



WEEKLY UPDATE September 11-17, 2022

COLAB'S

Meet Me Halfway Is Back, Baby!

Friday, October 28, 2022

At the Santa Maria Fair Park

Starring
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Verbal Assassin



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COLAB PO Box 7523 Santa Maria CA 93456

THIS WEEK

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BACK

**IWMA
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN FY 2021-22
ADOPTION OF FY 2022-23 BUDGET
IWMA OFFICE BUILDING FOUNDATION CRUMBLING
ORGANIC RECYCLED PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS**

LAFCO CANCELLED

LAST WEEK

NO BOS

**PLANNING COMMISSION
SHORT AND LITE**

**COASTAL COMMISSION
SUPPORTIVE OF OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT**

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID LOW IN COUNTY

GAVIN NEWSOM'S DIRTY ENERGY SECRET

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 15**

THE TWO MOST DESTRUCTIVE FRAUDS IN HISTORY

Through deliberate and easily reversed policies, the cost-of-living in America is being elevated to empower the wealthy and impoverish everyone else in the name of equity and fighting climate change

BY EDWARD RING

CALIFORNIA BURNING: BOOK REVIEW

The ideological commitments of politicians and regulators blinded them to the depredations of parasitic actors who extracted huge amounts of money from the system and introduced instability that ultimately led to disaster BY HELEN ANDREWS

PLUTOCRATIC SOCIALISM AND WAR ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

The future of the republic depends on the middle-class virtues that property ownership helps to cultivate BY MARK T. MITCHELL

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 13, 2022 (Scheduled)

Item 3 - Request to 1) approve responses to the FY 2021-22 Grand Jury report titled "Inspection Report for San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities"; and 2) forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by September 23, 2022. Every year the grand jury in each county is required to inspect and file a report and recommendations on their respective county's jails, juvenile halls, holding cells, and other law enforcement facilities. The Sheriff and Board of Supervisors are required to report to the Presiding Judge on whether they agree with the findings and recommendations.

The 2021-22 Jury conducted an extensive study and has provided many recommendations. The Jury was also complimentary of the extensive steps undertaken by the Sheriff and funded by the Board of Supervisors to protect the rights of prisoners, especially those suffering from mental illness or other vulnerabilities. The contracting out of jail medical care, placing mental health services within the jail, providing augmented training and career advancement opportunities for jail staff, the establishment of the Stepping Up standards program, and other measures are all cited as positive.

The Jury supports expanded staffing and facility enhancements. However, its report does not provide recommendations on how such improvements can be funded. This omission is pretty typical of grand jury reports in various counties throughout the state. This situation allows the juries to escape accountability, as they are free to recommend all manner of reforms, new and expanded programs,

more and better facilities, and more and better compensated staff without ever having to address the hard realities faced by management and elected policy makers.

The Legislature should reform the Grand Jury statute to require that the civil grand juries provide financing recommendations commensurate with their program recommendations.



Item 5 - Request to 1) approve responses to the FY 2021-22 Grand Jury report titled "San Luis Obispo County Mental Health Services: A Perilous Journey for Those in Need;" and 2) forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by September 23, 2022. The report is extensive and is based on Grand Jury onsite observations, staff interviews, patient interviews, and patient family interviews. It covers the Behavioral Health Department, Sheriff's Department interaction with the mental health system, and the Health Agency, which is a super department structure that oversees both the Behavioral Health Department and the Public Health Department. The item is on the consent calendar and is too significant to be given short shrift. It should be pulled and discussed in detail. It should actually be rescheduled as a business item with advance notice; however there may not be time, given the statutory deadline to respond.

The Board of Supervisors' draft responses abdicates any responsibility, in that it simply adopts the Health Agency and Behavioral Health Department's responses to each of the findings and recommendations.

In each case (see the Findings and Recommendations below), the proposed Board response is "*The Board of Supervisors adopts the response of the Health Agency.*"

This seems peculiar, since one of the Board's stated top priorities is preventing and reducing homelessness. A significant portion of the mental health and criminal justice system workloads is addressing homelessness.

A Significant Grand Jury Statement:

We have complained for years about the Boards' (both left and right majorities) hands off approach on commanding and insuring prompt action by management on its priorities. As former Supervisors Adam Hill and Frank Mecham used to say, "We have professional staff, we aren't going to micro manage." The question then becomes, as a combined legislative-executive form of government, what are you going to manage?

The Jury points out that this approach is far too laissez-faire in this case.

