



**WEEKLY UPDATE
JULY 31 - AUGUST 6, 2022**

THIS WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

SLOCOG

TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX PLEA EUPHEMIZED AS “LOCAL EFFORT”

MOST AGENCIES ARE SNOOZING IN THE HEAT



THEY WILL WAKE UP HUNGRY SOON ENOUGH

DISTRICT 4 RECOUNT STATUS – SEE PAGE 23

LAST WEEK

SUMMER MEETING DOLDRUMS CONTINUE

NO BOS MEETING

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID LOW IN COUNTY

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

STATE WATER PROJECT RESERVOIR STATUS

MEDIAN SLO COUNTY HOME PRICE \$875,000

UP 15% FROM LAST YEAR

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 13

THE DEHUMANIZING TYRANNY OF DENSIFICATION

The prevailing vision of environmentalism today caters to a global oligarchy

BY EDWARD RING

RIGGING THE WAR ON FOSSIL FUELS

Taxpayer dollars to make the world green and red

BY DAVID HOROWITZ

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, August 3, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2022. The schedule is pretty thin going forward in the near term.

Upcoming Events

Countywide Oversight Board - CANCELLED	July 25, 2022 - 03:00 PM
Planning Commission - CANCELLED	July 28, 2022 - 09:00 AM
Parks and Recreation Commission CANCELLED	July 28, 2022 - 06:00 PM
Subdivision Review Board - CANCELLED	August 1, 2022 - 09:00 AM
Planning Department Hearing	August 5, 2022 - 09:00 AM
Planning Commission - CANCELLED	August 11, 2022 - 09:00 AM

Item F-4 2023 Regional Transportation Plan; Draft Chapters and Status Update 2023 Regional Transportation Plan; Draft Chapters and Status Update (Specter of new Sales Tax Raised): The staff will present a report on the status of the development of the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and related issues. It is the key policy document, which must be approved by the State in order for the State, County, and City transportation projects within the county to be approved. State and Federal funding cannot flow without an approved RTP. The time horizon and projections are from 2023 to 2045.

In recent years the scope of RTP has been expanded to include housing goals and CO₂ reduction goals.

SUMMARY: The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a mandated 20-plus year transportation plan that must be updated every four years in compliance with state and federal law. The RTP is a long-term blueprint for achieving a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. The plan must be action-oriented, fiscally constrained, and pragmatic—considering short-, mid-, and long-term periods. Each element must also be balanced with the other elements in mind, so that the entire plan works harmoniously. Adoption of the 2023 RTP is expected in Spring 2023

The RTP contains lists of major road and highway improvement projects and their estimated costs over a 20-year period. The table below demonstrates a \$2.1 billion funds gap when all desired projects and services are considered.

2023 RTP Investments by Mode

The draft 2023 RTP invests transportation funding through 2045 and identifies a funding level of \$3B (escalated and constrained) leaving a \$2.1B funding gap for needed, desirable, and requested projects and improvements. This includes:

- Highway Improvements. (56% fundable): With nearly \$1.5b in needs identified; \$820M identified as available funding (i.e., 46E improvements, US 101 Expressway conversions, operations and interchange improvements). Supplemental funding is necessary to close the gap.
- Major Roadways (43% fundable) Requested projects exceeds \$600M; \$268M expected to be available (i.e., complete streets, frontage road connections, intersection improvements).
- Local Road maintenance (64% fundable): Over \$800M expected to be available to maintain existing pavement; to improve pavement conditions to targets an additional \$460M is needed.
- Public Transportation (79% fundable): \$819m is necessary to just maintain today's normal level of services through 2045; \$874M is available. Just under \$1B would provide a 20% increase to public transportation services by 2045, and just under \$1.1B would be necessary to increase services by nearly 40%.
- Maximizing System Efficiency (69% fundable). \$83M is available (i.e., vanpools, carpools, EV charging stations)
- Active Transportation (33% fundable): Requested projects totaled over \$500M; \$184M is expected to be available (i.e., bike, ped, and safe routes for all)

A little more detail is provided in the graphics below:

2023 RTP Expected, Constrained, Illustrative, and Needed Funding Levels (millions)

	Expected (4/2021) [1]	Desired Levels (10/2021 to 4/2022) [2]		Constrained (6/2022) [3]	Illustrative (6/2022) [4]	Total Need (6/2022) [5]
Highways	\$880	B	\$1,235	\$820	\$1,350	\$1,460
Major Roadways	\$460	B	\$618	\$268	\$468	\$630
Local Road Maintenance	\$640	n/a	n/a	\$823	\$1,105	\$1,280
Public Transportation	\$650	B/C	\$760	\$874	\$1,018	\$1,100
Maximize System Efficiency	\$40	A/B	\$82	\$83	\$92	\$120
Active Transportation	\$120	B	\$215	\$184	\$328	\$550
Totals	\$2,790			\$3,052	\$4,377	\$5,140

Financial Constraint – the 2023 RTP will be based upon the Constrained column (final, minor adjustments may still occur). FHWA has identified that it would not approve SLOCOG’s 2023 RTP if it includes revenues from a future Self-Help county sales tax measure. Staff had multiple discussions with FHWA identifying discrepancies of when FHWA did approve similar RTPs with similar, future measures, but FHWA concluded that this new source of funding would not be a reasonable assumption in our region. FHWA suggested the inclusion of Illustrative project lists that depict a future with a new sales tax.

SLOCOG Sales Tax Discussion

Note the discussion in the gray oval to the right of the table above. It refers to the potential of the County citizens (both city and unincorporated) approving a future sales tax measure that could generate about \$1 billion over 20 years starting in 2025. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) doubts whether the voters will approve such a measure (perhaps ½ cent addition). In turn they will only allow the SLOCOG to present a “constrained” set of projections, which in turn means that the RTP cannot include all of the county’s projected needs.

The presentation is staff’s way of lobbying the SLOCOG Board to consider a ballot measure to add a ½ cent sales tax. They claim that it is necessary to be competitive and take advantage of future intergovernmental funding plans that give preference to “self-help” jurisdictions.

It will be interesting to see if the SLOCOG Board directs staff to return with a future agenda item to discuss a potential sales tax measure.

