



WEEKLY UPDATE
October 16 - 22, 2022

ATTEND A BI-COUNTY PARTY OCTOBER 28
JOINT EVENT WITH COLAB SLO AND COLAB SANTA BARBARA
SPEND A FUN EVENING WITHOUT ISSUES
DETAILS BELOW

COLAB'S

Meet Me Halfway Is Back, Baby!

Friday, October 28, 2022

At the Santa Maria Fair Park

Starring

Tammy Pescatelli

Verbal Assassin



Includes
Steak Dinner by Testa Catering!
Hosted Bar!
and a Great Comedy Show!

*Reserve early
for best seats!*

\$1,250 for a table of 10 guests.

\$125 per person.

Reserve Tickets Online at www.colabsbc.org

Or by Mail at:

COLAB PO Box 7523 Santa Maria CA 93456

THIS WEEK



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



MAJOR WATER SECURITY STEP

Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics (DESAL) Plan

MOST POSITIVE & SIGNIFICANT POLICY ITEM IN 12 YEARS

CONSOLIDATED HOMELESS TEAM OFFICE

\$19,000 PROBATION DRUG DOG TO BE HIRED

BACK-UP WATER TO BE FLOWED INTO COUNTY

2022 COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM RESULTS

LAFCO AGENDA VERY LITE

LAST WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

**3C ENERGY AUTHORITY BANKS AND INVESTS
IN SACRAMENTO AND CANADA**

CRUMBS GO TO MEMBER AGENCIES

3CE USING YOUR ELECTRIC PAYMENTS TO BAN NATURAL GAS

**PLANNING COMMISSION SEEKS MORE INFO
ON PLANS FOR MONARCH DUNES REVISIONS**

**APCD HEARING BOARD
APCD EPIPHANY: DUST IS NATIVE TO DUNES
HEARING BOARD VOTED 3/2 FOR FAIRER APPROACH
WILL COASTAL COMMISSION INTERFERE?**

EMERGENT ISSUES

CARBAJAL TRIPPIN' ACROSS THE AISLE!

BY ANDY CALDWELL

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 15

EXPLAINING CONSERVATISM

The next time a liberal or left-wing friend or relative asks you what conservatives stand for, say "liberty"—especially free speech

BY DENNIS PRAGER

**CA SEN. SHANNON GROVE SCHOOLS GOV.
NEWSOM ON DEMOCRATS' HIGH GAS/OIL COSTS**

'Your policies have created this problem & pain at the pump that is hurting every single California family'

BY KATY GRIMES

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, October 18, 2022 (Scheduled)

Item 5 - Request to 1) approve a lease with NKT Properties, LLC et al on behalf of the Department of Social Services, the new Homeless Services Division for approximately 5000 square feet of improved office space located in San Luis Obispo, CA, through October 31, 2027, in the amount of \$116,280, with options to extend through October 31, 2032; and 2)

authorize a budget adjustment, in the amount of \$80,433 for the proposed lease space rent to FC 180, by 4/5 vote. This is a positive action that will implement the consolidation of the new Homeless Services Division into one office space. The Division's staffers consist of employees transferred from other departments and new hires. This office consolidation will allow the group to function as a team, communicate regularly, and report personally to their division head.

Item 8 - Request to 1) approve an amendment to the Fixed Asset list for (FC) 139 – Probation to purchase and train one (1) Police Service Dog – Detection to implement the Canine Program that was approved in the FY 2022-23 budget and 2) authorize a corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of \$19,000 by 4/5 vote. Although the purpose of the dog is not specifically stated in the write-up, it is likely to be a drug sniffer dog. A quick check of the web suggests that a well-trained dog costs an average of between \$10,000 and \$16,000.

The write-up does not specify the full cost of the K-9 program, including staffing, transport, and care. Similarly the write-up lacks any information about the problem that the program is intended to reduce or eliminate, nor does it contain any existing or proposed performance measures. How many stashes of drugs possessed by probationers are discovered each year, month, week, and day? How many probationers per year are discovered to have a stash?

Since recreational cannabis is now legal, how is the program impacted?



Item 9 - Submittal of a resolution to 1) approve and authorize the Chairperson to execute a water transfer agreement between the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) and the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to transfer 1,000 acre-feet of State Water Project (SWP) water in response to emergency conditions; 2) authorize the Director of Public Works to execute the Department of Water Resources' water transfer letter agreement that permits the transfer to CCWA; and 3) adopt proposed guidelines for emergency SWP water allocations and 4) authorize the Director of Public Works to administer the emergency SWP water allocations and develop short-term SWP water transfers in response to local water supply emergencies. The item, if approved, would

allow staff to acquire 1,000 ft. acre feet of surplus water from the County drought buffer stored in the State Water project system. The detail contains a list of qualification priorities and a cost formula.

