



**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**NOVEMBER 6 - 12, 2022**

**DO YOUR PATRIOTIC DUTY AND VOTE**  
**IT'S NOW OR NEVER**



**QUALITY OF LIFE IS ON CALIFORNIA'S**  
**NOVEMBER BALLOT**

*Criminal Justice 'Reforms': Violence, looting, theft, robberies,  
owned by California's Democrats*

**BY KATY GRIMES**

Californians' quality of life is on a collision course with the rule of law. Escalating violent crime, lawlessness, open drug use, rampant homelessness, coupled with high inflation raising the costs of everything from food to gas to housing, is causing anxiety, fear, despair and disgust in the state's residents.

The "spiral of lawlessness" in California started with "quality of life" offenses where criminals realized that they could commit them with impunity, with the passage of Proposition 47 in 2014.

Elderly women are robbed in broad daylight, murders are taking place daily in middle class neighborhoods, children are [fatally shot by stray bullets](#) while playing in their homes and yards, and shop owners and retail stores are being robbed blind. Crime is taking place everywhere in the state. Small medium and large business owners report unbelievable thefts – daily. Auto thefts are up. Homeowners report theft of everything not nailed down, and repeated break-ins of garages, sheds, and their homes.

In addition to the [parent revolution](#), the diminishing quality of life in California is on the ballot next week.

A cursory glance at recent headlines exemplifies this:

[San Francisco supervisor's home broken into: 'My heart dropped'](#)  
[After fentanyl found in candy bags at LAX, officials warn parents to check Halloween candy](#)  
[2 dead in Southern California shopping center stabbing](#)  
[3 arrested after 'horrific' shooting near UC Berkeley campus](#)  
[Man who riddled girlfriend with bullets, dumped body in California Aqueduct sentenced](#)  
[Two dead following stabbing at shopping center in Palmdale](#)

And if the explosive crime isn't bad enough:

[Elk Grove officials kill Zeus, the German shepherd who bit two, was confiscated from owner.](#)

Democrats are flaunting the law in California and the good people are paying the price.

From the dramatically escalating crime, to the underlying threat of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the rising cost of everything, and the poor quality of education, Californians are suffering.

Gov. Gavin Newsom is releasing prison inmates, with [the total amounting to 76,000](#). The Associated Press [reported](#):

California is giving 76,000 inmates, including violent and repeat felons, the opportunity to leave prison earlier as the state aims to further trim the population of what once was the nation's largest state correctional system. More than 63,000 inmates convicted of violent crimes will be eligible for good behavior credits that shorten their sentences by one-third instead of the one-fifth that had been in place since 2017. That includes nearly 20,000 inmates who are serving life sentences with the possibility of parole.

Remember, in [July 2020, the Globe reported](#) on Gov. Newsom releasing 18,000 prisoners "due to COVID."

This is California under Democrat rule: a governor who single-handedly changes law he doesn't like while still refusing to relinquish his Covid emergency powers, District Attorneys' offices purchased for them by a corrupt billionaire oligarch, who then refuse to enforce the laws they don't like, and a feckless Legislature content with the perception of power, while facilitating the destabilization of the state. Are the foundations of our democracy cracking?

The Rule of Law is the basic idea that we have a government of laws, not a government by man or by arbitrary rule. In other words, no one is above the law. And it is going to take the people to demand the Rule of Law back.

The quality of life is on California's November 8, 2022 Ballot. Vote, and offer to turn in all of your friends' and family's ballots. Change is in the voter's hands.

*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 appeared in the California Globe, California Political News and Views, Flash Report, and many newspapers during early November, 2022.*

## THIS WEEK

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

#### **ALERT** **FEE & REGULATORY BLITZ, NOV. 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**MAJOR FEE INCREASES – AG COMMISSIONER, FIRE,  
PLANNING, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND PUBLIC WORKS - 9 AM**

**SERIOUS FIRE CODE TROUBLE  
NEW DRIVEWAY REQUIREMENTS COULD COST BIG TIME  
AND KILL FARM & RANCH EVENTS, TASTINGS,  
RENOVATIONS, ADUs, ETC. - 1:30 PM**

**BUILDING CODE - 1:30 PM  
SEPTIC AND GREEN ENERGY REQUIRMENTS AMPED UP**

**AG, HOME BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS,  
REALTORS, HOSPITALITY, ECON  
DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATES, ETC. NEED TO  
SHOW UP – 9:00 AM FOR FEES  
1:30 PM FOR CODE PROBLEMS**

**IF YOU DON'T COMPLAIN – YOU'LL REAP THE PAIN**



**PASO WATER MORATORIUM REFORMS TO BE  
SET FOR DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> BOS MEETING  
CAN THE COUNTY PROVIDE WATER EQUITY?  
SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR**

**CENTRAL COAST ENERGY REGULATORY &  
COST PRESSURES MOUNT  
CAN THEY ACQUIRE ENOUGH ENERGY?**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
MAJOR CANNABIS OPERATION RECOMMENDED FOR NIPOMO  
IT APPEARS TO BE VERY SOPHISTICATED**

**ADDENDUM I – SEE STATE BALLOT  
PROPOSTIONS PAGE 35 – VOTE NO**

**LAST WEEK**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**MAJOR FEE INCREASES SET FOR NOV. 8 HEARING  
AG COMMISSIONER, FIRE, PLANNING, PUBLIC  
HEALTH, AND PUBLIC WORKS**

**FIRE CODE TROUBLE SET FOR NOV. 8<sup>TH</sup> HEARING  
NEW DRIVEWAY REQUIREMENTS COULD COST BIG TIME**

**BUILDING CODE SET FOR NOV. 8<sup>TH</sup> HEARING  
SEPTIC AND GREEN ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AMPED UP**

**FY 2023-24 BUDGET GAP FORECASTED  
BUT HIGH VACANCY RATE COULD ERASE MUCH OF IT**

**IWMA MANAGEMENT REVIEW RECS  
COUNTY WAS SMART TO ESCAPE**

**EMERGENT ISSUES**

**THE EMPTY HOME TAX  
SNOOPS AND SNITCHES**

**BY KEVIN HANLEY**



**COLAB IN DEPTH  
SEE PAGE 28**

**MYTH AND ‘FOLLOWING THE SCIENCE’**

*The real nature of the apocalypse we're facing*

**BY BRUCE THORNTON**

**FIND SOLUTIONS THAT ACTUALLY WORK  
AND RELIEVE CALIFORNIANS FROM FOOTING THE BILL  
FOR TILTING-AT-WINDMILLS**

**BY JONATHAN LESSER**



# THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

## Board of Supervisors meeting of Tuesday, November 8, 2022 (Scheduled)

**Item 1 - Request to authorize the use of Alternative Publication Procedures for the Paso Basin Land Use Management Area (PBLUMA) Planting Ordinance - amendments to Title 8 and Title 22 of the San Luis Obispo County Code and the Agriculture and Conservation and Open Space Elements of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan to require “water neutral” ministerial planting permits for crop production irrigated from groundwater wells within the until 2045, with a 25-acre-feet per year exemption allowed per site – and certification of a Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR) (SCH 2021080222) prepared for the project pursuant to CEQA. **Hearing date set for December 6, 2022.**** This will be one of the most important hearings of the year. The Commission unanimously determined to recommend that the Board of Supervisors reject the proposed ordinance. Some of the reasons cited in their recommended rejection include:

- The ordinance is not needed, as the SGMA process is ramping up and should be used to manage the control of pumping.
- The mitigations measures recommended by staff are harmful to agriculture - the fix is worse than the problem. See these on pages 22 and 23 below:
- The ordinance is too complex, which will render it expansive and difficult to administer.
- It results in 16 unmitigable CEQA Class I impacts, which would have to be overridden by the Board of Supervisors for it to adopt the ordinance.

**Item 20 - Hearing to consider an ordinance implementing the County Fee Schedule "A" for Calendar Year 2023 and Fee Schedule "B" for Fiscal Year 2023-24.** Fee increases for the Fire Department, Agricultural Commissioner, Planning Department, Public Works Department, and Public Health Department Environmental Health Division are the primary ones that affect agriculture, business, and labor. Samples are presented below.

### Fire Department - PI

Fee Detail					FY 2022-23 FEE SCHEDULE		FY 2023-24 FEE SCHEDULE		DIFFERENCE	Comments
Fee Indicator #	Fee Category	Fee Description	Board Discretion Type	Authority	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	\$ Difference from Prior Year	Comments
2003	Increased	Commercial Fire Sprinkler Systems - General	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$416.00	per plan	\$450.00	per plan	\$34.00	See footnote(s) 1,6,7,10,17
2003.1	Increased	Commercial Fire Sprinkler Systems - New Hood System	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$402.00	per plan	\$433.00	per plan	\$31.00	See footnote(s) 1,6,7,10
2003.2	Increased	Commercial Fire Sprinkler Systems - Existing Hood Update/Upgrade	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$185.00	per plan	\$198.00	per plan	\$13.00	See footnote(s) 1,2,6,7,10
2004	Increased	Fire Alarm Systems - Commercial	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$402.00	per plan	\$435.00	per plan	\$33.00	See footnote(s) 1,6,7,10
2005	Increased	Minor Operational Permit	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$234.00	per plan	\$251.00	per event	\$17.00	Footnote 8,18
2006	Increased	Major Operational Permit	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$414.00	per plan	\$447.00	per event	\$33.00	Footnote 8,19
2007	Increased	False Fire Alarms	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$321.00	per plan	\$347.00	per site	\$26.00	Footnote 8
2008	Increased	Additional Plan Review (>2) Residential	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$273.00	per plan	\$293.00	per plan	\$20.00	Footnote 1
2009	Increased	Additional Plan Review (>2) Commercial	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$318.00	per plan	\$342.00	per plan	\$24.00	Footnote 1
2010	Increased	Additional Site Inspection (>2) Residential	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$273.00	per plan	\$292.00	per plan	\$19.00	Footnote 1
2011	Increased	Additional Site Inspection (>2) Commercial	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$351.00	per plan	\$376.00	per plan	\$25.00	Footnote 1

Fee Detail					FY 2022-23 FEE SCHEDULE		FY 2023-24 FEE SCHEDULE		DIFFERENCE	Comments
Fee Indicator #	Fee Category	Fee Description	Board Discretion Type	Authority	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	\$ Difference from Prior Year	Comments
1000		Land Use								
		County Fire Dept. Review of:								
1001	Increased	Development Plan, Conditional Use Permit, Minor Use Permit	Partial	Government Code §§ 65104, 569-9.5, 66451.2	\$881.00	per plan	\$951.00	per plan	\$70.00	See footnote(s) 1,3,6,7,10
1002	Increased	Conditional Certificate of Compliance	Partial	Government Code §§ 65104, 569-9.5, 66451.2	\$638.00	per plan	\$687.00	per plan	\$49.00	See footnote(s) 1,2,6,10
1003	Increased	Parcel Map (Up to 4 Parcels)	Partial	Government Code §§ 65104, 569-9.5, 66451.2	\$930.00	per plan	\$1,002.00	per plan	\$72.00	See footnote(s) 1,5,6,10,12
1004	Increased	Tract Map (5 or more Parcels)	Partial	Government Code §§ 65104, 569-9.5, 66451.2	\$1,033.00	per plan	\$1,113.00	per plan	\$80.00	See footnote(s) 1,5,6,10,12
1005	Increased	Pre Application Meeting	Partial	Government Code §§ 65104, 569-9.5, 66451.2	\$355.00	per plan	\$381.00	per meeting	\$26.00	Footnote 1
1006	Increased	Pre Application Meeting with Site Visit	Partial	Government Code §§ 65104, 569-9.5, 66451.2	\$499.00	per plan	\$537.00	per meeting	\$38.00	Footnote 1
1007	Increased	Code Exception Request	Partial	Government Code §§ 65104, 569-9.5, 66451.2	\$589.00	per plan	\$635.00	per plan	\$46.00	Footnote 8
2000		Construction Permits								
		County Fire Dept. Review of:								
2001	Increased	Residential Plan Review - General	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$587.00	per plan	\$633.00	per plan	\$46.00	See footnote(s) 1,2,6,10
2001.1	Increased	Residential Plan Review - Attached Decks, Remodels and Additions	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$184.00	per plan	\$197.00	per plan	\$13.00	See footnote(s) 1,2,6,10,13
2001.2	Increased	Residential Plan Review (Fire) - Photo Voltaic	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$240.00	per plan	\$258.00	per plan	\$18.00	See footnote 1,2,6
2002	Increased	Commercial/Industrial Plan Review (Fire) - General	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$1,015.00	per plan	\$1,098.00	per plan	\$83.00	See footnote(s) 1,3,6,7,10
2002.1	Increased	Commercial/Industrial Plan Review (Fire) - Tenant Improvement	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$402.00	per plan	\$434.00	per plan	\$32.00	See footnote(s) 1,2,6,7,10,14
2002.2	Increased	Commercial/Industrial Plan Review (Fire) - Photo Voltaic	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$402.00	per plan	\$436.00	per plan	\$34.00	See footnote(s) 1,4,6,10,15
2002.3	Increased	Commercial/Industrial Production Plan Review (Fire) - Photo Voltaic Facility	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$1,015.00	per plan	\$1,098.00	per plan	\$83.00	See footnote(s) 1,4,6,10
2002.4	Increased	Commercial/Industrial Plan Review (Fire) - Cell Site	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$402.00	per plan	\$436.00	per plan	\$34.00	See footnote(s) 1,4,6,7,10
2002.5	Increased	Commercial/Industrial Plan Review (Fire) - Major Grading	Partial	Health Safety Code § 7951	\$402.00	per plan	\$436.00	per plan	\$34.00	See footnote(s) 1,6,7,10,16

