COLAB San Luis Obispo County

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE
JULY 3 - 9, 2022

STAY INSPIRED – STAY READY
WE ARE TODAY'S UNWOKE COLONIAL RABBLE
IN OUR OWN COUNTRY

THIS WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

COASTAL COMMISSION
9.4 % FEE INCREASES ACROSS THE BOARD

COMMISSION OBJECTED TO COUNTY'S ADU ORDINANCE
DISPUTE WILL HOLD UP COASTAL ADUs FOR A YEAR

COMMISSION TO DETERMINE IF IT SHOULD INTERVENE IN THE CAMBRIA CHRISTMAS MARKET PERMIT EXTENSION

3CE SPECIAL MEETING TO APPROVE SOME REAL GREEN ENERGY

THE STATE HAS REQUIRED THEM TO PROCURE THERMAL & BIO-MASS

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

SLO PENSION TRUST WARNED OF INFLATION IMPACTS

SUMMER RECESS FOR SOME AGENCIES BEGAN

3CE OPERATIONS BOARD

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID REMAINS LOW

ELECTION RESULTS FINALLY ALMOST COMPLETE

BRUCE JONES AND BRUCE GIBSON IN NOVEMBER RUNOFF

CONSERVATIVE BOS MAJORITY HANGS IN THE BALANCE

MORE SUPPORT FOR DIABLO EXTENSION

IS THE TOILET PAPER BAN NEXT?

NO PROBLEM!!!

COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 16

HOW GOVERNMENTS EXPROPRIATE WEALTH WITH INFLATION AND TAXES

If you wanted more government, this is more government: Less growth, higher inflation, and poorer citizens

BY DANIEL LACALLE

AMERICA IS MORE FRAGILE THAN THE LEFT UNDERSTANDS

Like a stunned adolescent whose reckless incompetence totaled the family car, the Left seems shocked that America proved so fragile after all.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

THE CALIFORNIA NANNY STATE INVADES HOUSEHOLD KITCHENS

At some point millions of Californians have to wake up and demand sanity from their legislators and bureaucrats

BY EDWARD RING

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

The next scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Coastal Commission Meeting of Wednesday, July 13 and Thursday, July 13, 2022 (Scheduled)

Item We13.d - Fee Increases. The fees are on automatic pilot. The write-up states that they are going up 9.4 %, but then in an incomprehensible paragraph it says that the increase is always calculated on the base amount since they were first established in 2008.

The fees established … shall be increased annually by an amount calculated on the basis of the percentage change from the year in which this provision becomes effective in the California Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers as determined by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 2212. The increased fee amounts shall become effective on July 1 of each year. The new fee amounts shall be rounded to the nearest dollar.

Increases are based on initial costs from the year 2008, when the provision became effective. Based on the Department of Industrial Relations CPI Index Calculator, the California Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers from April 2008 to April 2022 W6d July 2022 Filing Fees Increase 2 increased by 41.2%. For the most recent increase (for the 2021-2022 fiscal year), the Commission used February 2021 to calculate fee increases. Thus, this report expresses the "year to year" increase as 9.4% (February 2021 to April 2022). This has no effect on fees over the long term, as the base for fee increases is always 2008 figures, as required by the regulation.

Huh?

In any case some of the fees are listed below:

Some samples:

A. **Detached residential development**

Up to 4 detached, single-family residences

1,500 sq. ft. or less, $ 4,236 per residence	$___________
1,501 to 5,000 sq. ft., $ 6,354 per residence	$___________
5,001 to 10,000 sq. ft., $ 8,472 per residence	$___________
10,001 or more square feet, $ 10,590 per residence	$___________

More than 4 detached, single-family residences

1,500 sq. ft. or less, greater of $21,180 or $1,412 per residence	$___________
1,501 to 5,000 sq. ft., greater of $31,770 or $2,118 per residence	$___________
5,001 to 10,000 sq. ft., greater of $42,360 or $2,824 per residence	$___________
10,001 or more sq. ft., greater of $52,950 or $3,530 per residence	$___________

Maximum: $141,200

B. **Attached residential development**

2–4 units, $10,590	$___________
5 or more units, greater of $14,120 or $1,059 per unit	$___________
Maximum: $70,600	

II. OFFICE, COMMERCIAL, CONVENTION, INDUSTRIAL (INCLUDING ENERGY FACILITIES), AND ALL OTHER DEVELOPMENT NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED

A. Gross Square Footage

1,000 gross sq. ft. or less, $7,060	$___________
1,001 to 10,000 gross sq. ft., $14,120	$___________
10,001 to 25,000 gross sq. ft., $21,180	$___________
25,001 to 50,000 gross sq. ft., $28,240	$___________
50,001 to 100,000 gross sq. ft., $42,360	$___________
100,001 or more gross sq. ft., $70,600	$___________

B. Development Cost Note: *Development cost includes all expenditures, including the cost for planning, engineering, architectural, and other services, made or to be made for designing the project, plus the estimated cost of construction of all aspects of the project both inside and outside the Commission's jurisdiction.*

$100,000 or less: fee $4,236	$___________
$100,001 to $500,000: fee $8,472	$___________
$500,001 to $2,000,000: fee $14,120	$___________
$2,000,001 to $5,000,000: fee $28,240	$___________
$5,000,001 to $10,000,000: fee $35,300	$___________
$10,000,001 to $25,000,000: fee $42,360	$___________
$25,000,001 to $50,000,000: fee $70,600	$___________
$50,000,001 to $100,000,000: fee $141,200	$___________
$100,000,001 or more: fee $353,000	$___________

Yikes! Do applicants get slugged for both the per unit costs and the so-called development costs? Note, these costs are on top of all the costs paid to the permitting city or county.

Item Th13a - Commission and County in Dispute over Permitting of Additional Dwelling Units (ADU's): The County submitted the coastal version of its new zoning (in accordance with State mandates) for permitting ADUs to the Commission for a Coastal Plan Consistency determination. The Commission staff disagreed with some of the County's provisions and wanted to impose its changes on the County. In turn the County declined and is requesting the Commission to grant a one-year extension in an effort to attempt to work it out. The Commission staff recommends granting the extension.

