COLAB
San Luis Obispo County
The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE
MARCH 13 -19, 2022

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COLAB
San Luis Obispo County

13th Annual

DINNER & FUNDRAISER

Come Support the Work We Do to Preserve Heritage, Family & Freedom

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022
MADONNA EXPO CENTER

5:00 pm Social Hour, Open Bar
6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner & Wine
Exciting Auction Too!
$125 a person
$1,250 a table, seating for 10

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Cocktail Attire Optional

More info at (805) 548-0340 or
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THIS WEEK

BOS

MAJOR UPDATES TO HEALTH CODE BUSINESSES, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS, HOSPITALITY, FARMERS, AND OTHERS ALL IMPACTED

2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT
STAFF VACANCIES ABOUND, SALARY INCREASES UNFUNDED

COUNTY ADDING MORE STAFF ALMOST EVERY BOS MEETING

BIDEN'S $1.9 TRILLION INFLATIONARY DEBT SLUSH FUND SENDS COUNTY $6 MILLION FOR HOMELESS PROGRAMS

FAILED & UNFAIR HOUSING-IN-LIEU TAX REVIEW

DEAL TO REVIEW ALTERNATIVES ABANDONED – GIBSON GETS HIS CAKE AND EATS IT TOO

SLO LAFCO - LITE AGENDA

LAST WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSHOP PART II

A GOOD BRIEFING ON PLANNING DEPT STRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID DOWN SOMEWHAT

THE WAR AMERICA CAN'T AFFORD TO WIN

BY ANDY CALDWELL

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 20

CALIFORNIA'S GREEN ENERGY MANIA PRICES ELECTRICITY LIKE A LUXURY GOOD

With predictable blackouts, unreliable electric grid, the state is creating dreadful imbalances that will lead to energy rationing
BY TED GAINES

WOKENESS ON ENERGY IS WEAKNESS

Biden's energy policy is bankrupting the country and making us a paper tiger abroad.
BY NED RYUN

EXAMINING CALIFORNIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN

The misanthropic cruelty of these laws ought to be obvious
BY EDWARD RING

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 15, 2022 (Scheduled)

Item 1 - Introduction of an ordinance amending Title 8, Chapters 8.04, 8.06, 8.08, 8.12, 8.16, 8.30, 8.54, 8.60, and 8.62 of the County Code regarding the County Environmental Health Services Division, to update references, delete outdated code sections, and make other clean up and reorganizational changes and request to use alternative publication procedures as authorized by Government Code section 25124. Hearing date set for April 5, 2022. This is early notification of revisions to the County Code impacting a number of various types of businesses. They affect operations, construction, permitting, and licensing. The actual hearing is set for April 5, 2022.

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

The actual ordinance can be reviewed at the link Meeting details - Provox IIP (ca.gov). When it opens, click on the in-basket icon for item number 1.

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

Deletions

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

Additions

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

Chapter 8.06 - Plan Approval

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

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

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

Chapter 8.08 - Seasonal Farm Labor Camps

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

Chapter 8.12 - Solid Waste Management

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

Chapter 8.16 – Septic Tank Trucks

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

Chapter 8.30 - Cross–Connections Control and Inspections

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

Chapter 8.54 - Enforcement–Citation Authority

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

Chapter 8.60 - Public Swimming Pools

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

8.62 - Organized Camps

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

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

Item 5 - FY 2021-22 Second Quarter Financial Report. Overall, the County's Revenues and expenditures are running as expected per the adopted budget**.** Unfortunately, the report does not include a projection for where the County will end up on June 30, 2022, the end of the fiscal year, which is the most important metric for this report. Again, there is considerable anecdotal detail but little in the nature of strategic planning or policy.

One clear trend revealed in the report is that the County continues to add more funded staff positions, reclassifies positions upward in salary, and continues to create one class special positions. The latter is a terrible practice. The County has something like 800 distinct position classes. With 2883 employees, this means that on average there are 3.6 individual employees per position class. This is all the more remarkable in that some classes contain hundreds of employees. These include Deputy Sheriff and Social Services Eligibility Worker.

Remember, the military functions with six basic management ranks, 2nd Lieutenant through Colonel. An F35 Pilot, Dentist, weather expert, Infantry Company Commander, or Supply Officer could all be Captains in the middle of the pay structure. Notwithstanding their professional specialty, all are expected to be qualified on basic weapons and to perform other duties, for instance, mess officer, affirmative action officer, housing officer, and their support roles for their unit. Additionally, they may be called up to support social, diplomatic, and ceremonial functions. This week many are assisting the Poles to process millions of Ukraine refugees. No one, even in the Civil Affairs Branch is getting a special new job classification with a raise.

Civil service systems lock everyone down into very narrow cylinders.

Areas of significant budget variance (both positive and negative) are displayed in the table below:

Table 2: Summary of Notable Issues Included in the Attached Report

Table 2 Summary of Notable Issues Included in the Attached Report New Issues and Issue Status Updates		
Department	**Issue**	**Potential Impact to General Fund**
Public Protection		
132 – District Attorney	$18,758 case trial and backlog expenditures	($280,887) (savings)
136 – Sheriff-Coroner	$2.5 million unbudgeted salary and benefit expenses and revenue update	$796,048
Health and Human Services		
166 – Health Agency - Behavioral Health	$1.8 million unbudgeted expenditures for eating disorder treatment, wraparound services, psychiatry coverage and PHF security, telehealth, and residential care	$356,738
180 – Social Services - Administration	Unbudgeted homeless services expenditures	$181,453 (absorbed)
182 – Social Services - CalWORKs	$1.5 million unbudgeted expenditures due to caseload increases related to the COVID-19 pandemic	$17,756 (absorbed)
Support to County Departments		
114 – Information Technology	$572,962 unbudgeted salary and benefits expenditures due to negotiated salary and benefits increases, departmental reorg	$560,006
411 – Human Resources – Medical Malpractice Self-Insurance	Potentially under-funded	Undetermined
Fiscal and Administrative		
110 – Clerk-Recorder	$670,575 gubernatorial recall election expenditures	$0
119 – Administrative Office – Communications and Outreach	$7,700 unbudgeted salary and benefits expenditures due to departmental reorg	$6,922 (absorbed)

As in past years, the Sheriff's Office displays a large negative variance because the County does not estimate future salaries that have not yet been negotiated. This problem was discussed in detail in the Weekly Update of March 6-12. When it was brought up during the Board meeting, staff stated that the procedure was County past practice and seemed to be working. By the 3rd quarter, we expect that the problem for the Sheriff will have expanded and that there will be proportional problems in other Departmental budgets as labor negotiations are underway with most of the County's unions.

