



**WEEKLY UPDATE  
OCTOBER 3 - 9, 2021**

**THIS WEEK**

**BOS MEETING**

**DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS BUT NO REAL PLANS**

**CLERK RECORDER APPOINTMENT CONTROVERSY**

**SLOCOG**

**PUBLIC PREFERS SINGLE FAMILY HOMES AGAIN**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**CAMBRIA CHRISTMAS MARKET PERMIT GENERATING FRICTION**

**NIPOMO HOUSING OFF TEFF STREET UP FOR PERMITS**

**LAST WEEK**

**BOS MEETING ON SEPT 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**MORE FUNDING FOR CAL POLY CORP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**CAYUCOS VETERANS HALL GRANT AND BUDGET GAP  
FY 2020-21 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER REPORT – THEY UNDERSPENT**

**FAT COUNTY FUND BALANCES PLACED IN RESERVES**

**HOMELESS SHACKS (PALLET HOUSES) APPROVED FOR GROVER BEACH  
COULD BE USED THROUGHOUT COUNTY**

**PENSION TRUST SEPT 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**PLANNING COMMISSION SEPT 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS ONLY**

**APCD HEARING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**EMERGENT ISSUES**

**COVID STATUS**

**SUPPLY CHAIN AND TRUCKING TRAIN WRECK  
(ANDY CALDWELL)**

**NATURAL GAS SUPPLY RISKS  
(WHICH MEAN ELECTRICAL SUPPLY RISKS)**

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND “RECONCILIATION”  
WORDS NO LONGER MEAN WHAT THEY MEAN**

**COLAB IN DEPTH**  
**SEE PAGE 19**

**LIVING IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE**

*We must replace the rulebook the other side discarded long ago, but to  
which we still irrationally cling.*

**BY MAX MORTON**

**CALIFORNIA DESPERATE FOR FOSSIL FUEL  
TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON**

**BY KERRY JACKSON**

**THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**ALL MEETINGS ARE 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

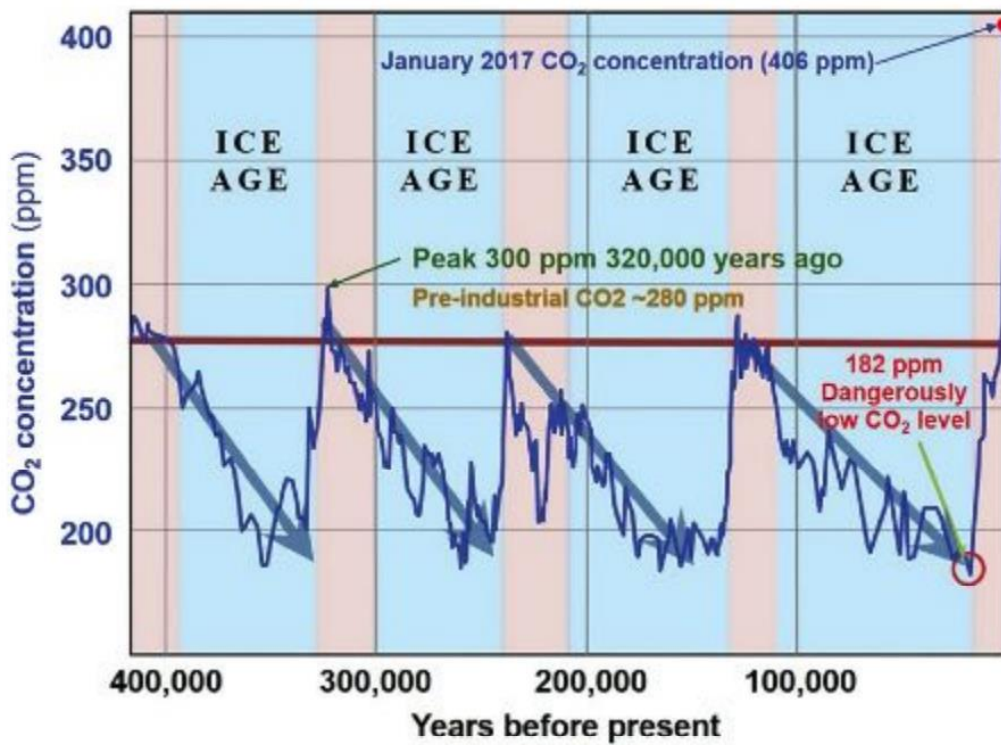
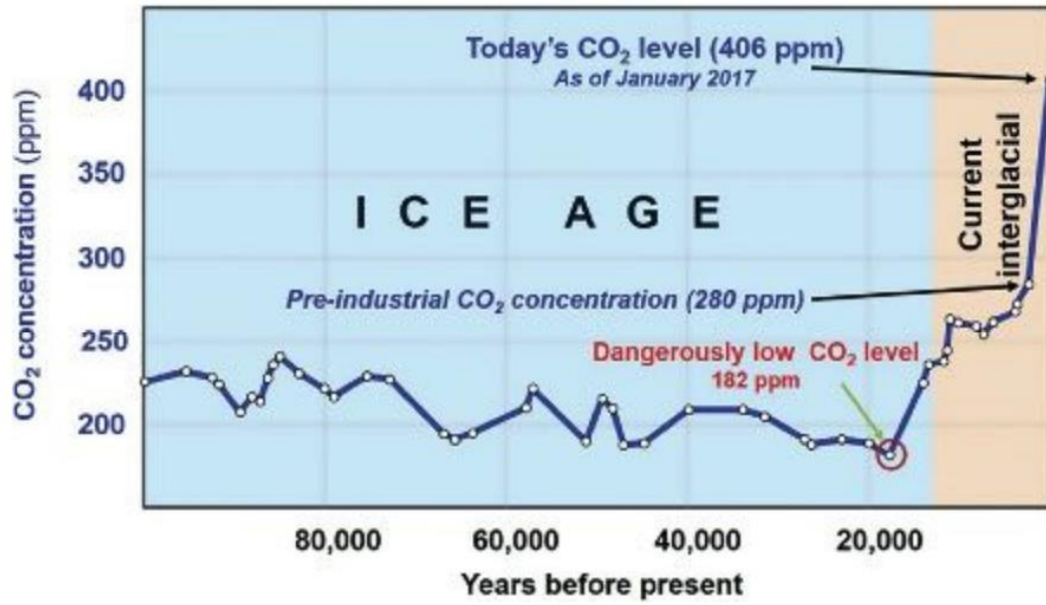
**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, October 5, 2021 (Scheduled)**

**Item 16 - Drought Update.** The symbolic handwringing will now resume, as there have again been several dry years in a row. Worse yet, and except for one wet year, this comes on top of a previous 5-year drought. The usual provisions are being pushed to encourage people to use less water.

It is not known yet if this situation is part of a longer trend impacting the western United States, which may foretell decades or even centuries of a dry period. Relatedly, the climatists insist that this is a direct consequence of human generated global warming which, they assert, will only get worse with time. In fact, and if they are right, it is already too late. On the other hand, people in New Jersey and Tennessee are being flooded out. This phenomenon is also attributed to apocalyptic climate change.