No applications for ADUs in the County's unincorporated coastal areas can be processed. For at least a year. Thus in Los Osos, Cambria, Avila Beach, Cayucos, and Oceano Ranch, your aging mother is likely to die of old age, before she can move into a new ADU. So much for the County and State "housing priority."

Item Th14b - Cambria Christmas Market Substantial Issue Determination: The County **approved** extension of the Cambria Christmas Market for 2 years. Some neighbors appealed to the Coastal Commission to take over the issue and overturn the County approval. The actual issue before the Commission at this point is whether the Commission determines that there is substantive issue that would make it legal for the Commission to take over the jurisdiction.

The staff studied the matter and determined that there is no substantial issue involving the Coastal Act, as the event is short and temporary. Staff recommends that the Commission turn down the appellants' request.

Who knows what the Commissioners will do?

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

SLO County Pension Trust Board Meeting (SLOCPT) of Monday, June 27, 2022 (Completed)

Item 13 - Year to Date Monthly Investment Report. The stock market downturn has begun to affect the fund that has lost $117 million so far this year. If the trend continues, the County could face higher contribution costs to cover its unfunded accumulated actuarial liability of $806.8 million next year.

Agenda Item 13: Monthly Investment Report for May 2022

	May	**Year to Date 2022**		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Trust Investments ($ millions)	$1,658			$1,775	$1,552 year end	$1,446 year end	$1,285 year end	$1,351 year end
Total Fund Return	0.5% Gross	**-4.9%** Gross		15.2% Gross	8.9 % Gross	16.3 % Gross	-3.2 % Gross	15.5 % Gross
Policy Index Return (r)	0.2%	-7.0%		12.8%	10.0 %	16.4 %	-3.2 %	13.4 %

(r) Policy index as of Nov. 2021 Strategic Asset Allocation Policy with 2022 Interim targets:

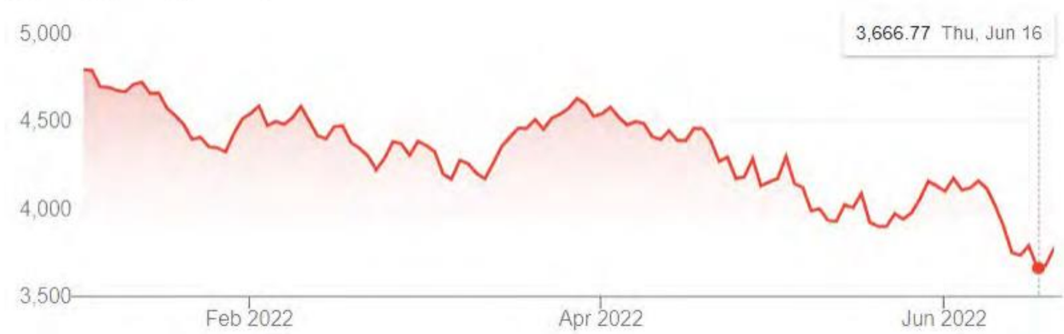
Public Mkt Equity-	24% Russell 3000, 17% MSCI ACWI ex-US
Public Mkt Debt-	11% Barclays US Aggregate,
Risk Diversifying	8% Barclays US Aggregate,
	4% Barclays 7-10yr Treasury, 3% Barclays 5-10yr US TIPS
Real Estate & Infrastructure-	13% NCREIF Index (inc. Infrastructure)
Private Equity-	7% actual private equity returns
Private Credit-	4% actual private credit returns

SLOCPT's investment advisors report:

The Economy and Capital Markets:

♣ *Equity Markets – Equity markets flattened their decline slightly in May. However, the increasingly sharp drop in June has moved the S&P 500 index of US stocks firmly into Bear market territory for the year-to-date. The specter of high inflation rates continuing well above expectations leads to fears of Fed tightening of monetary conditions more than expected. Increasing interest rates and increasing inflation both put pressure on corporate earnings which have a large impact on stock market valuation levels*

S&P 500 Index – 2022 YTD



- **Total Fund Returns –** The SLOCPT asset mix is broadly diversified across public market equities (US and International), bonds in several different strategies, real estate, private equity and private credit. The Year to Date (YTD) returns of a sample of different asset classes have been –

Asset class	YTD - May	YTD – mid June est.
Equities – S&P 500	-12.8%	-24% est.
Bonds – Aggregate	-8.9%	-12% est.
Real Estate - NCREIF	+5.3%	+6% est.
SLOCPT Total Fund	-4.9%	-11% est.

Inflation – Inflation increasingly is a central risk element for the economy and the capital markets. With an unexpectedly high US CPI inflation report for May at an 8.6% year-over-year increase, expectations for a peaking of the inflation rate were battered. The expected inflation rate as measured by the spread between Treasury bond yields and those of Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) still predicts substantially lower inflation in 2024 and beyond. But Fed monetary policy tightening to combat the current inflation rate has a distinct possibility of triggering a recession in late 2023 or 2024

Table I-2
Change in Unfunded Actuarial Liability
(in thousands)

Unfunded Actuarial Liability, January 1, 2020	$	753,309
Actuarial transition	$	2,802
Expected change in Unfunded Actuarial Liability		(5,370)
Unfunded decrease due to actuarial asset gain[1]		(5,684)
Unfunded increase due to liability loss		26,101
Unfunded increase due to change in discount rate		35,700
Total UAL change	$	53,549
Unfunded Actuarial Liability, January 1, 2021	$	806,858

