by public speakers and the County’s redistricting consultant. In the end, the Board determined to wait until its November 19 special meeting to begin to winnow down the redistricting proposals.

At his point the process is similar to major league baseball, in that while it is fun to watch, it doesn’t get serious until the playoffs. Bruce Gibson is peddling the left progressive myth that there is no reason to change the existing districts. He, Tom Fulks, and other leftist operatives are spinning the idea that any changes proposed by conservatives are tantamount to political gerrymandering. In actuality, it was Gibson, Hill, and Patterson who set up the current gerrymander back in 2011, when they controlled things. Any changes could actually be to un-gerrymander the districts. We will have more on that as the time approaches.

**Background:** There was a large file of information in the package, including sample maps, population data, analysis of communities of interest, a PowerPoint Board Letter, and both comments and proposed maps from citizens and groups. These can all be seen in order at the link <https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/13963>

The crucial issue at hand is that both the left progressives and the conservatives will struggle to seek the best voter advantage based on how their respective voters are distributed geographically. All this maneuvering will have to conform to the key legal requirements that the districts must be as close to equal with each other in population as possible, with no more variance than 10% between the least population district and the highest population district.

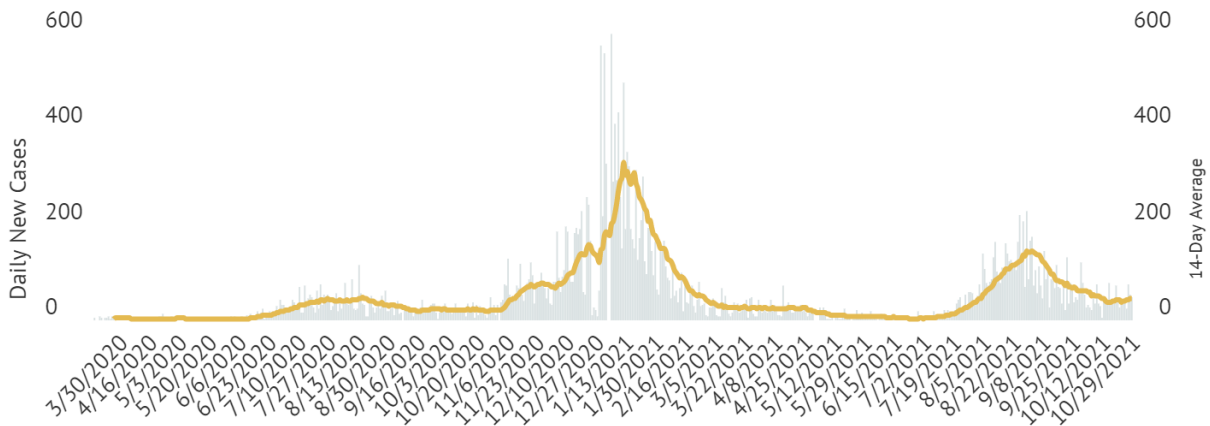
Redistricting Timeline			
Official Hearings	Required Action(s)	Date	Known/Legal Timelines
Hearing #2	Board Hearing - Consideration of Initial Draft Maps and Provide Staff Direction	October 26, 2021 (Special Evening Meeting)	
	<b>Last day to submit maps/comment for consideration in revised maps for November 19 hearing</b>	<b>November 5, 2021</b>	Allows 1 week for drawing before publication
	Publish revised maps	November 12, 2021	
Hearing #3	Board Hearing - Second consideration of Draft Maps and Provide Staff Direction	November 19, 2021 (Special Meeting)	
	<b>Last day to submit maps/comment for consideration in revised maps for November 30 hearing</b>	<b>November 21, 2021</b>	Allows only three days for finalization of maps
	Publish revised maps	November 24	At least 7 days before final adoption (12/14)
Hearing #4	Final hearing to approve redistricting plan	November 30, 2021 (Special Meeting)	
	Legal Metes and Bounds complete and ordinance drafted	December 3, 2021	72 hours agenda publication deadline
	Introduce County ordinance amendment	December 7, 2021	
Hearing #5	Amend County ordinance to reflect Board approved revised redistricting map	December 14, 2021	1 day before legal deadline
	Effective date of ordinance amendment	January 14, 2022	

The biggest threat to conservative and rational values comes from some City of SLO precincts, Cal Poly Precincts, Oceano, and some of the large planned golf communities in Nipomo.

