



WEEKLY UPDATE MARCH 6-12, 2022

RUSH TO THE MARCH 24, 2022 ANNUAL COLAB DINNER - FUNDRAISER - MADONNA EXPO, 5:00 PM, HOSTED COCKTAILS, DINNER, PAGEANTRY, LIVE AUCTION, CELEBRATE FAMILY, HERITAGE AND FREEDOM



COLAB San Luis Obispo is looking for someone with an interest in regional politics and time to dedicate to our organization. This is a paid position, not volunteer, that will assist our Board and Executive Director with meetings, membership, and administrative functions. Approximately 10-15 hours per week. (Mostly) flexible scheduling. Interested? Shoot us an e-mail at colabslo@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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**

For tickets:
On-Line Reservations & Payment can be made at
www.colabslo.org/events.asp
or
Mail your check to
COLAB SLO County, PO Box 13601, SLO, CA 93406
Cocktail Attire Optional
More info at (805) 548-0340 or
colabslo@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

**PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSHOP PART II
A GOOD BRIEFING ON PLANNING DEPT STRUCTURE & OPERATIONS**

LAST WEEK

PENSION TRUST

2021 WAS A GOOD INVESTMENT YEAR

**ACTUARIES MAY STILL RECOMMEND A MORE CONSERVATIVE DISCOUNT
RATE 6.50% vs Current 6.75?**

BOS MEETING

**PROJECTED FY 2022-23 BUDGET GAP GROWS
BUDGET POLICY IS SELF FULFILLING PROFICY – BASE COSTS + GROWTH
PROJECTIONS DO NOT INCLUDE NEW SALARY AND BENEFIT COSTS**

**SIX MILLION IN FEDERAL ARPA¹ FUNDS APPROVED
FOR MORE HOMELESS PROJECTS THAT WON'T WORK**

**STAFF ALLOWS BOARD TO END COVID STATE OF
EMERGENCY**

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID DOWN AGAIN

**BUT LEFTISTS READY TO PROMOTE NEW STRAIN BA.2
(STEALTH OMICRON)**

The media is already laying the groundwork for stealth Omicron to be at fault for the next round of COVID mandates, citing preliminary studies that show stealth Omicron is more transmissible than its not-so-stealth cousin or other relatives like Delta

WAR IN EUROPE

March 4, 2022 - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated on Wednesday that if there is a third world war, it will be destructive and involve nuclear weapons

**NEWSOM'S 'NEW STRATEGY' WOULD FORCE SOME
HOMELESS, MENTALLY ILL CALIFORNIANS INTO
TREATMENT - PAGE 11**

¹ American Rescue Plan Act – Trillions all funded by debt and inflation.

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 17

California's \$5-7 per Gallon Gas and Energy Costs Will Get More Expensive

BY KATY GRIMES

What the country needs isn't 'alternative' energy, or new austerity measures; It's a government that promotes energy development

THE CLIMATISTAS ARE LYING AGAIN

BY STEVEN HAYWARD

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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

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

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

This is the second of two workshops on various aspects of the Planning Commission's role and priorities. The first one took place two weeks ago and focused on various intermediate level policy issues such as Ag Preserves. 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.

This week's workshop seems to be a Planning 101 class, covering a variety of structural and purpose matters. For example, the agenda report states in part:

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

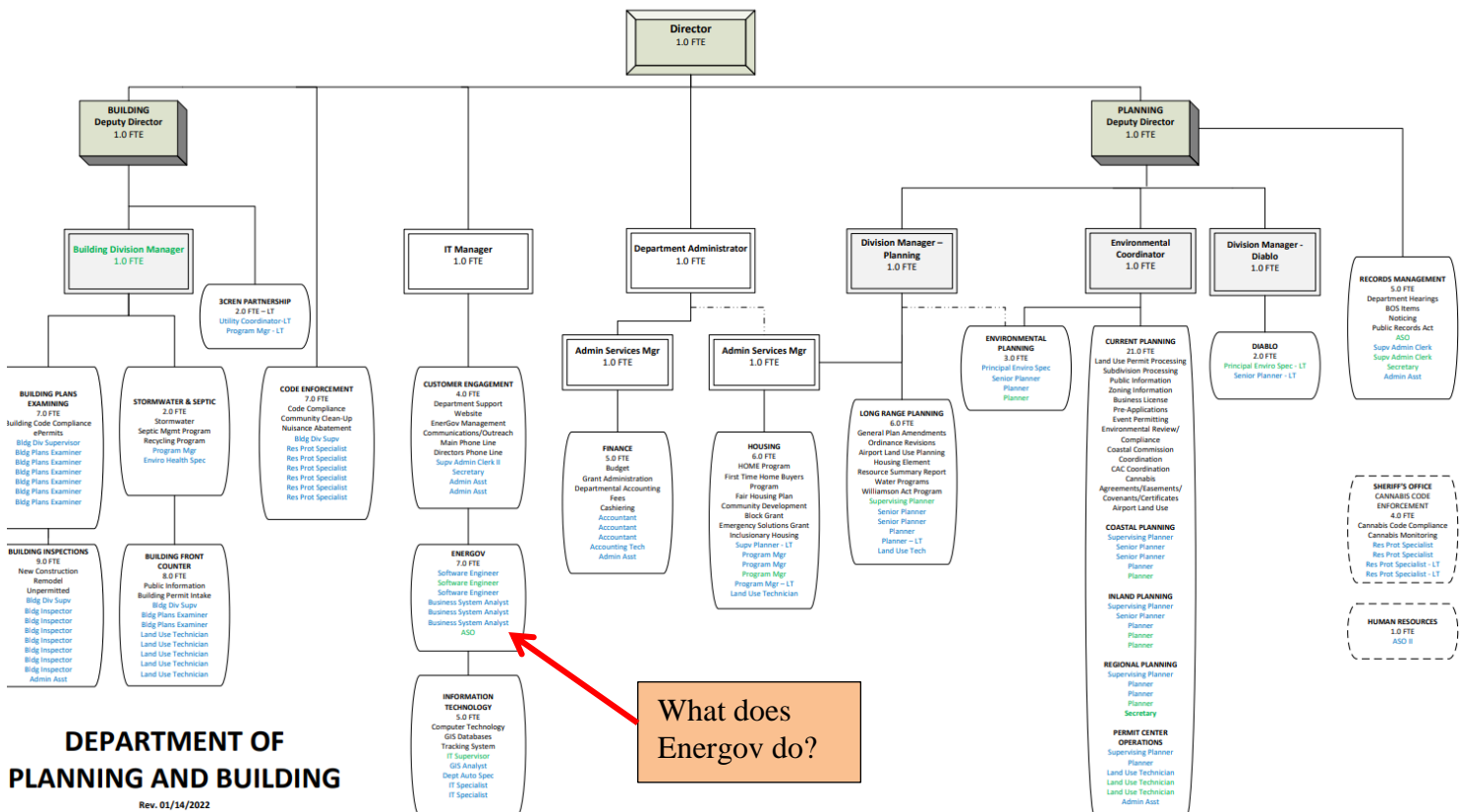
- *Mission Statement*

- Organizational Structure
- Planning Divisions
- Records Management Division
- Planning Commission Relationship to the Planning and Building Department

The full Board letter that summarizes much this is worth a look. Control click and wait because it takes a bit to open.

