



**WEEKLY UPDATE
APRIL 10 - 16, 2022**

SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY EVENT NOTICE: SEE PAGE 23

THIS WEEK

NO BOS

**INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NEEDS TO OFFLOAD SOME OBSOLETE PROGRAMS**

LAST WEEK

2 BOS MEETINGS ON APRIL 5TH

REGULAR BOS MEETING - 9:00 AM

BOS REQUESTS GOVERNOR TO SUSPEND THE GAS TAX

**WHY DOES THE STATE WANT TO HAVE KAISER COMPETE WITH
COUNTY BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH? WHY IS THE COUNTY AFRAID?
IS COMPETITION BAD?**

**GRAND JURY FRETS OVER COVID VACCINE DELIVERY PROCESS
BETTER THAT THEY WORRY ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF THERAPEUTICS**

**HEARING ON REVISIONS TO HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGS ADOPTED
RESTAURANTS, FARM LABOR CAMPS, SEPTIC PUMPER, ETC.,
ALL IMPACTED**

**ROUTE 227 ROUNDABOUTS REJECTED FOR NOW
BUREAUCRATS WANT THEM – COMMUNITY OBJECTS
STATE SAYS “OUR WAY OR NO HIGHWAY FUNDS”**

**CLOSED SESSION ON REDISTRICTING LAWSUIT
WHO IS VOTED TO DEFEND?**

**SPECIAL BOS MEETING - 5:00 PM
COUNTY CHARTER PROPOSAL ADVANCES
DECISION TO PLACE ON BALLOT COULD BE MAY 17TH
PROMOTE LOCAL CONTROL**

EMERGENT ISSUES

**COVID LOW FOR NOW
BUT STATE WANTS TO MANDATE VACCINATIONS FOR EVERYONE
WHERE ARE THE THERAPEUTIC PILLS?**

COLAB IN DEPTH SEE PAGE 16

THE NIHILISM OF THE LEFT

*In pursuit of its utopian omelet, the Left cares little about the millions
of middle-class Americans it must break to make it*

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

RENEWABLE ENERGY IS AN ABUNDANT SOURCE OF SELF-DECEPTION

*PERHAPS THE REAL COLLUSION IS WITH LEFTIST
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND RUSSIA*

BY NED RYUN

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS
ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

SLO County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) meeting of Wednesday, April 13, 2022 (Scheduled) 1:30 PM

Info Item: Current members of the IWMA

Arroyo Grande	Avila Beach CSD
Atascadero	California Valley CSD
El Paso de Robles	Cambria CSD
Grover Beach	Cayucos Sanitary District
Morro Bay	Ground Squirrel Hollow CSD
Pismo Beach	Heritage Ranch CSD
San Luis Obispo	Los Osos CSD
	Nipomo CSD
	Oceano CSD
	San Miguel CSD
	San Simeon CSD
	Templeton CSD

Item 9 - Status Update on The Ratification for The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Amendment and Consideration of Proposed Edits. Since the County departed the agency, the Board and staff have been working on a revised JPA (the governing document).

The City of Pismo Beach seems to be concerned about the Authority's record of expanding into new realms of action. This was one reason the County left. The City also appears to be concerned that the agency expands tasks and work beyond what is actually legally required or prudent. Its proposed language includes the revisions in blue:

SECTION 7. Expressed Limitation of Powers. The Authority's power to adopt, impose, implement, and/or comply with regulations and ordinances is expressly limited to state-mandated legislation and regulations related to solid waste, recycling, organic waste, and waste diversion. When adopting, imposing, implementing or complying with said regulations and ordinances, only the minimum work required to be in compliance shall be completed in the most demonstrably cost-effective way possible. An exception to this minimum may be approved by a unanimous vote of the board. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all existing IWMA ordinances,

rules, and regulations, whether or not mandated by the State, shall remain in full force and effect and not subject to otherwise determined by the Board.

Item 10 - Preliminary Budget Discussion. The primary thrust of this item is to set the schedule for presentation, consideration, and adopting of the FY 2022-23 Budget. Included in the item is an informational list of IWMA contracts.

The IWMA expends considerable funding on “education,” presumably to convince people to recycle. Why is this necessary now? People have been doing it for decades.

VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	Contract Termination Date	per Fiscal Year unless Noted	Notes	Completed, or Upcoming
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SERVICES					
Science Discovery	School Outreach Programs	6/30/2022	\$176,683		Upcoming
Science Discovery	Business / Multi-Family Monitoring & Education	6/30/2022	\$328,126		Upcoming
Andrea B.	Social Media Consultant	8/11/2023	\$28,000		Upcoming
ECO-SLO	Public Outreach Services	8/8/2025	\$34,000		TBD

The agency’s largest cost, other than for staff, is for contract recyclers to dispose of hazardous waste. Presumably, bids are being solicited for these, particularly in view of the County’s departure from the Authority. Where does it go? What is the price per ton? How much is offset by revenue from the recycled materials, or is this the net? If so, what is the full cost?

SPECIAL CONTRACT SERVICES					
CEC ECO Solutions/Stericycle	Hazardous Waste Agreement	6/30/2023	\$580,000		Upcoming
CEWS	E-waste Disposal	6/18/2022	\$10,000	5	TBD
Call2Recycle	Battery Recycling	11/30/2022	\$50,000		Upcoming

LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Board of Supervisors Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 5, 2022 (Completed)

Item 4 - Request to approve a letter to Governor Newsom in support of suspending the gas tax and the gas tax's July inflationary increase. The Board unanimously approved sending the letter to the Governor and our legislators.

County Administrator Wade Horton had placed the proposed letter displayed below on the Agenda for Board consideration.

The Board could have explored the impact of the increases on County operations. The County may be protected in the short term by annual fixed price contracts, but it is not known.

The larger issue is the supply side and what actions the County could take to promote fossil fuel development and distribution.



