



**WEEKLY UPDATE
JULY 24 - 30, 2022**

THIS WEEK

SUMMER MEETING DOLDRUMS

AGENCIES QUIET – BUT CRITICAL DEVELOPMENTS ONGOING

NO BOS MEETING

MAJOR ELECTIONS QUESTIONS EMERGING

HANDVOTE COUNT OF DISTRICT 4 PRIMARY BEGINS

LAST WEEK

BOS

ELECTIONS OFFICIAL CANTO STONEWALLS ARNOLD’S QUESTIONS

GRAND JURY UNCOVERS WATER TAX BOONDOGGLE

**GRANTS TO NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY AGENCIES
(COUNTY FORCED TO ABANDON STRATEGIC APPROACH)**

GIBSON GIVES \$8,000 TO ATASCADERO SENIOR CENTER

BOS APPROVES ELECTION RESULTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

SOUTH COUNTY REFUSE RATES RISING

ADOPTION OF A RURAL CAMPING ORDINANCE STALLED

CITY OF PASO ROBLES CITY COUNCIL

BARELY EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR MIDSTATE FAIR SURVIVAL DEAL

VOTE WAS 3/2 – WILL THE CITY CUT ITS NOSE TO SPITE ITS FACE?

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID LOW IN COUNTY

WALL STREET JOURNAL

THE WEST'S CLIMATE CHANGE DEBACLE

UTOPIAN ENERGY DREAMS DOING GREAT ECONOMIC AND SECURITY DAMAGE

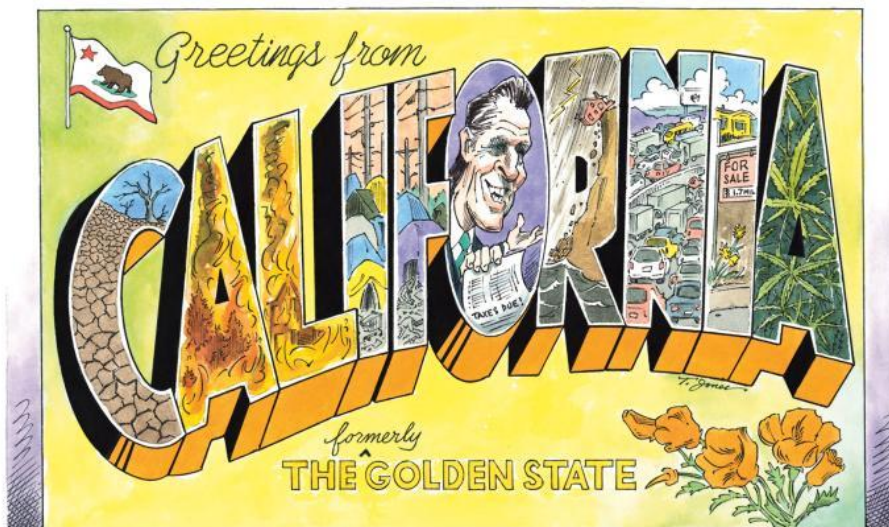
CAL COAST NEWS EXPOSES SLO TRIBUNE

DEFAMATION

THEY HAD TO RETRACT AND APOLOGIZE

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 18



LEFT COASTING THE “CALIFORNIA WAY”

The phrase once suggested innovation and efficiency. On the lips of Governor Gavin Newsom, the words ring hollow.

BY LEE E. OHANIAN

CAL EPA ASSERTS SHOCKINGLY BROAD DOMAIN OVER PRIVATE PROPERTY

Letter: Blumenfeld tells well owners they now must pay for their own water

BY KEN KURSON

THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, July 28, 2022 (Canceled)

The next scheduled meeting is set for Thursday, August 25, 2022.

LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, July 19, 2022 (Completed)

Item 5 - Request to: 1) approve responses to the FY 2021-22 Grand Jury report titled "SLO County’s State Water: A Taxpayer Burden and a General Fund Boon?"; and 2) forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by August 16, 2022. The Board unanimously approved direction to deposit any proceeds from the sale of surplus state water into the correct account. This currently exceeds \$6 million. One of the public speakers brought up the issue of amounts that had been received over the past decades. The County spent the money instead of offsetting the State water portion of the property tax.

This item should not have been placed on the consent calendar. Instead, it should have been re-scheduled as a regular business item for a full presentation and discussion.

Background: The Grand Jury has exposed a boondoggle involving the budgeting and use of revenues derived by the County from the sale of excess state water. All County property taxpayers pay for the County’s contract for about 25,000 acre-feet of State water per year. The County has actually

subscribed to only about 14,000 acre-feet per year. About 5000 acre-feet are used (and paid for) by several water districts and cities. The County actually sells additional acre-feet to various jurisdictions in the County to be used as drought buffer in low rain years. Some is also sold to out-of-County entities.

The Jury found that the resulting proceeds are deposited in various flood district accounts and are used at the discretion of the Board for various water studies and projects. In effect, the Jury has said: Wait a minute; you should allocate this funding to the Water District Property tax account, which would lower the amount of tax that the County must levy for the water.

The County's response seemed incomprehensible, as it is divided up among the responses of three departments and is very fragmented. The fundamental question is: Will the County Board comply with the Jury's findings and recommendations that the revenue attributable to water sales should be budgeted in the account where it would lower the property tax component. The Board should provide clear and public direction to the staff to execute this portion.

During our research, we were informed that it was former Public Works Director Pavo Ogren who directed staff to allocate the funds improperly.

The District Attorney should take the Grand Jury's lead and investigate the legality of the staff's sequestering of the money in alternative accounts where it was used to issue consulting contracts for water studies and all manner of administrative costs.



Item 6 - Request to approve FC 106 – Contributions to Other Agencies grant allocations in the total amount of \$1,617,821 with: 1) \$1,088,118 in Community Based Organizations funding allocations; 2) \$390,000 in Preventative Health grant funding allocations; 3) \$139,703 in Other Agency Requests funding allocations. The Board unanimously approved about \$1.7 million to be divvied up among scores of agencies. The staff had recommended a strategic approach, focusing on homelessness and utilizing a few agencies. However, when the unfunded group rose up and objected, the approach was abandoned.

It is recommended that the Board approve the 2022-23 grant funding allocations as follows:

- *\$1,088,118 in Community Based Organizations grant funding allocations.*
- *\$390,000 in Preventative Health grant funding allocations.*
- *\$139,703 in Other Agency Requests grant funding allocations*

Background: These grants to not-for-profits began in the 1980's, when the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) (The War on Poverty Program) was abolished and locally administered Federal grants ended. Most jurisdictions, such as the County, simply supplanted their general fund dollars to maintain the popular program. The interdependence of the boards of directors of the not-for-profits and the local politicians was too well embedded to make a clean break.

Please see Addendum I on page 38 for details of the distribution.

Item 9 - Supervisor Gibson Seeks Votes in his New District by Doling Out \$8,000 in Patronage Money to a Senior Center in Atascadero. The Board approved the donation unanimously on consent without any discussion.

Peschong and Compton were only in for \$500 dollars each. The funding will be provided from the Supervisors' respective Community Donation accounts. These were set up to provide small donation to jump-start community events and promote public participation.

