



**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**SEPTEMBER 12 - 18, 2021**

**COLLAB**  
San Luis Obispo County

12th Annual  
**DINNER &  
FUNDRAISER**

**2020-2021 What the Heck Happened?**  
**There has never been a more crucial time**  
**To Raise the Lantern of Liberty**

**THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR MAKING THURSDAY NIGHT SO SPIRITED, PATRIOTIC, ENERGETIC, SUCCESSFUL, AND FUN YOU TRULY RAISED THE LANTERN OF LIBERTY**

**VICTOR DAVIS HANSON'S AUTUMN 2001  
TRIBUTE TO THE HEROES OF 9/11**

*Marking the twentieth anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., City Journal is re-publishing [selected stories](#) from our archives. This story originally appeared in City Journal in [Autumn 2001](#)*

**COLAB NOTE: REMEMBER THIS WAS WRITTEN BY A FARMER FROM SELMA, CA.**

From the very first moments of the World Trade Center horror, the valor and élan of New York's firemen, together with that of the city's police and emergency forces, have transfixed the whole nation—especially us in rural America who rarely see the real Gotham. Danger was nothing to them, courage and honor everything. They responded instantly to the explosion and fire, all drawn to, rather than repelled by, the inferno—and without regard to their own safety or the consequences of their possible incineration upon their loved ones at home. We now know their last radio cries: "Move away from the towers! Everyone move away from the towers!" Silence. .

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As the ghastly rubble gets turned over, we find their remains in clusters—four incinerated here, ten buried there, 14 caught en masse in a stairwell, where they had guided the panicked down as they themselves ascended to their deaths: "All nonessential personnel move away from that building!" The antithesis, left unsaid, is obvious: "All necessary rescuers get into that building!"

So many of them disappeared—at least 388 firefighters—because in a heartbeat they chose to race into the flames and smoke rather than to hesitate and accept the obvious: that the towers were already death traps. In the tradition of all great American armies in battle, officers—47 lieutenants, 20 captains, and 21 chiefs—died alongside the rank and file, heroic death requiring no prerequisite of class or color. Indeed, the magnitude of the terrorist-inflicted disaster rivaled that of a fierce battle, where the enemy overruns and annihilates an entire military unit—paramedics, a fire marshal, even the fire department's chaplain were engulfed. Remarkably, moments after the buildings collapsed, there were even more rescue workers on the scene than before. It is human to flee from a place of death; the firemen and the police were almost inhuman in mounting so quickly the rubble that buried their brethren.

As terrible as their loss was, however, we must never forget how successful the rescuers actually were. Nearly 30,000 people escaped before the towers fell, in large part because the omnipresent cops and firefighters made sure that their own sense of calm and order guided the evacuation. Some of the saved made it out just seconds before thousands of tons buried their saviors on stairs and in hallways.

Now, for these past few weeks, the nation has watched these brave men and women, joined by construction and sanitation workers, as they search for the victims, always overturning the debris and moving beams with care to avoid harming potential survivors or further violating the deceased. Finding one of their own dead, they carry him out on flag-draped stretchers, with ceremony and protocol. Then they return to the rubble, paying less attention to collapsing

concrete, unexpected bursts of flame, and razor-sharp twisted steel than to their powerful sense of fraternal obligation.

It is impossible not to admire their selflessness. Inhaling what was once the World Trade Center, both human and inanimate, they do not bother to debate—as many fearful people have done in the wake of the attacks—what might be the best brand of gas mask to don. They are not calibrating their chances of survival in threatened future gas attacks, because they're already breathing a sort of awful gas in the here and now.<sup>1</sup>

The rescuers' selflessness is always evident in their interactions with the press and media. As television crews shove cameras in their faces and microphones under their blackened chins, they respond with tact, worrying mostly that their Herculean efforts are not enough—that they won't bring the dead back to life. We catch an occasional "Good work, brother," or a "Don't worry, we are going to get everybody out," or a polite "We can't talk now, just work until it's over and we've brought them out."

Sometimes the contrast between the brave rescue workers and their occasionally hysterical observers among the chattering classes is glaring. Nightline's Ted Koppel listens to the last radio transmissions of those caught in the collapse and asks: "Why were they so confused, why were the radios so bad?" We wince and sigh: "Because a million tons of concrete and steel were showering down on their heads!"

The rescuers' simple patriotism offers another favorable contrast with some of their elite observers. We do not hear from New York's heroic firemen and police any sophisticated nonsense that we brought the two towers crashing down upon ourselves because of our arrogance or imperial political ambitions. They do not tell us that we must change our sinful ways and abandon our friends. I don't think most of them give a damn what a Frenchman or a Palestinian says about our ordeal. Most seem to accept that a magnificent city such as theirs, in a nation as free and humane as their own, naturally invites the envy of lesser people and thus must be defended from those who hate what we are rather than anything we have done. Seeing the rescuers display their patriotism at Ground Zero, where they have carefully displayed American flags and patriotic slogans, swells one's own national pride.

These selfless, patriotic men and women project a physical presence that harks back to an earlier age—one largely unseen on the national scene for the last half-century. Muscular, tireless despite constant movement, a quiet confidence in corporeal strength—it is as if they stepped out of depression-era post-office murals or faded watercolors in long-defunct magazines.

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<sup>1</sup> Hanson forecast the cancer, cardiac, and other problems 20 years ago.

Their robust physicality seems less the product of the health club or plastic surgeon's office than of hard and dirty work. The younger workers look like—no, look better than—athletes, their biceps built not for play but for carrying hoses and scaling ladders. Their ongoing labor seems to magnify their physical presence; in comparison, the ripples and contours of professional athletes now look oddly artificial. Some working in the rubble—overweight, smoking, sweating profusely—hardly look fit, of course. But using ample bellies as wedges and levers against the stones and steel, they remind America that you can be tough as nails and still be deemed out of shape.

Even their unit names seem to belong to a different, older era—"Ladder 28," "Squad 41," "Rescue 1." They remind one of the first wave of torpedo bombers, wiped out nearly to the man at the Battle of Midway, whose planes, bearing names like "Torpedo 6" and "Scouting 8," drew fire from Japanese Zeros, so that U.S. dive bombers, flying above them, could attack unmolested the now vulnerable enemy carriers below. These days, we might have expected the nomenclature of the rescue units to be something like "Integrated Systems Protection" or "Specialized Reaction and Control." That the unit names are so old-fashioned suggests that the rescue workers remain in some profound sense faithful to custom and tradition.

There is a lesson that the heroic dead and their courageous brethren at Ground Zero can offer to the elites and intellectuals who often look down on, or simply ignore, the concrete, physical world that forms the rescuers' daily milieu. What strikes many of us from outside New York who visit the city, after all, is how it all works. How do tons of water, food, and fuel enter the city every day, along with millions of commuters? Where do the sewage, trash, and litter all go? And in such cramped confines, how do people not kill and maim one another by the hour?

Now we have proof of what we've suspected all along: that "regular" New Yorkers like these, showing enormous versatility, make it all work. The concrete canyons of the city have not enervated their audacity, strength, and cunning, but have sharpened them in ways we could scarcely imagine. Any of us on America's farms or in its factories or mines who thought New Yorkers soft now realize how mistaken we were. The rescuers, it turns out, could easily drive tractors, ride horses, or dig in mines, if their duty was not to brave flames and catch criminals. Indeed, many of the rescuers exemplify a Hellenic balance. These firemen and cops, like the Greeks, innately understand that muscles matched with mind are essential to our collective flourishing and safety. This balance, I think, underlies the steady confidence that the surviving rescuers show when they speak of responding to the September 11 attack. Their voices remain calm, never frightened; they are not crying out blindly for revenge for their brothers. They talk—often incisively—of a slow, growing, and enduring response that accords with their own very American sense of fairness, righteous indignation, and humanity: "They will pay for this, you'll see."