One thing is for sure, and that is the climate does change in both historical and geologic time. The tables below start in recent times and then back the data view up in geologic time.

Figure I-10: 100,000 years of CO<sub>2</sub> data from the Vostok ice core, Antarctica

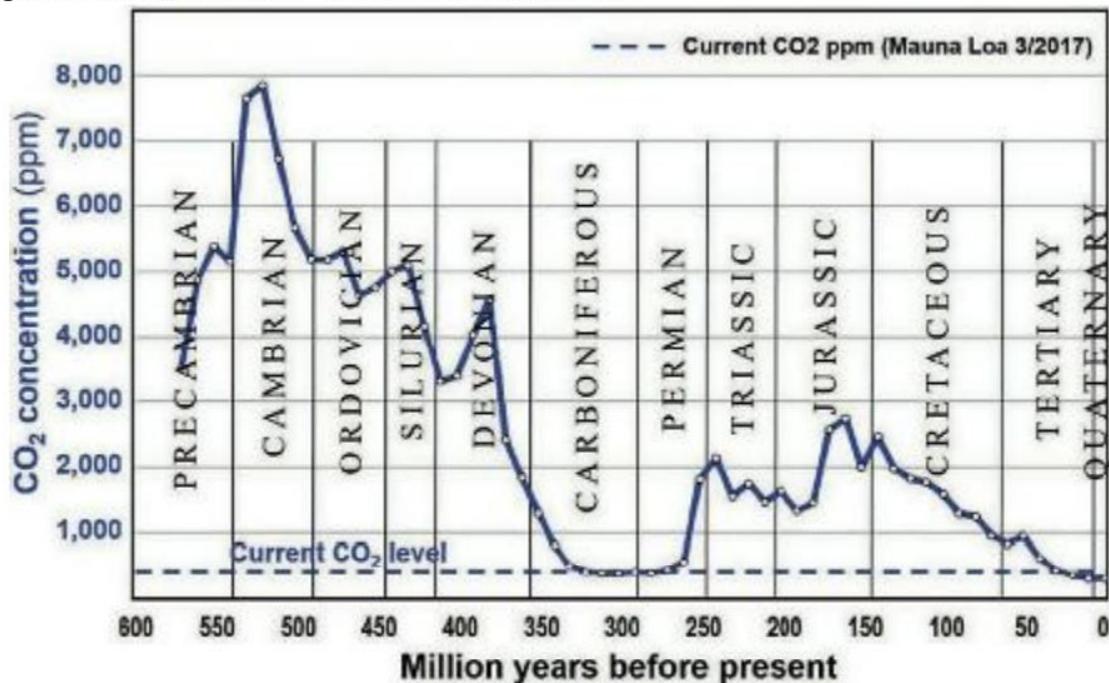


(Source Data: Barnola 2003)

**Inconvenient Fact 4**

*In the last four ice ages, the CO<sub>2</sub> level was dangerously low.*

Figure I-13: Carbon Dioxide—600 Million Years of Data



The problem for society and its leaders is not so much what to do about major epochal changes, which may or may not be occurring, but what do we do in the short run (decade time frames) to solve our immediate problems of potential protracted water shortages. Once again, we would recommend that Santa Barbara County, SLO County, and perhaps Monterey County get together to conduct a feasibility plan of securing additional sources of water, storing that water, and being able to distribute that water. This would be in the context of persistent drought caused by any circumstances. Several feasibility studies are necessary.

1. Acquisition and transport of northern California river water which is currently flowing out to sea from the Siskiyou, Klamath, and other rivers in the millions of acre feet per year. The State seems incapable of dealing with this opportunity, and thus we must take leadership. There may be many allies.
2. Development of industrial scale desalination on the central coast.
3. Retention of nuclear power to supply the electrical energy necessary to move and process large quantiles of water.
4. Major public education on the realities and economics, which go beyond current narrow discussions of rationing society into a lower standard of living.

While local officials are beating their brains out to rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic, no one is looking at the larger strategic opportunities. Such efforts might in the end fail politically and/or ideologically, as the enviro-socialists consolidate their power over society. On the other hand, the citizens could begin to revolt as things deteriorate and expel the current rationers from power in the government, universities, media, and corporations. Why not take some steps now?

**Item 19 - Clerk Recorder Selection Process.** After former Clerk Tommy Gong resigned to take a new job in Contra Costa County, the Board of Supervisors determined to appoint a successor to fill out the unexpired term. The position is elected, and therefore the person the Board appoints will have to run in 2022 if he or she wishes to continue. Rather than appointing an existing staffer, and perhaps signaling favoritism, the Board opted to allow for open competition and invited people to apply. The only legal requirement for the job is that the person be a voter of San Luis Obispo County. To further assure an open process, the Board commissioned an advisory committee to review the applications and recommend candidates for Board consideration. Reportedly 44 individuals applied, and the committee recommended three.

This is where the trouble started. The Board clearly requested that the committee send them 7 names. Instead, the committee, with the help (dare we say connivance) of the County staff – probably the HR Department and CAO, decided that applicants should be pre-qualified for the position by possessing university educations and professional experience in the field of County clerk recorder duties, including elections.

Remember that the law sets no formal requirements for education or experience, as the position is elected and open to any registered voter. In setting the requirements, the Legislature clearly did not reserve the position for a lifelong bureaucrat working his or her way up through the system. In a democracy, it is important that the elected officials not be given career preference through bureaucratic advancement. Note that this position is not like Public Health Director, who has to be a doctor, or a County Engineer who has to be a licensed engineer, or hundreds of other expert positions which require training and licensing and which are part of the civil service system.

In any case, as the Board and ultimately the voters have wide ranging choice in the selection of a county clerk recorder, the primacy of ultimate voter control is enshrined in the requirements. In the meantime, it is the elected Supervisors who have the responsibility to appoint someone to complete the current term. Remember that the Supervisors themselves have no professional, educational, or experiential qualification requirements. All one needs to be is a registered voter in the relevant district.

For whatever reasons, Supervisor Bruce Gibson and Supervisor Dawn Ortiz Legg are asserting that the Clerk Recorder must be by someone who is qualified by expertise for the office. If this is good for the goose, what about the gander (or both in this case)?

If one were to pick county supervisors, state legislators, mayors, or city council members on the basis of apolitical qualifications for the job, why not require:

- Currently and never has had a political party affiliation.
- A minimum of a master's degree in Public Administration, Urban Economics, Industrial Engineering, Business Administration, or Public Policy Analysis.
- Attainment of 650 or better on the Graduate Record Exam in History, Political Science, or Economics.
- Ten years of experience in progressively responsible positions (including 5 years of management) in large complex organizations.
- Psychological health clearance.

