



**WEEKLY UPDATE
AUGUST 14 - 20, 2022**

THIS WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

LAFCO LITE

LAST WEEK

SLO BOS

HIGHER SALARY RANGE FOR BOS EXEC ASSISTANT POSITION APPROVED

**DISPUTE BETWEEN COUNTY AND COASTAL COMMISSION
WILL DELAY ADUs IN COASTAL ZONE FOR A YEAR**

FIVE YEAR PLAN TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS APPROVED

**CENTRAL COAST ENERGY RATE SPREAD NARROWS
OPERATIONS BOARD MEMBERS DAZED & OVERWHELMED**

IWMA

ANOTHER LITE MEETING

COASTAL COMMISSION SEA LEVEL RISE

**COMMISSIONERS WARNED CITIES AND COUNTIES THAT MANAGED RETREAT
DESIGNED TO TAKE OVER COASTAL PROPERTY IS NOT NEGOTIABLE**

**SUPERVISOR GIBSON, WHO REPRESENTS THE COUNTIES ON WORKING PANEL,
STATED THAT THE RULE SHOULD BE TAILORED TO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS**

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, HUNTINGTON BEACH & MALIBU RESISTING

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID LOW IN COUNTY

MONKEY POX NOT IN SLO COUNTY SO FAR – AS OF JULY 29TH

4TH DISTRICT RECOUNT COMPLETE

CLERK RECORDER REPORTS HAND COUNT SAME AS MACHINE COUNT

GOVERNOR ASKS FOR LOAN FOR PG&E TO KEEP DIABLO OPEN

COLAB IN DEPTH

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THE COMING WAR ON AGRICULTURE

BY JOHN HINDERAKER

DEMS WANT BILLIONS MORE FOR 'GREEN ENERGY'

DOUBLING DOWN ON THEIR FAILURES

BY BRUCE THORNTON

FBI, R.I.P.?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, August 18, 2022 (Scheduled)

The meeting agenda is very lite and pertains only to internal operations.

LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, August 9, 2022 (Completed)

Item 25 - Submittal of a resolution to establish the salary range and bargaining unit for the new classification of Executive Assistant to the Board of Supervisors. The Board approved the staff request to beef up the salary for the position assigned to coordinate matters for their office. The position was reclassified from Secretary to Executive Assistant.

The Secretary – Confidential classification currently assigned to the position that performs secretarial and clerical duties for the office and staff of the BOS does not adequately encompass the complexity, breadth of scope, and impact of a support role for this office. The existing Secretary-Confidential classification supports a single department head or agency director and does not account for the inherent complexity and responsibility of supporting five elected officials. This has necessitated creating this new classification.

The primary responsibilities of the Executive Assistant to the BOS position will include providing high-level administrative support to the Board and their Legislative Assistants, such as managing multiple BOS calendars, email management and correspondence, reception duties for the public facing Board office, payroll coordination functions for the Board and their Legislative Assistants, and occasionally providing a response to the public on behalf of the BOS. Other duties will include administration of programs that fall under the Board’s umbrella, including Maddybook appointments and the District Community Grant Program.

Classification Title	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Monthly Min	Monthly Max	Bargaining Unit
Executive Assistant to the Board of Supervisors	\$24.21	\$25.42	\$26.69	\$28.02	\$29.42	\$30.89	\$4,196.40	\$5,354.27	11

Item 26 - Request to continue the hearing to acknowledge receipt of the California Coastal Commission's resolution of certification and consider acceptance of the California Coastal Commission's suggested modifications (LCP Amendment No. LCP-3-SLO-20-0059-2) for the County of San Luis Obispo's proposed Local Coastal Program Amendment to amend the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (Title 23 of the San Luis Obispo County Code) as it relates to accessory dwelling units. The Board approved the continuation of the hearing for up to one year.

Background: The County submitted the coastal version of its new zoning (in accordance with State mandates) for permitting ADUs to the Commission for a Coastal Plan Consistency determination. The Commission staff disagreed with some of the County’s provisions and wanted to impose its changes on the County. In turn, the County declined. Back in July, the Commission accepted a County request for

an extension of one year for the bureaucrats to attempt to resolve the issues. Note that these are not detailed in the write-up.

No applications for ADUs in the County's unincorporated coastal areas can be processed for or at least a year while the bureaucrats slug it out over this one. Thus in Los Osos, Cambria, Avila Beach, Cayucos, and Oceano, your aging mother is likely to die of old age before she can move into a new ADU.

Item 39 - Five Year Plan to Prevent and Reduce Homelessness - Implementation. The proposal was approved unanimously after a detailed presentation and a number of questions by Board members.

The full plan can be seen at the link:

[Microsoft Word - DRAFTSLOCountywidePlanHomelessnessHSOCAApproved.docx](#)

At The Meeting: The Board and audience lavished great praise the staff, HSOC, cities, and homeless serving not-for-profits that worked on the proposal.

This item detailed the structure, staffing, funding, and other resources necessary to execute the Plan, which the Board has already reviewed and approved. It is specific and is linked to performance outcomes to be achieved over the 5-year schedule. It provides a reporting and analysis component to be able to measure the outcomes against plan. It consolidates existing staff from several departments into a new unit (Division) designed to provide the administrative authority to execute the plan.

Our only recommendations included:

1. Rent office space and supply phone, computer, and other services to house the new consolidated unit in one space. This will allow the members to form as a team and operate absent distractions that will occur if they are housed in their old offices and scattered in different buildings. A dedicated meeting room or two and a break room will be important to develop comradery and Esprit de corps for the new unit. One of the meeting rooms should be sufficient to accommodate interagency meetings, presentations, and trainings. Don't be pound foolish and penny wise in establishing the program.