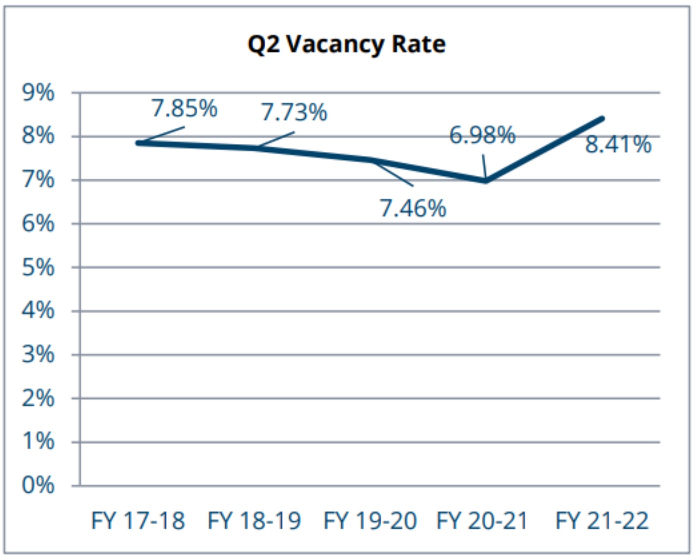
It should be noted that the huge expenditure in Behavioral Health are for one client who has eating disorders. Apparently, no one thought of Jenny Craig or Noom.

The table immediately below demonstrates the addition of 36 new positions since the budget was adopted last June. The County may aver that many are funded by State programs. Nevertheless, you, the taxpayer, are covering the cost somewhere.

FY 2021-22	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Quarter Start	2,847.25	2860.25		
FTE Additions	48.50	41.00		
FTE Deletions	35.50	18.00		
Quarter End	2860.25	2883.25		
Net Change	13.00	23.00		
% Change	0.46%	0.80%		

Another important disclosure is that the County's vacancy rate is increasing. While the average is now 8.41%, the second quarter posted 11.35 %. Staff expects this rate to increase. This leaves 300 positions vacant on any given day. To the extent that this trend continues, it means that the County is actually running on 300 fewer positions than it budgeted.

What is the service impact? Does this affect the performance measures? With a large State university in the Community and a community college preparing entry level professionals in most disciplines, you would think that there would be a functional pipeline.



The accompanying text states:

The County turnover rate at the end of the second quarter was 11.35%. This equates to 300 employee separations. By comparison, the turnover rate for the second quarter during the prior year was 10.48%, and the turnover rate for the second quarter of FY 2019-20 was 14.90%. This represents an increase of 0.87 percentage points in turnover for the County overall. While this is not a significant variance from the prior fiscal year, given the significant changes in the labor market and workforce priorities over the last year, Human Resources expects this number to continue to rise over coming months, possibly reaching 14.56% by 2023. Efforts are already underway to address recruitment and retention challenges that the County will be facing.

The County's vacancy rate is calculated at the end of each quarter by dividing the number of vacant positions by the number of allocated positions at that point in time. The vacancy rate typically reflects contributing factors including, but not limited to, the number of new hires, employee exits, and number of difficult-to-fill positions. The County employee vacancy rate at the end of the second quarter was 8.41%. This equates to 242.50 vacant positions.

By comparison, the vacancy rate for the second quarter during the prior fiscal year 2020-21 was 6.98%. This represents an increase of 1.43 percentage points from the prior year and is likely attributed to increased demands in County operations resulting in a large number of positions being added to the Position Allocation List (PAL) over the last 8 months, coupled with increased recruitment challenges. While we continue to actively recruit to fill open positions, there have *been delays due to a shift in the labor market, which has caused a decrease in number of individuals applying for County jobs and challenges in attracting qualified candidates. Efforts are underway in the Human Resources Department to address these challenges for the Count*

Items 19 and **25** underscore the problem of adding staff positions off budget during the year. Staffing and financial creep ensues. Often the new positions are excused because they are funded by the State or Federal Government – not the County local discretionary General Fund. Of course, the taxpayers are still funding them. Two examples are outlined below:

Item 19 - Mid-year Staff Additions in the Behavioral Health Department. The item, if approved, would add 6 new positions, while deleting 1, at a full year new net cost of $1.2 million. Adding positions off budget foments budget creep. As noted in the item immediately above, the County has already added a net of 36 new positions overall so far this fiscal year.

LATINO OUTREACH PROGRAM (LOP)

Outcomes and Deliverables include:
• 130 clients served annually.
• 100% of case management participants will report increased knowledge and use of local resources to support their mental health, as indicated by self-report retrospective pre- and post-surveys.
• Increase staff retention in LOP program of 50% above three-year baseline.

FORENSIC FSP

Outcomes and Deliverables include:
130 served annually.
• 100% of partners engaged will access support services such as substance abuse treatment, vocational training, emotional and behavioral support, and benefits eligibility.
• Reduce days spent homeless by 50% comparing the 12 months prior to program enrollment (data on Performance Assessment Form (PAF)) with the length of time in program.
• Reduce days spent in incarceration setting by 50%.
• Reduce psychiatric health facility days by 50%.
• Reduce emergency room visits by 50%.
• Client will demonstrate the use of skills for independent living by a minimum increase of 30%

Item 25 - More new positions in the Social Services Department. Like the item above, this one if approved would add 6 new positions and $679,000 annually to the budget mid-year.

Estimated Annual Expense at Max Classification and Step

Classification	FTE	Salary	Benefits	Total	Step Estimate
Administrative Assistant II	1.0	$ 46,654	$ 36,855	$ 83,509	Step 5 for 12 months
Personal Care Aide	1.0	$ 48,526	$ 38,457	$ 86,983	Step 5 for 12 months
Social Worker III	2.0	$ 147,680	$ 98,641	$ 246,321	Step 5 for 12 months
Program Review Specialist	1.0	$ 73,486	$ 47,912	$ 121,398	Step 5 for 12 months
Program Manager I	1.0	$ 86,507	$ 54,493	$ 141,000	Step 6 for 12 months
Net Change	**6.0**	**$ 402,854**	**$ 276,357**	**$ 679,212**	

The write-up states that the purpose and benefits are as listed to strengthen the Adult Protective Service Program.

RESULTS • The addition of the administrative assistant will result in the Department equitably distributing work among two staff. Currently one AA supports 2 social worker supervisors and 11 social workers.

Once the additional 2 social workers being requested are added, each AA will support a more manageable 1 social worker supervisor and 7-8 social workers

• The addition of two social workers will result in the Department being able to lower caseloads from the current 30 on average to 25 on average per worker

COLAB Note: The normal work year for a County Social worker is 2080 hours per year. Subtract from this, 3 weeks of vacation (120 hours) and a week of sick time (40) hour, the average social worker would have 1,920 hours of regular work time. With 25 clients per social worker, this would be about 77 hours per year per client – more than an hour per week.