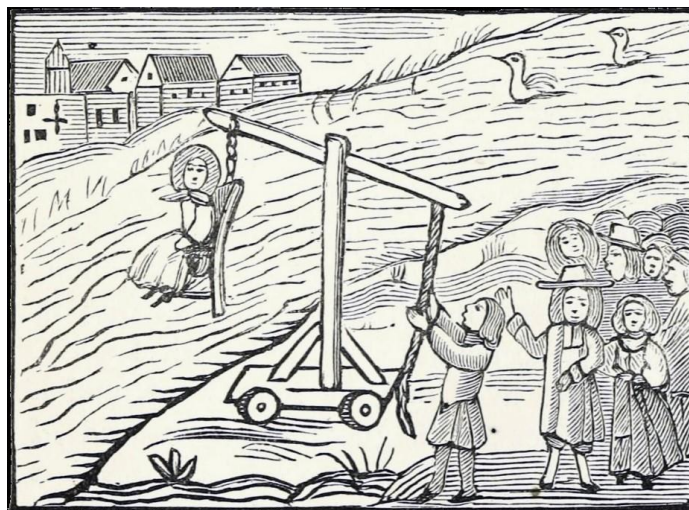
Of course, if such requirements were imposed, it would not be a democracy. It would be Bismarkian Germany, the Victorian British Empire, Imperial China, Imperial Rome, or the traditional Catholic Church.

Now suddenly, Gibson, the progressive party, the SLO Tribune, League of Women voters, and the rest of the liberal clique is up in arms that the Board majority wants to see more than 3 bureaucrat-picked candidates. How dare they display such effrontery toward the staff-dominated system?

Gibson seems to be asserting that Arnold must have a candidate in the wings that didn't make the cut. Further, that candidate must have a nefarious agenda to somehow control elections. Would this be any less true if a candidate who made the cut has been part of the system for years (perhaps socializing with elected politicians and establishing personal repartee, etc.?)

It seems that the County bureaucracy is circling the wagons to obtain the outcome it desires. This in itself points to a larger problem of organizational culture and ethics, which permeates modern government organizations. God forbid that the elected officials actually set policy and tell the minions what to do. Witness the business with Trump and a phone call to the President of the Ukraine, with all the whining State Department desk officers' prissing about on TV. Should Roosevelt have been impeached for plying Stalin with martinis?

If the Board wishes to see 7 candidates, 20, candidates, or appoint the most doctrinaire political right-wing candidate obtainable to the position, it is up to the staff to help them to execute the program forthrightly and without a Greek chorus of self-serving complaint and back-channel media leaking. Note that over the years we have complained about such dissonance on water matters, other departmental appointments, equal information sharing, and completion of assignments.



**GIBSON, THE PROGRESSIVE LEFT, & TRIBUNE, "PURIFY" DEBBIE ARNOLD**

**San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments Meeting of Wednesday, October 6, 2021,  
8:30 AM (Scheduled)**

## Housing Preferences Confirmed Again:

Much of the agenda deals with the details of various State and Federal transportation funding and its division among State highway projects, county roads, and city streets. Other items provide allocations for mass transit and special transit services for the disabled, veterans, and homeless.

Larger regional planning issues are embodied in the 4-year Regional Transportation Plan cycle, which is a rolling requirement to analyze population growth, employment, housing needs, and transportation by means of 8- and 20-year forecasts. The current plan was completed earlier this year, and now the plan to plan for the next cycle is beginning to be formulated.

As neither the expert staffers nor the elected officials wish to provoke any adverse public reaction, they set up extensive Delphi group processes to engage the various “stakeholders” over the course of the planning process. This generates an amalgamation of ideas, which are then fit into the State and Federal funding requirements in order to obtain an approvable plan.

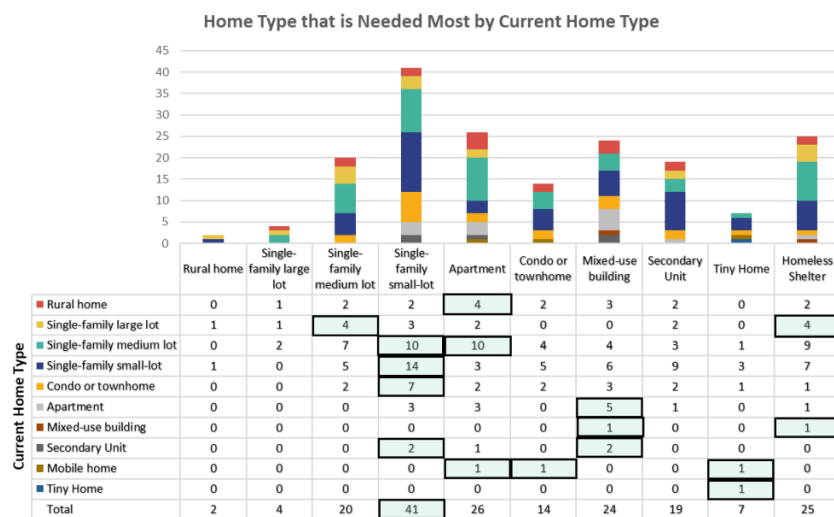
At various junctures, surveys are used to attempt to capture public preferences early in the cycle. Significantly and consistent with previous versions, a recent survey demonstrates that citizens overwhelmingly select single-family detached homes as their preferred lifestyle. These findings are in line with previous surveys conducted by SLOGOG and not-for-profit economic development groups.

### Housing & New Growth Question 1: What type of home do you currently live in? (down left side)

### Question 13: What is the most (and second, third) needed housing type? (across the top)

Staff examined the results of Question 13 based on the distribution of responses from the Question on home types (Question 1). The key finding was that in almost all cases, when looking across each row (current home type), the highest response to what home type is needed was either the same or leaning toward smaller lots or more compact unit types.

- Overall, the top choice was for Single-Family small lot as most needed.
- On both counts of second and third choices, Condos/townhomes received the most votes.
- Previous results had 25% for the rural, large- and medium-lots, and 75% for more compact. Current results are 14% and 86% respectively (84% after dropping homeless shelters).





Note that rural homes, single-family large lot, single-family medium lot, and single-family small lot selections, if combined, would be the majority preference. Also, and as we have repeatedly pointed out, rental apartments are needed, but current zoning and environmental regulations prevent their development on a large enough scale to be meaningful.

Meanwhile, SLO County and some of the cities have land use plans which prohibit suburban growth (pejoratively termed sprawl) and which both mandate and incentivize development in dense communities.

Voters have not connected the dots between the climate rhetoric ideologues, anti-sprawl propagandist elites, and their own preferences. Why would you not vote for officials who would throw out the existing system and promise to develop areas and resources for single-family free-standing homes on a large scale?

### Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, October 7, 2021 (Scheduled)

#### **Item 6 - Application for 12 Small Houses and 24 Apartments behind Mechanics Bank Off Teff Street in Nipomo.** The write-up states in part that the project will include:

*The project site consists of two existing legal parcels. The Conditional Use Permit (covered under SUB2019-00092) will authorize smaller lot sizes as a planned development and allow for the construction of twelve detached single-family residences of 1,654 square feet each on the south side of Flint Place (APN 092-575-001). The Conditional Use Permit (covered under DRC2021-00140) will authorize 24 one-bedroom apartment units of 651 square feet each on the north side of Flint Place (APN 092-576-005).*

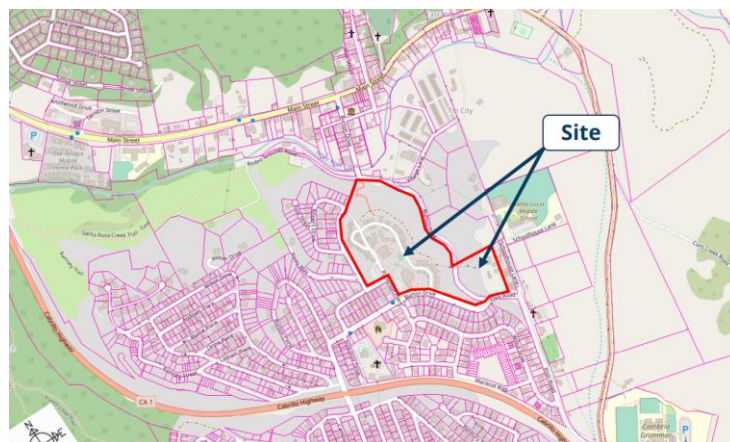


**Item 7 - Cambria Christmas Market.** The event has been permitted under a 5-year permit. The proposal is to extend it for 2021. There are a number of citizen complaints in the file as well as a violation notice from the County citing several violations left over from last year. Neighbors

assert that the attendance has been far above the approved 3,000. It will be interesting to see how the Commission deals with this one.

God forbid you drill an oil well in a remote location, attempt to get your antiquated subdivision certified, or build a boutique hotel in Cayucos. But you can bring a ton of tourists into Cambria each night for several weeks during the holiday season. The public loves it, so it seems to get extended each year.

We have no objection, as it's a great place to go and it's a seasonal festival, but we marvel at how some things glide along while others with no real impact at all get murdered.



## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**San Luis Obispo County Pension Trust Board Meeting of Monday, September 27, 2021  
(Completed)**

**Item 5 - Monthly Investment Report.** The market returns for the year have remained strong, but September turned down. The problem is that the accumulated unfunded liability of \$806 million is so large that it would take years of high returns to reduce and ultimately eliminate it. Contribution rates increased for the County and employees. These are forecast to tip slightly downward next year. Assuming the rates of return hold, the greatest danger is inflation. High inflation erodes the value of the fund and the value of the returns. This in turn causes the actuaries to recommend rate increases.

We wonder if the County employees who are happily spending all the COVID relief money and America Rescue Plan money ever think about how it will drive national debt and inflation, which in turn could savage their pensions.

The systems actuaries' statement on inflation:

*Inflation – The August report on CPI inflation cooled slightly from the higher than preferred rates in recent months. The CPI increase on a year over year increase in August was 5.3%. The monthly increase of 0.3% was a more noticeable drop. The core inflation rate excluding volatile food and energy prices was up 4.0% on a year over year basis. The Fed and most policy-makers have held the position that the burst in inflation this year is due to pandemic-related distortions and should prove to be transitory.*

	August	Year to Date 2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Trust Investments (\$ millions)	\$1,764		\$1,552 year end	\$1,446 year end	\$1,285 year end	\$1,351 year end	\$1,196 year end
<b>Total Fund Return</b>	1.6% Gross	<b>12.1%</b> Gross	8.9 % Gross	16.3 % Gross	-3.2 % Gross	15.5 % Gross	6.6 % Gross
Policy Index Return (r)	1.2%	9.8%	10.0 %	16.4 %	-3.2 %	13.4 %	7.7 %

- (r) Policy index as of Sept. 2020 Strategic Asset Allocation Policy with 2021 Interim targets:
- Public Mkt Equity- 20% Russell 3000, 20% MSCI ACWI ex-US
  - Public Mkt Debt- 11% Barclays US Aggregate,
  - Risk Diversifying 10% Barclays US Aggregate, 3% Barclays 7-10yr Treasury, 2% Barclays 5-10yr US TIPS
  - Real Estate & Infrastructure- 12% NCREIF Index, 3% Private RE/Infrastructure actual returns
  - Private Equity- 8% actual private equity returns
  - Private Credit- 7% actual private credit returns
  - Liquidity- 2% 90 day T-Bills, 2% Barclays 1-3yr Gov/Credit
- Pending annual updates to interim targets.

The system made 1.6 % in August, but inflation was 5.3%. If the system makes 12% for the year and inflation holds at 5.3%, what does that mean from an actuarial standpoint? What if the 1970's stagflation returns?

Table I-2 Change in Unfunded Actuarial Liability (in thousands)	
Unfunded Actuarial Liability, January 1, 2020	\$ 753,309
Actuarial transition	\$ 2,802
Expected change in Unfunded Actuarial Liability	(5,370)
Unfunded decrease due to actuarial asset gain <sup>1</sup>	(5,684)
Unfunded increase due to liability loss	26,101
Unfunded increase due to change in discount rate	35,700
Total UAL change	\$ 53,549
Unfunded Actuarial Liability, January 1, 2021	\$ 806,858

<sup>1</sup> Includes net loss due to contribution timing delay.

**San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 28, 2021 (Completed)**

**Item 3 - It is recommended that the Board approve the FY 2021-22 renewal agreement with the Cal Poly Corporation to support the Cal Poly - Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the amount of \$200,000 to enhance economic development.** The Board approved the new allotment with considerable praise.

*As of June 30, 2021, there are 7 companies in the Incubator Program, including:* • *Armadillo Designs is creating the All-Access Camper, which is a customizable camper shell with a convertible roof.* • *Blueline Robotics is working to save lives by providing first responders with cost-effective tactical robotic solutions.* • *DcubeD develops mass-customizable, export restriction-free Actuators and Deployable Structures that make advanced SmallSat & CubeSat missions possible by keeping especially the need of New Space Customers in mind.* • *Pacific Adventure Vehicles is designing the most advanced wedge camper on the market.* • *The Future is Good (FIG) is a comprehensive sustainability-centric community and marketplace that allows visitors to shop sustainable products, learn about social and environmental issues, and join a community of people excited about building a good future together.* • *Tallyfor Inc enhances online accounting software with the ability to complete business taxes by helping owners move data from source transactions to IRS filing.* • *Trees is a company that is developing software that uses machine-learning to help people.*

Several prior startups have gone on to raise venture capital and have become successful. A report of activities is attached to the agenda item. It is interesting, but does not report on the key metrics:

How many companies have gone through the program each year since its inception?

How many are still in business and what is their status?

How many are still in business in San Luis Obispo County?

Absent this information, no one has any idea if the millions that have accumulatively been expended on this program have leveraged economic development in SLO County.

Actually, Supervisor Peschong took time to ask the questions. It appears that there have been about 140 participants over the years, of which 30 are still in business in SLO County. It is not clear how large these businesses have become.

A separate question is: Why is the CalPoly Corporation in the economic development business? It is set up to run dining halls, book stores, housing, facilities, real estate investments, and other nonacademic services to support the University's academic mission. Student fees charged for the services support the Corporation. It is expending tens of millions of dollars per year on all sorts of supplies, utilities, motor fuels, and staffing (over 3000 employees), with a \$109 million annual budget.

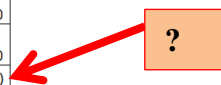
**Item 17 - Request to authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee, to apply for the State Coastal Conservancy Grant for the Cayucos Veteran's Hall Rehabilitation Project.**

The staff was authorized to apply for a grant to help rebuild the structure. This is part of an overall package of local and grant funds that would eventually finance the \$5.9 million project. Does submission or approval of the grant require the County to issue debt to eventually complete the project?