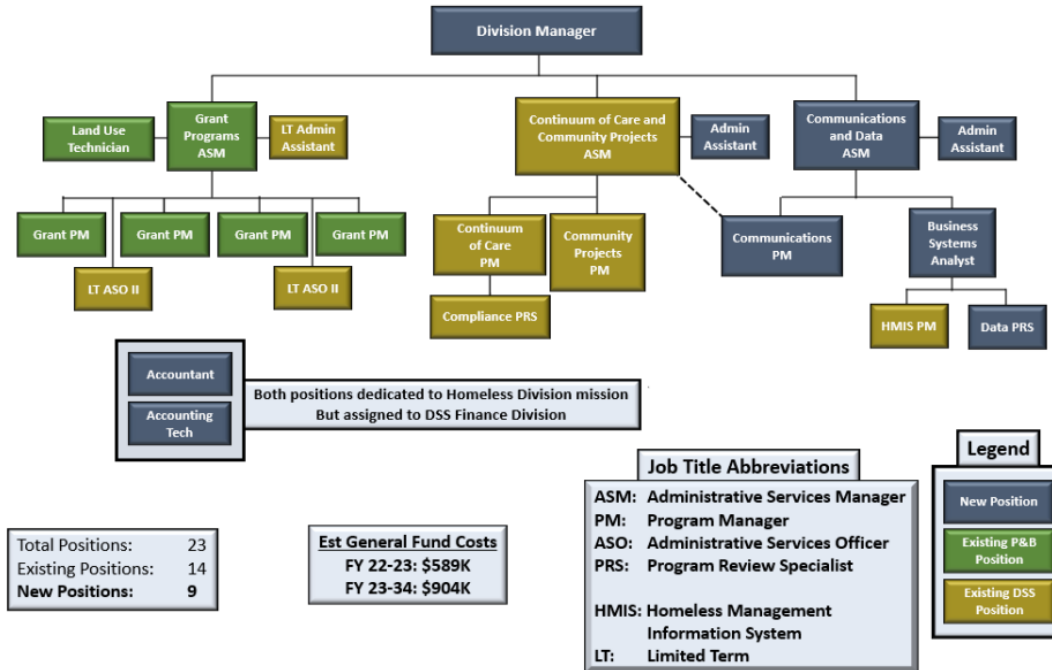
There appears to be an abundance of vacant office and former retail space in downtown San Luis Obispo. Many spaces have been vacant for several years. The identifiable presence of the new Homeless unit, visible within the downtown where there is so much homeless activity, would be a good gesture.

2. The proposed plan calls for administratively assigning the new division **within** the Social Services Department. Given the high profile of the homeless problem, it would be more effective to have the new division head report to the CAO or Assistant CAO during the early years of operation. Assigning the unit to the large Social Services Department, which has many line production functions already, will devalue its purpose and undermine its prominence. Relatedly, and rather than casting the unit head as a Division Manager, make it an Assistant to the CAO or even a Department head to provide the stature and authority necessary to execute the complex interdepartmental and interagency programs.

3. There needs to be some form of actual control mechanism for those who resist or fail to complete program or who relapse. Justice is not just for the perpetrators. It should also be for the victims and society too.

Attachment 3

Proposed Organizational Structure for the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services Homeless Services Division



Central Coast Community Energy Authority (3CE) Operations Board Meeting of Wednesday, August 10, 2022 (10:30 AM) (Completed)

Item 10 - Support the Framework of and Key Changes Proposed in the CCCE FY 2022-23 Operating Budget. The Board approved roll back of a proposed rate decrease because volatility of electric supply rates is increasing due to elimination of gas generating plants and exponential increases in the price of natural gas. Even though 3CE claims not to buy electricity generated by natural gas, it does admit that the overall situation will drive up the price of all sources.

The action will now be considered by the 3CE Policy Board in September.

At the meeting:

There was a lengthy technical explanation of the need for the roll back in the rate reduction schedule. Rising energy costs, potential contract abrogation by some of 3CE's suppliers (and consequent need to buy new sources on the spot market, which is very expensive), volatility in the charges assigned by the CPUC for energy generating facilities paid by prior PG&E customers, and State requirements that 3CE have hedge supply contracts to guard against blackouts all figured into the discussion.

3CE management also wishes to keep building its uncommitted reserves in order to issue debt to invest in power generating companies and battery storage facilities. The idea seems scary. For example, if

3CE issues \$300 million in revenue bonds, is each member jurisdiction responsible for paying off its proportion if it determines to leave 3CE? What if 3CE were to default or go out of business?

Most of the City Managers and County Administrators, who compose the operations Board, were very quiet and seemed overwhelmed. Only Capitola City Manager Jamie Goldstein asked a series of questions. Santa Barbara County CEO also asked a couple of questions. Both eventually went along with the staff recommendation, which was approved unanimously.

Background:

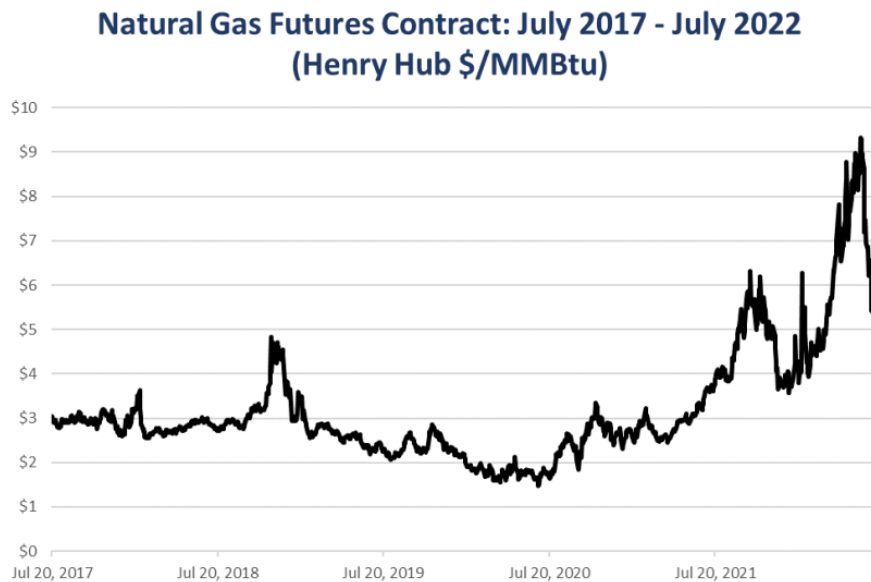


Figure 1: Henry Hub Front Month Futures Contract. Source: US Energy Information Administration

The market price for power products has increased, with long-term prices and market liquidity reflecting uncertainty around the long-term California power supply-demand balance, market rules, natural gas volatility, and long-term price equilibrium.