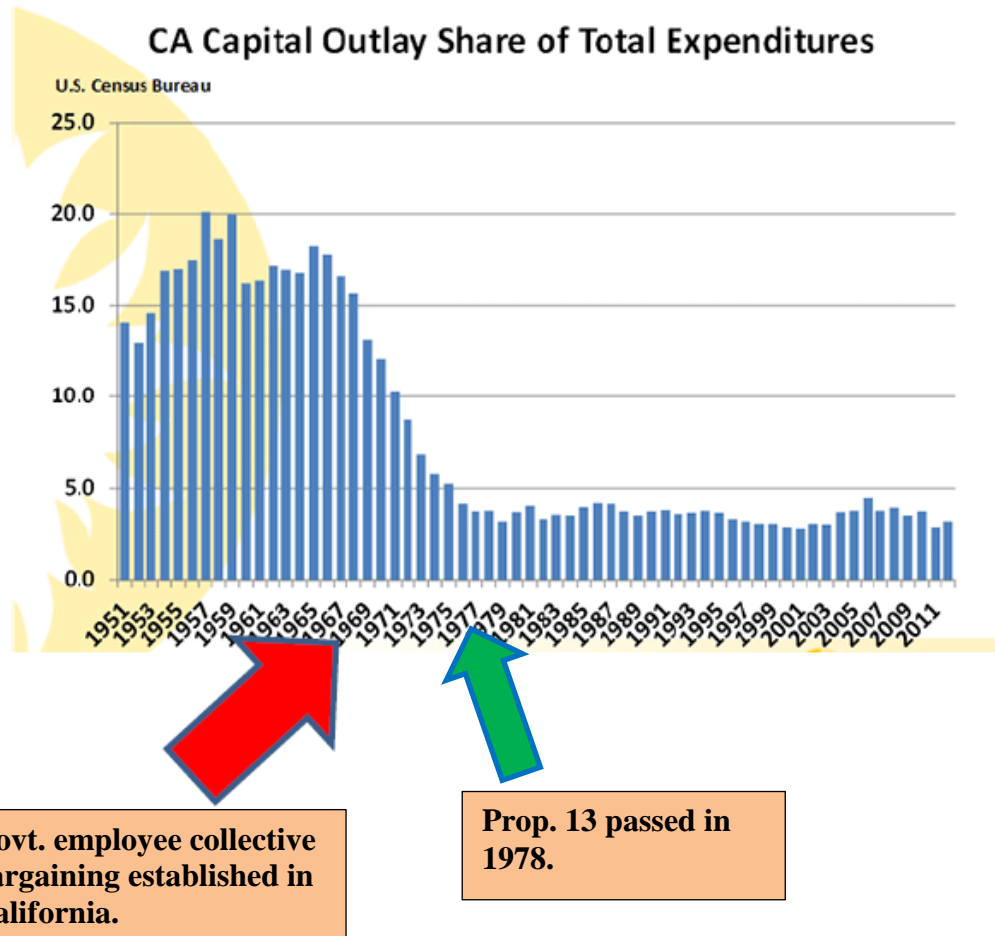
Big Picture: After California legalized government employee collective bargaining in 1967, the percentage of revenue for capital expenses declined rapidly. The table below displays the total for all public agencies, including the State, counties, cities, schools, special districts, and universities.

As the public employee unions formed political action committees and made larger and larger financial campaign contributions, the Legislature and other public bodies became more and more responsive to their wage and benefit demands. As the current consumption costs rose, funding that had previously gone to capital investment was shifted over to salaries, pensions, health benefits, and variety of special pays, such as education allowances, mileage allowances, more sick days, more vacation days, vacation buy bucks, earlier retirements, etc.

Often Proposition 13 is blamed. However, it can be seen that the decline in capital investment began well before Prop 13 and continues to this day, even though jurisdictions have devised many clever ways around the measure. These include a variety of dependent special districts, tax overrides, and taxes posing as fees.

More recently the coterie of interests, collectively known as the progressive left, have adopted raising taxes as one of its key strategies to weaken private property and eventually establish a socialist autocracy in the name of social equity and climate disaster.

Note: We are looking for the update of this graph from the most recent Census but have not yet found it. If any of you Census geeks out there can find it, we would be appreciative.



LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

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

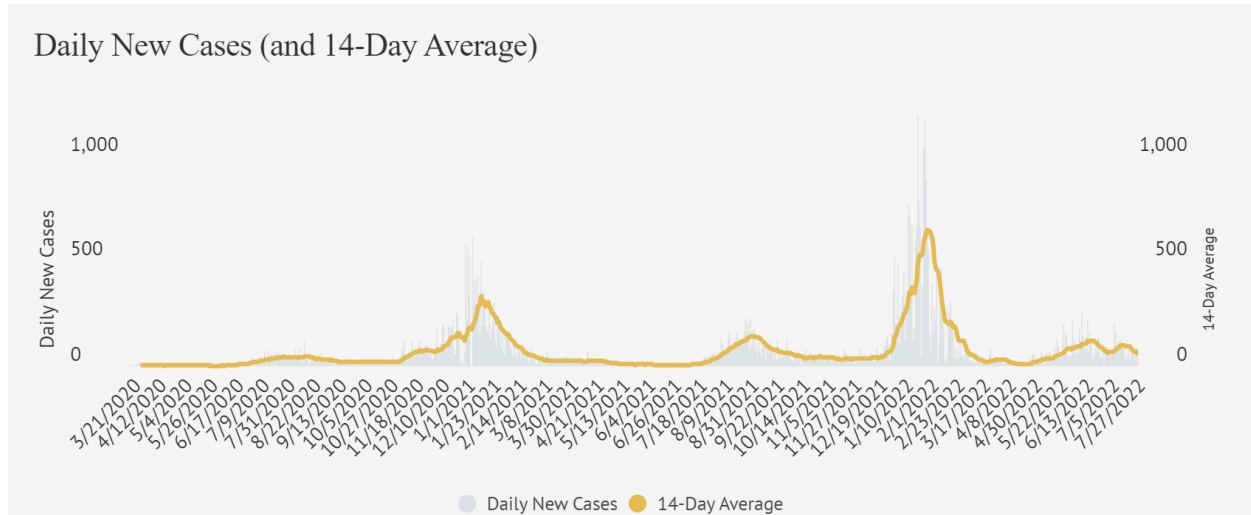
The next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

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

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

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID. Again, it's just idling. Citizens and some cities in LA County resisted an announced mask mandate. LA County backed down. San Francisco County declared a Monkey pox emergency.



7 (0 ICU) **SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

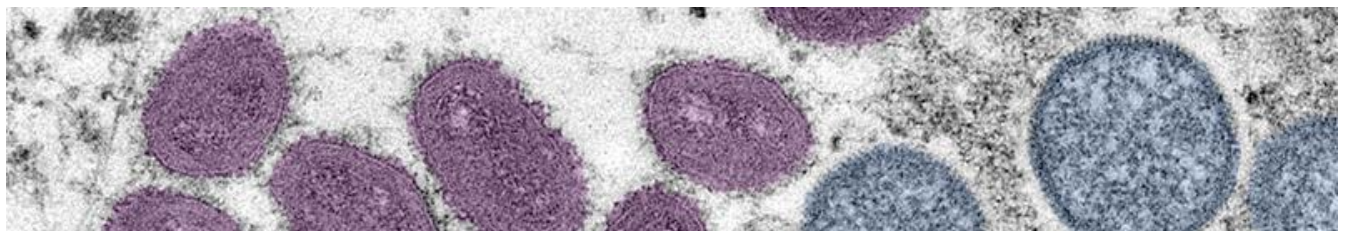
Monkey pox has yet to be reported in SLO County. The SLO County Health Department described it in part:

About Monkey pox

Monkey pox is a disease caused by the monkeypox virus, a relative of the smallpox virus. Monkey pox usually causes a rash or sores—which can look like pimples, blisters, or an ingrown hair—and flu-like symptoms. It spreads primarily through close, intimate, often skin-to-skin contact, including sexual contact, with people who have monkeypox symptoms such as rash and sores.