In this case the funding will be used to fix the Senior Center Roof. The Center's Facebook page reports about 165 people with whom it communicates. Does Gibson actually represent these people yet? He was elected to a district that did not include Atascadero. Some

Some individuals associated with the Center assert that it already has a \$150,000 bank balance and plans to sell the building and move elsewhere. Also, concern that the Senior Center refuses to support a separate nonprofit which provides nutrition at the Center was asserted.

Item 10 - It is recommended that the Board declare the results of the June 7, 2022, Statewide Direct Primary Election, as prescribed by law. Fortunately, Supervisor Arnold pulled this item from Consent and summarized a list of pending questions related to all mail elections, vote harvesting, drop boxes, citizen observation of counting, and the capabilities of the vote counting computer to be manipulated from outside by means of Wi-Fi. The Clerk-Recorder-Election Official who runs the system offered half answers and appeared evasive.

1. **Arnold:** *Does our machine have a ranked choice feature?*

Cano: *No*

2. **Arnold:** *Can we open our machine – to check for chips, modems, if we want to?*

Cano: *All that technical stuff- I'm not going to be able to answer. The system is certified by the State so all the requirements that – for security purposes are listed on the Secretary of State's website.*

COLAB NOTE: If she can't answer question #2, how does she know the answer to #1?

3. **Arnold:** *In our May 4th meeting, Steve Bennet (From Dominion) was at that meeting and I believe he talked about the contract. And the contract pretty much has stipulations that they're the ones that get into the machine. I was just asking. Does Dominion have the capability to communicate with the machine?*

You guys don't know any of that?

Cano: *Dominion does not have access into our system. No they do not.*

COLAB NOTE: If she can't answer question # 2, how does she know?

4. **Arnold:** *He made it sound like they.....*

Cano: *They build the system for us and it's held in the Secretary of State's office, and once that trusted build has been certified, they deliver it down to us. Unless there are upgrades needed by that system that is already certified by the Secretary of State, the upgrades happen behind the scenes.*

5. **Arnold:** *OK – Do we have a contractor that cleans up our voter rolls or do we do those ourselves?*

Cano: *No. We are reasonable for voter rolls ourselves because the Secretary of State is actually the system of record so they, we have vote (muddled) that the Secretary of State manages. And then it gets filtered into (muddled) – it’s constantly talking that a day that it happens – it happens every minute. If you were to request voter data right this minute, and then you asked it in about an hour, I can almost be certain that it’s going to change. It changes with every voter who moves into the area, every register that changes their name, the DMV, whatever. It changes it almost instantly.*

COLAB NOTE: **Cano states the machine can communicate in real time with the Secretary of State’s Office. But it is doing so by means of the software and communications capacity of Dominion. How could Dominion not be communicating with the machine? It’s like saying, “I can communicate with Amazon or anyone on Google, but Google can’t communicate with my computer.” Huh?**

Given the level of public concern, it is again strange that this legally required action was placed on the consent calendar. There were a number of speakers and others who spoke and/or submitted data. County Counsel advised that the Board can declare the results prior to the hand count that has been slated for the 4th District Supervisorial results. In the end, the Board declared the election completed on a vote of 4/1, with Arnold dissenting.

6. **Arnold:** OK – The security cameras? Do we have those on the drop boxes?

Cano: So our drop boxes are all inside many of our County libraries, and city halls, community service district as well as our offices, so they are either staffed or they have surveillance cameras there.

Arnold: Ok, some of them have cameras, some of them do.

7. **Arnold:** Ok, and then I know our staff report and our (muddled) – our check and balance here at the County is our one percent tally. You all conduct the one percent tally, but in the staff report it sounds like it’s not at the end, but sort of sometime during the canvassing process you all do it. It almost sounds like you did it in two segments this time – it talks about you doing such and such, and then at some time, such as such, but by the end you have your 1%.

Cano: Nodded, affirmatively.

Non- agenda Item: Ballot Hand Count in District 4. A private group has funded a hand count of the ballots in District 4. A spokesperson stated that they do not expect the count to change the election results. Their goal is to test the accuracy of the system. Many questions are emerging about the Dominion Voting System, as noted above.

Separately, expert statistical analyses are underway to explore certain characteristics of the system. These will be reported in the future as the facts develop.

Item 24 - Request to approve rate adjustments for solid waste collection services provided by South County Sanitary Services, Inc., and San Luis Garbage Company, Inc., for the unincorporated areas of the County of San Luis Obispo. The rates ,which are up substantially, were approved unanimously on the consent calendar.

Container Service Size	Current Rate	Base Year Rate Increase	Temporary Rate Increase*	Proposed Rate
<i>San Luis Garbage Company – Rural areas near the City of San Luis Obispo</i>				
32 Gallons	\$ 23.17	\$ 3.86	\$ 1.54	\$ 28.57
64 Gallons	\$ 38.28	\$ 6.37	\$ 2.55	\$ 47.20
96 Gallons	\$ 53.39	\$ 8.89	\$ 3.56	\$ 65.84
<i>San Luis Garbage Company – Unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo including the Airport, Rolling Hills, Country Club, Evans Road, and Davenport Creek areas</i>				
20 Gallons	\$ 10.63	\$ 1.77	\$ 0.71	\$ 13.11
32 Gallons	\$ 16.96	\$ 2.82	\$ 1.13	\$ 20.91
64 Gallons	\$ 33.99	\$ 5.66	\$ 2.26	\$ 41.91
96 Gallons	\$ 51.01	\$ 8.49	\$ 3.40	\$ 62.90

*The proposed temporary rate increase amount is due to the delayed rate implementation and will expire January 1, 2023.

Some of the reasons for the increases were listed as:

- Depreciation costs for trucks
- Disposal costs for food and green waste
- Insurance
- Gas and oil

Note, these rates do not include other causes, which will be separately included in the bills:

All other costs including labor, ongoing maintenance, disposal costs at the landfills and materials recovery facilities (MRFs), account for 13% of the total cost increase since 2020, resulting in an impact of 2.96% to the overall rate increase. The costs associated with solid waste management fees used for compliance activities (i.e., Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan implementation, mandatory commercial recycling, organics waste reduction, edible food recovery, etc.) were not included in the requested rate application by the waste haulers. The waste haulers will include the solid waste management fees¹ in the rates billed to their customers.

It is not known if the impacts of SB 1383, the wet garbage recycling mandate, are included here.¹

Item 33 - Request to receive and file a report on a Rural Camping Ordinance and provide staff direction, as necessary. Supervisor Peschong proposed that the Planning Department budget be augmented to allow for sufficient staff and consultant resources to allow the development of an ordinance. He could not attract 4 votes required for a midyear budget transfer. The matter will be taken up again in the fall, when the Board begins preliminary discussion of next year’s budget priorities and the Planning Department workload and priorities.

One way to help move it along would be for landowners to move ahead and open up for camping. They might risk penalties if they get caught, but they might not get caught. Eventually, and if the business boomed, there would be problems in some spots and the County could declare an emergency and promote an interim urgency ordinance if an imminent threat to public health and safety could be proven.

¹ The statewide effort, known as SB 1383, was enacted to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP’s), which contribute to global warming and affect human health. SLCPs remain in the atmosphere for less time than carbon dioxide, but potentially cause more damage. These pollutants, which include black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and hydrofluorocarbons, are responsible for up to 45% of greenhouse gases that impact global warming.

On the other hand, if there is no imminent threat to public health and safety, why should the County care if people establish rural camping until the staff and Board can catch up?