What problem or problems is the County attempting to solve for these clients?
How much is travel time?
Exactly, what does the social worker do with and/or for the client?
How many visits?

• The addition of the personal care aide will result in the Department being able to provide an additional 35 meaningful, direct services home visits to Adult Protective Services clients each month on average

COLAB NOTE: Is this not the job of In-Home Health Care Services (IHSS) which is separately funded?

• The addition of the program review specialist will result in the Department maintaining compliance with reporting requirements and the development of tools and resources to support the Adult Protective Services program.
• The addition of the program manager will result in program related duties being relieved from line supervisors thus freeing time for direct supervision and support of line staff. The program manager will also integrate into State meetings related to the development of the APS program and Master Plan on aging so that the best interests of San Luis Obispo County are represented.

Item 30 - Request to: 1) Approve the funding plan for American Rescue Plan Act small business and childcare grants, including $500,000 in ARPA funds to go towards the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program and $3 million for childcare projects to the County Office of Education, acting as fiscal agent for a coalition of childcare organizations; and 2) Approve the corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of $3,500,000. This item contains further allocation of the County's $55 million in American Rescue Fund Act (ARPA) funding. During the March 1 Board meeting, the Board approved $6 million in homeless remediation funding. This week's allocations provide for $500,000 in COVID relief grants for small businesses and $3 million for child-care providers impacted by COVID, These funds are all part of the larger $1.9 Trillion ARPA Federal program funded by debt and expansion of the money supply by the Federal Reserve. As is apparent to everyone, the inflationary chickens are coming home to roost. In effect, you are paying for these programs at the gas pump, supermarket, and higher housing costs.

The programs are summarized in the slides below:

- On January 11, 2022, the Board gave direction for $9M in ARPA funding to be allocated to businesses, non-profits, and child care as follows (items in **red** are being addressed today):

  1. Businesses: up to $3M
     a) $500K for COVID-19 relief grants for small businesses
     b) $2.5M in grants to community-based organizations to provide technical assistance for businesses, workforce development and job training for individuals impacted by COVID-19
  2. Non-profits: up to $3M in grants to non-profits negatively impacted by COVID-19 or to support services to community members impacted by COVID-19
  3. **Child care: up to $3M in funding to community-based organizations for child care sector program relief and stabilization, program expansion (new slots) and quality improvement, and reinvigoration of the child care workforce**

Small business grants

- Award type: up to $500,000 in cash grants to small businesses located in the County (incorporated and unincorporated):
  - 1-10 employees: $5,000
  - 11-25 employees: $10,000
- Eligible use of funds: mitigate financial hardships or to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics
- First come, first served

Child Care - overview

- A collaborative consortium of child care sector organizations has formed to manage the distribution of the $3M in ARPA funds for child care through 2024:
  - SLO County Office of Education
  - Child Care Resource Connection based at CAPSLO
  - First 5 SLO County
  - Other partners are expected to join over time

Child Care (cont.) - three-pronged strategy

Item 32 - Update on the Housing In Lieu Tax. The title of this item is camouflaged as a Report on the County's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. The so-called fee is in actuality a tax which has been deceptively packaged as a "fee." This Board item presents a 3-year history of the "fee."

Collection history and it uses:

Significantly, this item presents an opportunity for the Board to direct staff to draw up a future Board item (and ordinance amendment) that would abolish the program and tax.

Brief History: Decades ago, the State adopted enabling legislation that allows cities and counties to require that developers include a percentage of affordable housing within their new projects. Only148 jurisdictions (out of 58 counties and 450 cities in the state) have adopted the provision. San Luis Obispo County is one of those entities and adopted its ordinance in 2008. San Luis Obispo County typically requires that a new subdivision of 100 homes provide "20" affordable homes. Obviously, projects that are already 100% affordable (usually government-funded not-for-profit projects) are exempted. Thus, it is the market-priced homes that are taxed. Commercial projects are also subject to the tax posing as a fee on a per square foot basis.

It is ironic and patently stupid that government has determined to tax the very thing that is in short supply, in order to provide more of it.

Over the years, various jurisdictions learned that this compulsory mixing of housing types did not work well from a marketing or social interaction standpoint. For example, there are huge fights in homeowner associations (HOAs) about common uses. For example, do the people in the affordable units get to use the pool? From the developers' standpoint it is difficult to market the non-affordable units in a subdivision or complex that contains less stylish and less fancy affordable units. Market buyers are leery of buying into a social engineering scheme.

The most affluent and wealthy communities avoid the program. For example, Montecito has regularly rejected becoming a separate incorporated city in an effort to avoid various State-mandated and permitted affordable housing requirements. Why would Prince Harry, Oprah, Ellen DeGeneres, and Rick Caruso, want the County to plop a complex full of schoolteachers and Toyota owners in the middle of Upper Village next to the trendy restaurants, boutiques, and Bentleys?

Eventually, the State amended the enabling statute to allow developers to pay a "fee," in reality a tax, instead of building the actual units. This is the so-called "housing in lieu" fee. SLO uses it to assist "affordable" projects in the cities and Templeton.

As an aside, Rick developed the renovated Miramar, the Forum in LA, and the refined Pacific Palisades Village Center. He is running for Mayor of LA. To live right, you need the $2000 tailored blazer and a fluffed-up Golden-Doodle to walk on the beach.

The Bottom Line: The bottom line is that over the decades the process of developing residential and commercial property has become so overregulated and expensive that developers cannot afford to produce affordable housing and prefer to develop larger, more expensive units. In turn, the State Legislature has made things worse by enabling cities and counties to require that developers include a stipulated number of affordable units in their projects or pay an "in lieu fee," which is really a tax on development. The dollars generated from the "in lieu fee" are accumulated and then given to non-profit housing developers to help finance their affordable projects. This is really a government blackmail program to force homebuilders to charge more for their market units in order to bail out the politicians' failed public policy.

In 2019 the Board updated the ordinance to exclude homes with less than 2200 square feet and substantially raise the so-called fees for market and custom homes. In exchange, Supervisor Gibson agreed to let the Board majority direct staff to conduct an extensive analysis of alternative methods to help affordable housing. During the first phase of the project, staff generated a list of potential programs from which the Board selected some strategies for further feasibility study. A Project Manager, who has since left the County, was assigned to lead the project. The project was abandoned when COVID 19 arrived, and staff members were shifted to other duties.

Screwed Again: As a result, Gibson got higher fees established, but the promised project to find other better solutions never took place.