[140797 \(ca.gov\)](http://140797.ca.gov)

Which positions are filled and which are vacant?

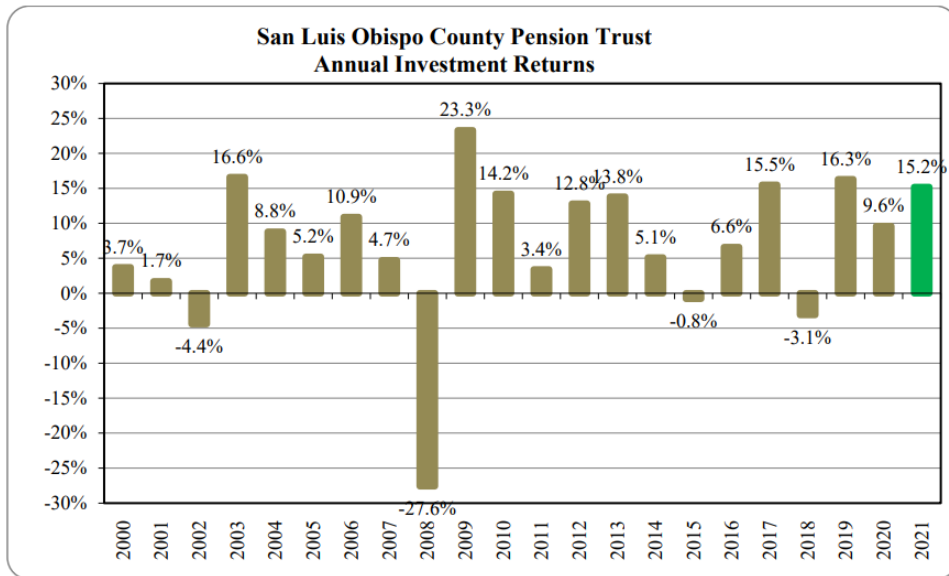


LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

SLO County Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, February 28, 2022 (Completed)

Item 9 - Quarterly Investment Report for the 4th Quarter of 2021. The trust received the various reports.

Background: The Trust experienced good returns, which could reduce pressure to raise rates. However, the actuaries are warning the Trust Board that over the long haul, investment returns could be in the 6% range. In May, the Pension Board will have to decide whether to lower the assumption rate in this regard. It is currently 6.75%.



Item 10 - Monthly Investment Report for January 2022. January was a negative month. February is likely to be much worse. Except for 2018, the investment returns have exceeded the actuarial assumption rate, which is now 6.75%.

	January	Year to Date 2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Trust Investments (\$ millions)	\$1,735		\$1,775	\$1,552 year end	\$1,446 year end	\$1,285 year end	\$1,351 year end
Total Fund Return	-1.8% Gross	-1.8% Gross	15.2% Gross	8.9 % Gross	16.3 % Gross	-3.2 % Gross	15.5 % Gross
Policy Index Return (r)	-2.7%	-2.7%	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
 Liquidity- 6% 90 day T-Billst
 Pending annual updates to interim targets.

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 1, 2022 (Completed)

Item 16 - General Public Comment – Duties to Promote Energy Development.

Item 17 - Submittal of the Fiscal Year 2022-23 County and State Budget update. The Board received the report and expressed confidence in both the logic and the staff recommendations.

Earlier in the fiscal year, the staff forecast that next Fiscal Year could contain a projected \$2.1 to \$8.0 million revenue/expenditure gap. This update indicates that it is now a firm \$8.2 million gap, which will have to be remediated by reduced expenditures and/or increased revenues. Further exacerbating the problem is that the County is in labor negotiations with seven unions and has not included estimates for higher salary and benefit costs for those units. The highlighted sentence, below, indicates that millions of dollars in un-estimated cost increases will be added to the gap.

When asked about the fact that the labor negotiations will add millions in new expenditures, the staff responded that forthcoming labor negotiations are excluded from the projections. Staff added that this is a past practice that has worked well. The Board accepted the non-answer with docile submissiveness.

Employee Compensation and Workforce Investment Consistent with past practice, the FY 2022-23 budget will include funding for salary and benefit increases that were incurred as of November 2021. The County recognizes that improvements to and success of programs and services for the community is dependent upon recruiting and maintaining a talented and skilled workforce. In the last year, the County has successfully negotiated labor agreements with two of the bargaining units; and is in, or soon will enter into, negotiations with seven additional units. Employee compensation is negotiated with the intent to balance affordability, competitive employee salary and benefits, operational and employee interests, and recruitment and retention strategies.

The basic reason given for the gap is that once the Departments submitted their Budget requests for next year, the expenditures proposed were greater than projected earlier.²

The table below compares the status quo budget to the November forecast, by major revenue and expenditure category:

	Forecast	Status Quo	\$ Diff	% Diff
Non-Departmental Revenue	243,052,627	255,121,406	12,068,779	5.0%
Departmental Revenue	344,453,326	354,190,897	9,737,571	2.8%
Fund Balance Available	33,084,430	34,693,823	1,609,393	4.9%
Cancelled Reserves	-	6,813,845	6,813,845	
Total Revenue	620,590,383	650,819,971	30,229,588	4.9%
Salary and Benefits	342,452,556	359,527,816	17,075,260	5.0%
Non-Salary Expense	253,359,706	265,658,876	12,299,170	4.9%
5% Contingency	29,790,613	31,259,335	1,468,722	4.9%
New Reserves	-	2,611,808	2,611,808	
Total Expenditures	625,602,876	659,057,835	33,454,959	5.3%
Available Funds/(Gap)	(5,012,493)	(8,229,639)		

The County uses a philosophy of incremental budgeting, which assumes that the prior year's budget, plus it inflationary and new labor costs, becomes the base from which the future budgets are built. They call this the "Status Quo" budget.

² Note that this chart encompasses only the General Fund Budget. The overall Budget will be somewhere over \$800 million and includes self-supported enterprises and utilities. We wish staff would present some comprehensive tables.

