

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

**WEEKLY UPDATE
NOVEMBER 20 - 26, 2022**



THIS WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

NO REGIONAL AGENCY MEETINGS

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – YOU’LL GET BASTED IN 2 WEEKS
WHEN THEY COME BACK**



LAST WEEK

**APCD BOARD ABSORBS REPORT ON DUNES DUST
THEIR OWN EXPERTS REVEAL THE ISSUE WAS OVERBLOWN
MORE FAIR AND PRACTICAL METRICS NOW IN PLACE**

**LAFCO LITE AGAIN
PREVIEW OF DANA RESERVE ANNEXATION SCHEDULE
(NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT)**

EMERGENT ISSUES

**BOS RULES OF PROCEDURE
ORANGE COUNTY COURT FINDS THAT PUBLIC SPEAKERS
MAY ADDRESS COUNTY SUPERVISORS BY NAME**

**GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PREDICTIONS
WAY OUT OF WHACK
\$25 BILLION DEFICIT FORECAST WITHOUT RECESSION**

**WORLD AND NATIONAL LITHIUM SHORTAGE
DOOMS GREEN ENERGY POLICIES**

COLAB IN DEPTH SEE PAGE 18

MOB RULE AND THE DEATH OF TRUST
*America's elites use lies about race, gender, health, climate,
environment, and energy to gut the middle class, explode the dependent
class, and transfer trillions into their own pockets*
BY EDWARD RING

THE SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE TO RENEWABLES IN CALIFORNIA

*If California is serious about setting an example for the world, we must
develop energy technologies that are practical*

BY EDWARD RING

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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

The Board will not be meeting until Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

Other regional agencies are also off during this week – None Scheduled

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

No meeting was scheduled. Instead, the California State Association of Counties held its Annual Conference at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. It is not known if any of the Supervisors attended. The conference took place in the aptly named Fantasy Tower.

The Conference is a turgid affair with motivational guest speakers who are generally unknown [no one has ever heard of before]. They can't sponsor anyone real because they might offend someone. As a rule, people who run for political office are already motivated and don't need further prodding. It would be more educational to require them to take the Graduate Record Exam in Political Science or History to see if they actually know anything.

The conference contains a few seminars on water and finance as well as an exhibit hall full of vendors and consultants who sell products and services to counties. Many of these host hospitality suites in the hotel.

Some of the supervisors vie for various CSAC offices and committee chairmanships. Supervisor Gibson is slated to rotate in as President. They will have to wait and see if he wins the tightening District 2 race. The next count is not until Wednesday, November 23, 2022.

County Supervisor, 2nd District (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 29 of 29 (100.00%)

	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
Times Cast	1,795	18,271	20,066 / 36,891 54.39%	
Undervotes	87	1,218	1,305	
Overvotes	0	4	4	
Candidate	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
BRUCE GIBSON	339	9,430	9,769 52.08%	
BRUCE JONES	1,369	7,619	8,988 47.92%	
Total Votes	1,708	17,049	18,757	
	Polling	Vote by Mail	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	

Count as of Wednesday, November 16, 2022

SLO County Very Slow Vote Count Plods On

The excuse for the slow tabulation is that it takes so much time to compare the signatures on the mail-in envelopes and compare them with the voter registration signatures. Then the ballots have to be extracted from the envelopes and processed through the computerized readers. Millions have been spent on new “automated voting systems” over the past decade.

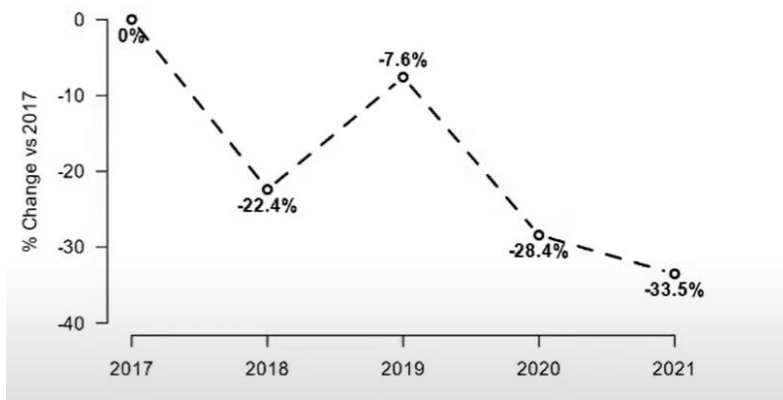
Election results and estimated number of remaining ballots will be updated after counting has ended on scheduled days.

NEXT COUNT – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

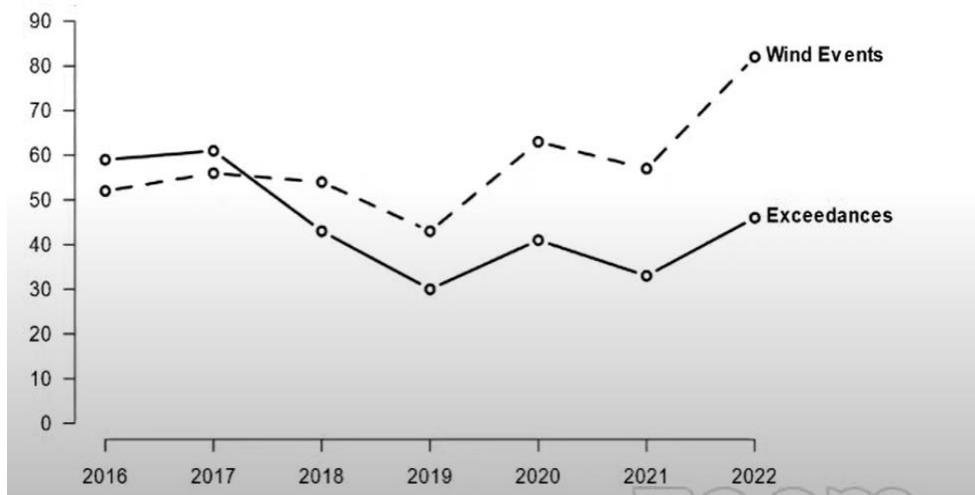
CONTEST/DISTRICT	VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS	PROVISIONAL or CVR BALLOTS	ELECTION NIGHT NON-PROCESSED	TOTAL
COUNTYWIDE	26,953	927	60	27,940

San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of Wednesday, November 16, 2022 (Completed)

Item D-2: Update on Oceano Dunes Mitigation Efforts. The APCD Board received a very complete and positive staff report on the progress to date in reducing the dust at the Oceano Dunes State Park. The good news is that the dust has been reduced by 33% from the base level in 2017. This is in spite of the 2022 spring wind season being the worst on record. The graphics below tell the story. The Coastal Commission remains a threat, as members have already expressed a desire to revoke the Coastal Commission permit and terminate off-road riding and free style camping. Hopefully this new data will impress the Commission. The matter is likely to be considered on the February 8-10, 2023 Agenda.