Despite what we heard and read from County leaders, the Grand Jury found evidence of what Michael Lipsky wrote in his textbook, Street Level Bureaucracy, that, "The decisions of streetlevel bureaucrats, the routines they establish, and the devices they invent to cope with uncertainties and work pressures, effectively become the public policies they carry out."

In one case, the Jury found that the staff of one of the County's mental health contractors was sitting around and doing nothing all day. When the County staff pointed this out, the contractors papered over the observation cameras in their work areas.

Does the Board or even management have any idea of the productivity rates of both its in-house staff services and its outside contractors?

How many patients are admitted each day?

How many receive treatment/counseling each day?

What are the staffing/provider ratios to patients in each setting?

What are the top ten diagnoses?

How many patients are cured or move to a less intense level of care?

Findings:

F1. SLO County has failed to create and maintain a safe, orderly, effective and efficient means for ensuring that persons experiencing mental health issues receive the care they need, when they need it. The average and sometimes extended time periods Held persons spend in local emergency rooms prior to placement in an appropriate treatment facility is unacceptable as demonstrated by records from multiple emergency room encounters.

F2. By relying on the four private hospital emergency rooms as the primary point of intake for persons experiencing mental health issues, SLO County has created a situation in which the quality and capacity of other emergency medical care within our county is at constant risk of degradation due to a variety of factors all relating to the requirement that those hospitals provide psychiatric services as primary care facilities for which they have little or no dedicated expertise or resources. Attachment 1

F3. SLO County does not provide adequate resources to ensure the safety and security of both County and contractor staff who work in mental health services facilities and hospitals based on documented incidents.

F4. Despite an almost dizzying array of scheduled interagency, inter and intra-departmental meetings, teams, and working groups, SLO County fails to provide the kind of unified, integrated, and “single” voice leadership needed to ensure that espoused policy regarding the delivery of mental health services in a manner that meets the needs of our community while simultaneously respecting and appropriately protecting the professionals who strive to provide such services.

F5. SLO County is entirely dependent on private service providers located outside of our County to provide beds and treatment for all Held juveniles and for those adults who don't fit the criteria for acceptance at the PHF.

Recommendations:

R1. SLO County should commit to creating a single, integrated and unified mental health services center that houses the PHF, the CSU, the MHET, outpatient coordination, juvenile mental health services, and that includes a medical health triage and screening facility where all Held persons, regardless of age, categorization or insurance status, can be medically cleared prior to placement in an appropriate section of the mental health facility.

R2. SLO County should relieve the four private hospitals in our County of the responsibility for warehousing Held persons.

*R3. SLO County should seek the **financial resources** needed to hire and retain outpatient mental health services professional staff in sufficient number to allow for reasonable and customary caseload management ratios.*

Note: Here again, as in agenda **Item 3**, above, the Jury makes no effort to be accountable for the resource side of its recommendations. Why wouldn't they ask the executives and managers whom the interviewed in the first place?

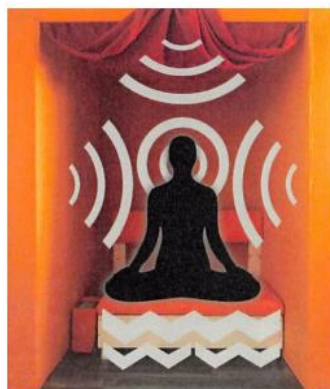
*R4. SLO County should seek the **financial resources** needed to hire and retain mental health services professional staff in sufficient number to meet the needs of Held juveniles within our county.*

R5. The SLO County Sheriff's Office, SLO County Behavioral Health Services, and the SLO County Board of Supervisors should jointly devise and implement a plan to ensure that properly trained and certified correctional officers are assigned in sufficient number to provide for the safety and security of all staff and Held persons when such persons are in the County's care and custody no matter which facility is responsible for the patient.

The Health Agency's response to each of the recommendations is, “This recommendation item requires further analysis.” In each case there is an accompanying paragraph that lists some of the potential obstacles. The Board then adopts the Health Agency responses as its own. In other words, “Ain't anything going to happen on this one?”

Oh well, everyone can go decompress in the soundwomb pods for \$250,000 per year. Wonder how this is going?