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John Peschong Vice-Chair, District One Supervisor
Bruce Gibson Chairperson, District Two Supervisor
Dawn Ortiz-Legg District Three Supervisor
Lynn Compton District Four Supervisor
Debbie Arnold, District Five Supervisor

ATTACHMENT #1

April 5, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Proposed suspension of gas tax and inflationary increase - SUPPORT

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of your proposal to suspend the gas tax to help alleviate the cost for Californians as well as visitors to our state. The cheapest gas in our County ranges from \$5.43 to \$6.55 a gallon. San Luis Obispo County now has the distinction of having the most expensive gas in the entire United States.

While we understand that suspending the current 51.1 cents per gallon and no inflationary adjustment in July, will have an effect on transportation and infrastructure projects funded with SB 91 taxes, the citizens in our county and throughout the state are burdened, not only with higher gas costs, but also increased costs for every facet of their lives, such as food, shelter, childcare, medicine to name a few. Reducing this burden, even if only for six months, is the least that can be done for citizens and visitors who contribute their hard-earned dollars to the economy of this state.

We urge you to move forward with your proposal to suspend the gas tax. Even a short suspend time, such as six months, would be a welcome relief from the high cost of living here in California.

Please contact Wade Horton, at (805) 781-5011 or whorton@co.slo.ca.us if you have any questions about the County's support of gas tax hiatus. Additionally, our state advocates, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmeizer & Lange, are also available to you and your staff for further discussions.

Sincerely,

BRUCE GIBSON
Chair, Board of Supervisors

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

Page 1 of 1

County of San Luis Obispo Government Center

1055 Monterey Street | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 | (P) 805-781-5450 | (F) 805-781-1350
info@slocounty.ca.gov | slocounty.ca.gov

Item 5 - Request to sign a multi-jurisdictional letter in opposition to the California Department of Health Care Services Proposed Trailer Bill Legislation - Alternative Health Care Service Plan proposal. The Board unanimously approved a motion to join a number of other counties to oppose AB 2724, which would allow large medical providers in various regions of the State to take over the treatment of mental health patients who are now served by local consortia.

It appears that the Bill is a last-minute gut-and-amend type, which was introduced to avoid the full committee process. Staff indicates that the Bill will cause the Kaiser Permanente Medical Group to invade the county. Neither the Bill itself nor the County write-up indicates what problem the Bill is supposedly attempting to fix.

These circumstances seem to support opposition to the Bill. However, the final paragraph of the Board letter asserts a number of problems with the bill, including that it “would exacerbate the negative impacts of market competition across commercial entities in the delivery system...”

It is not exactly clear what this means operatively. The Board should have pulled the item and explored the underlying rationale of the legislature. For example, is this simply a patronage deal to reward the nurses' union, which supports everything Left? Or is there a problem with costs statewide from having a coterie of local not-for-profits and counties running the local and regional systems?

Why would market competition be bad? Certainly Kaiser¹ is a huge group medical practice that owns clinics, hospitals, and other treatment modalities. While it is generally regarded as a sort of Sears of medical care, is it more cost effective? Why didn't the Board receive a presentation by Kaiser and hear all sides of the story? Perhaps the local political and patronage connections are too vital.

The prioritization of commercial interests will exacerbate the negative impacts of market competition across commercial entities in the delivery system and will discourage their participation in a sustainable delivery system for the public good. This risks a return to a delivery system where an organization limits access to a number of people perceived as their "fair share" rather than working in partnership with their peer competitors to collectively serve the public. This would set a concerning precedent that threatens the stability of our safety net network, exacerbates strains on the provider network, and presents new obstacles to advancing the transformation of the Medi-Cal delivery system

Obviously, the current delivery system is fraught with problems which are apparent to law enforcement and the general public.

- **How many people are in the current system?**
- **Is the number declining or increasing?**
- **How many get better?**
- **How many move from a more intensive treatment modality to a less intensive treatment modality?**

Again, the Board is subjected to the policy choice, which only represents its staff's opinion.



Various sides and components of the issue are not presented. They may be right, but how does the Board or public know, especially since they are part of the existing system, which they seek to preserve. Is Kaiser patronage, although larger, worse or better than local patronage?

Of course, no one who is rational trusts anything that is proposed by the California Legislature majority. The Bill's sponsor is a physician, Joaquin Arambula, who represents portions of Fresno and adjacent

¹ Kaiser Permanente, commonly known simply as Kaiser, is an American integrated managed care consortium, based in Oakland, California, United States, founded in 1945 by industrialist Henry J. Kaiser and physician Sidney Garfield. **Headquarters:** [Oakland, CA](#) **Founded:** 1945 **Number of employees:** 304,220 employees (including 63,847 nurses and 23,597 physicians as of 2021) **Type of business:** Consortium of for-profit and not-for-profit entities. **Subsidiaries:** [The Permanente Medical Group, Inc.](#),

communities. He sponsors many bills to expand healthcare for the poor, elderly, and otherwise underserved.

Dr. Arambula is part of a private group practice in Fresno and Selma and is not a member of Kaiser. He is an Emergency Specialist. It is not known if he has privileges at any Kaiser hospital.

Item 6 - Grand Jury Report on the Delivery of COVID Vaccines in SLO County. The Board adopted a letter back to the Court largely agreeing with the Jury's recommendations for communications improvements during declared emergencies.

Background: The long, detailed report is pretty much a gratuitous systematic exploitation of the obvious. That is, it took a while to receive enough vaccine and then to get it out. It would seem that the public interest issue at this point is making therapeutic treatment drugs available, as COVID is going to stick around. Of course, we have heard nothing in this regard.

Item 43 - Hearing to consider an ordinance amending Title 8, Chapters 8.04, 8.06, 8.08, 8.12, 8.16, 8.30, 8.54, 8.60, and 8.62 of the County Code regarding the County Environmental Health Services Division, to update references, delete outdated code sections, and make other clean up and reorganizational changes. The Board conducted a hearing and unanimously adopted the ordinance changes. Hardly anyone attended the hearing and there were no public speakers. Some Board members praised the staff for protecting the public health.