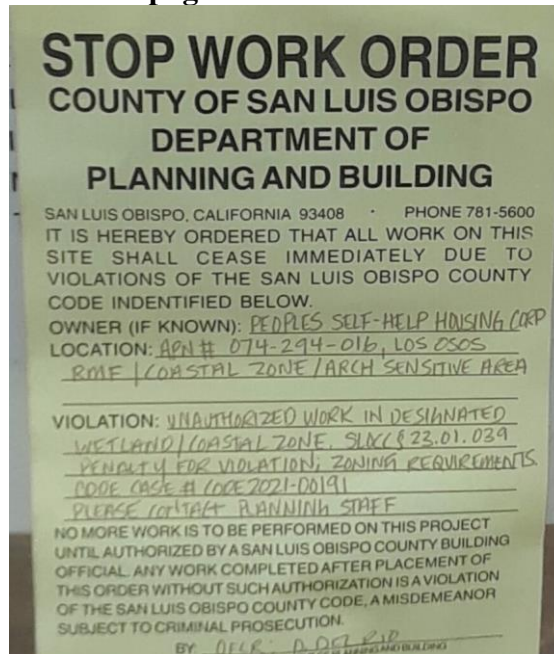
More on the next page:

Agricultural Commissioner – See Next Page:



Fee Indicator #	Fee Category	Fee Detail			FY 2022-23 FEE SCHEDULE		FY 2023-24 FEE SCHEDULE		Difference from Prior Year	Comments
		Fee Description	Board Discretion Type	Authority	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.		
		<b>STANDARDS</b>								
		Standardization		CFAC 42793						
1000		Commodity Quality Control Inspections								
1001	Increased	Per Hour Licensed	Full		\$90.00	Per Hour	\$95.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	See Footnote #2
3000		Certified Producer Site Inspection		CFAC 47020						
3001	Increased	1 site	Full		\$70.00	Each	\$85.00	Each	\$15.00	
		<b>ORGANIC GROWERS</b>								
4000		Certification		CFAC 46009						
4001	Increased	Per Hour Licensed	Full		\$90.00	Per Hour	\$95.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	Footnote #2
		<b>PEST PREVENTION AND NURSERY</b>								
				CFAC 5202 CFAC 6303 CCR III 3160 & 3161						
5000		Origin, Export and Quarantine Compliance/Inspection Certification of Plant Material								
5001	Increased	Per Hour Licensed	Full		\$90.00	Per Hour	\$95.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	Footnote #2
5002	Increased	Field Certificate	Full		\$72.00	Per Certificate	\$81.00	Per Certificate	\$9.00	
5003	Increased	Office Certificate	Full		\$35.00	Per Certificate	\$40.00	Per Certificate	\$5.00	
5004	Increased	Per Certificate 5pm to 8 am, holidays and Sundays	Full		\$100.00	Per Certificate	\$114.00	Per Certificate	\$14.00	
5005	Increased	Emergency Origin Certificate	Full		\$15.00	Per Certificate	\$17.00	Per Certificate	\$2.00	
5006	Increased	Per Hour Unlicensed	Full		\$80.00	Per Hour	\$85.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	
6000		Certification Modification								
6001	Increased	1st Replacement Per Certificate	Full		\$35.00	Per Certificate	\$40.00	Per Certificate	\$5.00	
6002	Increased	2nd and Additional Per Certificate	Full		\$35.00	Per Certificate	\$40.00	Per Certificate	\$5.00	
9000		<b>Aplary Inspection and Certification</b>								
9001	Increased	Per Hour Licensed (minimum 1 hour)	Full		\$90.00	Per Hour	\$95.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	Footnote #2
		<b>PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT (Statutory)</b>								
13000		Research Authorizations/ Pesticides		CFAC 12829						
13001	Increased	Per Hour Licensed	Full		\$90.00	Per Hour	\$95.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	Footnote #2
15000		<b>VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL BY COUNTY STAFF</b>								
				CFAC 11923 CFAC 6025- 6029						
15001	Increased	Per Hour Licensed	Full		\$90.00	Per Hour	\$95.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	Footnote #2
		<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>								
				Gov. Code 6257 & 54985						
16000		Computer Information Requests								
16001	Increased	Computer Information Requests - Per Hr	Full		\$105.00	Per Hour	\$110.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	
		<b>WEIGHTS AND MEASURES</b>								
				B&P Code 12210, 12210.3 & 12210.5						
17000		Non-Mandated Device Testing								B&P Code 12210.5 and DMS Notice D-18-01
17009	Increased	Per Hour Licensed (including standby time)	Full		\$80.00	Per Hour	\$85.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	
17010	Increased	Per Hour Unlicensed	Full		\$80.00	Per Hour	\$85.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	
18000		Annual Device Registration Fee		B&P Code 12240 & Co. Ord 2286						See Footnote #1
18003	Increased	Weighing Devices 2,000 to 9,999 lb capacity, except Livestock and Vehicle	Partial		\$100.00	Each Device	\$150.00	Each Device	\$50.00	
18004	Increased	Weighing Devices >=10,000 lb capacity, except Livestock and Vehicle	Partial		\$242.00	Each Device	\$250.00	Each Device	\$8.00	
18006	Increased	Livestock Scales 10,000 to 19,999 lb capacity	Partial		\$100.00	Each Device	\$125.00	Each Device	\$25.00	
18011	Increased	Vehicle Scales	Partial		\$200.00	Each Device	\$250.00	Each Device	\$50.00	
18014	Increased	LPG Meters - Vehicle Mounted	Partial		\$150.00	Each Device	\$185.00	Each Device	\$35.00	
18015	Increased	LPG Meters - Stationary	Partial		\$150.00	Each Device	\$185.00	Each Device	\$35.00	
18016	Increased	Vehicle Tank Meters	Partial		\$50.00	Each Device	\$75.00	Each Device	\$25.00	
18017	Increased	Wholesale Meters	Partial		\$25.00	Each Device	\$50.00	Each Device	\$25.00	
18024	Increased	Compressed Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas	Partial		\$40.00	Each Device	\$75.00	Each Device	\$35.00	
19000		Land Use Planning		CGC 65104 & 66451.1						
19001	Increased	Hourly Rate	Full		\$115.00	Per Hour	\$120.00	Per Hour	\$5.00	See Footnote #2

Planning and Building – See next 3 pages:





Fee Detail					FY 2022-23 FEE SCHEDULE		FY 2023-24 FEE SCHEDULE		DIFFERENCE	Comments
Fee Indicator #	Fee Category	Fee Description	Board Discretion Type	Authority	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	\$ Difference from Prior Year	Comments
		<b>I. Land Use or Land Division Activity</b>		GC65104, 65909.5, 66451.2 unless noted otherwise CEQA						See Footnotes 1, 3, 4, 5, 37 and specific notes cited for individual items.
<b>1000</b>		<b>Agricultural Preserve Activities</b>								
1001	Increased	Agricultural Offset Clearance - Paso Robles Groundwater Basin	Full		\$531.00		\$540.00		\$9.00	
1002	Increased	Agricultural Preserve - Application and Land Conservation Contract	Full	GC51231, GC51281.1, GC17556. 51296	\$5,480.00		\$5,594.00		\$114.00	
1003	Increased	Agricultural Preserve - Non-Renewal	Full		\$2,121.00		\$2,157.00		\$36.00	
1004	Increased	Agricultural Preserve - Williamson Act Land Conservation Contract - Compliance Review with APRC Hearing	Full		\$3,021.00		\$3,087.00		\$66.00	
1005	Increased	Agricultural Preserve - Williamson Act Land Conservation Contract - General Compliance Review	Full		\$1,159.00		\$1,209.00		\$50.00	
<b>3000</b>		<b>Amendments, Exceptions, Modifications, Revisions, Waivers</b>								
3002	Increased	Amendment to Approved Land Use Permit / Subdivision	Full		\$7,038.00		\$7,133.00		\$95.00	A revised map or conditions of approval after application has been considered by SRB, Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors.
3003	New	Amendment to Approved Land Use Permit - Cannabis Deposit	Full				\$8,662.00			A revised map or conditions of approval after application has been considered by SRB, Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors.
3004	Increased	Project Modification - Tier I	Full		\$693.00		\$706.00		\$13.00	See Footnote 14
3005	Increased	Project Modification - Tier II	Full		\$1,302.00		\$1,358.00		\$56.00	See Footnote 15
3006	Increased	Subdivision Ordinance Exception Request concurrent with map	Full		\$869.00		\$883.00		\$14.00	
3007	Increased	Subdivision Ordinance Exception Request not concurrent with map	Full		\$1,294.00		\$1,345.00		\$51.00	
<b>5000</b>		<b>Associated with Building Permits</b>								
5001	Increased	Addressing for Building Permits / Pre-Addressing Request (Per Address)	Full		\$253.00		\$261.00		\$8.00	
5002	Increased	Business License Review	Full		\$229.00		\$364.00		\$135.00	
5003	Increased	Business License Review- "Cannabis"	Full		\$232.00		\$300.00		\$68.00	
5004	Increased	Business License Review - Vacation Rental (Coastal)	Full		\$422.00		\$549.00		\$127.00	
5005	Increased	Business License Review- Vacation Rental (Williamson Act)	Full		\$396.00		\$509.00		\$113.00	
5006	Increased	Zoning Clearance for an Accessory Dwelling Unit in the Coastal Zone	Full		\$667.00		\$673.00		\$6.00	
5007	Increased	Condition Compliance - Land Use / Subdivision - Tier I	Full		\$887.00		\$907.00		\$20.00	See Footnote 13
5008	Increased	Condition Compliance - Land Use / Subdivision - Tier II	Full		\$1,451.00		\$1,516.00		\$65.00	See Footnote 13
5010	Increased	Zoning Review - Cannabis	Full		\$363.00		\$404.00		\$41.00	
<b>7000</b>		<b>General Plan Requests</b>								
7004	Increased	LAFCD Application Review (RTB Deposit plus Processing Costs)	Full		\$1,202.00	deposit plus cost to process	\$1,279.00	deposit plus cost to process	\$77.00	See Footnotes 1, 29
<b>8000</b>		<b>Land Division Applications</b>								
8001	Increased	Certificate of Compliance - (RTB Deposit plus Processing Costs)	Full		\$6,656.00	deposit plus cost to process fee-first certificate plus-	\$6,740.00	deposit plus cost to process	\$84.00	See Footnote 31