SOUNDWOMB PROJECT BACK – STAFF PUSHING HARD (PRESENTS A DILEMMA FOR THE BOARD)

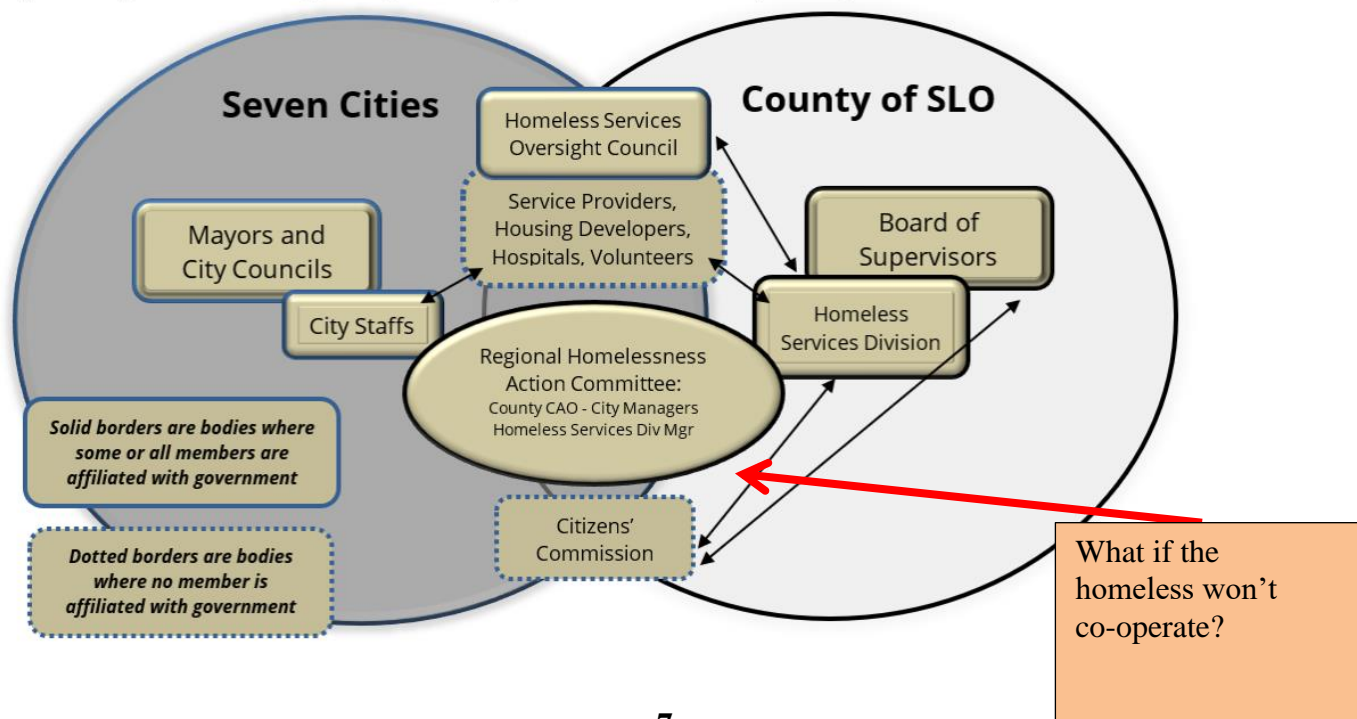


CRIMINALS TO BE DEPROGRAMMED WITH GONG MUSIC/\$576,000

Item 7 - Request to 1) adopt a resolution establishing the Citizens’ Homelessness Accountability Commission (CHAC); and 2) approve the proposed bylaws for the CHAC.

The core of this effort within government structures is the Regional Homelessness Action Committee, consisting of the County CAO, City Managers, and the Homeless Services Division Manager. The specific purpose of the Regional Homelessness Action Committee is to serve as the mechanism that implements operational planning and tactical execution of the Countywide Plan. Committee input on the Countywide Plan stems from the ongoing interactions with housing developers, nonprofit service providers, hospitals, citizens with lived homelessness experience, and other citizen-based organizations with City Staffs and the Homeless Services Division as well as Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) and the CHAC.

Figure 1. Diagram demonstrating the Regionalism Approach of *The San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness*



Item 33 - Request to: 1) Approve the 2022-23 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) grant funding allocations in the amount of \$5,925,000 to Community Based Organizations (CBO) to address the goals of the countywide Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) determined by a Request for Applications process, 2) delegate authority to the Health Agency Director, including Interim Health Agency Director, or their designee to sign any contracts, amendments, subcontracts or any other documents related to the grant allocations and/or agreements, 3) approve a corresponding budget adjustment for appropriation for FC 160 - Payments to Other Agencies using Public Health ARPA funding in FC 101 – Non-Departmental Revenues in the total amount of \$5,925,000, by 4/5. This item contains a list of allocations of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to not-for-profit agencies. The County staff originally proposed a strategic approach to use the funds on high priority issues. The numerous not-for-profit health, social service, and governmental agencies revolted and forced the County to spread the funding across a variety of agencies and purposes. Per the table below, the County has received \$55 million in ARPA funding, which has been programmed as displayed. This \$5.9 million tranche of funding comes from the \$9 million line and is divided up among 12 not-for-profit and 2 governmental agencies.