CCCE does not intend to renegotiate signed PPAs in response to developers' project delays and requests for price renegotiation.

CCCE will, to the extent feasible, assist developers to deliver contracted-for projects by negotiating liquidated damages or delaying commercial operation deadlines. As a result, CCCE may face the possibility of procuring replacement power and open market power at much higher prices than contemplated during the past five years. Should developers fail to deliver the contracted-for projects, 3CE will continue to procure additional clean and renewable resources to reach the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030. That new project procurement, however, may be at a higher price than those negotiated in historic market lows. Additionally, CCCE could face potential penalties imposed by the CPUC.

Considering the sizable increase in power supply cost, staff currently propose to reduce rates for customers in the PG&E service area by 1 c/kWh for Calendar Year 2023 and 2024 instead of the 2 c/kWh reduction that was anticipated in December 2021.

It is not clear from the presentation what this will mean to the overall bill; however, the table below shows that the spread between PG&E and 3CE will narrow if the projected reduction is not implemented. For example, the typical residential 3CE customer was expecting to save 16 cents versus the PG&E rate. This will now narrow to 3%. The typical agriculture user was supposed to save 13%. It appears that this will change to a 1% increase over what PG&E charges.

Caution: All this is speculative and subject to world and national forces, inane government policies, and decisions to allow gas plants to stay on-line, keep Diablo open, and so forth.

CUSTOMER CLASS	RATE COMPARISON (c/kWh)					
	CCCE PROJECTED 2023 BASE RATE	PROJECTED 2023 PCIA	CCCE PROJECTED 2023 ALL-IN RATE (BASE + PCIA)	PG&E PROJECTED 2023 ALL-IN RATE	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROJECTED 2023 CCCE AND PG&E RATES	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT CCCE RATES AND PROJECTED PG&E 2023 RATES
RES	9.0	1.5	10.5	12.5	-16%	-3%
SM COM	9.7	1.5	11.1	13.5	-17%	-5%
MED COM	8.2	1.6	9.7	12.3	-21%	-7%
LG COM	7.5	1.4	8.9	10.2	-13%	4%
AGR	8.3	1.4	9.6	11.0	-13%	1%
SL	7.8	1.3	9.1	10.8	-16%	-1%

Estimated rate projections. Average rates calculated based on sampled customer consumption patterns.

Some Current Rates: PG&E lists the current rate differences per the sample tables below. It appears that the typical 3CE customer is saving \$10.40 cents per month. Last year the rates were much closer; however, PG&E raised its rates last spring. Now it appears that the difference will narrow again.

Residential *

Tiered Rate Plan E-1*

Residential: E 1	PG&E	3Cchoice
Generation Rate (\$/kWh)	\$0.12433	\$0.10400
PG&E Delivery Rate (\$/kWh)	\$0.19464	\$0.19464
PG&E PCIA/FF (\$/kWh)	\$0.02653	\$0.02044
Total Electricity Cost (\$/kWh)	\$0.34550	\$0.31908
Average Monthly Bill (\$)	\$136.19	\$125.77

Monthly usage: 394 kWh

E-6*

Residential: E 6	PG&E	3Cchoice
Generation Rate (\$/kWh)	\$0.11715	\$0.10330
PG&E Delivery Rate (\$/kWh)	\$0.19534	\$0.19534
PG&E PCIA/FF (\$/kWh)	\$0.02653	\$0.02044
Total Electricity Cost (\$/kWh)	\$0.33902	\$0.31908
Average Monthly Bill (\$)	\$182.98	\$172.22

Monthly usage: 540 kWh

SLO County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Board Meeting of Wednesday, August 10, 2022 (1:30 PM)

Light Agenda: The agenda was short, containing a review of the prior month's expenditures and the approval of a contract for the disposal of electronic waste, such as cell phones, TVs, computers, and defunct solar panels. The recycler pays the IWMA for some items, and the IWMA must pay the recycler to take some items. Stand by as more and more solar panels enter the waste stream. It is going to get more and more expensive.

California Coastal Commission Board Meeting of Friday, August 12, 2022, (Completed)

Item 4 - Public hearing on joint workshop with the League of Cities, California State Association of Counties, local government officials and the California Coastal Commission (CSAC) to discuss sea level rise adaptation and Local Coastal Program (LCP) Updates.

The panel, which includes city and county representatives (Supervisor Bruce Gibson is the panelist representing the counties and Pismo Mayor Ed Waage is a city rep), delivered a long presentation (about 3 hours) on issues that the localities are attempting to resolve with the Commission and its staff.

The key issue is the Commission requirement that cities and counties amend their local coastal zoning ordinances to compel managed retreat from sea level areas and coastal bluff tops. This is highly controversial, and the citizens in most communities are highly resistive. When the cities and counties do not comply, the Coastal Commission refuses to certify their coastal plans and coastal zoning ordinances. This in turn forces them to stop processing any permits in the coastal zone.

Much of the presentation was by the City of Morro Bay and the County of Santa Barbara, detailing how they worked or did not work with the Commission staff. Morro bay was successful and eventually received approval. We do not know what they had to sacrifice. Santa Barbara County could not reach agreement, realizing that the Commission's stance was anti-private property. The County therefore withdrew its application.

There was considerable rhetoric about cooperation and compromise, although several Commissioners, including the Chair, expressly stated that they would not compromise on the issue of managed retreat.

In the end, Supervisor Gibson gave his usual "high level" paean about how there is hard work to do and we must tailor this to specific situations, good science, and all the usual blather.

Background:

- Review progress of Local Government Sea Level Rise (SLR) Working Group
- Share experiences and lessons from Local Coastal Program (LCP) update processes
- Highlight LCP grants program and make available Working Group products for adaptation planning and LCP updates
- Highlight specific issues raised in the June LCP Webinar session for local planners ▪ Collect public input on goals for the Working Group efforts in 2022

Supervisor Gibson is one of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) representatives on the panel. Who knows what agenda he is pushing in the absence of any SLO Board of Supervisors action on the matter? The overall policy of the State, the State Oceans Council, and the California Coastal

Commission is to compel the cities and counties to adopt plans and ordinances that force managed retreat. This means abandonment of property near the ocean, which might flood. This is achieved by means of projecting sea level rise and then forbidding permit approval for new structures or rehabilitation of structures in the zones identified. Even property on bluffs is impacted because the ocean undercuts bluffs.