Fee Detail					FY 2022-23 FEE SCHEDULE		FY 2023-24 FEE SCHEDULE		DIFFERENCE	Comments
Fee Indicator #	Fee Category	Fee Description	Board Discretion Type	Authority	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	\$ Difference from Prior Year	Comments
		<b>I. Land Use or Land Division Activity</b>		GC65104, 65909.5, 66451.2 unless noted otherwise CEQA						See Footnotes 1, 3, 4, 5, 37 and specific notes cited for individual items.
<b>1000</b>		<b>Agricultural Preserve Activities</b>								
15002	Increased	TDC Receiving Site Determination with Concurrent Tentative Map Application	Full		\$1,140.00		\$1,195.00		\$55.00	See Footnote 34
<b>16000</b>		<b>Time Extensions</b>								
16002	Increased	Time Extension - Land Use / Division - First and Second Request (Staff)	Full		\$169.00		\$189.00		\$20.00	
16003	Increased	Time Extension - Land Use / Division - Third Request	Full		\$1,395.00		\$1,441.00		\$46.00	
<b>17000</b>		<b>II. Environmental Fees</b>		CEQA						See Footnotes 38, 39, 40, 41
<b>17001</b>		<b>A. Environmental Determination</b>								
17002	Increased	Environmental - Exemption	Full		\$1,668.00		\$1,796.00		\$128.00	
17003	Increased	Environmental - Exemption (Cannabis)	Full		\$1,543.00		\$1,588.00		\$45.00	
17009	Increased	Use of another agency EIR	Full		\$1,917.00	deposit plus cost to process	\$2,018.00	deposit plus cost to process	\$101.00	See Footnotes 1, 38
<b>17010</b>		<b>B. Geology Review</b>								
17011	Increased	Geologic Review - Tier I	Full		\$1,887.00		\$1,936.00		\$49.00	
17012	Increased	Geologic Review - Tier II	Full		\$2,427.00		\$2,483.00		\$56.00	
<b>17013</b>		<b>C. Mitigation Monitoring</b>								
17014	Increased	Mitigation Monitoring - Tier I	Full		\$1,048.00		\$1,105.00		\$57.00	
17015	Increased	Mitigation Monitoring - Tier II (RTB deposit plus processing costs)	Full		\$3,861.00	deposit plus cost to process	\$3,992.00	deposit plus cost to process	\$131.00	See Footnote 1
<b>17016</b>		<b>D. Other Reviews</b>								
17017	Increased	Archaeology Review - Tier I	Full		\$423.00		\$499.00		\$76.00	
17018	Increased	Archaeology Review - Tier II	Full		\$1,621.00		\$1,810.00		\$189.00	
17019	Increased	Biology Review - Tier I	Full		\$423.00		\$499.00		\$76.00	
17020	Increased	Biology Review - Tier II	Full		\$1,621.00		\$1,810.00		\$189.00	
<b>18000</b>		<b>III. Enforcement</b>								
<b>18001</b>		<b>Code Enforcement</b>								
18002	Increased	Code Enforcement Violation Fee - Minor (3 site visits)	Full		\$614.00		\$642.00		\$28.00	See Footnote 42
18003	Increased	Code Enforcement Violation Fee - Major (5 site visits)	Full		\$1,696.00		\$1,775.00		\$79.00	See Footnote 42
18006	Increased	Release of Notice of Nuisance	Full		\$275.00	plus noticing costs	\$288.00	plus noticing costs	\$13.00	See Footnote 31
<b>19000</b>		<b>IV. Fees set by Other Ordinances</b>								
<b>20002</b>		<b>1. Assembly, High Hazard, Educational, Institutional</b>								
20003	Increased	Plan Check	Full		\$1.61	per square foot (1,000 min sf, 12,250 max sf)	\$1.71	per square foot (1,000 min sf, 12,250 max sf)	\$0.10	
20004	Increased	Inspection	Full		\$1.34	per square foot (1,000 min sf, 12,250 max sf)	\$1.42	per square foot (1,000 min sf, 12,250 max sf)	\$0.08	
<b>20005</b>		<b>2. Business, Mercantile</b>								
20006	Increased	Plan Check	Full		\$1.59	per square foot (1,000 min sf, 12,500 max sf)	\$1.69	per square foot (1,000 min sf, 12,500 max sf)	\$0.10	
20007	Increased	Inspection	Full		\$1.02	per square foot (1,000 min sf, 12,500 max sf)	\$1.08	per square foot (1,000 min sf, 12,500 max sf)	\$0.06	

Fee Detail					FY 2022-23 FEE SCHEDULE		FY 2023-24 FEE SCHEDULE		DIFFERENCE	Comments
Fee Indicator #	Fee Category	Fee Description	Board Discretion Type	Authority	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	\$ Difference from Prior Year	Comments
		I. Land Use or Land Division Activity		GC65104, 65909.5, 66451.2 unless noted otherwise CEQA						See Footnotes 1, 3, 4, 5, 37 and specific notes cited for individual items.
1000		<b>Agricultural Preserve Activities</b>								
8002	Increased	Lot Line Adjustment - Tier I	Full		\$1,192.00		\$1,241.00		\$49.00	See Footnote 9
8003	Increased	Lot Line Adjustment - Tier II	Full		\$5,026.00		\$5,109.00		\$83.00	
8005	Increased	Parcel Maps	Full		\$9,311.00		\$9,493.00		\$182.00	
8006	Increased	Public Lot Request	Full		\$2,619.00		\$2,682.00		\$63.00	
8007	Increased	Tract Map	Full		\$10,757.00		\$10,947.00		\$190.00	
9000		<b>Land Use Applications</b>								
9001	Increased	Conditional Use Permit / Development Plan for Land Use Ordinance Modifications	Full		\$7,348.00		\$7,370.00		\$22.00	
9002	Increased	Conditional Use Permit / Development Plan	Full		\$6,841.00		\$6,893.00		\$52.00	
9005	Increased	Minor Use Permit - Tier I	Full		\$2,676.00		\$2,723.00		\$47.00	See Footnote 10
9006	Increased	Minor Use Permit - Tier II	Full		\$3,625.00		\$3,669.00		\$44.00	See Footnote 11
9008	Increased	Minor Use Permit - Tier III	Full		\$4,251.00		\$4,294.00		\$43.00	See Footnote 12
9010	Increased	Site Plan	Full		\$2,780.00		\$2,853.00		\$73.00	
9011	Increased	Tree Removal Permit	Full		\$560.00	base fee up to five trees at same location, each additional tree at same location is \$50	\$566.00	base fee up to five trees at same location, each additional tree at same location is \$50	\$6.00	See Footnote 18
9012	Increased	Variance	Full		\$9,471.00		\$9,647.00		\$176.00	See Footnote 1
10000		<b>Land Use / Land Division Application Add - Ons</b>								
10001	Increased	Airport Land Use Commission Review	Full		\$1,454.00		\$1,525.00		\$71.00	See Footnote 22
10002	Increased	Coastal Zone - Tier I	Full		\$631.00		\$644.00		\$13.00	See Footnote 19
10003	Increased	Coastal Zone - Tier II	Full		\$1,601.00		\$1,633.00		\$32.00	See Footnote 19
10004	Increased	Property Request for Changing Land Use Categories and Combining Designations, Programs, Standards, or any other provision or policy of the General Plan submitted during an Area Plan Update	Full		\$3,402.00		\$3,464.00		\$62.00	See Footnote 20
11000		<b>Pre-Application Meeting</b>								
11001	Increased	Pre-Application Meeting	Full		\$682.00		\$738.00		\$56.00	See Footnote 8
11002	Increased	Pre-Application Meeting - "Cannabis"	Full		\$1,412.00		\$1,443.00		\$31.00	See Footnote 8
11003	Increased	Pre-Application Meeting with Site Visit	Full		\$1,081.00		\$1,141.00		\$60.00	See Footnote 8
11004	Increased	Pre-Application Meeting with Site Visit - "Cannabis"	Full		\$1,635.00		\$1,652.00		\$17.00	See Footnote 8
13000		<b>Resource Extraction Infrastructure</b>								
13001	Increased	Annual SMARA Program Fee	Full	PRC 2774 (b)	\$2,573.00		\$2,583.00		\$10.00	See Footnote 36
13004	Increased	Reclamation Plan (RTB deposit plus processing costs)	Full		\$9,458.00	deposit plus cost to process	\$9,669.00	deposit plus cost to process	\$211.00	See Footnote 1
14000		<b>Roads</b>								
14001	Increased	Road Naming Request	Full		\$3,084.00		\$3,153.00		\$69.00	
15000		<b>TDC Program - Countywide</b>								
15001	Increased	TDC Sending Site Application	Full		\$568.00		\$619.00		\$51.00	See Footnote 34

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**Fee number 14001 – Road naming request:** What is the required staff work that costs \$3,153?

**Fee number 9011 – Tree removal permit:** What is the required staff work that costs \$560 for the first 5 trees and then \$50 for each tree thereafter?

The building code fee tables are so extensive that they are listed at the link below:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/146886>

## Public Health

The public Health fee increases are so extensive that they are listed at the link below. Some samples are listed on the next page.

[146886 \(ca.gov\)](https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/146886)

FEE DETAIL					FY 2022-23 FEE SCHEDULE		FY 2023-24 FEE SCHEDULE		DIFFERENCE	Comments
Fee Indicator #	Fee Category	Fee Description	Board Discretion Type	Authority	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	\$ Difference from Prior Year	Comments
6005	Increased	Verification of Water Supply/Sewage Disposal	Partial	B&PC 11018.2	\$549.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$568.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$19.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6006	Increased	Minor Use Permit	Full	SLO County Code Titles 19, 21, & 22	\$786.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$814.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$28.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6007	Increased	General Plan Amendment	Full	SLO County Code Titles 19, 21, & 22	\$809.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$837.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$28.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6008	Increased	Tract Map (Public Water & Public Sewer)	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$1,392.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$1,441.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$49.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6009	Increased	Subdivision Reconsideration	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$146.00	per hour	\$151.00	per hour	\$5.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept. See footnote 1, 8
6010	Increased	Specific Plan Amendments	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$809.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$837.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$28.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6011	Increased	Tract Maps (Public Water & Onsite Sewage disposal)	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$2,048.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$2,119.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$71.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6012	Increased	Tract Maps (Private water & Onsite sewage disposal)	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$2,993.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$3,097.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$104.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept. See footnote 1, 8
6013	Increased	Shared Water Systems 2-4 Service Connections	Full	SLO County Code Titles 19, 21, & 22	\$496.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$513.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$17.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6014	Increased	Parcel Maps (Public Water & Sewer)	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$947.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$980.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$33.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6015	Increased	Parcel Maps (Public Water & on site sewer disposal)	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$1,216.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$1,258.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$42.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6016	Increased	Parcel Maps (Private water & on site sewage disposal)	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$1,980.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$2,049.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$69.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept. See footnote 1, 8
6017	Increased	Lot Line Adjustments	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$684.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$708.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$24.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6018	Increased	Planning Department Pre-application Meeting	Full	SLO County Code Titles 19, 21, & 22	\$569.00	per project	\$588.00	per project	\$19.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6019	Increased	Certificate of Compliance Review	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$439.00	per review	\$454.00	per review	\$15.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6020	Increased	Verification of Primary Drinking Water Stds	Full	SLO County Code Chapter 19	\$213.00	per verification	\$220.00	per verification	\$7.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
6021	Increased	Temporary Camps	Full	SLO County Code Chapter 8.64	\$142.00	per hour	\$147.00	per hour	\$5.00	
7000		Public Swimming Pool/Spa		SLO County Code Chapter 8.60						
		Public Swimming Pool/Spa New Construction								
7001	Increased	Spa	Full	SLO County Code Chapter 8.60.010	\$1,158.00	per new spa	\$1,198.00	per new spa	\$40.00	
7002	Increased	Swimming Pool	Full	SLO County Code Chapter 8.60.010	\$1,270.00	per new pool	\$1,384.00	per new pool	\$114.00	
		Public Swimming Pool/Spa Remodel								
7003	Increased	Pool and Spa Major Remodel	Full	SLO County Code Chapter 8.60.010	\$843.00	per remodel	\$918.00	per remodel	\$75.00	

## Public Works

FEE DETAIL					FY 2022-23 FEE SCHEDULE		FY 2023-24 FEE SCHEDULE		DIFFERENCE	Comments
Fee Indicator #	Fee Category	Fee Description	Board Discretion Type	Authority	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	Fee Amount	Unit Desc.	\$ Difference from Prior Year	Comments
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6017	Increased	Lot Line Adjustments	Full	SLO County Code Titles 21, & 22	\$684.00	statement plus \$142/hr	\$708.00	statement plus \$147/hr	\$24.00	Fee collected by Planning Dept.
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		Public Swimming Pool/Spa New Construction								
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		Public Swimming Pool/Spa Remodel								
7003	Increased	Pool and Spa Major Remodel	Full	SLO County Code Chapter 8.60.010	\$843.00	per remodel	\$918.00	per remodel	\$75.00	

## MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 22 - Hearing to consider 1) an ordinance amending Title 16 - Chapters 16.04 and 16.10 of the County Code by adopting and the 2022 Edition of the California Fire Code; and 2) adopting a resolution amending provisions based on local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions as authorized by California Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5 and 17958.5. The primary matters of concern are new requirements for wider driveways, limits on driveway lengths, and prohibition of driveways altogether. Costs, even when permits are approved, could be killers.

These could be particularly onerous for existing property owners who wish to add to or otherwise improve their existing property by adding an ADU, barn, or whatever. The County is likely to invoke the new driveway requirement on existing properties when anything new is proposed.

