



WEEKLY UPDATE MARCH 27 - APRIL 2, 2022

COLAB DINNER FUNDRAISER EXCITING VERY SUCCESSFUL

Thank you to all the spirited participants, supporters, sponsors, vendors, and volunteers for a spectacular, patriotic, and energizing evening. The Madonna Inn staff was absolutely fabulous, and the steaks came out perfectly cooked and hot.



GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES AND LIVE AUCTION ITEMS
TEMPTED MANY

WE ALSO CELEBRATED THE UKRAINIAN PATRIOTS WITH CHEERS



THIS WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

SLO PENSION TRUST SUFFERS BAD FEBRUARY

LAST WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

PLANNING COMMISSION LITE

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID LOW FOR NOW

**BUT THE LEFT PROGRESSIVES HOPE THE NEW COVID VARIANT
RENEWS THEIR POWER**

ANY LOCKDOWN SHOULD TRIGGER REBELLION



CURRENT COLAB ISSUE FOCUS AND PROGRESS

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 7

REMOVE BARRIERS TO PRODUCTIVITY

To prevent the next recession, focus on the supply side

BY ELI DOURADO

THE REAL ‘RESET’ IS COMING

The prophets of the new world order sowed the wind and they will soon reap the whirlwind of an angry public worn out by elite incompetence, arrogance, and ignorance.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

SLO Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, March 28, 2022 (Scheduled)

Item 11- Monthly Investment Report for February 2022. As expected, returns became negative as inflation, Federal debt, energy insecurity, war, tighter monetary policy, and other consequences of weakness and wokism undermined the economy and markets. See the related article on page seven (7).

	February	Year to Date 2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Trust Investments (\$ millions)	\$1,705		\$1,775	\$1,552 year end	\$1,446 year end	\$1,285 year end	\$1,351 year end
Total Fund Return	-1.3% Gross	-3.1% Gross	15.2% Gross	8.9 % Gross	16.3 % Gross	-3.2 % Gross	15.5 % Gross
Policy Index Return (r)	-117%	-3.7%	12.8%	10.0 %	16.4 %	-3.2 %	13.4 %

LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

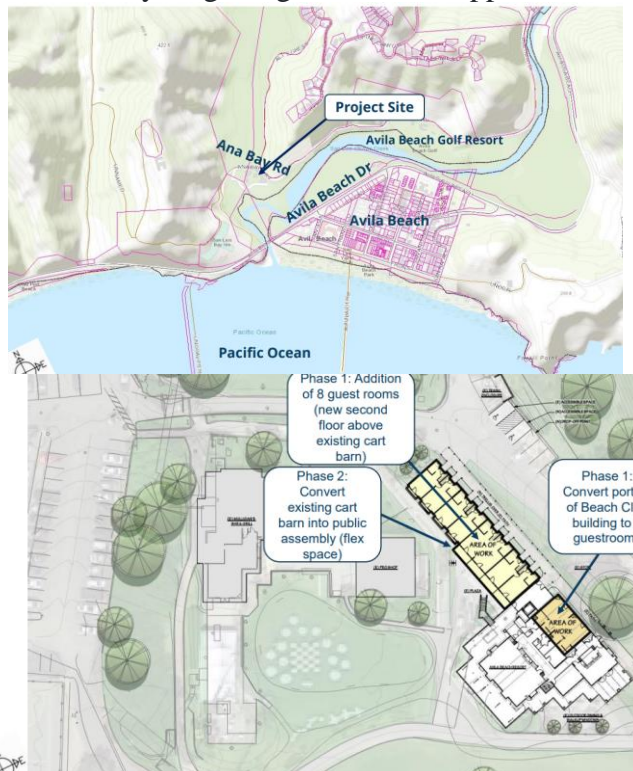
The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 24, 2022 (Completed)