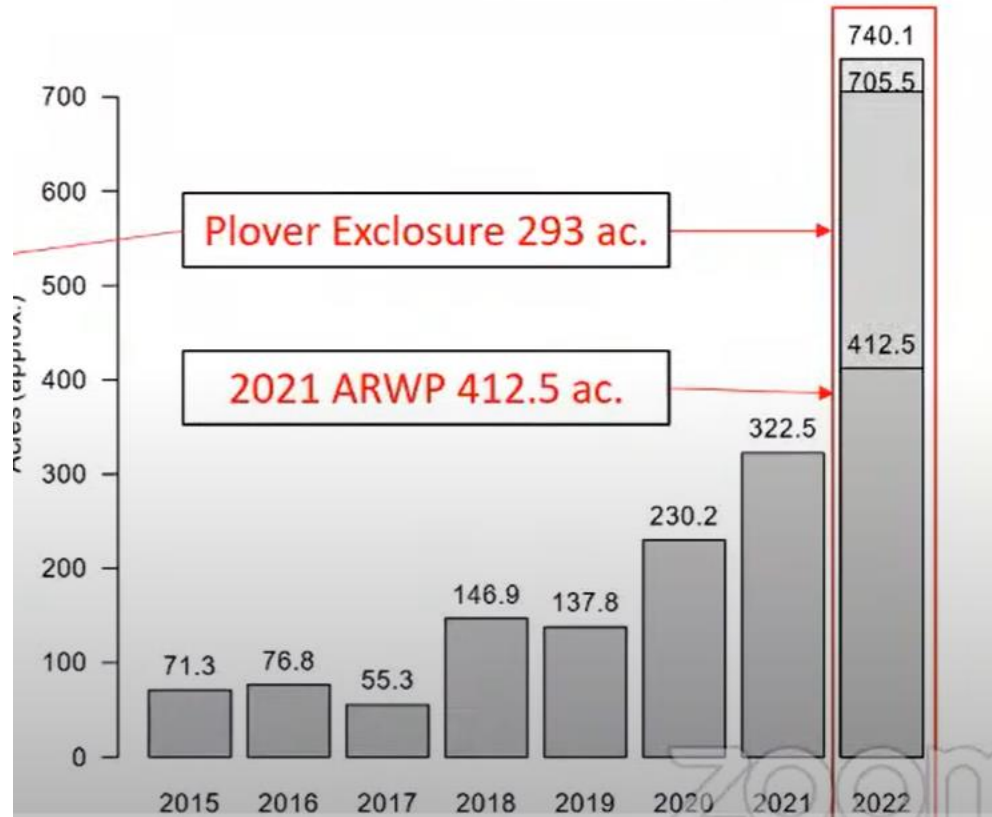


**Wind Events and PM10 Exceedances at CDF
Jan 1 - Sept 30**

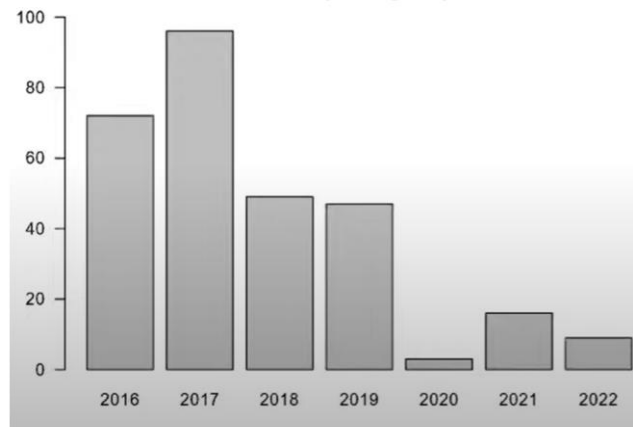


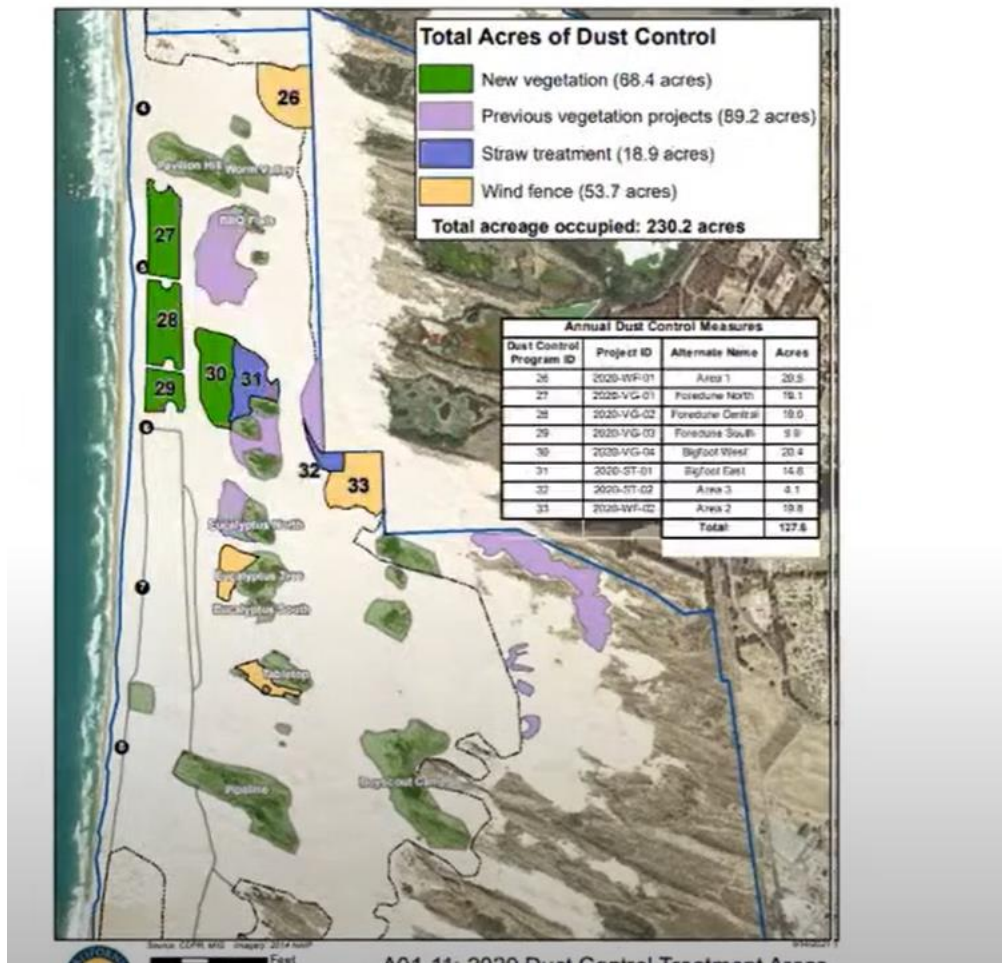
At present riding is prohibited on 740 acres. See the chart on the page below:

**Acres of Dust Controls Within the ODSVRA
(from 2022 ARWP)**



**Number of Hours at CDF with PM10 Over 300 ug/m3,
January through Sept**



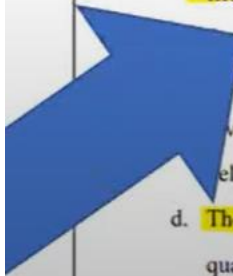


Not all exceedances are related to off-roading:

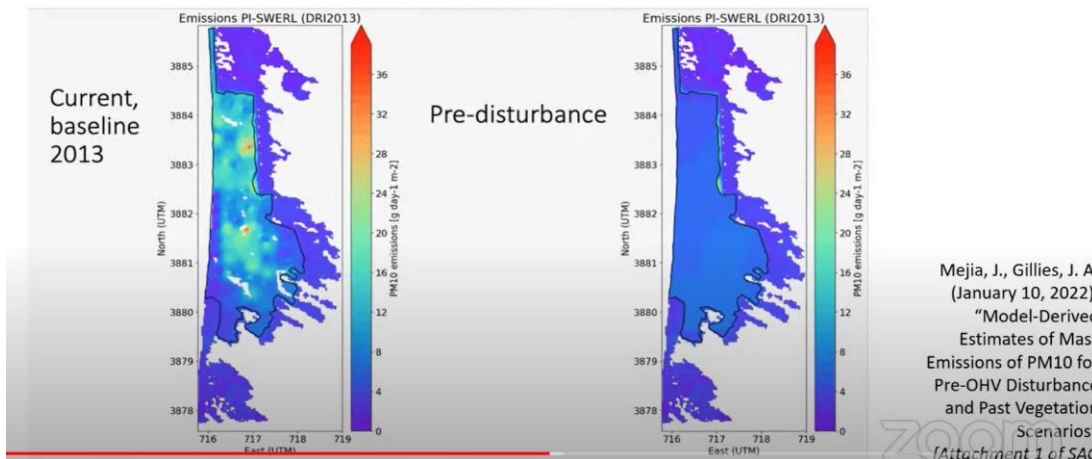
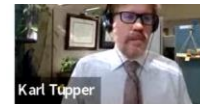
- Non-dunes sources:
 - Wildfires
 - Transport
- High winds and sand dunes are natural:
 - some exceedances expected

Original SOA Emissions Reduction Target

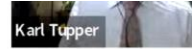
2. **Particulate Matter Reduction Plan:** Respondent shall prepare a Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (Plan) that satisfies the following requirements:
- The term of the Plan shall be for four (4) years from the date of approval by the APCO;
 - The Plan shall be designed to achieve state and federal ambient PM₁₀ air quality standards;
 - To meet the objective of 2b, development of the Plan shall begin by establishing an initial target of reducing the maximum 24-hour PM₁₀ baseline emissions by fifty percent (50%), based on air quality modeling based on a modeling scenario for the period May 1 through August 31, 2013, and shall be carried out by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), or other modeling groups subject to the review of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), as defined in paragraph 3, below;
 - The estimate of emission reductions identified in 2c may be modified based on air quality modeling conducted by CARB or other modeling subject to the review of the SAG required by 3a and 3b;



1) Emissions grid for DRI model: 2013 baseline vs. pre-disturbance



Evaluation of Emission Reduction Target



Original SOA

Management Objective: Reduce CDF PM₁₀ concentrations to a levels comparable to Oso Flaco, which was assumed to represent natural background.

Emissions Reduction Target: 50% of 2013 baseline



2013 Baseline Emissions: 182.8 metric tons/day



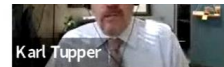
Compliance Target: 91.4 metric/day

SAG Recommendation

Management Objective: "Reduce emissions of PM10 from the ODSVRA to a level consistent with dust emissions prior to significant OHV disturbance"

Emissions Reduction Target: Pre-disturbance Emissions

October 2022 SOA Amendment



Original SOA

- Expires Dec 2023
- 2b: "The Plan shall be designed to achieve state and federal ambient PM₁₀ air quality standards;"

Modified

- Expires Dec 2025 – 2 more ARWPs
- b. The plan shall be designed to eliminate emissions in excess of naturally occurring emissions from the ODSVRA that contribute to downwind violations of the state and federal PM10 air quality standards. By October 16, 2024, in consultation with the SAG and CARB, the Respondent shall obtain Hearing Board approval of a final excess emissions goal.

Background: The most important information was the action of the APCD Hearing Board on October 13, 2022 that recognized that the dust is a natural occurrence and even if mitigated to the level of 1939 prior to off road riding, there will be days with exceedances.

The District and State Parks agreed that the SAG's recommendations were scientifically justified improvements to the existing framework and represented a more accurate accounting of offroading-related emissions. Therefore, the District applied to the Hearing Board to amend the SOA to incorporate the new emissions reduction target. The proposed amendment also extended the term of the SOA and the Hearing Board's authority by two years to 2025. This was to allow more time to determine if the air quality improvements predicted by the model actual occur and to provide a mechanism for implementing additional mitigations if they do not occur. Additional

minor changes to the SOA were also proposed. State Parks stipulated to the amendment, and the Hearing Board approved it at their October 14th meeting.

The 5-member Hearing Board voted 3/2 to support the modifications recommended by staff and an expert panel. This is very positive for maintaining off road riding and free style camping on the dunes and beach. Essentially, the State Parks and APCD will have more time to continue reducing the dust, since they have made substantial progress.

Secondly, the dust reduction goal will no longer be an arbitrary number based on 2013 measurements. Instead, the goal will be to reduce the dust to the 1939 level, which was prior to the advent of large-scale vehicular use. This goal is fairer in that it recognizes that much of the dust is a natural occurrence in the area environment and would exist even if all riding were banned. This is a much more positive approach.

It is not known how the Coastal Commission, which wants to shut down the area, will react.

Introductory Background: The APCD Hearing Board is not the governing policy board. It is a special Board that hears appeals from enforcement orders. It has jurisdiction over any modifications to the APCD order that requires the State Parks Department to reduce the dunes dust at the Oceano Dunes State Park.

Note that the hearing had been cast as “attendance by teleconference only.” Given the wide interest in this issue, the Hearing should have been conducted in person in an adequately sized venue. New COVID cases in SLO County are very low, and there is no reason to limit the public participation.

Adopted Action: The APCD staff, State Parks Department, and a Scientific Advisory Group of experts (the SAG) have determined that the actions taken so far by the APCD and State Parks have reduced the dust emissions by around 33%.

Analysis of ambient PM10 monitoring data by the District shows that as the extent of ODSVRA dust mitigations has increased, air quality downwind has improved. Compared to 2017, in 2021 wind-event-day PM10 at CDF improved by 33.5% after controlling for meteorology. During this period, the scale of mitigation projects increased from about 55 to 323 acres, a net increase of 267 acres. This improvement in air quality is corroborated by State Parks’ air quality modeling, which predicts a 36.8% improvement at CDF over the same period

The Stipulated Order of Abatement (the SOA) requires that the emissions be reduced by 50% by 2023. State Parks was given 5 years to meet the 50% reduction. The deadline occurs in 2023. This will not be met.