In concept, the District would make a one-time transfer of 1,000 acre-feet (AF) of its stored SWP water (unused supply from previous years) to CCWA in Santa Barbara County, and in return CCWA would provide the District with additional water treatment and delivery capacity to deliver an additional 1,000 AF of SWP water to local agencies whose existing supplies of water are impacted by the drought emergency. In response, your Board directed Public Works staff to develop (1) a SWP water transfer with CCWA as a drought mitigation strategy, and (2) criteria to prioritize which agencies would be eligible to receive the emergency water made available through the transfer. Both items are now being brought back for your Board's review and approval.

Item 18 - It is recommended that the Board receive and file the 2022 Final State Legislative report. The Board will hear an update on bills benefiting the County and counties in general. It will also receive information on the State Budget and related matters.

Item 19 - Submittal of a resolution authorizing staff to proceed with developing the Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan in coordination with other participating water-purveying agencies and stakeholders and authorizing the Director of Public Works, or designee, to pursue grants to offset project costs and return to the Board of Supervisors for grant award approval. This is a very positive step, which we have been advocating for years. If approved and supported, it is the largest and most important policy considered by the Board of Supervisors over the last 10 years. It is not clear why the timelines in the graphic below, particularly for phases 1 through 3 are so long.

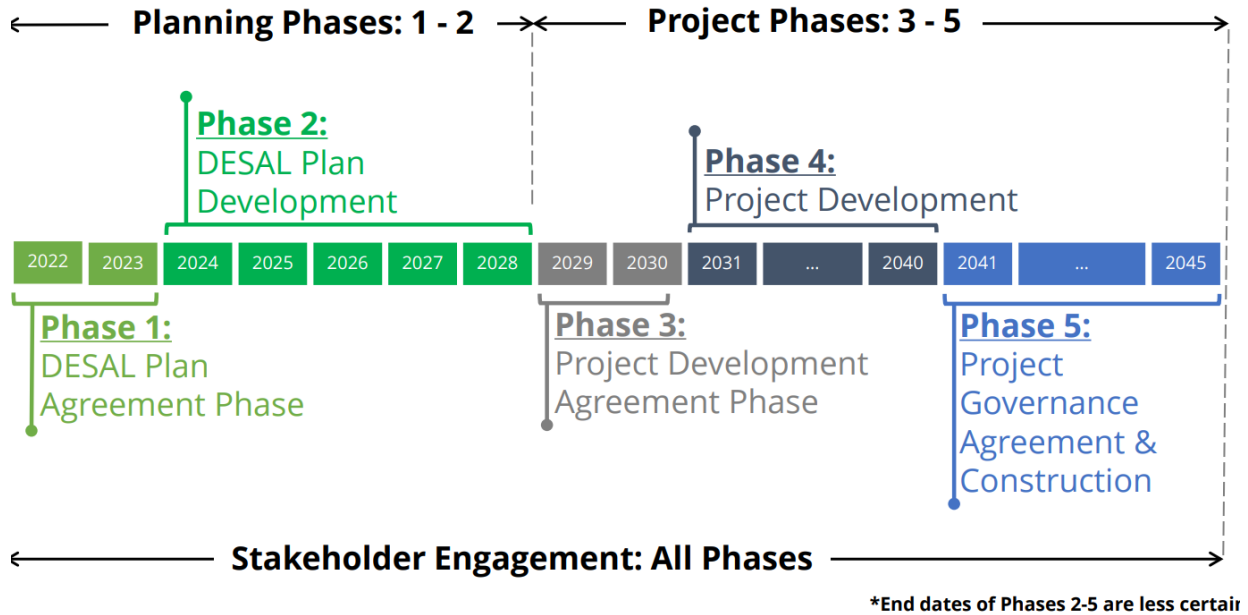
The staff has done a brilliant job by designing a project in which the phases build on one another to result in an implementable solution or mix of solutions. The preservation of nuclear energy in San Luis Obispo County could provide immense competitive advantage. This one will require the formation of a sophisticated and hard-core project team along with repeated follow up by the Board of Supervisors.

The last major strategic policy adopted by the Board was the so-called smart growth land use disaster back in 2009. That policy essentially ended any significant development in the unincorporated county and condemned the current younger generation to low paying gig worker service sector jobs and the inability to own a home. Housing starts plummeted from prior decades' levels. Homelessness surged; government expanded; mental illness, drug addiction, and dependency metastasized while many elected officials at the County, cities, special districts, and authorities chased phantoms of catastrophic global warming.

Conversely, the development of the feasibility of industrial scale desalination and its subsequent implementation will have major benefits, not just over decades but perhaps centuries. One need only reflect on the impacts of aqueducts and paved roads in the ancient world, the development and wide scale deployment of windmills in medieval times, the advent of ocean-going ships in Renaissance, the spread of railroads in the 19th century, and the rapid expansion of controlled access highways in the 20th Century. Governments supported these capital investments, which increased the standard of living and promoted private investment.

Large scale desalination as an adjunct to surface water systems, and groundwater would add redundancy, resiliency, and survivability as conditions change and population grows.