A Status Quo budget is defined as one that takes current year staffing and program levels and costs them out for the next year with no material changes (i.e. inflationary increase only, no increases or decreases to staffing levels, and no new or expanded services levels).

The chart shows that the revenues are not keeping up with expenses. There is uncertainty about what State and Federal allocations for various programs will look like in FY 2022-23 (many allocations from the State are based on sales tax receipts, driven by consumer spending). Fortunately, many County departments are seeing an improvement in revenues specific to their operations, compared to what was projected in November 2021. However, expenses came in higher than what was projected. The County has little discretion over expenditure requirements for mandated programs and services.

As noted in the blue chart above on the prior page, it turned out that the salaries and benefits were \$17 million higher than had been forecast. Also and as noted in the highlighted yellow area on page 7 above, salary increase projections have not been included for 7 unions. What if this number is \$20 million?

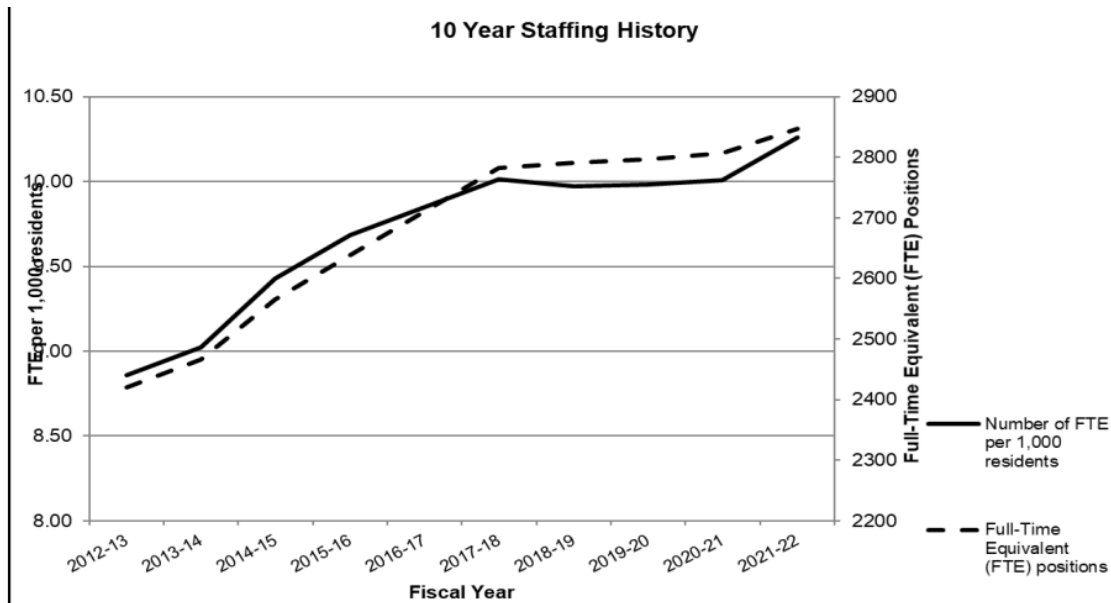
Self-Fulfilling Prophecy:

By adhering to the status quo philosophy, the staff creates a self-fulfilling prophecy. The overall goal becomes one of not reducing or eliminating any programs to live within the natural growth of revenues. This in turn creates relentless pressure to increase fees and relentless pressure to seek more revenue from the State, which in turn pushes demand for more and higher State taxes.

The Board did not seem bothered at all and praised the methodology. The County administrator indicated that his office reviews new program and program expansion requests know as Budget Augmentation Reacts (BAR’s) in detail. This did not answer the question which was actually about the push contained in the so called “status quo budget” model. The Board praised staff for its hard work.

Situation at Budget Adoption after June 2021:

Description	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Recommended	2021-22 Final
Uses of Financing by Type				
Salary & Benefits	307,285,080	315,637,608	342,825,761	344,173,488
Services & Supplies	201,164,873	207,364,627	219,499,571	223,834,811
Other Charges	109,704,017	108,679,876	102,996,506	119,368,067
Fixed Assets	31,680,223	32,949,799	21,251,283	24,461,918
Transfers	(31,785,971)	(67,137,824)	(37,262,222)	(37,262,222)
Increases to Reserves/Designations	0*	0*	15,302,572	49,074,952
Increases/(decreases) to Fund Balance	33,264,954	93,085,035	0	0
Contingencies	0*	0*	28,723,663	30,723,379
*use of reserves and designations and contingencies are included in individual financing types				
Total Financing by Type	651,313,175	690,579,121	693,337,133	754,374,393



Item 18 - A request to consider: 1) a funding plan for \$5,346,000 in American Rescue Plan Act Housing and Homeless projects; and 2) Approval of a corresponding Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$5,346,000 by 4/5 vote as outlined in the recommendation.

The Housing projects and extended programs were approved unanimously. The Board apparently believes that the existing programs are working satisfactorily and thereby adopted more of the same.

Background: The County has tens of millions of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars burning a hole in its pockets. One of the priority uses allowed by the Feds is to beef up homeless programs.

Overall County ARPA Priorities.

ARPA Nexus Buckets

Eligible Use Category	Sub area	BOS direction 6/15/2021
Public Health and Negative Economic Impacts Response		
	Public Health Emergency	\$14M
	Business, Non-Profit, Childcare Grants	\$9M
	Housing / Homelessness	\$6M
	ARPA administrative costs	\$1M
	Total Category	\$30M
Restoration of Government Services		\$10M
Water, Sewer, Broadband		\$15M
		\$55M

Accordingly, the staff proposes the allocation of a portion of the \$6 million per the table below with more to come:

Table 1: Recommended Affordable Housing and Homeless Projects

Affordable Housing Projects	ARPA Housing and Homeless	Project Description
Anderson Hotel Preservation (HASLO)	\$2,000,000	Preserves 68 units of very low-income housing
Arroyo Grande Affordable Housing (HASLO)	\$1,946,000	Adds 63 new units to serve up to 124 low to very-low income individuals
Homeless Projects	ARPA Housing and Homeless	Project Description
Non-Congregate Shelter (5Cities Homeless Coalition)	\$400,000	New temporary non-congregate emergency shelter providing 80 very low-income individuals with non-congregate shelter

Staff is also recommending that the County retain \$1 million to continue and expand operations of its Safe Parking program. On August 10, 2021, your Board approved one-time funds for the program. Since then, the Kansas Avenue Safe Parking Site has been implemented and today has approximately 100 program participants. The \$500,000 in one-time funds set aside for this program will be fully spent at the end of this fiscal year. Therefore, it is imperative that ARPA funds are prioritized for the continuation of this program.