The Board revised the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance on March 12, 2019. The most significant changes to the fee structure included applying the fee to all new dwellings over 2,200 square feet in size (previously the fee only applied to subdivisions) and replacing the flat rate fee ($1.50 per square-foot) with a tiered rate structure based on square footage (with a maximum overall rate of $7 per square-foot). As an example, a new 3,000 square-foot house would pay $8,400 in-lieu revenues under the tiered rate structure. The Board also included Section 29.05.050, as described above, which requires the County to hold a hearing in three years and repeal the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance if broad based funding options have been successfully established

Current Status: This Board item clearly demonstrates the failure of the program. Per the table below, the County collected only $1.5 million over 4 years.

Table: In-lieu Fee Revenues (FY 17-18 through FY 20-21)

Fiscal Year	In-lieu Fee Revenues – Residential	Impact Fee Revenues – Commercial	In-lieu Fee Revenues - Total
FY 17-18	$36,419	$94,542	$130,961
FY 18-19	$77,778	$143,159	$220,937
FY 19-20	***$313,060***	***$19,496***	***$332,556***
FY 20-21	***$723,197***	***$93,038***	***$816,235***

Since 2019, the County allocated $1,167,000 in in-lieu and impact fee funds to non-profit builders to construct 222 new affordable housing units in 8 new developments, with a total development cost of $118-M. See Table 2, below.

These funds were than distributed per the very misleading and incomplete table below:

Table: Projects Funded with In-lieu and Impact Fee Revenues (2019 – 2021)

Year	Project	In-lieu and Impact Fee Award	Units
2019 and 2020	Templeton Place II	$151,261	36
2019	Brisco Rd. Affordable Housing	$184,294	8
2019	Longbranch Transitional Housing	$119,000	6
2020	Nipomo Senior 40	$59,032	40
2020 and 2021	Pismo Terrace	$229,969	50
2021	Toscano Family Apartments	$142,396	38
2021	Morro Bay Family Apartments	$7,216	35
2021	Vine Street Affordable Housing	$185,221	9

The table hides the truth in that the total cost of the listed projects is not displayed . Thus, laypeople and even officials might think that the projects were constructed for the costs listed. These were actually funded by Federal and State programs and cost tens of millions of dollars. The County contribution to the funding packages is miniscule in caparison the real costs. By offering this presentation, the staff significantly disguises the truth

Staff Seeks Direction: As the Board letter states, the staff, having abandoned the alternatives project, seeks direction:

Based on this information, staff is seeking Board direction on the future of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. The Board may want to consider the following options:
• *Retain the current Inclusionary Housing Ordinance.*

• *Retain the current Inclusionary Housing Ordinance and direct County staff with relevant financial/ economic experience (bond indebtedness, etc.) to evaluate the feasibility of alternative funding options.*

• *Direct Planning and Building staff to amend or repeal certain components or the entirety of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. For example, the Board could direct staff to repeal the 8 percent affordable housing requirement and the residential in-lieu fee but retain the commercial non-residential impact fee.*

The Board should direct staff to bring back the language to abolish the ordinance and re-ignite the original project to come up with a real and fair housing strategy.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, March 17, 2022 (Scheduled) Remote Teleconferenced Meeting

The meeting agenda is very light. It contains a few administrative matters.
Meeting ID: 844 9907 6833
Password: 735462

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Central Coast Community Energy Authority (3CE) Operations Board Meeting of Wednesday, March 9, 2022 (Completed)

Item 7 - Authorize CEO to Execute An Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement in an Amount Not to Exceed Two Million Dollars ($2,000,000) From the Uninterrupted Power Supply Fund with the County of Santa Cruz. In an ironic and telling twist, 3CE is providing a $2million lease purchase agreement to the County of Santa Cruz for backup power diesel generators for its jail facilities. It appears that 3CE is acting as some kind of middleman between the County and the actual vendor. Interestingly, the actual vender is not named. Perhaps 3CE will be picking it in the future. So here we have a so-called green energy agency helping to procure diesel generators.

By packaging such long-term equipment purchase leases, 3CE may expect to obtain economies of scale discounts. The Board letter states that the Authority has set aside $25 million to finance such purchases for its member agencies.

These are complex facilities operating 24/7/365 with numerous staff and occupants. These critical facilities require continuous and uninterrupted operations. To ensure the safety of the public as well as the employees and occupants of these critical facilities, a complete whole facility backup power solution is required. The UPS Fund ensures these critical facilities remain fully functional regardless of grid conditions

Goodness gracious, we still need fossil fuel!!! What hypocrites!!!!

Equipment Description: The Equipment consists of all project costs already incurred or to be incurred related to the UPS Public Sector applications submitted to Lessor including but not limited to administrative, design, engineering, acquisition, construction and installation of various generators, switching gear, electrical conduit and cabling, controllers, concrete protection equipment, electrical panels, and related items for use by Lessee, together with any and all substitutions, replacements or exchanges therefor, and any and all insurance and/or proceeds thereof. Equipment Location: The Equipment will be primarily located at the following addresses:

Main Jail 259 Water Street, Santa Cruz, CA Blaine St.

Women's Facility 141 Blaine Street, Santa Cruz, CA Minimum/Medium Detention Facilities 90 Roundtree Lane, Watsonville, CA

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 10, 2022 (Completed)

Item 4 - Planning Commission Workshop II. This was the second of two workshops on various aspects of the Planning Commission's role and priorities. This week's topics covered a wide range of information about the role of the Commission, staff, Board of Supervisors, and other entities such as LAFCO and SLOCOG, which influence or participate in the planning process.

There was considerable discussion of the role of the community advisory committees, Brown Act, and how information is shared with the Commission.

All in, it seemed useful.

Whether the Board and Commission wish to tackle the fundamental problem of land rationing, which underlies housing cost, labor shortages, energy shortages, price inflation, mental health disarray, and much else was not broached.

After all, where you live has everything to do with your success in life, where you go to school, if you have a quiet environment to do your homework, those with whom you associate, behavioral standards, and much else. The government is creating resource shortages in the name of climate change, smart growth, and nature worship. Instead, it should be promoting resource growth, including all forms of energy, home development, export base job development, regulatory restraint, and rule of law, capitalism, protection of personal safety, and protection of private property.

In the meantime, the policy outcome is to allow the closure of Diablo, Phillips 66, the Dunes, and any other industry that the progressive left opposes. What is the plan to replace the thousands of jobs that are being lost? - a wind farm in the ocean? Just look how fast the SLO Tribune, Bruce Gibson, and the left in general panned the Hydrostor clean energy plant last week.

Background: The first workshop took place two weeks ago and focused on various intermediate level policy issues such as the Ag Preserve approval process and length of time to process an application.