Managed Retreat D.1 Removal Conditions/Development Duration New development on private property located in hazardous areas shall be conditioned to require that it be removed and the affected area restored at the applicant's expense if: (1) any government agency with relevant authority and jurisdiction has ordered that the structures are not to be occupied due to hazards, or be removed; (2) essential services to the site can no longer feasibly be maintained (e.g., utilities, roads); (3) removal is required pursuant to LCP policies for sea level rise adaptation planning; or (4) the development requires new and/or augmented shoreline protective devices that conflict with LCP or relevant Coastal Act policies. In addition, permits shall include a condition stating that the development approval does not permit encroachment onto public trust lands and that any future encroachment must be removed unless the Coastal Commission determines that the encroachment is legally permissible pursuant to the Coastal Act and authorizes it to remain, and any future encroachment would also be subject to the State Lands Commission's (or other trustee agency's) leasing approval. Such condition shall be recorded on a deed restriction against the subject property.



Figure 18. Photo depicting a development setback in Pismo Beach. (Source: [California Coastal Records Project](#))

The ultimate goal is to socialize all waterfront property by driving the private property owners out. The Board ought to check what the Supervisor is peddling when he is at these policy development meetings.

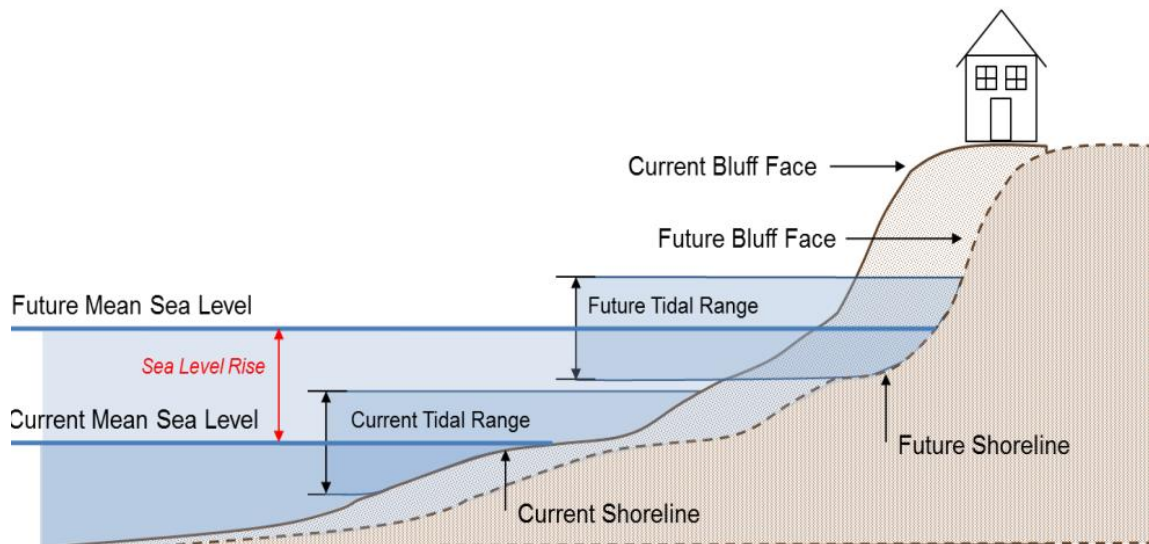


Figure B-5. Bluff erosion with changes in sea level. (Source: L. Ewing, 2013).

Table G-7. Sea Level Rise Projections for the Port San Luis Tide Gauge¹¹² (OPC 2018)

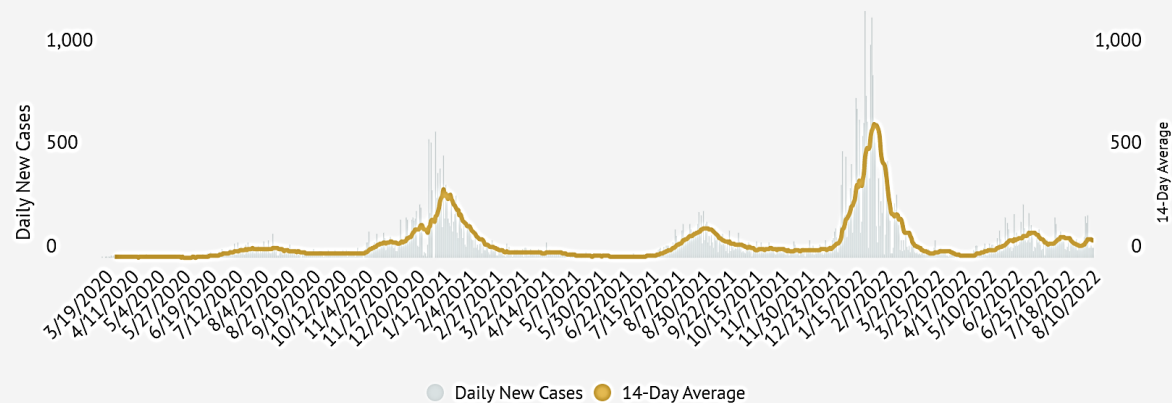
Projected Sea Level Rise (in feet): Port San Luis			
	Probabilistic Projections (in feet) (based on Kopp et al. 2014)		H++ Scenario (Sweet et al. 2017)
	Low Risk Aversion	Medium-High Risk Aversion	Extreme Risk Aversion
	<i>Upper limit of "likely range" (~17% probability SLR exceeds...)</i>	<i>1-in-200 chance (0.5% probability SLR exceeds...)</i>	<i>Single scenario (no associated probability)</i>
2030	0.5	0.7	1.0
2040	0.7	1.2	1.6
2050	1.0	1.8	2.6
2060	1.3	2.5	3.7
2070	1.7	3.3	5.0
2080	2.1	4.3	6.4
2090	2.6	5.3	8.0
2100	3.1	6.7	9.9
2110*	3.2	7.0	11.6
2120	3.7	8.2	13.8
2130	4.3	9.6	16.2
2140	4.8	11.1	18.7
2150	5.4	12.6	21.5

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1- COVID. The virus’s daily new cases jumped up a little. At this point it appears that the vaccine is temporary and does not prevent infection. Authorities claim that it reduces the severity if you do catch it. The County reports that 64.2% of its 537 deaths were not vaccinated. Last week a new animal to human infection was spreading in China. Shrews are the reported culprits.



Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



17 (2 ICU) **SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

Item 2 - District 4 Hand Count. The Clerk Recorder finished the hand count and reports that it is the same as the machine count. It is not clear what the analysis will reveal about the voting or the next steps.

FINAL RECOUNT RESULTS:	Paulding	Compton
Recount Tally	10,769	10,130
Certified Results	10,769	10,130

The group which funded the audit is reportedly field testing the results with the voters to determine if the results match data on the ground.

Item 3 - Governor proposes State loans and other measures to keep Diablo running. COLAB has been pushing relicensing of the plant since 2011. No one in SLO County or Santa Barbara County ever lifted a finger to help until the SLO BOS adopted a resolution on a 4/1 vote (Gibson dissenting) to support keeping the plant open.

California proposes to extend life of last nuclear plant at cost of \$1.4 billion

Gov. Gavin Newsom's office said the nuclear plant is an important part of a clean energy transition.



Governor Gavin Newsom talks to reporters during a press conference at the construction site of a water desalination plant in Antioch, Calif., Aug. 11, 2022. | Godofredo A. Vásquez/AP Photo

By **LARA KORTE**

08/12/2022 07:49 PM EDT

Gov. Gavin Newsom has proposed keeping open California's last nuclear plant for up to another 10 years as the state wrestles with how to meet power demand while it reduces its reliance on fossil fuels for energy.

Plans to start closing the Diablo Canyon Power Plant over the next three years would be halted at a cost of up to \$1.4 billion under draft legislation Newsom sent to legislators late Thursday, angering some of the governor's environmentalist allies.

Diablo Canyon provides nearly a tenth of the state's electrical power. Critics have long sought its closure for reasons that include the potential danger of a radiation leak because of earthquakes along the seismically active central coast of California. It was scheduled to close by 2025.

The proposed legislation would direct the California Public Utilities Commission to set a new closure date of Oct. 31, 2029 for one unit, and Oct. 31, 2030, for the other, according to the governor's office. By 2026, regulators could consider an extension, but not beyond Oct. 31, 2035.

The bill would carve out an exemption from state regulations to allow operators to maintain operations at the plant without conducting extensive technical analysis of the environmental effects.

Extending the life of the nuclear plant would come at a cost. Pacific Gas & Electric, which operates the plant, applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's \$6 billion program to preserve the operations of nuclear power plants — though it's unclear how much will be granted, or when. The language proposed by Newsom's office this week would allow the state to grant PG&E a \$1.4 billion forgivable loan to cover the costs of relicensing. Any extension would additionally require approvals by federal, state and local regulatory entities, the governor's office said.

PG&E said it is prepared to keep the plant running. "We are proud of the role that DCPD plays in our state, and we stand ready to support should there be a change in state policy, to help ensure grid reliability for our customers and all Californians at the lowest possible cost," the utility said in a statement.

Newsom in recent weeks has been praised for his calls for bold action on climate change, which includes speeding up the state's carbon neutrality goals and transition to renewable energy. But news of this proposed extension for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant angered environmental advocates, who lambasted the governor for proposing the state circumvent its environmental protection laws to keep the plant going.

Newsom drew criticism this year for proposing legislation that would allow the state to buy more fossil fuel-powered electricity in an emergency. Legislators, some of them reluctantly, passed that measure with the hope the state would use its remaining \$3.8 billion in the energy budget for more ambitious climate action.

A joint statement from Environment California, Friends of the Earth and the Natural Resources Defense Council said legislators should reject Newsom's new bill "out of hand."

"The findings used to justify these extraordinary provisions include no citations to published studies by any California regulator or agency recommending a further life extension for Diablo Canyon because there are none," the statement said. "With Governor Newsom and the legislature working to appropriate climate budget funds and advance ambitious climate legislation in the waning days of the legislative session, this proposal is a dangerous and costly distraction."

The governor's communications director, Erin Mellon, said the state is focused on maintaining energy reliability while accelerating efforts to combat climate change.

"The Governor supports keeping all options on the table as we build out our plan to ensure reliable energy this summer and beyond," Mellon said in a statement. "This includes considering a limited term extension of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, which continues to be an important resource as we transition away from fossil fuel generation to greater amounts of clean energy, with the goal of achieving 100 percent clean electric retail sales by 2045."

This article first appeared in Politico on August 12, 2022. Lara Korte covers state politics and is a co-author of POLITICO California Playbook. She previously covered the Capitol for The Sacramento Bee, and prior to moving to California covered higher education in Austin, Texas.

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 COMING WAR ON AGRICULTURE

BY JOHN HINDERAKER

You probably know about what has happened in Sri Lanka, where the government's attempt to impose organic farming led to food shortages, impoverishment, and a revolt that caused that country's prime minister to flee. Also the Netherlands, where the government's attempt to drastically reduce fertilizer use has led to massive protests by farmers that continue to this day.

At Hot Air, Jazz Shaw notes that farmers in other countries are up in arms as well:

There are already protests by farmers taking place in a number of countries besides the Netherlands, though the farmers there are currently drawing the most headlines. Similar uprisings are happening in Spain, Ireland, and New Zealand. There are food shortages gripping a number of countries around the world, but our elite climate warriors are pushing to reduce food production rather than expanding it.

Next up is Canada:

Undaunted by the uproar in the Netherlands over the impact on farmers of rules limiting nitrogen emissions, Canada's government is now looking to go down a similar route.

The Financial Post:

The government is proposing to cut emissions from fertilizer 30 per cent by 2030 as part of a plan to get to net zero in the next three decades. But growers are saying that to achieve that, they may have to shrink grain output significantly at a time when the world is scrambling for more supplies.

Also at stake is the estimated \$10.4 billion that farmers could lose this decade from the reduced output.

Cattle and fertilizer are key sources of nitrogen emissions.

