



WEEKLY UPDATE
October 23 - 29, 2022

THIS FRIDAY IS IT!

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

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

**MAJOR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
REVISIONS TO PASO BASIN WATER MORATORIUM
TOUGH SITUATION EVERY WHICH WAY**

**ADDENDUM I - STATE BALLOT PROPOSTIONS
PAGE 30**

LAST WEEK

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MAJOR WATER SECURITY STEP ADOPTED

**Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics (DESAL) Plan
MOST SIGNIFICANT POLICY ITEM IN 12 YEARS**

**COUNTY BEAVERS ONCE THOUGHT EXTINCT
NOW THERE IS AN ACTUAL INFESTATION OF THE ACQUATIC RODENT**



**FUR COATS AND CANNABIS TO REPLACE OIL AND NUCLEAR ENERGY AS
COUNTY ECONOMIC EXPORTS?**

**CONSOLIDATED HOMELESS TEAM OFFICE APPROVED
PROVIDES FACE TO FACE TEAM ACTION & ACCOUNTABILITY**

\$19,000 PROBATION DRUG DOG APPROVED

**BACK-UP STATE WATER APPROVED
COUNTY WILL DISTRIBUTE TO LOCAL DISTRICTS**

**2022 COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM RESULTS
THE COUNTY LOBBYISTS WERE A LITTLE TONGUE IN CHEEK
THEY KNOW THAT SACRAMENTO IS DESTROYING THE STATE**

LAFCO AGENDA VERY LITE

EMERGENT ISSUES

**BRIGADE OF 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
DEPLOYED 3 MILES FROM UKRAINE BORDER WITH ROMANIA**

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 20**

**MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IN CALIFORNIA HAS
GONE MISERABLY, SO OFFICIALS ARE EXPANDING
DRUG ENFORCEMENT**

*The Golden State promises a progressive, environmentally
conscious, labor-friendly war on weed.*

BY SCOTT SHACKFORD

**THE CENTRAL IMPORTANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE
AND HOW RIGID IDEOLOGY MISSES THE MARK
BY EDWARD RING**

WHY THE LEFT HATES CONSERVATISM PART II

What does the Left wish to conserve? The answer is nothing. That's why everything the Left touches, it destroys. The less you conserve, the more you destroy.

BY DENNIS PRAGER



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 (Not scheduled)

The next scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday, November 2, 2022.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, October 27, 2022 (Scheduled)

Item 5 - Hearing to consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo (LRP2021-00001) to amend Title 8 and Title 22 of the San Luis Obispo County Code and the Agriculture and Conservation and OpenSpace 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 Paso Basin Land Use Management Area until 2045, with a 25-acre-feet per year exemption allowed per site ("planting ordinance"). This item is the long-awaited effort to remedy the water use Catch 22 to which a number of smaller farmers have been subjected in the Paso Basin. The Paso Basin water moratorium urgency ordinance was adopted in 2013. It was converted into a permanent ordinance in 2015. Its key operative provision is that new agricultural wells (generating increased acre feet of water usage) cannot be approved unless an equal acre foot offset can be proven.

The provision means that the prospective permittee must buy credits from someone else, fallow an equivalent amount elsewhere in the basin, or convert high water use crops to lower use crops. One of the premises of the ordinance is that the calculation of increased water use is based on a

parcel's prior historic use (now called the look back period). For example, a parcel with an historic use of 400 acre-feet per year is entitled to keep pumping 400 acre-feet per year.

The Timing Formula for the 25 Acre or less users who turned off their pumping:

Historical Summary: One group of farmers, usually smaller units, who grew annual crops such as vegetables, hay, and flowers had ceased planting in the years prior due to a multiyear drought. Their rationale had been that once the draught ended, they would resume planting and irrigating. When the drought ended, the County told them they could not resume pumping because they did not have a sufficiently current historic use. Some members of the Board and especially Supervisor Arnold have sought a means to amend the moratorium ordinance to allow those caught in the trap, and those who would use 25 acre-feet or less per year, to be allowed to resume pumping. The plan states in part:

The proposed ordinance would allow planting per verified 25-AFY exemptions anytime while the ordinance remains in effect (until 2045) and allow an 18-month period to plant per an issued "water neutral" planting permit. The 18-month planting period for a "water neutral" planting permit would need to start within a six-year lookback period from the irrigation stop date for the crop(s) previously irrigated on site.

And

The planting permit time limits are depicted graphically in Figure 2 below. Planning staff would verify final planting with a site inspection and be authorized to conduct annual site inspections as need to verify continued compliance with the approved planting plan while the ordinance remains in effect.

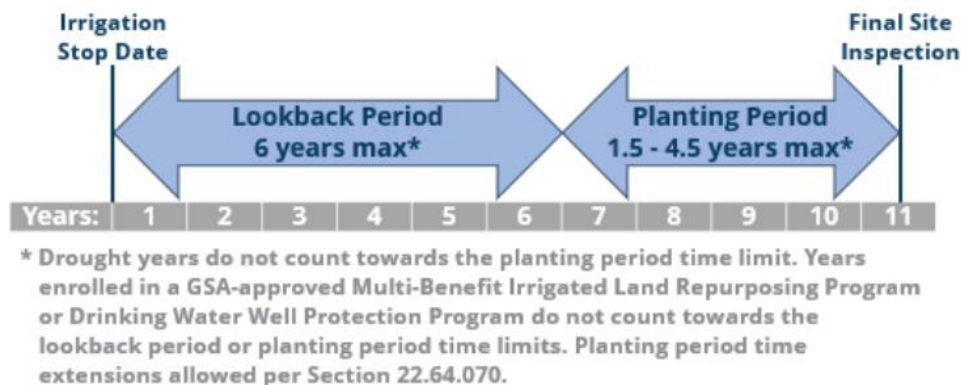


Figure 2: Planting Permit Time Limits: Lookback Period and Planting Period

The CEQA Trap

At first Arnold and some of the Board members believed this to be a relatively simple amendment to the ordinance. County Counsel then dropped the bomb. Since the basin has now been regulated under the zoning ordinance via the moratorium and other provisions, any changes would now require a CEQA analysis. Once regulation is established, you can never amend it or diminish it without a CEQA assessment. It is like government sponsored heroin addiction. It gets worse and worse.