### **Amendment No. 6**

503.2.9 Driveway is amended to read as follows: 503.2.9 Driveway. Driveway specifications shall be provided and maintained when serving no more than one legal parcels or lot with no more than 4 dwelling units, and any number of accessory buildings.

#### **Amendment No. 7**

**503.2.9.1 Driveway width is amended to read as follows.**

**503.2.9.1 Driveway width ~~for high and very high fire severity zones:~~**

<b>Length</b>	<b>Required Width</b>
0 -199'	12'
Greater than 200'	14'

#### **Amendment No. 8**

**503.2.9.2 Turnarounds is amended to read as follows:**

**503.2.9.2 Turnarounds.** Turnarounds must be provided if driveway exceeds 300 feet, and shall be within 50 feet of the building. For driveways exceeding 300 feet, a turn-around shall be at the building site and must be within 50 feet of the dwelling. ~~For driveways exceeding 800 feet, turnouts shall be provided no more than 400 feet apart. Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length, but less than 800 feet in length, shall provide a turnout near the midpoint of the driveway.~~

**Amendment No 9.**

**503.2.9.3 Turnouts is amended to read as follows:**

**503.2.9.3 Turnouts.** For driveways exceeding 800 feet, turnouts shall be provided no more than 400 feet apart. Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length, but less than 800 feet in length, shall provide a turnout near the midpoint of the driveway.

A turnout shall be provided near the midpoint and shall be a minimum of 10 feet wide and 30 feet long with a minimum 25-foot taper on each end.

*503.2.9.4 Surfaces. Roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed load of fire apparatus weighing at least 75,000 pounds and provide aggregate base. Driveways and road and driveway structures shall be designed and maintained to support at least 40,000 pounds.*

### ***Jamie Jones Analysis and Expert Commentary – and a Warning.***

**Jamie Jones is a private sector Planning and Land Regulation Consultant who has assisted thousands of applicants for land use permits and related matters since 2003. She has generously provided the following analysis.**

Good Afternoon,

Next week the County Board of Supervisors will be considering changes to the SLO County Fire Code. On the surface the changes seem relatively minor, however when you dive into the details, the proposed changes, coupled with new State Fire Regulations set to go into effect 1/1/23, could have sweeping and far-reaching impacts to rural (and even urban) property owners and businesses.

I have been trying to get information from our local County Fire Marshall on what the changes really mean and how they will impact some of you and I have not been provided much insight. I brought this to the Board of Supervisors attention during the Board meeting on 11/1/22 and the Board has asked the County Fire Marshall to be prepared to have a ‘robust’ discussion about the local and statewide Fire Code changes at the Board of Supervisors meeting on 11/8/22. They will also be considering approval of the Local Fire Codes during the meeting.

Below are a few areas that I have concern with:

#### **Dead End Road Lengths.**

How do we measure Dead End Roads and where does the measurement start.

Our County has interpreted this section of the Local code different over the last 4 years.

- Up to 2019-2020, this standard only applied to roads serving new subdivisions.
- Then under the 2020 Fire Safe Regs, we were advised by the Fire Marshall that the standard applied to individual parcel development with the distance measurement starting from where the public access road intersects with the parcel to the construction site/structure. The measurement would typically occur entirely on the parcel in question.
- More recently we have been told this is now measured from the INTERSECTION that begins the public road to the very end of the building site. For residential development a road is an access way serving more than 4 residential units for commercial projects your access drive is a road.

**This is far reaching and would make many existing parcels unbuildable or new detached construction infeasible. A few examples\* of neighborhoods that could be impacted include:**

- Almond Drive, Ridge Road, Shadow Canyon (Noble, Sibley), Dover Canyon
- Niderer Road, Live Oak Road. Mountain Springs Road
- Most of the Lake Communities
- Huasna Townsite

- Some Cambria Neighborhoods
- Sheehy Road
- Baron Canyon
- Righetti Road
- San Simeon Creek
- Tassajara Cyn
- Many More

*\*don't assume you are not impacted if your road is not listed this is what I came up with off the top of my head.*

**+30 Dwelling: Local Code Section 503.1.2.11:**

Developments where the number of dwelling units exceeds 30 dwellings shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.

Questions that I have not been able to get answered on this new standard are the following:

- Is the intent of AB 2911 to shoulder the property owners with creating the secondary access, I don't read it that way? [AB 2911 analysis \(ca.gov\)](#) [AB2911 - Subdivision Survey Reports for Local Jurisdictions \(arccgis.com\)](#)
- Does this apply to existing lots or new subdivision?
- If existing lots, what happens if you are the 31<sup>th</sup> EXISTING lot? Is the burden put on a single owner to install the second access?
- What happens if there are already 31 homes will it be triggered if someone wants to build an ADU?
- God forbid what if your house burns down or is destroyed by flooding. Do you have to install a second access for the entire neighborhood before you can rebuild, assuming you can rebuild?

**Placement of Secondary Access:**

This one got by me in 2020 and seems to be a local requirement and not a State requirement. *Secondary Access Roads shall be placed a distance apart equal to but not less than one-half of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the property to be served, measured in a straight line between accesses.*

Most parcels cannot comply with this standard.

For Example: Rectangle parcel 200' x 500', 200' fronts the road. The measurement between the two access points is required to be 225'

**No Grandfather Provisions:**

And to make it worse, the new State regulations apply to all new construction and appear to have removed the previous exemption for structures that have been destroyed by a natural disaster or accident. If your current structure is on a road that exceeds the dead-end road lengths or there are more than 30 dwelling units and no second access, you may not be able to rebuild anything on your property other than an ag structure (i.e. barn).

**Exception Process:**

How will the Exception process work in our County? When can an Exception be requested, what is the standard of review, appeal process, etc.?

**Summary and Action:**

Napa County has set a great example of outreaching to the public and informing the public on the potential impact of these new State Regulations.

They took it the next step and got creative and figured out a way to make sure they could implement the intent of the new regulations consistent with their past practices and current regulations while providing measures to protect public safety. At the same time they were mindful of property rights and the rights that go along with existing lots of record. The Napa County Fire Marshall and Planning and Building Department presented their Findings to their Board of Supervisors on October 18, 2022 and their Board supported a local deviation from the very rigid and stringent State standards.

I believe our Board is like minded with the Napa Board members, in that they are concerned with the State Regulations and want to find a way to maintain local control and not succeed power to the State. The upcoming SLO County Board of Supervisor's meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> is the first time we will be able to ask questions and seek information in a public setting on how the proposed local regulations, the new state regulations, and varying interpretations may impact your property (current and future plans). **It will also be important to have your voice heard and provide support to our Board and Fire Marshall to maintain local control.** If there are tweaks that can be made to the current code that protects your property from the overarching state requirements, it needs to happen at the November 8, 2022 hearing.

The worst thing that could happen would be for all of us to do nothing and then wake up Jan 1, 2023 and find out you have lost rights to what is likely one of your biggest investments (i.e. your home or business).

**I hope I am pulling a fire alarm where there is no fire (pun intended).** Unfortunately my experience with this type of thing is new standards incremental get adopted without anyone realizing the consequences and once they are adopted, there is no going back.

**Please make time in your day on November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 to attend the Board meeting.** It may be your only opportunity to listen in, ask questions, and provide constructive input to our Board of Supervisors on this very important issue.

**Attached you will find:**

- BOS Agenda / Staff Report
- Proposed Local Fire Code Changes and Staff Report
- Final State Regulations with my Highlights
- AB 2911 (Refer to Page 7 bottom of the page Section 4290.5)

**Links to Napa County Meetings for Reference and Background on their approach:**

Napa Public Information Meeting September 8th  
[Video of the Zoom meeting is here.](#)

Napa County Board of Supervisor's Meeting:  
October 18 - First item on 13.

[https://napa.granicus.com/player/clip/5255?view\\_id=3&redirect=true&h=d046c9a4bbcbbca3fdfabf2cc00e5a9](https://napa.granicus.com/player/clip/5255?view_id=3&redirect=true&h=d046c9a4bbcbbca3fdfabf2cc00e5a9)

Napa County Register Article:  
[Napa County grapples with controversial state fire safe standards \(napavalleyregister.com\)](http://napavalleyregister.com)

If you have specific questions about this email or how your property might be impacted, feel free to email or call me (and share this email).

**Jamie L. Jones**  
President and CEO  
KIRK CONSULTING  
8830 MORRO RD | Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.461.5765

**Item 23 - Hearing to 1) amend the Building and Construction Ordinance, Title 19 of the San Luis Obispo County Code by adopting the 2022 edition of the California Building Standards Code. Exempt from CEQA.** The write-up summarizes the changes as:

*Some of the notable amendments are:*

- *Updated Chapter 3 – Building Code Table 903.1 footnotes to be more consistent with calculated floor area to remove decks and eave projections from the floor area analysis.*
- *Updated Chapter 7 – Plumbing Code to be consistent with the Local Agency Management Program which regulates on-site wastewater treatment systems.*
- *Updated Chapter 8 – Green Building Standards to be consistent with the California Green Building Code and reduce the requirements for homes under 2500 sq. ft.*

These include new and stricter requirements. For example, for septic systems:

*General Requirements. Permitted new or replacement OWTS through per an approved LAMP shall be considered Tier 2. Tier 2 OWTS standards are customized to address conditions specific to the County of San Luis Obispo. Nothing shall prohibit new or replacement OWTS from meeting the standards mentioned in the LAMP and CPC. Replacement OWTS not involved with a natural disaster related rebuild shall be held to the same standards as new OWTS. OWTS which require corrective action shall be considered Tier 4 and shall be evaluated by the County of San Luis Obispo Planning and Building to ensure it meets the minimum design requirements of the LAMP or is in substantial conformance to the greatest extent practicable. See: San Luis Obispo Local Agency Management Program (2)(3) Specific Requirements. See: San Luis Obispo Local Agency Management Program.*

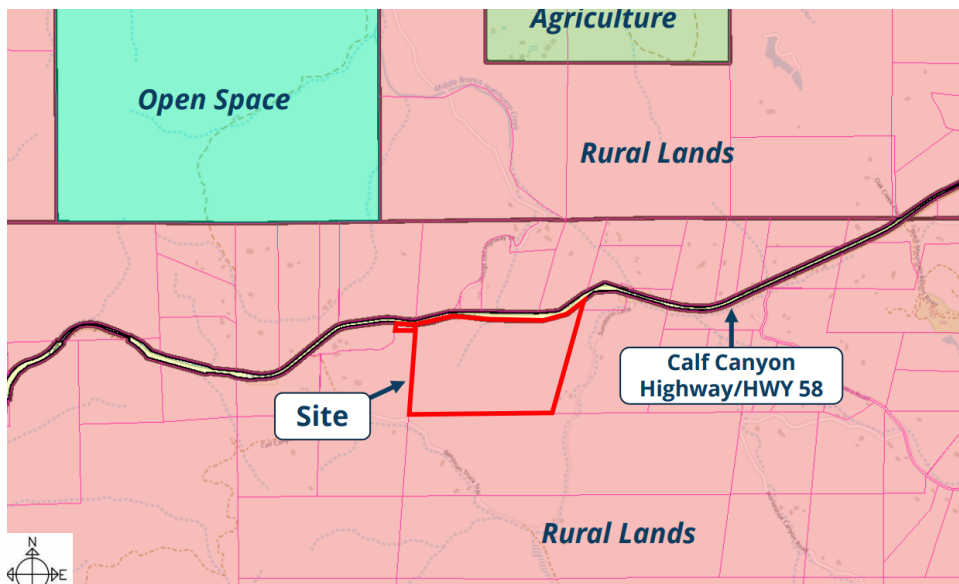
The guy will come out and pump your tank, find that the system is not in compliance with the new standards, and inform the County. Then the same guy will install your new system for ten thousand dollars. Is there a conflict here?