Item 4 - Hearing to consider a request by ABR Property, L.P. for an Amendment (AMEND2022-00002) to the San Luis Bay Estates Master Development Plan to allow ten overnight accommodations at the golf resort. The project also includes a phased Development Plan / Coastal Development Permit (DRC2021-00126) to allow for Phase 1: the establishment of 10 overnight accommodations totaling 3,840 square feet to the Avila Beach Golf Resort. Eight guest rooms will be located in a new second floor addition above the existing cart barn, and two guestrooms will be converted from a portion of the Beach Club building, and Phase 2: conversion of the existing cart barn into a 1,548 square foot public assembly (flex space). Dedicated on-site parking will be provided for the overnight accommodations at the Avila Beach Golf Resort. The item was continued to May 26, 2022 as the staff and applicant will be negotiating some further changes to the project. It doesn't look good for the applicant, as the Commission admonished the staff to listen to the negative public comments.

Opposition came from the San Luis Bay Association and the Avila Beach Advisory Council. Many of the established people in the County would prefer to see growth stopped and the County remain as stagnant as possible. Populations would concentrate in the existing cities, whose growth would also ultimately be stopped.

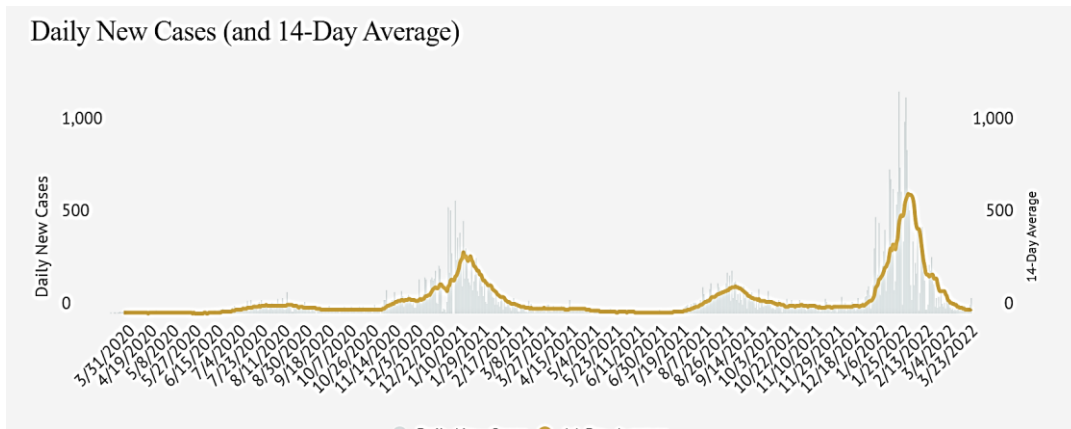
It is probably time for a frank discussion of this issue countywide. The staff had recommended approval of the project but now may be getting cold feet as opposition is manifested.



EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID. The decline in cases and hospitalizations is now the lowest it has been since the pandemic first arrived in SLO County. During this past week, we began to hear of the inevitable spread of a new sub-species of the Omicron version. As one commentator so aptly states:

The advent of the COVID pandemic has been a political windfall for the Democrats beyond any possible measure. Unlike traditional Democrat-created “problems” that only targeted a small slice of the population, COVID gave the Democrats the opportunity to exploit the entire country at once. It has provided them with a perfect excuse to impose draconian governmental authority over virtually every aspect of the American economy and society in a way that no traditional legislation ever could. Using COVID as justification, the Democrats have implemented government control over business, transportation, and education to such a frighteningly micro degree that vast swaths of the public are now conditioned to ask, “Are we allowed to do this?” This is the Democrats’ utopia: They want to control all facets of people’s daily lives, to have them totally dependent on a Democrat-run government so they can stay in power and extract the funding they need via unrestricted taxation to maintain their rule over the population.¹



2 (1 ICU) SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

Item 2 - Current COLAB Issues and Progress. Progress has been made this past year on many of the issues on which COLAB has provided analysis and advocacy. Others are works in progress.