The level of significance was determined to require a full environmental impact report (EIR), which has now been completed. The 405-page document contains 25 unmitigable Class I Impacts that challenge the Planning Commission and ultimately the Board of Supervisors to find a rationale for approval of the amendments. The list is draconian:

The proposed project's significant, immitigable, unavoidable adverse effects are as follows:

1. Impact AQ-2: The proposed planting ordinance would generate criteria pollutants that would exceed applicable SLOAPCD thresholds.

2. The proposed planting ordinance's contribution to significant cumulative air quality impacts would be considerable. Attachment 5 County of San Luis Obispo Paso Basin Land Use Management Area (PBLUMA) Planting Ordinance CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations Program Environmental Impact Report September 2022 Page 35

3. Impact BIO- 1: The proposed planting ordinance would potentially result in substantial adverse impacts on special status plant and animal species, either directly or through habitat modifications.

4. Impact BIO-2: The proposed planting ordinance may result in substantial adverse impacts on sensitive habitats, including riparian and wetland habitats.

5. Impact BIO-4: The proposed planting ordinance may substantially interfere with wildlife movement, including fish migration and/or impede the use of a native wildlife nursery.

6. The proposed planting ordinance's contribution to significant cumulative biological resources impacts would be considerable.

7. Impact CUL-1: The proposed planting ordinance could result in potentially significant impacts to historical resources either directly and/or indirectly.

8. Impact CUL-2: The proposed planting ordinance could result in potentially significant and unavoidable impacts to archeological resources.

9. The proposed planting ordinance's contribution to significant cumulative cultural resources impacts would be considerable.

10. Impact GEO-4: The proposed planting ordinance has the potential to impact paleontological resources through ground-disturbing activities.

11. The proposed planting ordinance's contribution to significant cumulative paleontological resources impacts would be considerable.

12. Impact GHG-1: The proposed planting ordinance would generate GHG emissions in excess of SLOAPCD project-specific significance thresholds.

13. *Impact GHG-2: The proposed planting ordinance would be potentially inconsistent with applicable plans, policies, and regulations designed to reduce GHG emissions.*
14. *The proposed planting ordinance's contribution to significant cumulative GHG emissions impacts would be considerable.*
15. *Impact HYD-2: The proposed planting ordinance would result in a combination of decreasing water levels and increasing pollutant amounts throughout the PBLUMA that may degrade groundwater quality.*
16. *Impact HYD-3: The proposed planting ordinance would decrease groundwater supplies such that sustainable groundwater management of the Paso Robles Subbasin would be impeded.*
17. *Impact HYD-5: The proposed planting ordinance may result in water quality impacts within the Paso Robles Subbasin that conflict with goals reducing water quality pollution, achieving water quality objectives, and maintaining beneficial uses identified in the Basin Plan.*
18. *Impact HYD-6: The proposed planting ordinance would allow increased groundwater extraction that would conflict with the GSP's goal of sustainable groundwater Attachment 5 County of San Luis Obispo Paso Basin Land Use Management Area (PBLUMA) Planting Ordinance CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations Program Environmental Impact Report September 2022 Page 36 management and with the GSP's projections for groundwater extraction within the Paso Robles Subbasin.*
19. *The proposed planting ordinance's contribution to significant cumulative impacts to hydrology and water quality, except for surface water quality, would be considerable.*
20. *Impact LU-1: The proposed planting ordinance would result in potential General Plan policy inconsistencies regarding air quality, groundwater, biological resources, GHG emissions, cultural, tribal cultural and paleontological resources.*
21. *The proposed planting ordinance's contribution to significant cumulative impacts to land use and planning would be considerable.*
22. *Impact TCR-1: The proposed planting ordinance includes activities that may involve surface excavation, which has the potential to impact previously unidentified tribal cultural resources.*
23. *The proposed planting ordinance's contribution to significant cumulative tribal cultural resources impacts would be considerable.*
24. *Impact UTIL-2: The proposed planting ordinance would increase water use and exacerbate overdraft conditions within the PBLUMA, adversely impacting water supply.*
25. *The proposed planting ordinance's contribution to significant cumulative impacts to water supply would be considerable*

Staff and the EIR consultant sure threw the book at this idea. Many are ridiculous. For example the poor people already had plowed fields in the first place. How will tribal artifacts be impacted by applying water to the same fields that were already plowed? Isn't food crucial to our survival?

COLAB Warning Ignored:

It should be noted that COLAB warned the Board back in 2013 and 2015 that adoption of the moratorium ordinance would activate CEQA if future modifications or repeal were to ever be considered. COLAB and others begged the Board to instead endeavor to have the largest users and new users forbear expansion voluntarily. Also COLAB recommended that best irrigation practices, ground water recharge facilities, bladder dams, use of treated sewer water, and other measures be implemented instead. Nevertheless, the moratorium was adopted by law. Now of course, the very mechanisms which COLAB had recommended originally are included in the Paso Basin SGMA Ground Water Sustainability Plan (the GSP).

The County staff has proposed some mitigations to attempt to forestall some of the CEQA problems, but these add limitations in lieu of the relief that the small users will gain. At the same time, they inadvertently negatively impact the larger users who have the capital and flexibility to acquire credits, swap crops, and otherwise play in the water offset game.

Meanwhile, the county's large environmental lobby is opposed to expansion of water pumping in the basin on any basis.

These circumstances have created a considerable de facto alliance of organizations and individuals who are opposed to the revisions.

Political Implications:

On the political front, some of these have contributed heavily to Supervisor Bruce Gibson in the belief that if he is reelected, the ordinance amendments, if approved this year, will be terminated next year.

District 2 Supervisor Campaign:

Bruce Gibson has brought in heavy duty consultants, including the firm Fairborn, Maslin, Mullin & Metz - \$31, 500 so far. (FM3). They run campaigns for Nancy Pelosi, Newsom, and other heavies. Other expenditures include 13 Stars Media in Atascadero, which runs weekly newspapers in Atascadero, Paso Robles, Cambria, and other places. TJA Advertising in Pismo (\$65,114), KSBY \$13,585, and others are also large contract recipients. As of September 24,

07/13/2022	Don Ernst San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	attorney Ernst Law Group	2,000.00	4,000.00	
07/25/2022	Carla Haynie Nipomo, CA 93444	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Retired Retired	5,000.00	5,000.00	
07/28/2022	Jimmy Paulding for County Supervisor 2022 (ID# 1436749) Arroyo Grande, CA 93420	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		300.00	1,489.00	

2022, Gibson had raised \$401,000. A partial list of some of Gibson's more substantial contributions is displayed below. Note that a number of wine related individuals are on the list.