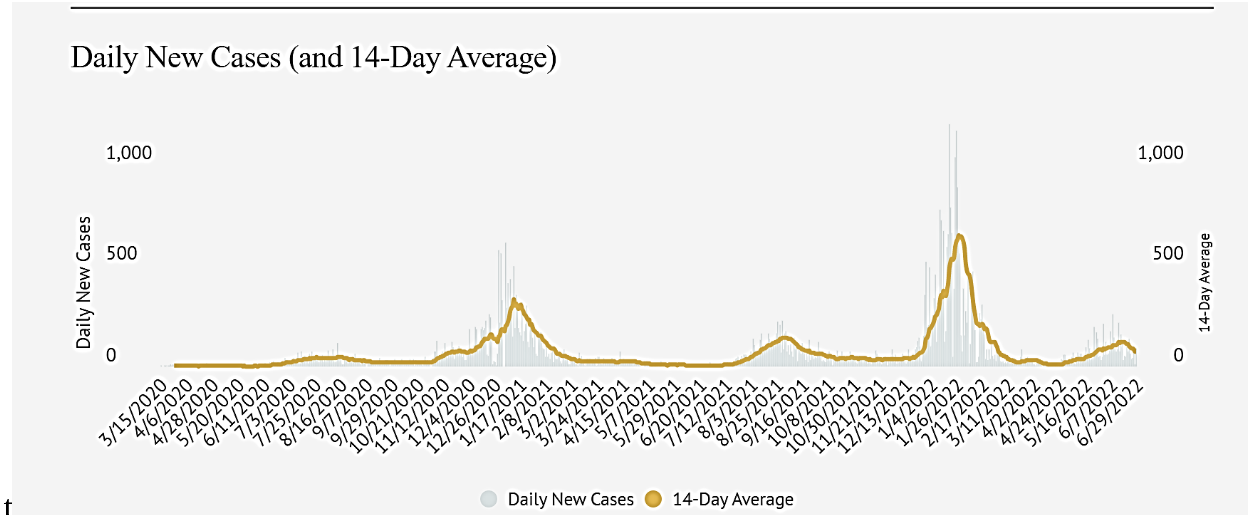
[1] *Includes net loss due to contribution timing delay.*

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) – Operations Board Meeting of Thursday, June 30, 2022 (Special)

The Board held a special meeting on June 30th to approve one large ($450 million) green energy and several small green energy procurement contracts. It needed to meet a state imposed deadline to acquire some actual green energy as opposed to fake renewable energy certificates. Probably PG&E and SCE are prodding the State Public Utilities Commission and the State Energy Department to enforce requriments on the community energy scammers to include 10% real green energy in their portfolios.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID. Still, the infection rate seems to [be] remain[ing] low.



t

13 Hospitalized (0 in ICU)

Item 2 - Supervisorial Election.

The Tuesday, June 28, count left 2,845 ballots, which were then counted on Friday July 1, 2022.

NEXT COUNT – FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022, 9:00 A.M.

CONTEST/DISTRICT	VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS	PROVISIONAL or CVR BALLOTS	ELECTION NIGHT NON-PROCESSED	TOTAL
COUNTYWIDE	2,531	295	19	2,845

Astonishingly, there were still 261 ballots remaining which are to be counted on Thursday July 7^{th}.

FINAL COUNT – THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022, 9:00 A.M.

CONTEST/DISTRICT	VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS	PROVISIONAL or CVR BALLOTS	ELECTION NIGHT NON-PROCESSED	TOTAL
COUNTYWIDE	261	1	0	262

This is an insufficient number to impact any of the races. The 3^{rd} district was won by incumbent Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg. The 4^{th} district grew tighter with Supervisor Compton moving closer; however, Arroyo Grande City Councilman Jimmie Paulding won. The 2^{nd} district vote will result in a runoff in November between incumbent Supervisor Bruce Gibson and physician Bruce Jones.

One of the other candidates in the race, Colonel John Whitworth has already endorsed Jones and will work to support him. The leftists will pull out all the stops to attempt to maintain Gibson in office and capture the Board majority.

County Supervisor, 2nd District (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 23 of 23 (100.00%)

	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
Times Cast	592	17,511	18,103 / 36,806	49.18%
Undervotes	33	1,005	1,038	
Overvotes	0	11	11	

Candidate	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
BRUCE GIBSON	154	7,968	8,122	47.63%
BRUCE JONES	131	3,106	3,237	18.98%
GEOFF AUSLEN	126	2,835	2,961	17.36%
JOHN WHITWORTH	148	2,586	2,734	16.03%
Total Votes	559	16,495	17,054	

	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	

County Supervisor, 3rd District (Partial Term, 2010 Boundary) (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 25 of 25 (100.00%)

	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
Times Cast	517	18,678	19,195 / 38,543	49.80%
Undervotes	36	1,089	1,125	
Overvotes	0	14	14	

Candidate	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
DAWN ORTIZ-LEGG	185	11,146	11,331	62.75%
STACY A. KORSGADEN	275	5,879	6,154	34.08%
ARNOLD RUIZ	21	550	571	3.16%
Total Votes	481	17,575	18,056	

	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	

County Supervisor, 4th District (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 29 of 29 (100.00%)

	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
Times Cast	609	20,856	21,465 / 40,057	53.59%
Undervotes	29	614	643	
Overvotes	0	4	4	

Candidate	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
JIMMY PAULDING	205	10,523	10,728	51.53%
LYNN COMPTON	375	9,715	10,090	48.47%
Total Votes	580	20,238	20,818	

	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	

The voter registration data suggests that Republicans failed to turn out in large enough numbers. For example, in District 4 Lynn Compton received 10,090 votes. The registration table below indicates that there are 15,689 eligible republicans versus 13,776 democrats. Yet Paulding, a Democrat, won with 10,728 votes to Compton's 10,090. Ditto for the 2nd District, where the three conservatives combined to generate only 8.932 votes to leftist democrat Gibson's 8,122.

Report Filter(s):

County: San Luis Obispo

ROR Date: 05/23/2022

	Registered Voters	Democratic	Republican	American Independent	Green	Libertarian	Peace and Freedom	Unknown	Other	No Party Preference
County Supervisorial 1	**35,319**	10,560	15,369	1,524	155	502	123	147	328	6,611
County Supervisorial 2	**36,806**	12,749	14,176	1,546	225	570	114	156	326	6,944
County Supervisorial 3	**29,962**	14,955	6,366	1,109	198	405	108	140	258	6,423
County Supervisorial 4	**40,057**	13,776	15,689	1,594	154	547	117	164	384	7,632
County Supervisorial 5	**39,750**	17,445	10,957	1,597	256	523	135	160	414	8,263

Item 3 - Diablo. Momentum seems to be picking up to keep the power plant open. One real issue is the State Land's Commission requirement that the company construct a new $12 billion sea water cooling system so that the marine life (which loves the slightly warmer water) won't get too hot. The other is the unfair discrimination by the State against investor-owned utilities vis a vis the community choice aggregators. It would also help if the State would define nuclear energy as carbon free.