1. The Board of Supervisors (minus Bruce Gibson) directed staff to prepare an ordinance eliminating the Housing-in-Lieu Tax – an 11-year COLAB effort and multi-decade effort by the Home Builders Association of the Central Coast. The Board will again direct the staff to conduct a feasibility analysis of alternatives to provide a steady and flow of local funds to generate matches for State and Federal grants on affordable home projects.
2. The Board of Supervisors majority adopted a redistricting map which eliminates the 2011 gerrymanders. So far, the map has survived three separate court challenges. District 2 becomes competitive.
3. The County withdrew from the ideological Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA). Others may follow when the County starts its reformed system. It now appears that people living

¹ Steve Feinstein, American Thinker, March24, 2022.

in the unincorporated area will benefit from substantially lower rate increases than those in the cities and special districts, which remained in the IWMA.

4. The Board of Supervisors repealed the COVID state of emergency. The Board majority vowed that any future emergencies will be limited to 14 days, which will force staff to return for renewals.

5. The culture of corruption infects some local agencies in SLO County as evinced by the Adam Hill/Helios Dayspring case, the IWMA thefts and contract cronyism, APCD Dunes Dust Rule amendments without Board approval, and various special districts' executive directors contracting with their own engineering firms for district work.

6. Election Integrity – No voter ID; Same day registration/voting; Ballots mailed to all voters; and chain of custody issues.

7. Joint MIT-Stanford analysis: “Keep Diablo Open” – Local and State leaders should push this opportunity. The Board has written the Governor, asking him to help keep the plant open.

8. Homeless prevention and remediation programs are failing everywhere. The State now recognizes that accountability must be built in.

9. Elected officials in all agencies must have more stomach to question staff recommendations and analyses.

10. The Board adopted proposed County Charter language with limited scope. It is designed to provide local voter control when Supervisor and County Constitutional Officer slots go vacant midterm. The proposed Charter is subject to voter approval in November.

11. The highly ballyhooed Central Coast Community Energy Authority fake green energy electric bill “savings” have been erased by large natural gas price increases. There are also massive long term contractual energy contract obligations. The community energy promises are all evaporating over time. Your bill will rise with the brownouts.

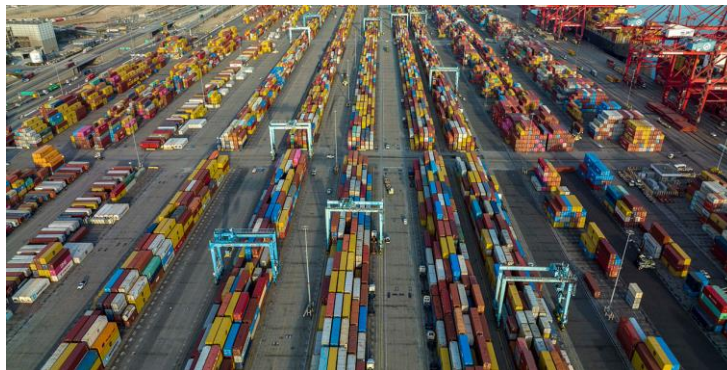
12. COLAB has staunchly opposed closing of the Oceano Dunes to off-road riding and free style camping. The Friends of the Dunes (a major coalition of riding enthusiasts) has been overwhelmingly successful in court challenges to the California Coastal Commission and the SLO County Air Pollution District. COLAB is holding local officials accountable on the issue.

Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 12 are positive progress – others are opportunities for reform.

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

REMOVE BARRIERS TO PRODUCTIVITY TO PREVENT THE NEXT RECESSION, FOCUS ON THE SUPPLY SIDE BY ELI DOURADO



Because of global events, we now face the possibility of a supply-induced recession, the likes of which we haven't experienced since the oil shocks of the 1970s. The war in Ukraine and the spread of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in China could hit supply chains and production capabilities in the U.S. and around the globe, leading to the return of stagflation: high inflation and low economic growth at the same time.

We need to adjust our economic toolkit to deal with stagflation. While stimulus payments from Congress and the Fed successfully sustained American demand in the face of the global pandemic and averted a much bigger recession, demand-side fiscal and monetary policies won't be nearly as useful in a supply-shock recession. To minimize the severity of the next recession, we must address the supply-side of the economy directly.