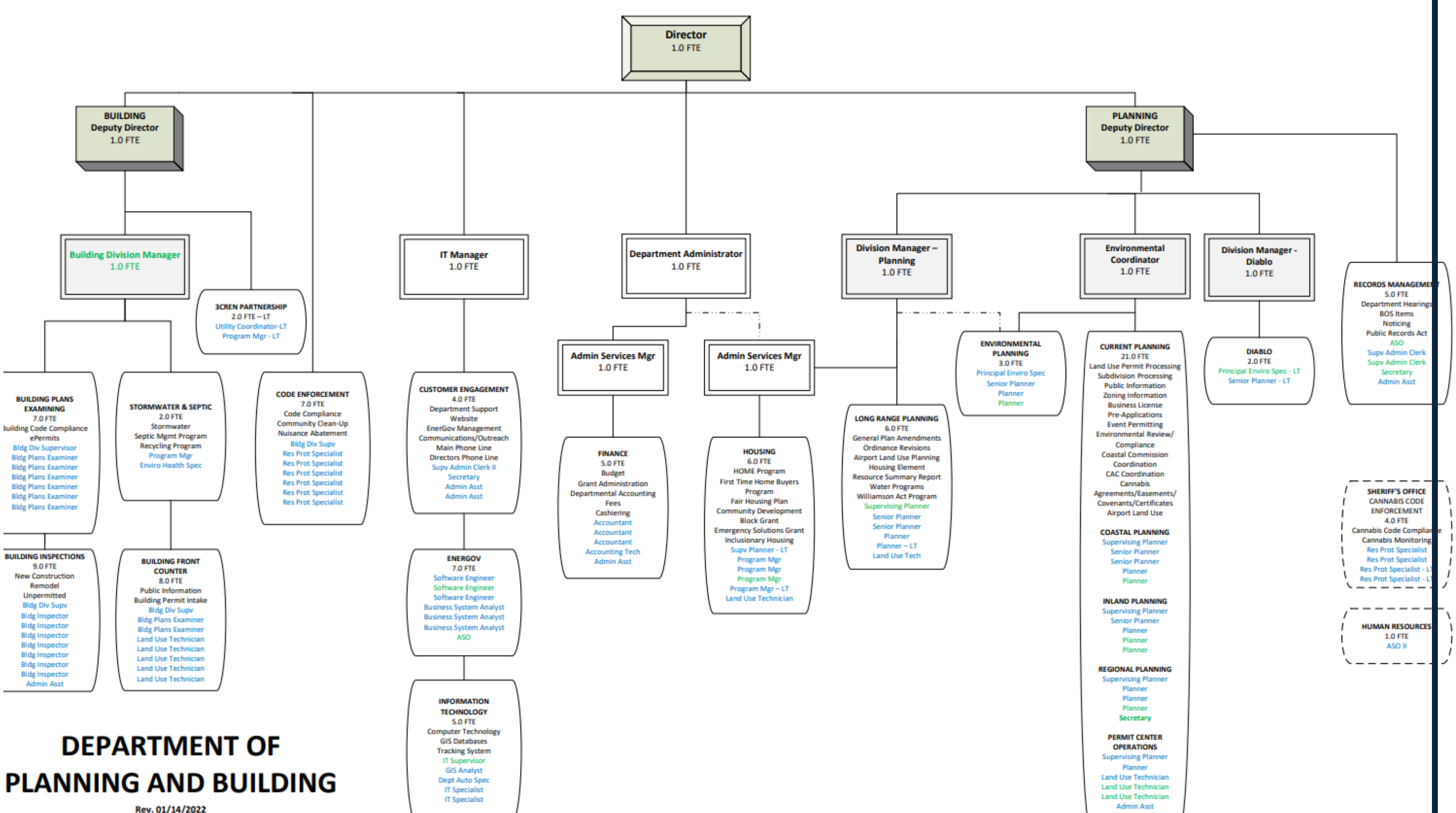
At that time, the Commission did not seem interested in examining some of the overarching policy assumptions that drive the County, such as so-called "smart growth," so-called "green energy," or elimination of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide the Planning Commission with an opportunity to review the applicable processes, procedures, and legislative documents that govern the land use entitlement review process, and to identify improvements that will ensure process consistency.

Purview Workshop Part 1 occurred on February 24, 2022 and covered the Planning and Building Department Priorities for 2022. Purview Workshop Part 2 will occur on March 10, 2022, and will cover all applicable Processes, Procedures, Ordinances, and State Laws.

Planning and Building Department Overview
- *Mission Statement*
- *Organizational Structure*
- *Planning Divisions*
- *Records Management Division*
- *Planning Commission Relationship to the Planning and Building Department*

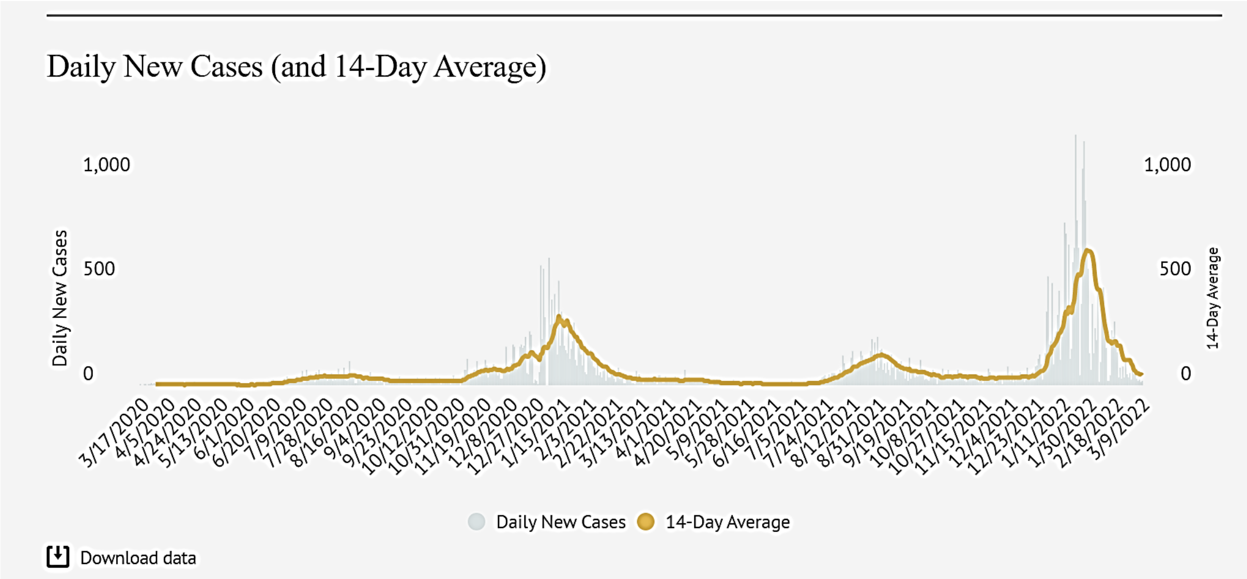
The full Board letter that summarizes much of this is worth a look. Control click and wait because it takes a bit to open.
[140797 (ca.gov)]



Which positions are filled, and which are vacant? During the meeting, staff indicated that there are 36 vacancies. The Department and County are experiencing recruitment and retention difficulties.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID: The decline in cases and hospitalizations continued. In San Luis Obispo we still have observed a number of late middle-aged people wearing masks. They are scowling at the people not wearing masks.