DESAL Project Roadmap



<p>Phase 1: DESAL Plan Agreement Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Board direction to proceed on path to desalination (Today's recommended action) • Get resolutions from agencies agreeing to be evaluated in DESAL Plan (Fall '22) • Develop and vet scope of work with participating agencies (Winter '22/Spring '23) • Establish stakeholder and public engagement process (implement through all phases) • Seek/pursue grant opportunities (continue through all phases) • Review scope of work/engagement process with the Board/direction to proceed (Summer '23)
<p>Phase 2: DESAL Plan Development Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District procure consultant • Implement public engagement process • Identify project concept alternatives, vet, and analyze • Rank and select preferred project
<p>Phase 3: Project Development Agreement Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment from project partners to pay for and proceed with project development and all efforts necessary to get to construction phase
<p>Phase 4: Project Development Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed project design, permits and environmental processes, operations and distribution plans, right of way negotiations, water supply and Governance Agreement negotiations, Financing plan
<p>Phase 5: Project Governance Agreement and Construction Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute Governance agreement for construction and ongoing maintenance



Item 20 -Submittal of a resolution authorizing San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to execute and implement an agreement with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for funding of Delta Conveyance Project preliminary planning and design costs for calendar years 2023 and 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$1,295,173. State water contractors such as the County must participate in the cost of developing the Delta Conveyance Project should they wish to receive increased water if the project is ultimately approved and constructed. As noted below, the near-term funding involves the engineering design and preparation of an EIR.

It is prudent for the County to continue to participate in the hope that the project will ultimately be constructed and provide more state water. The water now flows out to sea each year instead of being captured and sent south. The enviros generally disapprove of the project.

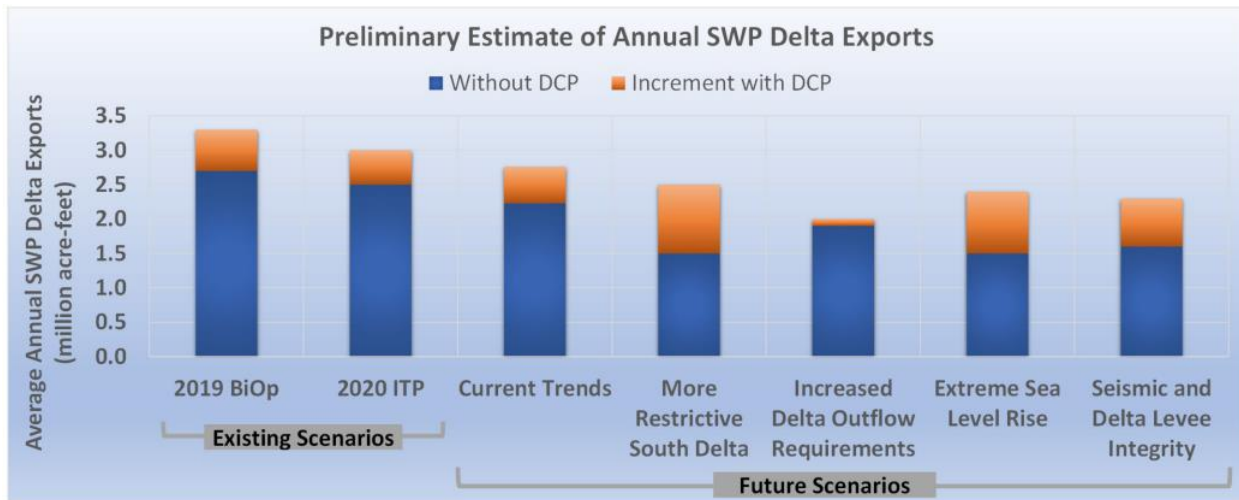
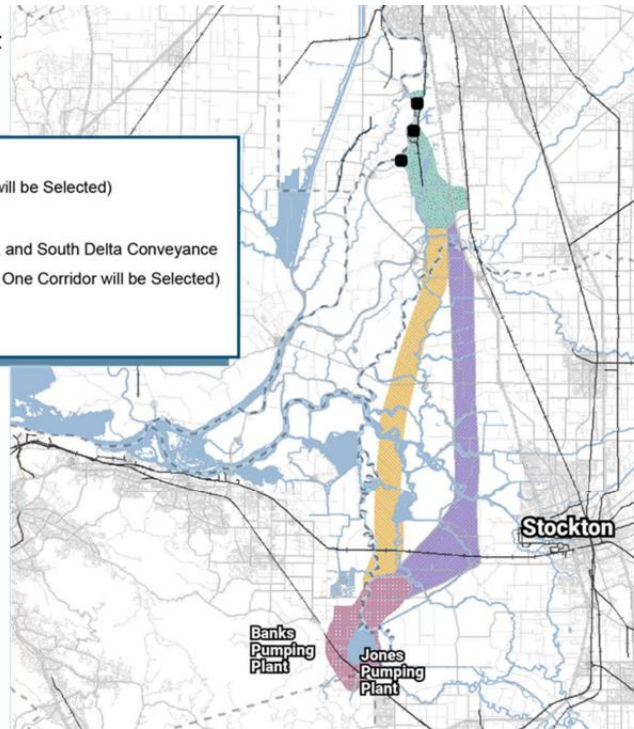
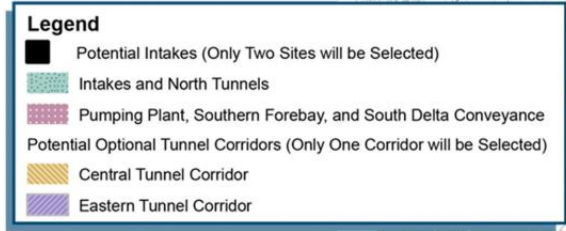
On November 17, 2020, your Board approved Resolution No. 2020-244 (Attachment 1), authorizing the District's provisional participation¹ at 0.6% in the proposed Delta Conveyance Project² (DCP). The DCP seeks to protect the delivery reliability of the State Water Project (SWP) water supply for the District and other SWP Contractors³ that depend on the water transport infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The resolution also authorized execution of an agreement with DWR (Funding Agreement) (Attachment 2) for the District's share of costs to complete the preliminary environmental review, planning and design. However, given that the DCP was in the early stages of development and subject to change, the Funding Agreement allowed the District to limit its initial financial commitment at \$750,000 to cover the first two years (calendar years 2021 and 2022), with the option to commit additional funding for calendar years 2023 and 2024, upon future Board approval.