After all, camping by the homeless takes place in various locations, and they receive counseling, free medical care, needles, “Restorative Justice,” and time in the Sound Pod.

Background: Many rural landowners are interested in having the County adopt zoning that would allow them to set up rural campsites. The revenue from these could help augment farm and ranch income. The Planning Department has indicated that it has neither the staff resources nor financing to undertake the planning and environmental analysis necessary to legally prepare the required zoning code amendments. Thus, development of an ordinance could cost up to \$900,000. Led by Supervisor Gibson, the Board delayed approving establishment of a project.

Table 1 – Cost of Rural Camping Ordinance

<i>Board-directed Priority Projects (One-time Project Expense)</i>	FTEs	Staff Cost	Service and Supplies	Consultant Budget	Total Cost
Rural Camping Ordinance	1.50	\$354,554	\$15,163	\$50,000 - \$500,000	\$419,717- \$869,717

The work required is indicative of the accumulative complexity and rigidity that has been built into contemporary County land use substance and process.

The following steps would be necessary to analyze and process the proposed ordinance revisions:

- Consultation with Health and Safety Departments and Agencies:
 - Review rural camping ordinances of other California County jurisdictions.
 - Consult with County Counsel and State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) regarding County versus State jurisdiction over private campgrounds.
 - Consult with County Fire/Cal Fire regarding appropriate fire and life safety standards. Potential standards / requirements including:
 - Fire safety plan, secondary access, road surfacing standards, and any other applicable safety standards.
 - Consult with Environmental Health and Building Division to determine appropriate standards for sanitation facilities including:
 - Portable or composting toilets, facilities required to meet commercial and/or ADA standards, and any other applicable health and safety standards.
- Ordinance Framework:
 - Make edits to the proposed ordinance revisions as necessary to meet applicable health and safety regulations and best practices identified in the research phase.
 - Present framework to the Board to set initial policy direction for ordinance.
 - Analyze staffing for implementation of the ordinance.
- Administrative Draft Ordinance:
- Public Review Draft Ordinance:
 - Once the administrative draft has been vetted internally, staff will then revise the administrative draft, as necessary, and publish a public review draft ordinance on the Department's webpage. Staff will email the ordinance (or a link to the webpage) to all interested parties and will summarize the proposed ordinance, announce the public review period, and provide a timeline of upcoming project milestones.
 - The Department will provide any interested party or review agency with a hard copy of the ordinance if one is requested.

- Agency and Stakeholder Outreach:
 - After publishing the public review draft ordinance, staff will seek formal comments from the public, stakeholders, review agencies, and community advisory groups.
 - This is when staff will often take the ordinance “on the road” by presenting to groups as requested.

- Environmental Review:
 - Conduct environmental review of the Rural Camping Ordinance under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
 - Evaluate the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of future land uses and activities under the proposed ordinance. This would look at the environmental impacts of expanding the areas in the county where small private campgrounds are allowed.
 - The level of environmental review will depend on the scope of the ordinance.

- Public Hearing Draft Ordinance:
 - The public hearing draft will incorporate and reflect input from other County departments, local and State agencies, stakeholders, advisory councils, and other interested parties.
 - The public hearing draft will also be shaped by any recommend mitigation measures of the CEQA document.

- Planning Commission Hearing:
 - Planning Commission review is required for all amendments to the County's Land Use Ordinance.
 - The Planning Commission will review the public hearing draft ordinance and environmental document and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.
 - Depending on the complexity of the ordinance and level of controversy, the Planning Commission may hold multiple hearings before crafting a recommendation to the Board.
 - Based on the Planning Commission comments and recommendations, staff will develop a Planning Commission recommended draft ordinance for Board consideration

- Board of Supervisors:
 - After Planning Commission review, staff will present the Planning Commission recommended draft ordinance and associated environmental document to the Board for final adoption.

- Implementation:
 - If adopted, the Rural Camping Ordinance would become effective 30 days after its adopted.
 - The Long Range Planning Division will setup a framework for implementing new ordinances. This may include: informing the public about the new regulations through the creation of a website, informational handouts, and FAQs; developing internal procedures, new EnerGov workflows, and application forms; and training public information and development review planners on the new or revised ordinance.

No doubt there would be special application fees and additional County staff to monitor compliance. Perhaps at this point it would be more expedient to tell those who wish to do it on their property to go ahead and have some simple lot size minimums, sanitation requirements, and number limits. Another alternative would be to permit them under provisions of the vacation rental ordinance. Instead of a housing unit, the campsites would be registered, and the County could collect TOT.

The backup could be that if it gets out of hand and people do not follow the rules, it would be suspended and would have to go through a full ordinance development process.

City of Paso Robles City Council Meeting of Tuesday, July 19, 2022 (Completed)

Item 15 - Rescinding Resolution 16-141 Approving of an Agreement with the 16th District Agricultural Association for the Sale of a Portion of Pioneer Park Property T. Lewis, City Manager/E. Wagner-Hull, City Attorney.

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 22-XXX rescinding Resolution 16-141 which authorized the City Manager to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the 16th District Agricultural Association for the sale of a portion of Pioneer Park.

The City Council voted 3/2 against the rescinding of the Resolution and extended its deadline to its first Council meeting in November. The 16th Agricultural District is better known as the Mid State Fair Board. The Fair Board wishes to acquire property on the edge of the south boundary of the Fair Grounds near Pioneer Park. The Fair is currently using the land as a staging area, not only for the Fair, but for many of the numerous annual events that are held on the Fair Grounds.

The Fair is otherwise landlocked, and its future viability in Paso Robles is threatened if it is not able to complete the purchase. The negotiations began 5 years ago, and the City and the Fair Board reached an agreement as to price, future use, and other provisions.

The 16th Agricultural District is actually a State entity, and therefore the State owns its land and would ultimately own the newly acquired parcels. At some point, the State General Services Department (GSD), which controls the purchase and disposition of State property, objected to provisions of the agreement, including certain reverters desired by the City in case the Fair moved or desired to change the purposes for which it is being acquired.

Also and as time ran, new State laws related to surplus land were passed, complicating the GSD's provisions. In particular, the State now requires that State land be prioritized for low-income housing on the site now or in the future. Obviously, neither the Fair nor the City want to include provisions for further housing on the site, as the neighborhood is already impacted by poverty and related homeless, drug, and alcohol issues.

The Fair Board has been attempting to negotiate these new provisions out of any revised agreement, but the State was not budging. Furthermore, those negotiations were slowed by turnover of staff of the Fair and COVID, which impacted communications with the State GSD staff. The Fair staff reported during the Council meeting that the State GSD has told them that they would relent. The City staff said they had heard no such thing.

In approving the time extension to complete the agreement, the Paso City Council admonished the Fair Board to get the matters cleared up and return to the City with an agreement that does not contain the objectionable portion.

There was also some undercurrent among some City Council members about the \$800,000 price for 8 acres next to the freeway and accessible by Riverside Street, which had originally been negotiated. It is not clear where the City will come out on this issue. A ball field and skate park are currently on a portion of the site. The City would probably like to move use the proceeds of the sale to build a new ball field with modern facilities.

The Bigger Picture: The City should not want to cut its nose to spite its face. The Fair, itself, and the calendar of annual events bring tens of thousands of people to the City who shop, stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, buy Ag equipment, and personal vehicles, and otherwise contribute to the City economy. A study back in 2015 estimated a \$79 million per year impact. This is much higher now.