Global warming religion is international, and the same anti-farming movement is coming soon to the U.S., the world's number one agricultural economy. The first target will be nitrogen-based fertilizers, which are a principal foundation of the world's ag productivity. Without fertilizers, the world will go hungry.

That leads to target number two: animals, especially cows. By far the largest crop in the U.S. is corn, and that corn is fed to cows and pigs to produce steaks, ground beef, bacon, pork chops, and so on. Liberals will argue that this is "inefficient." People should live on vegetables and insects, and animal

husbandry should be phased out. The fact that cattle also emit methane, primarily by chewing cud, makes their decline an added bonus from a global warming perspective.

Will the Left's war on agriculture succeed? I don't know. The Sri Lankan government pushed it until mobs invaded the prime minister's residence. The government of the Netherlands isn't giving an inch, despite massive and prolonged civil disobedience by farmers. Justin Trudeau apparently likes what he sees in those countries. And consider the Left's war on energy: I never would have imagined that it could get as far as it has.

I think many liberals are essentially sadists. They love to boss the rest of us around and make us miserable. If you didn't know better, you might think they spend their days dreaming up ways to humiliate their fellow citizens. "Here's an idea—let's screw up the grid to produce blackouts, so that people turn on the lights and nothing happens!" "They'll never stand for that." "We'll make them stand for that, and like it, too!" "Here's another idea: let's tell people they can no longer eat hamburgers and bacon, they have to eat crickets and vegetables!" "What? No one is crazy enough to go along with that." "Sure they will—all we have to do is tell them it's necessary to save the planet."

Making food scarce and expensive, so that much of the population is threatened with starvation, has another benefit for liberals. They can respond by writing people checks representing food subsidies. Thus they turn millions of formerly self-sufficient Americans into government-reliant serfs. It's a win-win, if you are a liberal.

All of this is coming to the U.S. soon. We have seen the opening shots fired, as environmental groups have tried to block the expansion of dairy herds on the ground that cows cause global warming. We have seen the price of meat skyrocket, so that many Americans have had to change their eating habits. Already, if you look at ingredient lists on food products, you may see ground-up crickets. And the effort to delegitimize eating meat, especially beef, like the effort to delegitimize air travel, is under way.

I will hazard one more guess: when the Left looked for another state to follow California's lead on automobile emissions, where did they go? Minnesota. When the Left wanted to spread California's "ethnic studies" curriculum into the Midwest, where did they go? Minnesota. When the Left launches its full-scale war on American agriculture, where will that war begin? It won't be Iowa. It will be Minnesota. And Minnesota currently has a governor and an administration that would be willing to lead the anti-food charge.

A final comment: global warming is a great boon to the Left because every human activity emits carbon dioxide. In fact, human beings emit carbon dioxide simply by living. So if you believe that carbon dioxide is the worst possible threat to the world, it justifies absolutely any government action that leftists might want to take.

So conservatives, and conservative politicians, need to stop conceding the premises of global warming to the Left. "Climate change"—that is, the theory of catastrophic anthropogenic global warming—has been decisively refuted as a matter of science. But it lives on as a religion for those seeking meaning in their lives, and as a cynical political tool of the Left. Conservatives need to stop conceding moral high ground to environmental Leftists, and instead attack them head-on.

John Hinderaker is President of Center of the American Experiment. He spent 41 years as a litigator with Faegre & Benson and its successor Faegre Baker Daniels, during which time he tried 100 jury cases and appeared in courts in 19 states. This article first appeared in the Power Line of August 6, 2022

DEMS WANT BILLIONS MORE FOR 'GREEN ENERGY'

DOUBLING DOWN ON THEIR FAILURES

BY BRUCE THORNTON



Democrat Sen. Joe Manchin, who courageously slammed the brakes on the Dems' drunken-sailor Build Back Better tax-and-spend spree, seems to have lost his nerve. He has reached a deal with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's more modest but still pernicious \$739 billion bill with the Orwellian moniker Inflation Reduction Act, the fiscal version of destroying the village in order to save it.

If this bill passes, it will be yet another instance of throwing money into the "Green Energy" hole that's already swallowed Germany and other EU countries.

The bill is economically absurd. Take the mystifying idea that an economy going through the biggest inflation in 40 years caused by printing and redistributing too much money, just as it slipped into a recession needs the government to throw nearly a trillion dollars more at it. As the Wall Street Journal sardonically [asks](#), "Is their aim to reduce inflation by chilling business investment and the economy?"

But perhaps the worst part of the bill is the big chunk, \$369 billion, that will be bestowed on "green energy subsidies," "incentive," and tax rebates for fighting "climate change," the euphemism for

anthropogenic, catastrophic global warming. The Dems seem not to have noticed that Germany, the world's fourth largest economy, and the most aggressive at killing off carbon-based energy and transitioning to "renewables" like wind and solar, is facing a fiscal crisis.

Why? Even though the man they deemed a braggadocious dunce, Donald Trump, warned them about getting hooked on Russian gas and oil, Germany gambled its economy on that transaction in order to morally preen about their globalist sensibility and moral superiority to those greedy MAGA American flat-earthers who refuse to "follow the science."

It turns out, though, that plenty of scientists aren't on board the Climate-Change Titanic. Just last month two professors—William Happer, Emeritus Professor of Physics at Princeton, and Richard Lindzen, Emeritus Professor of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences at MIT—[testified \(summary here\)](#); see too their earlier [essay](#)) before Congress about the SEC's proposed rule-change that would force publicly traded companies to adopt policies to slow down global warming, in effect drafting them into the daft war on fossil fuels.

The conclusion reached by this meticulously documented brief is that despite the claims of "settled science," "science demonstrates that there is no climate-related risk caused by fossil fuels and CO2 and no climate emergency." Yet even if one disputes this stark dismissal, there are plenty of other critics like theoretical physicist Steve E. Koonin (Unsettled), who expose just how uncertain the science is that underlies the current understanding of global climate change: "The science is insufficient to make useful projections about how the climate will change over the coming decades, much less what effect our actions will have on it." Given this uncertainty, it is the height of irresponsibility to spend trillions of dollars and put at risk the global economy.