Exhibit A  
320089 - Cayucos Vets Hall Rehabilitation  
(Through Project Completion)

Expenditures:	Prior Year Costs through FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22 Budget	Total Budget	Estimated Project Costs	Variance
Preliminary Engineering, Environmental, Design, & Bidding	\$306,201	\$0	\$306,201	\$502,921	(\$196,720)
County Administration and Project Management	187,474	27,925	215,399	390,064	(174,665)
Construction Manager	0	0	0	200,000	(200,000)
Soft Costs Contingency (15%)	0	0	0	89,508	(89,508)
<b>Total Soft Costs:</b>	<b>\$493,675</b>	<b>\$27,925</b>	<b>\$521,600</b>	<b>\$1,182,493</b>	<b>(\$660,893)</b>
Construction	\$0	\$1,937,000	\$1,937,000	\$4,091,958	(\$2,154,958)
Construction Contingency (12%) & Inflation Factor	0	0	0	654,713	(654,713)
<b>Total Hard Costs:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,937,000</b>	<b>\$1,937,000</b>	<b>\$4,746,671</b>	<b>(\$2,809,671)</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$493,675</b>	<b>\$1,964,925</b>	<b>\$2,458,600</b>	<b>\$5,929,164</b>	<b>(\$3,470,564)</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>					
General Fund	\$445,573	\$26,027	\$471,600	\$471,600	\$0
Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Grant Program (CCNR)	0	1,937,000	1,937,000	1,937,000	0
Interim Loan - Tax Reduction Reserve	48,102	1,898	50,000	50,000	0
Future Funding	0	0	0	3,470,564	(3,470,564)
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$493,675</b>	<b>\$1,964,925</b>	<b>\$2,458,600</b>	<b>\$5,929,164</b>	<b>(\$3,470,564)</b>

L:\Project Delivery\2021\September\BOS\Cayucos Vets SCC Grant App\EDITS\320089 Cayucos Vets EX A\_Sept 2021.docx



**Item 27 - FY 2020-21 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Report).** This is a full fiscal year report that contains the year-end budgetary results with considerable detail about the puts and takes that

occurred over the year. In the end, the County underran its adopted budget and generated significant fund balances. There did not seem to be any serious problems.

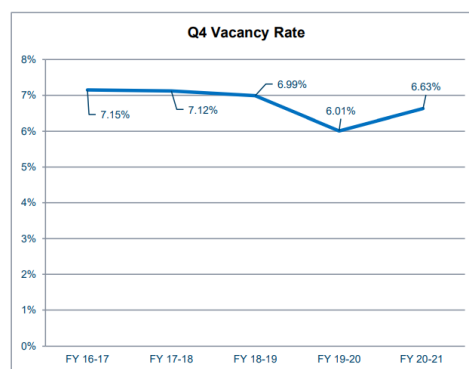
The Report also contained considerable related information about staffing changes, status of capital projects, the County’s performance measures, vehicle fleet status, and position classification changes.

Certainly, the Board has plenty of opportunity to accelerate capital projects, reduce pension unfunded liability, pave roads, shelter homeless people, and leverage housing production if it wishes to break out of the current policy paradigm, which is primarily focused on the maintenance of staffing levels, pay and benefits, growth control, and climatism.

### Position Allocation Changes

FY 2020-2021	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Quarter Start</b>	2,807.25	2,815.00	2,827.50	2,837.50
<b>FTE Additions</b>	17.75	19.25	11.50	18.50
<b>FTE Deletions</b>	10.00	6.75	1.50	4.00
<b>Quarter End</b>	<b>2,815.00</b>	<b>2,827.50</b>	<b>2,837.50</b>	<b>2,852.00</b>
<b>Net Change</b>	7.75	12.50	10.00	14.50
<b>% Change</b>	0.28%	0.44%	0.35%	0.51%

\*Does not include 124 temporary hires for COVID-19



**Item 28 - Submittal of a resolution approving FY 2021-2022 Final Budget Actions, by 4/5 vote.** The action was to allocate the General Fund surplus from last year’s operations.

Description	Sources	Uses
General Fund: Excess FBA	\$34,466,226	
General Fund: Contingencies		\$3,920,828
General Fund: General Reserve		3,000,000
General Fund: Appropriation to transfer funds to General Government Building Replacement designation		5,703,657
General Fund: Designation for COVID 19		10,442,111
General Fund: Appropriation to transfer funds to Countywide Automation Replacement designation		7,000,000
General Fund: Appropriation to Administrative Office		30,000
General Fund: Designation for Rainy Day Funds		4,369,630
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>\$34,466,226</b>	<b>\$34,466,226</b>

If COVID is going away, what would the \$10.4 million COVID designation be used for? What is the difference between “Rainy Day Funds” (Perhaps a new “Government Standard Accounting Term”) and general fund reserves?

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
June 30, 2021  
Proposed versus Actual Fund Balance Available

COUNTY FUNDS	Fund #	Estimated Fund Balance Unreserved/Un designated June 30, 2021	Actual Fund Balance Unreserved/Un designated June 30, 2021	Difference Over (Under)	Appropriation to Contingencies	Designation	General Reserve	General Purpose	Revenue Adjustment Inc/(Decr)	Object Level Appropriation Adjustment
General Fund	1000000000	34,535,239	69,001,465	34,466,226	3,920,828	14,811,741	3,000,000			12,733,657
Capital Projects	1100000000	-	210,635	210,635						210,635
Special Fund	1200000000	-	87,239	87,239		87,239				
Community Development	1200500000	-	55,534	55,534	55,534					
Arts	1201500000	-	395,570	395,570	200,000	195,570				
Wide Automation Repl	1202000000	-	281,738	281,738		281,738				
General Govt Building Repl	1202500000	-	188	188		188				
Reduction Reserve	1203000000	-	(1,526,607)	(1,526,607)		(1,526,607)				
Impact Fees	1203500000	-	2,078,704	2,078,704		2,078,704				
Wildlife & Grazing	1204000000	-	5,143	5,143		2,685	2,458			
Living Under Influence	1204500000	51,000	51,637	637		637				
Library	1205000000	610,000	954,658	344,658	344,658					
Health & Game	1205500000	-	4,489	4,489		4,489				
Emergency Medical Services	1207000000	-	0	0						
NP Loans DSF	1208000000	-	(2,750)	(2,750)						(2,750)
Mission Obligation Bonds	1801000000	284,000	887,274	603,274		603,274				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>35,480,239</b>	<b>72,484,917</b>	<b>37,004,678</b>	<b>4,521,020</b>	<b>16,539,658</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,941,542</b>

**Item 29 - Hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance establishing local standards and procedures for the design, site development, and operation of emergency homeless shelters at public facilities.** The agenda item was approved. It was adoption of an ordinance that would allow the siting of emergency homeless facilities on government-owned properties. In this case, new homeless shelters, known as pallet homes, are slated to be installed on County property in Grover Beach. The County approved \$1.2 million in funding earlier in the year.