California may rescue its last nuclear power plant — and give PG&E millions to do it

By Nadia Lopez

A bill under consideration by the Legislature would pave the way for California lawmakers to extend the life of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, the state's last nuclear facility, past its scheduled closure.

The energy trailer bill negotiated by Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration allocates a reserve fund of up to $75 million to the state Department of Water Resources to prolong the operation of aging power plants scheduled to close. Diablo Canyon, on the coast near San Luis Obispo, has been preparing to shut down for more than five years.

The funding is part of a contentious bill that, if enacted, aims to address a couple of Newsom's most pressing concerns — maintaining the reliability of the state's increasingly strained power grid, and avoiding the politically damaging prospect of brown-outs or blackouts.

Should the Newsom administration choose to extend the life of the nuclear plant, the funding would allow that — although the actual cost to keep the 37-year-old facility owned by Pacific Gas and Electric is not known. Newsom's office and the Department of Water Resources did not immediately respond to multiple requests for comment. Asked for an estimate, PG&E spokesperson Lynsey Paulo did not provide one.

Even if only a contingency fund, the optics of sending millions of state and federal dollars to the state's largest utility — which has a recent record of responsibility for deadly wildfires and state "bailouts" — are politically problematic.

While the energy bill doesn't itself authorize the extension of the plant's life, it does provide the money should state leaders decide to do so. Such a move would require "subsequent legislation and review and approval by state, local and federal regulatory entities," said Lindsay Buckley, a spokesperson for the California Energy Commission.

Overall, the energy trailer bill seeks to address the thorny transition as California tries to move from a reliance on fossil fuels to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. The legislation spells out the state's concern that, during extreme weather events, renewable energy alone will not be enough to meet the state's rising power demand.

The state's solution: Keep Diablo Canyon as open as a failsafe, and pay to retrofit several aging fossil fuel facilities and backup power generation.

"The governor requested this language, not as a decision to move ahead with continuing operation of Diablo Canyon, but to protect the option to do that if a future decision is made," said state Sen. John Laird, a Democrat from San Luis Obispo.

He also said the public should have a chance to weigh in before a final decision is made on the plant's fate.

“The shuttering of Diablo Canyon has been years in the making, with hundreds of millions of dollars already committed for decommissioning,” Laird said. “Along with the residents of the Central Coast, I’m eager to see what the governor and federal officials have in mind.”

Located on the state’s Central Coast, Diablo Canyon has been supplying power to the state’s electric grid since 1985. Its 2,240 megawatts of electricity generation is roughly enough to support the needs of more than 3 million people.

In 2016, PG&E announced plans to close the nuclear plant, noting that the transition to renewable energy would make continued operations too costly. The California Public Utilities Commission approved the closure in 2018, after the utility reached a settlement agreement with advocacy groups and environmentalists. The facility has two reactors: One reactor is slated to close in 2024, followed by the second in 2025.

Regardless of the future decision about the lifespan of the nuclear plant, nothing can happen without federal and state funding.

The Biden Administration created a $6 billion Civil Nuclear Credit Program to rescue financially struggling nuclear power plants, and Newsom has said he would consider applying for federal funding to keep Diablo Canyon open past its scheduled 2025 closure.

But in order to access the federal funding, PG&E is facing a July 5 deadline. The utility on Tuesday asked the federal government to grant it a 75-day extension to apply.

Some federal requirements could prevent Diablo Canyon from qualifying for that federal funding, so last month the Newsom administration sent a letter to federal Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm requesting changes to ensure Diablo Canyon’s eligibility. In response, the Energy Department has proposed removing one requirement: that an applicant not recover “more than 50% of its cost from cost-of-service regulation or regulated contracts.”

PG&E expressed support for the change in its own letter to the Energy Department Tuesday. It also urged the agency to give it an extension, adding that it “is needed to provide PG&E the time to collect and analyze the information and prepare an application.”

“The current energy policy of the state is to decommission the plant when the licenses expire in 2024 and 2025, but considering the recent direction from the state, we’ve requested an extension of the application deadline,” Paulo said. “The Department of Energy funding would reduce costs to customers if the state decides it wants to preserve the option to keep the plant open to help with grid reliability.”

“This is so ill-advised. It’s a play of desperation.

LINDA SEELEY, SAN LUIS OBISPO MOTHERS FOR PEACE

But changing the federal rules to accommodate PG&E is a bad idea to longtime critics of nuclear power in California. To keep the plant operating, PG&E would have to seismically retrofit the plant and make heavy investments in cooling system and maintenance upgrades — costs that would outweigh the benefits, the anti-nuclear nonprofit San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace wrote in a letter sent to the Energy Department on Monday.

Linda Seeley, a San Luis Obispo resident and longtime member of the group, said extending Diablo Canyon will cause a "myriad of problems."

"This is so ill-advised. It's a play of desperation," she said. "I know we're in a very serious climate crisis, but this is not a rational or practical response."

LETTER SIGNED BY 27 SCIENTISTS, ENTREPRENEURS AND ACADEMICS

Supporters insist the funds are necessary to keep the plant open and advance the state's goals of getting to a carbon-neutral economy while battling climate change. A coalition of 37 scientists, entrepreneurs and academics on Monday sent a letter to Energy Secretary Granholm expressing support for the Department of Energy's proposal.

"Considering our climate crisis, failing to pass this amendment could lead to the plant's closure," the letter said. "That would not only be irresponsible, the consequences could be catastrophic. We are in a rush to decarbonize and hopefully save our planet from the worsening effects of climate change. We categorically believe that shutting down Diablo Canyon in 2025 is at odds with this goal."

California is facing steep hurdles in addressing its power supply challenges as the climate crisis intensifies and the state transitions to renewable energy. Soaring temperatures and heat waves have been hitting the state in recent years, straining supply and increasing the risk of power outages. A prolonged drought has depleted hydropower sources, while more frequent wildfires also continue to threaten the state's electrical infrastructure.

"Failing to pass this amendment could lead to the plant's closure. That would not only be irresponsible, the consequences could be catastrophic."

The state's energy trailer bill, which was negotiated as part of the budget process, would significantly expand the authority of the Energy Commission and Department of Water Resources to streamline electric power projects. The bill would grant the water agency the authority to site, construct and operate power facilities wherever it wants, and does not require the agency to comply with existing state or local laws.