Background: COLAB provided early warning in the Weekly Update of March 13th. The item is billed as a clean-up and update of ordinances that have not been adjusted since the 1970's. There was no written opposition in the file. It is not clear if the changes will result in any increased or additional fees.

It is not known from the write-up if the Health Department consulted with the potentially impacted businesses, associations, and chambers of commerce on this major update. The Board will need to ascertain the degree to which this happened.

The actual ordinance can be reviewed at the link [Meeting details - Provox IIP \(ca.gov\)](#). When it opens, click on the in-basket icon for Item 43.

Chapter 8.04 - Food and Drink Establishments Page 4 of 6 Part 7 of Division 104 of the California Health and Safety Code (sections 113700 et seq.), also referred to as the California Retail Food Code ("CRFC") was signed into law on May 15, 2006 (SB 144 - Runner). The CRFC became effective on July 1, 2007 and requires that there be uniform Statewide food safety standards for retail food facilities (section 113705). These sections provide that a local enforcement agency shall have primary enforcement responsibility for the State and local standards in its jurisdiction. Sections that were deleted in the recommended amendments are preempted by the CRFC. Chapter 8.04 does not override any local land use requirement or limitation. The purposes of chapter 8.04 are to clarify and explain: (1) the CRFC for local implementation where necessary; (2) the Environmental Health Services Division's role in enforcing State food safety standards for retail food facilities; and (3) implementation of a permit and cost recovery fee system for certain businesses and activities that are subject to the CRFC. The following outline summarizes the recommended deletions, amendments, and additions for this chapter:

Deletions

- *Delete any outdated sections that are preempted by State law. Amendments*
- *Clean up permit requirements and enforcement and appeal process sections.*

Additions

- *Add a definition for Environmental Health Services Division (“EHS”) Director and designate EHS as the local enforcement entity.*
- *Formalize EHS’ existing process of posting Notice of Closures on food facilities closed for no permit or health risk.*
- *Formalize the annual mobile food facility inspection process where a permit sticker is affixed to each mobile food facility.*
- *Clarify that fees can be collected for unlicensed complaint investigations when enforcement or other follow up actions are required.*

Chapter 8.06 - Plan Approval

This chapter provides that when a building permit is required to construct a retail food facility, public swimming pool, organized camp, or small water system, that plans need to be submitted to the Health Officer along with payment of required fees. It also provides that a stop work order can be issued when work is performed without prior approval. The purposes of the recommended amendments to chapter 8.06 are to consolidate:

- 1. The existing plan review and health permit requirements for all facilities regulated by EHS;*
- 2. The permit and cost recovery fee system;*
- 3. The due process enforcement procedures for refusing, suspending or revoking a health permit.*

The recommended amendments also provide for a cost recovery for Hazardous Incident Response Team incidents and other unlicensed enforcement activities.

Chapter 8.08 - Seasonal Farm Labor Camps

This chapter is recommended to be deleted because it is governed and preempted by 1986 amendments to the United States Department of Labor Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (codified at 29 U.S.C. §§ 1801-1872). 29 U.S.C. §1823 states that housing for migrant agricultural workers must meet applicable California Health and Safety standards and have a Certificate of Occupancy.

Chapter 8.12 - Solid Waste Management

This chapter is administered and enforced by the Health Officer, Public Works, and Auditor with respect to the accumulation, collection, transportation, processing, recycling, and disposal of various types of solid waste. Minor amendments are proposed for this chapter to update outdated California Health and Safety Code section numbers referenced in the definitions of Medical Solid Waste and the definition of Medical Waste.

Chapter 8.16 – Septic Tank Trucks

This chapter provides for the permitting and inspection of septic tank trucks by the Public Health Department. The recommended amendments update permitting requirements by referencing the newly revised chapter 8.06 for health permit requirements. They also formalize current inspection standards for septic trucks pertaining to sanitary equipment and practices, labeling, proper disposal, inspection and reporting.

Chapter 8.30 - Cross–Connections Control and Inspections

The purpose of this chapter is to protect the public drinking water supply against actual or potential cross connections by non-potable water supply sources. Recommended amendments to this chapter include adding and updating terminology, including reference to backflow prevention equipment as “assemblies” rather than “devices”. The amendments also codify the existing practice of requiring adherence to the San Luis Obispo County Cross-Connection Program Policy and Procedures and requiring cross connection control testers submit current reports of calibration of their testing equipment when submitting certificates of training from recognized providers before a County issued identification card is provided.

Chapter 8.54 - Enforcement–Citation Authority

This chapter provides citation authority for EHS. The recommended amendment to this chapter clarifies that the citation authority is for violations of Title 8 of the County Code.

Chapter 8.60 - Public Swimming Pools

This chapter designates the Public Health Department to enforce state standards for public swimming pools and specifies that a health permit is required to operate. The recommended amendments clarify that the Health Officer and EHS enforce state public swimming pool standards and codifies the long-standing process of posting a Notice of Closure on public swimming pools and spas that are closed for health risk or for not having a valid health permit. Chapter.

8.62 - Organized Camps

This chapter specifies that a health permit is required to operate an organized camp. The recommended amendments clarify that the Health Officer and EHS enforce state organized camp standards and updates the Page 6 of 6 reference to chapter 8.06 for permitting requirements in addition to the outdated California Health and Safety Code section referenced in the definition of Organized Camp

We wonder if the County itself is in compliance with this one for its homeless camp at the Kansas Avenue service center facility.

Item 44 - Closed Session. One item includes the legal challenge against the redistricting plan by the so-called County Citizens for Good Government. No details are provided. Since this is a matter of critical and broad public interest, it would be proper for the Board to publish any filings that have been submitted, since the original Writ of Mandate by the plaintiffs was rejected by the Courts.