During the first two years, DWR and the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) used the initial funding to make substantial progress on the environmental planning and permitting, which is on schedule and budget. DWR released the Public Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR)⁴ on July 27, 2022, documenting potential environmental impacts, and the DCA recently published the Final Draft Engineering Project Reports⁵ (EPR's) describing conceptual designs for the proposed project (the Bethany Reservoir Alignment⁶) and alternatives. Per schedule, DWR is now requesting funding for the remaining planning and design costs. An estimated cost share and schedule for the District and its Subcontractors⁷ is included in Attachment 4.

This agenda item recommends that the Board continue District participation by authorizing \$1,296,000 for preliminary planning and design costs covering the next two years (calendar years 2023 and 2024), pursuant to the terms of the Funding Agreement and letter (Letter Agreement) (Attachment 3) with a copy of a resolution (Attachment 6). This option allows the District to continue with the majority of the SWP Contractors and DWR to complete the environmental review and identify a preferred project alternative (per CEQA). Updated modeling based on the preferred project design will then be used to develop a cost-benefit analysis for SWP Contractors to evaluate the benefits of the DCP⁹ and decide on long-term participation.

The project is estimated to cost \$15.9 billion in 2020 dollars.

**Delta Conveyance Project
Proposed New Facilities**



Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, October 20, 2022 (Scheduled)

The agenda is very short. It contains an item required by State law that allows it to meet remotely by teleconferencing. Separately, it contains a postponement of proposed From Ranch annexation to the City of San Luis Obispo.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, October 18, 2022.

Central Coast Community Energy Authority (3CE) Operations Board Meeting of Wednesday, October 12, 2022 (Completed)

The meeting items largely consisted of updates on various aspects of the Authority's Operations.

These included:

- Full FY 2021 Financial Reports.
- Distribution of green energy grants member agencies and other entities.
- Updates on the regulatory environment and specifically on the financial vice in which the 3CE and the other community choice energy authorities (CCE's) are trapped. The State requires that they have sufficient ability to receive the power needed to supply their member agencies citizens. At the same time they are attempting to ramp up the amount of CO₂ free and green energy mix in their portfolios. These two goals, which often do not match, result in cost pressure. This in turn results in 3CE having more difficulty in maintaining its rates lower than PG&E and SCE.
- Ensuring that the cities and counties in the southern territory of the Authority have sufficient representation on the Operations Board.

Item 5 - Investments and other Matters. One of the updates in this item pertained to the Authority's new investment strategy:

LIQUIDITY AND RESERVES MANAGEMENT UPDATE August marked the start of CCCE's new liquidity and reserve management strategy. Under the strategy, detailed by Staff at the June 2022 Policy Board of Directors meeting, excess cash will be allocated to higher-yielding instruments authorized by CCCE's Investment Policy. Staff allocated \$75 MM to RBC Asset Management (GAM) Global¹ under a contract approved by the Operations Board of Directors



¹ Royal Bank of Canada headquartered in Toronto, Canada.

at its June meeting; RBC GAM began managing the funds on August 11. Annualized yields in August on this allocation were approximately 1.8%, reflecting the partial month.