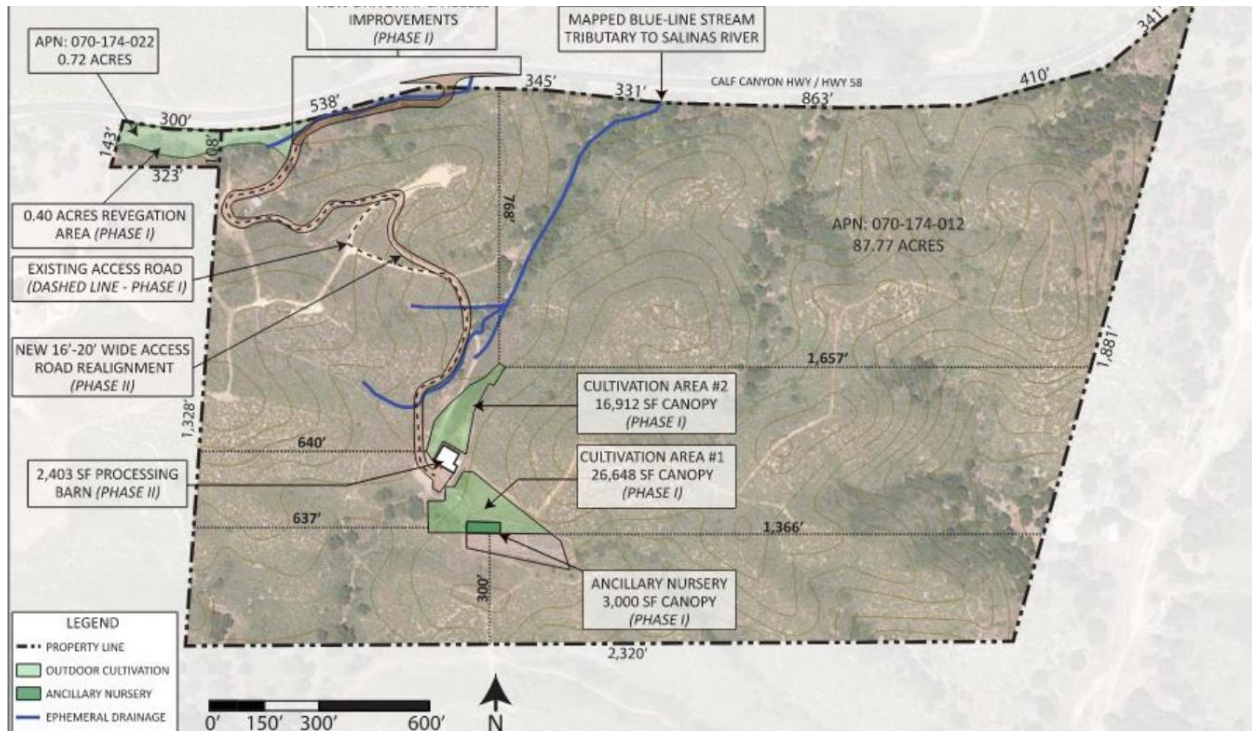
**Item 24 - Hearing to consider an appeal (APPL2022-00001) by Eric Clark of the Planning Commission's January 13, 2022, denial of a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2018-**



00234) for Bigfoot Valley, LLC for the phased development of up to one acre of outdoor cannabis cultivation canopy, up to 3,000 sf of outdoor ancillary nursery in existing hoop structures, ancillary processing activities within an existing 2,403 square foot barn, ancillary transport, installation of security fencing and equipment, and other related site improvements. The project includes ordinance modifications relating to fencing and screening. The project would result in approximately 4.3 acres of site disturbance, including 3,500 cubic yards of cut and 1,800 cubic yards of fill, on an 88.49-acre parcel. The project is located at 5145 Calf Canyon HWY, 6 miles northeast of the community of Santa Margarita. This is the appeal of the Planning Commission's denial of the applicant's permit request. The Commission's denial was based on concerns about odor, water, and neighborhood compatibility. There was neighborhood opposition at the Planning Commission hearing.

*On January 13, 2022, the Planning Commission considered a request of Bigfoot Valley, LLC. for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2018-00234). After considering the application, staff's recommendation, and public testimony, the Planning Commission denied the project subject to the findings and conditions listed in Attachment 4. On January 26, 2022, Eric Clark and his authorized agent, Kirk Consulting, filed an appeal (Attachment 3) of the Planning Commission's denial of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP)*





**Central Coast Community Energy Authority Operations Board meeting of Wednesday, November 9, 2022 (Scheduled) 10:30 AM**

**Item 5 - CEO Report.** The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has become increasingly concerned about the various electricity providers in the state (Investor-owned utilities {PG&E, SCE, SDEG}), Community Choice Energy (CCEs), and some municipal utilities to have enough contracted reserves to deal with the days when peaks and brownouts or blackouts may occur. Collectively, these are termed load serving entities (LSEs). The required reserves are called Reserve Adequacy (RA).

3CE has been required to increase its RA contracts over the years. These are expensive, as 3CE pays a premium for the spot capacity that it may only use for several hours per year. The CPUC has determined that the LSEs collectively have had shortfalls of RA over the past years, and especially in 2022, per the chart below:

	7/2021	11/2021	5/2022	7/2022	CPE	9/2022
<b>Percentage increase from previous 2023 forecast</b>	4%	0%	23%	11%	deficiency revealed in August	52%

**Table 1:** Percent increase in forecast average cost of 2023 Resource Adequacy between each forecast starting from September 2020

Note that the acronym CPE refers to Central Procurement Authority, which is the California Independent System Operator (CASIO). CASIO monitors the entire grid and attempts to balance loads. 3CE blames CASIO for the problem; however, it is not a provider but is simply a traffic cop. So far, the CPUC has not listened to the CCEs in this regard.

The CCEs have banded together to fight this requirement. One problem is that the necessity of increasing RA undermines the CCE model of obtaining lower generation costs by entering into long term contracts. It also conflicts with requirements and promises to ultimately become true green energy providers by using only green sources instead of renewable energy certificates (RECS), which are simply green energy paper certificates. There is also a shortage of green energy available at night when solar is gone and wind flow drops. State and Federal policy to destroy natural gas as a source of generating power increases costs and endangers the entire system.

Thus, while 3CE and the rest of the CCEs pander to the woke progressive policy of green energy and ultimate societal suicide, they will increasingly struggle to maintain their cost margins and hence lower rates.

As far as we can see, none of this is being reported publicly on the agendas of the member cities and counties by their elected officials on the 3CE Policy Board or their city managers and CAO's on the Operations Board (except perhaps in the City of Pismo Beach, where the Mayor is a realistic skeptic).

### **Acronym Test**

It would be interesting to give the city council members and county supervisor members on the 3CE Board an acronym test to determine if they have actually heard of any of this mess or even understand it. At the next cocktail hour where your mayor or city council rep on the CCE Board shows up, ask her, him, them, or it to explain the 3CE RA issue. You might get more detail if you asked them to explain quantum mechanics or the doctrine of the Trinity.

### **Real Green Energy Procurement**

In a related risk, the CPUC is pushing all the LSEs to reach total green energy by 2035. Its report states in part:

*Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) is the CPUC's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction planning process. Every two years, CCAs, investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and Direct Access providers must submit Integrated Resource Plans documenting the resources they plan to procure through 2035 and the estimated attendant GHG emissions. The CPUC aggregates the plans to determine whether the electricity sector is on track to hit its portion of California's 2030 GHG reduction goals while maintaining a reliable grid. The most recent IRPs were due on November 1, 2022 .*

*Additionally, on September 8, 2022, the CPUC issued a Ruling proposing changes to the 11,500-MW Mid-Term Reliability (MTR) mandate that could have significant impacts on CCCE procurement. The Ruling acknowledges the difficulty of meeting the current MTR requirements caused by both global supply chain conditions and the original structure of the MTR itself. CPUC staff then propose two potential changes to the MTR requirements.*

Again, this requirement hinders the CCEs, including 3CE's ability to maintain lower rates than the investor-owned utilities (IOUs). These pressures and others will accumulate, eventually rendering the CCEs as expensive as, or even more expensive than, the IOUs. Then watch out for a State bailout using tax dollars.

**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, November 10, 2022 (Scheduled)**

**More Cannabis for Nipomo.** Both items listed below are permit applications by SLO Cal Farms. Both items involve the same land parcel with 2 cannabis farms. **Item 6** is for SLO Cal West and **Item 7** is SLO Cal East. These are large vertically integrated operations with economies of scale. SLOCAL already operates dispensaries in Santa Barbara and SLO Counties. The overall impression is a significant degree of sophistication and capital investment. There are no written objections from the surrounding community in the file as of November 5, 2022. Staff recommends approval of both permit applications.



SLO Cal Farm's web site states in part:

*Our mission is to improve the lives of California patients by growing and producing the highest quality medical cannabis products. SloCal Roots Farms is a premier medical cannabis cultivation site licensed by the State of California to grow and distribute medicinal cannabis.*

*We believe in the importance of cannabis as medicine to improve the health and quality of life for patients in need. Our grow methods and strains have been carefully selected to provide targeted relief for specific illnesses.*

**And**

## **Local Organic Cultivators**

**BRINGING MEDICINE TO THE PEOPLE**

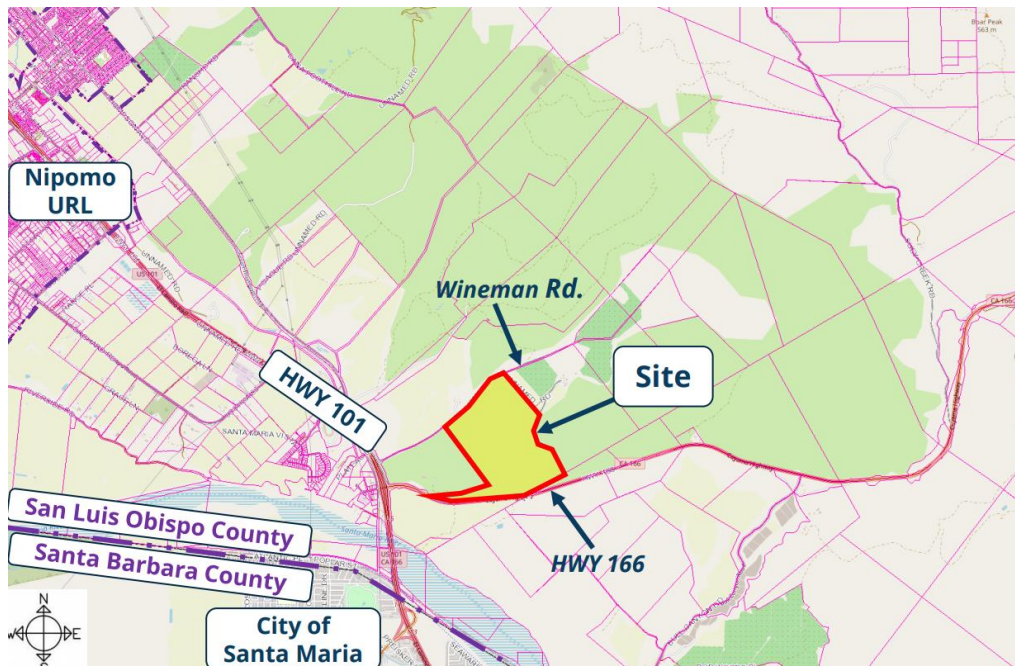
SloCal Roots is a leading outdoor grown, medical marijuana cultivator in San Luis Obispo County. We provide our patients with the best medicine available. All of our products are sun-grown from clones in 100% custom-mixed organic soil, spring-watered, slow-cured and hand trimmed. We do NOT use ANY pesticides OR growth

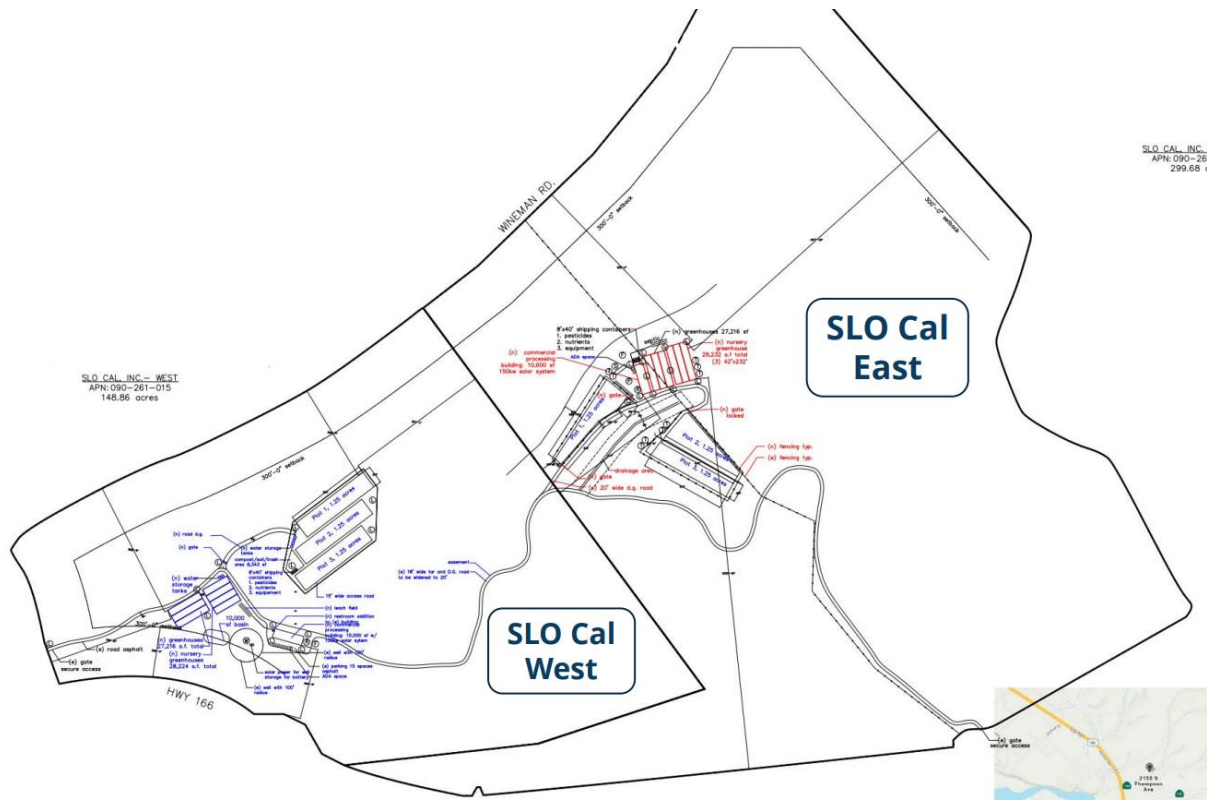
hormones.