More importantly, the Fair is a major piece of the heritage of the Central Coast Region and even the Central Valley. For generations of people, the Fair has been a special highlight of their year. Other events, including stock shows, equipment shows, art shows, charity events, and all the rest have deeply enshrined the Fair in people's lives.

How many people took their sweetheart to the Fair? How many displayed and sold the lamb with they raised? How many have heard the many show stars, who usually only play in much larger arenas in metropolitan cities?

You would think that the City would lease the 8 acres to the Fair for \$1.00 per year for 99 years, rather than risking diminishing or even destroying the asset.

Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, July 21, 2022 (Completed)

Item B-1-1: Study Session on the Dana Reserve Specific Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report. LAFCO is reviewing an application for the proposed development project to be annexed to the Nipomo Community Services District for the purpose of receiving water and waste-water services. The Commission received a full presentation, asked questions, and appeared to preliminarily be supportive of the project.

The Nipomo Community Services District Executive Director spoke in favor of the project, as it provides economies of scale in terms of the District's water procurement costs and would add to the recharge of the underlying water basin. Commissioner Ed Waage (Mayor of Pismo Beach) raised a serious question about the long-range viability of the Nipomo CSD's water purchase contract with the City of Santa Maria, which runs out in 2055.

Commissioners were particularly impressed with the housing opportunities. At some point in the future, LAFCO will consider the annexation to the Nipomo Community Services District for water and sewer service. It will also consider other regional impacts, as noted below.

Background: While the main purpose was to consider water and sewer service, the proposed development is larger and would convert rural land to urban uses. For this reason, LAFCO will also provide a more expansive review of the overall impact of the project on matters within its purview.

While the annexation request will be for services related to water and wastewater provided by NCSD, LAFCO has broad discretion over the project and is required to consider all factors specified in Government Code Section 56668 to fulfill its obligations as a regional agency, as well as any other information in the record or special information requested by the Executive Officer or Commission. Factors that the Commission must consider include but are not limited to the following.

Table 1. LAFCO Mandatory Factors Per Government Code 56668

• Affordable Housing	• Need for Services	• Impact on Adjacent Areas
• Consistency with General Plans and Regional Transportation Plans	• Impacts to Agricultural Lands / Open Spaces	• Environmental Justice
• Consistency with LAFCO Policies	• Sphere of Influence	• Other Agency Comments
• Ability of agencies to provide services	• Availability of water supplies	• Population and Land Use
• Comments from landowner, voters or residents	• Existing information about existing land use	• Definite Boundaries

Ultimately, the County will have the ultimate approval authority over the project, but it would have difficulty if LAFCO for some reason rejected annexation of the project area to the Community Services District as could not provide water and sewer service.



Item B-2-1: Shandon San Juan Water District Annexation & Sphere of Influence Application Status. The Commission took no action and recommended that the District work with the County if it is serious about the annexation. Commissioners Debbie Arnold and Dawn Ortiz-Legg (County Supervisors) both pointed out that the County had no intention of ceding its authority over the area. About 5 years ago, voters within the Paso Basin overwhelmingly rejected creation of a mega district designed to take over from the County. No one was present to explain the reason for the proposed annexation at this time.

Second District voters, who were a significant portion of those rejecting the mega district idea, should carefully ascertain 2nd District Supervisor and candidate for re-election on his previous support for the mega district and the current districts.

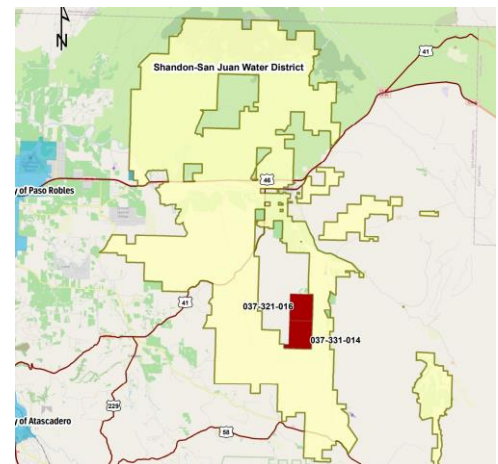
Background: The District has proposed a 2,494-acre annexation. The Commission staff recommends that the application be pended, as it does not meet a key requirement of the enabling Cortese-Knox-Steinberg law, which regulates annexations.

Specifically, a government entity that already provides the proposed services (in this case the County) must agree to cede its authority over the area in regard to the proposed services. The services and regulatory authority are groundwater regulation pursuant to the State Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). One of the key purposes of LAFCO is to prevent the proliferation of government entities when there is already a government entity that provides the proposed services.

The County staff informed the LAFCO that per prior County policy, the Board of Supervisors does not wish to cede its authority.

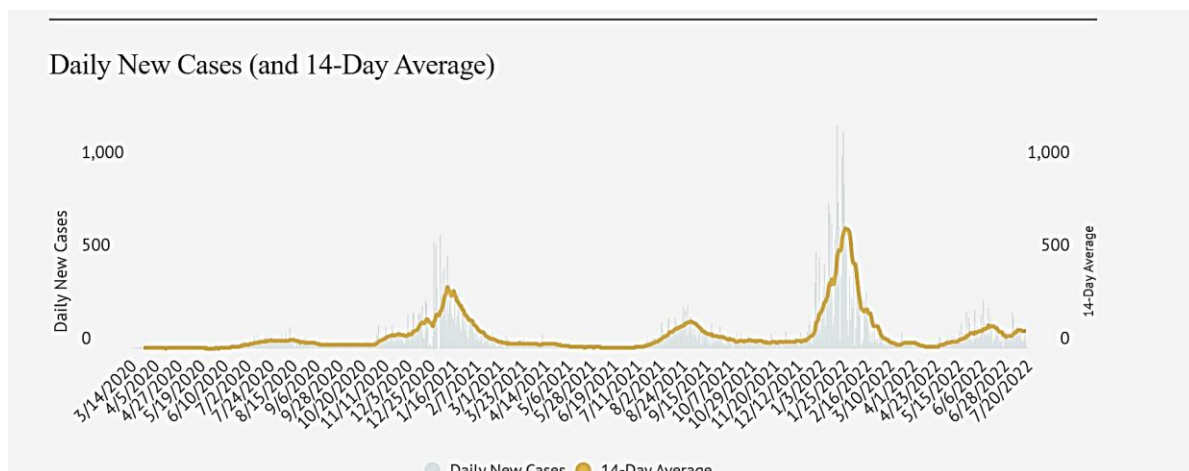
. When the district was proposed, there was opposition to its formation on the grounds that it did not meet the requirements for a water management district, as it could not provide any services. Nevertheless, LAFCO recommended its formation. Now, and at this time, it is acknowledged that the District has no ability to provide any water management services because the County is already the Groundwater Sustainability Agency servicing the area. In fact, the District has no current ability to provide any services in any case.

If adding area to the District is wrong now for this reason, why was it OK back when the District was approved in the first place?



EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID. So far so good in the near term.



6 Hospitalized (1 in ICU) County Residents with COVID-19

Item 2 - A powerful editorial on our suicidal energy policies.

The West's Climate Policy Debacle

Soaring oil and natural gas prices. Electricity grids on the brink of failure. Energy shortages in Europe, with worse to come. The free world's growing strategic vulnerability to Vladimir Putin and other dictators.