The bill's funding could allow PG&E to invest in dry cask storage, a method to safely store spent fuel. The money could also be used for capacity payments — public dollars that are used to sustain a plant's operations — and to issue flex alerts, when a utility asks its customers to voluntarily reduce their energy consumption and use power during off-peak hours, said Michael Colvin, director of regulatory and legislative affairs at the nonprofit Environmental Defense Fund.

The goal, he said, is to have the cash on hand to sustain operations during high-peak hours and potential power crunches brought on by extreme weather.

"Some of that money would be to basically keep those types of power plants around and on standby," he said. "I look at this allocation as a contingency fund – we don't necessarily think we're going to need this but if we do, we want to have some flexibility available. Setting aside some money to be able to do this now is probably a good use of public funds, given the moment that we're in."

While Diablo Canyon is seen as a climate-friendly alternative to advocates of nuclear power in California, opponents cite safety threats and problems storing radioactive waste. And the prospect of keeping it open involves numerous technical, financial and logistical challenges. PG&E would need to reapply for licensing with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which issues the licenses to keep the plant operating, and would need to receive state and federal approval to do so. It would also have to address aging infrastructure problems at the site.

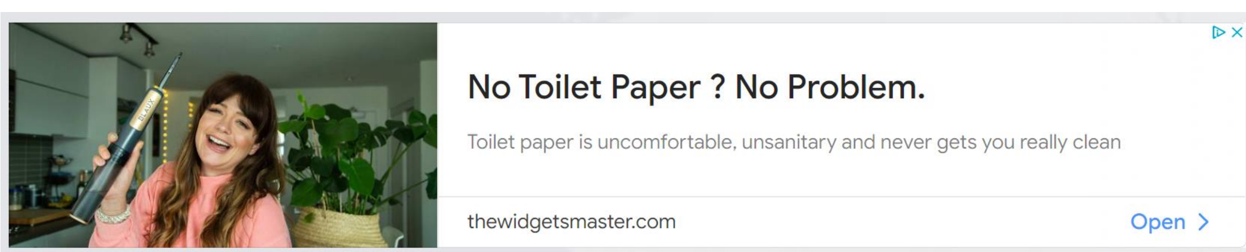
The commission issues operating licenses for nuclear power reactors to operate for up to 40 years, and allows renewal for an additional 20 years at a time.

Though it remains unclear how many more years the plant could be extended, Colvin said it's unlikely that the state would pursue a lengthy, decades-long extension. He said the plant is more likely to continue operating for another five or so years.

"I don't think we need an asset like Diablo Canyon for that long of a period of time," he said, "and certainly not at the size and shape of what Diablo Canyon is."

Nadia Lopez covers environmental policy issues. Before joining CalMatters she covered Latino communities in the San Joaquin Valley for The Fresno Bee and reported from city hall for San José Spotlight. She's a native of Chula Vista and a graduate of San Francisco State University. This article first appeared in the Cal Matters of June 29, 2022.

Item 4 - Supply Chain Developments – If you can't get toilet Paper: Evolution of the caulking tube. As the left destroys the economy, new modes will appear. Will the State or IWMA ban toilet paper? Seems like fertile ground for them – so to speak.



Will people carry the tubes around like their bottled water?

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

HOW GOVERNMENTS EXPROPRIATE WEALTH WITH INFLATION AND TAXES

BY DANIEL LACALLE

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, Treasury secretary Janet Yellen admitted that the chain of stimulus plans implemented by the US administration helped create the problem of inflation. “Inflation is a matter of demand and supply, and the spending that was undertaken in the American Rescue Plan did feed demand,” Yellen admitted. Of course, Yellen went on to say that the spending was appropriate due to the collapse of the economy as governments were trying to prevent a recession.

This reminds us of a few of the problems of disproportionate government intervention and the negative impact on the middle class. The misguided massive lockdowns were imposed by the government. Countries that had strict testing, like South Korea and other Asian and European countries, kept the economy working and the pandemic under control. However, the problem is larger and deeper. Central banks and governments have exhausted all demand-side policies at the expense of the middle class by eroding real wages and deposit savings.

Even worse, governments created a larger inflationary spiral by maintaining all “pandemic relief” packages even after the reopening, well beyond the recovery. They expected a spectacular aggregate demand increase and they got it. Now the result is higher inflation and lower economic growth. But government size and deficit spending remain.

Everything that government spends is paid by you. There is no free money. Even for the recipients of benefits in constantly depreciated currency. Inflation, the tax on the poor.

Governments do not avoid recessions through spending, they simply make the accumulated problems larger by constantly adding debt that central banks monetize via quantitative easing. This uncontrolled increase in M3 money supply (a broad money proxy) leads to asset inflation first and everyday goods price inflation afterwards. Both consequences lead to inequality and a constant deterioration of the purchasing power of the currency, making salaries in real terms lower.

Central-planned money creation is never neutral. It disproportionately benefits the first recipients of money, government and those with assets and debt, and negatively impacts those with a monetary salary and some savings in cash deposits, which dissolve over time. No socialist excel spreadsheet can erase the fact that massive deficit spending financed with newly created money destroys the poor and the middle class. They may say that government spending goes to social programs that benefit the poor, but that does not happen. Social programs in a constantly devalued currency become irrelevant, inefficient, and worthless while at the same time the wrongly named welfare state condemns a substantial proportion of the population to being hostage clients of government plans.

Government does not give excess reserves as social programs. Government takes away from existing and future wealth of the economy via currency printing, taxation, spending and debt, but math never works for those who believe extractive and confiscatory policies will work. The “tax the rich” crowd are doing an enormous disservice to the citizens they pretend to support. Interventionists may use the excuse of stealing from the rich to give to the poor, but the reality is that government spending is so enormous that they cannot finance every entitlement and social program with the money of one percent of the population. Government takes from the 99 percent to give devaluated and increasingly worthless funds to 45 percent of the population, and in the process bloating an ever-expanding bureaucracy to administer it all.

Did you feel happy when the government gave you a check paid with printed money? Watch now as your daily groceries, gas and power become unaffordable.