I would not wish to meet people such as these in battle. Yet I think the Taliban and their henchmen face in our military forces just such people. Everywhere, we hear warnings to be cautious and afraid; but I think it is our enemies, not us, who have real cause for worry, for until now they have only struck at the innocent and unaware. Now they must confront the spiritual kin of the rescuers.

Brave, selfless, patriotic, strong, and versatile—no wonder these public servants seem to bring out the best in those who cross their paths. Where do such marvelous people come from? Doubtless part of the answer has to do with the clannish ties of many of the rescuers, who, like farmers and miners, often feel more comfortable living among their own (frequently near their parents) and working alongside siblings and cousins. A striking number of them were Catholic. One Staten Island Catholic high school lost 23 alumni on September 11—about half of them cops or firemen. Such benevolent tribalism—that one should not be a walking and transient résumé but find worth instead among family, community, and a grandfather's profession—can be a powerful force for good, whatever its potential limitations. Military historians tell us, for example, that the key to group cohesiveness and fighting spirit in any good army is the regimental system, based on the idea that soldiers—and these firefighters and cops are surely that—battle better together when arrayed alongside neighbors and friends in a common purpose.

The existence of these virtuous men and women, however, also owes much to the universal genius of American—Western—civilization. We are seeing in this tragedy and in these firemen and police, alive and dead, the flesh and bones of our entire culture laid bare: what it means to be both American and Western at the moment of our peril and need.

Consider the ease with which the workers operate the huge cranes and bulldozers that remove the World Trade Center rubble—and consider the machines themselves. Only a civilization like that of the West, steeped in the rationalist tradition and protected by freedom of inquiry, could invent and use such remarkable equipment. The busy activity at Ground Zero reminds us how the Hoover Dam arose so speedily, how in World War II the wrecked Yorktown was made as good as new in mere hours, and why both earthquake and hurricane fail to level our cities permanently.

The rescuers are also free men and women, exhibiting all the associational skills that have made civil society so vibrant in Western history. The rescue workers do not first look to central government authority before plunging into their daily toil. Ingenuity, improvisation, and spontaneity are everywhere—the wonderful fruits of a free society. In addition, the police who ring the site owe allegiance to civilians and elected officials, not self-proclaimed authorities who hang and hector as they see fit. Our enemies brag of the brutal order of the chopped hand and

stoned face: let them come to New York and see how much better and more humane are free guardians than thugs obeying the ravings of a mendicant fanatic.

Could New York's free rescuers be any more different from the city's attackers? New York's suicidal enemies demand adherence to their religious creed and are more likely to be of a regimented mind and even hue. The firemen and cops, conversely, are of all colors and faiths. The names of the dead—Michael Weinberg, Manuel Mojica, Paddy Brown, Joseph Angelini, Gerald Schrang, Tarel Coleman—sound scripted from corny World War II movies. Yet the diversity is not corny but real—far more real than Hollywood fantasies or the resentful multiculturalism of the politicized campus. By all accounts, these men worked in relative harmony alongside one another even as they expressed pride in their ethnic heritage—a fertile, and particularly American, tension of the universal and the particular.

We are discovering, ultimately, the West's powerful advantage of having three, rather than two, classes—the critical presence in society of men and women who are neither terribly rich nor abjectly poor, who own property yet struggle mightily to acquire and keep it.

This middle class is not the norm of the world, either today or in the past, which was and is likely to remain pyramidal: a small elite tottering at the peak, dictating to an impoverished and restless mass below, as one now finds in Afghanistan and Iraq. The independent and resourceful of New York are what we would expect of a hallowed tradition that goes back to the Greeks, whose civilization arose on the backs of the *mesoi*—the "middle ones," who were neither rich nor poor, neither dispossessed nor royalty. As property-owning, voting citizens, the *mesoi* created and sustained our culture, which explains why their descendants, on their own initiative, rushed into the flames and now find and care for our dead—and will quickly rebuild what the terrorists destroyed.

Make no mistake: a horrific catastrophe has struck New York. A trillion dollars has vanished from its markets, and repairing damage to the city's structures will cost at least \$40 billion. The loss of human treasure is incalculable. And like it or not, we are in a real war. But the firefighters, police, and other rescue workers have proven an invaluable asset. Their heroic conduct in the present crisis will change the nature of New York, teaching many in the city's vast offices that hefty salaries don't mean much if one does not help one's kin and do so with honor and courage. What has gone on in the rubble should be as reassuring a sight for our friends as it is ominous for our foes.

*Victor Davis Hanson is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution; his focus is classics and military history advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California (1992–93), a visiting professor Hanson was a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow at the Center for Adssor of classics at Stanford University (1991–92), the*

*annual Wayne and Marcia Buske Distinguished Visiting Fellow in History at Hillsdale College (2004–), the Visiting Shifron Professor of Military History at the US Naval Academy (2002–3), and the William Simon Visiting Professor of Public Policy at Pepperdine University (2010).*

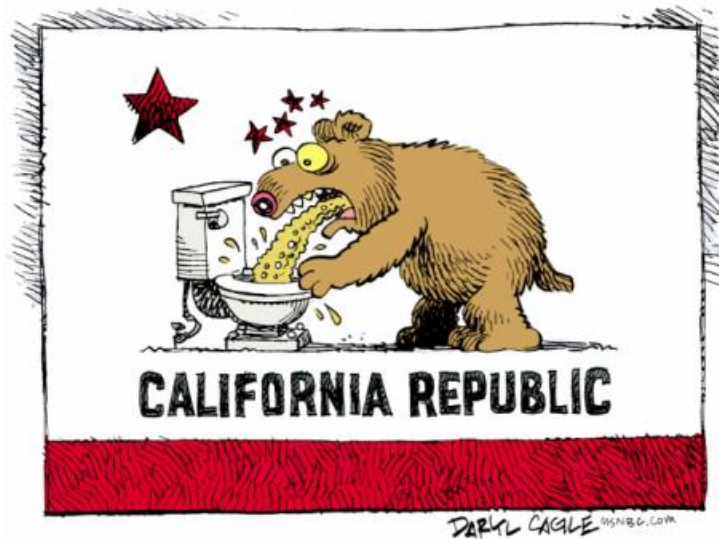
*In 1991 he was awarded an American Philological Association Excellence in Teaching Award. He received the Eric Breindel Award for Excellence in Opinion Journalism (2002), presented the Manhattan's Institute's Wriston Lecture (2004), and was awarded the National Humanities Medal (2007) and the Bradley Prize (2008).*

Hanson is the author of hundreds of articles, book reviews, and newspaper editorials on Greek, agrarian, and military history and essays on contemporary culture. He has written or edited twenty-four books, the latest of which is *The Case for Trump* (Basic Books, 2019). His other books include *The Second World Wars* (Basic Books, 2017); *The Savior Generals: How Five Great Commanders Saved Wars That Were Lost - from Ancient Greece to Iraq* (Bloomsbury 2013); *The End of Sparta* (Bloomsbury, 2011); *The Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern* (Bloomsbury, 2010); *Makers of Ancient Strategy: From the Persian Wars to the Fall of Rome* (ed.) (Princeton, 2010); *The Other Greeks* (California, 1998); *The Soul of Battle* (Free Press, 1999); *Carnage and Culture* (Doubleday, 2001); *Ripples of Battle* (Doubleday, 2003); *A War Like No Other* (Random House, 2005); *The Western Way of War* (Alfred Knopf, 1989; 2nd paperback ed., University of California Press, 2000); *The Wars of the Ancient Greeks* (Cassell, 1999; paperback ed., 2001); and *Mexifornia: A State of Becoming* (Encounter, 2003), as well as two books on family farming, *Fields without Dreams* (Free Press, 1995) and *The Land Was Everything* (Free Press, 1998). Currently, he is a syndicated columnist for Tribune Media Services and a weekly columnist for the *National Review Online*.