The APCD Staff, State Parks, and the SAG recommend that the deadline be extended to 2025, as progress is being made. They also recommend that the emissions target (50% by 2023) be lowered.

In February 2022, the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) presented a recommendation for a modification to the SOA Section 2.c emissions reduction target. Specifically, they recommended changing the existing target—a 50% emissions reduction from pre-mitigation levels—to reducing emissions to pre-disturbance levels based on a 1939 vegetation scenario.

AND

The District, SAG, and State Parks all agree that the goal stated in SOA Section 2.b—achieving the state and federal ambient PM10 standards—needs to be revisited. Sand dunes are a natural feature of this area, and that even without the long history of vehicular disturbance, the area would be naturally dusty and would likely still see exceedances of the PM10 air quality standards if mitigated to its natural state.

In other words, they now believe what we have been telling them for years. The dust and sand is a natural occurrence and would exist even if there were no vehicle riding on the beach or the dunes.

The discussion was highly technical and can be reviewed at the link: [MetaViewer.php \(granicus.com\)](http://MetaViewer.php(granicus.com))

It appears that the goal is to operate the area flexibly based on weather, moisture, and actual emissivity.

Since the Hearing Board agreed to the modifications, the next big hurdle will be the attitude of the Coastal Commission, which has already stated that it intends to shut down the riding completely. There is a major question about its authority to do so. However, it exercises control through its 1984 permit, which recognized State Parks' ability to operate the area.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, November 17, 2022 (Completed)

The agenda contained several minor items and a preview of the pending application for the large Dana Reserve mixed use project in Nipomo. If it survives the County land use process, it will have to come before LAFCO. It will need to be annexed to the Nipomo Community Service District in order to receive water and sewer service. There was no substantive discussion of the merits.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - BOS Rules of Procedure. *Orange County Court finds that public speakers may address county supervisors by name and question them.* SLO County's Rule prohibits addressing them by name. SLO County Board Chairs often stop speakers from addressing a Board member. They hardly ever answer questions directly or follow up with staff on citizen questions or comments.

C. Public Comment remarks should be directed to the Chairperson and the Board as a whole and not to any individual thereof. No person will be permitted to make slanderous or profane remarks against any individual. See the article below:

OC Residents Can Now Address Their County Supervisors By Name in Public and Even Question Them

BY NICK GERDA Feb 8, 2021



The public comment podium at the Sept. 24, 2019 meeting of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Credit: JULIE LEOPO, Voice of OC

In response to a lawsuit from the ACLU, Orange County’s top elected officials have now deleted their longtime ban against public commenters mentioning the officials’ names or questioning them without permission.

The rule – [which had been on the books for decades](#) – required that public comments be directed at the entire Board of Supervisors and “not to any individual Board member.”

“No question shall be asked of any Board or staff member without first obtaining permission of the Chair,” added the rule, which [went unchanged since it was first adopted in 1971](#).

The restriction was rarely enforced in recent years, but remained in the rules and had been enforced at least twice in the months around [a legal demand letter in 2017](#) and eventual lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The ACLU alleged the rules violates the First Amendment, as part of a broader lawsuit that also challenged county rules [allowing officials to immediate destroy some of their communications](#).

Fast forward a couple years, and last month – [in order to settle the case](#) – county supervisors deleted the public comment restrictions, half a century after they were put into effect.

The ACLU suit sought a wide range of changes to county public comment and records rules, such as the county’s limits that commenters can talk during no more than three agenda times per meeting. A large majority of its requests were rejected in court.

But the civil liberties group [won on two points](#): its challenge of the comment restrictions on questioning or addressing individual supervisors, and its claim the county was letting officials destroy public records too quickly.

The county paid \$75,000 for the ACLU’s attorney fees as part of the settlement, in addition to a \$200,000 cost for the county’s in-house attorneys.

No county supervisor returned phone messages for comment on this story.

ACLU attorneys said their actions and the ultimate settlement defended the public’s right to redress their government leaders.

“There’s a lot of local government bodies who see the public, particularly people who have critical things to say about them, as a nuisance,” said Peter Eliasberg, an attorney with the ACLU of Southern California who helped lead the lawsuit.

“I think the case just emphasizes the continuing importance of pushing local governments to abide by the state’s quite good laws around public meetings,” he added. “[Public comment] is a way that the public can communicate how they feel about their elected officials. And it’s important that they be allowed to do so.”

County attorneys, however, said they expected to win the case for a variety of reasons, including the court’s rejection of “the vast majority” of the ACLU’s other requests to the court.

In practice, supervisors have allowed members of the public to question them during public comments, County Counsel Leon Page wrote in [a November letter to the ACLU proposing a settlement](#).

“Though this provision in the Rule 46 clarifies that neither Board members or County staff will be subjected to compulsory questioning by members of the public during a public meeting absent permission of the Chair, to the extent Plaintiffs have incorrectly and perhaps deliberately

misconstrued this language as a prior restraint on speech, other members of the public could similarly misinterpret the language,” Page wrote.

“However, as I testified at deposition, and as evidenced by the Rules and by Board practice, absent an actual disruption to the meeting, members of the public have addressed the Board, and will continue to be able to address the Board, in whatever manner they choose,” he continued.

“Plaintiff’s members must now undoubtedly realize the reality that no other local agency in the State does a better job than the County of Orange with respect to encouraging public participation, observing the Brown Act, and protecting the First Amendment rights of the public,” Page added.

The judge in the case [ruled in July 2019](#) that the county probably violates the U.S. Constitution with its restrictions on commenters questioning or naming supervisors.

“Defendants offered no evidence to show how the Chair determines whether to permit a speaker to address an individual Board or staff member,” wrote [Judge Sheila Fell of Orange County Superior Court](#).

“Defendants offered no evidence to contradict Plaintiff’s showing that the Chair enforces the prohibition against those critical of the Board and grants permission to those who are complimentary,” Fell added as she issued a court order banning the county from enforcing the rule.

“Plaintiff met its burden to show it is likely to prevail on the claim that the Rule is unreasonable, and in turn, unconstitutional.”

The comment restrictions were rarely enforced in recent years by the supervisors’ chair, with at least two exceptions.

One was at a June 2017 supervisors’ meeting, when a public speaker mentioned a supervisor’s name during public comments.

Michelle Steel, the supervisors’ then-chairwoman, [interrupted the speaker](#) and said, “you can’t comment on individual supervisors here.”

The next speaker, attorney and activist Mohammed Aly, then told Steel that’s an unconstitutional restriction on speech and proceeded to mention each supervisor by name.