ARPA Nexus Buckets

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

See Addendum I on pages 27-29 for details. What do you think?

What if the \$55 million could have been used strategically for the problems outlined in agenda **Item 3**, above, on the mental health system instead of being piecemealed?

The staff had to have done an immense amount of work on this several times over.

Since this is one time funding, the Board of Supervisors will come under sharp pressure when it runs out, as the recipients beg to keep the new and expanded programs operating.

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 39 - Hearing to consider an ordinance amending Auditor-Controller-Treasurer Tax Collector (ACTTC), Planning and Building, and Sheriff-Coroner Cannabis Fees in the County Fee Schedule “B” for Fiscal Year 2022-23; and approve a resolution amending the Position Allocation List (PAL) as outlined in the recommendation; approve a FY 2022-23 contract award to Hinderliter, De Llamas, and Associates, in the cumulative amount not to exceed \$100,000 for cannabis auditing and consulting services; and approve two corresponding budget adjustments in the amount of \$836,196 that includes transfer of appropriation in the amount of \$366,233 from FC 142 – Planning and Building to FC 136 – Sheriff Coroner and increase revenue and expenditure totaling \$369,963 for Sheriff Coroner to cover unbudgeted expenses and increase revenue and expenditure totaling \$100,000 for FC 117 – ACTTC to cover unbudgeted expenses, by 4/5 vote. The item centralizes responsibility for cannabis permitting and enforcement activities in the Sheriff’s Department. It had previously been split between Planning and the Sheriff’s Department.

The item also eliminates the fees that Planning had been charging for enforcement and enables the Sheriff to charge higher fees to cover the Department’s new costs. It also provides funding for an outside auditing firm to assist the County.

Fee Revenue Comparison – FY 2022-23 Budget to Revised with Proposed Changes

	FY 2022-23 Budget	FY 2022-23 Revised Proposed Budget	\$ Variance
ACTTCPA	\$9,800	\$144,966	\$135,166
Planning and Building	\$1,058,571	\$810,082	-\$248,489
Sheriff-Coroner	\$312,599	\$1,725,357	\$1,412,758
Total	\$1,380,970	\$2,680,405	\$1,299,435

The Sheriff’s Office is proposing the following new fees for a full cost recovery of the program:

New Cannabis Fees				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Explanation
7001	Cannabis Business License Background (Cultivation)	\$0	\$24,630	Current business license background fee is for both cultivation and non-cultivation.
7002	Cannabis Business License Background (Non-Cultivation)	\$0	\$23,591	During the MGT fee study, it was decided to breakout cultivation and non-cultivation. Cost has also increased above the previous fee with the addition of Planning and Building staff as well as new Sheriff’s Office positions.
7003	First Year Site Visits (Cultivation)	\$0	\$11,570	New fees needed once the Sheriff’s Office takes on all compliance monitoring, where previously positions under Planning and Building were doing.
7004	First Year Site Visits (Non-Cultivation)	\$0	\$9,423	
7006	Annual License Renewal Background (Cultivation)	\$0	\$18,702	Current annual license renewal background fee is for both cultivation and non-cultivation.
7007	Annual License Renewal Background (Non-Cultivation)	\$0	\$15,441	During the MGT fee study, it was decided to breakout cultivation and non-cultivation. Cost has also increased above the previous fee with the addition of Planning and Building staff as well as new Sheriff’s Office positions.

7008	New Location Background (Cultivation)	\$0	\$18,804	Current new location background fee is for both cultivation and non-cultivation. During the MGT fee study, it was decided to breakout cultivation and non-cultivation. Cost has also increased above the previous fee with the addition of Planning and Building staff as well as new Sheriff's Office positions.
7009	New Location Background (Non-Cultivation)	\$0	\$16,931	
7012	Major Violation	\$0	\$16,396	Fees previously charged by Planning and Building. With the Sheriff's Office taking on all compliance monitoring, these fees are now needed under the Sheriff's Office fee schedule. Cost exceeds Planning and Buildings old fee due to the involvement of additional staff.
7013	Minor Violation	\$0	\$4,958	
7014	Notice of Nuisance	\$0	\$1,244	

Cannabis Fees Proposed to Increase				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Explanation
7005 (Previously 7002)	Cannabis Business License Background for Added Partner	\$1,810	\$3,079	MGT fee study found that current fees were not at full cost recovery for the Cannabis Program with additional positions and program changes.
7010 (Previously 7005)	Cannabis Business Employee Background	\$318	\$628	
7011 (Previously 7006)	Cannabis Labor Contractor Background	\$2,117	\$3,302	

SHERIFF'S CANNABIS PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
CURRENT



CANNABIS PROGRAM ORGANIZATION CHART
PROPOSED



It is not clear from the presentation how the new fees and higher fees will impact the development of the industry within the County? This structure could favor large well capitalized firms versus small operators. Will higher fees drive more growers into the black market?