*Hanson received a BA in classics at the University of California, Santa Cruz (1975), was a fellow at the American School of Classical Studies, Athens (1977–78), and received his PhD in classics from Stanford University (1980).*

*This article was reprinted in the City Journal of September 9, 2021.*

**BE SURE TO TURN YOUR BALLOT IN OR VOTE IN PERSON  
SEPTEMBER 14TH IS THE DAY**



## **RECALL NEWSOM & HIS ADMINISTRATION – SAVE THE STATE TO SAVE THE NATION**

### **THIS WEEK**

#### **BOS**

**IS MENTAL ILLNESS THE REAL PANDEMIC?**

**COUNTY PASO BASIN SGMA WATER PLAN FACES REJECTION  
BY STATE**

**COUNTY DIVORCE FROM IWMA RE-DO**

**NEW WATER SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT PROPOSED**

**LAFCO CANCELLED**

### **LAST WEEK**



## **NO BOS MEETING**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED**

### **NO SLO COASTAL COMMISSION ITEMS (FOR A CHANGE)**

## **IWMA APPROVES BUDGET DEFERRALS BUT GETS STUCK ON PROP 218 FEE INCREASE QUESTIONS**

ARE USED CONDOMS ORGANIC WASTE, MEDICAL WASTE, HAZARDOUS WASTE, OR SEWAGE? - DO WE NEED MORE BUREAUCRATS TO TEACH US?

## **EMERGENT ISSUES**

### **COVID DOWN IN COUNTY**

### **STATE HAS TO WAIVE ITS OWN NATURAL GAS REGS TO INSURE SUFFICIENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY**

### **“GREEN”: A SLOW-MOTION TRAIN WRECK**

## **COLAB IN DEPTH**

**SEE PAGE 22**

## **THE REAL REASONS NEWSOM HAS FAILED ALL CALIFORNIANS**

*Out-of-control corruption is the true face of California's 'progressive' movement*

**BY EDWARD RING**

**THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS**  
**ALL MEETINGS ARE 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 14, 2021 (Scheduled)**

**Items 10–15 - Each of the items covers a contract with a not-for-profit or for-profit mental health services providers.** In total, the cost is \$13.2 million. To the Behavioral Health Care Department credit, all the contracts are very detailed, and all contain performance measures, including number of patients served, unduplicated counts, minutes and hours of service rates, a variety of preventative activities, and so forth. As an example, the Suicide Prevention Hotline, which is one service module contained in a much larger contract, is displayed below.

*8. Central Coast Hotline-Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention –Central Coast Hotline is a twenty-four (24)- hour, free and confidential call center, serving the entire county of SLO. A survey is mailed within two weeks of the service to consumers who provided an address. “Number of calls received” is defined as one received and documented telephone call from SLO County residents requesting support, information, referral, or crisis intervention.*

<b>Central Coast Hotline - Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention</b>			
Year	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Estimated	2021-22 Target
Cost	\$ 130,785	\$ 130,785	\$ 133,401
Number of calls received	10,037	10,612	10,000
Number of suicide prevention trainings	5	3	4
People calling with high or imminent suicidal risk will decrease their level of intent by 20%, based on self-rated assessments at the beginning and end of the call.	33%	40%	20%
Community members attending a suicide intervention training will show a 20% increase in their confidence that they can help a person at-risk of	28%	20%	20%
Percent of callers surveyed that agreed that support and early intervention that they received from SLO Hotline contributed to improved mental wellness	78%	90%	90%
Percent of callers surveyed that agreed that they would use SLO Hotline again in the future, if needed, or refer someone else to Hotline	100%	100%	90%
Percent of callers surveyed agreed that they received an increased knowledge of local mental health resources	74%	85%	90%

What is striking is that there are over 10,000 calls to the hotline from people who are contemplating suicide or from someone who is worried about another person contemplating suicide. The data does not include unduplicated cases, which would be very hard to capture. Nevertheless, 10,000 incidents related to suicide is a large number in a county with 285,000 people.

The suicide rate in SLO County is reported as 17.1 per 100, 000, which would be about 48 per year.

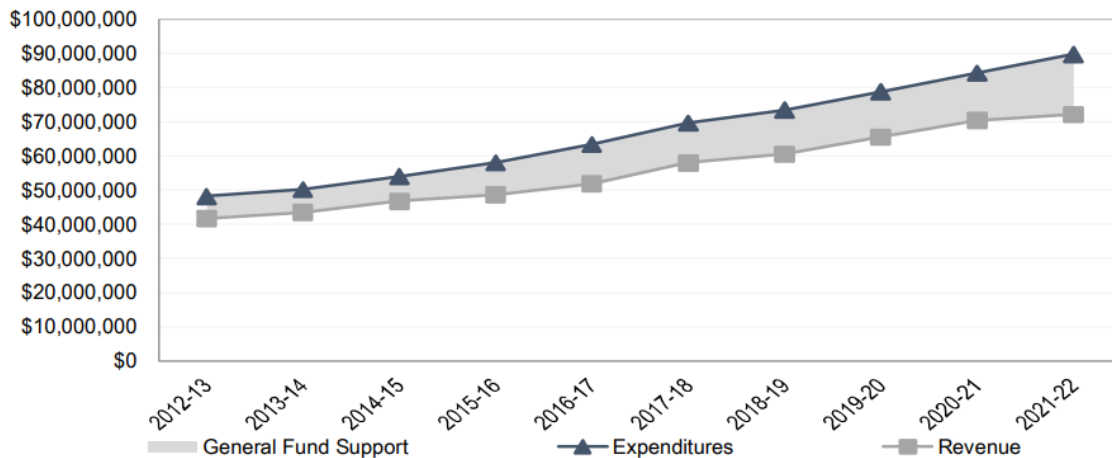
Other data contained in the contracts is also significant in that there is large group of people receiving various mental health services.

The question then arises: Why? Is this another pandemic, which unlike COVID, SARS, or Flu, has been going at an increasing rate year after year? Is society becoming sicker? Like those who worry about the asserted societal destruction that could be wrought by Climate Change, is there an expanding increase of the incidence of mental illness, which could ultimately endanger the society?

This would seem to be an important issue for public health officials and elected officials at all levels. As various hominids have evolved over millions of years, some became smarter and one group culminated in homo sapiens. Nothing says that the process can't reverse. A benefit of civilization is that more individuals survive, live longer, and reproduce. On the other hand, we all may be becoming weaker over the generations, as we are artificially being protected by pure water, housing, ample food, vaccines, absence of predators in the environment, and relative infrequency of general warfare. Most of the people in society don't even serve in the military today. Whereas on the American frontier, most men were expert riflemen, and many served in the militia.