Continued on the next page:

07/31/2022	Stuart Warrick Cambria, CA 93428	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	retired retired	2,000.00	4,000.00
08/02/2022	Jerome Lohr Saratoga, CA 95070	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Winegrower & Vintner J. Lohr Vineyards & Wine	5,000.00	10,000.00
08/02/2022	Kathleen Maas San Miguel, CA 93451	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Vineyard & Winery Owner Pear Valley Estate Wine	1,000.00	2,000.00
08/05/2022	Warren Jensen San Luis Obispo, CA 93405	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Retired Retired	500.00	500.00
8/07/2022	Stephen Sinton Santa Margarita, CA 93453	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Rancher Self Employed, No Separate Business Name	1,000.00	1,000.00
8/19/2022	Fredman, Smith & Branch San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		3,000.00	3,000.00
08/19/2022	Fair Sky Properties San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		5,000.00	5,000.00
8/26/2022	IBEW PAC Educational Fund52-2257109 Washington, DC 20001	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		2,500.00	7,500.00
08/28/2022	Democrats of San Luis Obispo Club (ID# 1397816) San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		10,385.00	24,685.00
09/02/2022	Michael Armstrong Cambria, CA 93428	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Retired Retired	2,500.00	11,250.00
09/07/2022	Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Small Contributor Committee (ID# 870169) Camarillo, CA 93012	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCC		10,000.00	16,250.00

09/09/2022	Democrats of San Luis Obispo Club (ID# 1397816) San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		2,700.00	24,685.00	
09/10/2022	Ty Safrano San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Business Owner Trust Automation Inc.	2,500.00	4,500.00	
09/13/2022	Robert Crizer Los Osos, CA 93402	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Owner Design/Buid Company Crizer Design/ Construction	200.00	2,200.00	
09/13/2022	Carol Devore		Retired	100.00	100.00	
9/15/2022	Neil Cassidy Paso Robles, CA 93446	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Chief Financial & Operating Officer DAOU Vineyards	3,000.00	3,000.00	
09/19/2022	Central Coast Labor Council Political Action Committee (ID# 890222) Long Beach, CA 90802	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		2,500.00	4,500.00	
09/19/2022	Robert Crizer Los Osos, CA 93402	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Owner Design/Buid Company Crizer Design/ Construction	250.00	2,200.00	
09/28/2022	James Ledbetter Lodi, CA 95240	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Grape Grower, Partner Vino Farms, LLC		3,000.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Loan _____% Provide interest rate
09/28/2022	Planned Parenthood Central Coast Action Fund Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Committee ID # 1278950	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC			1,500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Loan _____% Provide interest rate

Mitigation Measures:

As noted above, attempts to mitigate some of the CEQA impacts are objectionable in themselves. The table below summarizes several:

Table 1: Summary of Mitigation Measures, Applicability, and Monitoring Methods

Mitigation Measure	Required for Planting Permit and/or 25-AFY Exemption	Monitoring Methods	
		Application	Annual Site Inspections
AQ-1 Construction Emissions Reduction Dust control measures.	Both	Self-certification	Verify measures are in place
BIO-1 Riparian and Wetland Habitat Setback No planting within 50' of riparian or wetland vegetation unless planted when ordinance took effect.	Both	Show on site plan	Verify compliance with site plan
GHG-1 Carbon Sequestration Incorporate conservation practices to sequester carbon at 0.15 MT CO ₂ e per acre of planting per CDFA Healthy Soils Program guidelines.	25-AFY Exemptions	Show in site plan and provide CDFA COMET calculations	Verify measures implemented per site plan
UTIL-1 Well Metering and Reporting Reporting monthly groundwater extraction.	Both	Identify well(s) in site plan	Verify participation in County GSA-approved groundwater extraction program or well meter installed during final planting inspection
UTIL-2 Hydrology Report Verification of no more than two feet of drawdown over five years in off-site groundwater wells within 750 feet.	25-AFY Exemptions	Submit with application as applicable	NA

1. Why would dust control be an issue for resuming irrigation on land that had previously been irrigated? Water applied to soil limits dust.
2. Riparian and wetland setbacks force farmers to take land out of production. A 50 ft. setback along a 1000 ft. blue line stream (one that rarely has water in it) would take out 50,000 sq. ft., or nearly an acre. This could be very punitive for small operators.
3. Carbon Sequestration seems like a double dip. Growing plants already removes carbon from the atmosphere. Why would the County increase the requirement in exchange for a permit to turn on a well that has previously been in production?
4. The big guys don't like the metering requirement but will nevertheless have to do it under SGMA.
5. The larger operators are opposed to the Hydrology report requirements.

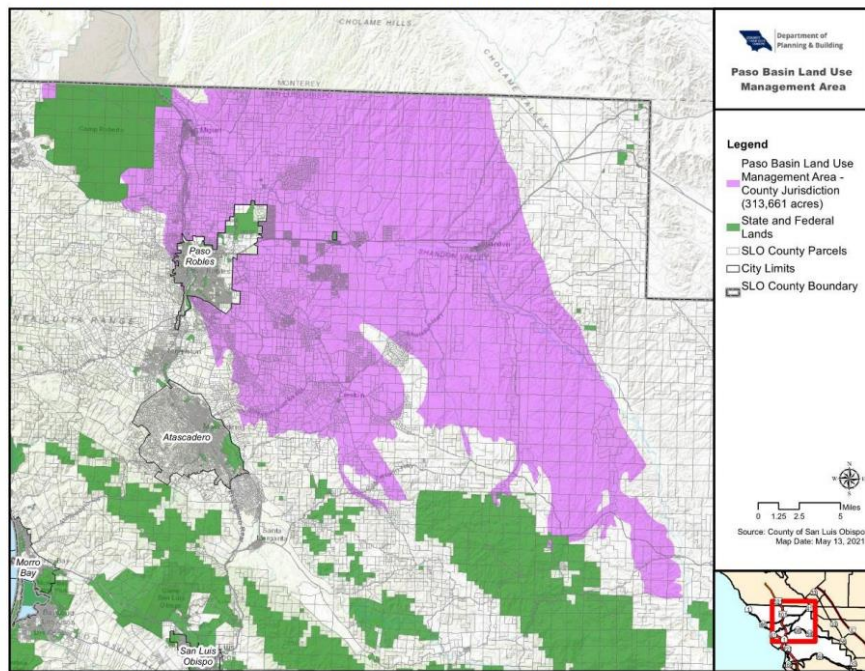
Impacts of the Proposed and alternative options:

Table 2: Summary of Project Alternatives

Alternative	Estimated Increase in Water Demand by 2045	Meets Project Objectives?
Proposed project	9,900 AFY	Yes
1. No Project – Agricultural offsets terminate August 2023	16,400 AFY	No. Would not continue to use County land use authority to regulate plantings using PBLUMA groundwater.
2. Continue agricultural offset requirements through 2025	13,360 AFY	
3. No exemptions in area of severe decline	8,712 AFY	No. Would not allow growers to plant who have not been able to under the existing agricultural offset requirements
4. No exemptions	Unknown	
5. Exemptions only for Williamson Act contracts	5,830 AFY	

PROJECT SUMMARY The attached ordinance (Attachments 1 and 2) and resolution (Attachment 3) would amend 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 new and expanded crop production irrigated from groundwater wells within the Paso Basin Land Use Management Area from January 31, 2023 through January 31, 2045 (22 years), allowing a 25-acre-foot per year (“AFY”) exemption per site to continue to exercise the County’s land use authority to regulate irrigated crop planting and to allow farms to irrigate that have not been able to under the current agricultural offset requirements.

Figure 2-1 Paso Basin Land Use Management Area (PBLUMA)



LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

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

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 positive action was approved. It 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. The purchase was approved on the consent calendar without question or comment. 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 not 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 was approved and would allow acquiring 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.

Questions about using County water funds and general funds that are supported by everyone, not just user districts, went unanswered.

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 17 - General Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda - County beavers once thought extinct. It turns out that now there is an actual infestation of the aquatic rodent.



The Beaver coats can fetch from \$6,000 to \$12,000 plus. These are perfect for trips to Tahoe, Shaver, Mammoth, and for winter shopping expeditions to NYC. You will look stunning stepping out of the limo at the Sherry Netherland Hotel on 5th Avenue or a Metropolitan Opera House gala. For that matter, even San Francisco and Las Vegas can have some cool nights.

The beautiful garments are also perfect for the upcoming Gavin Newsom for President Fund Raisers in Napa, Pacific Heights, Atherton, Montecito, and Bel-Air.

Also, what better way is there to signal your absolute disdain for all the old time Conservationists who pre-date the new private jet setting woke climatist enviro-socialists.

What an economic development opportunity for SLO County! No oil, gas, or plutonium is involved. The Beaver ponds provide habitat for steelhead, reptiles, birds, and a

standing water source. The ponds also allow water time to percolate downward and recharge the aquifers. Agencies can include the ponds in their SGMA GSP's.

The Beaver are a renewable resource when managed properly and not over harvested. The carcasses need not be wasted. Beaver meat is red, rich, and delicious. Wild Beaver meat should be marinated for at least 24 to 48 hours and cooked in a crock pot with favorite spices, herbs, fresh ginger, fresh garlic, and fresh onions. Have you ever tried Beaver with Indian Curry Powder? Try it.



See the website - For more info click the link:

[Come to a beaver pond - SLO Beaver Brigade](#)

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

The lobbyists appear to be a bit cynical about the State government and all the machinations. They thinly disguised their general disgust.

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 was approved unanimously and constitutes 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.

Background: 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.

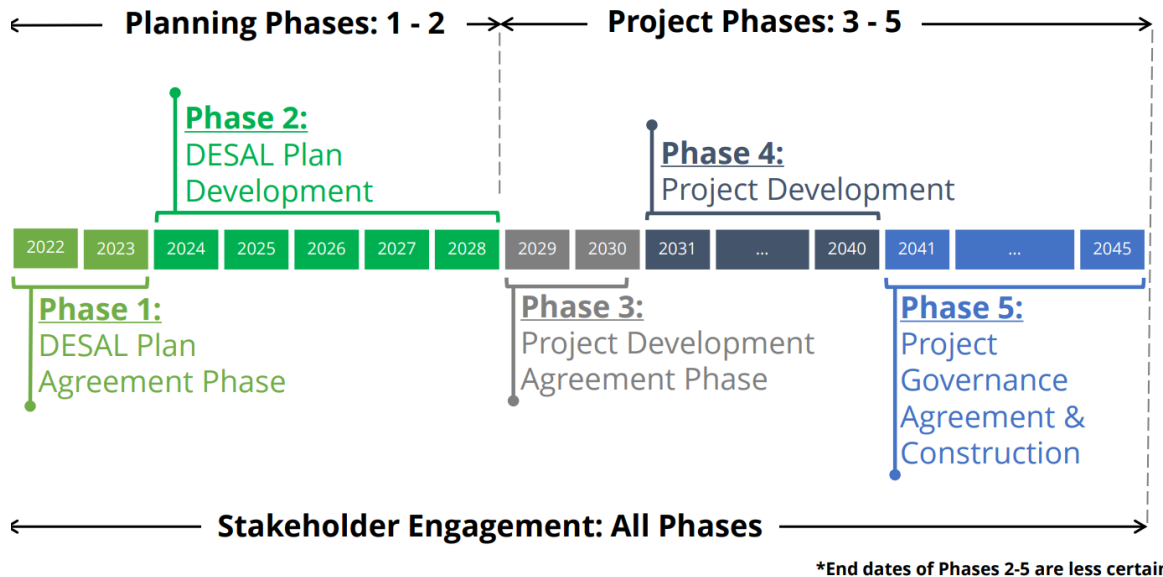
The last major strategic policy adopted by the Board was the so-called smart growth land use disaster back in 2009. That policy essentially ended any significant development in the unincorporated county and condemned the current younger generation to low paying gig worker service sector jobs and the 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, and 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. The Board approved extending the County's participation in the next phase of the feasibility development. This is a positive step for now. Questions arose about whether the State would honor any expanded availability, in that the current contracts are not honored.

Background: 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 will 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.