The war in Ukraine, with its resulting loss of shipping insurance and other forms of self-sanctioning, reduced the volume of Russian oil reaching the global marketplace. The International Energy Agency estimates that Russia's crude- and refined-oil product output could [shrink by up to 2.5 million barrels per day](#) by next month—and that's without any official sanctions on Russia's energy sector. Those sanctions may yet come as Vladimir Putin ramps up the brutality of his campaign in Ukraine. Oil prices rose from about \$90 per barrel prior to the invasion to a high of \$130 per barrel before falling [on the prospect of](#) a China-induced global recession.

It's not just oil that's getting scarcer. Industrially important metals like nickel, of which Russia is a major exporter, have [doubled in price](#) since the invasion. Interruption of Ukraine's wheat

production will raise food prices globally and cause hardship, if not famine, in countries that [rely on Ukrainian imports](#), like Gambia, Lebanon, Moldova, Djibouti, Libya, Tunisia, and Pakistan.

China's struggles to contain Omicron represent a distinct set of shocks. The "Zero Covid" policies the country used successfully to contain the virus thus far do not appear up to the job of fighting off the new variant. Yet with a population protected only by less effective vaccines and virtually no immunity from prior infection, abandoning these policies would unleash a massive wave of Covid cases that would overwhelm Chinese hospitals and increase the disease's fatality rate.

China is stuck. The country is now locking down multiple cities and even entire provinces. Even if these lockdown measures work in the short term, they may need to be reimposed over and over again, absent a new strategy to contain one of the most contagious diseases in history. These repeated lockdowns will hamper China's ability to contribute to the global economy and its supply chains.

Traditional monetary and fiscal policies have limited utility against a supply shock. At the aggregate level, supply and demand are more interdependent than typical charts let on, so demand-side policies do have a role to play in preventing the supply shock from depressing spending. But beyond limiting the contagion, these conventional macroeconomic policy tools cannot address the shocks we may soon experience.

The only solution is to offset the shock to aggregate supply with a boost in the economy's productive capacity. Without such a compensatory supply-side action, the negative supply shock will increase inflation and hurt economic growth, producing stagflation.

To avoid stagflation, we can try to undo the specific shocks we are experiencing. For example, we can try to compensate for the reduction in Russian oil supplies with greater domestic oil production. But this kind of response can only go so far. We cannot quickly ramp up the production of wheat, nickel, or Chinese manufactured goods to make up for each individual shock. And with the complexity of modern production, even one missing part can bring a factory to a halt.

If we can't counterbalance the supply shock in every granular manifestation, we can at least take action to boost productivity and aggregate supply. Macroeconomic textbooks don't focus on this policy lever because they assume that the supply side of the economy is already optimized. Yet it is manifestly evident that American society is not maximizing its productivity.

If we wanted to raise American productivity, for example, we could simplify [geothermal permitting](#), deregulate advanced [meltdown-proof nuclear reactors](#), make it easier to build [transmission lines](#), figure out why high-speed rail is [so expensive](#), fix [permitting](#) generally, abolish [the Jones Act](#), [automate](#) our ports, allow drones to [operate autonomously](#), legalize [supersonic flight over land](#), reduce [occupational-licensing requirements](#), train more [medical workers](#), [build more hospitals](#), revamp our [pandemic-response institutions](#), simplify [drug approvals](#), [deregulate land use](#) to allow denser housing and mixed-use neighborhoods, allow [more immigration](#), cancel [inefficient programs](#), restrict [cost-plus procurement contracts](#) in favor of more effective methods, end [appropriations based on job creation](#), avoid [political direction of scientific research](#), and instill [urgency in grantmaking](#).

In other words, there is much we could do to boost supply. No, not all these actions will offer relief from the specific supply shocks we could soon face; nor will they all have an immediate effect. Still, doing as much as possible now to remove barriers to productivity and efficiency is our best hope to avoid prolonged stagflation.

Eli Dourado is a senior research fellow at the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University. This article first appeared in the City News if March 18, 2022.

THE REAL ‘RESET’ IS COMING

The prophets of the new world order sowed the wind and they will soon reap the whirlwind of an angry public worn out by elite incompetence, arrogance, and ignorance.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Joe Biden believes the Ukraine war will mark the start of a “new world order.”