A few months later, in November 2017, a homeless advocate critical of the supervisors asked Steel if he could address a particular supervisor by name.

In response, Steel told David Duran he “can talk whatever you want. Except attacking.”

In its lawsuit, the ACLU cited that example in saying “The Board’s own conduct demonstrates that the real purpose of the prohibition on addressing individual Supervisors is to shield them from criticism.”

In her 2019 ruling, Fell declined to restrict the county from enforcing other meeting rules the ACLU alleged were illegal, saying the balance of evidence and law tilted toward the county.

Those rules block people from commenting if they submit their speaking card after the comment period begins; limit commenters to talking during three agenda items per meeting, allow the chair to reduce speaking time; place general public comments at the end of the supervisors’ meetings; and declare surveillance video of supervisors meetings to not be disclosable under the Public Records Act.

Nick Gerda covers county government for Voice of OC. You can contact him at ngerda@voiceofoc.org. Voice of Orange County, November 15, 2022.

Item 2 - Impending State Budget Deficit. The California State Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) has found that the Governor’s Budget predictions are severely erroneous and that the surplus has turned into a \$25 billion projected deficit for FY 2023-24. This is a net \$41 billion swing of the Governor’s projection. This deficit would negatively impact State funding of County programs and would spill over into the County Budget projections, which had already forecast an \$8 million to \$15 million revenue expenditure shortfall. See the executive summary below:

California’s Fiscal Outlook

Executive Summary

Economic Conditions Weigh on Revenues. Facing rising inflation, the Federal Reserve—tasked with maintaining stable price growth—repeatedly has enacted large interest rate increases throughout 2022 with the aim of cooling the economy and, in turn, slowing inflation. The longer inflation persists and the higher the Federal Reserve increases interest rates in response, the greater the risk to the economy. The chances that the Federal Reserve can tame inflation without inducing a recession are

narrow. Reflecting the threat of a recession, our revenue estimates represent the weakest performance the state has experienced since the Great Recession.

State Faces \$25 Billion Budget Problem and Ongoing Deficits. Under our outlook, the Legislature would face a budget problem of \$25 billion in 2023-24. (A budget problem—also called a deficit—occurs when resources for the upcoming fiscal year are insufficient to cover the costs of currently authorized services.) The budget problem is mainly attributable to lower revenue estimates, which are lower than budget act projections from 2021-22 through 2023-24 by \$41 billion. Revenue losses are offset by lower spending in certain areas. Over the subsequent years of the forecast, annual deficits would decline from \$17 billion to \$8 billion.

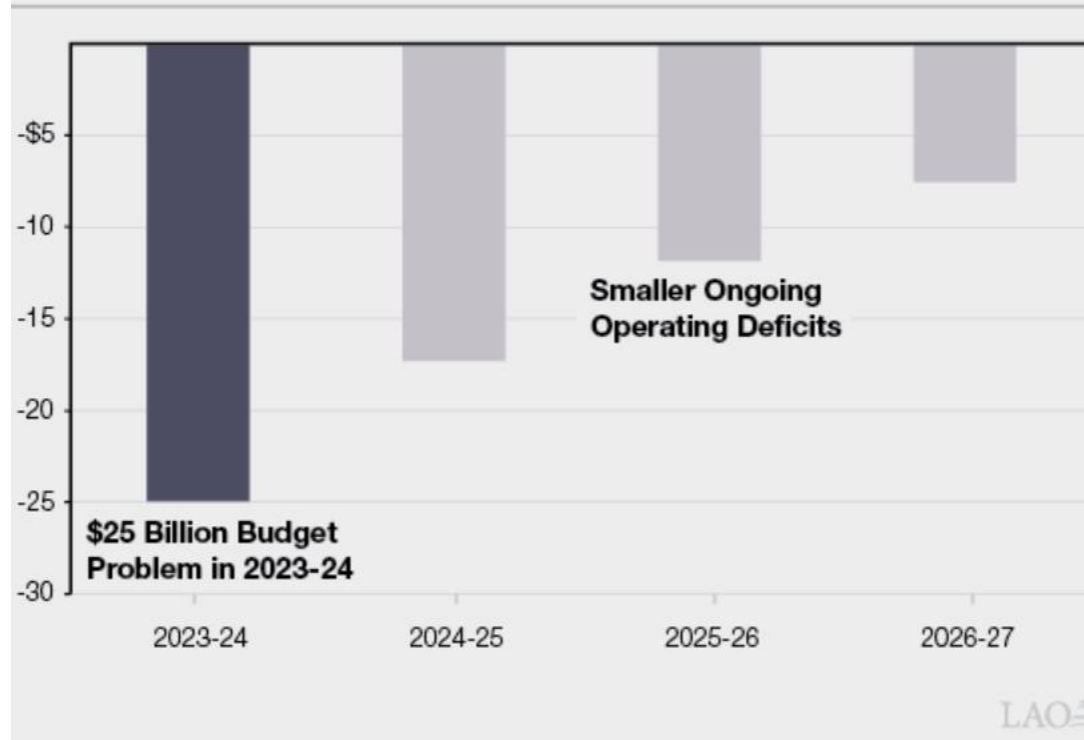
Inflation-Related Adjustments Vary Across Budget. The General Fund budget can be thought of in two parts: (1) the Proposition 98 budget for schools and community colleges, representing about 40 percent of General Fund spending, and (2) everything else. Under our estimates, the state can afford to maintain its existing school and community college programs and provide a cost-of-living adjustment of up to 8.38 percent in 2023-24. The extent to which programs across the rest of the budget are adjusted for inflation varies considerably. Because our outlook reflects the current law and policy of the Legislature, our spending estimates only incorporate the effects of inflation on budgetary spending when there are existing policy mechanisms for doing so. Consequently, our estimate of a \$25 billion budget problem understates the actual budget problem in inflation-adjusted terms.

Save Reserves for a Recession. The \$25 billion budget problem in 2023-24 is roughly equivalent to the amount of general-purpose reserves that the Legislature could have available to allocate to General Fund programs (\$23 billion). While our lower revenue estimates incorporate the risk of a recession, they do not reflect a recession scenario. Based on historical experience, should a recession occur soon, revenues could be \$30 billion to \$50 billion below our revenue outlook in the budget window. As such, we suggest the Legislature begin planning the 2023-24 budget without using general purpose reserves.

Recommend Legislature Identify Recent Augmentations to Pause or Delay. Early in 2023, we suggest the Legislature question the administration about the implementation and distribution of recent augmentations. If augmentations have not yet been distributed, the Legislature has an opportunity to reevaluate those expenditures. Moreover, in light of the magnitude of the recent augmentations, programs may not be working as expected, capacity issues may have constrained implementation, or other unforeseen challenges may have emerged. To address the budget problem for the upcoming year, these cases might provide the Legislature with areas for pause, delay, or reassess

Figure 3

State Faces Budget Deficits Across Multiyear Period (In Billions)



Item 3 - World and National Lithium Shortage Dooms Green Energy Policies. The table posted by San Luis Obispo County resident, national columnist, and UC Berkeley Guest Professor Steven Hayward demonstrates the absurdity of State and national goals and policies.