Government always takes three when they promise one. Huge public debt accumulation will be paid by the 99 percent via inflation, taxes, or both.

Deficit spending and artificial money creation are just two sides of the same coin, dissolving the existing wealth of a nation by issuing more promissory notes. Wealth is the same, just more units of currency in circulation. Hence, prices do not rise, the purchasing power of money diminishes.

The price of one good or service can go up due to a supply crisis, but if the quantity of currency issued is the same, it would be impossible to see all prices rising with it. In fact, other prices would fall. Prices of most goods and services can only go up in unison if the quantity of currency is rising faster than its demand.

Governments and central banks will continue to impose demand-side policies under the excuse that it is best for everyone and prevents a recession, the idea that it is good for you. The incentive to do it is immense because when it fails to work, they blame businesses, geopolitics, the rich or anyone else. If citizens believe that government can create wealth via money printing, governments will do it, presenting themselves as the solution to the problem they created. We got our pandemic cheque and now we are paying for it multiple times over.

Now Keynesians see there is only one way to curb inflation: Putting the brake on aggregate demand. But governments are not going to reduce spending, so the “aggregate demand reduction” will be making everyone in the private sector poorer.

Inflation has been created by using the lockdown to massively increase government size. Yellen says that inflation is a consequence of supply and demand, but if that were the case Argentina and Venezuela would have low inflation. The problem is rising supply of currency and weakening demand for it.

The mirage of enormous government spending and exponential currency printing is a process of expropriation. Government expands its size at the expense of the rest of the population, especially those that defend rising public expenditure programs.

Demand-side policies expropriate wealth in three ways. On the way in, by running uncontrolled deficits financed with debt, which means higher taxes in the future. Second, raising taxes to "reduce deficit." Third, with inflation. Government weight in the economy rises in all three steps. Then, when it fails, repeat.

If you wanted more government, this is more government: Less growth, higher inflation, and poorer citizens.

Daniel Lacalle, PhD, economist and fund manager, is the author of the bestselling books Freedom or Equality (2020), Escape from the Central Bank Trap (2017), The Energy World Is Flat *(2015), and Life in the Financial Markets (2014).He is a professor of global economy at IE Business School in Madrid. Mises Wire , June 27,*

AMERICA IS MORE FRAGILE THAN THE LEFT UNDERSTANDS

Like a stunned adolescent whose reckless incompetence totaled the family car, the Left seems shocked that America proved so fragile after all.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

"There is a great deal of ruin in a nation."
— Adam Smith

The Left has been tempting fate since January 2021—applying its nihilist medicine to America on the premise that such a rich patient can ride out any toxic shock.

Our elites assume that all our nation's past violent protests, all its would-be revolutions, all its cultural upheavals, all its institutionalized lawlessness were predicated on one central truth—America's central core is so strong, so rich, and so resilient that it can withstand almost any assault.

So, we can afford 120 days in 2020 of mass rioting, $2 billion in damage, some 35 killed, and 1,500 police injured.

We can easily survive an Afghanistan, and our utter and complete military humiliation. There was no problem in abandoning some $70-80 billion in military loot to terrorists. Who cares that we tossed off a billion-dollar new embassy, and jettisoned a $300-million refitted air base, as long as our pride flags were waving in Kabul?

Certainly, we can afford to restructure all our universities, eliminate free expression and speech, and institute Maoist cultural revolutionary fervor in our revered institutions of higher learning—once the world's greatest levers of scientific advancement and technological progress.

We can jettison merit in every endeavor, from banning the world's great books to grading math tests to running chemistry experiments. And still, a resilient America won't notice.

We assumed that our foundational documents—the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—our natural bounty in North America, our cherished rule of law, our legal immigration traditions that drew in the most audacious and hardworking on the planet, and our guarantees of personal freedom and liberty led to such staggering wealth and affluence that nothing much that this mediocre generation could do would ever endanger our resilience.

But such inheritances are not written in stone. America, as the world's only successful multiracial democratic republic, was always fragile. It was and is always one generation away from disappearing—should any cohort become so foolish as to mock its past, dismantle its institutions, revert to tribalism, redistribute rather than create wealth, and consume rather than invest.

We are that generation. And we have an accounting with nature's limitations, given there is always a corrective, not a nice one, but remediation nonetheless for every excess.

Our major cities are no longer safe. Somehow, the Left has nearly wrecked San Francisco in less than a decade. A once beautiful and vibrant city is lawless, dirty, toxic, often boarded up, and losing population. It has turned into a medieval keep of well-protected knights in secure fiefs while everyone else is engaged in a *bellum omnium contra omnes*.

We know it is so because California public officials talk of anything and everything—*Roe* v. *Wade*, transitions to electric cars, hundreds of millions of dollars in COVID-19 relief for illegal aliens—to mask their utter impotence to address feces in the street, the random assaults on the vulnerable, and the inability to park a car and return to it intact.

Ditto the Dodge City downtowns of Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Seattle, Baltimore, Washington, and a host of others. In just four or five years, they have given up on fully funding the police, aggressive prosecutors indicting the violent, and ubiquitous civil servants ensuring the streets are free of trash, vermin, flotsam, jetsam, and human excrement.

There are natural reactions to such excess. The most terrifying is that our once-great cities, especially their downtowns, will simply shrink into something like ghost towns—our versions of an out-West Bodie, or an abandoned Roman city in the sand like Leptis Magna, or a Chernobyl.

But the culprit will not be a played-out mine, or encroaching desert, or a nuclear meltdown, but the progressive leadership of a worn-out, bankrupt people who no longer possess the confidence to keep their urban civilization safe and viable. And so, they either fled, or joined the mob, or locked themselves up in fortified citadels, both in fear to go out and terrified of losing what they owned.

We are seeing that deterioration already in our major cities. Stores are boarded up. Women cease to walk alone after sunset. Police officers walking the beat are now rare. Hate crimes, smash-and-grab robberies, and carjackings go unpunished. Streets are filthy and littered. Commerce and human interaction cease at dusk, as if in expectation that zombies will emerge to control the streets. Criminals when arrested are not always identified—the media censoring names and descriptions on their own selective theories of social justice.

But again, the culprit is not the COVID plague or want of money. It is us, we who turned over our cities to the incompetent, the selfish, the timid, and the violent.