Staff also negotiated an agreement with River City Bank, CCCE's commercial banking partner, to invest in treasury-indexed Certificates of Deposit (CD). These CDs yield Treasury rates + 10 basis points on the date of execution and waive penalties if CCCE needs to withdraw funds early due to business needs. In August and September, Staff allocated \$25 MM to these products with a weighted average maturity of 3.9 months and a weighted average annualized yield of approximately 3%. For reference, the iShares Short Treasury Bond ETF, which consists of US Treasury bonds maturing in less than a year, had an annualized yield of 1.67% for the August 11-August 31 period. Staff will begin including performance benchmarks in September, the first full month using the new strategy

River City Bank (RCB) of Sacramento, the largest local bank in the Sacramento Region, has been 3CE's bank since its inception as Monterey Community Power. It turns out that RCB has cornered the market as the bank of choice for many of the community energy authorities throughout the state. Its deposits have grown exponentially since the advent of the CCEs.

In fact, RCB has created a whole new division within its corporate structure to cater to the CCEs.



Rosa Cuciccea is the SVP/Director of Clean Energy Division. She has had a fast rise within RBC, having started out as a teller in the Roseville branch.

The Clean Energy Division will be headquartered in San Francisco, not Sacramento. Cuciccea reportedly lives in Berkeley and is a candidate for an MBA from the prestigious UC Berkeley Hass School of Business. She has a BA in economics from UC Davis. Cuccicea has received the highest academic honors and serves in a number of volunteer leadership posts.

Coincidentally, Steve Fleming, the CEO of River City Bank, also has a BA in Economics from UC Davis and an MBA from Hass.

For all the palaver about 3CE supporting local business, Monterey Bank, Santa Maria Bank, and Montecito Bank aren't going to see any of these funds.²

Whereas PG&E employs 2,000 people in SLO County who do their banking, shopping, and investing in SLO County, 3CE employs 40 people in Monterey and exports its surplus to Sacramento and Canada. Whereas PG&E generates millions in property taxes in SLO County, 3CE pays no taxes. Instead, it passes out patronage in the form of a few million in grants to the cities and not-for-profits for EV charging stations and electric garbage trucks. Rosa Cuccicea will be sipping Moët & Chandon Imperial Champagne at Restaurant Bix in SF on your dime, while you suck in the odor of pot from the field down the road from your place.

² It should be noted that Royal Bank of Canada maintains a Wealth Management office in Santa Barbara.

Like the proverbial “county families,” it appears that the CCE family is beginning to emerge. Oh well, Go Bears!

You should be enraged and vote out the city council people and county supervisors who perpetuate this scam.

Item 6 - 3CE Community Energy Programs. This was a discussion item on the status of the various programs in which the 3CE doles out patronage for electric vehicles, clean energy grants, and other goodies to the cities and counties. One such program is providing grants and staff assistance to the jurisdictions to establish REACH codes. REACH codes are amendments to the Building Code to require the banning of natural gas furnaces, appliances, and other devices in new construction. These will ultimately be expanded to impact replacements in existing buildings and homes.

3CE is pushing these, even though its main business is supposed to be delivering green energy at a lower cost than the investor-owned utilities. COLAB admonished the Operations Board members (these are city managers and county CEOs) to provide objective information on gas versus electric heating costs, redundancy, and citizen preference to their respective county supervisors and city councils. They should not roll over for every quirky idea of the staff.

In a quick check of the Operations Board minutes of recent meetings, we could find no instance where any member voted no on a staff recommended item.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, October 13, 2022 (Completed)

Item 5 - Hearing to consider a request (LRP2021-00003) by Monarch Dunes LLC to amend the Monarch Dunes Specific Plan to modify the allowable land uses of four sites within the Monarch Dunes Specific Plan area: Site #1 (Village Center) is proposed to be redesignated from Commercial Retail land use to Recreation-Resort land use, to support up to 65 hotel rooms (a reduction and reallocation from the 400-room hotel allowable on Site #3); Site #2 (Village Center) is proposed to retain the Commercial Retail land use designation, but would be modified to support up to 40 condominium residential dwelling units on the second floor (above commercial retail spaces) and to decrease the maximum allowable floor area for commercial uses from 140,000 square feet to 38,500 square feet; Site #3 (Resort Area) is proposed to be redesignated from Recreation-Resort land use to Residential Single-Family land use, to support up to 76 residential dwelling units in the form of 38 common wall developments; and Site #4 (Public Park Area) is proposed to be redesignated from Public Park land use to Residential Single-Family land use, to support 46 residential dwelling units in the form of 23 common wall developments. Due to the complexity of the item, the Commission gave some direction and also requested new pieces of information. At least one more session will be required before it is sent to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration and action.

Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg’s 3rd District Planning Commissioner, Kristina Simpson-Spearman, was particularly prescient and high-level in focusing on balancing strategic housing issues and the impacts on existing residents. She helpfully distilled the issues in an analytical and calm manner during a meeting when the residents were clearly opposed. The other Commissioners were also very good as well.

Background. The overall thrust of the item is to reduce acreage that had originally been planned for commercial, recreational, or a hotel, and increase the area to residential.

Some of the residents are unhappy with various aspects of the proposed changes and feel that they are being cheated out of what they were promised when they purchased their properties. A problem is that small commercial uses sited in resort type housing developments usually do not work.