Since May 2022, there has been an uptick in cases in parts of the world where monkeypox does not usually occur, including here in California.

The Public Health Department is closely following this issue, in coordination with the California Department of Public Health and CDC, and will provide updates as the situation evolves.



Reported data from around the State is summarized in the tables below:

Number of reported probable and confirmed monkeypox cases in California

Statewide Cases	Hospitalized	N
786	Yes	11

By Local Health Jurisdiction	Cases	Age Group	N	Percents*
Los Angeles	261	Under 18 years	1	0.1
San Francisco	257	18-24	29	3.7
Alameda	50	25-34	289	36.8
Santa Clara	41	35-44	296	37.7
Sacramento	34	45-54	120	15.3
San Diego	26	55-64	41	5.2
Contra Costa	18	65 years and older	10	1.3
Riverside	17	Missing/Unknown	0	-

Long Beach	12
San Mateo	11
Berkeley	8
Sonoma	8
Orange	6
Solano	6
Kern	5
Santa Cruz	5
Monterey	4
San Joaquin	4

Race/Ethnicity	N	Percent*
White	299	44.8
Hispanic or Latino	239	35.8
Black or African American	58	8.7
Asian	41	6.1
Other/Multiple Races**	31	4.6
Missing/Unknown	118	-

Fresno	2
Marin	2
San Bernardino	2
Ventura	2
Butte	1
Napa	1
Placer	1
Stanislaus	1
Tulare	1

Gender	N	Percent*
Male	769	98.3
Transgender Male	5	0.6
Female	3	0.4
Transgender Female	3	0.4
Genderqueer/Non-Binary	2	0.3
Missing/Unknown	4	-

Sexual Orientation	N	Percent*
Gay, Lesbian or same gender loving	508	91.7
Bisexual	31	5.6
Heterosexual or straight	11	2.0
Other	4	0.7
Missing/Unknown	232	-

* Among cases with available data

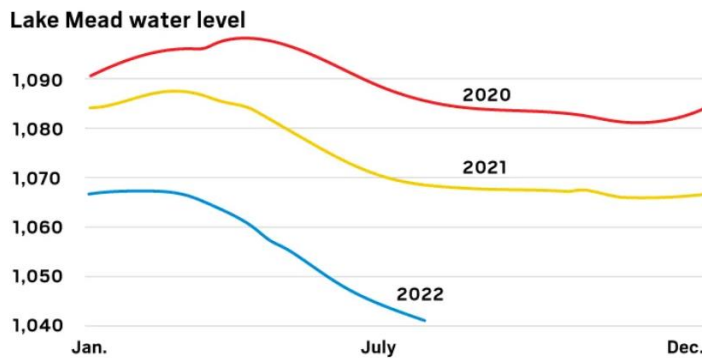
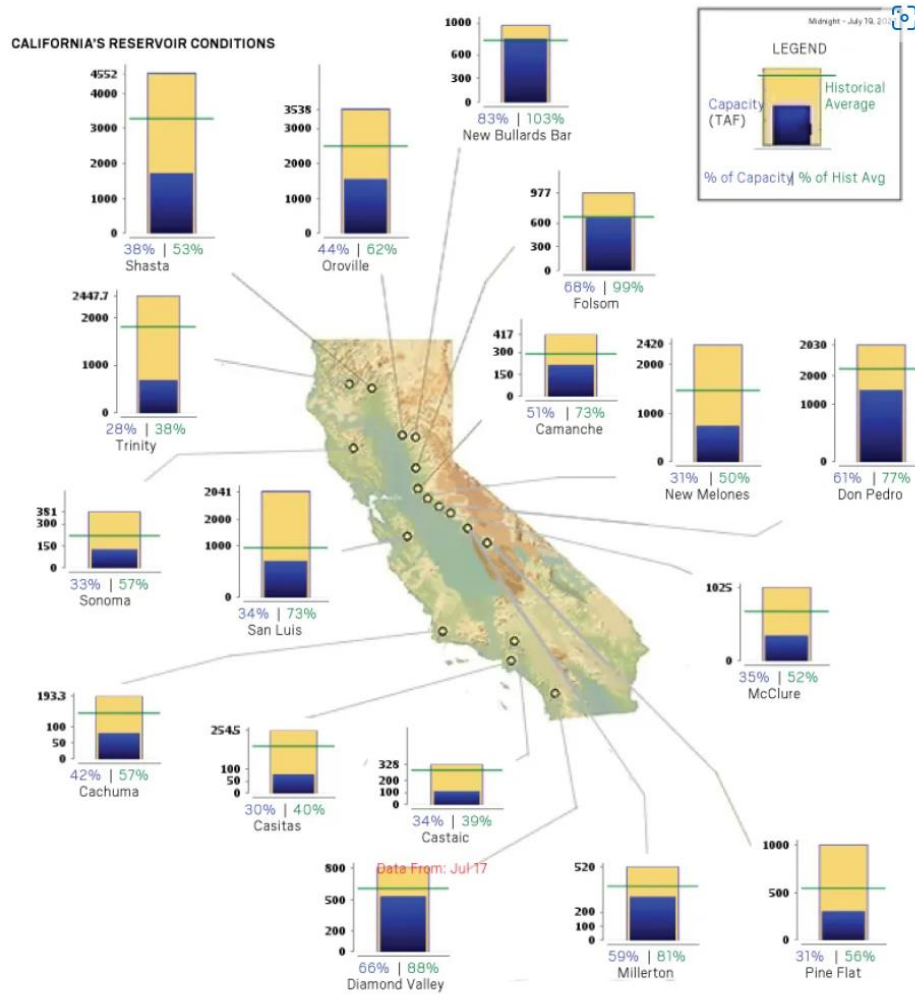
** includes groups with small numbers of reported cases

Icky, but not so life threatening



It appears that the chain of infection is live body surface to surface.

Item 2 - State and local water providers imposing restrictions. It is foreseeable that if the 3-year drought continues, agriculture and major urban areas could face even more severe water rationing.



The LA Metro Water District, Las Vegas, San Diego, Phoenix, Tucson, Imperial Valley agriculture, and Arizona agriculture are particularly dependent on Colorado River water.