There is again an antidote. But doubling the police force, bringing back broken-windows policing, electing tough prosecutors, moving the homeless from the downtown into hospitals and supervised shelters beyond the suburbs, arresting, convicting, and incarcerating the guilty—all that seems well beyond this generation's capacity.

Would not such efforts be unfair to the mere rock-thrower? Who says the fentanyl user has no right to defecate on the street? Would not our jails become overcrowded? Would the incarcerated be unduly overrepresented by this or that group?

Joe Biden took a strong economy—albeit one that after three serial spendthrift presidencies faced huge national debt and a rendezvous with fiscal sobriety—and has utterly ruined it.

He discouraged labor participation with federal checks. He ensured that his minions on the politicized Federal Reserve Board would keep interest rates artificially low. Biden inflated the money supply while debasing the value of the currency. He brought back mindless regulation and put ideological commissars in place to ensure the corporations, banks, and Wall Street would be woke, allowing ideology to warp ancient economic laws that kept prices stable, supply and demand in balance, and incentives to work and profit.

Many thought Biden would have needed at least four or five years to wreck such a strong economy with such nihilism rather than a mere 16 months.

Yet nature is about to step in with a recession and perhaps even a depression to correct the Biden madness. If interest rates rise, capital dries up, businesses close, employers cut back, consumers no longer have access to easy money, and the nation becomes inert, then the country will be worse off, spend less—and that too will be a brutal solution of sorts to Biden's hyperinflation and stagflation.

Still, it is hard to see how anyone in the government might prefer the proper and necessary medicine at this late hour. An updated Simpson-Bowles plan still could address long-term insolvency. Meaningless regulations could be pruned back. The tax code could be radically altered and simplified to encourage investment rather than consumption. Entitlements could be calibrated by incentives to become productive rather than to remain inert. All of that might return us to a sound currency, a strong GDP, long-term financial solvency, and general prosperity for all. But are not such medicines perceived as worse than the disease?

There is an answer to the open border, when upwards of 4 million illegal aliens will flow into the United States in a mere two years, for the most part without audits, English, capital, income, and vaccinations—and with no idea how to house, feed, or provide health care for millions without background checks.

At this late date, the corrections of stopping catch and release, ending amnesties, hiring more border patrol officers and immigration judges, or building more detention centers are too little too late.

Eventually, Americans will become acculturated to large enclaves of endemic poverty, as millions with no familiarity with the United States are neither assimilated nor integrated.

The border will then disappear, and northern Mexico and the southern United States will become indistinguishable, as millions simply drift back and forth in the manner of an ancient Gaul or Germania. Large areas of Texas, Arizona, and California are already returning to such pre-state status.

Or the alternate corrective will be the completion of a massive wall from the Pacific to the Gulf, with strict audits of all would-be immigrants, immediate deportations for lawbreakers, and legal only immigration that is measured, diverse, and meritocratic.

We are reaching the inflection point quickly and will either experience the absolute destruction of the border or a radical backlash, given that the current mess is unsustainable. Either a nation with borders survives or a tribal and nomadic region supplants it.

If America chooses to shut down refineries, put our rich oil and natural gas fields off-limits, cancel pipelines, and demonize the fossil fuel industry, then, of course, prices for carbon fuels will explode.

The Biden Administration talks nonsensically about Teslas, batteries, and electric replacements. But it is not greenlighting mining for the critical minerals needed for batteries. It is not encouraging nuclear power plants to provide enough power for a clean fleet of 200 million electric cars. There is no Marshall Plan to wean America off mostly non-polluting natural gas and gasoline onto electricity-hungry engines.

Instead, Biden begs the Saudis, the Russians, the Venezuelans, and even the Iranians to pump the fuel he will not. He seeks to drain the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that can supply only a fraction of the oil America gulps daily. He defines his own pre-midterm, self-created mess as a national emergency to tap a reserve he could never fill or refill.

So, what is the natural corrective to unaffordable fuel?

A likely Biden recession or depression, in which the middle classes simply do not enjoy jobs that pay enough to afford $6-9-a-gallon gas. And so, they will not drive. Vacations, optional shopping trips, and visits to friends—all that and more will taper off. Gas will stabilize at near-European levels, and the people, as planned, will be rerouted into dirty and unsafe subways and mass transit.

Biden will be happy. But America won’t be the same mobile country.

America's bounty was predicated on each generation following the prompt of the prior, modulating when change was necessary, but not daring to tamper with the foundational principles and values that explained our singular wealth, power, and leisure.

This generation in its arrogance tested fate. It felt itself smarter and morally superior to its betters of the past. It lost that wager and now we the public are paying for its foolishness. To destroy America as we have always known it, there was far less necessary to ruin than our elite believed.

Like a stunned adolescent whose reckless incompetence totaled the family car, the Left seems shocked that America proved so fragile after all.

Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of ***The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won****,* ***The Case for Trump*** *and the newly released* ***The Dying Citizen*** *This article first appeared in the American Greatness of June 27, 2022 and the Hoover Daily Update of the same date.*

THE CALIFORNIA NANNY STATE INVADES HOUSEHOLD KITCHENS

At some point millions of Californians have to wake up and demand sanity from their legislators and bureaucrats

BY EDWARD RING

Unsurprisingly, every top search result for “Senate Bill 1383 food waste” yields links to propitious, upbeat summaries of what’s coming to every household kitchen in California.

For example, from CalRecycle, under the heading “Recycling Organic Materials into New Products,” there is a photo of two women in the kitchen, one of them preparing to dump a plate full of food scraps into a special new container. Both of them appear to be deliriously happy. From RethinkWaste, under “residents,” there is a photo of a smiling woman pouring “organics” out of her special kitchen collection bucket into the large “compost only” can that she will roll out to the curb.
Happiness, apparently, is intimately connected with reducing “short lived climate pollutants,” and so to further our collective happiness, the state is going to turn our kitchen scraps into “biogas” (good), before it can degrade and release methane (bad). How much biogas? How much methane? Compared to what? And at what cost?
Don’t ask. Be happy.

But as usual, our state lawmakers have abandoned common sense. As it is today, most people already either throw their banana peels and apple cores into a “green waste” bin, or pulverize them with the garbage disposal in their sink. But bones and meat scraps typically go into a trash can that’s lined with a plastic bag, which is tied off when it’s filled and dumped in a garbage bin. That’s sanitary. It’s also efficient.