The Board should also release the County's defense briefs. The County Counsel should be directed to reveal any votes from closed session. For example, has the Board voted to defend the adopted plan? If so, what was the vote – who voted yes and who voted no? Release of this information would not jeopardize the County's legal strategy.

After the meeting, the County Counsel reported, as expected, reported that “the Board took no reportable action”.

Item 25 - Roundabouts on Highway 227. The Board rejected proceeding further on authorizing design of the roundabouts and related changes. The vote was 2 for the roundabouts (Gibson and Ortiz-Legg, 2 against (Arnold and Compton), and Peschong recusing himself.

Background: The staff had requested that the Board appropriate \$661,000 for an engineering firm to design Route 227 improvements, including roundabouts at its intersections with Buckley Road and Los Ranchos Road, respectively (Scenario B). The matter required a 4/5 vote, as it is a new appropriation.

County professionals and Cal Trans favor the roundabout version as opposed to widening the highway and adding traffic signals (Scenario A). Version B-2 is asserted to be less costly to maintain and more efficient for moving traffic. Environmentalists favor roundabouts as opposed to signals, as traffic keeps moving and does not queue up waiting for a green light. This is said to reduce CO₂. The report states in part:

Scenario B and the recommended project alternative for SR 227 at Los Ranchos Road provides the highest societal benefits for both safety and delay, while costing significantly less to construct, operate, and maintain.

As is the case in many scenarios favored by the staff experts, the County faces losing State and Federal funding for actual construction of the project if the Board does not agree.

Non-approval of this item will leave the ICE process incomplete and result in cancelling the project or reassignment of the Lead Agency responsible for the delivery of this project and the remaining SR 227 corridor improvements proposed between Buckley Road and Biddle Ranch Road. Additionally, \$9.7 million in regional funds programmed to the County for projects on the corridor would be returned to the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), and approximately \$750,000 of federal funding spent to date for preliminary engineering would be at-risk for being repaid by the County of San Luis Obispo (County) to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

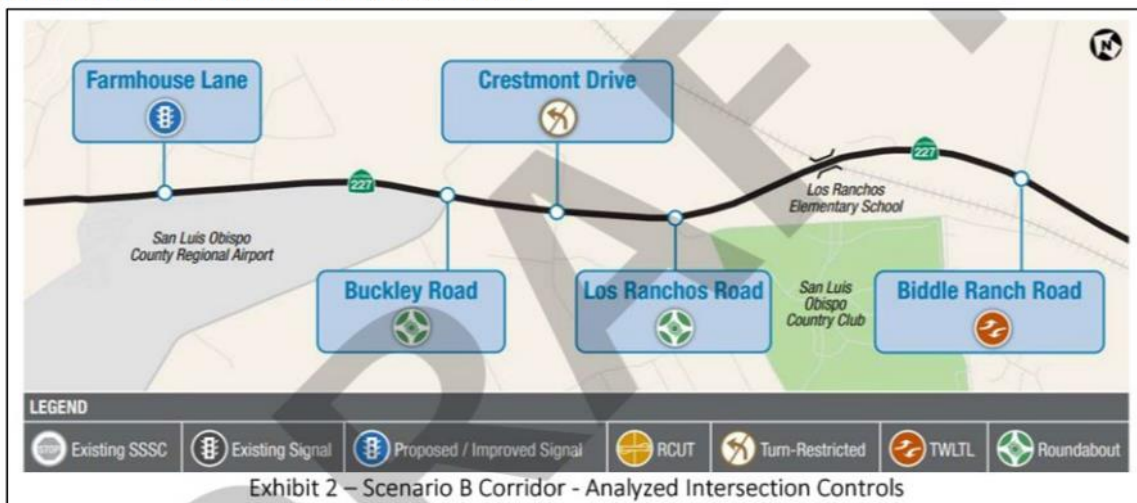
In other words, you had better do what the bureaucrats want, or you will be punished.



Neighbors and many commercial users of the highway are opposed to roundabouts generally and have asserted that the specific versions proposed in this project are undersized. Land required to fit in the roundabouts may require condemnation proceedings. This might also be true of widening.

Scenario B: 2-Lane Corridor The 2-Lane Corridor concept focusses on providing additional capacity at only the most constrained locations within the corridor at intersections. A combination of intersection control types including signal, roundabout, turn-restricted, and two-way-left turn-lane were determined to have the greatest return on investment through the corridor. Exhibit 2 illustrates the intersection controls that have the highest return on investment and were included in the analysis for Scenario B

Scenario B: 2-Lane Corridor (Exhibit 2)



Roundabouts pose challenges and risks for tanker trucks (including fuel), fire department water tenders, and trailer trucks.

Item 1 - Hearing to consider a request to 1) provide direction to staff on proposed language for a County Charter to be submitted to the voters regarding the appointment process for County elected positions and 2) provide other direction as appropriate. The Board held the hearing. On a vote of 4/1 (Gibson dissenting), it advanced the proposal to a hearing on May 17, 2022. At this point, vacancies on the Board of Supervisors and among the County constitutional officers would be filled by a vote of the people if 365 or more days remain in the term. If there are less than 365 days remaining, the department's deputy director would fill in until the next regular election.

Staff was directed to research and report on what safeguards could be include to make sure that status as "charter county" does not erode any powers of the elected department heads.

An interesting aspect of the hearing was that the Citizens for Good Government (the group suing the County and asking the courts to reject the recently adopted redistricting map) would support the Charter if it included an independent redistricting commission provision. This idea was rejected 3/2 with Gibson and Ortiz-Legg in support and Arnold, Compton, and Peschong in opposition.

Background: The purpose of the Charter would be to provide the voters of the County with more control over the replacement of County Supervisors when a vacancy occurs midterm. Provisions would also apply to the Countywide constitutional officers, Auditor Controller, District Attorney, Assessor, Sheriff, and Clerk Recorder. No other provisions of the County's governing structure would be affected. The proposed Charter provisions would be subject to approval by a vote of the people.