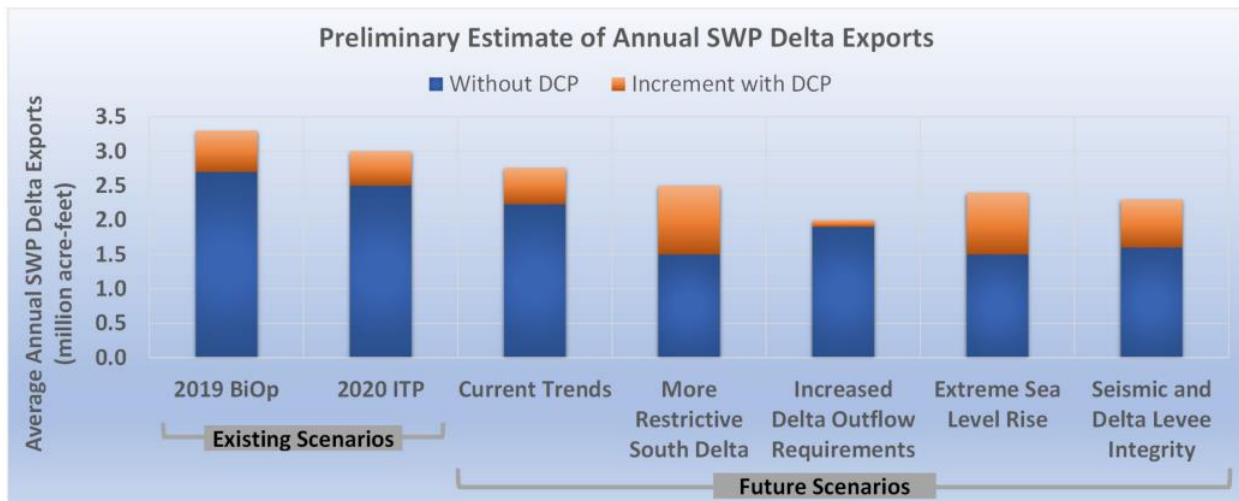
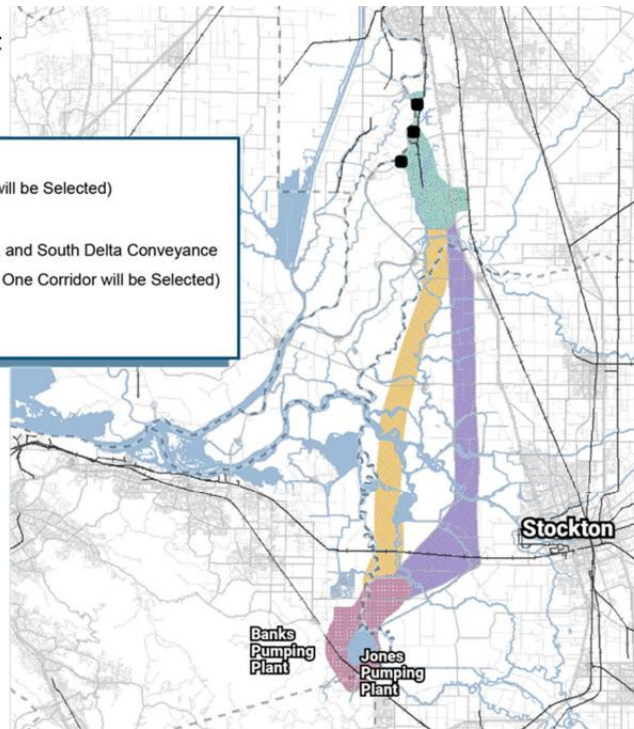
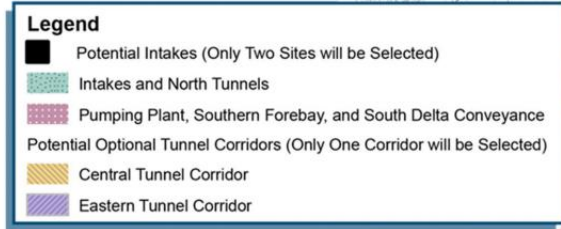
On November 17, 2020, your Board approved Resolution No. 2020-244 (Attachment 1), authorizing the District's provisional participation¹ at 0.6% in the proposed Delta Conveyance Project² (DCP). The DCP seeks to protect the delivery reliability of the State Water Project (SWP) water supply for the District 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
(Completed)**

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

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - American troops locked and loaded next to Ukraine Border. Reportedly, one brigade (about 4,700 soldiers) is on the ground in Romania. The army appears to be rotating one 101st Division brigade to the area every 6 months.

A CBS report from October 22nd states:

Mihail Kogălniceanu, Romania — The U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division has been deployed to Europe for the first time in almost 80 years amid soaring tension between Russia and the American-led NATO military alliance. The light infantry unit, nicknamed the "Screaming Eagles," is trained to deploy on any battlefield in the world within hours, ready to fight.

CBS News joined the division's Deputy Commander, Brigadier General John Lubas, and Colonel Edwin Matthaidess, Commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, on a Black Hawk helicopter for the hour-long ride to the very edge of NATO territory — only around three miles from Romania's border with Ukraine.

From the moment Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, his forces have advanced northward from the Crimean Peninsula, a Ukrainian region that Moscow illegally seized control of in 2014. For more than seven months, Russian troops have tried to push along the Black Sea coast into the Kherson region, aiming to capture the key Ukrainian port cities of Mykolaiv and Odesa.

Their goal is to cut off all Ukrainian access to the sea, leaving the country and its military forces landlocked.

That threat, so close to NATO territory in Romania, is why one of America's most elite air assault divisions has been sent in, with some heavy equipment.

"We're ready to defend every inch of NATO soil," Lubas told CBS News. "We bring a unique capability, from our air assault capability... We're a light infantry force, but again, we bring that mobility with us, for our aircraft and air assaults."

Skirting northward along Romania's Black Sea coast, the Black Hawk eventually touched down at a forward operating site where U.S. and Romanian troops were pounding targets during a joint ground and air assault exercise.

The tank rounds and artillery fire were real. The drill was meant to recreate the battles Ukraine's forces are fighting every day against Russian troops, just across the border. The war games so close to that border are a clear message to Russia and to America's NATO allies, that the U.S. Army is here.

"The real meaning for me, to have the American troops here, is like if you were to have allies in Normandy before any enemy was there," Romanian Major General Lulian Berdila told CBS News, referring to the landmark World War II battle on France's north coast. The American forces have been establishing a garrison at the Romanian military's air base.

In all, about 4,700 soldiers from the 101st Airborne's home base in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, have been deployed to reinforce NATO's eastern flank.

Matthaidess told CBS News that he and his troops were the closest American forces to the fighting in Ukraine. From their vantage point, they've been "closely watching" the Russian forces, "building objectives to practice against" and conducting drills that "replicate exactly what's going on" in the war.

"It keeps us on our toes," he said.