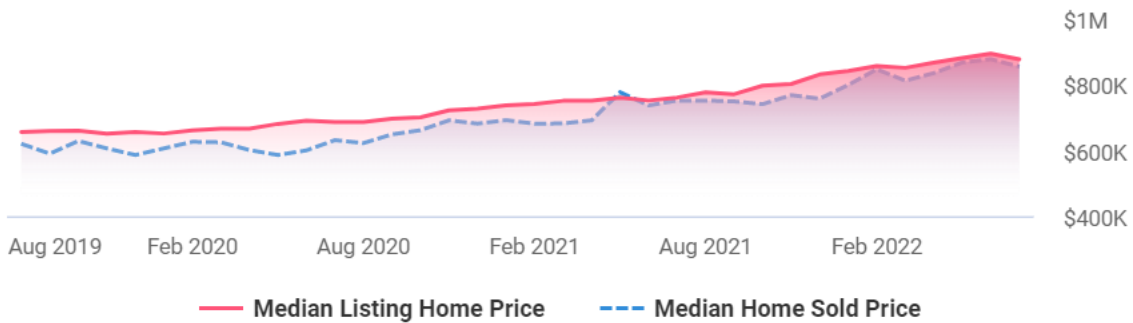
Item 3 - SLO County Housing. It takes a household income of \$111,000 income to afford the median priced home in the County. The median household income is now \$77,948. If you didn't pass Computer Science 61, Chem 1A/1B, and Math 3A/B and then switched majors to Social Equity, Cinematic Studies, or Community Organization, and are not lucky or wealthy, you will end up in a sweltering giant apartment block overlooking a parking lot with an Arby's. See the article, **The**

Dehumanizing Tyranny of Densification on page 13, below, in the COLAB in Depth section for a detailed analysis.

San Luis Obispo County, CA Housing Market i

In June 2022, the median listing home price in San Luis Obispo County, CA was \$875K, trending up 15.3% year-over-year. The median listing home price per square foot was \$499. The median home sold price was \$852.5K.

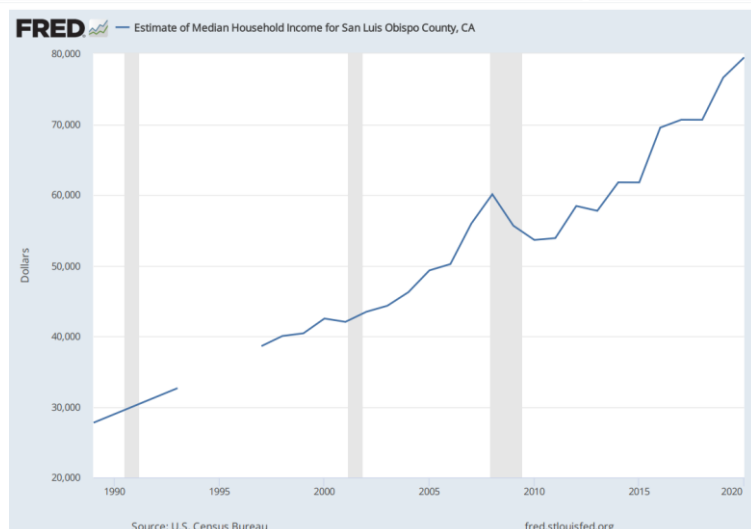
Median Listing Home Price vs. Median Home Sold Price



Sale-to-List Price Ratio: 100%

Homes in San Luis Obispo County, CA sold for **approximately the** asking price on average in June 2022.

f Median household income (in 2020 dollars), 2016-2020		\$77,948
PEOPLE		
Economy		
f In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2016-2020		57.8%
f In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2016-2020		53.9%
f Total accommodation and food services sales, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)		1,148,780
f Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)		1,912,590
f Total transportation and warehousing receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)		299,123
f Total retail sales, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)		4,372,001
f Total retail sales per capita, 2017 (c)		\$15,478



The Key Problem: Land Rationing: The County’s overarching Framework For Planning document and subordinate documents such as the Land Use Element, Conservation Element, and the Inland Zoning Ordinance all require that most development be concentrated in existing urban footprints.

The County’s Housing Element reveals that there is very little land zoned for housing, and in particular, affordable housing in the unincorporated area. The table below shows that there is potential for 1306 low-income units at a density of 18 per acre. However, it is actually very time consuming and expensive to push an 18-unit per acre project through the permitting process.

Similarly, there may be land zoned for housing that could contain 585 units.

Most of the available land is zoned for market rate to luxury homes.

The County has identified an adequate number of vacant sites to accommodate the unincorporated county’s remaining housing needs share.

Table 7.4: Summary of Identified Vacant Sites

Income Category	Identified Vacant Parcels		Housing Units		
	Total Number of Parcels	Number of Parcels by Land Use Category	Number of Realistic Potential Housing Units ⁽¹⁾	Remaining Share of House Needs ⁽²⁾	Unincorporated County’s Share
Very Low and Low	36	RMF: 12	1,459	427	1,306
		CR: 23			
Moderate	38	RMF: 13	975	0	585
		CR: 25			
Above Moderate	157	RSF: 147	821	739	1,365
		RR: 7			
		CR: 3			

Note 1: Based on realistic development capacity of 18 dwelling units per acre.
Note 2: For more information on this, see “Remaining Share of Housing Needs” section of this chapter.

Of course this results in freezing out young families, the ageing, minorities, single-parent households, the homeless, and ag. workers.

Ironically, the preamble to the Housing Element states:

AN URGENT NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING San Luis Obispo County is one (1) of the least affordable housing markets in the United States (National Association of Home Builders, 2019). The chronic undersupply of housing that is affordable and suitable for current and future residents has economic, social, and environmental impacts on the San Luis Obispo region. In Fall 2019, the County Board of Supervisors identified housing as one (1) of its top priorities for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget and continues to focus on local policies and actions to create more housing and improve affordability. However, the affordability of housing in the San Luis Obispo region stems from numerous constraints and challenges, such as high development costs, high land costs, and limited resources and infrastructure.

The paragraph mentions high land costs. Duh? If the County has only 231 zoned parcels out of a 3,200 square mile county (about 200 square miles are in the cities and not subject to County zoning), no wonder land costs are high. The situation is government-caused scarcity.

The permitting data reveals the terrible truth: Notwithstanding all the rhetoric, hardly any dwelling units are being permitted in the unincorporated area at all. Remember, the table below summarizes the number of units permitted, not the number actually constructed. The largest numbers are in the South County area and mainly consist of units permitted decades ago in the Nipomo golf communities. Most of the units are the result of the developers implementing a deferred phase.

Were it not for these, the County would have permitted fewer than 100 during the first 3 quarters of FY 2021-22.