Figure 1. Pallet Shelter as Temporary Emergency Housing Option<sup>1</sup>



5CHC proposes to install 20 of the 100 square foot pallet homes, bathing and bathroom facilities, administrative offices, communal spaces, shaded eating and resting area, and a storage area. 5CHC's use permit with the County will be set for a period of twelve months, with the ability to extend at the County's discretion if the model proves to be successful. The facility would serve as a proof of concept for outcomes associated with operating a shelter for the unhoused residents in South County and surrounding communities, as well as a proof of concept of this particular pallet home method of providing shelter. The County is still in the process of working with 5CHC and other related agencies on design and operation of the temporary emergency shelter project and community outreach.

Because emergency shelters are intended to be temporary in nature, the draft ordinance will automatically expire on December 31, 2022, unless the Board later decides to extend the

ordinance through its required public processes. The idea of the pallet shelter community is to establish a “proof of concept” for non-communal transitional housing. If the project is successful, it will help the region establish a baseline example and outcomes for similar permanent transient housing in location(s) to be later determined.



**Special APCD Hearing Board Meeting of Monday, September 28, 2021, 9:30 AM (Completed)**

The posted agenda listed only one item: Virtual Meetings. They needed to formalize a policy to have virtual meetings. It seems strange, since this meeting itself was virtual.

**Background on the Hearing Board:** The APCD Hearing Board is a five-member, quasi-judicial body, the purpose of which is to decide on matters of conflict between the Air District and industry and to act at the time of an air pollution emergency resulting from an upset or breakdown. The Hearing Board is an independent body, appointed at-large by the APCD Board, and consists of an attorney practicing law in California, a registered professional engineer, a member of the medical profession, and two public members.

The Hearing Board issues variances from Air District rules and regulations from Health and Safety Code Section 41701; issues abatement orders requiring a source to cease and desist from a particular act unless specified conditions are met; and resolves permit disputes. A petition for hearing is required to be filed with the APCD Clerk in order to obtain a hearing.

You might want to think of the function of the Hearing Board in this way:

- The APCD Board adopts rules and regulations (legislative function).
- The Hearing Board applies rules and criteria to specific persons and situations (judicial function).
- The Air Pollution Control Officer implements and enforces rules, regulations, and permits and orders (executive function).

**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, September 30, 2021 (Completed)**

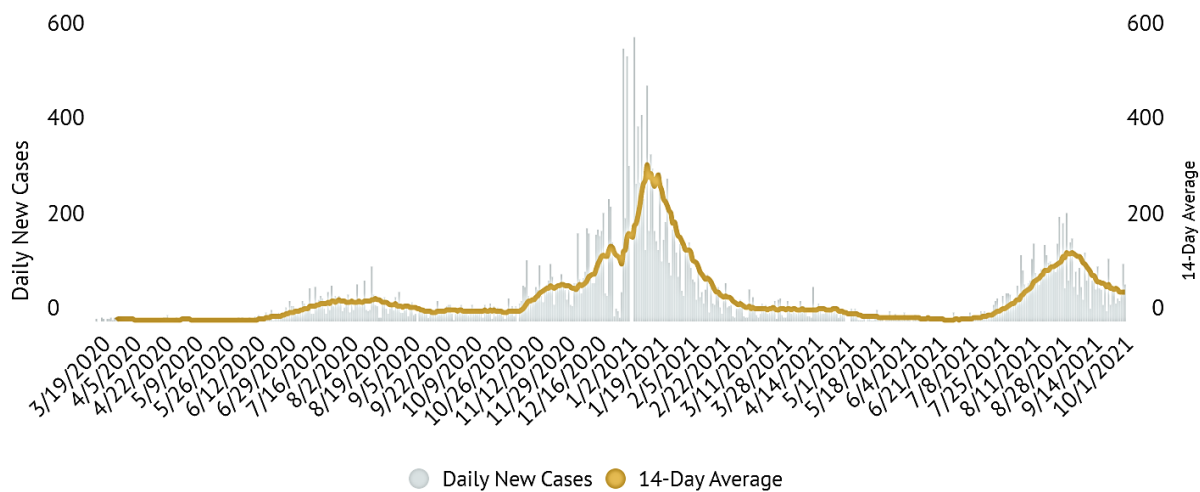
The meeting agenda contained only housekeeping items.

**EMERGENT ISSUES**



**Item 1 - COVID Status.** The infection rate plateaued at week 6 of the run up and turned down at week 7. The downward trend has continued for weeks 8 -10. Note that the average is still higher than at was at this same time last year. The disease remains powerful, breaks though vaccination, and will now require booster shots. Public authorities are not clear about whether those who had the disease are now immune, or whether they need vaccines, boosters, or what.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



**32 Hospitalized (6 in ICU)**

**Item 2 - America’s Supply Chain Truck Wreck by Andy Caldwell.**

I want to speak to you about the reason store shelves are emptying and why parts of the United States are dealing with scarcities of all kinds. Some of it has to do with the prolonged shutdown of our economy which literally broke the links in our supply chains. Much of it has to do with the trucking industry that has been ignored, slighted, taken for granted, and over regulated, to the point there are not enough trucks and truckers to offload hundreds of cargo ships waiting offshore of our ports throughout the nation.

The supply chain breakage was exaggerated by way of a triple whammy of the covid lockdown as it affected truckers. Deliveries were eliminated to stores and facilities that were closed. The truckers had a hard time finding eateries and bathrooms on the road. And, too many truckers ended up getting paid more for staying home with their families rather than going to work.

Speaking in terms of California’s adversarial and tumultuous relationship with the trucking industry, consider the following. California promulgated a diesel engine rule that took out of service some \$20 billion dollars of diesel equipment, including trucks, farm and construction equipment, by way of air quality rule that was steeped in academic and regulatory corruption. The rule required multiple replacements and modifications of engines that were too expensive for most owner operators, and mom and pop companies, to comply with. Most of this equipment has never been replaced.

Then, there is AB5, currently tied up in the courts, as it affects the trucking industry. AB5 would serve to eliminate owner-operators and contract drivers from operating in the state of CA. On top of that, Gavin Newsom has declared no diesel trucks will be allowed to be sold or operated in this state within the next two decades. And, let us not forget, both Newsom and Biden are waging a war against the oil industry which is driving up fuel prices across the board.