Per prior Board Direction, County Counsel Rita Neal submitted language for adoption of a County Charter. The Board direction came on a split 3/2 vote, with Gibson and Ortiz-Legg dissenting. Gibson was particularly critical of the idea, stating that it is a solution in search of a problem.

Gibson has been adamant in his opposition. He stated that counties are administrative subdivisions of the State and should stick with the general law form. He also objected that the special and regular elections would cost more. Again, he stated that the proposal was a solution in search of problem.

He said that the matter was purely political. In so doing, he noted that it is likely that governors in California are likely to be Democrats for the foreseeable future. Thus, he sees the Charter as an attempt to avoid Democratic governors having control of the appointments.

Promotes Local Control:

Actually, it is a good idea because it would give the people of the County and its elected Board members control when a Board member vacancy occurs midterm. Currently and under General Law provisions, the Governor has the power to fill such vacancies. Given the fact that the Socialist Party, operating under camouflage as the Democratic Party, has controlled the office for decades and will probably control it forever, this is a good move.

It promotes local control and fairness. So far in the last decade, Democratic governors have appointed Caryn Ray and Dawn Ortiz-Legg.

The proposed Charter also provides for the filling of vacancies in the Countywide offices of Auditor Controller, District Attorney, Assessor, Sheriff, and Clerk Recorder by election.

This would forestall the sort of conflict that ensued when the Clerk Recorder position became vacant and the Board appointed a successor. Gibson criticized the proposal as too costly. This is a limited Charter, which does not revise the basic structure of the County itself.

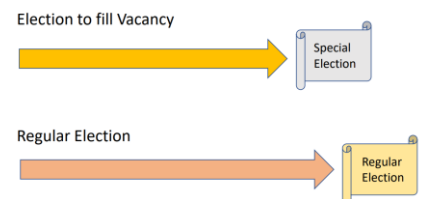
Current Proposed Language:

A. If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is 180 days or greater, then the vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the electors of that district at a special election to be called by the Board of Supervisors not more than 30 days after the vacancy occurs, except that if the vacancy occurs within 180 days of a regularly scheduled election held throughout the supervisorial district, the election to fill the vacancy may be consolidated with that regularly scheduled election. The person receiving the highest number of votes in that election shall fill the vacancy.

B. If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is less than 180 days, then the vacancy shall remain vacant until the vacancy is filled through the next regularly scheduled general election.

Alternative: This alternative would provide greater flexibility in timing, which, in turn, could avoid the high cost of a countywide election for one of the Constitutional officers (Sheriff, DA, Clerk-Recorder, Assessor, and Auditor-Controller in some cases).

If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is 365 days or greater, then the vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the electors of that district at a special election to be called by the Board of Supervisors not more than 30 days after the vacancy occurs, except that if the vacancy occurs within 180 days of a regularly scheduled election held throughout the supervisorial district, the election to fill the vacancy may be consolidated with that regularly scheduled election. The person receiving the highest number of votes in that election shall fill the vacancy.



Financial Considerations (Estimated):

- To submit Charter to voters: \$353,000
- Consolidated General Election to fill Countywide vacancy: \$313,000
- Special Election to fill Countywide vacancy: \$1,000,000
- Consolidated General Election to fill a BOS office: \$66,500
- Special Election to fill a BOS office: \$354,000

CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Enacted [date]

Effective: [date]

We, the People of the County of San Luis Obispo, with a desire for self-determination in selecting our county elected officials and to initiate the process to govern our county by charter government, do hereby adopt this charter.

ARTICLE I. POWERS OF THE COUNTY.

Section 100. The County of San Luis Obispo is a political subdivision of the State of California. It has all the powers provided by the constitution and laws of the state and this Charter. It has such other powers as necessarily implied.

ARTICLE II. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

Section 200. Governing Body. The governing body of the county is a Board of Supervisors of five (5) members elected by and from designated supervisorial districts.

Section 201. Filling of Vacancies in the Board of Supervisors. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of supervisor, the vacancy shall be filled as follows:

- A. If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is 180 days or greater, then the vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the electors of that district at a special election to be called by the Board of Supervisors not more than 30 days after the vacancy occurs, except that if the vacancy occurs within 180 days of a regularly scheduled election held throughout the supervisorial district, the election to fill the vacancy may be consolidated with that regularly scheduled election. The person receiving the highest number of votes in that election shall fill the vacancy.
- B. If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is less than 180 days, then the vacancy shall remain vacant until the vacancy is filled through the next regularly scheduled general election.

Section 202. Filling of Vacancies in Other Elective Offices. Whenever a vacancy occurs in any elective county office, other than in the Board of Supervisors, the vacancy shall be filled as follows:

- A. If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is 180 days or greater, then the vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the electors at a special election to be called by the Board of Supervisors not more than 30 days after the vacancy occurs, except that if the vacancy occurs within 180 days of a regularly scheduled Countywide election, the election to fill the vacancy may be consolidated with that regularly scheduled election. The person receiving the highest number of votes in that election shall fill the vacancy.
- B. If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is less than 180 days, then the vacancy may either remain vacant until the vacancy is filled through the next regularly scheduled election or the Board of Supervisors may fill the vacancy as provided by general law.

Section 203. Continuation of Office. Any person holding an office, either elective or appointive, on the effective date of this Charter shall continue in office pursuant to the provisions of this Charter.

ARTICLE III. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Section 300. General Law Governs. Except as expressly set forth in this Charter, the general law set forth in the Constitution of the State of California and the laws of the State of California shall govern the operations of the County of San Luis Obispo.

Section 301. County Ordinances Enacted by the Voters Remain in Effect. Ordinances of the County of San Luis Obispo adopted by the voters prior to the enactment of this Charter shall remain in full force and effect and may only be modified or repealed by a vote of the people.