Do people really want to pour every festering bit of scum scraped off their frying pans and every half gnawed chicken bone into a state-issued “organics” bucket that takes up space on their counter, then periodically empty that bucket into their compost bin which has previously only contained grass clippings and hedge cuttings? Who is going to clean up the smelly, putrescent dead animal fluids that will inevitably migrate to the bottom of these buckets and bins and accumulate, week after week? That’s unsanitary. It’s also an intrusive nuisance.

When you consider the new requirements as specified by SB 1383, what households already do ought to be good enough. Because these “organics,” i.e., garden waste enhanced with banana peels, half eaten ribs, bacon grease, chicken bones, etc., are now going to either be delivered to an “anaerobic digestion facility” that generates biogas, or they’ll continue to be delivered to existing composting facilities. Since California’s composting facilities are already well established, most of this modified waste stream will continue to be composted, and they will release greenhouse gas as they break down. As for the anaerobic digesters, they will need to be built at taxpayer expense and cannot possibly be built at sufficient scale to handle all of California’s residential yard waste and food scraps without spending hundreds of millions if not billions. They will then produce fabulously expensive biogas, which will then be burned to generate fabulously expensive energy, still releasing CO_2 in the process.

At some point, millions of Californians have to wake up and demand sanity from their legislators and bureaucrats. If greenhouse gasses are truly an existential threat, and if the world is really going to be so impressed by California’s example that they emulate everything we do, can’t we at least still indulge in honest carbon accounting? How much energy will be expended constructing anaerobic digesters big enough to accommodate the garden clippings and kitchen waste of 40 million Californians? Can’t much of this methane from kitchen scraps just get harvested from existing landfills? And if not, what percentage of California’s total methane emissions come from household food scraps?

There might be legitimate answers to these questions. But then again, remember these are the same politicians who have regulated California’s timber industry nearly out of existence. If you’re serious

about sequestering CO_2, there is nothing more effective than lumber. California's timber industry used to harvest 6 billion board feet of lumber per year as recently as the 1990s. Now California's annual timber harvest is less than one-quarter that much. Instead of the CO_2 embodied in harvested trees being sequestered as lumber, these unharvested, overcrowded and unhealthy trees burn like hell every summer. But let the forests burn, fouling the air year after year with more greenhouse gas than kitchen scraps from California's households would emit in a hundred thousand years. Then blame it on climate change, instead of forest mismanagement, and use that to justify doing anything you want.
These are the politicians who are now coming into your kitchen.

Who Supported the Politicians That Sponsored SB 1383?

It is always useful to follow the money when evaluating legislation. After all, complying with SB 1383 will require more government spending. More government employees will need to be hired. More employees at every public waste management agency will need to be hired. So did government unions and unions representing government contractors – whose membership will grow thanks to SB 1383 – contribute to the campaigns of SB 1383's sponsors in the state senate? Yes they did.

SB 1383 was passed in 2016 and is taking effect this year. The two main sponsors of the bill were Senators Benjamin Allen and Loni Hancock.

Allen is running for reelection this November. He has four donors so far who each gave the maximum $9,700 contribution. They are the California Teachers Association, the SEIU Small Contributor Committee, the SEIU Local 721, and the California Association of Realtors. Three out of four are unions. Back in 2014, when Allen was running for Senate, he had five donors that contributed what at that time was the maximum, $8,200. Along with the realtors, they were AFSCME, the California Association of Electrical Workers, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the California State Council of Laborers, and the United Nurses Association. Four out of five were unions. And back in 2018, Allen's campaign had six donors who contributed $8,800, the maximum in that year. They were four SEIU affiliates, along with the California Federation of Teachers and the State Building and Construction Trades Council. Six for six.

What about Loni Hancock? Hancock ran for reelection in 2012, before retiring in 2016 after co-sponsoring SB 1383 during her final session in the Senate. The maximum allowable contribution in 2012 was $7,800, and for that amount, Hancock had five donors. They were the IBEW Local No. 302, the Electrical Workers Local 595, AFSCME, the California Teachers Association, and the California Federation of Teachers. Five for five.

These maximum donations are indicative. On the links above that point to the contributions received by these politicians, download the spreadsheets and sort by amount. From the top down, the dominant source of contributions are either public sector unions or public sector contractors. Why the teachers union? How do they benefit? Because these public sector unions support each other. That's why the firefighters union marched with the United Teachers of Los Angeles in January 2019, instead of using their political clout to lobby to revive the timber industry – which is the *only* practical way to dramatically reduce wildfires.

Loni Hancock was beholden to public sector unions for her political career. Benjamin Allen *is* beholden to public sector unions for his political career, as are scores of politicians that currently wield a supermajority in both houses of the California state legislature. What these unions want, these unions get. Their agenda, naturally enough, is more pay, more benefits, more hires, and more contracts. That agenda may or may not be in the interest of all Californians. Sometimes, it will reach right into your kitchen.

This isn't just about food scraps. Climate change is a convenient excuse for politicians and their benefactors to profitably interfere with just about every activity we engage in that produces a scrap of greenhouse gas. Anywhere. Everywhere. No matter what the cost, or the inconvenience, our legislators are going to demand "mitigation." They'll claim it's to save the planet. Only a cynical "denier" might think it's actually just to create more jobs for public sector employees and contractors.

The tragedy is that intrusive, expensive schemes like this, of marginal if not counterproductive utility, are how taxpayer money is wasted in California, when there are practical and urgently needed public works – water supply projects come immediately to mind – that remain unfunded. Everyone, certainly including those union members and leaders who still care about this state, should think carefully about what they're going to do next.

Meanwhile, and from now on, Californians are now compelled to periodically clean rotting, rancid, liquified detritus of food scraps from their compost buckets and bins. Be happy.

Edward Ring is a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. The California Policy Center is an educational non-profit focused on public policies that aim to improve California's democracy and economy. He is also a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. Ring is the author of two books: "Fixing California - Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism" (2021), and "The Abundance Choice - Our Fight for More Water in California" (2022). This article first appeared in the California Globe of July 1, 2022.

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