SLO County Integrated Waste Management Authority Board Meeting of Wednesday, September 14, 2022 (Scheduled) 1:30 PM

The meeting is heavy duty and includes major financial items, a report on the agency’s office building’s crumbling foundation, and the setting of organic recycled material procurement requirements for each of the 7 cities and the unincorporated county area.

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 regulations require jurisdictions to annually procure organic waste products such as compost, mulch, renewable gas, and electricity from biomass facilities according to targets that are calculated based on the population of the jurisdiction. With a .08 ton per person requirement, the procurement targets for our member jurisdictions and the county are listed below:

San Luis Obispo County	Census Population Data	Annual Organic Waste Target Tons	Compost Target Tons
Arroyo Grande	17,555	1,404	814.6
Atascadero	29,623	2,370	1,374.5
El Paso de Robles	31,073	2,486	1,441.8
Grover Beach	13,128	1,050	609
Morro Bay	10,121	810	469.6
Pismo Beach	8,108	649	376.2
San Luis Obispo	46,058	3,685	2,137.1
Unincorporated County	115,506	9,240	5,359.5

Total Tons	21,694	12,582.3
County Population Percentage	23.1%	23.1%
County Procurement Target	5,011	2,907
IWMA Target tons	16,683	9,676

LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

California Coastal Commission Meeting of Wednesday September 7, 2022 (Completed)

Item 6a - Sunrise from the West: renewables, offshore wind and the road to 100% clean energy future Informational Presentation by the California Energy Commission Chair, David

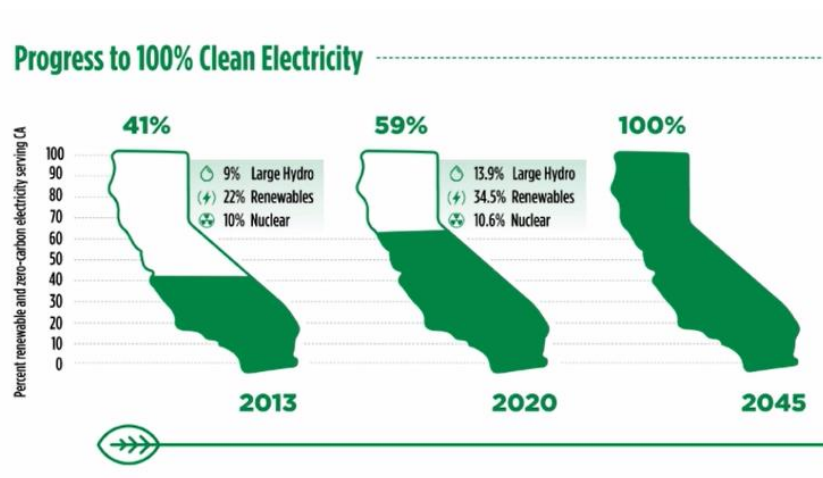
Hochschild, on the role of offshore wind and other renewables in achieving California’s clean energy goals. State Energy Commission Chairman Hochschild (a smooth Harvard type) provided the Commission with an update on next steps for development of offshore wind electric generation. The presentation also covered the future of green energy development in the state from all sources. The Coastal Commission seemed thrilled as the sophisticated Steve McQueenish Hochschild described the impending fossil-free millennium paradise. For whatever reason, it will also spark social equity to disadvantaged populations and other forms of bliss.

The development will be offshore of San Luis Obispo County. Sites will be auctioned off this fall. Once the energy companies are selected, the Coastal Commission will be working with the Feds and Energy Commission to expedite permitting. The County will of necessity be involved in any permitting for onshore facilities, maritime support facilities, transmission and switching facilities, etc.

Hochschild stated that the wind farms would result in \$100 million in investment, albeit most of it government-subsidized by tax credits and energy grants.

In an interesting side light, the Chairman revealed that the State Energy Commission is working to reclassify nuclear and large hydro energy as carbon free and perhaps renewable. Of course, the state would never allow this before, and it severely damaged PG&E by its refusal to acknowledge the truth.