Table 1: Summary of Net Overall Changes to Specific Plan				
	Adopted Specific Plan	Proposed Amendment (Initial Application)	Proposed Amendment (Current)	Net Change (Based on Current Proposed Amendment)
Residential Primary Dwelling Units	1,320 dwelling units	1,482 dwelling units	1,482 dwelling units	162 dwelling units increase
Commercial Retail Use Floor Area	140,000 sq. ft.	51,680 sq. ft.	38,500 sq. ft.	101,500 sq. ft. decrease

Hotel Capacity	400 hotel rooms	97 hotel rooms	65 hotel rooms	335 hotel room decrease
Public Park (Active Use)	1 planned active-use public park	0 planned active-use public park	0 planned active-use public park	Removal of the planned active-use public park

SLO Air Pollution Control District Hearing Board Meeting of Friday, October 14, 2022 (Completed) - By Teleconference Only: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81331654308>

Item 6 - Hearing to consider the Air Pollution Control Officer’s application to modify the terms and conditions of Stipulated Order of Abatement (Case No.17-01): In the Matter of California Department of Parks and Recreation - Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division – Oceano Dunes State Recreation Area. In the end, the 5-member Board voted 3/2 to support the modifications recommended by staff and an expert panel. This is very positive for maintaining off road riding and free style camping on the dunes and beach. Essentially, the State Parks and APCD will have more time to continue reducing the dust, since they have made substantial progress.

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

Nevertheless, many area residents spoke in opposition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AND

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

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

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

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

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

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - Carbajal Trippin' Across the Aisle! By Andy Caldwell

Congressman Salud Carbajal, who bills himself as a steadfast bipartisan who likes to “work across the aisle”, recently indicated that more and more republicans in Congress have “fascist tendencies”! Mr. Carbajal obviously does not understand what the word fascist means or he would find himself criticizing his own party through and through, root and branch.

Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973) taught in Vienna and New York and is considered the leading theorist of the Austrian School of the 20th century. In his book “Omnipotent Government”, he writes “we have seen (from the Nazi government’s relationship with business)...that the Zwangswirtschaft (a combination of the German words for compulsion and economy) is a socialist system of all-round government control of business”. Mises resolutely rejected the canard that Nazism was an expression of monopoly capitalism. To the contrary, Nazism was a form of socialism: the forms of private property were retained, but control and planning were in the hands of the state.

Sound familiar? It is not the republicans who are complaining about capitalism and who advocate for the need for all-around government control of free enterprise. However, the democratic party, including unions and environmentalists, to name just a few sycophants, have been seeking control of our economy by way of government rules, regulations, taxes, mandates, and subsidies with abandon. California, being a one-party state completely controlled by dems will help us count the ways!

With respect to water, a group of California farmers decades ago taxed themselves to build a dam and a water conveyance to ensure they could grow food. Our federal and state government, led by environmentalists, absconded with the water for purposes of fish migration and endangered species protection. The end result? Over one million acres of land in the San Joaquin Valley, the most fertile valley in the world, has gone back to desert.

With respect to energy, California is sitting on top of billions of barrels of oil, both onshore and offshore, not to mention trillions of cubic feet of natural gas. This wealth in the form of natural resources was the second (black) gold rush that made California one of the wealthiest states in

the union. Yet, various prohibitions and regulations have fomented the demise of in-state production, all the while we have become the largest importer of oil (and electricity!) in the union replete with the highest gas (and electricity!) prices too.

Regarding transportation, California is leading the nation in an attempt to eliminate the sale of gasoline-powered cars and diesel-powered trucks, which in turn, will force manufacturers to cease production of the same or lose out on the largest market in the country. This, despite the fact, that we don't have enough electricity or the infrastructure to charge electric vehicles and most people can't afford to purchase the same.

Private ownership of land and resources is basically extinct. For one, the federal government owns most of the Western United States. Secondly, California controls virtually every aspect of private use of one's property, including limiting water rights, building rights, innumerable environmental restrictions on the use of property as it relates to and affects the natural resources thereon, not to mention zoning machinations, and endless permitting regimens.

Regarding labor, Dems eliminated a million or so private contracting jobs via AB5, and now they are promulgating so-called "project labor agreements" that prevent some 85% of non-union construction workers from working on government construction projects. Further, they have created a scheme to bankrupt the fast-food industry by way of a "commission" to regulate hours, wages, and working conditions.

There you have it, Salud! Compulsive state control of water, energy, transportation, private property, and labor, who could ask for anything more? Certainly not the republican party.

Andy Caldwell

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

EXPLAINING CONSERVATISM

The next time a liberal or left-wing friend or relative asks you what conservatives stand for, say "liberty"—especially free speech.

BY DENNIS PRAGER

There are a number of reasons many young people shy away from conservatism.

The most obvious is that they have been exposed only to left-wing values—from elementary school through graduate school, in the movies, on television, on social media and now even at Disneyland.