The Behavioral Health Department's budget history illustrates growth of the problem as well the relative expansion of the general fund contribution.

Ten Year Budget History



Again and as we are always asking, what is the problem, how big is it, how many are affected, who are affected, where does it occur, and what are the trends? The real important analysis is then, what are underlying causes? Simply treating the patients is like trying to stop the bleeding at the wrist. The tourniquet needs to be further up the arm.

Undoubtedly, the decline of the nuclear family, the growth of zoning laws which make it hard to take care of gramma and granddad, spread of value relativism, easy access to narcotics, byzantine factory-like public schools, cultural decay, and all the rest would be the actual issues.

Of course, as in Frank Herbert's great Dune cycle, this is a place where the Bene Gesserit witches of the Progressive Empire dare not look.<sup>2</sup>

**Item 22 - Submittal of a resolution declaring the Board's intent to formally withdraw from the Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) and directing the County Administrative Officer to submit the resolution to the IWMA to trigger the notice requirement for withdrawal.** This action would be to pass a Resolution, which is legally required by the IWMA Joint Powers agreement, for the County withdraw from the IWMA. We think the Board was sucker punched on this one, because no one on the staff - legal, administrative, or IWMA experts - told them that it had to be done by Resolution. They had passed a motion. Now the Board majority will have to go through the whole process again.

**Background:**

The County hired a consultant, which determined that it will cost the County between \$1,585,400 to \$2,084,000 to operate the system on its own and if no other jurisdictions switch over to the County as customers. There are also variables derived from whether the remaining IWMA will grant the County its cumulated share of the financial and physical assets of the IWMA. The rate impacts are forecast as:

Table B – Required Revenue Needed, Full Cost Recovery from IWMA

Customer Sector	Hauler Revenues	Additional Needed Fee Revenue	Required Rate Adjustment Percent
Residential	\$7,147,000	\$696,400	9.7%
Commercial	5,870,800	782,700	13.3%
Rolloff	<u>3,883,800</u>	<u>106,300</u>	2.7%
Total	\$16,901,600	\$1,585,400	9.4%

But the Analysis is not Apples and Apples – See the table below on the next page.



<sup>2</sup> The Bene Gesserit (/ˈbɛniː ˈdʒɛsərɪt/ BEN-ee JESS-ər-it)[1] are a key social, religious, and political force in Frank Herbert's fictional Dune universe. The group, colloquially referred to as "witches", is an exclusive sisterhood whose members train their bodies and minds through years of physical and mental conditioning to obtain superhuman powers and abilities that can seem magical to outsiders.[2] Members who have acquired the breadth of Bene Gesserit abilities are called Reverend Mothers. Too many are in California State and local politics.

**Table 7 – Estimated Annual Expenditures**

Description	Education & Outreach	Contamination Monitoring	Monitoring & Reporting	Compliance Review & Enforcement	Household Hazardous Waste	Program Administration	Total Estimated Expenditures
Program Manager II	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$162,200	\$162,200
Solid Waste Coordinator II	163,300	0	163,300	163,300	0	0	489,900
Solid Waste Coordinator I	0	134,000	0	0	0	0	134,000
Department Overhead	26,800	22,000	26,800	26,800	0	26,600	129,000
Division Overhead	<u>35,200</u>	<u>35,200</u>	<u>35,200</u>	<u>35,200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>35,200</u>	<u>176,000</u>
<b>Subtotal - Personnel Expenditures</b>	<b>\$225,300</b>	<b>\$191,200</b>	<b>\$225,300</b>	<b>\$225,300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$224,000</b>	<b>\$1,091,100</b>
HHW Contractor					\$400,000		\$400,000
Property Lease Expense					105,000		105,000
Contract Services						200,000	200,000
General and Admin Expense	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000		25,000	125,000
Dept Accounting Support						25,000	25,000
County Legal Costs						50,000	50,000
Office Rent						30,000	30,000
Vehicle Maintenance	8,000			8,000			16,000
Department Overhead	1,500	1,100	1,100	1,500	22,200	14,500	41,900
Countywide Overhead	<u>5,900</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>5,900</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>47,500</u>
<b>Subtotal - Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$40,400</b>	<b>\$31,100</b>	<b>\$31,800</b>	<b>\$40,400</b>	<b>\$539,200</b>	<b>\$357,500</b>	<b>\$1,040,400</b>
<b>Total Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>\$265,700</b>	<b>\$222,300</b>	<b>\$257,100</b>	<b>\$265,700</b>	<b>\$539,200</b>	<b>\$581,500</b>	<b>\$2,131,500</b>

The lower section of Table 7 (Operating Expenditures) itemizes the estimated operating expenditures. The major categories of these operating expenditures include:

A problem with this table and the related supporting analysis (from which the rates were derived) is that the net costs of the implementation of SB 1383 are included. Thus, the policy makers and Board of Supervisors cannot ascertain how much of the cost is base-cost of the existing program versus base-cost plus the new SB1383 costs. Even if the County remains with the IWMA, its residents and commercial customers will experience significant new costs in any case.

Thus, there needs to be an apples-to-apples analysis. The report text actually admits this problem:

*Finding 7 – For the County to perform the responsibilities currently undertaken by the Authority, and to comply with SB 1383, it will require five (5) additional positions in the Public Works Department. Table 6 on the following page shows the five (5) new positions that would be required for the County to perform the responsibilities now undertaken by the Authority and those that will be required by SB 1383. An outline of the expected responsibilities of each staff member is listed below.*

This structural aspect to the report presentation effectively camouflages the true breakdown of the cost increase. The Board should request a separate breakout.

There are also questions related to the cost of the household hazardous waste (HHW) program. Currently and over all, the IWMA cost is about \$900,000 plus per year. The consultant assigns a projected cost to the county customers of about \$400,000 per year if the County leaves the IWMA. But the unincorporated county customers constitute only 25% of the base. In fact, the IWMA itself has now stated that the 25% estimate is too high, because the consultant did not accrete the data by service provider. Accordingly, the County’s cost could be substantially lower.

Also related to the cost is the method of collecting the paint, oil, chemicals, sharps, and other components of the waste. Separate recycling centers are set up, staffed, and run by a private sector company, expert in disposing of the stuff. In some jurisdictions the regular refuse route trucks contain side bins in which the HHW can be deposited, eliminating the need for a separate contractor. The private haulers would have to be compensated, but the economies of scale and the elimination of special sites could reduce the cost.

See IWMA **Items 12** and **13** below for a full exposé of the problems on their side. **Item 12** also contains budget information which suggests that much of what the IWMA provides is fluff and is unneeded in the first place.

**Item 23 - Submittal of a report on the implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act efforts in eight local groundwater basins and authorize staff to coordinate with the City of Paso Robles on transferring ownership of water monitoring facilities from the City to the County.** The report is presented each quarter and details progress in development and implementation of State mandated Ground Water Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for each of the 8 basins in the County subject to SGMA.

Deeply buried in the small print of the Report is the troubling news that the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) has found deficiencies in the Paso Basin GSP. The report states in part:

*• On June 3, 2021, DWR released their initial review of the Paso Basin GSP and provided a Consultation Letter outlining GSP deficiencies that may preclude DWR's approval. Unless the GSP deficiencies are addressed before DWR finalizes their designation (due by January 30, 2022), it is anticipated the GSP would be considered "incomplete" and the GSAs would need to address the deficiencies within 180 days or be referred to the State for potential intervention.*

The deficiencies are not specified in this report. Thus, it is not known how severe they are or how much effort will be required to obtain agreement from the various Basin managing agencies to make modifications that will satisfy DWR.