These are some of the unfolding results in the last year caused by the West's utopian dream to punish fossil fuels and sprint to a world driven solely by renewable energy. It's time for political leaders to recognize this manifest debacle and admit that, short of a technological breakthrough, the world will need an ample supply of carbon fuel for decades to remain prosperous and free.

* * *

Consider the costly consequences of misguided climate regulation, subsidies and mandates:

- *People even in affluent countries are learning they can no longer take reliable electric power for granted.* Texas's grid operator this month told residents not to use major appliances to avoid rolling blackouts amid a heat wave that brought wind power to a near standstill. Sluggish wind power also contributed to a week-long power outage amid freezing temperatures in February 2021.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation recently warned that two-thirds of the U.S. could experience blackouts this summer. Blame shrinking baseload power generation, which has been replaced by unreliable renewable energy. Regulators can't command the sun to shine or wind to blow.

A third of the nation's coal power and 10% of its nuclear capacity has shut down over the past decade owing to stricter environmental regulation and competition from cheap natural gas as well as heavily subsidized renewables. Natural gas generators have picked up some of the slack. But they are under stress from having to ramp up and down to balance intermittent renewables.

Ironically, grid operators are having to keep coal plants scheduled to retire on life support. Super-green California plans to buy electricity from diesel generators when supply is tight. Grids in Texas and California are teetering, with renewables making up about a third of generation. And President Biden wants the national grid to run on carbon-free power by 2035, as if he can command it to be so.

- *The rushed green transition is driving up energy prices across the board.* Peak-time electricity wholesale prices this summer are projected to more than double in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest, according to the Energy Information Administration. Blame the left's war on pipelines, which has constrained natural gas production even as demand grows.

Surging energy prices are causing some steel and aluminum manufacturers to idle plants. In desperation, manufacturers are urging the Biden Administration to limit liquefied natural gas exports to Europe to lower energy prices, though Europe needs the LNG to avoid freezing this winter.

Retail consumers in much of the U.S. have largely been shielded so far because states limit utility rate increases. But average residential electricity prices in Texas's deregulated power markets have climbed 70% over the past year. Americans can look forward to similar increases in the years ahead—either that, or utilities will go bankrupt as many have in Europe:

- *Supply shortages.* When European power prices soared last summer as wind power slowed, Mr. Putin took advantage by slowing gas pipeline deliveries. That pushed up prices even more, causing some European manufacturers to suspend production. Now Mr. Putin seems ready to cut off all gas supplies.

Europeans are drafting emergency plans to ration supply to manufacturers. But German leaders are still shutting down their three operating nuclear plants by year's end. To quote the final word of "The Bridge on the River Kwai": "madness." Germany must resort to burning coal and oil, as its trillion-dollar investment in wind and solar can't make up for Russian gas.

Berlin is contemplating a bailout of power retailer Uniper. The French government recently announced plans to nationalize its financially struggling nuclear giant Electricite de France SA. The U.K. this spring announced a government takeover of National Grid's transmission system to manage its chaotic shift away from fossil fuels.

During Australia's power crisis last month—the culprit again was too many coal plant retirements—its grid operator suspended wholesale markets and imposed price controls. Failed climate policies are becoming an excuse for more government control of energy production.

- *Empowering dictators.* Europe's climate obsession made itself vulnerable to the Kremlin, but Mr. Putin isn't the only dictator smiling at the West's energy woes. President Biden had to beg the Saudis for more oil production, and his Administration may ease sanctions on Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro for more barrels of production. Iran may be liberated to export oil next.

Do Western leaders recognize or care that their climate monomania is endangering living standards in democracies and empowering authoritarians? Historian Arnold Toynbee argued that civilizations die from suicide, not murder. The West's climate self-destruction may prove him right.

Item 3 - Cal Coast News Exposes SLO Tribune Defamation. The article details the Tribune's latest failed attempt to cover up for 2nd District Supervisor Bruce Gibson's demeaning of 5th District Supervisor Debbie Arnold and women in general. Over the years, the Tribune has provided heavy air cover for Gibson and former Supervisor Adam Hill. The paper owes an apology to its readers and to the women of SLO County in general.

What do its advertisers think they are supporting? Some realtors, restaurants, health care providers, retailers, governments, and especially cannabis merchants are all complicit in supporting rotten, biased, and woke drivel. Why are the lemmings still patronizing their advertisers?

Think of it, the rag still supports closing Diablo, shutting down fossil fuel, and dewatering agriculture.

SLO Tribune changes article, apologizes for defamation

July 20, 2022



By BILL LOVING

The *San Luis Obispo Tribune* has changed a portion of a July 17 article that libeled *CalCoastNews* and reporter Karen Velie. *CalCoastNews* and Velie demanded the retraction on July 19 after the *Tribune* alleged that Velie had “falsely reported” part of a story about the verbal assault that SLO County Supervisor Debbie Arnold suffered at the hands of fellow supervisors Bruce Gibson and Adam Hill.

At the prodding of KVEC radio host Dave Congalton, Arnold said Gibson and Hill cornered her in the back of an elevator in 2013 and screamed at her for disagreeing with them in a Board of Supervisors meeting. Hill sprayed her face with spittle as he screamed at her, she said. Arnold reported the incident to County Counsel Rita Neal, but was told she could not make a complaint, she said.

Gibson responded online, “What I recall of that event, which occurred more than nine years ago and lasted less than one minute, is that Mr. Hill was criticizing Ms. Arnold over a vote she had cast a few minutes before.”

“She alleges harassment and ‘bullying’ by the late Supervisor Adam Hill – and me – during a one-minute elevator ride that happened almost a decade ago,” Gibson wrote. “I don’t badger, berate or scream at anyone.”

Several hours later, Gibson chastised CalCoastNews for reporting Arnold’s allegation, even though he did not return a request to tell his side of the story.

“One other point: In the story, Arnold claimed she tried to make a formal complaint, but was denied the opportunity,” Gibson posted on [Facebook](#). “I’ve seen no record of that attempt. CCN, per its usual ‘journalistic’ rancidity, did not verify that claim.”



Supervisor Bruce Gibson

The *Tribune* repeated Gibson’s allegations in its July 17 article, “SLO County Supervisor said she was bullied by colleagues. Here’s what we know.”

The *Tribune* article said that County Counsel Rita Neal discouraged Arnold from reporting the incident, but did not prevent her from filing a complaint. The defamatory article claimed *CalCoastNews* falsely reported Arnold’s quote about being told that she “could not” make a complaint because she was not a county employee, but rather an elected official.

CalCoastNews reported Arnold’s quote, that, “I was told that ‘hey, if you were an employee of the county you could complain and something might be done, but you are an elected, so get over it and get on with it.’ ”

CalCoastNews responded to the *Tribune* on July 19 with a demand for retraction:

“On July 17, 2022, *The SLO Tribune* published an article entitled “SLO County Supervisor said she was bullied by colleagues. Here’s what we know.” The story was carried in your newspaper, on your website and on social media. The article contains false and defamatory statements about us and we make a demand that you issue a retraction regarding the defamatory statement contained in that article, on paper, on your website, on social media and elsewhere.