New Dwelling Units ¹ by Planning Area/Sub Area, 2005-2021

Planning Area/Sub Area	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21 ²
Adelaida	24	12	21	11	3	5	3	2	5	5	4	8	5	8	6	4
Carrizo ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
El Pomar-Estrella	90	53	33	14	9	11	10	20	38	16	28	19	22	26	15	12
Estero	19	15	13	6	10	8	3	6	13	8	7	18	6	10	7	7
Las Pilitas	0	6	5	2	5	1	3	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	2
Los Padres (North)	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nacimiento	43	32	18	11	7	9	10	33	50	21	20	25	27	18	14	9
North Coast	14	7	9	1	5	0	3	7	2	3	2	0	0	2	1	1
Salinas River	99	41	33	36	25	16	15	21	45	60	65	207	74	86	65	37
San Luis Bay Coastal	52	22	70	7	15	13	17	34	41	25	30	39	41	9	11	1
San Luis Obispo Shandon-Carrizo (North)	11	9	11	2	4	4	5	6	9	2	4	10	5	8	12	10
South County ⁴	71	34	77	19	17	40	35	114	157	116	113	161	131	118	102	116
South County Coastal ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total	453	259	301	114	103	113	111	246	366	257	277	492	315	292	238	211

1. Only including units subject to the Growth Management Ordinance. For 20015-2016, based on number of construction permit applications received in fiscal year. For 2017-2021, based on number of construction permits issued in fiscal year.

2. As of April 26, 2021.

3. Carrizo and South County Coastal Planning Areas were added to this chart for FY 21-22 and were not tracked in previous years' annual allocation reports.

4. Huasna-Lopez Sub Area was removed from this chart for FY 21-22 because it is included in the South County Planning Area.



See the related article immediately below.

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 DEHUMANIZING TYRANNY OF DENSIFICATION

The prevailing vision of environmentalism today caters to a global oligarchy.

BY EDWARD RING

Filing cabinet of human lives, Where people swarm like bees in tunneled hives, Each to his own cell in the covered comb, Identical and cramped—we call it home."

— Gerald Raftery, "Apartment House"

The conventional wisdom among America's liberals, often seconded and rarely challenged by conservatives, is that population growth in the United States should be channeled as much as possible into the footprint of existing cities. Surrounding cities should be "greenbelts," suburban growth should be rejected as unsustainable "sprawl," and human settlement in areas defined as the "urban-wildland interface" should be discouraged and, where possible, reversed.

The movement to increase the population density of cities and reduce rural populations is already enshrined in California law and is rolling quietly across the rest of the nation. It is marketed as enlightened, environmentally sustainable urban planning, but the moral pretext obscures a self-serving density agenda that is shared by several powerful special interests.

Among all the misanthropic trends in public policy that threaten the freedom and prosperity of ordinary Americans, the density agenda is probably the least discussed.

Stated simply, population densification will fundamentally undermine Americans' ability to preserve their freedom and independence. You don't have to reference Agenda 2030—about which it is now almost *impossible* to find any negative commentary online—to understand how easily a population can be controlled when it is relocated and concentrated into a handful of megacities.

In the 1990s, shortly before the end of apartheid, I remember speaking with someone who had just returned from a tour of South Africa. He commented on his impressions of the densely populated black townships that were adjacent to every major city.

“They’ve got them all bottled up tight as sardines in a can,” he said, “nice and neat, so whenever they want, they can zap them all.”

Here is an aerial photo of neighborhoods in Soweto, just outside Johannesburg. It was perhaps the most infamous township of the apartheid era.

The Racist Bantustan

Soweto, South Africa

40' x 80' lots, single family dwellings



This image, which corresponds to a population density exceeding 20,000 people per square mile, reveals how blacks in Soweto were pushed into packed neighborhoods where they could easily be contained in the event of mass civil unrest.

In America, even this population density is frowned upon by enlightened environmentalists. After all, those people lived in “single-family dwellings,” which are themselves “exclusionary” and

“unsustainable.” In California, and against the odds, politically connected developers can still build limited numbers of single-family dwellings because free-standing individual homes are the overwhelming choice of families, if they can afford them.

Featured below is an aerial photo of such a development in Sacramento, California’s state capital and one of the citadels of green extremism. Note the lot size. These 40-by-80-foot lots are precisely the same size as those in Soweto.

The Green Bantustan

Sacramento, California
40' x 80' lots, single family dwellings



How those neighborhoods are evaluated by mainstream commentators bespeaks a blithe hypocrisy. In Soweto, such neighborhoods were variously described as concentration camps where people were confined and subjected to inhumane crowding. In Sacramento, these neighborhoods are under attack as environmentally incorrect “sprawl,” as laws and zoning increasingly favor multifamily dwellings.

Causes and Effects

Economics, not any particular concern for the planet, drives the density agenda. Chief among these economic imperatives is to render housing barely affordable. Reducing the supply of housing while increasing the U.S. population through loose immigration policies creates shortages, which then drive-up prices.

Perpetually inflating the value of real estate, in turn, creates new asset collateral. This helps balance the U.S. trade deficit, as foreign investors repatriate dollars by buying expensive American real estate. It also enables the ongoing U.S. trade deficit, as homeowners are seduced into borrowing against their home equity to purchase imported consumer products. The macroeconomic scheme that lets Americans print as much currency as they want and monetize the world with dollars purchasing foreign goods is sustained, in large part, by keeping the value of U.S. real estate artificially high.

That isn't the only reason to cram people into the footprint of existing cities and jack up the cost of all housing through engineered shortages. The interests of public-sector unions and public utilities are another powerful driver obscured by density policies.

Public-sector unions always benefit when public infrastructure spending is restricted due to environmental concerns. Instead of investing public funds to build and upgrade reservoirs, aqueducts, and freeways, public agencies can allocate more of their budgets to increasing the pay and benefits for government workers. Local public-sector fiefdoms also benefit when the population is increased in existing jurisdictions. In the past, the integrity of existing suburbs would not be violated, and instead, new cities outside established jurisdictions would gain those new residents and collect the new tax revenue.

Public utilities have a powerful financial incentive to embrace the density agenda and its intimate sibling, the renewables agenda. When people are forced to ration energy and water as more people are crammed into existing neighborhoods, the same utility grids—water, power, and wastewater—can be employed without costly expansion. Never mind that residents will now be restricted to 40 gallons of indoor water use per day, or pay to have expensive dual water meters installed so bureaucrats can impose and monitor an outdoor “water budget.” Never mind that renewable electricity flowing through smart meters will cost households 50 cents or more per kilowatt-hour during peak demand times, or that there will no longer be enough wastewater flowing through the sewer pipes to move the effluent.

Public utilities will deliver less of everything but charge much more. Their revenue will go up even as their deliveries go down. And since their earnings are restricted to a regulated percentage of total revenue, they will make more profit than ever.

Planned Obsolescence Is the New Normal

The density agenda is the product of intersecting benefits that attract a powerful coalition of special interests. In almost every sector of the economy, monopolistic corporate special interests have navigated a profitable path that furthers the shared agenda.

When environmentalist-inspired regulations make it almost impossible to get building permits, public entities collect higher fees, and favored developers build homes they can sell for more money and more profit. When environmentalists litigate to stop the construction of a new reservoir, public agencies retain the funds for more internally remunerative uses, and the possibility of new home construction is diminished. Without access to water, new homes cannot get built. When homes are too expensive for most families to afford, institutional investors roll in and buy whole subdivisions and rent them all, depriving Americans of what throughout our history was the most reliable way to build generational wealth.

It is crucial to understand the collaborative role of the high-tech industry in all this. Property management by institutional investors, along with the operation of modern appliances by individual homeowners, will be facilitated by appliances connected to the internet and algorithmically monitored.