The "Screaming Eagles" commanders told CBS News repeatedly that they are always "ready to fight tonight," and while they're there to defend NATO territory, if the fighting escalates or there's any attack on NATO, they're fully prepared to cross the border into Ukraine.
War in Ukraine



It is not clear exactly where the soldiers are situated next to the Border; however, it appears to be in Tulcea County, which is about 201,000 in population verses SLO County with 285,000. It is in the Danube River Delta region, which supports vacation rentals and agriculture. VBRO shows 56 vacation rentals. This Delta region is very swampy and does not seem like a great place for either the Russians or the United States to launch an invasion either way. Perhaps the Board

should make Tulcea County a sister county. A portion also fronts on the Black Sea, which contains some resort areas.

Are we actually deterring Putin by placing our troops in a very large marshy area separated from Ukraine by the Danube River Delta?

Deep Background: Ironically, the Romans operated 3 auxiliary forts in Tulcea County from about 102 AD into the 400's, when the area was abandoned to the Gothic and Hunnic invasions. Remember, 300 years is longer than the United States has existed as a nation. Ironically, nothing has changed much in the last 1600 years. A Hun is a Hun whether named Attila or Vladimir.



Page sample from a Tulcea County VBRO ad.

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

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IN CALIFORNIA HAS GONE MISERABLY, SO OFFICIALS ARE EXPANDING DRUG ENFORCEMENT

*The Golden State promises a progressive, environmentally conscious,
labor-friendly war on weed*

BY SCOTT SHACKFORD



(DPST/Newscom)

California Attorney General Rob Bonta has announced nearly a million marijuana plants were eradicated in a multi-agency 13-week enforcement effort to stop illegal grow operations across the state. Furthermore, this annual three-month program, first launched in 1983, is going to be transformed into an ongoing task force.

California's marijuana legalization has gone so poorly that the state is actually *expanding* the drug war.

The enforcement program Bonta refers to is the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP). It was founded as part of the war on drugs to try to tackle the many illegal marijuana grow operations across a massive state with huge swathes of undeveloped land.

The data itself is a fascinating look at how little drug legalization means when a state's regulatory systems are so oppressive that it undermines the legal market. In 1984, CAMP's first full year of operation, the program was responsible for the eradication of 158,000 marijuana plants. In 2022, after almost 40 years of a drug war and eight years of legalization in the state, that number has

grown to 974,000 plants, spread across 449 operations in 26 counties, according to the October 11 announcement from Bonta's office.

Despite the bragging tone of Bonta's release, full of quotes from various agency heads about how awesome it is to work together to "bring a whole government approach to combating the damage caused by illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands," the state is by no means winning this struggle. **The numbers show that California has both failed to make a dent in illegal marijuana growth during the drug war that launched CAMP, and it has also failed to make a dent in illegal marijuana growth after the drug was made legal.**

As Bonta announced CAMP's annual numbers, he also announced that this 39-year-old drug war relic will "transition" into something EPIC. I'm not kidding. It's called the Eradication and Prevention of Illicit Cannabis (EPIC) task force.

Under legalization, California is actually expanding the scope of this enforcement system far beyond what it was under prohibition.

Bonta has been attempting to rebrand the drug war to make it seem modern and very, very progressive. There are no references to "cartels" in his release, no mentions of any arrests at all (unlike this report from 1988 that emphasizes the number of arrests along with the seizures of guns and vehicles), and, fortunately, no fearmongering about the effects of marijuana use or protecting children from the scourge of drug predators.

Instead, the transition to EPIC seems to be an attempt to characterize the drug war as a progressive law enforcement measure to protect California's undeveloped wildlands and enforce the state's employment regulations. "With the transition to EPIC, we're taking the next step and building out our efforts to address the environmental and economic harms and labor exploitation associated with this underground market," Bonta writes.

This is how Bonta has talked about marijuana enforcement since taking office last year. While there's no sensationalism or exaggerated lists of effects of drug use, there's a list of all the toxic chemicals associated with these illegal grow operations and mention of fears of the state's water supply being diverted. There's anger at how the black market grow operations undermine the state's extremely union-friendly laws with cheaper labor.



To be clear, many of these illegal grow operations are indeed dangerous and have resulted in predatory and violent behavior. The way that California has legalized marijuana—with exorbitantly high taxes and corruption-fueling local control mechanisms—has fueled the same dangerous black market the state saw under prohibition.

That also means that these new enforcement measures probably aren't going to accomplish Bonta's goal of eliminating illegal grow operations any more than the last four decades of drug war enforcement did. It's not a new solution to the problem—it's just rebranding the drug war as a progressive operation.

This article first appeared in the October 18, 2022 edition of Reason. Scott Shackford is an associate editor at *Reason*. His main beats include tech surveillance and privacy, criminal justice reform, LGBT issues, free speech and censorship, and sometimes wedding cakes. Shackford's writing has appeared in *Newsweek*, *The Orange County Register*, *The American Spectator*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *USA Today*, and elsewhere.

THE CENTRAL IMPORTANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOW RIGID IDEOLOGY MISSES THE MARK BY EDWARD RING

After I'd chastised him repeatedly for being the spoiler in the November 2020 battle between Republican David Perdue and Democrat Jon Ossoff to represent Georgia in the U.S. Senate, Shane Hazel invited me to debate him on his podcast.

During our lengthy discussion, Hazel demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, and we found ourselves in agreement on many if not most of the critical issues, starting with the First and Second Amendments. One topic I wish we could have spent more time discussing was the issue of infrastructure. As it was, I got nowhere with Hazel on that question.

Infrastructure requires careful definition these days. Leftists have recently repurposed the word to describe not pipelines and power grids but social services and public education. Where leftists trod, moderate Democrats and RINOs have followed, muddying the meaning by imposing a broad concept onto what should be straightforward and tangible. This isn't a trivial problem, because infrastructure, traditionally defined, demands painful clarity from ideologues committed to limited government.

For example, if you are going to build a pipeline to transport natural gas from wells to refineries and from there to end users, you have to lay the pipe in a route that minimizes material waste. The same reality holds true for high-voltage power lines, freeways, and railroads. Without the ability of government to exercise eminent domain, it would be impossible to secure easements to build these necessary assets.

Even infrastructure built with private funding, such as toll roads, can't be constructed without eminent domain. Without that legal authority, one private landowner occupying a small parcel in the path of a project could stop it cold.

The moral worth of eminent domain falls along a continuum, and where the line is drawn between justified versus unjustified use is subjective. Necessary pipelines, aqueducts, and power lines are on one end, and sports stadiums, "redevelopment," and urban renewal are on the other. And even in those less justifiable categories, history is filled with examples of glorious rebuilt cities arising on top of decaying slums, and only the arbitrary use of power made them possible.