12 (1 ICU) SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

Item 2 - The War America Can't Afford to Win by Andy Caldwell.

The war on fossil fuels is now fully engaged and casualties are abounding.

The first casualty is the affordability of fuel. Gas prices will soon be double what they were when Joe Biden became president because he has done more than any other president in history to eliminate production, including shutting down the Keystone pipeline and drilling on federal lands. Biden has shot America in the back by triggering the law of supply and demand; decreasing supplies, while accomplishing nothing to abate demand.

Unfortunately, the reality is, you ain't seen nothing yet. The price of absolutely everything in America is about to skyrocket due to the rise in gas and diesel prices, on top of the inflation arising from trillions in government spending. Case in point, our farmers and truckers use fuel to bring food to your table. Furthermore, virtually all consumer goods are trucked to markets.

The more ominous truth about the war on fossil fuels is that nearly ½ of every barrel of oil is used to make something else other than fuel. For instance, food prices could very well quadruple because fertilizers are made from fossil fuels. That is, you can't make fertilizers from electricity. Neither can you make plastic, asphalt, polyester, and 6,000 other products from windmills and solar panels.

Did you know that while California pretended to be going green, we were importing some 42,000 barrels of oil from Russia every day and even more from the Middle East? California imports 70% of the fuel we use every day, most of it from halfway around the world. Why are we cutting off our domestic supplies only to import the same? And now, Joe Biden is looking to Iran and Venezuela for oil because we ceased to be energy independent by his own fiat? Buying oil and gas from the despots in Russia, Iran, and Venezuela demonstrates a complete void of consciousness on the part of this administration.

"Letting no crisis go to waste", the Biden administration would like to use this manmade crisis to force us to purchase electric vehicles, solar panels, and the like. The phrase "let them eat cake" comes to mind. Most folks in America are one paycheck away from abject poverty. They can't afford a new electric vehicle and a charging station, just like they can't afford $6-7.00 per gallon gas. They can't afford to see their food bill go up exponentially either. How many people in America are soon going to experience third world living conditions due to these stark raving mad ideologues?

It is no secret that we don't have enough electricity generation or infrastructure to successfully convert our entire economy to electricity in the next few decades, including the fact that most electricity in America is still generated from fossil fuels meaning nothing would be gained by way of the transition anyway. Moreover, the largest world populations, China, India, and Pakistan, refuse to abandon reliance on fossil fuels, which expresses the futility of going alone to an economic grave. Meanwhile, the United States has become completely dependent upon China for the raw materials for batteries and the production of solar panels. This means we went from energy independence to dependence on China setting us up for geopolitical blackmail, not to mention numerous other security risks. The greening of America only works well for Red China.

Locally, the local Exxon Mobil temporary trucking permit denied by County Supervisors Joan Hartmann, Das Williams and Greg Hart, perfectly exemplified the tone-deaf ideologues of this movement, via the determination that oil from Russia, Iran, and Venezuela beats California production, despite all the negative consequences to the environment, the economy, and world peace. May our pain at the pump and the grocery store become their pain at the ballot box.

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

Solar electricity production (Photo: energy.ca.gov)

CALIFORNIA'S GREEN ENERGY MANIA PRICES ELECTRICITY LIKE A LUXURY GOOD

With predictable blackouts, unreliable electric grid, state is creating dreadful imbalances that will lead to energy rationing

BY TED GAINES

California is failing at the government basics. Public safety, homelessness, roads, and water storage are all in shambles. But as long as that shameful list is, it's about to get longer. With summer around the corner, when demand is at its zenith, our energy supply will not be up to the task.

California's headlong rush towards zero-carbon power will cost consumers through wildly expensive electricity rates and lower grid reliability. That's a lose-lose for California families and businesses who want to avoid blackouts and avoid energy poverty.

Golden State politicians and Progressives – groups with an almost total overlap – live in dread fear of possible changes in weather decades in the future. Instead of planning for localized mitigations to deal with changing climate, they've decided to remake our entire energy sector, replacing affordable, dependable sources with their opposites.

A case in point is the closing of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, scheduled to stop operations in 2025. Despite disingenuous claims that PG&E is choosing to close this facility, they are being forced into closure by California regulators who can make relicensing extraordinarily time consuming and expensive.

How important is Diablo Canyon? It currently produces about as much power as all the rooftop solar in the entire state. And unlike solar and wind, this power is available on-demand, 24/7. PG&E, the plant's owner, alleges it will replace all the lost power with so-called green, renewable resources, but what if it can't?

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), a non-profit dedicated to promoting grid reliability, thinks it won't. NERC notes that California already has insufficient reserve power to meet demand during a heat wave. Closing Diablo Canyon will only contribute to declining reserve margins, according to NERC.

All of that is to say that blackouts are coming when it gets hot in California, as it does every summer. Don't be surprised when your AC won't click on, or you're burning candles for light in this supposedly advanced state. The blackouts are entirely predictable and a direct result of California energy policy making our grid unreliable by replacing on-demand resources with intermittent ones.

And remember, California is pushing people into electric cars through incentives and government decrees. Many people will be charging up those EVs when they get home from work, right after solar energy production peaks. We are creating dreadful imbalances that will lead to energy rationing in one of the wealthiest areas in the world.

Venture capitalist Marc Andreessen recently tweeted about the Ukrainian crisis and its effect on our energy markets and independence: "Build 1,000 new state of the art nuclear power plants in the US and Europe, right now. We won't, but we should." He's right all the way around regarding energy independence and reliance on aggressive rogue states such as Russia for our energy.

But it's the last line that hits closest to home in California. We need to reverse our green energy mania that prices electricity like a luxury good and guarantees blackouts. Dependable, affordable energy is within our grasp if we commit to predictable, on-demand resources such as nuclear and natural gas. We won't, but we should.

Senator Ted Gaines (Ret.) was elected to represent the Board of Equalization's First District. He is a leading taxpayer advocate, defender of Prop. 13, and is committed to providing trustworthy and transparent representation for nearly ten million constituents in 30 counties of northern, eastern, and southern California. For more information, visit boe.ca.gov/Gaines.

WOKENESS ON ENERGY IS WEAKNESS

Biden's energy policy is bankrupting the country and making us a paper tiger abroad.

BY NED RYUN

As Joe Biden's approval numbers sink further into the sewer, the only thing he's building back better is 1970s-style inflation. Up until Biden, most polls usually named Jimmy Carter as one of the weakest and most inept presidents we've ever had. That was until Biden showed up and said, "Hold my beer!" Which you have to know has brought so much joy to Carter. Heck, he probably has a set of "Let's go Brandon!" PJs that he wears every night as he thanks God for the gift of Biden.