“*The SLO Tribune* article reads that, “In a July 12 article on the claims, Cal Coast News falsely reported that Arnold ‘reported the altercation to SLO County Counsel Rita Neal,’ but ‘Neal told her she could not make a complaint’ because she was an elected official and not an employee.” It is defamatory to write that both a reporter and her publication “falsely reported.” The *CalCoastNews* story was and is correct.



Supervisor Debbie Arnold

“Supervisor Debbie Arnold told reporter Karen Velie and *CalCoastNews* that Rita Neal told her she could not make a complaint. Supervisor Arnold has said that she made the statement and that the quoted statement in *CalCoastNews* is accurate. As a journalist, Karen Velie reports the news. She seeks the facts. She does not create the news by pressuring someone to change their statement.

“Not doing what the *SLO Tribune* and its reporter would have done in hindsight does not make the story false.

“In addition, the *SLO Tribune* article mixes a quote by Arnold and a statement to make the claim that Velie and *CalCoastNews* falsely reported the story. The statement that *CalCoastNews* and Karen Velie falsely reported that Arnold said she reported the altercation to Rita Neal, and was told she could not make a complaint, is not false reporting because that accurately quoted Arnold.

“The *Tribune* pushing Arnold to say she had the ability not to follow county counsel’s advice and file a complaint, does not make *CalCoastNews*’ reporting false.

“The *SLO Tribune* and its reporter failed to follow sound and ethical journalistic practices by not contacting reporter Karen Velie before publishing the article and calling her reporting false. Without seeking the facts from Velie, the *SLO Tribune* and its reporter acted in willful blindness.

“In a similar vein, the *SLO Tribune* article published the assertion by one of the alleged bullies, Supervisor Bruce Gibson, that the release of the story was part of a Republican Party smear campaign. That statement further libels Velie and *CalCoastNews* by linking them to a nonexistent Republican plot, doing so by referring to the story and then including the claim about the plot.

“The *SLO Tribune* and its reporter could have contacted KVEC Radio Host Dave Congalton who first made the issue public. The *SLO Tribune* and its reporter could have asked Congalton, who is not a Republican, to confirm or deny Supervisor Gibson’s improbable statement about an alleged Republican smear campaign. Congalton has said it was his idea to ask Supervisor Arnold about the incident in the elevator and that no one contacted or prompted him to discuss the issue on KVEC. Congalton says he became aware of the incident in 2013 but was unable to persuade Supervisor Arnold to discuss it on the radio at that time.

“By this letter and in order to minimize any further damage to our professional reputations, we demand that you immediately remove the libelous statements from your websites and social media posts. We further demand that you immediately issue a retraction on the homepage of your website and on the same page and similar position that the defamatory statement was first published in your paper.”

In its response, *Tribune* staff wrote they regretted the error, have updated the article, and will run clarifications online and in the printed paper.

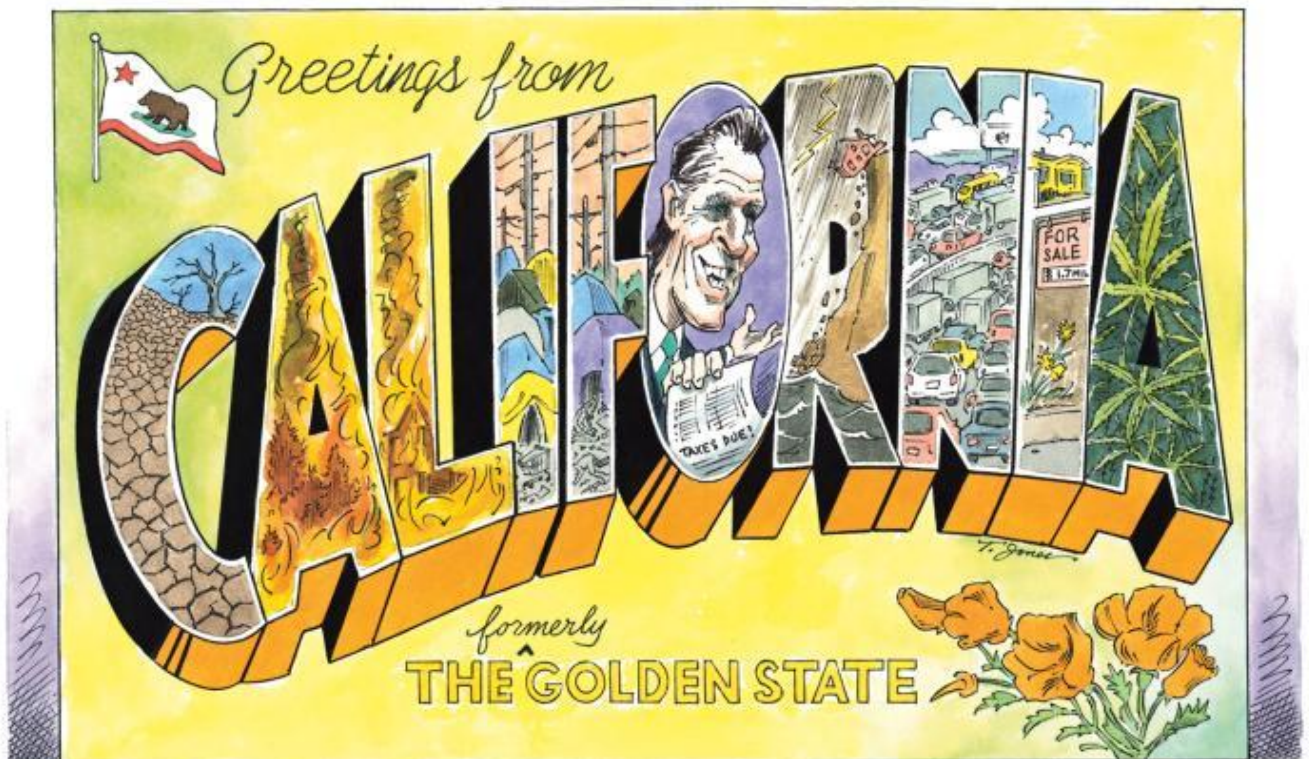
In the [revised article](#), the *Tribune* claims that Arnold told two different versions of the incident. “Arnold told The Tribune a different story,” according to the *Tribune*’s July 20 version of the story. “She said that Neal didn’t prevent her from filing a complaint. Instead, she said she felt generally discouraged to report the incident because she wasn’t a county employee.”

Arnold, however, says that while she could have been more careful at choosing her words, it is the same story.

Bill Loving is the editor of CalCoastNews and a former chair of the Cal Poly Journalism Department. This article first appeared in the CalCostNews of July 20, 2022.

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



LEFT COASTING THE “CALIFORNIA WAY.”

The phrase once suggested innovation and efficiency. On the lips of Governor Gavin Newsom, the words ring hollow.

BY LEE E. OHANIAN

The “California Way” was the theme of Gavin Newsom’s State of the State address last March as the governor tried to draw parallels between California today and the state’s remarkable history of economic success and growth. But Newsom’s attempt to rekindle California’s past glories failed, precisely because what once was the “California Way”—the most innovative private sector in the country, working together with a cooperative, efficient, and highly functional public sector, a public sector that focused on capital investments—is long gone.

Newsom tried hard, but his words rang hollow:

California is doing what we have done for generations, lighting out the territory ahead of the rest, the horizon of what’s possible.