The larger policy dilemma is that experts are divided on the remedies. One group advocates for permanent housing with supportive services. This is based on the theory that individuals in housing will “stabilize” and be susceptible to treatment. The other group advocates for treatment first, because many of the homeless refuse housing and/or continue abusing drugs and alcohol even if they are in housing. Both groups are wrong as demonstrated by the chaos on our streets.

Leadership at all levels continues to refuse to engage the real problem, which is failure to enforce community behavioral standards. There are certainly homeless people who deserve care and housing, as they have fallen out of the economy due to divorce, abandonment, job loss, illness, or mild cognitive impairments. But overall, there are estimated to be at least 70% who are very mentally ill, addicted to hard drugs, or addicted to alcohol, or all three. They are incapable of functioning or even behaving in society and need to be placed in a protective setting where drugs and alcohol are not available and they cannot wander about trashing our cities, committing crimes, and harassing people, all the while openly using.

Accordingly, all this federal money, entirely funded by debt, is being wasted. If one is insane, taking fentanyl, and drinking quart bottles of vodka, that person will never “get better.”³

Instead of the massive high cost and high staff brick and mortar asylums of the first 2/3rds of the 20th Century, we need locked down care centers with modular group and single sleeping units, central cafeterias, bathrooms, and treatment facilities. The patient days should be structured with exercise, public service, sanitary training, self-discipline training, and spiritual guidance.

³ Note the City of San Francisco is now distrusting drugs and setting up centers for people to use them.

UPDATED INFORMATION: Apropos of our analysis above, it appears that the State recognizes that the current set of programs constitute a multi-billion-dollar failure. The article below suggests adoption of a tougher stance, with required lockdown for those who will not get better. Some homeless advocates are already questioning the mandatory provisions.

NEWSOM'S 'NEW STRATEGY' WOULD FORCE SOME HOMELESS, MENTALLY ILL CALIFORNIANS INTO TREATMENT

BY JOCELYN WIENER



Gov. Gavin Newsom, pictured on Feb. 17, 2022, unveiled a new proposal today to address California's mental health crisis. *Photo by Alisha Jucevic for CalMatters*

IN SUMMARY

The governor's new proposal would require all 58 counties to participate in the program to assist people with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

Gov. Gavin Newsom today unveiled a much anticipated proposal to address a mental health crisis increasingly visible on trash-strewn sidewalks and in cramped jail cells around California.

The proposal, known as the [Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment \(or CARE\) Court](#), would provide a framework for courts to compel people with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders into treatment, while also providing participants with supportive housing and wrap-around services.

“This is a completely new strategy,” Newsom said at a press conference today to introduce the new plan. “And I hope that creates a space for a different conversation than we’ve had in the past.”

All 58 counties would be required to participate in the program, which is currently just a policy framework and still needs to be approved by the Legislature. Counties could face penalties for failing to provide requisite services, administration officials said.

“This is a completely new strategy. And I hope that creates a space for a different conversation than we’ve had in the past.”

GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM

COLAB NOTE: Counties will be placed in the frontline of this effort.

That is one of several details that differentiates this proposal from Laura’s Law, which also entails court-ordered treatment but allows counties to decide whether they want to participate. Newsom noted that, in one year, only 218 people were served by Laura’s Law. The Newsom administration estimates that the CARE Court program could serve between 7,000 and 12,000 Californians.

Administration officials say that the new proposal is different, in part, because of the resources it comes with. It builds on a \$12 billion allocation to address homelessness last year, as well as another \$2 billion proposed this year, they said.

People could come into the program through short-term involuntary hospital stays (also known as “5150s”); through the criminal justice system; or at the recommendation of family members, mental health providers, or first responders, among others. They would not need to be homeless to participate.

The court would order a tailored plan involving some combination of housing, medication, and services, and would offer the support of a full clinical team, as well as a public defender and a “supporter” who could help a participant make care decisions and prepare advanced mental health directives.

Unlike with conservatorships, which can be indefinite, participation would be time limited – one year, with the possibility of an additional one-year extension.

A stream of state and local leaders spoke to the urgency of the need at the news conference, held on the San Jose campus of Momentum for Health, a behavioral health treatment organization.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Stephen Manley, a widely regarded trailblazer who has presided over that county’s mental health court for decades, told those gathered: “We need to

stop trying to fix a failed system that is rapidly, in my view, from what I see every day, moving us back to where we were 100 years ago when the answer for the mentally ill was simply to incarcerate them, put them in the hospital and keep them there until they die.”

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, whose city has seen a dramatic burgeoning of encampments in its parks, vacant lots, and underpasses, described joining [the city’s homeless count](#) on a recent freezing morning. She lost her composure as she shooed a rat off a sleeping woman, she said. She later learned that the woman had spent three years living in that same spot, feeding rats because they were her “chosen company” and refusing services.

“She had been offered care, shelter, and housing countless times, but had been left to freeze on the pavement of our city,” Schaaf said.

“It’s time that our Golden State stops walking by our greatest moral shame and faces it head-on with clarity and compassion,” she said.

“It’s time that our Golden State stops walking by our greatest moral shame and faces it head-on with clarity and compassion.”

OAKLAND MAYOR LIBBY SCHAAF

With the new proposal, state leaders are trying to forge a new path beyond the decades-long stalemate surrounding involuntary treatment of the most seriously mentally ill.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, the secretary of Health and Human Services, described the need to move beyond “old and broken models.” The Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, which established the standards for involuntary treatment for people with disabilities, passed in 1967, more than half a century ago. In recent years, much of the debate about how to serve people with [serious mental illness](#) has centered on whether or not to change that law. Bills moving through the Legislature are still grappling with that question.

Newsom took care to emphasize his interest in working with disability rights groups on the new proposal.

Kevin Baker, director of governmental relations for ACLU California Action, said in an email to CalMatters that his organization is “keeping an open mind” while waiting to see more details, though noting that “there are a million questions and a million things that could go wrong.”

“The problem of homelessness is caused by the cost of housing, and we won’t solve homelessness, mental health or substance abuse problems in our communities by locking people up and drugging them against their will,” he said. “New funding for housing and services would

be good, if we also keep in mind that people don't lose their civil liberties just because the government wants to help them, no matter how sincerely.”

He added that he thought the proposal is a significant and complex change in the law that should be heard by legislative committees and “not quietly slipped into a budget trailer bill as I hear may be the plan.”