Fact is, this country is now being "led" by a man who absolutely will go down as one of the worst presidents in our history. In just over a year, Biden has brought inflation roaring back to levels not seen in 40 years, has destroyed our southern border as millions of illegal aliens, along with Chinese fentanyl, flood the country, and now we have been involved in two major international debacles with Afghanistan and Ukraine. The list could go on, but perhaps that's too depressing.

Rest assured, however, it's not going to get better. Biden is like the anti-Midas, turning everything he touches into crap.

With every opportunity to make the right decision, Biden and his administration choose the most asinine choice possible, leading one to ask, "Is this a clown show led by an imbecile? Or do you just completely hate this country?"

Answer: both.

Consider his actions on the energy front, which is part and parcel of the inflation disaster: they're so committed to the hoax and woke religion of manmade global warming and shutting down fossil fuels that they sacrificed our energy independence on its altar. Crude oil more than doubled under Biden *before* war broke out in Ukraine, and natural gas had risen 74 percent before the Russians invaded. Now with the crisis in Ukraine we're seeing oil approaching $120 per barrel. None of this had to happen, mind you, especially since under Donald Trump the United States had become a net exporter of energy.

But Biden wasted no time enacting his idiotic policies. On day one of his administration he shut down the Keystone pipeline, put thousands of people out of work, crippled our self-sufficient energy production, and made us reliant on purchasing absurd quantities of oil from countries that despise us.
He is Example A of how quickly things can go wrong with terrible leadership.

With America now importing 595,000 barrels of Russian oil a day—that adds up to more than $1 billion a month we're paying Russia—the fact is our terrible energy policy is helping finance Putin's invasion. If you want to really know how bad it is, consider that in 2021 alone it's estimated that European nations, most of which are NATO members, paid Russia $100 billion for oil and gas. So the infantile Left has weakened the United States and Europe in the face of Putin's energy dominance and strengthened his hand by pumping up his coffers with oil and gas money. The environmentalist wackos and weak-kneed political "leaders" are absolutely responsible for what are now being described as war crimes in Ukraine.

Back on the home front, Americans were already feeling the soaring oil prices at the pump thanks to Biden's moronic energy policies. Now with Ukraine, if the trends remain the same, we'll be looking at $5-per-gallon prices on average for regular unleaded gasoline at stations across the country, which of course increases the costs of production, food, and so forth.

But Biden’s response to this? The imbecile actually pitched his climate change bill as anti-inflation at the State of the Union, claiming it will save American families $500 a year . . . by 2030. Mind you, the American people’s increase in cost of living right now is $385 per month, or over $4,600 per year.

I know many will be shocked to learn that Biden’s “solution” is a lie. Germany tried this. It committed to renewables and becoming carbon “net zero” by 2045 and is going to spend nearly $600 billion when all is said and done. For all of that, the German people now get to pay twice as much for electricity as they did before the foolish plan was implemented.

Oh, and to put a fine point on the utter failure of Germany’s plan, it still needs to import 55 percent of its natural gas from—wait for it—Russia. A sober-minded person might understandably look at this asinine behavior and say, “Ya’ll have lost your damn minds.” And that person would be absolutely correct.

In a rational world—and we are not living in one—we would address this problem immediately by reopening the Keystone pipeline and exploring additional options for drilling, fracking, and nuclear energy within the United States. Energy independence leads not only to cheaper costs for consumers and thousands of jobs for Americans, it strengthens our national security and allows us to free Europe from Putin’s leverage by offering additional energy options.

In the short term, however, prepare for pain as you watch your bank account drain from the weekly trip to the grocery store and gas pump. And then hope and pray adults are soon back in political power and Grandpa Dementia and his band of clowns are sent into retirement in 2024.

Ned Ryun is a former presidential writer for George W. Bush and the founder and CEO of American Majority. You can find him on Twitter @nedryun. This article first appeared in the March 7, 2022 edition of American Greatness.

EXAMINING CALIFORNIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN

The misanthropic cruelty of these laws ought to be obvious

BY EDWARD RING

If you live in California, by now you've probably seen the ads, either on prime time television or online, exhorting you to "Power Down 4 to 9PM." These ads are produced by "Energy Upgrade California," paid for by "investor-owned energy utility customers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Energy Commission."
According to the mission of Energy Upgrade California, they are "a statewide initiative committed to uniting Californians to strive toward reaching our state's energy goals," and those goals include "getting 33% of our electricity from renewable resources by 2030."
And it doesn't end there. Over the past twenty years, through increasingly ambitious legislation and executive orders, California's official state policy now aims to "achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045."
The misanthropic cruelty of these laws ought to be obvious. Normal people need *more* electricity between 4 and 9 PM, and no amount of public education can overcome that circadian fact. This is the time of day when normal people complete their daily work, prepare and eat dinner with their families, complete routine and necessary chores from doing the laundry to packing lunches for the next day. This is the time of day when people want to heat or cool their homes to a comfortable temperature, and power up all the countless electronic gadgets which are now required for everything from homework to paying the bills. They don't want to wait till 9 PM to do any of this; by 9 PM they want to relax.

Normal people may also be forgiven if they don't want to jump through the preposterous hoops required of "programmable" appliances, such as washing machines that will defer ignition until the spot price of electricity drops below a specified threshold. The fact that every major appliance now requires internet connectivity and comes with an instruction manual that rivals Lord of the Rings in scope and word-count, is not a sign of progress. It is fetishistic excess. Future generations will marvel at the absurdity of this maddening, mandated attention to technology-driven minutia, and attribute it to the hubris of our times.

But beyond the fact that Californians remain quiescent while algorithms, megalomaniacal bureaucrats, and fanatical green nihilists take over and run their lives, there is the sheer impracticality of achieving "net zero" by 2050, if ever. In a narrowing of options that borders on perversity, the current vision for accomplishing this goal rejects any additional hydropower, requires the decommissioning of existing nuclear power plants, and the abandonment of all fossil fuel. Is that possible?

Accomplishing "Zero Air Pollution and Zero Carbon" in California

A professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University, Mark Jacobson, completed a series of simulations, culminating in a report released in December 2021 "that demonstrate the ability of California to match all-purpose energy demand with wind-water-solar (WWS) supply, storage, and demand response continuously every 30 seconds for the years 2050-2051. All-purpose energy is energy for electricity, transportation, buildings, and industry."