With decades of combined experience in the cannabis industry, the team at SloCal Roots relentlessly pursues industry excellence on behalf of its clients. Quality control is of paramount importance at our Farms! So SloCal Roots has vertically integrated all aspect of cannabis production and distribution, which allows continuity of monitoring at every stage of the process.

SloCal Roots Farms starts by cloning only the finest phenotypes of the cannabis strains that clients in the market today demand. But that is just the beginning! SloCal Roots then spares no expense or detail in bringing those plants to flower, as experts monitor every stage of development right up through harvest, curing, packaging and distribution.

**Item 6 - Hearing to consider a request by SLO CAL Farms, Inc. for a Minor Use Permit (DRC2019-00050 / SLO Cal West) to establish 3.75 acres gross of outdoor cannabis cultivation area; 27,216 square feet (sf) gross of indoor cannabis cultivation area; 29,232 sf gross of ancillary indoor nursery; use of an existing 10,500 sf metal building for ancillary processing, cannabis storage, offices, and a restroom; ancillary transport; and about 3.3 acres of related site improvements (e.g., composting area, water tanks, parking, etc.). The project is proposed in four phases. A parking modification is requested to allow 15 parking spaces where 123 are required. The project will result in 8.6 acres of site disturbance including 3,374 cubic yards (cy) of cut and 2,425 cy of fill on a 136-acre parcel. The project is within the Agriculture land use category located at 2155 South Thompson Avenue, about 2.75 miles southeast of the community of Nipomo.**





**Item 7 - Hearing to consider a request by Austen Connella, SLO CAL FARMS INC., for a Minor Use Permit (DRC2019-00051) (SLO CAL EAST) to establish 3.75 acres gross of outdoor cannabis cultivation area; 27,216 square feet (sf) gross of indoor cannabis cultivation area; 29,232 sf gross of ancillary indoor nursery; a 10,500 sf metal building for ancillary processing, cannabis storage, offices, and a restroom; ancillary transport; and about 2.8 acres of related site improvements (e.g., composting area, water tanks, parking, etc.). The project is proposed in four phases. Two ordinance modifications are requested: (1) a parking modification to allow 20 parking spaces where 123 are required; and (2) a setback modification for outdoor cultivation to allow an approximately 100 foot setback along the western property line where a 300-foot setback is required. The project will result in approximately 15,300 cubic yards (cy) of cut and 3,500 cy of fill and a disturbance area of about 8.13 acres. The project site is located about a mile east of 2155 South Thompson Avenue, on an approximately 312-acre parcel, and about 2.75 miles southeast of the community of Nipomo. Additional grading (1,500 cy of cut and 3,500 cy of fill) and site improvements are proposed on the adjacent parcel to the west (APN 090-261-015) to provide vehicular access and a retention basin to serve the SLO Cal East Project. This is the application for SLOCAL East.**

## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

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

**Item 1 - Introduction of an ordinance implementing the County Fee Schedule "A" for Calendar Year 2023 and Fee Schedule "B" for Fiscal Year 2023-24.** The Public hearing on the fee increases was set for November 8<sup>th</sup>. See **Item 20** on page 6 above in the BOS meeting details for the 8<sup>th</sup>. Some Board members, including Supervisors Dawn Ortiz-Legg, Debbie Arnold, and John Peschong all expressed interest in conducting a detailed and complete review.

**Item 2 - Request to: 1) introduce an ordinance amending Title 16 - Chapters 16.04, 16.08 and 16.10 of the San Luis Obispo County Code by adopting the 2022 Edition of the California Fire Code and amending provisions based on local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions as authorized by California Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5 and 17958.5; 2) authorize the use of Alternative Publication Procedures for the ordinance. Hearing set for November 8, 2022. The Board set the matter as Item 23 for the meeting of November 8<sup>th</sup>.** See the details above in on page 16.

The primary concern is new requirements for wider driveways. These could be particularly onerous for existing property owners who wish to add to or otherwise improve their existing property, add an ADU, barn, or whatever. The County is likely to invoke the new driveway requirements, which can be quite expensive.

**Item 3 - Introduction of an ordinance amending the Building and Construction Ordinance, Title 19 of the San Luis Obispo County Code by adopting the 2022 edition of the California Building Standards Code and 2) authorize the use of Alternative Publication Procedures for amendments to the to the Building and Construction Ordinance, Title 19 of the County Code. Exempt from CEQA. Hearing set for November 08, 2022.**

**Item 23 - Consideration of a report regarding the County’s Fiscal Year 2023-24 and Multi-Year financial forecast.** The item was pretty much a non-event, with the Board praising staff for its work on the report.

**Background:** The presentation of this item in recent years has been a positive and informative step, initiated by the current Board of Supervisors and County Administrative Officer. The report summarized the issues concisely.

*Overall, the County’s budget continues to be in an increasingly precarious position, due to its projected rate of spending outpacing its revenues. Given this, continued compliance with the Board-adopted Budget Goals and Policies and Budget Balancing Strategies and Approaches will be important to addressing expected budget gaps to meet our legal requirements to adopt balanced budget each year, and assuring the ongoing fiscal health of the County. Fortunately, the County has historically taken a conservative approach to budgeting, routinely budgeting a contingency, and maintaining adequate reserve levels. These practices will serve the County well in the coming years.*

\$691,956,750	Total financing sources (revenues)
\$703,889,523	Total financing uses (expenditures)
<b>(\$11,932,773)</b>	<b>Total forecast surplus/(gap)</b>

**Forecasted Range = Gap of \$8-\$16 million**

For the FY 2023-24 fiscal year, a potential revenue expenditure gap of \$8 - \$16 million is possible if existing economic conditions continue and there are no other shocks. The staff report credibly explores a situation in which a mild recession occurs:

*To provide some information regarding what a mild Recession could do to the GF, a simple calculation of loss of revenues was completed. In this scenario both Property Tax, Sales Tax, and Transient Occupancy Tax were assumed to continue to increase, only at a much slower rate. When calculating the Recession scenario, the slower rate of growth was not applied to FY 2023-24. Calculations affecting Property Tax amounts for FY 2023-24 have already been completed. Therefore, collection of Property Tax amounts for FY 2023-24 would not be affected. This model reflects a one percent drop in the growth rate of Property Tax, Sales Tax, and Transient Occupancy Tax starting in FY 2024-25*

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Revenues	\$691,956,751	\$710,538,867	\$735,009,363
Expense	\$703,889,524	\$728,418,042	\$751,313,739
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-\$11,932,773</b>	<b>-\$17,879,175</b>	<b>-\$16,304,376</b>

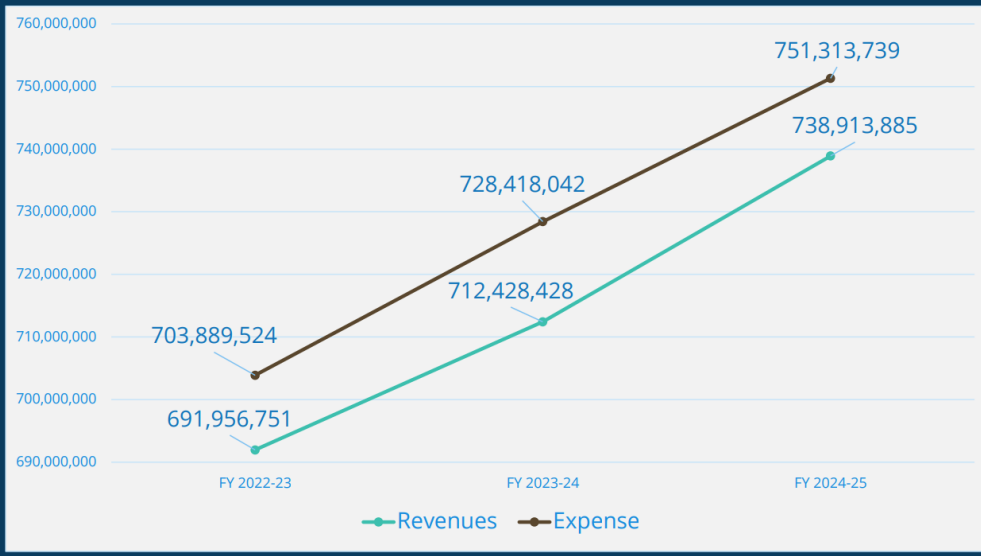
Expenditure cost drivers are listed in the table below.

Amount	Description
\$364,019,358	FY 2022-23 Adopted General Fund Salary & Benefits
\$23,557,578	Incremental General Fund cost of labor agreements already negotiated and approved but not budgeted in the current year, cost of expected pension rate increase, and expected increased charges to departments to support the Liability and Workers Compensation programs
\$269,887,034	FY 2022-23 Adopted General Fund non-salary costs
\$8,096,611	3% Consumer Price Index (CPI)
\$2,709,244	Department of Social Services increased costs
\$738,796	Health Agency increased costs
\$903,785	Increased cost for creation of Homeless Services Division, approved by the Board on August 9, 2022.
\$118,000	Increased cost for homeless behavioral health case management services, approved by the Board on August 10, 2021
\$3,749,293	Increased cost for County Fire contract with CAL FIRE due to State labor negotiations
\$2,611,808	Increased cost to County Fire operating budget due to replacement of vehicles and equipment. Note: no impact to General Fund as this amount was placed into reserves in FY 2022-23.
\$1,000,000	Increased cost for Jail Medical
\$539,000	Increased cost for the additional expenditures for the Cannabis Compliance Monitoring program. Approved by the Board on September 13, 2022
\$(7,559,532)	Adjustments to General Fund contributions to non-General Fund budgets
\$33,518,549	5% General Fund contingency
<b>\$703,889,523</b>	<b>Total Expenditure Forecast</b>

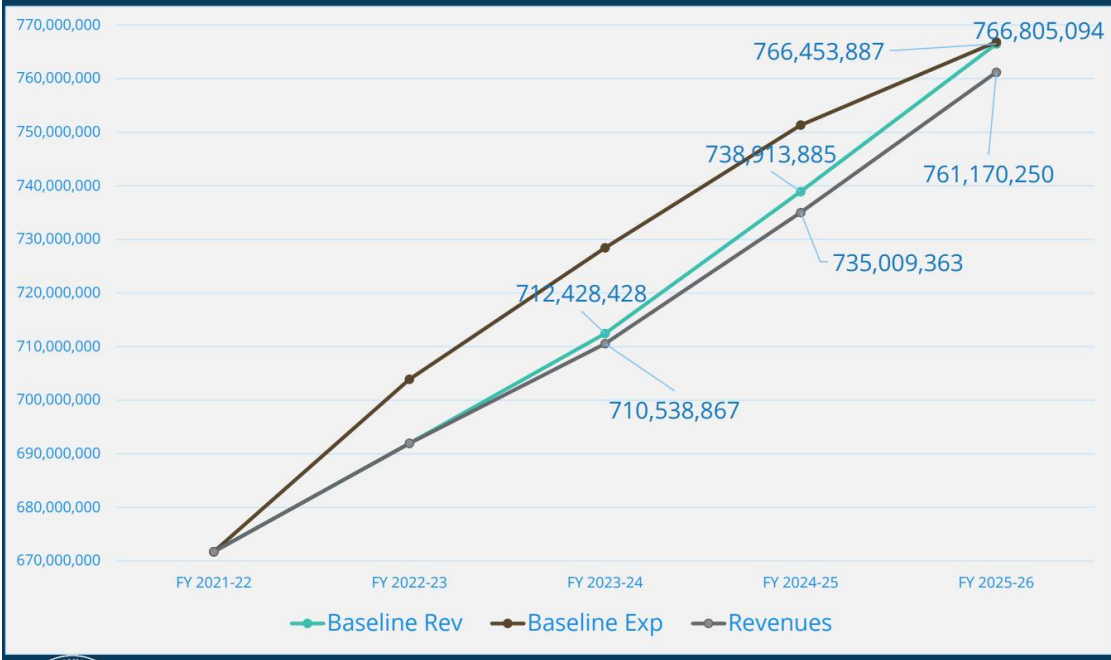
The staff provided some nice alternative scenario slides for the Board to consider as a warning not to over expand services.