Section 302. Severability. If any provision of this Charter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Charter, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

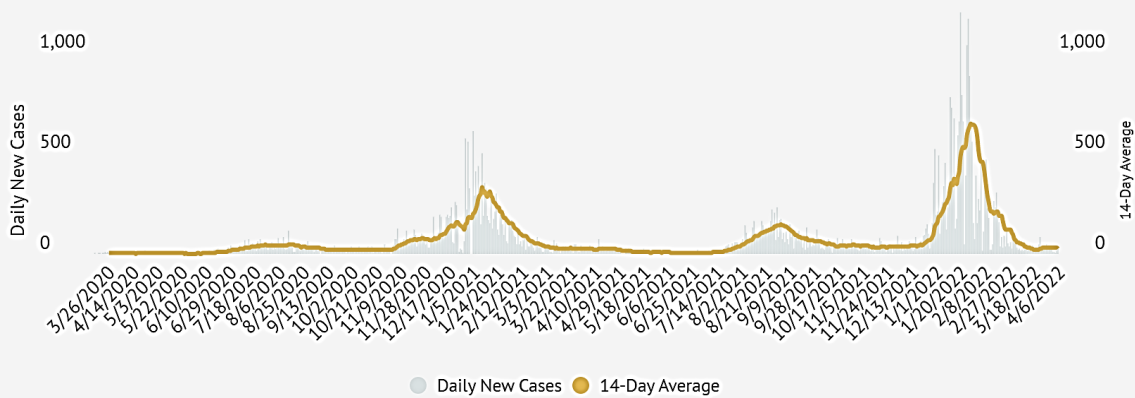
[END OF COUNTY CHARTER]

June 21, 2022	SUGGESTED LAST DAY San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution/ordinance placing a measure on the November 8, 2022, Consolidated General Election ballot.
June 23, 2022	BY THIS DATE the Elections Official shall send the Notice Calling for Submission of Primary/Rebuttal Arguments FOR and AGAINST the measure to be published.
July 22, 2022	PRIMARY ARGUMENTS DUE – LAST DAY for proponent(s) to change or withdraw Primary Arguments.
July 22, 2022	IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS DUE from County Counsel. FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT DUE from Auditor (if directed by B.O.S.)
July 23 - August 1, 2022	PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD - Primary Arguments, Impartial Analysis, Fiscal Impact Statement (if applicable).
August 2, 2022	REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS DUE - LAST DAY for proponent(s) to change or withdraw Rebuttal Arguments.
August 3 – 12, 2022	PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD - For Rebuttal Arguments Only.
August 29, 2022 *	ELECTION OFFICIAL'S DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF LOCAL MEASURE INFORMATION TO PRINTER: Submission of ballot/sample ballot material to printer by County Elections Official.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID. The decline in cases and hospitalizations is now the lowest it has been since the pandemic first arrived in SLO County.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



3 Hospitalized (1 in ICU)

Item 2 - Gas prices.

CA Average vs. US Average

Gasoline: CA is \$1.31 per gallon higher than the rest of the US

Diesel: CA is \$1.15 per gallon higher than the rest of the US

Electricity (Commercial Rate): CA is 121.8% higher than rest of the US

Electricity (Residential Rate): CA is 75.2% higher than rest of the US

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 NIHILISM OF THE LEFT

In pursuit of its utopian omelet, the Left cares little about the millions of middle-class Americans it must break to make it.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

The last 14 months have offered one of the rare occasions in recent American history when the hard Left has operated all the levers of federal government. The presidency, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the permanent bureaucratic state are all in progressive hands.

And the result is a disaster that is uniting Americans in their revulsion of elitists whose crazy ideas are tearing apart the fabric of the country.

For understandable reasons, socialists and leftists are usually kept out of the inner circles of the Democratic Party, and especially kept away from control of the country. A now resuscitated Bernie Sanders for most of his political career was an inert outlier. The brief flirtations with old-style hardcore liberals such as George McGovern in 1972 and Mike Dukakis in 1988 imploded the Democratic Party. Their crash-and-burn campaigns were followed by corrective nominees who actually won the presidency: Southern governors Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

Such was the nation's innate distrust of the Left, and in particular the East Coast elite liberal. For nearly half a century between the elections of John F. Kennedy and Barack Obama, it was assumed that no Democratic presidential candidate could win the popular vote unless he had a reassuring Southern accent.

How did the extreme Left manage its rare takeover of the country between 2018 and 2020? Certainly, Obama's election helped accelerate the woke movement and energized identity politics. One could also argue over the political opportunities in 2020 following the devastation of COVID-19.

In the long term, the medicine of lockdowns and quarantines probably proved more calamitous than the disease, and this crisis mode made doable what had once been unimaginable. State governors such as Gavin Newsom, Gretchen Whitmer, and Andrew Cuomo did not let the pandemic crisis go to waste. It was a rare occasion to leverage agendas that otherwise had no public support in ordinary times.

In the chaos of 2020, both laws and customs were altered or scrapped—changing the very way we vote. Over 102 million ballots were either mailed in or cast during so-called “early voting”—strangely resulting in far lower rejection rates in most states than in past “normal” years of predominantly in-person voting on Election Day. Indeed, in just one year, Election Day went from an American institution to an afterthought.

The hatred of Donald Trump prompted an influx of hundreds of millions of dark dollars from Silicon Valley to supplant the responsibilities of registrars in key precincts with armies of paid activists. A *non compos mentis*, basement-bound Joe Biden was cynically given an “Ol’ Joe from Scranton” moderate veneer to pursue a calibrated hard-Left agenda.

So Americans ended up with a neo-socialist government. It is proving as disastrous as it is bitterly instructive—reminding this generation of Americans what the Left does when it grasps power. As all restraints came off, the hard and now unbridled Left went to work to turn America into something like a looney, one-party California. A wide-open border followed. We may see 3 million illegal aliens cross at the southern border during the first 18 months of the Biden Administration. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been allotted to reward those illegally entering America, who can expect free legal support from the U.S. government to ensure they are not subject to the laws of the United States.