Tech firms will secure perpetual and lucrative new revenue streams supplying hardware components for this entire surveillance panopticon, along with collecting fees for mandatory and frequent software updates. Remember the bored Maytag repair man? Those days are done. Technological “upgrades” to enable ultra-efficient appliances mean you’ll replace your refrigerator, washer, dryer, dishwasher, hot water heater, and every other durable good as often as you replace your smartphone. Planned obsolescence, masquerading as green and empowering, is the new normal.

Rationing in all its forms—and seldom ever called by that name—rewards the entrenched elite and harms everyone else.

Banks, institutional investors, mega housing developers, international corporations, tech heavyweights, public utilities, and public agencies all prefer high density. Environmentalism provides cover.

None of this is meant to disparage legitimate expressions of environmentalism. If one wishes to ignore the economic reasons for the high-density movement and ascribe to density proponents purely enlightened motivations, then this comes down to two competing visions of environmentalism and sustainability.

One of them recognizes the importance of building enabling infrastructure so small investors and individual families can afford to live however they wish. Some will prefer the amenities of a densely populated urban core, and others will prefer the ambiance of spacious suburbs. But the notion that Americans are running out of room or resources to build new suburbs is as delusional as the idea that only a “smart” appliance can achieve acceptable levels of efficiency and sustainability. All too often, these are merely opportunistic lies endlessly parroted by journalists who have never examined the facts.

The prevailing vision of environmentalism today, unfortunately, caters to a global oligarchy. They have decided it is in their interests, along with the interests of the planet—most definitely in that order—to preach imminent doom. Stack and pack, do it for the earth, and laugh all the way to the bank.

*Edward Ring is a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. He is also a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. Ring is the author of *Fixing California: Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism* (2021) and *The Abundance Choice: Our Fight for More Water in California* (2022). This article first appeared in the July 26, 2022 edition of *American Greatness*.*

RIGGING THE WAR ON FOSSIL FUELS

Taxpayer dollars to make the world green and red.

BY DAVID HOROWITZ



With the 2022 midterm elections less than four months away, a *New York Times*/Siena College poll revealed that just 1 percent of registered voters viewed climate change as a “top priority,” let alone the most important issue facing the nation. The poll placed climate change far behind concerns about inflation, the economy, record crime rates, and the humanitarian crisis on America’s southern border. Even among voters younger than 30 -- the demographic that is typically most energized by debates about environmental policy -- the corresponding figure was a mere 3 percent.

The same poll showed that public concern about climate change has actually declined significantly from the already-low levels of concern documented by previous surveys. In the summer of 2020, climate change ranked a lowly eleventh in a Pew Research Center poll. In September 2020, a Gallup poll likewise found that climate change ranked eleventh in a list of registered voters’ top concerns – well behind such items as the economy, terrorism/national security, the COVID-19 pandemic, health care, education, race relations, gun policy, crime, abortion, and immigration.

Notwithstanding the public’s consistent and overwhelming lack of concern about climate change as an urgent problem, the main concern of the Biden administration and the entire agenda of the Democrat Party has been, and continues to be, driven by this issue. In the words of President Joe Biden, “climate change poses an existential threat” – in fact, the chief existential threat to the United States – greater than terrorism, or Chinese expansionism, or the invasion by 2,400,000 unvetted illegal migrants annually across America’s broken southern border.

So obsessive is the focus of Democrat leaders on the alleged “existential threat of climate change,” that a centerpiece of their policies to oppose it is a war on fossil fuels, beginning with the cancelling of the Keystone pipeline, the shutting down of the ANWR oil field in Alaska, and the refusal for more than 17 months to sell oil-and-gas drilling leases on federal lands. An economic consensus which includes such influential voices as former Obama Treasury Secretary Larry Summers has singled out the war on fossil fuels as the chief driver of rising gas prices and the record inflation in the economy as a whole.

Yet, despite the lack of public support, and the immediate destructive consequences of the anti-climate change policies, the radical leadership of the Democrat policy is adamant in pursuing them. According to Bernie Sanders, a lifetime supporter of communist dictators and bankrupt socialist regimes, “the climate crisis is not only the single greatest challenge facing our country,” but “is also our single greatest opportunity to build a more just and equitable future,” by which he means a bankrupt, socialist dictatorship.

How is it possible that there should be such a disconnect between a democratic government and its constituents? How was such a radical consensus formed over such a controversial and contested issue – a consensus so strong and so anti-democratic that by 2022 it had resulted in the lowest approval ratings ever recorded for a sitting president and his political party? The answer can be found in the vast network of tax-exempt foundations and advocacy groups, unscrutinized and accountable to no one, that

developed the analyses and policy recommendations that make up the “Green New Deal” in the decades prior to its official launch in 2019.

When Democrat Senator Ed Markey and former bartender and current congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez first announced the Green New Deal in February 2019, it was already supported by 600 leftist organizations as well as 67 House Members and 11 U.S. Senators -- all Democrats.

What was this Shadow Party’s agenda? The Green New Deal calls for the U.S. economy to achieve “net zero greenhouse gas emissions” by the year 2030 and, in the words of Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, to “transition off all nuclear and all fossil fuels as soon as possible.” The Green New Deal would also mandate: (a) trillions of dollars in inflationary public expenditures on government-approved, energy-saving “upgrades” and “retrofits” of all existing homes and businesses in the United States, and (b) zero-carbon standards for all new building construction.

In addition to doing away with nuclear reactors and fossil fuels, the Green New Deal seeks to raise the living standards of “low-income communities, communities of color, indigenous communities, [and] the front-line communities most affected by climate change, pollution, and other environmental harm.” Toward that end, it aims to guarantee that members of those demographics will be preferentially trained and hired to fill federal “green jobs” that will pay them at least \$15-per-hour to implement the aforementioned upgrades, retrofits, and construction projects, thereby helping them to enjoy a “just transition” from their previous occupations to the new “green economy.” The premise underlying these training/hiring policies is that some form of economic reparations or wealth transfer program should be put in place to counteract the alleged effects of America’s historical discrimination against nonwhites and the poor. Orchestrating public policy around skin color is unconstitutional and – since the passage of the Civil Rights Act 58 years ago – illegal.

Heartland Institute president Tim Huelskamp summarizes the Green New Deal agendas as “the most radical socialist proposal in modern congressional history.... “[T]heir real desire is to accomplish the Left’s longtime goal of moving the United States toward full adoption of socialism. This isn’t just a theory. Significant provisions of the Green New Deal reveal its true purpose of imposing socialism on an unprecedented scale. The plan would create a ‘basic income program’ and federal jobs guarantee providing a ‘living wage’ to everybody who says they want one. It would impose a federal-government-run, single-payer health care system with bureaucrats and liberal politicians in Washington, D.C. in charge of every American’s health care. It would encourage the Federal Reserve to unleash inflation and create a system of government-owned banks to ‘create’ tens of trillions of dollars needed to fund these immense programs. None of these proposals has anything at all to do with climate change.”