That was the California that many of us knew back in the day. But today’s “California Way” has turned that previous simple model of success on its head, with current state and local governments overtaxing and overregulating and getting in the way and failing any sense of accountability. Governments whose basic functional responsibilities fail to deliver, despite an inflation-adjusted per capita state budget that is seven times higher than it was during California’s fastest growth years.

THE WASTEFUL WAY The new “California Way” is top-heavy with government bureaus that restrict economic freedom, such as passing laws that make it illegal for many to work as independent contractors, while bureaucrats sit by and watch public infrastructure crumble. Innovative businesses, creative entrepreneurs, and highly skilled workers remain, but more and more of these engines of growth are leaving for states with better business climates and lower costs of living, particularly for housing.

There have been so many departures that California lost a seat in the House of Representatives and the Electoral College last year—a fact that we all knew but that was absent from an address that was little more than a re-election speech eight months early. There were plenty of self-congratulations for throwing money at problems, including \$38 billion for climate change over the years and nearly \$13 billion for homelessness in just the past two years.

For all the money that has been spent, what are the outcomes? Homelessness continues to worsen, and housing projects for the homeless cost taxpayers far more than the cost of building a luxury mansion on a per square-foot basis. But no one leading state government seems to care about this travesty. As the old saw goes, it is easy to spend other people’s money.

And what of all those billions spent on climate change? California is responsible for only around 1 percent of global carbon emissions, meaning that anything California does in the climate change sphere can’t move the carbon needle .

But much worse is the fact that for decades, California failed to manage forests and grasslands to prevent fires. This failure has led to off-the-charts wildfires, which in 2020 created 25 percent higher carbon emissions than otherwise would have occurred.

Ironically, this completely offset the cumulative 25 percent statewide reduction in carbon emissions that California had achieved from those billions and billions spent in the name of climate change. Of course, these fires also exacted a horrendous human toll, wiping entire towns off the map. This is what happens when government doesn’t practice commonsense economics.

But the governor doesn't see it that way. He doubled down on California leading the way to fight climate change, highlighting his executive order that would prohibit the sale of gas-powered vehicles by 2035, and chalking up California's wildfires to—you guessed it—climate change. Hot, dry, and windy conditions are indeed a significant problem, which is why one should emphasize forest management and the creation of firebreaks. But California has been woefully neglectful on this front for decades .

As energy costs, particularly the price of gasoline, rise sharply, the governor admonished those who support increasing the supply of fossil fuels, referring to the oil industry as “petro-dictators.” Over a thousand new permits to drill in California wait for approval, but there is almost no chance they will get approved. So what of the economic distress caused by higher gas and electricity prices? Newsom promised some type of tax rebate. But in the meantime, higher energy prices punish lower-income households, particularly the thirteen million people in the state who are poor enough to qualify for Medi-Cal health care .

What did the governor have to say about crime? Newsom quoted Bobby Kennedy (whose assassin, Sirhan Sirhan, was denied parole by Newsom last year) regarding the fundamental importance of citizens being able to walk their streets safely. But California streets are far from safe today. The state's homicide rate rose 30 percent last year. Gun violence in Los Angeles is up 50 percent. Smash-and-grab robberies have skyrocketed.

Newsom touted the spending of hundreds of millions to determine the root causes of crime. But we already know two of them: treating theft below \$950 as a misdemeanor is a major reason why smash-and-grab is now so high, and district attorneys are unwilling to prosecute those criminals. Meanwhile, Newsom's party killed a bill within committee that would have repealed Proposition 47, which set the \$950 misdemeanor limit.

Newsom spoke about reforming education in California by giving parents “real choices,” but this will not be school choice, in which parents would receive scholarship vouchers allowing them to take their kids to a spectrum of schools rather than be stuck in a neighborhood school that is performing poorly. And far too many public K–12 schools are performing badly. In fact, Newsom signed a bill last year that sharply limits school choice by placing restrictions on new charter schools, which for some families were the only alternative to a badly run neighborhood school. Charter schools were drawing too many students from other schools by providing a better education, hence the new bill to protect the uncompetitive schools that are failing our kids .

How badly are schools failing? Only about 20 percent of Hispanic and black students are evaluated to be proficient or higher in math, and speaking as a teacher myself, I can tell you that the proficiency bar is not very high.

This failure puts these kids at risk of never being able to compete for a career that requires technical and mathematical knowledge. Say goodbye to careers such as software development, electrical engineering, biomedical Homelessness just gets worse, and housing projects for the homeless cost taxpayers far more than the price of a luxury mansion. Say goodbye to careers such as research, finance, analytics, and even auditing for these kids. All in the name of protecting the massive education-political machinery within the state that protects its own at the cost of damning these kids to a lifetime of financial struggles—because they will struggle to find a well-paying job.

A BUG, NOT A FEATURE Newsom closed his address by stating, “We know that government cannot be the entire solution, but we also know that government has always been part of the solution . . . by creating a platform for people, and the private sector, to thrive.”

Reading this, you get the feeling that the governor is living in an entirely different California—a California of yesteryear, not the state we live in today. Not the California that is the state judged to be the least business friendly in the country; to be among the worst in taxation; to have the highest living costs; and to have some of the worst schools and infrastructure. Not a state whose government pushes the private sector underwater rather than giving people and businesses a leg up. Not a state that is bleeding businesses and people, all of whom are looking for a better way, and who are escaping today’s “California Way.”

Lee E. Ohanian is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and a participant in Hoover’s Human Prosperity Project. He is a professor of economics and director of the Ettinger Family Program in Macroeconomic Research at UCLA. This article first appeared in the Summer 2022 Hoover Digest.

CAL EPA ASSERTS SHOCKINGLY BROAD DOMAIN OVER PRIVATE PROPERTY

Letter: Blumenfeld tells well owners they now must pay for their own water
BY KEN KURSON

Legend has it that Jed Clampett “was shootin’ at some food / When up through the ground come a bubblin’ crude.”

The Beverly Hillbillies’ transformation into instant millionaires illustrates one of the oldest conceptions in the western world: What’s on your land belongs to you. This idea predates the founding of America. If you find gold in your backyard, that resource belongs to you.

California wants to change that.

A source near San Diego has shared with California Globe a shocking letter that’s quietly being delivered to owners of private wells.

“California is marching toward a world where those with wells on their own property will be required to put a meter on them and pay the government,” writes the source. “Because in their world, the government owns everything and we’re just renters.”

The letter is signed by Natalie Stork, the Chief of Groundwater Management Program Unit 1, and was sent in late July on the letterhead of California Water Boards, under the authority of Gov. Newsom and Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary for Environmental Protection. Buried beneath the bureaucratic acronyms

GSA and SGMA (Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act) is an extremely aggressive conception of government authority and its dominion over private property.

The letter reads, “Landowners whose property is within an unmanaged area and contains an operating ground water extraction well must report the volume of groundwater extracted from the well. The groundwater extraction volume must be reported as a monthly total. In addition to pumping volumes, reports must include the location of the well and the place and purpose of use of the groundwater. Groundwater extraction reports are not due to the state water board until February 1, 2023. However, if you are required to report, the report must include pumping volumes for each month between the date of receipt of this letter and September 30, 2022.”

This is not merely a bureaucratic hassle. There are fees, of course. The base filing fee is \$300 per well, which all extractors are required to report. Then there’s an additional fee of \$10 per acre foot with a meter, \$25 per acre foot without. Tardy filers face a late fee of 25% per month.