This circumstance could ignite a whole new round of controversy about the Basin.

**Item 32 - It is recommended that your Board approve a policy which will permanently direct the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer Tax Collector to prepare a fiscal impact statement, to be printed with ballot materials, for any future locally initiated ballot measures deemed to fiscally impact the County of San Luis Obispo.** This is a great idea that eliminates a step which now requires that the Board direct such analyses on each separate measure every time one comes up. This will make it automatic. The write-up states in part.

*As part of a discussion during the June 22, 2021, Board of Supervisors meeting, staff was asked to draft a policy to direct the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector (ACTTC) to conduct fiscal analyses and prepare fiscal impact statements for any future county ballot measures initiated locally that are deemed to fiscally impact San Luis Obispo County.*

*Statements will be included with printed ballot materials. Relying on appropriate professional standards, the reports would provide the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's assessment regarding the changes in revenue and costs that may result from the proposed ballot*

*measure, if such measure were ultimately approved. The goal of this policy is to create a consistent, apolitical, financial analysis of proposed changes after considering all potential costs and fiscal impacts to the County and its economy*

**Item 33 - Hearing and Passage of Ordinances to Create a New Groundwater Sustainability Department and a new position of Director of Groundwater Sustainability.** This is likely to be a contentious item, as the transfer of the funding, about \$1 million from the Public Works Department to the New Department, requires a 4/5 vote.

**Background:**

The Board will consider creation of a new County Department of Groundwater Sustainability and a new Director of Groundwater Sustainability position. The item write-up does not present data on the ultimate size, staffing, or costs of the new proposed Department. Nor does it contain information on any parallel reductions in the Public Works Department, as its Water Division functions are shifted to the new Department. The write-up is confusing in that the item presents an in-house staffing model. The Board had directed the staff to research an outside consultant model.

No detail is presented on the outside consultant model. New departments usually require administrative, clerical, and financial control support. No information is presented as part of this item on any of those details or what the total annual budget might contain. No organization chart for the new Department detailing the staffing or functions is provided. The Groundwater Sustainability Director (GSD) will lead, plan, organize, and direct the overall operations and activities of groundwater resources management. The Director is also responsible for the Department's budget development, accounting, and administration.

Additional responsibilities include working with local agencies, consultants, the public, and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to carry out the implementation of the GSP and groundwater management actions in other basins (e.g. San Luis Obispo and Los Osos), managing and directing resources for the efficient performance of operations, and communicating with local and state agencies.

This position will also manage consultants providing various technical, administrative, financial, regulatory, legal, and environmental support for GSP and groundwater management implementation activities, such as funding, management, area-specific mandatory pumping management, monitoring, reporting, and outreach.

A review of the Budget document demonstrates that limited staffing summary information is presented for Fund Center 405, as well as only summary funding information. Funding contained in the Fund Center seems to be a catch-all of about \$45 million for Public Works activities. As noted in the paragraph below, \$767,109 of the \$45 million is apparently allocated for water management activities. The write-up seems to suggest that this generates matches, but the amount is not estimated.

Only one performance measure is included for FC 405, but it is not related to the issues at hand here. Groundwater Basin Management provides cost match, cost share with partner agencies, or full costs for professional services related to sustainable groundwater management in eight local

groundwater basins, including the development of groundwater sustainability plans and various coordination and administrative activities with partner agencies.

Total Expenditures: \$767,109 Total Staffing (FTE): Staffing is reflected in Fund Center 405 – Public Works. Why would the Board consider this item, absent that data? This situation seems all too similar to the approval of a reorganization of the Planning and Building Department in July that lacked a description of the problems which the effort is meant to correct.

What’s Really Happening? Is this proposal possibly part of a deal by the administration to allow the CAO to have appointed John Diodati as Public Works Director in exchange for transferring water management functions out of the Department? It is known that Supervisors Arnold and Compton were not keen on having Diodati appointed as permanent Public Works Director due to his alleged past support of Paso Basin water districts controlled by large operators who favor water banking. However, as of this writing, several Supervisors indicated that they were not aware that this proposal was being brought forward. Last month Diodati was appointed as permanent Public Works Director without any Board objection or public controversy.

FY 2021-2022 Estimated Annual Expense						
Action	Classification	FTE	Salary	Benefits	Total	Step Estimate
Add	Groundwater Sustainability Director	1.0	\$110,004	\$65,835	\$175,839	Step 6 for 8 months
	Net Change	1.0	\$110,004	\$65,835	\$175,839	
Estimated 2022-23 Expense						
Action	Classification	FTE	Salary	Benefits	Total	Step Estimate
Add	Groundwater Sustainability Director	1.0	\$165,006	\$98,752	\$263,759	Step 6 for 12 months
	Net Change	1.0	\$165,006	\$98,752	\$263,759	
Estimated Annual Expense at Maximum Step						
Action	Classification	FTE	Salary	Benefits	Total	Step Estimate
Add	Groundwater Sustainability Director	1.0	\$165,006	\$98,752	\$263,759	Step 6 for 12 months
	Net Change	1.0	\$165,006	\$98,752	\$263,759	

## LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

### No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 (Not Scheduled)

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

### Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, September 9, 2021 (Cancelled)

The meeting was cancelled.

### Coastal Commission Meeting of September 8, 9, and 10, 2021 (Completed )



Fortunately, there were no matters pertaining to San Luis Obispo County.

**Integrated Waste Management Authority Meeting (IWMA) of Wednesday, September 8, 2021 (Completed)**

**Item 12 - Some temporary Suspension of “Discretionary” Expenditures Were Adopted.**

After a discussion characterized by the blind leading the blind, some program expenditures were deferred. They think they may be able to sort things out by January. The items chosen are detailed in the tables in the Background section below. As noted there, we think there are actually a number of programs which are silly and which should be discontinued altogether.

In a very refreshing move, Paso Robles Mayor John Hammon kept pressing his colleagues to undertake a financial and program audit of the agency prior to proceeding. He correctly pointed out that they need to have an expert independent basis upon which to base future decisions. As the Board adopted this, it took no action on his request, but when they finished up **Item 13**, below, they included a weaker version.

**Background:** The staff recommended, with approval of the Executive Committee, that some expenditures planned for the fiscal year be deferred until the issues involving the legality of the revenue side of the Budget are resolved.

The IWMA adopted a Budget in June based rate on increases to residential and commercial customers. They also include tipping fee increases to the haulers. These are in large part due to the requirement that the agency implement new State mandated requirements for recycling of organic waste. These added several million per year to the agency costs.

The short tenured interim Agency Director, Paavo Ogren,<sup>3</sup> pointed out that there had been no Proposition 218 fee increase challenge process to determine if rate payers accepted the fees. At this point and as explained in the next item, the Board considered whether to tell each member agency that they will have to determine if a separate 218 vote is required in their jurisdiction. This in turn leaves the Budget severely unbalanced in the event that the rate increases are rejected. It is not clear what would happen if some just let it ride without a Prop 218 challenge/vote: some approve it via the Prop 218 process, and some reject it. It sounds like a terrible legal and financial mess subject to myriad legal challenges.

In the meantime, they voted to put some expenditures on hold. The list of deferrals is presented below. Especially interesting is that it details many of the items and programs for which the IWMA routinely expends funds. Separately from the current debacle, are these really things that the public cares about? The blue color coding means items in their regular budget and the green means items related to the new State organic refuse recycling mandate. But why should the rate payers provide \$100,000 to propagandize students about this stuff?