But we don't have to go that far in this discussion. We're just trying to keep the lights on.

Regardless of your ideology, if you want your nation and the civilization it represents to endure, we need to make infrastructure a focal point of our philosophical deliberations and political agenda, not a boring afterthought.

Green ideology, now morphed into climate change extremism, backed by the most powerful institutions on Earth, has corrupted the infrastructure discussion in dangerous ways. Advocates of this ideology have stigmatized the upgrading or construction of virtually every conventional version of traditional infrastructure. New natural gas and oil pipelines, new refineries or reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants, and freeways are all off the table, and we can't even fix the old ones. Meanwhile, the infrastructure we are building, oriented towards "renewables," is extremely expensive and obviously inadequate.

For a Democrat or a Republican in name only, it's best not to challenge green ideology. You don't dare. Conventional infrastructure is not only environmentally incorrect, it's also racist. The logic goes something like this: Low-income neighborhoods are near infrastructure that pollutes because the pollution makes the areas less desirable, lowering home values. People of color are disproportionately in low-income households; therefore, pollution disproportionately harms them; therefore, infrastructure is racist.

That branch of libertarian ideology one might dub "Libertarian, Inc.," pays close attention to these pieties. I recall attending a conference sponsored by libertarian mega-donors a few years ago, where one of the sessions focused on finding common ground between libertarians and progressives on housing issues. The room was filled with earnest libertarians who seemed desperate to curry favor with the progressives on the panel. One of the popular refrains heard that day, and many times since, was that single-family homes must be abolished because we must not subsidize the car. Get it? Home equals car equals road equals subsidies.

This is pretzel logic. But once employed, it forces you to play defense on several fronts. Single-family homes are "exclusionary" (translation: *racist*), they are unsustainable, and the infrastructure to support them drains public funds. If that isn't enough, those public funds are now—and now more than ever—coveted by powerful public employee unions who want that money to increase their pay and shore up their pensions.

The Case for Cost-Effective Infrastructure

The argument in favor of government investment in infrastructure is not subtle. If we don't subsidize enabling infrastructure, we will end up subsidizing every household that can't afford the higher prices that come with scarcity. In the 1950s and 1960s, California was a magnet for working families because the state government spent up to 40 percent of its general fund to build freeways, reservoirs, and aqueducts.

At the same time, a deregulated private sector did its part. Energy companies were permitted to drill and refine oil and gas. Utility companies were encouraged to build natural gas and nuclear power plants. Timber companies maintained fire roads and kept high-voltage transmission line corridors cleared, while harvesting and milling lumber for construction. This was a highly functional interplay between public and private interests, resulting in an environment where every basic necessity of civilization was abundant and affordable. Homes went up along with schools and parks, companies poured in to offer jobs, and *everyone* in California prospered.

Today the entire equation is inverted. After 40 years of neglected infrastructure, we have clogged freeways, rationed water, expensive and unreliable energy, and needlessly expensive building materials. The policy response to these government-created shortages has been to zone high-density multi-family "infill," hoping to cram new residents into the footprint of existing power, water and transportation assets.

Every basic necessity is close to unaffordable to normal working families in California. And now food prices are rising so it's going to get much worse, because irrigation water and fertilizer require forbidden infrastructure.

Instead of fixing these mistakes and investing in real infrastructure, "infrastructure" has come to mean government-subsidized "affordable housing," school lunch programs, and other expensive social services that would not be necessary if genuine infrastructure were delivering affordable abundance.

The special interests that benefit from scarcity are hiding in plain sight. Public entities collect higher property tax revenue as assessments rise. Public utilities earn higher absolute profits as their regulated fixed profit percentage is calculated on far higher unit prices. High-tech firms sell mandated chipsets and software that are built into "smart" appliances, and appliance manufacturers find a whole new market as existing and very durable legacy appliances are deemed obsolete before their time. Renewable energy companies sell mandated electric vehicles, solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries—nearly all of them sourced from China. But even these layers of corruption by special interests are overshadowed by the way contrived scarcity creates new frontiers for *financialization*.

As interest rates go up, the amount any buyer can afford to borrow goes down, but the price of housing remains stable. Why? Because this time, hedge funds, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and institutional investors are buying everything in sight. In some cases, they're buying entire subdivisions. Cash-rich, these corporate investors don't finance their purchases, and therefore are indifferent to high-interest rates.

In an era of practical investment in enabling infrastructure and reasonable instead of punitive, prohibitive regulations, the cost to build homes would drop, artificial scarcity would not exist, prices would come down to earth, normal people could still afford homes, and America's last great avenue for ordinary households to build generational wealth would remain intact.

Infrastructure that enables affordable abundance also benefits small businesses because it makes it easier for them to compete with larger firms. Companies that are part of an oligopoly don't care how much their inputs cost, or how onerous regulations may become. This is one of the biggest misconceptions spread by leftists. Businesses that dominate their sectors will just pass higher costs on to their captive customers as they welcome more regulations. They've realized that more regulations will help them crush emerging competitors. That's why they've moved their support to the Democratic Party and embraced the Green New Deal.

What a paradox. Subsidized infrastructure—along with deregulation—helps small companies compete with big companies, fostering decentralization of private wealth and a higher percentage of financially independent individuals.

Do libertarians really want to offer cover for plutocrats and the oligopolies they control? Is that the version of capitalism and competitive enterprise they embrace? Whenever someone proposes a commonsense infrastructure project, the green team is out in full force to stop it. Backed by leftist billionaires and every major media property, the greens will smear the project and litigate in court. And if the outcome is nonetheless uncertain, since many people recognize the need and are willing to fight for, say, more water, more energy, more roads, libertarians come in and tilt the balance to kill the project. On principle, they'll object to any element requiring eminent domain, or the use of public funds.

It's hard to frame the ideological case for infrastructure in a seductive way. But its presence, and its absence, is felt everywhere. If principled libertarians would just support infrastructure, their support certainly would not preclude them from participating in revealing audits to compel more efficient use of public funds. If they reject the projects on principle, fewer get built, and those that do advance will lack another layer of public scrutiny.

Ultimately, libertarians have a choice: They can cozy up to progressives, exploiting the superficial synergy that finds green ideologues and small government ideologues united in stopping infrastructure projects. But then they'll confront instead an even bigger government, funding an even more expensive, more expansive, more exploitative "infrastructure," requiring even more subsidies.