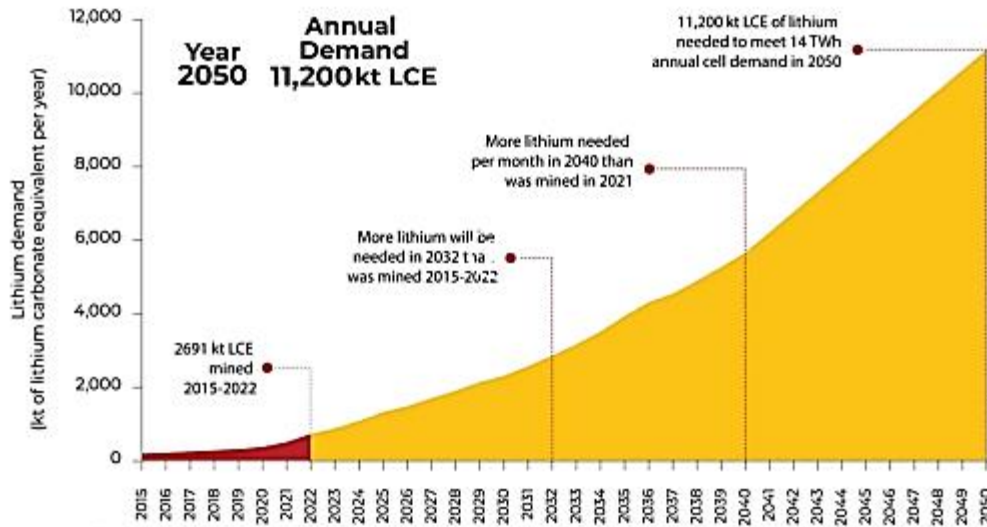
POSTED ON NOVEMBER 17, 2022 BY STEVEN HAYWARD IN THE DAILY CHART

THE DAILY CHART: GREENIES NEED TO TAKE MORE LITHIUM

So we're supposed to make the transition to an all-electric future, with our homes, cars and factories all powered by "renewable" sources, and stored in batteries for when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. Never mind the "nameplate" capacity factors for wind and solar—have any of the "green energy" advocates done some elementary math on how much more lithium we'll need to scale up batteries? Here's one estimate:

Lithium demand skyrockets to 2050

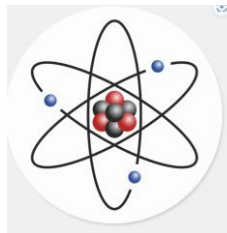
The scale of today's lithium mining dwarfs in comparison to what is needed in the coming decades as world needs 300 TWh of batteries by 2050.



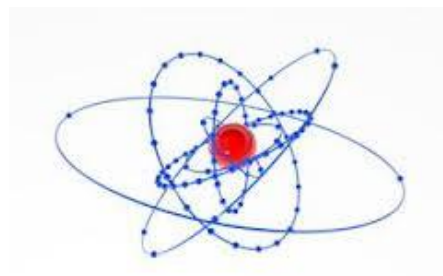
BENCHMARK

Source: Benchmark Lithium Forecast

China controls 60% of the world's Lithium supply.



SLO County hosts 100 % of California's nuclear energy.



The Plutonium atom has a lot more punch.

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

MOB RULE AND THE DEATH OF TRUST

America's elites use lies about race, gender, health, climate, environment, and energy to gut the middle class, explode the dependent class, and transfer trillions into their own pockets

BY EDWARD RING

It's been clear to millions of Americans for decades that the media was biased, that the Democratic Party and their government employee union allies controlled and corrupted big city elections, and that the "climate crises" and the threat of "white supremacy" were being oversold. These and other annoyances were perennial. But for many skeptics, the level of mistrust remained tolerable. The system itself was resilient. Nothing is perfect. The tide can turn. The good guys could still win. The 2015 arrival of Donald Trump on the national political scene changed the rules. The system not only revealed itself to be even more fraudulent than most people had previously believed, but it became malevolent.

For over six years, representatives of every established institution in the country have stereotyped Americans who voted for President Trump as bigots, idiots, ignoramuses, haters, psychopaths, and traitors. The virulence of this condemnation has escalated each year, culminating during the 2022 mid-term election cycle with a full-court press to tag anyone who supports the former president as a fascist and potential "domestic terrorist."

Those who openly proclaimed their support for Trump, even if they expressed themselves with tact and rational arguments, focusing on his policies, and even while acknowledging Trump's often confrontational persona, lost lifelong friends and faced threats to their livelihood. By the millions, they were made to feel unwelcome in their own country.

Anger breeds anger. Contempt breeds contempt. With Newtonian certainty, the disgust has become mutual. But on one side, with rare exceptions, the entire institutional weight of the most powerful nation in the world has lined up. The media, the search engine and social media platforms, the entertainers, the teachers and professors, the corporations, the government agencies, the politically active billionaires: Almost all of them proclaim Trump supporters to be horrible, dangerous people.

This asymmetrical assault is personal and profoundly alienating. Perhaps more than 100 million Americans now believe, with good reason that they have been completely rejected by the nation in which they grew up.

Trump didn't attract millions of Americans to support him because of his bombastic attacks on his opponents in politics and the media. That was comedic relief. Trump's instant and enduring popularity owes to the way he speaks for millions of people who feel betrayed by the institutions they need to trust. Trump's resiliency offers inspiration to them as he defies a mob that has destroyed the lives of countless individuals who dare to challenge a growing assortment of absurdities.

The Death of Trust

With good reason, millions of Americans now question the integrity of elections. Poorly maintained voter rolls, universal mailed ballots, early voting, same-day registration, ballot harvesting, and a host of other supposed “reforms” to eliminate “voter suppression” have turned Election Day into Election Month, which is really a circus of gaping loopholes for manipulation of votes—both legal and illegal. Nearly every race that’s close on election night breaks for Democrats after a few days, or weeks. As this is written, a week after the November 8 election, there are still eight seats in the U.S. Congress that have yet to be called. Six of these eight are in California. Nothing to see here, folks. Poke around too much, and we’ll call you an “election denier.”

Evidence of lost integrity in American institutions is everywhere. During the COVID pandemic, doctors were thrown off social media and threatened with professional sanctions merely for proposing early treatment protocols. These doctors correctly asserted their obligation to do more for their patients than simply send them home with some Tylenol and instructions not to seek further medical help until they were mortally ill and needed to be hooked up to a ventilator and would probably die. It was reasonable for a conscientious doctor to conclude that was an inadequate approach, and to try to come up with something more.

It doesn’t matter if many treatments these dissident doctors advised were experimental or even useless. As it turned out, many early and alternative treatments were effective. The betrayal was the lack of any official suggestions for early treatment, the persecution of doctors who tried to fill the void, and suppressing the exchange of information. It was obvious and inexplicable.