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<sup>3</sup> Ogren is a long term politically astute county administrative player who shows up at certain junctures.

Budget Item	Description	Possible Budget Savings	Staff Recommended Temporary Holds
Computer Software SB1383	55K in original budget was overstated because of the assumption of possible extra uploads needed. True amount is \$27,500	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 27,500.00
Employee Mileage Reimbursement	56K based on estimates of mostly field work, new plan is to work on phone as much as possible. Possible savings 28,000	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
Advertising	All non-committed Advertising	\$ 36,240.00	\$ 36,240.00
SB1383 Seed Funding	Money to purchase: coolers blankets, etc.. for food recovery	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Sharps Containers	Purchase of containers for SLO Bangers and area pharmacies that are not signed up with MED-Project	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
TAG Grants	\$10,000 each grants to increase diversion	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Reusable Bag Handouts	Reusable bags for County Social Services to had out to Food Stamp Clients to mitigate grocery bag check-out fees.	\$ 10,300.00	\$ 10,300.00
Oil Collection Containers	Used for the Curbside Oil Pickup Program. Containers are given by the IWMA to the haulers for FREE.	\$ 10,900.00	
Compost Pails	Given to residences/multi family complexes for FREE.	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
Board Stipends	Individual board members may elect to get \$100 per meeting they attended. This amount is payable in December. If all board members elect to not receive payment this year, that would result in a savings of \$13,200 (assuming we have a meeting each month from now until December).	\$ 13,200.00	
San Miguel CSD	New HHW facility in San Miguel	\$ 190,900.00	\$ 190,900.00
HHW Forklift	New Forklift for Cold Canyon	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Oil Pumps	Replacement of oil pumps at HHW facilities	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Electronic Waste Services	2,000/mo. to Paso Robles Landfill and Chicago Grade landfill for processing e-waste. Paso contract states we will take over e-waste disposal if we end contract.	\$ 36,000.00	
Curbside Oil Pick up Payments	Payments to haulers for curbside oil pickup collection services (contracts state we will pay them amount that has been budgeted).	\$ 26,000.00	
Retail Take Back Program	This program runs at a loss, and there are alternative disposal options. (Or we can increase rates that would have a negative impact on businesses).	\$	

**HUH? Do people actually have to be trained? They can figure out how to by pot – no trainers.**

Classroom/virtual presentations	925 Classroom programs \$99 in person/\$82.00 virtual & Food Waste Diversion 175 hours at \$49.92/hr.	\$ 100,311.00	
Field Trips	100 field virtual field trips \$82.00 each	\$ 8,200.00	\$ 8,200.00
School Education Website	25.0 hours at \$49.92/hr.	\$ 1,248.00	\$ 1,248.00
Education Center Maintenance	10.0 hours at \$49.92/hr.	\$ 499.00	\$
Replacement & Development of Class Program Materials	Portfolio cases, plastic tubs, safety vests for Field Trips	\$ 1,600.00	\$
Community Events	Science Discovery typically goes to 2 events for 49.92/hr. (budgeted 30 hrs.), and does 20 community presentations a year for an cost of \$99/presentation. Total for this service is \$3,477.60.	\$ 3,477.60	\$
Administrative	Administrative and Program Management \$80 hrs./\$75 per hr. and 650 hrs. @ \$49.92 hr.	\$ 38,448.00	
Mileage	Mileage 10 months@1,500 miles/month @0.56/mile	\$ 840.00	
Overhead	Overhead 12 months @ \$75.00/month	\$ 900.00	
Field Staff SB 1383, AB 341, and SB 1826	three Outreach Specialists at \$49.92/hr. 1,900 hrs. each & one lead at \$53.04/hr. 1,750 hrs.	\$377,364.00	
Program Administration	150 hrs. @ \$75./hr.	\$11,250.00	

**But they can't figure out how to throw coffee grounds, rotten bananas, and other swill in a government provided green bucket? Are used condoms organic or hazardous waste?**

Miscellaneous	Auto mileage: 14,00 miles @ 0.56/mile	\$7,840.00	
Miscellaneous	Phone, Tablet Verizon Communications Charges	\$2,400.00	
Miscellaneous	Communication Equipment (phone/tablet/accessories)	\$900.00	
Miscellaneous	San Luis Mini Storage: 12 months @ 365/mo.	\$4,380.00	
Fliers and Printing	Posters, Food Scrap Only Stickers, Yes Food Stickers, Reminder Cards, Misc. copy/literature	\$2,280.00	\$ 2,280.00
Commercial Equipment and Supplies	25, 15 gallon organic containers with lid. 100 7 gallon green deskside containers. 300 7 gallon blue desk side containers, 300 23 gallon green wall hugger containers, 100 23 gallon blue wall hugger containers, 200 4 wheeled dollies for wall hugger containers, 30 lids for wall hugger containers	\$19,750.00	\$ 19,750.00
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities	Savings depends on how long the facilities are closed. The HHW facilities cost approximately \$50,000 a month in disposal and labor costs disposal being 90% of the cost of these facilities. (Closing these facilities would have a negative impact on residences and businesses which could lead to increased illegal dumping)	\$600,000	

\$ 501,194.80

**Item 13 - IWMA Sort of Rejects Dumping Prop 218 Compliance Decision on Each Member Agency and Takes a Step Back.** In a nod to Pontius Pilate, the IWMA Executive Committee proposed that each member agency decide if it needs to go through the Proposition 218 rate increase challenge process before approving the rate increases. In the end and explained below, this idea got untracked because the situation is even more screwed up than anyone knew. This idea generated a ton of blow back from the various member cities and community service districts, which are rightly irritated about having the problem dumped on them. The entire situation is a botched mess that puts each separate jurisdiction at risk. The new State mandate requires recycling of organics by January 1<sup>st</sup>. It requires significant rate increases, which may not take place. Jurisdictions which are out of compliance can be fined. Parenthetically, that would be great if it happens to the progressive officials who push all this stuff. In a heretofore unseen legal opinion, the IWMA Counsel recommended in part:

It is the IWMA's understanding that the Haulers will likely pass the increase in the solid waste management fees through to customers in the form of fees or rate increases. In such a case, we are advising the member agencies that the most prudent course of action is to follow the Proposition 218 protest procedures. The Resolution grants authority to the IWMA Executive Director to extend the effective date of the solid waste management fee increase if reasonable and necessary to accommodate a member agency which is otherwise making good faith efforts toward SB 1383 compliance.

And

IWMA believes the most prudent approach for local jurisdictions is to comply with the Proposition 218 process for rate increases incorporating the additional 1.25% solid waste management fee imposed by the IWMA. This is particularly important because state law prohibits public agencies from requiring the waste hauler to indemnify it for the risk of non-compliance with Proposition 218. See Pub. Res. Code, § 40059.2.

**In the meantime, the members are all required to comply with the new and costly AB 1383 organics recycling mandates and are subject to fines if they don't.**

The punch line in a proposed letter, which the IWMA Board considered sending to all its members, states:

There was discussion among the former Interim Executive Director and varying agencies as to whether the IWMA would carry out a Regional Prop 218. Due to fact the IWMA's has not historically managed the Proposition 218 process and given its limited resources, and no contractual agreement with the haulers (i.e. access to customer information), the Executive Committee and IWMA Staff determined it is inefficient to conduct an IWMA run Prop 218 process. Instead, each member agency or special district will need to evaluate the decisions related to Proposition 218 compliance and timing thereof based on your own financial impacts and contracts with your respect hauler(s).