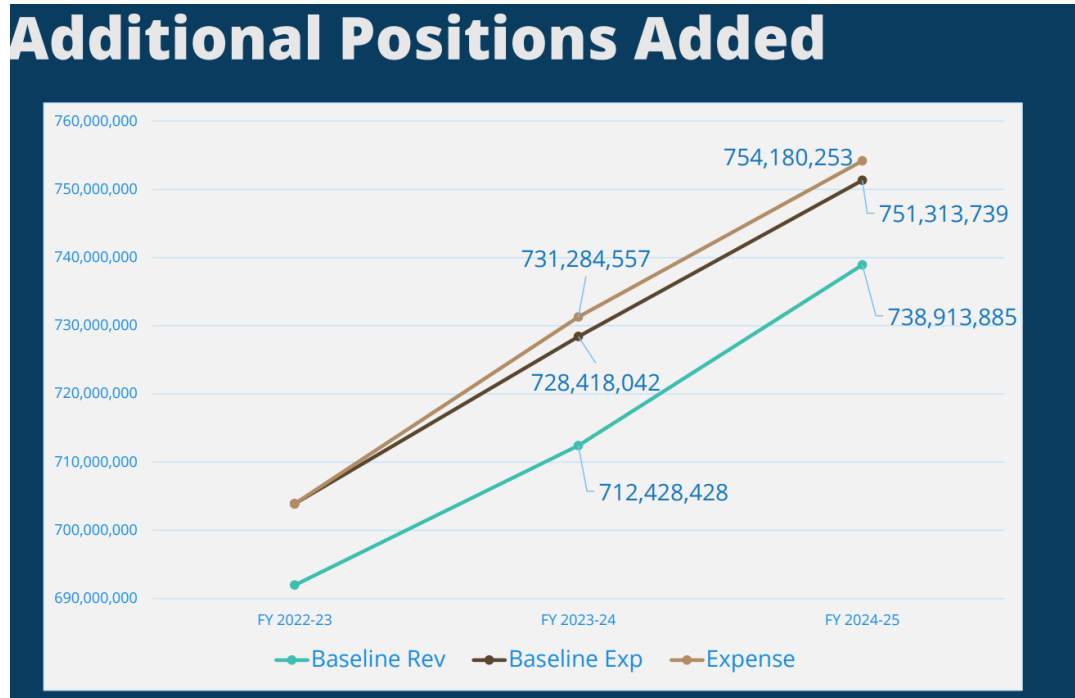


# Financial Forecast - Baseline



# Recession





All bets are off if the Congress remains in the clutches of the current enviro-progressive elite, and/or if Russia, or a combination of Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea expand the current conflicts in Europe and Syria. Similarly, the absence of a southern border with uncontrolled immigration of people with limited education will destabilize the country further, resulting in a variety of crises in health care, income maintenance, crime, homelessness, and hunger, for which counties will be the domestic front line of last resort. (Just as with COVID.)

## EMERGENT ISSUES

**Item 1** - The idea of imposing a special tax on empty homes has been gaining steam this year. Left progressives in SLO County love this one. The article below reveals some of the objectionable aspects of this. Supervisor Gibson has the hots for this idea as a method to compel more owners to rent out their homes.

### THE EMPTY HOME TAX, SNOOPS AND SNITCHES

*This reminds me of Pogo, the comic strip character who said, 'We  
have met the enemy, and he is us'*

BY KEVIN HANLEY

Some city leaders in California are so ravenous for more revenue and the power to redistribute the lucre for subsidized housing boondoggles and homeless camps that they are pushing to

impose double taxation on residents and empowering snoops and snitches to help collect their “Empty Home Tax.”



On November 8, voters in San Francisco, Berkeley and Santa Cruz will be voting on measures on whether to slap a new Empty Home Tax on owners of vacant residential units at a rate between \$2,500-\$6,000 per vacant unit if the unit is vacant for six to eight months or more. Proponents argue that housing is too expensive and that the new tax will pressure owners of vacant units to rent them or, if not, generate revenue for “affordable housing projects” and rent subsidies.

This reminds me of Pogo, the comic strip character who said, “We have met the enemy, and his is us.” These city leaders are blissfully ignorant of the basic economics of housing. They impose overly strict building codes, thousands of dollars in fees, environmental and traffic studies, eviction restrictions, and rent controls. COVID lockdowns drove some of their residents out of the city, leaving vacant units. City leaders shouldn’t be surprised that when they artificially lower the supply of housing, they raise the price of housing in their jurisdictions. Their so-called “affordable housing projects” shift the cost of subsidized units to wealthy purchasers, thus cutting out middle-class people from the market. Their policies to pay the homeless create more homelessness. Oakland, which imposed an Empty Home Tax in 2018, hasn’t of course seen any measurable decrease in the cost of housing in the city because of the tax. Instead, their city council sessions are crowded with small landlords pleading for exemptions.

To fully enforce the Empty House Tax and gather all that new revenue, one wonders how far city government will go. Under Governor Newsom, the state is pressuring cities and counties to not only zone for more subsidized housing but to build it. Proponents are nonchalant about the fact that the only way to enforce an Empty Home Tax is to use incredibly intrusive enforcement methods that violates residents’ right to privacy.

The Empty Tax measures typically include provisions that require every residential owner that could be taxed to submit an annual declaration to the city regarding the vacancy status of their property. The city is then required to develop a process to annually audit properties declared “in-use” to verify vacancy status, in other words, whether the owner is telling the truth. How would such an audit process work? What if the owner of a second home or condo draws all the curtains and uses automatic lighting at night when he’s not there? How could the city know whether a resident of San Francisco, Berkeley or Santa Cruz who starts his commute every morning at 6AM to Silicon Valley and only returns at 8PM at night is really living there? After all, the home is vacant from 9AM to 5PM when city government enforcement officers are snooping for violators.

It will be tempting for cities to welcome the help of snoops and snitches. To verify whether the house or condo is “in-use” or not, doorbells will have to rung, windows peered into, even at night when owners return at night from their long workdays. Neighbors who don’t like each other for whatever reason – gardeners use loud leaf blowers, have political bumper stickers on their cars – will be tempted to snitch to the city that their neighbor is not complying with the law and should pay the Empty Home Tax. One wonders about the due process rights of residents. If a doorbell is not answered three days in a row, will the homeowner get a \$6,000 tax bill in the mail? How will he prove his innocence?



**SLO SNITCH**

Lastly, there is the injustice of imposing double taxation on owners of a second home or condo who already pay hefty property taxes and are doing nothing wrong. And it is unnecessary as wealthy cities like San Francisco, Berkeley and Santa Cruz have some of the highest sales tax rates in the state and generate tons of revenue from tourists who pay sales taxes and high hotel taxes. These cities don’t need the money. They give away the store in their collective bargaining agreements with city unions and find themselves constantly in search of more revenue. The fundamental problem is that cities like San Francisco, Berkeley and Santa Cruz are poorly led by leaders who can’t control their budgets and have an insatiable desire to think up new ways to get more money from residents and redistribute it to their pals. Voters in San Francisco, Berkeley and Santa Cruz have an opportunity to send a message to their city councils to end their negligent management practices.

*Kevin Hanley is an Economics Instructor at Butte College. He worked as a legislative assistant and Chief Policy Consultant in the California Legislature for 24 years and served as the Mayor of Auburn. This article first appeared in the November 3, 2022 California Globe.*

## **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**

# MYTH AND ‘FOLLOWING THE SCIENCE’

## *The real nature of the apocalypse we're facing*

BY BRUCE THORNTON

Increasingly over the last few centuries, science has become the dominant narrative of the West. The spectacular success of natural science in understanding, controlling, and transforming the material world has given science an authority that transcends the old certainties of faith, custom, and tradition. These authorities are now seen as retrograde, illiberal, and dangerous, the realm of superstition and myths that impede the ultimate triumph of progress and the utopia our cognitive elite “brights” who “follow the science” will create once the forces of reaction and unreason are corrected or eliminated.

Yet human nature—“the crooked timber,” as Kant put it, from which “nothing straight can be made”—continues to thwart this optimistic orthodoxy, partly because of our own hubris. We arrogantly claim more knowledge and wisdom and certainty than we actually have, even when talking about the natural world, let alone the unpredictable springs and consequences of our frequently irrational choices and actions. Hence the beliefs and ideals that we think are the fruit of science and reason, often end up to be the detritus of old myths we dress up in the formulas and rhetoric of science.

In a time like the present—with a brutally destructive, potentially nuclear war in Ukraine, a looming global economic disaster, and especially an energy crisis created by our own irrational or venal policies that confuse science and myth—such policies are increasingly suicidal.

The threats to energy supplies, and the punitive costs of the fossil-fuel products that comprise 80% of all the energy we use, are a lesson in the dangers of claiming the unearned certainty of our science, and substituting gratify myths for established facts. Indeed, our current energy difficulties are the direct consequence of the progressives’ feckless “green” energy cult of zero-carbon emissions, and its misguided attempts to replace cheap, abundant fossil fuels with unreliable, expensive “renewable” solar and wind power.

Contrary to its proponents’ assertions, these dangerous policies are not the outcome of real science. The obvious tell is the green cultists’ and grifters’ unscientific, vicious assaults on the critics of the greenhouse-gas hypothesis. Those who challenge the consensus are smeared as “deniers,” a despicable echo of holocaust deniers; or

dismissed as tools of Big Oil who should be censored, “cancelled,” and deplatformed for spreading dangerous “disinformation.”

These attempts to shut down critics, apart from violating the First Amendment, contradict the foundational tenet of the scientific method, which is “the method of bold conjectures and ingenious and severe attempts to refute them,” as Karl Popper put it. It’s what physicist Richard Feynman called “a kind of scientific integrity” that requires you “report everything that you think might make [an experiment] invalid—not only what you think is right about it: other causes that could possibly explain your results.”

But all these efforts, abetted by an establishment media, schools, and popular culture that shill for official climate-change orthodoxy, have not stopped the revisionist researchers who have continued to practice honest science. For decades the claims of anthropogenic, catastrophic global warming have been steadily challenged by more empirically based evidence of an alternative hypothesis to the establishment orthodoxy that CO<sub>2</sub> is the most important factor in global warming, as well as the even more dubious claim that in the coming decades, CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by humans will heat the planet to catastrophic levels.

The revisionist explanation of global climate warming is laid out in the revised and updated 2007 edition of *Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1500 Years*. As authors S. Fred Singer and Dennis T. Avery summarized this research, “The earth is warming but physical evidence from around the world tells us that human-emitted CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) has played only a minor role. Instead, the mild warming seems to be part of a natural 1,500-year [later revised to 2500 years] climate cycle (plus or minus 500 years) that goes back at least one million years.”

Rather than warmer climate being a dangerous anomaly, “The Earth continually warms and cools. The cycle is undeniable, ancient, often abrupt, and global. It is also unstoppable. Isotopes in the ice and sediment cores, ancient tree rings, and stalagmites tell us it is linked to small changes in the irradiation of the sun.” These cycles also comport with the historical record of the last 2000 years, which documents alternating cycles like the Roman Warming, the Medieval Warming, and the Little Ice Age that ended in 1850, the beginning of the Modern Warming we are now living through.

So, based on an unproven hypothesis that ignores or dismisses alternatives, the developed nations of the West are trying to eliminate the cheap, abundant energy that has created modern, affluent economies. Does that sound like “scientific integrity”?