Now, in order to meet its stated goals, the State is removing its own goal posts in an effort to appear to be making more progress than it has actually achieved. Of course, all of this is taking place as you are exhorted to turn off your appliances and swelter in the dark.



**OFFSHORE WIND:
CA'S NEW RENEWABLE RESOURCE**



Image Source: Principle Power

“California is home to one of the world’s best offshore wind resources in the world and I am confident that this clean, domestic source of electricity can play an important role in meeting our state’s growing need for clean energy.”

Governor Gavin Newsom,
July 2022



Floating Offshore Wind Turbines

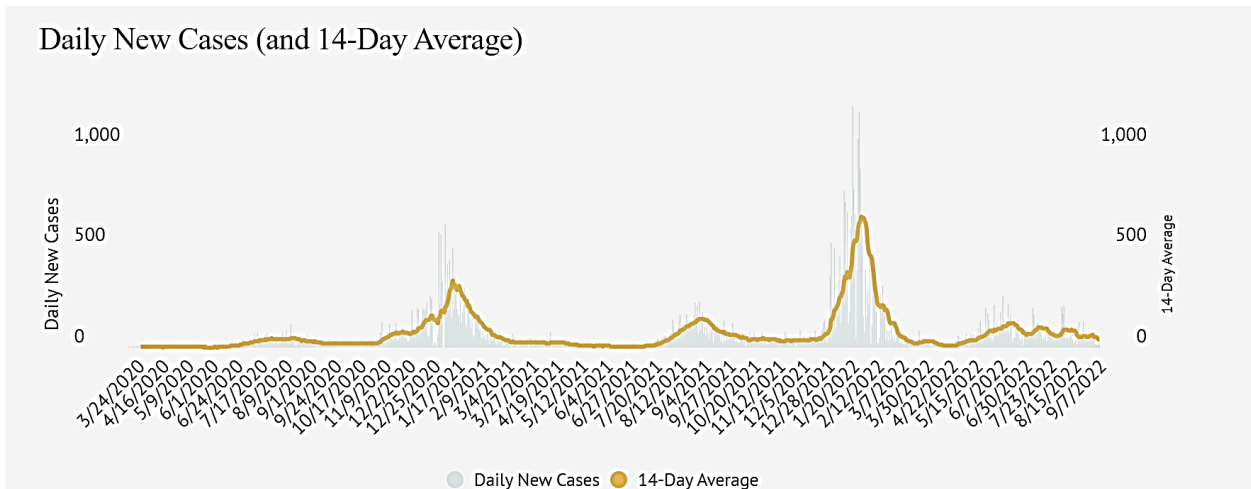


Assembly Bill 525 Summary of CEC Requirements



EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID in SLO County. The new case level declined slightly.



7 (1 ICU)** SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

Item 2 - Energy Suicide. The *Wall Street Journal* pointed out the State’s energy policy is undermining business as it forced shutdowns of manufacturing and desalination plants, and forced the State to import coal-fired electricity. Local news sources won’t cover the hypocrisy.

OPINION

Gavin Newsom's Dirty Energy Secret

Californians narrowly averted rolling blackouts on Tuesday, but the threat looms all week amid an unpleasant but not unusual heat wave. This ought to be a warning about how the government force-fed green energy transition is endangering grid reliability, but Democrats and the media can't break out of their climate-change conformity to think clearly, or think at all.

Democrats blame climate change for the state's week-long warnings to conserve power, but California's climate hasn't suddenly changed. Triple-digit temperatures aren't unprecedented even in early September, despite Gov. Gavin Newsom's claims. What has drastically changed in recent years is California's electric generation.

Solar and wind power have rapidly expanded thanks to rich government subsidies along with the state's renewables mandate. These have made it harder for baseload gas and nuclear generators that run around the clock to make money. Many have shut down, and the result is that the state often lacks sufficient power when the sun goes down.

California's summer electric generation capacity increased by about 10,700 megawatts (MW) between 2010 and 2020—potentially enough to power eight to 10 million homes. The problem is that gas-fired capacity during this time declined by 4,390 MW and nuclear by 2,150 MW. Solar and wind surged 17,000 MW, but those sources can't be commanded to run when people need them.

The state must therefore rely on imports from other states in the evenings, especially during heat waves. But these imports are becoming less dependable since California's neighbors are also losing base-load generators owing to their own renewable buildouts. Arizona lost about half of its summer coal-generating capacity between 2015 and 2020.