In the middle of the COVID global pandemic, Klaus Schwab and global elites likewise announced a “Great Reset.”

Accordingly, the nations of the world would have to surrender their sovereignty to an international body of experts. They would enlighten us on taxes, diversity, and green policies.

When Donald Trump got elected in 2016, marquee journalists announced partisan reporting would have to displace the old, supposedly disinterested approach to the news.

There is a common theme here.

In normal times progressives worry that they do not have public support for their policies.

Only in crises do they feel that the political Left and media can merge to use apocalyptic times to ram through usually unpopular approaches to foreign and domestic problems.

We saw that last year: fleeing from Afghanistan, the embrace of critical race theory, trying to end the filibuster, pack the court, junk the Electoral College, and nationalize voting laws.

These “new orders” and “resets” always entail far bigger government and more unelected, powerful bureaucracies. Elites assume that their radical changes in energy use, media reporting, voting, sovereignty, and racial and ethnic quotas will never quite apply to themselves, the architects of such top-down changes.

So *we* common folk must quit fossil fuels, but not those who need to use corporate jets. Walls will not mar our borders but will protect the homes of Nancy Pelosi, Mark Zuckerberg, and Bill Gates.

Hunter Biden's lost laptop will be declared, by fiat, not news. In contrast, the fake Alfa Bank "collusion" narrative will be national headline news for weeks.

Middle class lifestyles will be curbed as we are instructed to strive for sustainability and transition to apartment living and mass transit. But the Obamas will still keep their three mansions, and Silicon Valley futurists will insist on exemptions for their yachts.

In truth, *we are* about to see a radical reset—of the current reset. It will be a different sort of transformation than the elites are expecting and one that they should greatly fear.

The world and the United States are furious over hyperinflation that may soon exceed 10 percent per year. We will be lucky if it ends only in recession or stagflation, rather than global depression.

The mess was created by the same apparat who bought into "modern monetary theory." That silly university idea claimed prosperity would follow vastly expanding the money supply, keeping interest rates at *de facto* zero levels, running huge annual deficits, piling up unsustainable national debt, and subsidizing workers to stay home.

Natural gas and oil costs are now soaring to unsustainable levels—and to the point where the middle class simply will not be able to travel, keep warm in winter, or cool in summer.

Both in Europe and the United States left-wing governments deliberately curbed drilling and non-Russian pipelines. They shut down nuclear power plants and subsidized costly, inefficient solar and wind projects. They ended up not with utopia, but with fuel shortages, high prices, and energy dependency on the world's most repressive regimes.

The woke revolution in the West was supposed to teach us that the "white male"-dominated Western world was toxic. Its origins, ascendance, and current leisure and affluence were supposedly due only to systemic exploitation, racism, and sexism.

Elites introduced cancel culture, doxxing, deplatforming, and social ostracism to shame these supposed exploiters and to destroy their lives and careers.

Few asked how a supposedly noxious West of some 2,500 years duration became the number one destination of millions of global non-Western migrants and offered the greatest degree of global prosperity and freedom for its citizens.

So a reset reckoning is coming—in reaction to the "new orders" championed by Biden and the Davos set.

In the November 2022 midterms, we are likely to see a historic “No!” to the orthodox left-wing agenda that has resulted in unsustainable inflation, unaffordable energy, war, and humiliation abroad, spiraling crime, racial hostility—and arrogant defiance from those who deliberately enacted these disastrous policies.

What will replace it is a return to what until recently had worked.

Closed and secure borders with only legal and measured immigration will return. Americans will demand tough police enforcement and deterrent sentencing, and a return to integration and the primacy of individual character rather than separatist fixations on the “color our skin.”

The public will continue to tune out of the partisan and mediocre “mainstream” media. We will see greater increased production of oil and natural gas to transition us slowly to a wider variety of energy, strong national defense, and deterrent foreign policies.

The prophets of the new world order sowed the wind and they will soon reap the whirlwind of an angry public worn out by elite incompetence, arrogance, and ignorance.

*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 March 24, 2022.*



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VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER



MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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