County behavioral health departments would shoulder significant responsibility for implementing the new plan. Michelle Doty Cabrera, executive director of the California Behavioral Health Directors Association, told CalMatters that her members are all too aware of the “runaway train of need” for mental health services. While celebrating Newsom’s commitment to bring in more funding for housing, she said she worried that the administration was not planning to allocate enough resources for increased services.

“There’s no way you can squeeze blood from a turnip,” she said. “We’re at our limit in terms of what we can do. We need more resources to do more.”

The California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians, and Public Conservators echoed this sentiment in a similar statement, saying they needed more resources to meet the “significant impacts” the program would undoubtedly have on demand for their services.

“The governor has thrown down the gauntlet and said we’re going to change things in a big way.”

RANDALL HAGAR, LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE AND POLICY CONSULTANT FOR THE PSYCHIATRIC PHYSICIANS ALLIANCE OF CALIFORNIA

Randall Hagar, legislative advocate and policy consultant for the Psychiatric Physicians Alliance of California, called the new proposal “really welcome.”

“The governor has thrown down the gauntlet and said we’re going to change things in a big way,” he said. “It’s one of the first new ideas I’ve heard in a long time.”

Jocelyn Wiener writes about health and mental health for CalMatters, exploring the intersection between government policies and people’s lives. She has worked as a reporter in her native California for close to two decades. Her work has appeared in The Atlantic, The Washington Post, the Christian Science Monitor, Kaiser Health News, the San Francisco Chronicle and many other state and national publications.

After graduating from Stanford University, she received a Fulbright Scholarship to spend a year and a half working with young people living on the streets of El Salvador. She earned a master's degree at Columbia University's School of Journalism, and reported on poverty and homelessness for The Sacramento Bee. She has worked as a freelance journalist in Central and South America and India, as well as in California.

This article first appeared in the Cal Matters of March 4, 2021.

Item 23 - Request to receive and file the: 1) Order to Terminate the Proclamation of Emergency effective February 25, 2022, and the 2) Order to Terminate the Declaration of Local Public Health Emergency effective February 25, 2022. The Board ratified staff's repeal of the state of emergency. The majority plans to limit the ratification period for future emergencies to 14 days. This will limit staff control to some extent, as they will have to come back to the Board for reauthorization.

Background: The write-up stated that on Friday, February 25th, the County Administrator (CA) and the Health Officer terminated the state of emergency, which has been in force for 2 years. The members of the Board majority had repeatedly asked that it be terminated earlier but were told that they could not legally command their staff to do so. It is expected that the Board will "ratify" the decision when it approves this item.

The stalemate has caused considerable concern among citizens that the County staff should be accountable to the elected Supervisors. Some have called for disciplining of the CAO, County Counsel, and Health Officer in this regard. A problem is that such an action would be regarded as retaliation and could subject the County to legal action and costs, since the Board had ratified the declaration in the first place. Moreover, during the declaration of a health emergency, the County Health Officer becomes a quasi-State officer and is not subject to Board of Supervisors direction on matters related to emergency during its declared period.

Readers may remember that the back in 2013, the Board declared a state of emergency with respect to the water usage in the Paso Basin. No one ever proved that there was an imminent threat to public health and safety, as required by the state statute. The regulations that were imposed during that "emergency" have survived under follow-on amendments to the zoning Ordinance.

As we have noted in previous editions of the Weekly Update, there is growing frustration of the public that runs across many agencies related to staff control based on the sheer volume of activity and the power of "expertise." Your Cardiologist may warn you not to smoke three packs of Luckys per day and not to drink a quart of scotch per day, but you don't have to listen. On the other hand, governments, with their "expertise" and their monopoly of force and violence, can get away with forcing you to be locked down, be vaccinated, register firearms, allow rioters and homeless deviants to beat you up and loot your store, and accept the verdict of elections where voters do not have to prove they are citizens or live in the jurisdiction.

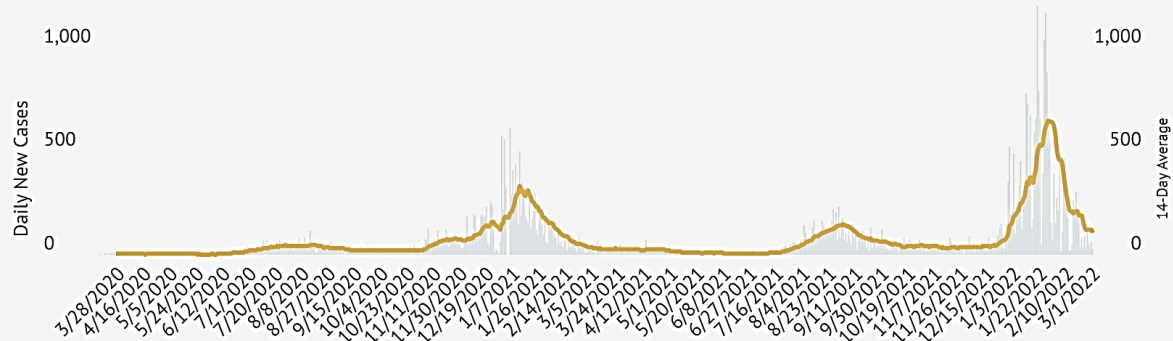
In the end, the write-up also states that if COVID surges again, they will reinstate the emergency:

*At the present time, termination of the County’s proclamation of local emergency and declaration of local public health emergency will have little consequence on the County’s ability to respond with all the rigor and timeliness as is necessary based on current conditions and to maintain a well-governed and healthy community. **Should the need arise for reinstatement of the emergency orders, that can be undertaken with dispatch.***

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID: The war in Europe has knocked COVID off the top news lines. People realize that potential escalation to nuclear war would constitute a larger emergency. The indoor masking requirement was lifted on February 16, 2022, for those who have been vaccinated.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



14 (2 ICU)** SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

Don't believe the left actually will let COVID die. As Bradley Devlin reports in the March 4th American Conservative:

There is a new Covid in town, a subvariant of Omicron they're calling stealth Omicron. Let this be a warning to conservatives declaring victory over Covid mandates: Democrats will not hesitate to put Covid precautions back in place as soon as it becomes politically convenient.

Stealth Omicron, also known as Omicron BA.2, first emerged in Europe in late January. Since then, it has become the predominant strain of Covid-19 in at least 18 countries, and has reportedly been detected in all 50 states.

The media is already laying the groundwork for stealth Omicron to be at fault for the next round of Covid mandates, citing preliminary studies that show stealth Omicron is more transmissible than its not-so-stealth cousin or other relatives like Delta. A study from Japan, for example, found that stealth Omicron was 30% more transmissible than the already highly transmissible regular Omicron. According to the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, stealth Omicron was responsible for 8% of all new cases of Covid-19 in the U.S., a figure that was doubling every week.