In the end, the Board chickened out and rejected sending the letter because the cities and other agencies are so ticked off. They instead decided to hire a consultant to re-study the costs of implementing the new State mandate in light of the unincorporated County's proportionate share of refuse and funding going away. This will further be exacerbating the pressure to take action prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>.

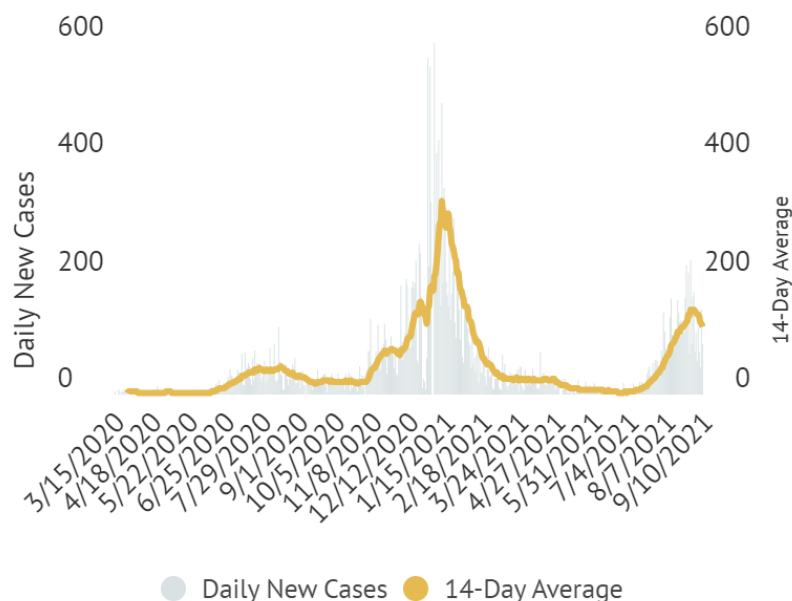
Several representatives of Solid Waste disposal companies spoke and pointed out that the Agency really has no idea about what it is doing.

Supervisor Gibson continued to object to the County's imminent departure from the authority.

## EMERGENT ISSUES

**Item 1 - COVID Status.** The infection rate plateaued at week 6 of the run up and seems to have turned down at week 7. Note that the scale of the graph was changed this week to be less detailed. The pandemic has gone so long that the detail would not fit on the page at the previous scale.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



**51 (17 ICU) \*\***  
SLO County Residents  
with COVID-19 in  
Hospital

## **Item 2 - State Has to Waive Its Own Natural Gas Regs to Insure Sufficient Electric Supply.**

### **CALIFORNIA WANTS AIR POLLUTION RULES SUSPENDED TO BURN MORE NATURAL GAS**

By MARK CHEDIAK AND NAUREEN S. MALIK on 9/10/2021

(Bloomberg) --California is asking the federal government to declare an “electric reliability emergency” so the Golden State can lean more heavily on fossil fuels to avoid blackouts.

**The state’s main grid operator wants the U.S. Department of Energy to suspend air-pollution rules for some natural gas-burning power plants in case their output is needed “to meet demand in the face of extremely challenging conditions including extreme heat waves, multiple fires, high winds, and various grid issues,” according to a filing. The last time California received a waiver of such length and breadth was 21 years ago during the Western Energy Crisis.**

For a second straight day, authorities urged residents of the biggest U.S. state to conserve energy as a heat wave boosts air-conditioning use.

The emergency request highlights the conflict between California’s green aspirations and the physical reality that wind and solar thus far haven’t been able to cover power shortfalls exacerbated by the shuttering of gas-fired generators. The California Independent System Operator has warned of looming electricity shortages several times this summer.

An emergency declaration by the Energy Department would allow new gas units recently ordered by the state to connect to the grid by the middle of this month, the California ISO said in its filing. It would also relax pollution limits for some other gas plants that would otherwise be forced to temporarily halt power production.

A similar emergency order was issued during the deadly Texas freeze that triggered widespread blackouts, Energy Department spokesman Kevin Liao said.

## **Item 3 – “GREEN”: A SLOW-MOTION TRAIN WRECK**

Around the world, “green” energy is failing with consequences that soon will be catastrophic. From [the U.K.](#): “Ireland freezes power exports to UK as energy costs rocket tenfold.” Shockingly, if you depend on wind energy you are in trouble when the wind stops blowing.

*Ireland has been forced to freeze power exports to the UK to prevent a shortage which could have sparked blackouts as surging energy prices continue to cause chaos across Europe.*

*A toxic combination of low wind speeds and a severe squeeze on the supply of natural gas sent power costs jumping tenfold on the British mainland on Thursday to as much as £2,300 per megawatt-hour, a new record high.*

If my arithmetic is correct, that is around 21 times the average cost of electricity in the U.S. at current exchange rates. The U.S. has the resources to offset a squeeze on natural gas supplies, but the Biden administration is opposed to domestic gas production.

*Ireland's Single Electricity Market Operator had issued an amber warning on Thursday morning, alerting the public to a "general shortfall" of electricity which could result in power cuts.*

*The cost of energy has been spiraling across Europe, due in part to calm weather which has drastically reduced the availability of renewable power.*

\*\*\*

*The spiraling prices will prompt further concern among officials who were earlier this week forced to fire up coal-based plants in an effort to cope with tight supplies.*

*In Spain, day-ahead electricity prices hit a record €152.32 a megawatt-hour according to Bloomberg. In France, the benchmark power price for delivery next year was at a record €99.50.*

This is not some kind of "green" growing pains. This is the inevitable and permanent consequence of depending on inherently unreliable, and intrinsically expensive, energy sources. Other than, perhaps, Critical Race Theory, "renewable" energy is the West's worst self-inflicted wound. But many voters won't realize this until the lights start to go out.

## **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**

## **THE REAL REASONS NEWSOM HAS FAILED ALL CALIFORNIANS**

*Out-of-control corruption is the true face of California's 'progressive' movement*

**BY EDWARD RING**

While acknowledging that the outcome of the ongoing Newsom recall voting is anybody's guess, it is worthwhile to imagine life in California if Newsom survives the recall and goes on to win reelection next year. Because the nonpartisan and growing opposition to Newsom and what he represents is not founded in "Trumpism," nor is it the product of "out-of-state Republicans."

The Newsom recall effort is a reaction, shared by independents and moderate Democrats, that California's institutions are failing. Even life-long progressives are horrified by the appalling negligence and corruption that now defines governance in California. Examples of this are everywhere.



One may begin by imagining a future of endless fire seasons, where the air is so filthy that on any given summer day more than half the state's residents can't venture outdoors. Does anyone think announcing an electric car mandate will solve this problem, or that hiring state agencies to thin the forests will ever get the job done? There are solutions. Bring the timber industry back to the scale it operated at in the 1990s, and let them thin the forests and maintain the fire breaks, fire roads and transmission line corridors while supplying affordable lumber to Californians.

That used to work fine, and with what we've since learned about forest management, would solve the problem and *improve* forest ecosystems.

Instead the policy, to be continued, is to make it impossible for property owners to ignite controlled burns or mechanically thin the undergrowth on their land, thanks to a tyrannical,

Byzantine permit process that only the very wealthy and preternaturally patient applicant could ever navigate. Then once these residents are burned out of their homes, victims of the predictable cataclysms that are the result of thirty years of fire suppression, they're subjected to a permit process to rebuild that is equally tyrannical, ensuring that very few of them ever get to return to the land they love.