Less obvious but equally significant is that they have never been properly exposed to conservative values. Since at least the World War II generation, most parents who held conservative values either did not think they had to teach their children those values or simply did not know how to do so. Most still don't. If asked to define conservative values, most conservatives will be tongue-tied.

In light of this, I present here, and in subsequent columns, a list of conservatism's defining characteristics.

We will begin with the most important conservative value—liberty.

Conservatives believe in individual liberty (there is no liberty other than individual liberty). It has been the primary value of the American experiment. While many countries include the word "liberty" in their national mottoes and national anthems, no country has so emphasized liberty as has America.

That is why:

- The French designers of the Statue of Liberty gave the statue to America.
- The iconic symbol of America is the Liberty Bell.
- The one inscription on the Liberty Bell is a verse about liberty from the Book of Leviticus: "And you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."
- Americans sing of their country as "the land of the free" and "sweet land of liberty."
- Until recently, every American schoolchild knew by heart Patrick Henry's cry, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
- Chinese young people who protested the Communist takeover of Hong Kong waved the American flag.

And that is why America's founders were adamant that the state—the national government—be as small, as limited, as possible. The bigger the government, the smaller the liberty. Big government and big liberty are mutually exclusive.

Moreover, liberty is not the only victim of big government. Human life is also a victim. Every genocide of the 20th century, the century of genocide, was committed by big government. Without big government, one hundred million people would not and could not have been slaughtered, and a billion more would not and could not have been enslaved. (There was one exception: the Hutu genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, which was tribal in nature. Tribal culture, like left-wing culture, emphasizes the group over the individual.)

In order to limit the size and power of the national government, the founders delegated most governmental powers to the states. They did so in the Constitution by specifying what powers the national government had and by asserting that all other powers be delegated to the states. In addition, they increased the power of the states by having presidential elections decided by the states—the Electoral College—rather than by the popular national vote, and by how they

structured the Senate, one of the two branches of Congress. They gave every state equal representation in the Senate, no matter how small the population of the state.

The Left's opposition to the Electoral College and to the Senate makes perfect sense. It is the power inherent in big government, not liberty, that animates the Left. The defining characteristic of every left-wing party and movement in the world has always been an ever bigger and therefore more powerful government.

Liberty is a liberal value as well as a conservative value, but it has never been a left-wing value. Liberty cannot be a left-wing value because the more liberty individuals have, the less power the government has. Conversely, the weaker the state, the weaker the Left.

This especially holds true for the greatest of all liberties—free speech.

Free speech is a fundamental conservative value, and it has been a fundamental liberal value. But it has never been a left-wing value. For that reason, everywhere the Left is dominant—government, media, universities—it stifles dissent. The reason is simple: No left-wing movement can survive an open exchange of ideas. Leftist ideologies are emotion- and power-based, not reason- or morality-based. So, leftists cannot allow honest debate. They do not argue with opponents; they suppress them.

For the first time in American history, freedom of speech is seriously threatened—indeed it has already been seriously curtailed. With the ascent of the Left, the inevitable suppression of free speech is taking place.

That liberals—who have always valued liberty and free speech—vote for the great suppressor of liberty, the Left, is the tragedy of our time. The reason they do so is that liberals forgot what they stand *for*; they only remember what they believe they stand *against*: conservatives.

So, the next time a liberal or left-wing friend or relative asks you what conservatives stand for, say “liberty”—especially free speech. And explain that is why you fear and oppose big government—because big government and individual liberty cannot

Dennis Prager is a nationally syndicated radio talk-show host and columnist. His latest books include [*The Rational Passover Haggadah*](#) and [*The Rational Bible*](#), a commentary on the book of Genesis. His film, "No Safe Spaces," is now available on DVD and BluRay. He is the founder of Prager University and may be contacted at dennisprager.com. This article first appeared in the American Greatness of October 12, 202.

CA SEN. SHANNON GROVE SCHOOLS GOV. NEWSOM ON DEMOCRATS' HIGH GAS/OIL COSTS

'Your policies have created this problem & pain at the pump that is hurting every single California family'

BY KATY GRIMES

While California Governor Gavin Newsom is warning he may call a Special Session of the Legislature to impose additional tax increases on oil companies, it is surprising he professes no idea how gas prices in California are so much higher than other states. Gov. Newsom has the temerity to ask why, and is making grotesque accusations.

This is the last thing suffering Californians need. Californians already pay the highest income taxes the nation, have the highest taxes on the wealthy, highest gas taxes and highest gas prices at the pump, highest housing prices, highest energy prices, most regressive taxes hurting the poor... need we keep going? Gov. Newsom's latest proposal is a new tax on oil suppliers, and will only serve to make gas prices even higher.

Sen. Shannon Grove boiled down the actual problem of California's highest-in-the-nation gas prices and gas taxes to this in a letter to the governor:

“With isolated markets, an inability to access additional fuel that meets California’s stringent standards, the most hostile regulatory requirements, the most aggressive environmental policies, the extraordinary expense of cap and trade, the highest tax per gallon of gasoline, impossible standards that are not found in any other state in the nation, and limited supply, there is really no need for additional explanation of why California has the highest and most volatile, gas prices in the nation. Simply put, your [Governor] policies have created this problem and have caused the pain at the pump that is hurting every single California family. In fact, federal judges have continued to throw out cases alleging price conspiracies by the fuel industry finding no basis for the allegations that you continue to levy.”