The establishment mob, nurtured by social media and condoned if not supported by mainstream institutions, has betrayed and destroyed the careers of college professors who refused to postpone exams or lower standards in deference to militant students who claim victim status. It has marginalized doctors and other medical professionals who question the wisdom of providing “gender confirmation” drugs and surgeries to minors including preadolescent children. It has ruthlessly attacked the reputations of qualified meteorologists who counter the “climate emergency” narrative, all but silencing them.

Examples of absurdity multiply in lockstep with demands we must accept all of it or live as pariahs. Mistrust grows, and morphs into fury.

Why America’s Elites Betrayed the Rest of Us

Americans who feel betrayed look for answers. That’s a normal and sane response. And the answers aren’t pretty. For the last 50 years, America’s economic policy has been to export manufacturing jobs at the same time as its immigration policy has been to import unskilled workers. This robbed millions of people of middle-class jobs while forcing these displaced American workers to compete with millions of immigrants for lower-paying jobs.

At the same time Americans were losing their ability to earn a living wage, environmentalism ran amok and caused the cost of living to explode. Recent events have made this unmistakable,

but it's been going on for decades. Needless restrictions on urban growth; failure to construct new and upgraded water, energy, and transportation infrastructure; perpetually multiplying regulations making it harder to build or manufacture anything; endless litigation; shutting down pipelines, mining, and drilling—all of this done in the name of saving the planet—have made life in America much more expensive and unpleasant.

What is also clear by now to millions of Americans is who benefits from all these changes. Corporations take manufacturing offshore for cheap labor, and import destitute migrants into America to drive down wages for the remaining service jobs. Government agencies acquire more money and more mandates to provide aid and subsidies to fill in wherever people can no longer manage economic survival through their own private efforts. Drug companies make a killing on new vaccines, lifelong prescriptions for “gender confirmation” drugs, opiates, and anti-anxiety medications.

Financial institutions buy up homes nobody can afford anymore and rent them to the newly dispossessed. Billionaires and hedge funds buy up land for the water rights and sell the water back to displaced farmers and desperate towns and cities. Mediocre graduates with otherwise unmarketable degrees get positions as diversity commissars in major corporations and across academia.

The dysfunction is ubiquitous. The scope of this betrayal is life-changing.

America's elites have used lies about race, gender, health, climate, environment, and energy to gut the middle class, explode the dependent class, and transfer trillions in national wealth upwards into their pockets. They've used the mob of aligned and very powerful institutions to enforce this, at the same time as they've manipulated social media and permitted brainwashed mobs of grassroots leftist activists to rampage through the streets.

Are you a conspiracy theorist if you think the establishment was sending a clear message in the summer of 2020 when tens of thousands of people burned down cities across America? Wasn't the message “you elect Trump, and we will burn down the rest of the country”? Or is it naïve to think that was *not* orchestrated? There is plenty of evidence that these mobs were receiving cash from major corporations and wealthy activists, and as well that they were encouraged by Democratic politicians all the way up to the vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris.

Trust is lost whenever someone questions these dubious actions and assertions, and in response, the term “conspiracy theorist” is thrown at them, as if that terminates their credibility and ends the discussion. It's maddening and absurd. Does accusing someone of being a conspiracy theorist somehow negate the possibility that conspiracies can even exist? And in any case, why must any of this be the result of a conspiracy? It's no conspiracy that Americans are being betrayed, or that lies are necessary to sell the scam. It's a consensus openly proclaimed by America's elites and their international counterparts. They don't think an American middle-class lifestyle is sustainable, and they want to take it away. That's not a conspiracy. That's the publicly acknowledged plan.

Countering the Mob—Offering a Better Way

The ultimate betrayal of Americans by their institutions, however, is that the institutional consensus is just plain *wrong*. For example, the establishment narrative on race in America invites social conflict. Our cultural institutions, starting with the public schools, are now teaching schoolchildren that if they're white, they're oppressors, and if they're not, they're disadvantaged victims. Meanwhile, in barely a half-century, America's population has gone from almost 90 percent white to nearly 50 percent of all 2021 newborns being nonwhite. In a country that is transforming its national population that fast, you must discard the incorrect and racist message of oppressor and victim, and instead inspire all Americans to believe they have opportunities in a nation that is fundamentally *not* racist.

When it comes to energy and the environment, the institutional consensus is putting the entire world economy at risk of a catastrophic implosion. Here again, there is an alternative message of hope. Develop all forms of energy, using it as responsibly as possible, because abundant and affordable energy is the prerequisite for broad-based prosperity. Let renewable energy technologies and alternative methods of farming compete with conventional solutions and put faith in the perennial, proven ability of humans to adapt and thrive. As prosperity grows, population growth slows. There aren't too many people. The planet isn't about to perish. The future is bright.

This optimism is another trait, rooted in common sense, that has been a consistent subtext in all of Trump's speeches, easily recognized by his supporters and frightfully elusive to his opponents, most of whom only see Trump's lowlights as selectively clipped by the media. But the mob that attacks Trump and his supporters are attacking much more than that. They are even attacking more than Trump's policies, or the desperately needed policies of a movement that transcends one man.

The anti-MAGA mob is attacking a way of viewing the world. It is a worldview that rejects the fear they're selling: fear of disease, fear of racist and sexist oppression, and fear of an environmental meltdown. They are attacking a worldview that is practical and optimistic and embraces an economic and social strategy of abundance in all things, material and ephemeral. That joyful destiny, that broad-based prosperity and freedom, that unmanaged and pluralistic future, is a mortal threat to the established wealth and hegemonic power of America's elites. All they offer is fear and the mob.

Mistrust is warranted. They must not prevail.

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

THE SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE TO RENEWABLES IN CALIFORNIA

*If California is serious about setting an example for the world, we must
develop energy technologies that are practical*