In this relatively unheralded study, Professor Jacobson has done Californians a huge favor, whether or not they support renewables. Because he has quantified a version of exactly what it would take, in terms of the installed base of renewable generating and storage assets to move California to a 100 percent net zero energy economy. Take a look at what Jacobson's study envisions:

The first thing to note about Jacobson's selection of renewable systems is that in theory, they *would* provide sufficient power to replace all legacy systems. The yields (column 4) assigned to each technology are reasonable, which means the total projected annual output as expressed in gigawatt-years, is also a reasonable estimate. Most economists measure total energy produced and consumed in quadrillion BTUs (British Thermal Units), and 101.4 gigawatt-years equates to 3.0 "quads." In 2018, Californians generated 7.4 quad BTUs, but only consumed 2.5 quad BTUs. The rest was expended as "rejected energy," primarily through the heat loss when using combustion based power systems including electric generating stations as well as individual vehicles. All-electric systems are far more efficient, and the implied 82 percent efficiency of an all-electric economy from source to user is not outlandish. So Jacobson's numbers are tight, and assume – presumably via more conservation – no growth in energy consumption between now and whenever total renewable power is achieved, but they are nonetheless in the ballpark.

The other salient take-away from Jacobson's renewables plan is that it's all about wind and solar. Other renewables account for very little of the total; hydropower at 5.4 percent and geothermal at 3.0 percent.

Beyond considering the fact that the numbers probably work, however, is a more fundamental question: Do Californians want to live with 8,860 onshore 5 megawatt wind turbines, and another 12,884 of them floating or anchored offshore? Wind turbines of this size are truly monstrous, with a standard rotor diameter of 126 meters, i.e. 410 feet. Imagine a football field, including both end zones and then some, twirling around atop a tower more than twice the height of the Statue of Liberty, and you're visualizing just one of these. They need a lot of land.

Rather than calculate merely the footprint of the wind tower, a more useful assessment of the land required for these wind turbines is the recommended spacing. An analysis published last year in the trade publication *Energy Follower* challenged the conventional spacing guidelines, which call for wind turbines to be spaced apart by a distance equal to seven times the rotor diameter. That alone calls for a stupendous amount of land, since that spacing would permit a maximum of four wind turbines per square mile. Citing work by Charles Meneveau, a mechanical engineering professor at Johns Hopkins University, the analysis went on to report that based on Meneveau's analysis of the performance of utility scale wind farms, for maximum efficiency, "the suggested recommended separation of each turbine being 15 times the rotor diameter away from its nearest neighbors." That equates to *one* wind turbine consuming 1.2 square miles.

Wind Power is a Grotesque Waste of Space

A legitimate conclusion that might be drawn from this data is that wind energy is not a desirable choice for Californians. To install 8,860 land based wind turbines would consume between 2,614 and 10,455 square miles, in order to produce only 15 percent of the required total energy in an all-electric economy. To put this in perspective, you could put 10 million new residents into homes, four per household, on half-acre lots, and you would only use up 1,953 square miles. Put them on still very spacious quarter acre lots, with an equal amount of land allocated for roads and commercial/industrial areas, and you've still only used up 1,953 square miles. California's entire urbanized land only consumes around 8,300 square miles. To install these 5 megawatt wind turbines in a manner calculated to optimize their performance, a space greater than the footprint of every town and city in the state would be consumed. And this land would be uninhabitable – anyone who disagrees is invited to live on a wind farm. There will not be many takers.

When reviewing the above chart which estimates the land required for renewables, what is striking is the tremendous difference between the land required for wind farms versus the land required for solar installations. In order to generate 33 percent of the total energy, wind installations propose to consume over 10,000 square miles of land, and over 15,000 square miles of offshore ocean. By contrast, to produce 58 percent of the required energy, solar installations would consume just over 1,000 square miles, and much of that would be on top of existing roofs.

Why not just use nothing but solar?
Answering that question goes to one of the hearts of the controversy over renewables, which is its intermittency. The need to balance between wind and solar to slightly oversimplify, is that the wind blows more in the winter when there aren't as many hours of sun, and during the summer doldrums when the wind is relatively still, there is plenty of sunshine. This seasonal variation is a bigger problem than the daily variation which underlies the "Power Down Between 4 and 9 PM" campaign, because there aren't enough batteries in the world to store power collected during, for example, July to be discharged in January, and there never will be.

Viewing maps of wind resources indicate onshore wind energy in California is a poor choice. Far better wind resources are found in the nation's midsection, assuming that state-of-the-art wind turbines can reliably wrangle tornadoes and ice storms. Possibly more viable is the offshore wind potential in California, especially in the far north of the state, but whether or not offshore wind installations are truly cost-effective is a question that requires far more thorough analysis than we've seen to-date.

Ultimately, Californians may want to think very carefully about Jacobson's analysis, since it is one of the few fully realized and thoroughly vetted visualizations of what it's going to take to convert to an all-electric, renewables based economy. Set aside the staggering economic cost, and the necessity to import most of the raw materials and even most of the manufactured systems. Set aside the undeniable environmental and social cost of sourcing rare earth metals from nations with an appalling lack of human rights and from mining and manufacturing operations controlled by America's strategic rivals. For the moment, don't think about the impact of wind turbines on birds, insects and bats. Never mind the fact that the embodied energy represented by these massive manufactured systems requires years to earn its "carbon payback," if it ever does. And then contemplate the army of "carbon accountants" and bureaucrats, siphoning a stupefying quantity of wealth out of the economy merely to administer the new scheme.

Never mind all that. Just consider the aesthetic footprint.

Think about what it would be like to have 8,860 wind turbines, each of them twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty, scattered throughout the state. Imagine 1,160 “wave” generators and 60 “tidal” generators, actually sneaking past a coastal commission that ties anything going up near the coast in decades bureaucratic delays. And as for over 15,000 offshore wind turbines, with the requisite undersea foundations and power cables and onshore maintenance facilities. Does anyone think *any* of these will ever be built, much less 15,000 of them?

California’s energy economy, like that of the world, needs to reject narrow solutions. To produce the economic resilience and fulfill the obligations of a responsible government, California’s Legislature needs to restore an all-of-the-above-approach to energy. It needs to re-embrace natural gas power and explore promising new ways to use it even more efficiently. It needs to approve nuclear power plants using the latest technologies. It needs to consider new sources of hydroelectric power – especially for pump storage on off-stream reservoirs which is one of the most cost effective ways to store surplus renewable power. It needs to weigh the total impact of wind energy taking into account its insufficiently acknowledged environmental, economic, social, and aesthetic cost. And it needs to nurture solar energy development, but not to the exclusion of conventional sources of energy.

It is ridiculous that Californians, living in the wealthiest, most innovative place on earth need to “power down” during precisely the moments in their daily lives when they need to power up. It’s time for California’s policymakers and opinion leaders to acknowledge this, and start acting on behalf of the citizens they serve, instead of special interests and their activist cheerleaders.

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. This article first appeared in the California Globe of March 8, 2022.

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