And what of these electric cars that supposedly, as they proliferate, will suppress forest fires in lieu of responsible forest management? There's nothing wrong with providing incentives to develop EV technology. But fossil fuel is still powering over 80 percent of California's economy. Against that hard reality, the energy policies of the Newsom administration nonetheless intend to reduce CO2 emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Californians need to confront what it's going to take to achieve this goal.

To cut CO2 emissions this much in just 8 more years means absolutely nothing that consumes energy is going to get built. The state will mandate urban densification at all costs. Suburbs will be subject to "infill." New homes will be located in "transit villages." Housing will be permitted that doesn't include space for parking. Codes will be written to mandate smaller windows so structures won't require as much energy to heat or cool, and light switches that shut off if their motion sensors think you've left the room. Natural gas hookups will be forbidden in new housing as California's natural gas infrastructure is slowly dismantled, and any sort of suburban expansion on open land will be prohibited. Does this sound inviting?

It isn't as if any major emerging nation – from China to India to Indonesia to Pakistan to Brazil or Nigeria – is going to bother with any of this expensive, extremist impracticality. They need energy, and they're going to generate it by any means necessary.

If California's enlightened policymakers really intended to set an example to the world, they would pursue an all-of-the-above strategy with energy development, and do it in a manner that is as efficient and clean and cost-effective as possible. That would be genuine altruism. Don't hold your breath. Instead, the political machine represented by Newsom is not only shutting down natural gas power plants, they're shutting down California's only nuclear power plant, and demolishing hydroelectric dams. Expect ongoing power outages and electric power that costs several times more than it could in a rational market. Expect mandated appliances that are so energy and water efficient that they are hard to operate, break down often, require software "updates," are leased instead of owned, and do a poor job.

Where there's not much affordable energy, don't expect much more water, either. California's water infrastructure has been neglected for the past forty years, and a system that was designed for 20 million people is strained to the breaking point to serve 40 million residents. But if you want to build desalination plants and waste water treatment plants, you'll need energy to operate them. And if you want to build off-stream reservoirs or recharge aquifers during wet winters, in order to pump water through the aqueducts to farms and cities during the dry years, you're going to need energy. A lot of it. You'll need energy to build and upgrade the system, then you'll need energy to run the pumps. And that will jeopardize achieving the 40 percent reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030. So it will not happen under a Newsom regime.

Instead expect water rationing at a level of draconian enforcement that will even surprise the fanatics. Californians could have more water, but not under the Newsom political machine. This isn't just no more lawns, it's no more trees or hedges. No more showers under a flow sufficient to wash the shampoo out of long hair. No more washing machines that effectively clean clothes without damaging them. As for farmers, kiss your land goodbye. Sell it while you still can to hedge funds that will build solar farms. Consumers? Kiss your affordable food goodbye. No more row crops, no more fruit. Expect to pay twice as much for vegetables. And as for

California's dairy industry? It depends on water guzzling alfalfa to feed the cows, so goodbye cows. No more affordable milk. No more affordable cheese.

Newsom's California will cram down every public investment in infrastructure, whether it's energy, water, or transportation. He'll get cover from climate change activists whose passions are divorced from quantitative reality. He'll also get cover from orthodox libertarians and even many anti-tax activists, who either disapprove of any government spending on infrastructure, or, somewhat more justifiably, distrust the government's ability to complete any public works project at a reasonable cost and in a reasonable period of time. It's not like they don't have a point.

It used to be that public sector corruption, deplorable though it was, would at least get you something good in return. You might spend twice as much taxpayer money as might actually be necessary, but at the end of it all, there would be a tangible benefit to taxpayers. The much criticized "Big Dig" in Boston is a good example. It took years longer and cost billions more than promised, but when it was done, people could get from downtown Boston to Logan International Airport in 15 minutes, instead of an hour and a half. But we don't even have that level of competence any more.



And then there are the homeless. If laws prohibiting vagrancy, petty theft, intoxication, and sale of hard drugs could be enforced again, the deterrent effect would mean, overnight, that half California's homeless would suddenly find shelter with friends and family. The rest of them could be housed in inexpensive barracks in inexpensive parts of California's cities.

The *billions* of dollars saved could be used to help them. But that would disrupt the profits of the Homeless Industrial Complex. So in Newsom's California, expect to see more chaos on our streets, as countless lives are allowed to be destroyed under the pretext of "compassion" and "liberty."

When it comes to the basic needs of Californians, water, energy, food, shelter, transportation, and safety, the Newsom machine has failed completely. A future with Newsom and his people in charge would mean soaking taxpayers for additional billions – ok, tens of billions – on "affordable housing" and "permanent supportive housing," while the cost of housing would remain prohibitive. They'd continue to build these boondoggles at a cost, well documented, of over 500,000 per unit, along with "innovative tiny homes," only 64 square feet in size, at a total project cost of over \$200,000 per unit.

Step back a moment and think about this. Even in California, a crew of honest tradesmen could go buy a 120 square foot shed at Home Depot for around \$5,000, and for another \$20,000, if not much less, they could transport it, put it on a foundation, install plumbing, electric hookups, a bathroom and kitchenette, hook it up to the utility grid and someone could move in. But no.

These "tiny homes," half that size, cost ten times that much, and we're supposed to be thrilled. This is what out-of-control corruption looks like. This is the true face of California's "progressive" movement. It is a movement whose public rhetoric comes from smarmy politicians like Gavin Newsom and passionate grassroots activists, but whose financial and political power rests in the hands of monopolistic corporations and entrenched government bureaucracies.

Why not deregulate housing, invest in enabling infrastructure, and allow more construction on raw land on the perimeter of existing cities and along freeway corridors? Why not reduce the excessive building fees and eliminate unnecessary, crippling delays in getting projects approved? Why not quarry aggregate, mine lithium, extract natural gas, and log and mill timber here in California? These steps would take hundreds of thousands of dollars off the price of a new home.

But they would also undermine the power of the special interests that profit from scarcity. This is life in Newsom's California. This is the future he offers you. *Anybody* would be better. If you don't like Republicans, vote for Paffrath, who is a Democrat with bold new ideas. At his political core, Gavin Newsom represents corporate corruption. A machine that spews progressive rhetoric on the topics of climate change, race, and gender while completely failing to meet the basic needs of every Californian regardless of where they come from or what they believe.

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

Now you can listen to THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW  
in *Santa Barbara, Santa Maria & San Luis Obispo Counties!*

We are pleased to announce that The Andy Caldwell Show is now  
broadcasting out of San Luis Obispo County on FM 98.5 in addition to AM  
1290 Santa Barbara and AM 1440 Santa Maria



The show now covers the broadcast area from Ventura to Templeton -  
THE only show of its kind on the Central Coast covering local, state,  
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Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and previously aired shows at: 3:00  
– 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show  
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MIKE BROWN IS THE REGULAR MONDAY GUEST AT 4:30  
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**MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS**



**VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM**



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



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



**NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER**



**MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN.**

Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business  
San Luis Obispo County  
"Your Property - Your Taxes - Our Future"  
PO Box 13601 - San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 / Phone: 805.548-0340  
Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

## 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): \_\_\_\_\_

### NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

**For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.**

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

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.

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

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

### PAYMENT METHOD:

Check  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Revised 2/2017)