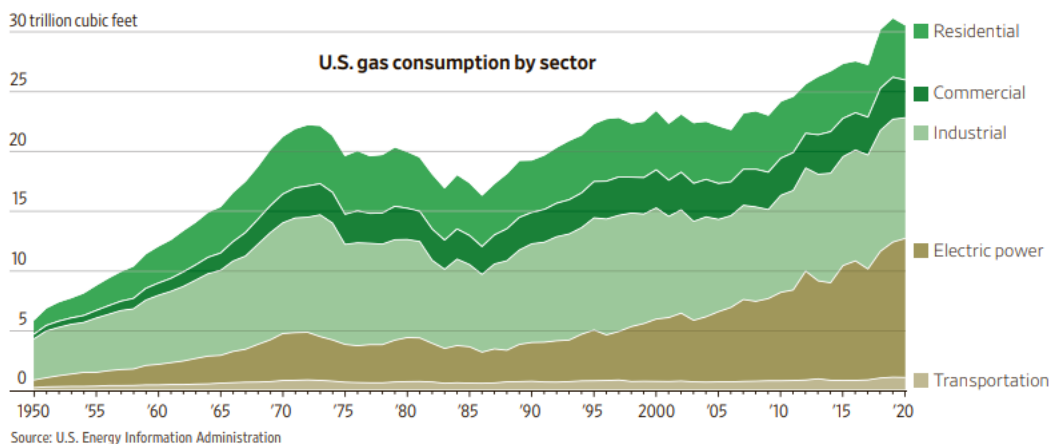
Speaking of this war against truckers, this past week ExxonMobil was before the county planning commission requesting that they be allowed to truck their oil until the pipeline they use is finally repaired or replaced. The county wasted years analyzing and hyperventilating about the dangers, once or twice a century no less, about the potential for an oil spill, should the trucking operation be approved. Yet, each and every day, America relies on the trucking industry to use our local streets, highways and freeways to deliver each and every item we rely on daily.

The problem here is that people, including decision makers and activists, no longer know where things come from, how they are made, and what it takes to satisfy consumer demands. They disdain the blue collar workers in our midst, as they try to eliminate their jobs for perceived environmental ills, including those having to with farming, manufacturing, industry and transportation.

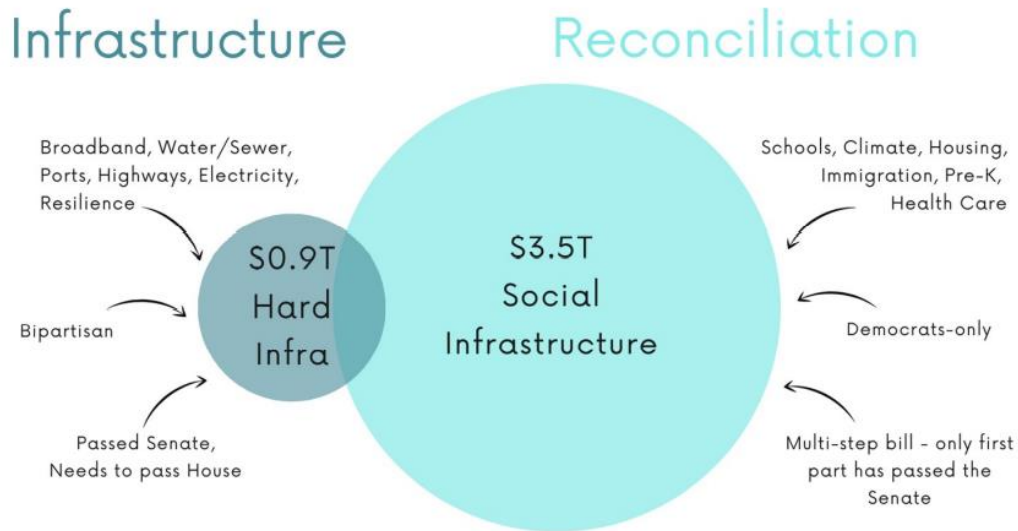
I consider it both a blessing and a curse to have been brought up by parents who were part of the greatest generation. That is, the blessing has to do with what made this country great. The fact that people were rewarded by way of taking risk; they lived sacrificially for their families and their country; entrepreneurial spirits were honored for their contributions to society and economy; and most people got to keep what they earned, purchased, and inherited. The curse? Watching all of the above getting frittered away by a generation of smug, self-satisfied, delusional narcissists who take everything they received for granted while they systematically dismantle and disown our heritage, liberty, and economy.

Andy Caldwell

**Item 3 - More And More Natural Gas Is Needed.** The current Federal administration has shut down pipeline projects. The current State administration is doing everything it can to curtail oil and gas production in the State.



**Item 4 - Infrastructure vs “Social Infrastructure.”** Once trillions of dollars of more “free stuff” is embedded in on going Federal Budgets, it will be impossible to repeal, and the large dependent proletariats in the urban cites will become even more dependent. What’s left of the suburban middle class and rural residents will be outvoted and simply taxed into oblivion.



## 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**

### LIVING IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE

*We must replace the rulebook the other side discarded long ago, but to which we still irrationally cling.*

BY MAX MORTON

General Mark Milley, the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was called last week to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee over allegations he colluded with a senior Chinese

military general to undermine the Trump Administration, and for his role in the botched withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan in August.

Headlines across legacy and social media platforms described the sternly worded calls from senators like Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) for both Milley and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to resign for their unprecedented dereliction of duty and Milley's rank insubordination. "Have you no shame?" was the tenor of Senator Tom Cotton's (R-Ark.) provocative question to Milley: "Why haven't you resigned?"

Plenty of Americans are dismayed at the actions of both Milley and Austin and find it difficult to come to terms with what they've witnessed over the past several months: Austin and Milley's critical race theory cheerleading, fantastical mole-hunts for mythical white supremacists within the ranks, and now apparent dereliction of duty and treason. It is almost too much to process.

One could be forgiven for thinking that the last few weeks are right out of an episode of "The Man in the High Castle," where we Americans have unknowingly slipped between alternate parallel realities. After all, in normal America, generals are supposed to win wars, fight for the welfare of their soldiers, and accept responsibility for their failures.

Almost everyone knows the story of the Battle of Mogadishu that is depicted in "Black Hawk Down." The 1993 daylight-raid-gone-bad was part of a Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) mission by Task Force Ranger to capture or kill a Somali warlord who was interfering in America's interests in the region. President Clinton scrubbed the mission after a raid by Task Force Ranger resulted in 19 American deaths and over 1,000 dead and wounded Somali militiamen.

What a lot of people don't know, or don't remember, is that the commander of JSOC and Task Force Ranger was U.S. Army Major General Bill Garrison, a fast-tracking, well-liked, and professional Army officer. Following the failed raid, Garrison penned a letter to Clinton accepting full responsibility for the failure of Task Force Ranger's mission. Although there were plenty of individuals, both military and civilian, who played a role in the disastrous outcome of that raid, it was Garrison who stood up and took the blame. He was the commander, a major general, and an honorable and experienced warrior who cared about his soldiers—*of course* he would publicly accept responsibility. His courage and honor in doing so cost him his career, and he retired not long thereafter.

Contrast the example of Garrison with that of our current batch of general officers and Defense Department political appointees. Who among them has accepted responsibility for the utter failure that was America's withdrawal from Afghanistan? Who in the entire national security establishment has been held accountable for the 20 years of intelligence and operational planning failures in Afghanistan or the fraudulent Doha negotiations which empowered a murderous Taliban and their al Qaeda allies with a new, militarily stronger, Islamic Emirate? No one.

Between our unfortunate expedition in Somalia and our failure in Afghanistan, we see a disconnect in accountability. The real problem here is that in Garrison's case, he was a

competent, honorable, and courageous officer whose resignation was truly a loss for America. The current batch of finger-pointing generals and national security bureaucrats are neither competent nor honorable, certainly not courageous, and America would be better off without the lot of them. Amazingly, shouting “have you no shame” in the halls of Congress doesn’t make them want to resign or give up their prized sinecures.