Then there are those who question the alleged solutions to the "energy crisis," solar and wind power. As Germany is learning from experience—the Romans' "teacher of fools"—according to Bjorn Lomborg,

Solar and wind are incapable of delivering the power needed for industrialization, powering water pumps, tractors and machines — all the ingredients needed to lift people out of poverty. As rich countries are now also discovering, solar and wind energy remain fundamentally unreliable. No sun or wind means no power. Battery technology offers no answers: [today](#) there are only enough batteries to power global average electricity consumption for one minute and 15 seconds. Even by 2030, with a projected rapid battery scale-up, they would last less than 12 minutes. For context, every German winter, when solar is at its minimum, there is near-zero wind energy available for at least five days — more than [7,000 minutes](#).

Next, Vaclav Smil in *How the World Really Works* documents how the modern world, which has liberated billions of people from hunger, disease, want, and the destructive vagaries of an indifferent natural world, has been made possible by coal and other fossil fuels. Four products especially important for modern life—synthetic nitrogen fertilizer, steel, plastics, and cement—all depend on fossil fuels for their production. This means, as Smil writes, "Both the high relative share and the scale of our dependence on fossil carbon make any rapid substitutions impossible." We are many decades away from replacing fossil fuels with "renewable" energy from wind and solar. Even electric cars, which states like California want to replace all gasoline-powered automobiles, are not viable in large numbers without the fossil fuel which still generates the electricity EVs need for recharging.

Finally these policies that arose in the rich West are callously indifferent to the impact on the developing world of eliminating the very fossil fuels that powered the West's rise to global preeminence and affluence. We Westerners can afford, for a while, to experiment with alternatives to fossil fuels, although Europe's energy crisis reminds us there are hard limits to how far and how fast we can go. But as Smil writes, "that is not the case with the more than 5 billion people whose energy consumption is a fraction" of that in the affluent West, and "who need much more ammonia to raise their crop yields to feed their increasing populations, and much more steel and cement and plastics to build their essential infrastructures."

Meanwhile, as Bjorn Lomborg [writes](#), Western climate policies ignore the more pressing issues like rising food and energy prices. We just had a graphic example in Sri Lanka, where the government took Western advice to eliminate nitrogen-based fertilizers from their farming, and then collapsed into anarchy after the country descended into famine. The war in Ukraine has impacted energy supplies and prices, Lomborg, acknowledges. "But," he adds, "things wouldn't be nearly as bad if the West hadn't thrown up green roadblocks to its own energy security, such as President Biden's moratorium on gas leases or Europe's refusal to dig into its substantial shale gas reserves."

Subsidies to "green energy" industries also impact energy prices by creating barriers to developing more oil and gas production. Especially in poorer countries, food supplies are also affected by bans on nitrogen, which reduce the productivity per unit of soil. "Low-cost synthetic fertilizer," Lomborg writes, "is one of the greatest technologies humanity has invented for feeding the world, but it's mostly made with natural gas. Even with almost a billion people at risk of starvation, climate-obsessed bureaucrats [still object](#) to producing more fertilizer because of the fossil fuels required."

Worst of all, given that 80% of the world's energy comes from fossil fuels, the fanciful goal to reach zero carbon emissions by 2050 would cost \$5 trillion dollars a year, a bill that would devastate the developing world. And, Lomborg goes on, "even if all current climate policies were fully implemented, by midcentury fossil fuels would still provide more than half of all energy used world-wide, [according](#) to the International Energy Agency." The cost of that energy obviously would be much more punitive for the developing world.

Yet despite the lessons of Europe's energy shortages; despite the revisionist scientists who have exposed the bad science propping up the warmists' doomsday narratives; despite the heartless indifference to the plight of poor developing nations caused by such climate policies, the Dems are trying to double-down on their failures.

And they are doing this all to keep the "green energy" grift going, at the same time further degrading the health of our economy, just so the failed president and his party can score a legislative "win" for their left-wing base before the midterm elections.

Bruce Thornton is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article first appeared in the Hoover Daily Update of August 9, 2022.

FBI, R.I.P.?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

The FBI is dissolving before our eyes into a rogue security service akin to those in Eastern Europe during the Cold War.

Take the FBI's deliberately asymmetrical application of the law. This week the bureau surprise-raided the home of former President Donald Trump -- an historical first.

A massive phalanx of FBI agents swooped into the Trump residence while he was not home, to confiscate his personal property, safe, and records. All of this was over an archival dispute of presidential papers common to many former presidents. Agents swarmed the entire house, including the wardrobe closet of the former first lady.

Note we are less than 90 days out from a midterm election, and this was not just a raid, but a political act.

The Democratic Party is anticipated to suffer historical losses. Trump was on the verge of announcing his 2024 presidential candidacy. In many polls, he remains the Republican front-runner for the nomination -- and well ahead of incumbent President Joe Biden in a putative 2024 rematch.

In 2016 then FBI Director James Comey announced that candidate Hillary Clinton was guilty of destroying subpoenaed emails -- a likely felony pertaining to her tenure as secretary of state. Yet he all but pledged that she would not be prosecuted given her status as a presidential candidate.

As far as targeting presidential candidates, Trump was impeached in 2020 ostensibly for delaying military aid to Ukraine by asking Ukrainian officials to investigate more fully the clearly corrupt Biden family -- given Joe Biden at the time was a likely possible presidential opponent in 2020.

The FBI has devolved into a personal retrieval service for the incorrigible Biden family. It suppressed, for political purposes, information surrounding Hunter Biden's missing laptop on the eve of the 2020 election.

Previously, the FBI never pursued Hunter's fraudulently registered firearm, his mysterious foreign income, his felonious crack cocaine use, or his regular employment of foreign prostitutes.

Yet in a pre-dawn raid just before the 2020 election, the FBI targeted the home of journalist James O'Keefe on grounds that someone had passed to him the lost and lurid diary of Ashley Biden, Biden's wayward daughter.

At various times, in Stasi-style the FBI has publicly shackled Trump economic advisor Peter Navarro, swarmed the office of Trump's legal counsel Rudy Giuliani, and sent a SWAT team to surround the house of Trump ally Roger Stone. Meanwhile, terrorists and cartels walk with impunity across an open border.