In a sane world, Biden would have been impeached for deliberately destroying the very federal laws he swore to uphold. On the prompt of his hard Left controllers, he was eager to alter the

electoral demography of the nation rather than ensure immigrants came in reasonable numbers, legally, with audit and background checks, and safely in a time of a pandemic. The former *illegal* arrivals were seen as needed constituents, the latter legal immigrants too politically unpredictable.

The Left in about a year has negated American gas and oil independence. Biden, who promised to end America's use of fossil fuels on his watch, cast adrift millions of his fellow citizens to choose between driving and eating. Much of what the Left had traditionally demonized and wanted gone from American life—from gasoline to beefsteak to new pickup trucks—became so inflated in price as to be nearly unattainable.

The electrician now pays five times more for his wire, the carpenter eight times more for his plywood, the plumber six times more for his pipe—as all three have to pay off-the-books cash for rare workers who prefer to get checks from the Biden Administration. The Biden printing press has destroyed both the idea that all citizens will work if there are just good-paying jobs, and that affordable necessities for life—food, fuel, and shelter—form the basis for a middle-class life.

If the Left did all that in 14 months, imagine what it can still do before losing the Congress in 2022.

The Biden Administration's profligate multitrillion-dollar budget, inflation of the currency, *de facto* zero interest rates, destructive subsidies that undermined labor participation, and incompetence at addressing the supply-chain and clogged port crises will all by midyear likely achieve a 10 percent annualized inflation rate. Carter-era stagflation is on the near horizon.

When an American president predicts a food shortage in what used to be the breadbasket of the world, then we see the wages of socialism in all their unapologetic cruelty. When the Left can scarcely hide its glee that diesel fuel hit \$7 a gallon in California, the public is finally seeing that the Bidens, Newsoms, and AOCs of the world care nothing for the real-life consequences of their elite utopian green fantasies. How did America ever stoop to begging communist Venezuela, theocratic Iran, and dictatorial Russia to pump oil for us that we have in abundance but will not produce? Which insane person thought up the idea of using Vladimir Putin's Russia as our mediator to restart the Iran Deal?

The now unfettered woke revolution seeks to Trotskyize American history and its heroes. A disastrous foreign policy of appeasement has ended U.S. deterrence. After the worst military humiliation in 50 years in Afghanistan, Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea all seek to capitalize on a rare American Phaethon moment. The world's superpower has turned over the reins of its deterrence chariot to a ninny and his gurus. And before crashing the country, they aimlessly rebound from one self-created crisis to the next self-induced disaster.

The Clerks Come Out

Aside from the dismal left-wing political record, the public has also witnessed an unapologetically leftwing federal bureaucracy now completely unbound. Our top echelon of the administrative state is defiant in its weaponized assumption of legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

We are learning that the likes of Anthony Fauci have all but destroyed the reputation of once time-honored federal health agencies. In their contradictions, about-faces, and deceit, they focused mostly on controlling their multibillion-dollar public fiefdoms, hounding critics, rewarding sycophants, politicizing “science,” hiding culpability about routing money to lunatic gain-of-function research in China, and marginalizing outspoken voices of audit.

The military apparat after Afghanistan—defined as woke Pentagon functionaries, revolving door and politically weaponized corporate generals, and outspoken politicians—managed the impossible: a once revered military now cannot even win a 50 percent vote of confidence from the American public.

The intelligence agencies are worse. Former kingpins such as John Brennan and James Clapper, both pundits for hire on leftwing cable networks, lied under oath before Congress without consequences. When 50 retired intelligence officials during the Biden 2020 campaign claimed publicly that Hunter’s laptop was likely a Russian plot, what then is left of any semblance of nonpartisan professionalism and integrity?

James Comey, Andrew McCabe, and Christopher Wray have all eroded the reputation of the FBI by fueling the Russian collusion hoax, the Alfa Bank hoax, and the Hunter laptop disinformation hoax. Since when does the FBI go after journalists in their underwear or moms and dads at school board meetings, as if it is now an extension of the teacher union or DNC?

Along with Robert Mueller—who claimed no knowledge of either the Steele dossier or Fusion GPS—the Washington FBI hierarchy did to the agency what Lois Lerner infamously did to the IRS. Just as Lerner became an extension of the Obama 2012 reelection effort and corrupted tax law, so the FBI descended into becoming the wayward Biden family’s retrieval service—eager to keep quiet Hunter’s incriminating laptop and to rescue Ashley Biden’s lurid diary.

When the evidence becomes overwhelming that the collusionary media lied about the laptop or the origins of COVID-19, there is never a retraction, only a Soviet-style silence about past untruth. And then it is on to the next false narrative.

Add in the conduct of FBI luminaries such as the forger Kevin Clinesmith, Lisa Page, and Peter Strzok, who preferred to investigate conservatives rather than enemies of the nation. What characterizes, then, our once revered intelligence agencies is not just institutionalized mediocrity. Rather it is a dangerous zeal to enact by fiat politicized agendas that *cannot* otherwise be ratified by a legislative vote—all with the expectation that these sanctified agents of political change are above the law and will be rewarded accordingly.

Our Ill Institutions

Americans had tuned out many of our major institutions that are now openly hostile to American exceptionalism. In their nihilism, leftists seek to destroy the very organizations they absorbed.

Professional sports? Multimillionaire basketball players are more likely to refuse to salute their own flag than to say a word of dissent to their autocratic and often ethnocentric Chinese paymasters.

Higher education? A Yale law school dean contextualizes the loud disruption of free speech by leftist law students at a conference. Only that way can she ensure that rules about open expression remain theoretical, and not real for the woke.

Entertainment? Hiring, promotions, and awards are now based as much on race, gender, and sexual identity as on merit.