How did we get to the point where the worst among us are now leading us? It is because we, as a nation, failed to hold our elected officials accountable for the state of our government and its institutions. Why did we fail in this regard? Because we assumed our military’s generals and civilian leaders were all Bill Garrisons. But we don’t live in that world anymore.

### Living in The Wrong Construct

A *construct* is a model devised on the basis of observation, designed to relate what is observed to some theoretical framework. Let’s define the term *theoretical framework* to mean our system of governance and society. Our understanding is that America is a constitutional republic, founded in democratic principles, with a representative government by and for the people. We have been told—or have at some point assumed—that our bureaucratic officials work for the good of the nation and are accountable to the people via our elected representatives. We were led to believe that our originally designed system of checks and balances was a guard against the tyranny that tempts human kind. All of this was true . . . at some point. In other words, this was once a valid American construct.

Pedro Gonzalez, a frequent contributor to *American Greatness*, wrote in his essay “Middle America’s Road to Power,” “a fundamental problem with conservatism is that it reflexively seeks to conserve institutions that either don’t exist anymore, or which have been perverted to become hostile to the right.” Gonzalez’s words are the perfect description of the problem of an obsolete construct.

Traditional America is mired in an obsolete construct due to our failure to observe certain substantial changes in our political and cultural environment. Processing these types of changes is difficult for most people.

For example, many Trump supporters were unquestioning advocates of law enforcement and created elaborate conspiracy theories about white-hat operatives working within the FBI and Justice Department to save Trump—all while the FBI was actively framing Trump officials, lying under oath to Congress, falsifying FISA warrants, and generally acting like a corrupt secret police outfit. The Department of Justice, responsible for oversight of the FBI, merely ran out the clock on Trump. Trump supporters’ 4D political chess theories of the period were merely a symptom of cognitive dissonance. They couldn’t process the fact that something so foundational to their belief system (the integrity of federal law enforcement) had so significantly changed.

Many in conservative and traditional America are still dealing with this cognitive dissonance over a variety of questions, making their political efforts to right the American ship ineffective and at times comical. They are still arguing and debating “the facts” thinking the other side will listen or care about them and that, *this time*, they’re going to change minds. Some, still yearning

for the old bipartisanship, can't see that in the construct of present-day America, classical liberalism is dead.

To deal with the dilemmas we now face, we must transport ourselves out of our obsolete construct and into the reality of the moment. We must see the world for what it truly is. We must know both our enemy and ourselves, where we are and where we are going.

We can no longer sit in front of a screen and complain that the other side is not playing by a rulebook they discarded long ago, but to which we still irrationally cling. Instead, we should determine what we stand for, what we want our future to look like, and plot a course to that future understanding, anticipating the resistance we will face along that path. Our road to victory starts when we can see that truth, join with our fellow like-minded citizens and face forward towards the imminent struggle ahead.

*Max Morton is a retired U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, former CIA paramilitary operations officer, and a veteran of multiple armed conflicts, revolutions, and contingency operations. This article first appeared in the October 2, 2021 edition of American Greatness.*

## **CALIFORNIA DESPERATE FOR FOSSIL FUEL TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON BY KERRY JACKSON**

The state that says it will be fully powered by renewables by 2045 has asked the federal government to find an electric reliability emergency which “requires intervention ... to preserve the reliability of bulk electric power” in California. Following the request, the state’s grid operator issued two straight days of flex alerts, asking for voluntary energy conservation.

[In a letter to U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm](#) dated Sept. 7, the Independent System Operator requested and received an emergency order that would allow it “to dispatch additional generation that may be necessary for the CAISO to meet demand in the face of extremely challenging conditions including extreme heatwaves, multiple fires, high winds, and various grid issues.”



### **Grid Managers Ask for Natural Gas to Avoid Blackouts**

Did CAISO ask for an additional 200 megawatts of power, enough to light 200,000 homes, from windmills? Or solar panels? No, it needed electricity from natural gas.

Yes, that natural gas. The source that policymakers across California are determined to eliminate from the state's energy portfolio.

California's recurring energy problems don't inspire confidence that it will actually meet the 2045 renewables-only goal.

Last year the state was hit with rolling blackouts for the first time in nearly two decades. This year, at least a [half dozen flex alerts](#) encouraging customers to "set thermostats to 78 degrees or higher," "avoid using major appliances, like dishwashers and clothes washers and dryers," and "turn off all unnecessary lights" have been issued. How can officials expect to meet electricity demand in 2045, which will be in an era of [significantly higher consumption](#), if demand is straining the grid in 2021?

Related Story: [Opinion: Here Comes Drought Again, Why Is California Never Ready?](#)

### California Imports 33% of Power

It's almost a certainty that California will have to buy electricity from other states in 2045 and beyond. It already imports a third of its power; [more than any other state](#). While much of what is imported from the Northwest is generated by renewables, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, imports from Arizona, Baja California, Colorado, Mexico, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah include "[natural gas, nuclear energy, coal](#), or other, unspecified, resources," as well as renewables.

"About 10% of California's total electricity imports are from coal-fired power plants," says the EIA, though essentially all of the states "imports of coal-fired generation are projected to end by 2026."

We'll see. Again, if California is having trouble with its current lineup of power sources, how will it meet increased demand in a short five years unless it relies on cheap, reliable fossil fuels? Though "no one knows for sure how much solar and wind will be needed, or if it will be there, because of technological constraints and the variable and intermittent nature of solar and land-use requirements," says Todd Royal, co-author of three books on energy, to be fully renewable as planned by 2045, output from those sources will have to not only be doubled or even tripled but likely more than quadrupled.

Including geothermal, [roughly 38% of California's](#) in-state-generated electricity was produced by renewable sources last year. But we can exclude large hydroelectric power ([9.4% of the renewables portfolio](#)) from the future, because it [will not be welcomed](#) in the mix. That will leave solar (currently a little more than 13%) and wind (about 11%) to carry the bulk of in-state generation.

That's no easy hill to climb. The California Energy Commission admits that achieving "clean electricity generation capacity" will require "[a record-breaking rate](#)" of development "for the next 25 years." The renewables crusade will also need to [overcome NIMBYs](#), who have banded together to stop and delay wind and solar projects worldwide.

### **Don't Be Surprised if Utility Rates Double or Triple**

And there's the grid itself, which has neither the "capability nor capacity to add large amounts of renewables," says Royal. Because California's is already "one of America's least-reliable electric grids," according to energy writer Robert Bryce, "restricting the use of natural gas" means it will inevitably be subject to an increased demand for electricity, which will undermine its already shaky reliability. The clean energy transition will simply have to wait "until brand new grids are built," says Royal.

Whether the transition goes as planned, or stalls as some expect, the process will be painful. "Rapid reductions in natural gas consumption," says Bryce, "could cause rates to double or triple."

One wonders how much the green zealots care about that, if they even care at all.

*Kerry Jackson is a fellow with the Center for California Reform at the Pacific Research Institute. He wrote this exclusively for GV Wire.*

*This article was originally published by the Pacific Research Institute.*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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