Item 2 - The War in Europe: Some recent bulletins from a private intelligence source organization illustrate the deepening seriousness:

March 5, 2022 - Russian President Vladimir Putin stated on Saturday that sanctions put on Russia from the West are 'akin to a declaration of war' but also said 'thank God it has not come to that'.

March 5, 2022 - The United Nations says that more than 1,200,000 refugees have fled Ukraine in total thus far since the war with Russia started.

March 4, 2022 - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated on Wednesday that if there is a third world war, it will be destructive and involve nuclear weapons.

March 4, 2022 - Russian troops reportedly fired on each other, destroying nine of their own tanks and four of their own armored vehicles according to the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other sources. COLAB Note: In 1916 during WW I, The Russian Army simply melted away and walked home.

March 4, 2022 - U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham's indirect call for Russian President Vladimir Putin to be assassinated is now drawing ire from lawmakers on both political sides.

March 4, 2022 - A massive airlift effort by NATO is underway to 'reinforce Europe' according to NATO Allied Air Command. "Strategic and tactical air transport aircraft including C-17s, C-5s, A330 MRTTs and C-130s from multiple nations have been busy moving units from the NATO Response Force along with national contributions to locations across NATO's Eastern Flank".

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

California's \$5-7 per Gallon Gas and Energy Costs Will Get More Expensive

BY KATY GRIMES

What the country needs isn't 'alternative' energy, or new austerity measures; It's a government that promotes energy development

The first week in December 2018, the United States exported more oil than we imported, for the first time in nearly 70 years. This is known as energy independence. And it happened not because of the previous 50 years of dubious federal “energy programs” heavily regulating oil and gas, while promoting alternative energy, but despite them.

This took place under then-President Donald Trump, who said, “The year 2019 marked the first time in 67 years that American annual gross energy exports exceeded gross energy imports.” “Then President Donald Trump took office and announced a radical departure from 50 years of received energy ‘wisdom,” Investors.com explained. “In a speech to the Energy Department months after taking office, he said that for decades leaders peddled the myth of energy scarcity. Most of it is self-imposed, he said. What the country needs, he said, isn’t ‘alternative’ energy, or new austerity measures. It’s a government that ‘promotes energy development.” Which is the exact opposite of what the Biden administration is doing right now, resulting in driving up oil and gas prices to unaffordable levels for many in the nation.

Trump listed actions he was taking to lift federal impediments to energy production during his administration (partial list):

- The United States was the number one producer of oil and natural gas in the world
- Natural gas production reached a record high of 34.9 quads in 2019, following record-high production in both 2018 and 2017
- The United States was a net natural gas exporter for three consecutive years and had an export capacity of nearly 10 billion cubic feet per day
- Withdrew from the unfair, one-sided Paris Climate Agreement
- Canceled the previous administration’s Clean Power Plan, and replaced it with the new Affordable Clean Energy rule
- Approved the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines
- Opened up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska to oil and gas leasing
- Repealed the last administration’s Federal Coal Leasing Moratorium, which prohibited coal leasing on Federal lands
- There is more HERE

And it worked. The Trump administration said the average American family saved \$2,500 a year in lower electric bills and lower prices at the gas pump.

Since last year, my winter gas heating bill jumped nearly 50%, and we keep our daytime temperature below 65 degrees.

What energy independence means to the United States is affordable, reliable oil, natural gas, coal and fuel, which translates into affordable gas prices at the pump, affordable home heating costs, and affordable electricity.

Energy independence isn’t complicated: It merely “requires government to get out of the way so that oil companies can get at the vast supplies of good old oil and gas right under U.S. soil,” said Investors.com.

The Institute for Energy Research said we can “thank the oil and gas industry and its use of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling for that milestone as production in those industries increased a combined 11 percent in 2019. Total U.S. energy production increased by 5.7 percent in 2019 while U.S. energy demand decreased by 0.9 percent.”

“Joe Biden destroyed that in the first few days of office,” Victoria Taft explained at PJ Media Tuesday. “Biden closed the Keystone Pipeline and threw thousands of people out of work, declared the country would cut emissions by 50% by 2030 forcing the use of more expensive so-called ‘green’ energy, halted drilling in Alaska’s plentiful ANWR reserves, and just last week, as Americans were confronted with near \$5.00 a gallon gas, he stopped all drilling on federal reserves. And now Russia has invaded Ukraine in a war that is over energy in large part.”

Biden’s policies have only helped the Russians, Saudis, and Iran, who greatly benefit now on the backs of Americans. With Russia invading Ukraine, rather than continuing to purchase oil from the Russians as we are still doing, Biden should be firing up the Keystone Pipeline, encouraging more coal production, and imploring (or ordering) the state of California to resume all of its natural gas production. We need all-of-the-above energy production.

Here in California, our gas prices have surpassed \$5.00 per gallon throughout, and in some parts of the state, gas has reached \$7.00 per gallon.

This hurts the working classes and the poor the most, which seems like an oxymoron given that Democrats claim they are the Party which cares about the poor and the working classes. What Democrats are instead doing to those they “care about” is forcing them to make financial choices between paying for gas for their cars and heat for their homes, and other things they need. Between inflation and energy and gas costs, most people are feeling a severe economic pinch – like a 40% increase in household costs between food and fuel increases.

“For many parts of the world, fossil fuels are still vital and will be for the next few decades, because they are the only means to lift people out of the smoke and darkness of energy poverty,” Bjorn Lomborg first wrote in 2013, and still reiterates. “This is not just about powering stoves and refrigerators to improve billions of lives but about powering agriculture and industry that will improve lives.”

California has ample petroleum resources. Powering California reports the state has accessible oil and natural gas resources that range from surface deposits of crude oil in places like the La Brea Tar Pits and along the Ventura and Santa Barbara coastline to oil and gas formations over 14,000 feet deep.

When Trump was President, California produced more than 200 million cubic feet of natural gas in 2017 used for heating and cooking in homes and businesses and to generate electricity.

Institute for Energy Research said: Despite the major push for renewable energy by environmentalists, fossil fuels still produce the majority of the energy that we consume today. Renewable energy’s share of the 2019 U.S. energy consumption market has only grown by 4 percentage points in 62 years, despite costing the taxpayer billions of dollars in subsidies.

As the Globe reported in 2020, California is rich in natural resources which once powered the state: natural gas deposits in the Monterey Shale formation; geothermal energy, abundant rivers and waterways such as the San Joaquin River Delta and hydroelectric dams; the Pacific coastline; 85 million acres of wildlands with 17 million of those used as commercial timberland; mines and mineral resources, vast farming and agricultural lands, and hunting and fishing.