But even if Singer and Avery and other revisionists are wrong, all the proposed “green” solutions for lowering these apocalyptic temperatures—such as wind turbines, solar panels, electric vehicles, and the most destructive, eliminating fossil fuels—even if achieved will not lower temperatures enough to make a difference despite the trillions of dollars it will cost.

For example, the *Wall Street Journal*'s Bjorn Lomborg [points](#) out that the “International Energy Agency estimates that in 2040 fossil fuels will still meet three-quarters of world energy needs, even if the Paris agreement is fully implemented. The U.N. body responsible for the accord estimates that if every country fulfills every pledge by 2030, CO2 emissions will be cut by 60 billion tons by 2030. That’s less than 1% of what is needed to keep temperature rises below 2.7 degrees. And achieving even that fraction would be vastly expensive—reducing world-wide growth \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion each year by 2030.”

And when China emits more carbon than the U.S. and the EU combined, it’s irrelevant what the West does to mitigate global warming. Meanwhile, our climate policies and “green new deals” are steering us toward economic disaster.

What explains this unprecedented, collective delusion that a mere hypothesis is “settled science” and adequate enough to justify destroying our economies and immiserating billions of people? Money, of course, is the perennial explanation for human folly. The climate-change industrial complex generates billions, if not trillions of dollars for rent-seeking corporations and venal researchers.

Next, our cultural deference to science, real and imagined, that typifies the modern world leaves us prey to bad ideas as long as they sport the quantitative data and forbidding jargon of real science. And humans, as Carl Sagan once remarked, are loath to let go of a meaningful narrative that defines their identity, status, and virtue: “If we’ve been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We’re no longer interested in finding out the truth.” That’s how pernicious ideas like “scientific racism” and eugenics dominated our cognitive elites in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Another factor less recognized is the persistence of old myths that still influence our understanding of the natural world and humanity’s relationship to it. One of the oldest is the myth of the Golden Age in the Greek poet Hesiod’s *Works and Days* (c. 700B.C.) The poet describes a people who “lived like gods, without sorrow of heart, remote and free from toil and grief . . . and dwelt in ease and peace upon their lands and with many good things.”

What makes this utopia possible is that the natural world “on its own” provides people enough sustenance without the need for human labor or technology. But the cycle has turned, and now that world has degenerated into the Iron Age, a time when “men never rest from labor and sorrow by day, and from the perishing night; and the gods shall lay sore troubles upon them.”

Later versions of the myth, like the first-century B.C. Roman poet Ovid’s, explicitly link these Iron Age technologies like agriculture, mining, metallurgy, cities, laws, and urban civilization to the evils of the Iron Age. Those innovations in turn created private property, seafaring, trade, and wealth, which nurture the “wicked lust for possession,” as Ovid calls it, that foments crime and starts wars. Civilization is the root of all evil, for it has alienated humans from their once harmonious, simple life provided by a beneficent natural world.

These ideals were popularized during the Romantic movement of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. That’s when an incipient industrialization—with its rapid social dislocation and clouds of coal smoke from what poet William Blake called “satanic mills” —made such wish-fulfilling myths more attractive. More important, Marxism’s hatred of private property and capitalism also found the Golden Age myth a useful weapon for attacking and demonizing free-market economies. Hence the continuing symbiosis today between “green” political parties and socialism, what in Europe is called “watermelons”: green on the outside, red in the inside.

This sensibility of nature-love and discontent with the trade-offs of modern capitalist civilization has permeated environmentalism for decades now, appearing in popular culture and school curricula, and replete with redemptive rituals like Earth Day and recycling. Or take Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg delivering hysterical sermons to world leaders, and predicting doom brought on by their selfishness and greed.

Finally, the green cult is another consequence of secularism, the banishment of faith to the subjective realm of private taste. The place of religion has been taken by an imperious science, the “creed,” G.K. Chesterton presciently wrote in 1922, “that really is levying tithes and capturing schools, the creed that really is enforced by fine and imprisonment, the creed that really is proclaimed not in sermons but statutes, and spread not by pilgrims but by police.”

The green cult that degrades science into scientism is a more dangerous version of such a creed. Without a restoration of the integrity of real science, and its disentanglement from gratifying myths and fantasies, we may well see the apocalypse arrive—not from carbon, but from bad political ideas and policies about the energy that has created the richest, freest, best-fed people in human history.



*Bruce S. Thornton is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, an emeritus professor of classics and humanities at California State University, Fresno, and a research fellow at the Hoover Institution. His latest book is *Democracy's Dangers and Discontents: The Tyranny of the Majority from the Greeks to Obama*. This article first appeared in the October 25, 2022 Stanford University Hoover Institution Daily Update.*

## **FIND SOLUTIONS THAT ACTUALLY WORK AND RELIEVE CALIFORNIANS FROM FOOTING THE BILL FOR TILTING-AT-WINDMILLS BY JONATHAN LESSER**

California has banned the sale of internal combustion cars and light trucks beginning in 2035, natural-gas furnaces from 2030, and small gas engines starting in 2024. The state's newest green plan is to [install](#) 5,000 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind by 2030 and 25,000 MW by 2045. That's an average of 1,400 MW of new offshore wind yearly for the next 18 years—the equivalent of erecting one 14 MW turbine every four days for the next 23 years. Unfortunately, this is a fantasy so wild that even Don Quixote would blush—one that lawmakers should abandon if they're serious about finding emissions-free solutions for the state's pressing energy needs.

A key reason the plan won't work lies at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific outer continental shelf is much steeper and shorter than the gentle-sloped Atlantic one, where eight states have imposed offshore wind mandates. Unless California intends to erect 850-foot tall, 14 MW behemoths—the current state of the art—near the shore, where they will upset the pristine views of wealthy residents, the state will need to use floating turbines to meet its goals. The coastal waters far enough offshore for turbines to remain unseen are too deep for seafloor anchoring.

Today, just three small floating wind turbine installations exist anywhere: two in Scotland, with a total capacity of 80 MW, and a 25 MW one in Portugal. Between them, they represent 14 turbines, all far smaller than the 14 and 15 MW wind turbines intended for the numerous Atlantic coast developments. Another facility off the Norwegian coast will install a total of 11 turbines producing 8.6 MW each, or 94.6 MW in total, at a cost of [about \\$500 million](#). That's more than \$5.2 million per MW.

Offshore-wind proponents [claim](#) that costs will fall as the technology matures. [Some](#) even claim that offshore wind is less costly today than natural-gas generation. But these claims are belied by economics—artificially increasing the demand for something leads to higher prices, not lower ones—and by actual numbers. According to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), the projected price tag for offshore wind in 2027 will be more than four times that of natural gas combined-cycle plants and 50 percent more expensive than new nuclear plants. Floating turbines will be costlier still.

Even if one ignores [current supply-chain issues](#), shortages of undersea cable, and the small number of the necessary specialized ships available to erect turbines, floating turbines are simply more costly and more challenging to install than fixed turbines.

One complexity is that they require special cables, both to anchor them to the sea floor and to transmit the electricity they generate. The cables must be able to bend and move as the turbines bob up and down in the water, especially in high seas. That presents both engineering and materials challenges, along with costs 30 percent to 50 percent [higher](#) than static cables.

Offshore-wind turbines also require periodic upkeep. Though they can be towed to shore for repairs, that presumes that offshore facilities are there to handle them. Where in California will these be built? The Port of Los Angeles? Half Moon Bay? One can easily imagine the howls of outrage over the construction of large onshore facilities near offshore wind sites.

Then there's the challenge of getting the electricity generated to land. One of many contentious issues surrounding the 1,100 MW [Ocean Wind](#) project off the New Jersey coast is where the undersea cables will be brought to shore. The current alternative calls for building a substation in Ocean City, but local residents are [challenging](#) it. In famously NIMBY California, bringing offshore cables onto California beaches, along with building the necessary substations and transmission lines to deliver the power to cities, would face ferocious opposition. Buried cables can also become unburied by tidal action, as happened with the 30 MW [Block Island](#) wind farm off the Rhode Island coast. It took two years to rebury that project's single cable.

Finally, how will California integrate 25,000 MW of intermittent offshore wind with an already teetering power grid? During an early-September heat wave, the state narrowly avoided major blackouts caused by a lack of generating capacity, especially during peak demand hours in the early evening, when the thousands of MW of solar photovoltaics in the state provide nothing.

Integrating more solar and all of that offshore wind will require the construction of vast amounts of battery storage, consuming huge quantities of raw materials, including lithium, which has [quadrupled](#) in price in the last year alone. The alternative to battery storage will be what proponents call dispatchable emissions-free generators—basically gas turbines that run on pure hydrogen. But these generators and the hydrogen infrastructure to support them don't even exist today.

Like the \$100 billion (and rising) bullet train to nowhere, California's offshore wind goal will not be met. But the state's beleaguered consumers and businesses, already paying some of the highest electric rates in the nation, are sure to pay billions of dollars more in the years ahead. Lawmakers should get serious about finding solutions that actually work—and relieve Californians from footing the bill for tilting-at-windmills escapades in the meantime.

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*Jonathan Lesser is president of Continental Economics and an adjunct fellow with the Manhattan Institute. This article first appeared in the Manhattan Institute Daily Update of October 15, 2022*

# Addendum I Propositions: Vote No

**Election:** November 8, 2022

The complete November 2022 [Official Voter Information Guide](#) can be found on the Secretary of State website.

## **Proposition 1**

November 8, 2022

### **Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means: The California Constitution would be changed to expressly include existing rights to reproductive freedom—such as the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion and use contraceptives.

A **NO** vote on this measure means: The California Constitution would not be changed to expressly include existing rights to reproductive freedom. These rights, however, would continue to exist under other state law.

## **Proposition 26**

November 8, 2022

### **Allows In-Person Roulette, Dice Games, Sports Wagering on Tribal Lands. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means: Four racetracks could offer in-person sports betting. Racetracks would pay the state a share of sports bets made. Tribal casinos could offer in-person sports betting, roulette, and games played with dice (such as craps) if permitted by individual tribal gambling agreements with the state. Tribes would be required to support state sports betting regulatory costs at casinos. People and entities would have a new way to seek enforcement of certain state gambling laws.

A **NO** vote on this measure means: Sports betting would continue to be illegal in California. Tribal casinos would continue to be unable to offer roulette and games played with dice. No changes would be made to the way state gambling laws are enforced.

## **Proposition 27**

November 8, 2022

### **Allows Online and Mobile Sports Wagering Outside Tribal Lands. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means: Licensed tribes or gambling companies could offer online sports betting over the Internet and mobile devices to people 21 years of age and older on non-tribal lands in California. Those offering online sports betting would be required to pay the state a share of sports bets made. A new state unit would be created to regulate online sports betting. New ways to reduce illegal online sports betting would be available.

A **NO** vote on this measure means: Sports betting would continue to be illegal in California. No changes would be made to the way state gambling laws are enforced.

## **Proposition 28**

November 8, 2022

**Provides Additional Funding for Arts and Music Education in Public Schools. Initiative Statute.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means: The state would provide additional funding specifically for arts education in public schools. This amount would be above the constitutionally required amount of funding for public schools and community colleges.

A **NO** vote on this measure means: Funding for arts education in public schools would continue to depend on state and local budget decisions.

**Proposition 29**

November 8, 2022

**Requires On-Site Licensed Medical Professional at Kidney Dialysis Clinics and Establishes Other State Requirements. Initiative Statute.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means: Chronic dialysis clinics would be required to have a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant on-site during all patient treatment hours.

A **NO** vote on this measure means: Chronic dialysis clinics would not be required to have a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant on-site during all patient treatment hours.

**Proposition 30**

November 8, 2022

**Provides Funding for Programs to Reduce Air Pollution and Prevent Wildfires by Increasing Tax on Personal Income Over \$2 Million. Initiative Statute.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means: Taxpayers would pay an additional tax of 1.75 percent on personal income above \$2 million annually. The revenue collected from this additional tax would support zero-emission vehicle programs and wildfire response and prevention activities.

A **NO** vote on this measure means: No change would be made to taxes on personal income above \$2 million annually.

**Proposition 31**

November 8, 2022

**Referendum on 2020 Law That Would Prohibit the Retail Sale of Certain Flavored Tobacco Products.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means: In-person stores and vending machines could not sell most flavored tobacco products and tobacco product flavor enhancers.

A **NO** vote on this measure means: In-person stores and vending machines could continue to sell flavored tobacco products and tobacco product flavor enhancers, as allowed under other federal, state, and local rules.



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Sustaining Member: \$5,000 +  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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