In a July 2019 interview with *The Washington Post*, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s chief-of-staff, Saikat Chakrabarti, acknowledged that the Green New Deal had not been devised to protect the environment, but rather, to inject discredited socialist “solutions” into the American economy. “The interesting thing about the Green New Deal,” he said with great candor, “is it wasn’t originally a climate thing at all. Do you guys [reporters] think of it as a climate thing? Because we really think of it as a ‘how-do-you-change-the-entire-economy’ thing.” We don’t say this, but rather conceal it, because if we did we would have to explain why the epic failures of socialist regimes in our lifetimes should not be a red flag against repeating them.

The Shadow Party behind this campaign to replace America’s incomparably productive free market economy with a socialist travesty has been made possible by the failure of the Internal Revenue Service

to enforce its own guidelines, which allow taxpayer subsidies only to non-partisan, non-political, charitable organizations. Beginning with its vast subsidies to universities that have been purged of conservatives and transformed into indoctrination and recruitment centers for the radical left and the Democrat Party, the I.R.S. has enabled the formation of the socialist juggernaut behind the Green New Deal and its war on fossil fuels. In its newest version, it is a war, by the way, which stops at the water's edge, since Russian pipelines, and increased oil production by the totalitarian regimes in Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, are apparently okay with the Biden administration.

The foundations of this Shadow Party of tax-exempt institutions were laid in the 1970s, when the political left launched a campaign inspired by the Italian Communist Antonio Gramsci to build a revolution based on seizing control of the “means of cultural production” – universities, schools, philanthropic foundations and the like. A key component of 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities dedicated to promoting the Green New Deal and its leftwing agendas are the vast majority of colleges and universities across the United States. As the American Association of Universities [explains](#), nearly all public and private institutions of higher learning “are tax-exempt entities as defined by I.R.C. Section 501(c)(3) because of their educational purposes — purposes that the federal government has long recognized as fundamental to fostering the productive and civic capacity of its citizens — and/or the fact that they are state governmental entities.”

So much for the boilerplate, not a word of which is true any longer. The movement to purge universities of conservative faculty and influences has been so successful over the last 50 years that universities have, and as far as social theory and policy are concerned have ceased to be educational institutions in any reasonable sense of the word. The total dominance of leftist narratives and values in virtually every academic discipline is as self-evident as it is disgraceful and dangerous. How this took place is the subject of a book by one of the authors of this article – *The Professors* (2014) by David Horowitz. A 2020 [study](#) of more than 12,300 professors by the National Association of Scholars found that professors nationwide donate money to Democratic political figures rather than Republicans by a ratio of 95 to 1. Even Moscow University probably has more diversity than that.

In a 2018 [study](#) of nearly 8,700 tenure-track, Ph.D.-holding professors from 49 of America's top 66 liberal arts colleges as ranked by *U.S. News*, the professors were 12.7 times more likely to self-identify as Democrats than as Republicans. In the field of environmental science specifically, the ratio of Democrats-to-Republicans was greater than 25 to 1. There is no way to describe this intellectual monolith than as a partisan political training and research center.

In addition to its taxpayer subsidies to left-wing university institutions, the I.R.S. has granted tax-exempt status to a vast number of 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and charitable foundations that seek to permanently institutionalize the Green New Deal and its totalitarian agendas. With \$12 billion in assets, the Ford Foundation typifies the problem posed by the tax-exempt network of the left, which the I.R.S. has fostered and allowed to flourish.

Most significantly and ominously, the existence of this taxpayer-subsidized juggernaut disenfranchises ordinary voters. Ford has more assets than either political party, and more discretionary funding opportunities than the federal government. It has a large (and therefore rubber stamp) board which is self-appointed and is accountable to no one. And it exists in perpetuity. If one set out to undermine the democratic system, one could find no better vehicle than an institution like Ford, or for that matter the so-called philanthropies of George Soros, whose agendas have included creating a national crime wave, and rigging the electoral system in the service of creating a one-party state. These abuses cry out for

reforms to protect the sovereignty of America's citizenry which all these "charities" have put under threat. One could begin by sunseting them within a five- or ten-year window.

Major funding institutions like Ford and Soros's Open Society Foundations often operate through secondary advocacy organizations that are also tax-exempt. According to a comprehensive survey conducted by one of the current authors in 2012, and published as *The New Leviathan: How the Left-Wing Money-Machine Shapes American Politics and Threatens America's Future* there were, at that time, at least 553 such organizations nationwide. Their combined net assets were approximately \$9.5 billion – a figure that exceeded the annual budget of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). By contrast, there were just 32 identifiable environmental activist groups that were nonradical and pro-free market. Their combined net assets were a mere \$38.2 million – a figure amounting to four-tenths of 1 percent of the assets owned by their environmental-left counterparts. Moreover, the environmental-left organizations at that time were awarding, in aggregate, \$555 million in grants to their pet causes each year, while their 32 conservative counterparts were able to make grants totaling just \$1.2 million -- a ratio of nearly 462 to 1.[1]

As if this imbalance were not bad enough, the coffers of the 553 environmental-left organizations -- after they had doled out their \$555 million in yearly grants -- were essentially replenished, dollar for dollar, by the federal government, which annually provided some \$569 million in grant money to approximately 247 of those groups. By contrast, the government gave a total of just \$728,190 in federal funds to 7 (of the 32) conservative groups supporting free-market solutions to environmental problems. The dollar-to-dollar ratio of left-to-right funding by the government was an astounding 781 to 1.[2] How can a democracy survive such an imbalance in government investments in new policies and ideas? It can't.

A particularly noteworthy coalition of Green New Deal advocates today is an alliance of 15 leftwing activist groups that collectively call themselves the Green New Deal Network. This Network is a fiscally sponsored project of the Tides Foundation, a \$405 million funder of left-wing causes. Among the members of the Network are several tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofits such as the following:

- The Sunrise Movement, the foremost organization behind the Green New Deal, calls for "an economy-wide effort" to pursue the "bold vision" that is necessary for "making core tenets of the Green New Deal a reality."
- The Climate Justice Alliance -- a network of 82 organizations and supporting networks which in 2021 received some \$5.47 million in tax-exempt donations from foundations, corporations, and individual donors for the purpose of fighting climate change -- boasts that its member groups, in their quest to lead "a much needed aggressive national pivot away from climate denialism to climate action," have already "made local versions of the Green New Deal a reality from New York City to Oregon."
- The U.S. Climate Action Network, whose revenues in 2017 exceeded \$5 million, asserts that "the massive government investments that are needed" to bring forth "a Green New Deal for all people — Black, Indigenous, Brown, and white — ha[ve] never been more urgent."
- The Center for Popular Democracy, whose 2019 revenues were in excess of \$28.9 million, states that the Green New Deal encompasses "the bold action that we need to build a resilient future for our planet."
- The Brooklyn-based Right to The City Alliance (RTCA) is a tenants'-rights coalition which claims that the GND holds the key to developing "a regenerative economy based on cooperation, deep democracy, feminism, and equity." Among RTCA's more noteworthy organizational members are fellow 501(c)(3)s like the anarchist Ruckus Society, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and the National Domestic Workers' Alliance.