During heat waves that span the Southwest like the one this week, California must resort to emergency measures to reduce electricity demand. This includes asking users to turn up their thermostats and providing incentives for industrial businesses to power down. A desalination plant in Carlsbad cut water production by about 20% earlier this

week to free up power for homes. Not what the state needs during a drought.

California's electricity woes result from man-made climate policies.

The climate left blames drought for causing a reduction in the state's hydropower, but why didn't lawmakers and grid managers prepare for such a scenario? Drought conditions aren't uncommon in the state. The truth is that politicians put too much faith in utility-scale batteries to save the day, but these are expensive and have been hard to scale.

Irony of ironies, the state has installed temporary gas-fired generators to run during grid emergencies. In other words, the state that is working so hard to banish fossil fuels has become more dependent on them. Los Angeles's municipal utility is generating nearly 30% of its electricity from coal, some of which is being shared with the rest of the state. Call it Gavin Newsom's dirty little climate secret.

Meantime, power shortages are causing prices to spike in the Golden State as they are in Europe. Electricity prices in California's wholesale market surged Tuesday evening to about \$1,700 per MWh compared to the normal \$100 and \$67 a year ago. All of this explains why residential electric rates in California have risen by 50% in the past two years—three times more than they have nationwide.

Californians paid on average about 29 cents per kilowatt hour in June, by far the most in the continental U.S. and twice as much as in neighboring states. Rates are only going higher. Green-energy subsidies don't make electricity cheaper. They create market distortions that threaten the grid and raise prices.

But what starts in California rarely stays in California. Americans everywhere will soon be soaked with higher prices for power that is becoming less reliable. Rhode Island Energy this summer asked regulators to more than double current electric rates for this winter. Falling gasoline prices for many Americans could be fully offset by rising electricity costs.

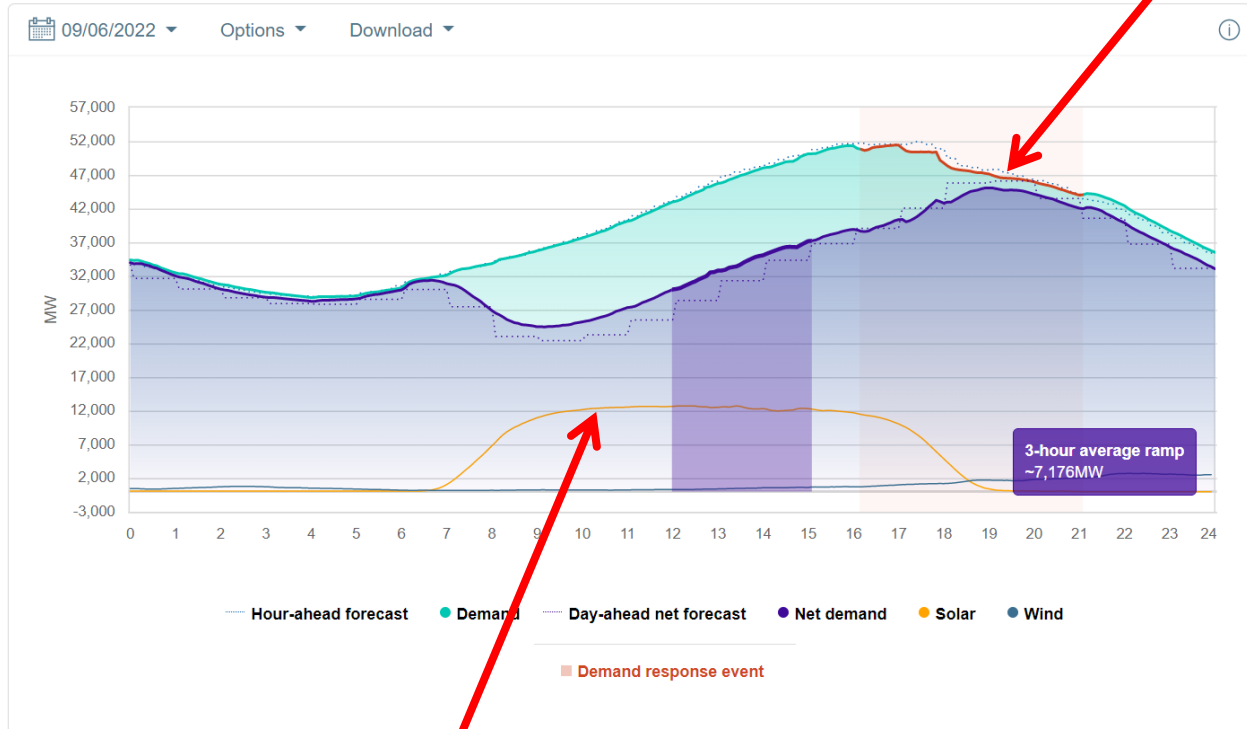
The grid problems that Californians are enduring will grow and spread as supersized green-energy subsidies and mandates spread their harmful incentives throughout the U.S. economy in coming years. The culprit is the left's climate policies, not climate change.