Instead of helping to fund practical conventional solutions to deliver abundant water, energy, and transportation, the government will pay for smart water meters and smart appliance rebates, a renewable energy grid with all that will require, mass transit, affordable housing and housing subsidies, and social programs for the many who are economically disenfranchised by this unaffordable new world. It's going to be one or the other.

Edward Ring is a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. He is also a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. Ring is the author of Fixing California: Abundance, Pragmatism,

Optimism (2021) and The Abundance Choice: Our Fight for More Water in California (2022). This article first appeared in the American Greatness of October 19, 2022.

WHY THE LEFT HATES CONSERVATISM PART II

What does the Left wish to conserve? The answer is nothing. That's why everything the Left touches, it destroys. The less you conserve, the more you destroy.

BY DENNIS PRAGER

“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.”

That’s what I wrote last week¹ in explaining why I am “explaining conservatism.”

I discussed the preeminent value of conservatism—freedom, and the preeminent freedom—of speech.

Here, I will discuss an equally important conservative value, which derives from the word itself.

Conservatism conserves.

Conservatism attempts to conserve the best of the past—the best art, literature, and music, the best standards, values, and wisdom. Conservatism then passes the best of everything to every succeeding generation.

The Left—meaning progressives, not necessarily liberals—loathes the fact that conservatism preserves the past. That is why “change” is one of the most cherished words in the Left’s vocabulary. There is nothing more threatening or, perhaps more important, boring to a leftist than preserving the past. “New” and “change” provide leftists meaning and excitement.

As one involved in the music world (I periodically conduct orchestras), I have always been struck by how important it is to orchestra CEOs, music professors, and especially music critics that as much “new” music be played as possible. If a conductor prefers to program the classics, he is deemed a reactionary, while conductors who regularly program new music are heroes in the music world.

Music critics rarely discuss the question that preoccupies conservatives: Is this new piece of music good, let alone nearly as good as the classics? What matters to music critics is that the music is new—and, these days, that it was composed by a nonwhite person, ideally a woman.

¹ See last week’s Update for Part I.

Conservatives ask whether new music is good enough to warrant being played. They are preoccupied with excellence, not with newness or “change.”

This difference between conservatives and leftists/progressives applies to virtually every realm of life.

It explains the decision of the University of Pennsylvania’s Department of English to remove a large mural of Shakespeare and replace it with a mural of a gay female poet of color. No one in his or her right mind thinks that this poet is the equal of Shakespeare. But the members of the Penn English Department are not concerned with literary excellence. Shakespeare’s picture wasn’t replaced because his writing was surpassed. He was replaced because he was male, white, and straight. And most of all, he was replaced because he was old. He is an “old (or dead) white European male,” in the words of the Left.

Change and newness are so vital to leftists that a progressive who cared first and foremost about excellence would cease to be progressive.

Why are “new” and “change” intrinsic to leftism?

One reason, as noted, is excitement. Excitement is important to human beings because it provides an adrenalin rush and because it seems to be an antidote to boredom. When your child complains that he or she is bored, your child is really saying, “I want some excitement.” It is difficult to overstate how important boredom is in shaping human conduct. As I have long argued, S+A=B: Secularism plus affluence equals boredom. And boredom, in the contemporary world, leads to leftism.

Leftism is an endless search for exciting causes such as saving the world from alleged extinction; fighting “racism” and “white supremacy” in a largely nonracist America; combating “fascism” in what was—for more than 200 years, until the Left changed it—the freest country in the world; trying to force society to accept a brand-new definition of human sexual identity—namely that, contrary to all of recorded history, it is nonbinary. All these exciting causes are led by the affluent and secular. In other words, the bored.

A second reason for the Left’s love of the new and love of change is that if traditional standards of excellence are preserved, the talentless will fail. Just as the cultural Left fought to award every young person a trophy whether or not his or her team actually won, the Left declares every piece of junk “art.”

The conservative wants to pass on to every generation the best that human beings have created. Depriving young people of the greatest art, literature, music, and ideas is a form of child abuse. The result has been generations of ignorant and foolish people, many of whom are actively working toward the opposite of what the “progressive” label suggests: taking society backward.

I would wager a serious sum of money that most American college students could not spell “Beethoven,” let alone recognize any of his music, has never heard of Dostoevsky, and would not recognize a single sculpture or painting by Michelangelo. Instead, they learn about “preferred pronouns.”

For these reasons, the end of conservatism must lead to the end of Western civilization. When you don't conserve the ideas and art, the religious moral values, and even the nuclear family that made Western civilization the most advanced civilization—materially, morally, scientifically, and artistically—ever devised, you will no longer have that civilization. You will have morally confused, emotionally broken, lonely, and angry young people—who will eventually wreak havoc on all that is good and worthy of surviving.

We conservatives want to conserve the beautiful, the profound, and the wise.

What does the Left wish to conserve? The answer is *nothing*. That's why everything the Left touches, it destroys. The less you conserve, the more you destroy.

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 19, 2022.

Addendum I Propositions

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

Now you can listen to THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW
in *Santa Barbara, Santa Maria & San Luis Obispo Counties!*

We are pleased to announce that The Andy Caldwell Show is now broadcasting out of San Luis Obispo County on FM 98.5 in addition to AM 1290/96.9 Santa Barbara and AM 1240/99.5 Santa Maria



The show now covers the broadcast area from Ventura to Templeton -
THE only show of its kind on the Central Coast covering local, state,
national and international issues!

3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS You can also listen to The
Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and previously aired
shows at: 3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS You can also listen to The Andy
Caldwell Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and
Previously aired shows at:

COUNTY UPDATES OCCUR MONDAYS AT 4:30 PM

MIKE BROWN IS THE REGULAR MONDAY GUEST AT 4:30!

A Voice for Reason
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM Monday thru Friday
- Ventura to San Luis Obispo -
Listen to The Andy Caldwell Show "LIVE"

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The Only Talk Radio Show to Cover
Santa Barbara, Santa Maria & San Luis Obispo!

SUPPORT COLAB



MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS



VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER



MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE TO COLAB ON THE NEXT PAGE
Join COLAB or contribute by control clicking at: [COLAB San Luis Obispo County \(colabslo.org\)](https://colabslo.org) or use the form below:

Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business
San Luis Obispo County
"Your Property – Your Taxes – Our Future"
PO Box 13601 – San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 / Phone: 805.548-0340
Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio Internet Public Hearing Friend

COLAB Member(s) / Sponsor(s): _____

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation. I would like to contribute \$ _____ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.
Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.
Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check Visa MasterCard Discover Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: ___/___ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____