Of course, there is also a massive array of highly influential 501(c)(3) nonprofit activist groups that support the Green New Deal but are not part of the Green New Deal Network. A small sampling of these organizations includes the following:

- 350.org, which reported a combined \$30 million in revenues in 2016-2017, declares: “It’s time for a Green New Deal” to provide “a just, rapid transition to 100% renewable energy in the timeline we need to avert the worst impacts of climate change.”
- The Natural Resources Defense Council, which in 2019 held net assets of almost \$387 million and awarded nearly \$12 million in grants, declares that it “strongly supports the Green New Deal goal to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas pollution, with social and economic justice at the core of the solution.”
- The Environmental Defense Fund, which in 2018 held net assets of more than \$208 million and awarded nearly \$22 million in grants, says: “We look forward to working with the sponsors of the Green New Deal – and all those across the political spectrum working towards climate solutions – to transform our economy and achieve a healthier, more equitable and prosperous future.”
- The Wilderness Society, which in 2019 held net assets of \$67 million and awarded nearly \$34 million in grants, proudly “applauds Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) for leading the Green New Deal resolution,” which “lays out a framework for how to safeguard nature and humanity from the worst effects of climate change while providing sustainable economic opportunities, clean air and water and a just future for all.”
- The Rainforest Action Network, which in 2019 held net assets of \$8.5 million and awarded more than \$712,000 in grants, likewise backs the Green New Deal with fervent passion. As Rainforest Action Network executive director Lindsey Allen has written: “The Green New Deal brings much-needed urgency to the national conversation around the climate crisis, which is without a doubt the biggest threat to life on this planet.” Allen’s only lament, in fact, is that the GND is not radical enough for his taste: “While I applaud the direction proposed in the Green New Deal resolution, it simply does not go far enough. The hard truth is that we must keep more fossil fuels in the ground.”

Other major supporters of the Green New Deal include such tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit activist organizations as the National Audubon Society, which in 2020 held net assets of \$585 million and awarded more than \$5.4 million in grants and similar disbursements; the World Wildlife Fund, which in 2019 held net assets of \$386 million and awarded grants exceeding \$70 million; and the Trust for Public Land, which in 2019 held net assets of \$133 million and awarded over \$58 million in grants.

These and hundreds of other likeminded activist organizations are united in their mission to advance the economic and cultural transformation that the Green New Deal, if it were signed into law, would herald.

The efforts of the aforementioned pro-Green New Deal activist groups are augmented by a second enormous class of 501(c)(3) nonprofits that likewise have been granted tax-exempt status by the I.R.S.: the hundreds of charitable foundations that together award countless thousands of grants, worth many billions of dollars in the aggregate, to environmental activist organizations and causes each and every year. Among the more notable of these foundations are:

- George Soros’ Open Society Foundations, which in 2019 held \$10.3 billion in net assets and awarded \$431 million in grants and contributions;
- The Pew Charitable Trusts, which in 2019 held \$887 million in net assets and awarded over \$142 million in grants and contributions;

- The Ford Foundation, which in 2018 held nearly \$12.2 billion in net assets and awarded more than \$534 million in grants and contributions;
- The David and Lucille Packard Foundation, which in 2019 held over \$10.3 billion in net assets and awarded \$431 million in grants and contributions;
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, which in 2020 held \$12.7 billion in net assets and awarded over \$471 million in grants and contributions;
- The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, which in 2019 held more than \$1.2 billion in net assets and awarded \$37.7 million in grants and contributions;
- The Nathan Cummings Foundation, which in 2019 held \$430.8 million in net assets and awarded \$20.3 million in grants and contributions;
- The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, which in 2019 held more than \$323 million in net assets and awarded over \$9.5 million in grants and contributions;
- The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, which in 2018 held \$5.9 billion in net assets and awarded nearly \$308 million in grants and contributions; and
- The Tides Foundation, (the Sunrise Movement’s aforementioned fiscal sponsor), which in 2019 held over \$405 million in net assets and awarded \$457 million in grants and contributions.

The agendas of the activist organizations, charitable foundations, and educational institutions discussed above reflect their political rather than charitable agendas, make them agents of the Democrat Party, and should disqualify them from receiving billions in taxpayer subsidies. But thanks to the partisan – and even rogue - nature of the current I.R.S., they don’t.

David Horowitz began the Center for the Study of Popular Culture in 1988 to establish a conservative presence in Hollywood and show how popular culture had become a political battleground. Over the next 18 years, CSPC attracted 50,000 contributing supporters and established programs such as The Wednesday Morning Club, the Individual Rights Foundation, and Students for Academic Freedom. This article first appeared in the July 29, 2022 edition of Front Page Magazine.

***FrontPage Magazine**, the Center’s online journal of news and political commentary has 1.5 million visitors and over 870,000 unique visitors a month (65 million hits) and is linked to over 2000 other websites. The magazine’s coverage of and commentary about events has been greatly augmented over the last two years by the presence of four Shillman Fellows in Journalism underwritten by board member Dr. Robert Shillman. FrontPage has recently added a blog called “The Point,” run by Shillman Fellow Daniel Greenfield, which has tripled web trafficFF. F*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADDENDUM I

Reportedly there are 18 more precincts to be counted after these. Please see the data on the next page.

**DAILY RESULTS FOR 4th DISTRICT SUPERVISOR RECOUNT
DATE: 7-28-2022**

PRECINCT #: 423

**Recount Tally
Certified Results**

Paulding	Compton
1042	523
1042	523

DATE: 7-29-2022

PRECINCT #: 418

**Recount Tally
Certified Results**

Paulding	Compton
588	547
588	547

PRECINCT #: 404

**Recount Tally
Certified Results**

Paulding	Compton
452	312
452	312

CUMMULATIVE RESULTS TO DATE:

**Recount Tally
Certified Results**

Paulding	Compton
2082	1382
2082	1382



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
OFFICE OF THE CLERK-RECORDER**
Elaina Cano - County Clerk Recorder/Registrar of Voters
Melissa Lile - Deputy Director Registrar

**MANUAL RECOUNT SCHEDULE DAY 10 – AUGUST 1, 2022
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, DISTRICT 4**

- 9:00AM *Continue manual tally recount of 4th District contest.
- 11:00AM 15-minute staff break
- 11:15AM *Continue manual tally recount of 4th District contest.
- 1:00PM Lunch (1 hour)
- 2:00PM *Continue manual tally recount of 4th District contest.
- 4:15PM Conclude the recount process for the day.

*Should the manual recount of the requested five precincts be completed, the special recount board will resume with locating and sorting the remainder of the 18 precincts.

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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

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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.

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

TODAY'S DATE: _____