**EMERGENT ISSUES**

**Item 1- COVID Upticks Slightly.** Meanwhile, the County has implemented its own version of the old color rating system. Many people are not paying attention and/or are rejecting everything. Public debate about masks and vaccinations is raging locally and nationwide. This is especially true for the public schools. There does not seem to be any clarity with respect to people who have contracted COVID with respect to vaccinations. Should they get them or not? What if they got the 2 vaccinations and still caught COVID? Should they get the booster?

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



**21 (4 ICU) \*\*SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital (Last week)**

**11 (3 ICU) \*\* SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital (2 weeks ago)**

**Item 2 - You Can't Make this up: Senior Public Affairs Director at the Romero Institute.**



**Heidi Harmon**

Senior Public Affairs Director, Romero Institute's Let's Green CA

**Heidi Harmon** graduated with a degree in early childhood education from Cuesta College, followed by a BA in liberal studies from Cal Poly. She is a social, environmental, and gender justice leader committed to creating an equitable and regenerative world. She has been a climate champion for two decades. As its mayor, she recently led the City of San Luis Obispo CA to the most ambitious carbon neutrality goal in the United States. She recently stepped down as mayor to step up as the Senior Public Affairs Director for Let's Green CA! to continue to make a difference on climate action at the state level.

# 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**

## INFRASTRUCTURE: FINDING COMMON GROUND IN CALIFORNIA

**BY EDWARD RING**

In California, environmental regulations have brought infrastructure investment to a standstill. Without expanding energy, water, and transportation infrastructure, it is nearly impossible to build housing, the cost-of-living is punitive, water is rationed and food is overpriced, the overall quality of life is reduced, and money that ought to be paying skilled workers to operate heavy construction equipment instead goes into the pockets of environmentalist lobbyists, bureaucrats, litigators, and activist nonprofits.



Californians nonetheless agree that infrastructure, as it is traditionally defined, needs new investment. Freeways, bridges, railroads, dams, aqueducts, seaports, airports, transmission lines, pipelines; all of these needs to be maintained and upgraded.

But despite agreement on the goal, more than ever, solutions are filtered through the lens of polarizing ideologies. What is today's definition of infrastructure? Is it physical assets, or something more ephemeral? Do infrastructure priorities have to be established based on restoring race and gender equity, or by concerns about climate change? Should some infrastructure be deliberately allowed to deteriorate, to avoid "induced demand" and the unsustainable consumption that would result?

Debate over these questions has paralyzed California's politicians. Navigating a pathway out of this paralyzing morass takes more than just compromise; it takes the courage to adhere to controversial premises. Chief among these is to reject the idea that legislated scarcity is the only option to combat climate change. In every critical area of infrastructure there are solutions that can enable a future of sustainable abundance.

For example, Californians can rebuild their energy infrastructure in a manner that doesn't violate environmentalist principles, but instead balances environmentalist concerns with the interests of its residents. Why aren't Californians, who in so many ways are the most innovative people in the world, approving and building safe, state-of-the-art nuclear power plants? Why aren't they developing geothermal power, since California has vast untapped potential in geothermal energy? Why haven't California's legislators revived the logging industry they have all but destroyed, and brought back clean power plants fueled by the biomass of commercial forest trimmings?

Californians can also rebuild their water infrastructure by adopting an all-of-the-above approach.

They can build massive new off-stream reservoirs to capture storm runoff. Even in dry winters the few storms that do hit California yield surplus water that can be captured instead of allowed to runoff into the Pacific. These off-stream reservoirs could also feature forebays from which, using surplus solar electricity, water could be pumped up into the main reservoir, to then be released back down into the forebay through hydroelectric turbines to generate electricity when solar electric output falters. Why aren't Californians recycling 100 percent of their urban wastewater? Why aren't they building desalination plants?

These are solutions that may not be perfectly acceptable to environmentalists, but they're also not hideous violations of environmentalist values. They should be defended by their proponents without reservations, but also with a willingness to spend extra to mitigate what can be mitigated. Civilization has a footprint, and we can only pick our poison. The solutions favored by environmentalists, such as wind turbines, battery farms, EVs, biofuel plantations, and solar farms, have environmental impacts that are arguably even worse than conventional solutions.

Another potentially polarizing issue – achieving “equity” with infrastructure – doesn't have to be dismissed by proponents of practical infrastructure investment. If the pipes in Los Angeles public schools are still leaching toxins into the water students would otherwise be drinking, then invest the money and fix the pipes. If inadequate funding for water treatment plants in low income communities in California's Central Valley mean they are not operating, or cannot expand their operations, then increase the funding. But at the same time don't lose sight of the fact that if there is more energy, and more water, that will benefit *everyone*, especially low income households, no matter where they are and no matter what other challenges they may confront.