Forty years ago, face slapper Will Smith would likely have been removed from the Oscar ceremonies for rudely shouting and interrupting the worldwide show. Twenty years ago, he might still have been rebuked for profanity and yelling the F-word in a live televised event. Now he is neither arrested nor even removed for physically assaulting comedian Chris Rock. His belated contrition is belied by his refusal to leave the ceremony and to go dancing and partying into the post-assault wee hours. Will there be open brawling on stage next year?

The Left got what it wanted and now controls academia, the media, the internet, K-12 education, corporate boardrooms, the Pentagon, Wall Street, and Hollywood. And they more or less have turned each of these into versions of *Pravda*. The sermons, arrogance, and narcissism of these woke cultural imperialists now explain why they are disliked as much abroad as they are at home.

In sum, we are watching a rare laboratory experiment in which the traditional American fringe is now in control of the government. In pursuit of its utopian omelet, the Left cares little about the millions of middle-class Americans it must break to make it. The result is an unmitigated disaster that not only has tarred the Democratic Party, corrupted once-revered agencies, and alienated half the country from our cultural institutions, but now endangers the very health and security of the United States.

Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of *The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won*, *The Case for Trump* and the newly released *The Dying Citizen*. This article first appeared in the American Greatness of April 3, 2022.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY IS AN ABUNDANT
SOURCE OF SELF-DECEPTION
PERHAPS THE REAL COLLUSION IS WITH LEFTIST
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND RUSSIA
BY NED RYUN**

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen made a startling statement in the summer of 2014: “I have met allies who can report that Russia, as part of their sophisticated information and disinformation operations, engaged actively with so-called non-governmental organizations—environmental organizations working against shale gas—to maintain European dependence on imported Russian gas.”

Of course, Russia’s efforts to undermine natural gas production are not limited to Europe. In December 2019, Fiona Hill testified during the ridiculous Trump impeachment hearings that Russian President Vladimir Putin “saw American fracking as a great threat to Russian interests” and that a U.S. fracking ban would “play into strengthening Putin’s hands.”

As *Forbes* contributor Dan Eberhart noted at the time, “That’s because natural gas supplies are central to European economic markets. Not only do more abundant gas supplies make the U.S. stronger, but they make us more capable of supplanting Russia as a key supplier of European gas.”

Fast forward to 2022.

Many EU countries are fully committed to adopting renewable energies. Germany will decommission its last nuclear power plant by the end of the year. And Germany, France, the Netherlands, Scotland, and Bulgaria have effectively banned fracking, even though Europe has more recoverable shale gas than even the United States.

But despite a nearly \$600 billion investment in renewable energy, Germany finds itself importing most of its energy needs, in the form of natural gas and oil, from Russia. Germany has been punched in the face by reality: renewables will never meet the energy needs of a large country. In fact, not even close. After years of anti-fracking environmental activism in Europe, EU nations pay Russia over \$1 billion per day for energy. Many European countries, and even the United States, are being completely manipulated and played on the energy front.

All of this should lead people to ask a legitimate question, based on the proof already available: How many of the environmental and renewable energy organizations have received, and are perhaps still receiving, funding from Russia? How many of the leftist environmental groups beating the drums for the fairy-dust dreams of solar and wind energy to “save the planet” are, in fact, Putin’s useful idiots? Are leftist environmental groups, knowingly or unknowingly, colluding with Russia in an effort to prevent the United States and Europe from regaining energy independence?

Perhaps some of the answers lie in the feces-smear, syringe-laden, homelessness-abounding metropolis of San Francisco, where an NGO called the Sea Change Foundation placed its headquarters. Putin, through a middleman, has allegedly used this environmental group to funnel Russian government money to leftist environmental groups “in order to undermine U.S. natural gas and oil production to Russia’s benefit.” Tens of millions of dollars have been funneled through a Bermuda-based company, Klein Ltd., to the Sea Change Foundation to fund anti-fracking, anti-energy independent organizations and policies.

Recently, Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee wrote to three leftist environmental groups, including the League of Conservation Voters, the Natural

Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club, to inquire about their funding sources and possible connections to the Russian government through the Sea Change Foundation.

The letter states:

It has been alleged that Putin is using a San Francisco-based eNGO, the Sea Change Foundation (Sea Change), to funnel money into U.S.-based environmental advocacy efforts designed to undermine American energy production. According to a 2014 report, Sea Change receives contributions from a 'Bermuda-based company called Klein Ltd.' which is used 'for funneling Russian government money to American environmental groups in order to undermine U.S. natural gas and oil production to Russia's benefit.

The letter goes on to ask each organization if its officers were aware of potential Russian funding of Klein, if they had lobbied against hydraulic fracturing at the federal and state level, and if so, whether that lobbying was funded through Sea Change grants.

Though all the groups have profusely denied any and all connections, this isn't the first time they've been investigated. Republicans made similar inquiries in 2017 and 2015.

Naturally, the press has gone out of its way to sideline the story. *Washington Post* "fact-checker" Glenn Kessler, for example, wrote a piece last month about the Sea Change Foundation and potential Russian funding, calling the allegation bogus. Kessler, of course, has made a career of running interference for the Left. So when Kessler says, in effect, "there's nothing to see here," best look closer. It's long past time to get to the bottom of who is really funding these leftist environmental groups.

Our country must be committed to the idea that our national security is integrally linked to our energy independence, which includes rejecting the asinine ideas of net-zero, renewable gobbledygook that could be nothing but Russian disinformation campaigns. Europe's national security is dependent upon its energy independence. Keeping Russia inside its borders in the future depends on the United States and Europe not being dependent on Russian energy and not filling Putin's coffers with money to fund misadventures like the Ukrainian invasion.

Apparently, it's a shocking concept, but we need to stop funding our enemies to our own detriment. That means rejecting the fool's errand of renewables and committing every resource to make America an energy superpower again.

Ned Ryun is a former presidential writer for George W. Bush and the founder and CEO of American Majority. You can find him on Twitter @nedryun. This article first appeared in the American Greatness of April 4, 2022.



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