In 1982, California had 43 operational oil refineries and a population of nearly 25 million; today we have 11 operational oil refineries and a population of nearly 40 million. And these 40 million residents are driving more cars, living in more houses and apartments, working in more commercial buildings, shopping in more stores, and traveling more across the state – all of which takes more traditional energy.

“For those keeping score, prices in California are now \$2.56 above the national average and our state budget has grown \$100 billion since Newsom took office,” Republican California Assemblyman Kevin Kiley said last week.

“Californians are paying the highest gas prices in the entire nation thanks to the state’s ‘windfall gas tax profits,’” the Globe reported Friday. “The average price for a gallon of gas in the U.S. is \$3.891 according to AAA. California’s average price for a gallon of gas is \$6.392. Gas in Mono county California is \$7.82 per gallon. The average gas price in Los Angeles County California is \$6.410 per gallon. The average gas price in Napa County California is \$6.56 per gallon. The average gas price in San Luis Obispo County California is \$6.554 per gallon. This means Californians are paying a \$2.55 premium on gas in many locations.”

The Globe also addressed Gov. Newsom’s claim that oil companies “are ripping you off. Their record profits are coming at your expense.” Newsom left out the part where in 2021 he largely killed hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in California as part of his overall plan to end oil extraction. He also announced his action to halt issuance of fracking permits by 2024.



Senator Shannon Grove. (Photo: Senator Shannon Grove)

Gov. Newsom also just signed a package of “sweeping climate legislation” in September to achieve statewide carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045, by establishing an 85% emissions reduction target, capping oil wells, slowing oil and gas permitting, making it impossible to increase refining capacity, and entirely phasing out oil and gas starting in two years. And that’s just the start.

State Senator Shannon Grove, (R-Bakersfield), sent Gov. Newsom a letter schooling him on his attempt to deflect from the real causes of high gas prices in California – Democrat’s policies.

Here is Sen. Grove’s letter to the governor. This should be required reading in every Econ 101 class:

“I write to you today in response to your call for a special session to address high gas prices and to apply a windfall tax on the oil industry. Let me start by saying, I am surprised that you act as if you have no idea how gas prices in California can be so much higher than other states, and that you are making outlandish accusations regarding the oil industry. Sir, please see the explanation below to better understand how California has ended up in the unaffordable green nightmare you have created with your fairytale policies:

1.
 1. California Democrats have created the most expensive operating environment in the United States.
 2. California has the most hostile regulatory climate in the United States.
 3. California Democrats have passed policies that have all but regulated refineries out of business in this state, or forced their closure, therefore limiting gas supply.
 4. When you shut down refineries, force them out of business, and simultaneously limit supply by withholding over 1000 drilling permits, it should come as no surprise that these actions would directly contribute to the increase of fuel cost in California.
 5. California is the only state that requires refiners and producers to comply with a cap and trade tax. This tax has yielded over 5 billion dollars thus far and is a cost which is passed onto consumers.
 6. You have stripped California’s domestic stability and made us reliant on hostile nations by forcing us to import more fuel from foreign countries at the expense of our ecosystem due to the extraordinary release of carbon from vessels that bring us the oil this state so desperately needs and consumes each day.

7. California refiners must produce a “special blend” of fuel that meets low carbon fuel standards that are not required in the rest of the nation. This “special blend” is more expensive to produce and limits our ability to access fuel from other states.

“Sir, I may be an Arvin girl born and raised by a single mother but I do not need this simple equation explained to me over and over, and neither does the rest of California. You may try to explain your way out of this crisis by blaming everyone but yourself, but Californians can see a fox explaining what happened to the henhouse when they see it. If you really want to create solutions, reverse the devastating policies you have put in place, ramp up domestic production and make California affordable again.

Considering the solution to this significant issue resides in my own backyard with Kern County oil production, I would be more than happy to walk you through next steps when you are ready to come to the table.”

Remember, California Democrats diddled for 100 days to provide relief at the pump for the state’s drivers from the record high gas prices,” the Globe reported in June. California Democrats abandoned the opportunity for a gas tax holiday, and then announced they were forming a new committee to investigate gas price gouging to make it appear they were doing something. As for Gov. Newsom’s special session of the Legislature in response to rising gas prices, “We’re hoping to do more with this windfall profits tax to go after big oil,” he said Thursday at the climate change compact signing in San Francisco. Newsom’s solution is to accuse oil companies of hoarding “windfall profits,” and to impose additional taxes.

This isn’t a climate plan, but a tax plan.

Sen. Grove is right: Gov. Newsom’s and Democrat’s policies have created this problem and have caused the pain at the pump that is hurting every single California family.

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?



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