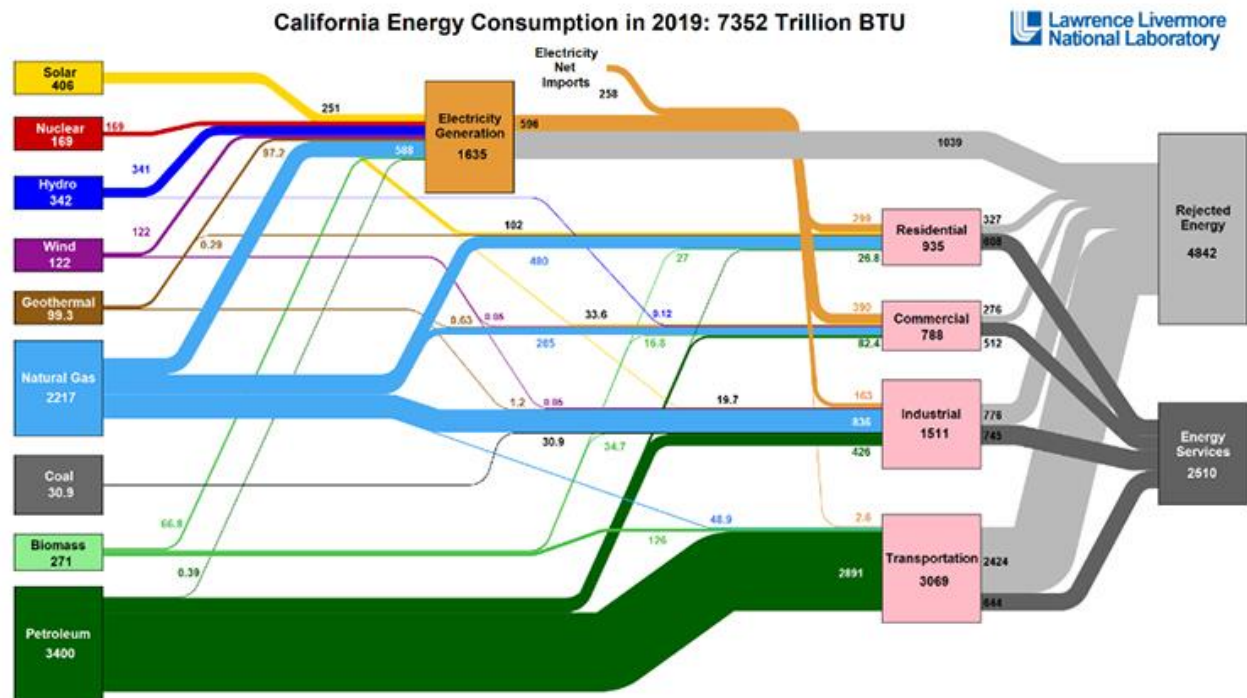
BY EDWARD RING

Anyone serious about ushering California into an electric age, much less the entire world, faces immutable facts that are indifferent to passions and principles. With algebraic certainty, these facts lead to uncomfortable conclusions: It is impractical if not impossible to achieve an all-electric future by relying on solar, wind, and geothermal power, supplemented by more novel power generation technologies such as harvesting the energy in waves and tides. And even if it were done, it might not be the optimal solution for the environment.

A few years ago, professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University, Mark Jacobson, completed a **report that quantified** 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. Relying primarily on over 20,000 wind turbines with an average capacity of 5 megawatts each, along with utility scale solar farms, an analysis **published in March 2022** by the California Policy Center estimated the land requirement for this undertaking at over 10,000 square miles on land, mostly for wind farms, and over 15,000 square miles offshore, also for wind farms.

In theory, Jacobson's recommendations would work, insofar as this stupefying quantity of wind and solar power, properly buffered with battery storage assets, would nearly double the capacity of California's energy grid. Jacobson's scheme estimates California's average electricity output expanding to just over 100 gigawatts. In 2019, the most recent year for which complete data is available, California's electricity grid produced, on average, 54 gigawatts.

To understand why a credible best case scenario would only require Californians to double their electricity output in order to go all electric, the following chart, prepared by **Lawrence Livermore Laboratory**, can be helpful.



A detailed review of the data on this chart can be found in a July 2022 [California Policy Center analysis](#), but for the moment, three critical variables are explanatory. California’s total energy consumption of 7,352 trillion BTUs, the “rejected energy” of 4,842 TBTUs, and the “energy services” of 2,510 TBTUs. What this describes is the overall efficiency of energy use in California. Of the energy Californians consume to power their residential, commercial, industrial and transportation sectors, 34 percent actually performs a service – heating, cooling, illumination, pumping, traction, etc. – and 66 percent (the “rejected energy”) is lost through friction, heat, wasted motion, leakage, etc.

The promise of electricity is that it can stand this ratio on its head. The appeal of electric power lies in its efficiency in conversion. **Electric transmission losses** are about 5 percent, with another 10 percent lost in a modern **onboard battery’s charge/discharge cycle** and the **electric motor’s conversion** of electrons into traction. Compare the electric car’s overall 85 percent efficiency to a gasoline powered automobile, which at best can achieve **efficiencies of 35 percent**.

The 2,510 TBTUs of energy Californians consumed in 2019 equate to 735 terawatt-hours, which in turn equates to an average output on the electricity grid of 84 gigawatts. This means that if every energy service in California were using electricity at 85 percent efficiency, a grid capacity of 100 gigawatts would be sufficient to power all of it. That’s a stretch, but it’s in the ballpark. It would require extraordinary engineering achievements as well as aggressive energy conservation programs. It is therefore the absolute minimum amount of electricity required for California to go 100 percent electric.

Disrupting the dream of accomplishing this goal while relying almost exclusively on wind and solar energy, however, are cold facts: Renewables aren't renewable, and they aren't sustainable. The footprint of wind and solar facilities on land and ocean, the battery farms to buffer their intermittency, the raw materials necessary to build them all, the maintenance, replacement, and recycling costs, are far in excess of anything Californians should have to endure, and far in excess of what the world's resources have to give.

Imagine, for example, if the materials necessary for these wind, solar and battery assets were sourced here in California. Why not? California has many of the necessary raw materials ready for extraction. Are Californians willing to mine the lithium and quarry the concrete? More generally, are Californians willing to confront the fact that renewable energy technologies use orders of magnitude **more natural resources** than conventional energy?

The alternative to massively subsidized wind, solar and battery farms that despoil literally thousands of square miles of land and ocean is far more practical. Develop energy generation capacity using proven technologies, and further improve them. Californians should be pioneering the installation of the most **advanced combine cycle natural gas** generating plants and **nuclear power plants**. Instead of mandating all-electric cars, we should permit within the new mandates hybrid cars that retain range-extending advanced internal combustion engines. We should be allocating billions to upgrade our existing and proposed reservoirs to incorporate **pump storage**, which is still the most cost-effective way to store large amounts of renewable electricity.

This all-of-the-above approach to energy, on the surface, seems to be moving slightly away from climate purity. But a cradle-to-grave assessment of renewables may belie that first impression. Moreover, if California is serious about setting an example for the world, which after all will yield far more planetary benefits than going it alone, we must develop energy technologies that are practical.

There is enough wealth, and enough political will, for Californians to actually inflict upon themselves an all-electric future that rejects natural gas and nuclear power, rejects pump storage, and rejects advanced hybrid vehicles. But where the climate purists and their special interest puppeteers see a grand vision, history may only recognize hubris and corruption. Californians must put their impressive wealth and willpower into researching breakthrough technologies, while remaining practical in the meantime. That is how California can more effectively demonstrate effective leadership, and set an example for the world to follow.

Edward Ring is a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. The California Policy Center is an educational non-profit focused on public policies that aim to improve California's democracy and economy. He is also a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. Ring is the author of two books: "Fixing California - Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism" (2021), and "The Abundance Choice - Our Fight for More Water in California" (2022). California Globe November 16, 2022.



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