But California politicians and political appointed agency officials, under pressure from radical environmental organizations and lobbyists, decided to ignore the energy producing natural resources, and instead move to an all-electric grid, and the only approved “renewable energy:” solar and wind energy.

Remember when all of the public transit buses in California touted “Clean Natural Gas?”

Michael Shellenberger, best-selling author of “Apocalypse Never,” explains: “California’s bet on renewables, & its shunning of natural gas & nuclear, is directly responsible for the state’s blackouts and high electricity prices,” and warned about the Biden-Harris plan. Adding to our exceedingly high electricity and heating costs, our gas costs only appear to be going up, unless the Biden administration decides to stop acting like a member of the EU.

Lomborg adds, “The developed world needs a smarter approach toward cleaner fuels. The United States has been showing the way. Hydraulic fracturing has produced an abundance of inexpensive natural gas, leading to a shift away from coal in electricity production. Because burning natural gas emits half the carbon dioxide of coal.”

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses? This article first appeared in the March 1, 2022 issue of California Globe.

THE CLIMATISTAS ARE LYING AGAIN

BY STEVEN HAYWARD

The only thing that could have made President Biden’s State of the Union speech worse is if he had droned on and on about climate change. In fact, as [Ben Zycher notes](#), Biden barely mentioned the subject: the word “climate” was only mentioned twice.

True, his two mentions were absurd, such as this one:

*Second — **cut energy costs for families an average of \$500 a year by combatting climate change.** Let’s provide investments and tax credits to weatherize your homes and businesses to be energy efficient and you get a tax credit; double America’s clean energy production in solar,*

wind, and so much more; lower the price of electric vehicles, saving you another \$80 a month because you'll never have to pay at the gas pump again.

I guess Biden thinks electricity to charge car batteries is free?

Meanwhile, the climatistas are down in the dumps:

[War Abroad and Politics at Home Push U.S. Climate Action Aside](#)

War and politics are complicating the efforts of the two biggest polluters in history — the United States and Europe — to slow down global warming, just as scientists warn of intensifying hazards.

On Tuesday evening, President Biden barely made a mention of his climate goals in the State of the Union speech despite promises to make climate an issue that drives his presidency. European politicians have their own problem: They are struggling to get out from under one of the Kremlin's most powerful economic weapons — its fossil fuel exports, which Europe relies on for heat and electricity.

Oil and gas prices are soaring globally. That is a boon to those who extract and sell the very products that drive fatal heat waves, wildfires and sea level rise. And it is leading to new [demands for increased drilling](#) in the United States, already one of the world's biggest producers of oil and gas.

But here's the important part:

The developments come just days after an [exhaustive report from the United Nations](#) that implored world leaders to sharply reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases that are dangerously heating the planet. To fail, they said, is to face a harrowing future where the rate of global warming outpaces humanity's ability to adapt. The IPCC always releases its periodic reports in three parts, to assure repeat headlines and opportunities for the climatistas to scream about the end of the world. The report of Working Group I (the science of climate) came out last August, generated the obligatory headlines, and now the report of Working Group II (impacts of climate change) is out, but because of the Ukraine crisis and the soaring coast of energy everywhere right now, it isn't getting much traction. Bad timing on Putin's part, since the climatistas are his most useful Western idiots.

Naturally the WGII report has the usual gloom and doom, "time running out," and other familiar climate cliches. It also appears to be out of harmony with certain aspects of the WGI report last August, which dialed back some of the more extreme model scenarios of the future because it recognized honestly that the high-end emissions forecasts are becoming less and less realistic every day. But WGII goes all-in on the discredited high-end forecast, known in the climate policy trade as RCP8.5.


Roger Pielke Jr. Has long [had the goods](#) on this unrealistic forecast, and also why much of what WGII claims to be happening is not backed up by current scientific literature:

Each of the three studies utilizes the out-of-date and implausible extreme RCP8.5 scenario to project climate changes for 2100. So not only is society frozen in time, unable to adapt — which

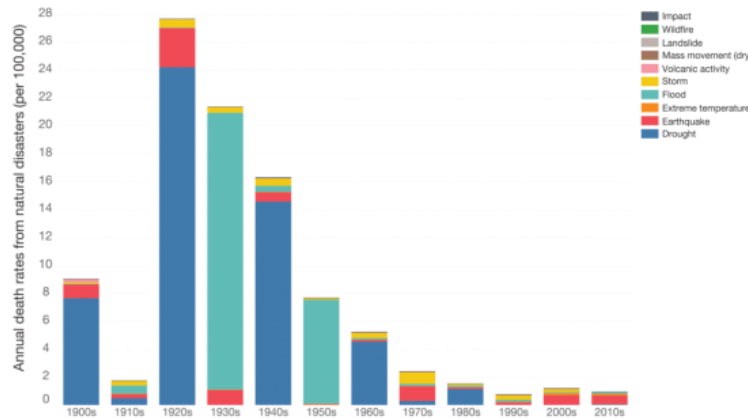
is clearly implausible, but future climate change is projected based on an extreme scenario that is also implausible. Implausibility built on implausibility offers no practical insight as to the role of adaptation in reducing vulnerabilities and increasing resilience. We might expect this sort of thing from a passionate advocacy group spinning science for theatrical effect, but not the IPCC.

The report concludes (TS-31) with high confidence that “Flood risks and societal damages are projected to increase with every increment of global warming.” This is simply not true. And by “not true” I mean that it is not an accurate representation of the literature that WG2 cites to justify this claim. It is also empirically false, as vulnerability to floods has dramatically decreased even as the planet has warmed.

Read the whole thing, as the saying goes. Meanwhile, a few charts that bear on the issue:

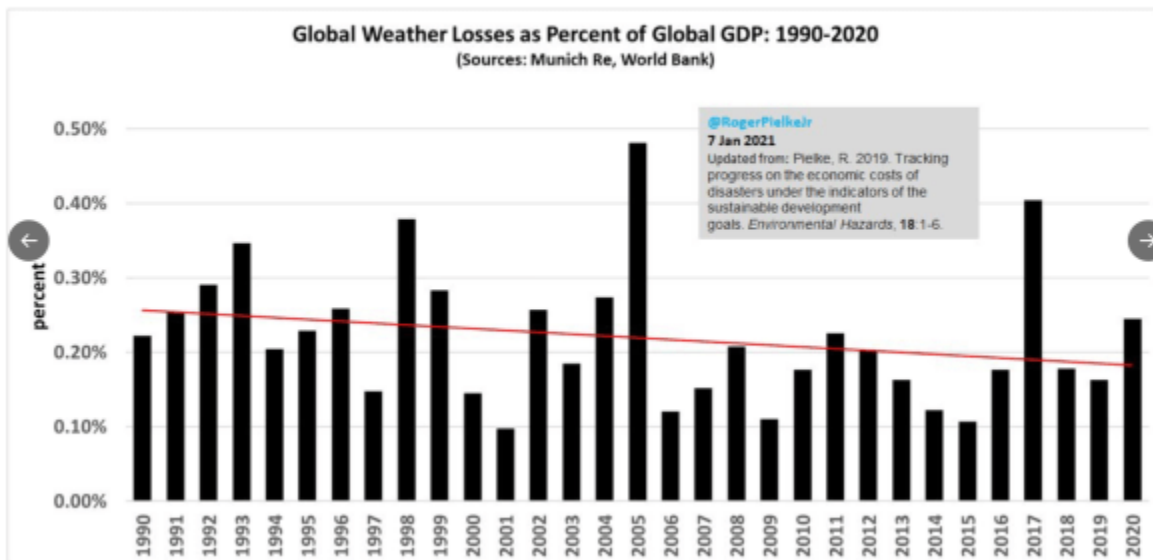
Global annual death rate from natural disasters, by decade 

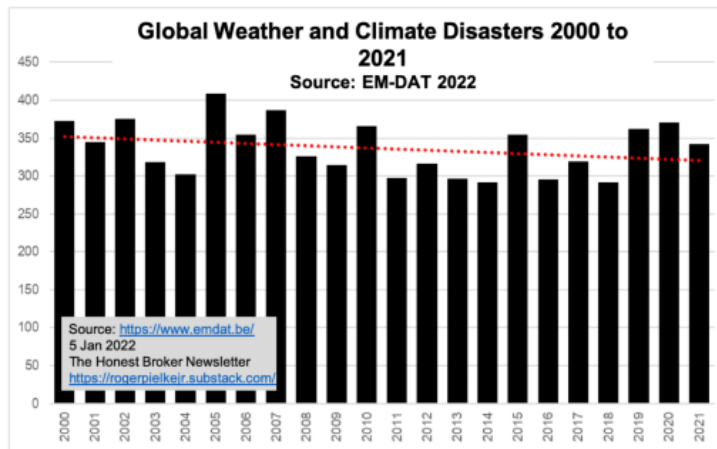
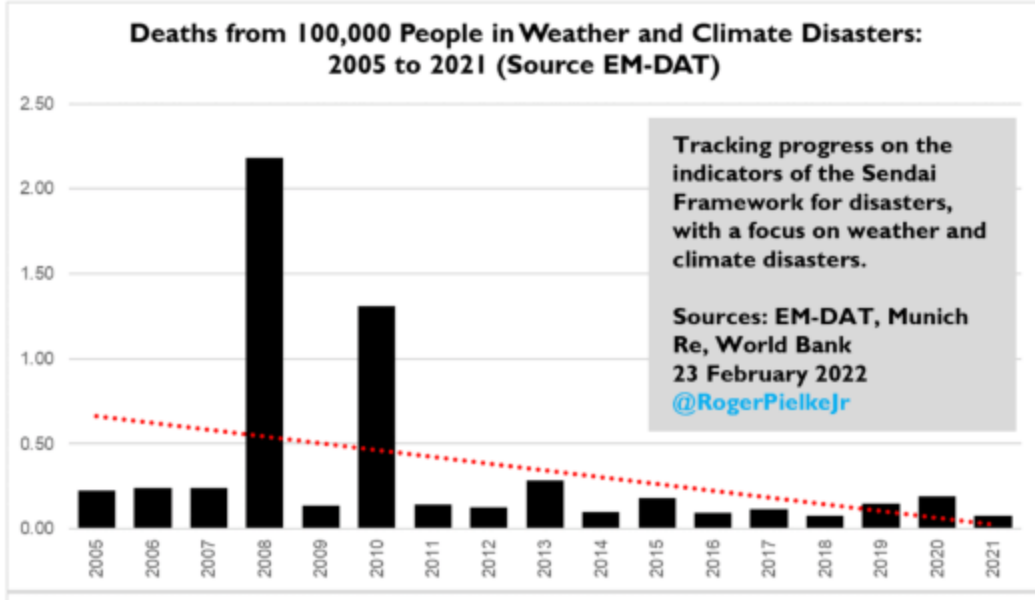
Global death rate measured as the number of deaths per 100,000 of the world population. This is given as the annual average per decade (by decade 1900s to 2000s; and then six years from 2010-2015).



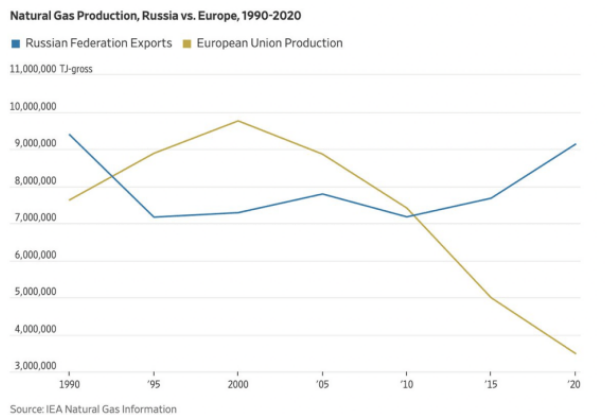
Source: EM-DAT (2017), OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, Université catholique de Louvain – Brussels – Belgium. The data visualization is available at OurWorldInData.org. There you find research and more visualizations on this topic. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the authors Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser.

The cost of natural disasters as a percent of GDP is going down





Chaser—here’s a short graphic look at why Putin thought he had Europe over a barrel (so to speak):



Steven Hayward is currently senior resident scholar at the Institute of Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley, and a visiting lecturer at Berkeley Law School. He was previously the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Public Policy, and was the inaugural visiting scholar in conservative thought and policy at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2013-14. From 2002 to 2012 he was the F.K Weyerhaeuser Fellow in Law and Economics at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC, and has been senior fellow at the Pacific Research Institute in San Francisco since 1991.

He writes frequently for the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, National Review, the Weekly Standard, the Claremont Review of Books, and other publications. The author of six books including a two-volume chronicle of Reagan and his times entitled The Age of Reagan: The Fall of the Old Liberal Order, 1964-1980, and The Age of Reagan: The Conservative Counter-Revolution, 1980-1989, and the Almanac of Environmental Trends. His most recent book is Patriotism is Not Enough: Harry Jaffa, Walter Berns, and the Arguments That Redefined American Conservatism.

Steven is a resident of San Luis Obispo County



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