California Globe reached out to Ms. Stork and SGMA to inquire how widely this letter was sent and where the State Water Resources Control Board derives the right to charge well owners for water on their own property. This story will be updated to include her comment if either responds.

Meanwhile, the ramifications for property rights are enormous.

“They’re sending out letters to property owners saying they must declare [if] they use just two-acre feet,” observes the source who received the letter. “If they use more they must pay an annual fee of \$300 for each well plus they must meter the water and send in a monthly usage report and pay a fee for water that is pumped starting in Feb 2023. What a great racket! The government provides no service, no support, no product, doesn’t even do the billing! That’s all on citizens. All [the government does] is cash the check.”

According to two people who received the letter, so far no organized resistance to this private property grab has yet emerged. But at least one source expects the small fees to grow, which will surely lead to pushback from residents.

“The fees may seem small today, but they always start small. Then they’ll ratchet up. Similarly, while this excludes light domestic users, it won’t for long.”

Below is a copy of the letter, with potentially identifying portions redacted to avoid the recipient being targeted by government authorities who clearly know no bounds.

Ken Kurson is the founder of Sea of Reeds Media. He is the former editor in chief of the New York Observer and also founded Green Magazine and covered finance for Esquire magazine for almost 20 years. Ken is the author of several books, including the New York Times No. 1 bestseller Leadership. This article first appeared in the California Globe of July 20, 2022



State Water Resources Control Board

July 2022

NOTICE OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION REPORTING REQUIRED UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

AVISO DE ENVIAR REPORTE(S) SOBRE EXTRACCIÓN DE AGUA SUBTERRÁNEA REQUERIDO POR LA LEY DE GESTIÓN SUSTENTABLE DEL AGUA SUBTERRÁNEA (SGMA)

This notice is to inform you that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) believes you own property or properties not covered by the management authority of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) as required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The State Water Board considers areas within high-priority or medium-priority groundwater basins that are not within the jurisdiction of a GSA to be unmanaged under SGMA.

Pursuant to SGMA, groundwater extractors in unmanaged areas are required to file groundwater extraction reports with the State Water Board and pay associated reporting fees. **If you are pumping groundwater within an unmanaged area, this notice is intended to provide you with early notification so you may take appropriate steps necessary to meet your reporting responsibilities. Actual groundwater pumping reports are not due to the State Water Board until February 1, 2023.**

The following detailed information is intended to help you understand the reporting requirements for groundwater extractions in unmanaged areas under SGMA, and what you may need to do to satisfy the requirement to report.

Para obtener información en español, nos puede llamar al (916) 322-6508 o enviar un mensaje a: groundwater_management@waterboards.ca.gov.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

Why you are receiving this informational letter.

This informational letter is being sent to persons who may own property or operate a public water supply system in an unmanaged area where groundwater is extracted.

Data indicate that you own or are responsible for the parcel(s) or public water supply system(s) listed at the end of this notice. The State Water Board has identified this parcel(s) or water supply system(s) as located within an unmanaged area. If you extract groundwater from an unmanaged area and you are not a small domestic user,¹ SGMA requires that you file an annual groundwater extraction report for extractions made during the previous water year.

A map of unmanaged areas within basins subject to SGMA is available on our SGMA Status Map (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/sgma_status.html).

The State Water Board encourages landowners with a groundwater extraction well to begin collecting and recording the volume of groundwater pumped in a manner that will allow accurate reporting of monthly volumes.

A subsequent Notice of Groundwater Extraction Reporting Under SGMA will be mailed in late 2022. The online system you will be expected to use to report will be also be released in 2022, and will be accessible from our reporting website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/reporting_and_fees.html).

Groundwater Extraction Reporting.

Landowners whose property is within an unmanaged area and contains an operating groundwater extraction well must report the volume of groundwater extracted from the well. The groundwater extraction volume must be reported as a monthly total. In addition to pumping volumes, reports must include the location of the well and the place and purpose of use of the groundwater.

Groundwater extraction reports are not due to the State Water Board until February 1, 2023. However, if you are required to report, the report must include pumping volumes for each month between the date of receipt of this letter and September 30, 2022.

Item 3 - Cal Coast News Exposes San Luis Obispo Tribune Defamation

The State Water Board encourages landowners with a groundwater extraction well to begin collecting and recording the volume of groundwater pumped in a manner that will allow accurate reporting of monthly volumes.

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Groundwater Extraction Reporting.

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Groundwater extraction reports are not due to the State Water Board until February 1,

Report Filing Fees.

Any person who must file a groundwater extraction report with the State Water Board must pay the filing fee(s). The filing fee includes a base fee and a fee per acre-foot of groundwater extracted. The fees are as follows:

Fee Category	Fee Amount	Applicable Parties
Base Filing Fee	\$300 per well	All extractors required to report.
Unmanaged Area Rate	\$10 per acre-foot, if metered	Extractors in unmanaged areas.
	\$25 per acre-foot, if unmetered	
Late Fee	25% of total fee amount per month late	Extractors that do not file reports by the due date.

In unmanaged areas, groundwater extractions measured and reported using a groundwater flow meter qualify for a reduced fee. For metered wells, the pumping fee is \$10 per acre-foot.

How to notify the State Water Board if you believe you are not subject to SGMA reporting requirements.

You can file an online form through our reporting website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/reporting_and_fees.html) to notify the State Water Board that you meet any one of the following conditions:

- You do not own any of the parcels identified at the end of this notice and you do not operate a well on any of the parcels identified at the end of this notice.
- You own one or more of the parcels identified at the end of this notice, but you do not own or operate a well there.
- You are a small domestic well user using less than two acre-feet for domestic purposes.

There is no fee to report that you are not subject to SGMA reporting requirements.

Resources to assist in preparing to complete the online Groundwater Extraction Report.

Groundwater measurement methods

Please see Options for Measuring Extraction Volumes

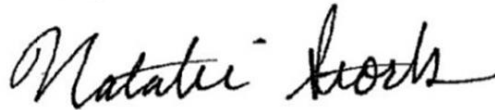
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sgma/docs/reporting/measuring_gw.pdf) for measurement alternatives to a totalizing flow meter.

Groundwater Extraction Annual Reporting System (GEARS)

User guides and frequently asked questions will be available when GEARS is released in late 2022. These resources will be available on our reporting website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/reporting_and_fees.html).

If you have questions regarding this notice or need assistance completing the online groundwater extraction report, please contact State Water Board staff by email at SGMA@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at 916-322-6508.

Sincerely,



Natalie Stork, P.G.
Chief, Groundwater Management Program Unit I
Office of Research, Planning, and Performance



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

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

We are pleased to announce that The Andy Caldwell Show is now broadcasting out of San Luis Obispo County on FM 98.5 in addition to AM 1290/96.9 Santa Barbara and AM 1240/99.5 Santa Maria



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3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS You can also listen to The
Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and previously aired shows
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Previously aired shows at:

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ON THE LAST PAGE BELOW**



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VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER



MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE TO COLAB ON THE NEXT PAGE
Join COLAB or contribute by control clicking at: [COLAB San Luis Obispo County \(colabslo.org\)](https://colabslo.org) or use the form below:

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio Internet Public Hearing Friend

COLAB Member(s) / Sponsor(s): _____

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation. I would like to contribute \$ _____ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.
Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.
Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check Visa MasterCard Discover Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: ___/___ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____