Finally, it shouldn't be controversial to restrict discussions of infrastructure to infrastructure, but it is. Here is an area where, once again, establishing the terms of the discussion require adhering to a controversial premise, which is that discussions of “infrastructure” need to be restricted to the traditional definition. Basic infrastructure, offering surplus capacity instead of scarcity in the critical areas of energy, water and transportation, creates the solid foundation upon which all the other amenities of a prosperous and equitable society may flourish.

*This article originally appeared in the October 21, 2021 California Globe.*

# RESTORING LOCAL CONTROL OVER LAND- USE DECISIONS

BY SUSAN SHELLEY

Single-family zoning has been abolished in the state of California. The moment the recall election was behind him, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bills 9 and 10, and now low-density neighborhoods everywhere in the state could become construction sites as developers turn single-family homes into two homes plus two accessory dwelling units, also known as “granny flats.”

Senate Bill 9 requires city governments to approve these developments in any area that the state law allows them, which is virtually everywhere with a few exceptions, such as wetlands or protected habitat. Local officials can’t hold a public hearing to consider the projects. They can’t require studies of the projects’ impact on the environment or the community. They can’t require new multi-family developments to have off-street parking. They can’t impose fees on developers to help pay for water, sewer or power infrastructure, schools, street repair, sanitation or public safety services. According to the new state laws, the only thing city officials can do is sign off.



However, according to the state constitution, the people of California have the power to change this with a citizens’ initiative. And a coalition of local officials is currently working on doing exactly that.

Initiative No. 21-0016 was submitted to the state attorney general on August 26 and is awaiting an official title and summary for the circulating petitions so signature gathering can begin.

“The purpose of this measure is to ensure that all decisions regarding local land use controls, including zoning and regulations, are made by the affected communities,” the initiative states. “Community development should not be controlled by state planners, but by local governments that know and can address the needs of, and the impacts upon, local communities.”

Senate Bill 10 looks like it is giving local communities control over development, but in fact it allows a government body, such as a city council, to override voter-approved initiatives on land use issues. So even if voters put certain areas off-limits for development, SB 10 allows local government bodies to toss out those restrictions and encourage developers to turn a single-family home into a ten-unit apartment building plus four “granny flats,” without a public hearing or any reports on the impact of the project on the environment, parking or traffic.

If this was a game of rock-paper-scissors, SB 9 and SB 10 are the rock that smashes the scissors of local zoning. But the local control initiative is the paper that covers the rock.



The initiative would amend the state constitution and establish once and for all that when a state law conflicts with a county or city provision, plan or regulation regarding zoning, development or use of land, the local measure prevails over the conflicting state law. And the initiative specifically protects voter-approved local measures that regulate zoning, development or land use, stating that these shall not be “overturned or otherwise nullified by any legislative body.”

There’s an exception in the measure that would continue to allow state control over areas governed by the California Coastal Act of 1976, as well as for the siting of a large power plant or a water, communications or transportation infrastructure project. Local governments would not be able to stop these projects that address “a matter of statewide concern” and are in “the best interests of the state.” But the authors were careful to specify that a transit-oriented development project, whether residential, commercial or mixed use, is not to be considered a “transportation infrastructure project.”

The initiative’s proponents are a diverse group. John Heath is the executive director of a non-profit affordable housing and property management firm in South Los Angeles. He’s also the co-founder of United Homeowners’ Association, a non-profit volunteer organization representing residents of View Park, Windsor Hills and View Heights, communities located midway between USC and LAX and likely to be targeted by developers for densification. Bill Brand is the mayor of the already dense community of Redondo Beach. Peggy Huang is mayor of Yorba Linda, a city that had to evacuate residents during major wildfires in 2008 and 2020. Jovita Mendoza is a council member in the northern California city of Brentwood. Dennis Richards is a former planning commissioner for the city of San Francisco.

They’re calling their measure the Brand-Huang-Mendoza Tripartisan Land Use Initiative and say it will “Stop the Sacramento Land Grab.” It will reverse existing state laws, including SB 9 and SB 10, that take zoning authority away from local communities, and it will block any future efforts by Sacramento to force cities to approve increased density where it isn’t wanted. ...

[Click here to read the full article from the OC Register](#)

*Susan Shelley is an editorial writer and columnist for the Southern California News Group. Susan@SusanShelley.com. Twitter: @Susan Shelley. This article first appeared in the Orange County Register of October 22, 2021*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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**DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM**



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



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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 - \$249  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Voting Member: \$250 - \$5,000  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining Member: \$5,000 +  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)*

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

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio  Internet  Public Hearing  Friend

COLAB Member(s) / Sponsor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

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Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.

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(Revised 2/2017)