FBI Director Christopher Wray last week cut short his evasive testimony before Congress. He claimed he had to leave for a critical appointment -- only to use his FBI Gulfstream luxury jet to fly to his favorite vacation spot in the Adirondacks.

Wray took over from disgraced interim FBI Director Andrew McCabe. The latter admitted lying repeatedly to federal investigators and signed off on a fraudulent FBI FISA application. He faced zero legal consequences.

McCabe, remember, was also the point man in the softball Hillary Clinton email investigation -- while his wife was a political candidate and recipient of thousands of dollars from a political action committee with close ties to the Clinton family.

McCabe took over from disgraced FBI Director James Comey. On 245 occasions, Comey claimed under oath before the House Intelligence Committee that he had no memory or knowledge of key questions concerning his tenure. With impunity, he leaked confidential FBI memos to the media.

Comey took over from Director Robert Mueller. Implausibly, Mueller swore under oath that he had no knowledge, either of the Steele dossier or of Fusion GPS, the firm that commissioned Christopher Steele to compile the dossier. But those were the very twin catalysts that had prompted his entire special investigation into the Russian collusion hoax.

FBI legal counsel Kevin Clinesmith was convicted of a felony for altering an FBI warrant request to spy on an innocent Carter Page.

The FBI, by Comey's own public boasts, bragged how it caught National Security Advisor designate General Michael Flynn in its Crossfire Hurricane Russian collusion hoax.

As special counsel, Mueller then fired two of his top investigators -- Lisa Page and Peter Strzok -- for improper personal and professional behavior. He then staggered their releases to mask their collaborative wrongdoing.

Mueller's team deleted critical cell phone evidence under subpoena that might well have revealed systemic FBI-related bias.

The FBI interferes with and warps national elections. It hires complete frauds as informants who are far worse than its targets. It humiliates or exempts government and elected officials based on their politics. It violates the civil liberties of individual American citizens.

The FBI's highest officials now routinely mislead Congress. They have erased or altered court and subpoenaed evidence. They illegally leak confidential material to the media. And they have lied under oath to federal investigators.

The agency has become dangerous to Americans and an existential threat to their democracy and rule of law. The FBI should be dispersing its investigatory responsibilities to other government investigative agencies that have not yet lost the public's trust.

Victor Davis Hanson is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and the author, most recently, of The Case for Trump. You can reach him by e-mailing author@victorhanson.com. This article first appeared in the Real Clear Politics of August 11, 2022. It has been widely republished in other journals.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACTION ALERT!!! A Major Opportunity to End Never-Ending Forest Fires!

Dear COLAB Members,

I have some great news! The forest service has apparently realized that a hands-off approach to forest management is serving no one's interests, be it trees, brush, the watershed, wildlife, or the urban-rural interface (read that people!). Allow me to elaborate.

By eliminating thinning, logging, control burns and the like, we allowed our wildlands to create a

density of trees that are up to 10 times more than what is optimal for a healthy forest ecosystem. That is, when there are too many trees and too much underbrush in a forest, the trees find it very difficult to compete for sunshine, nutrients, and water. The trees then become weakened and susceptible to pests and diseases. They end up dying and becoming fuel for ravaging forest fires. The same holds true for overgrown underbrush. Moreover, the overgrown underbrush eliminates foraging habitat for various species that feed on the natural grasslands that should thrive throughout the range.

This hands-off policy has been nothing less than a disaster. Millions of acres have burned in California, resulting in scores of deaths, not to mention entire communities have been lost in the process. Moreover, the deadly Montecito debris flow which claimed over 20 lives and destroyed so many properties is part of a deadly cycle of fires and floods, as denuded landscapes create the perfect conditions for floods and debris flows.

Another concern from these out-of-control wildfires has to do with air quality impacts, which exacerbate breathing difficulties in vulnerable populations. And, in an age where so many people are concerned about greenhouse gas emissions, these wildfires have completely eclipsed any ghg ←? reductions. That is, the releases from these fires obliterated any reductions made by way of regulatory fiat and command-and-control measures.

Below, you will find the notice from the forest service about an environmental review process for the proposed actions. It would be very helpful if you would send in a **constructive and supportive comment** to the Service, because I can guarantee you that certain environmental knuckle draggers in our community, namely the Los Padres Forest Watch among others, will oppose this common-sense measure. That is, these extremists would rather continue to risk the loss of lives and properties via out-of-control wildfires than the use of prescribed-burn measures.

Here is the Notice:

“The Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) is conducting an environmental analysis of the Ecological Restoration Project, which is being proposed on four of the five Ranger Districts of the LPNF. The purpose of this project is to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, reduce fuels, and reintroduce fire on the landscape by prescribed burning on approximately 235,495 acres of land administered by the LPNF, within Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. The project, as proposed, would enhance protection for wildland urban interface (WUI) communities and infrastructure, and improve fire and drought resilience of forested landscapes. This letter is being sent to potentially interested and affected members of the public to solicit comments regarding potential environmental issues to inform the content of the Environmental Assessment (EA) being prepared to evaluate this proposal. Comments received will be used to further refine the proposed action and to identify potential issues to be addressed through the environmental analysis process.”

“This solicitation for public comment helps serve the purpose of “scoping” under the Council of Environmental Quality’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. It is our intention to analyze the proposed action with an EA. Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.7(a)(2), this proposed project implements the Los Padres National Forest Land Management Plan and is subject to the predecisional objection process in §218 subparts A and B.”

[How to Comment:](#)

"We welcome your comments and questions on the proposed LPNF Ecological Restoration Project. To result in the best outcome, please send your specific written comments electronically by **August 28, 2022** to: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=62369>."

Written comments may also be directed to Los Padres National Forest Supervisor's Office, Attention: Kyle Kinports, Forest Planner and Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager, 1980 Old Mission Drive, Solvang, CA 93463. Please state the project name, "LPNF Ecological Restoration Project" on the envelope and your letter when providing comments by mail, or in the subject line if sending by email.

Thank you,

Andy Caldwell

Contact Information
COLAB

PO Box 7523

Santa Maria, CA 93456

For more information,
Andy Caldwell, 805-929-3148
andy@colabsbc.org

Mike Brown
805 944-9474
Mike@colabslo.org

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MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

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