The graph below depicts the crisis on September 6, 2022 when the State declared an energy emergency and texted everyone to shut down appliances, air conditioners, and to not charge other electric vehicles to forestall rolling blackouts.

Net demand trend

System demand minus wind and solar, in 5-minute increments, compared to total system and forecasted demand.

System almost broke at 7:00 PM.



Solar isn't available when needed. And is negligible in the big picture. Don't charge your Tesla after 3PM.

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

THE TWO MOST DESTRUCTIVE FRAUDS IN HISTORY

Through deliberate and easily reversed policies, the cost-of-living in America is being elevated to empower the wealthy and impoverish everyone else in the name of equity and fighting climate change

BY EDWARD RING

It's getting harder and harder not to abandon faith in the institutions we once regarded as respectable and relied on to keep the country moving. It is harder still to avoid rejecting unequivocally what have become their core governing premises, which seem to be entirely different from what we once believed them to be.

So here goes: the entire "climate crisis" is an opportunistic hoax; the entire "equity" (along with "diversity" and "inclusion") movement is a corrupt fraud. This hoax and this fraud have permeated and overwhelmed every formerly respectable sector of American life, with disastrous consequences we've only just begun to feel.

If you are someone who still has faith in the ultimate resilience of the institutions that once made America great, try researching positive new ideas. Try to identify and promote solutions to genuine challenges we face as a nation. Invariably, as you peruse the promotional literature of today's innovators, no matter what it is you've found, you'll have to sift through endless drivel about carbon this and sustainable that, along with diversity this and equity that, *before* you might find any facts that matter.

This is a huge problem. Obsessive focus on climate and equity priorities, even supposing those to be important, obscures the essence of pretty much *anything* substantive one is trying to achieve and deflects attention away from whether or not a new product or innovation might have genuine value. We get it. Less carbon. More diversity. *But does the proposed solution work?*

Thanks to the obfuscating filters of climate and equity, separating useful ideas from monstrous scams is far more laborious than it should be. And all the while, the scams are getting bigger.

Climate and Equity Politics Will Destroy America

In the name of staving off climate change, the standard of living of all but the wealthiest Americans is being deliberately reduced by people who are utterly indifferent to the fate of the rest. This deliberate destruction doesn't have to be understood as a conspiracy because so much of it is merely the logical response to an open, incessantly trumpeted "consensus" that appears noble in its aspirations but is diabolical in its impact.

It goes something like this: The climate emergency, along with the inequity of white privilege, are existential threats to humanity, and therefore both require a "reset" to put things right.

To make it almost impossible for Americans to unite and stop the destruction of their way of life, in case the sacred and urgent consensus regarding climate and equity isn't enough, Americans are also trained to hate each other. And that trope, repeated endlessly and everywhere in myriad iterations, goes like this: If you are a member of the heteropatriarchy, you are an oppressor. If you're not, you're a victim.

Of course, the entire narrative must be questioned because it's all a pack of lies.

Every scientist, every climate "expert," who speaks publicly on climate change is well aware that his career and reputation depends on saying precisely the right thing. Expressing doubt could be costly. Those scientists who *do* stand up to the "consensus" are typically retired and less vulnerable to having their livelihoods terminated. But these scientists are labeled "deniers" and banned from social media as

soon as they develop a following of any consequence. So the mainstream media ignores them unless the purpose is to smear their reputations.

As for “equity,” even black conservatives cannot share basic truths. Intact families with a father and mother are the most reliable guarantor of individual success in life. But if you say this, as the eloquent Larry Elder often does, you are chastised as “the black face of white supremacy.”

According to no less than the Smithsonian Institution, if you have a work ethic, a useful education, if you are punctual, polite, self-reliant, and think rationally, you are giving in to “white dominant culture.” If, on the other hand, you embrace thug culture and commit crimes at a disproportionate rate, your offenses are excused because you are a victim of systemic white racism.

This infantile nonsense—and those examples barely begin to describe it—has been spewed into American culture for at least two generations. It has turned the average voter into a Pavlovian stooge, completely unaware that it’s *not* white privilege, climate change, or racism that is to blame for the average price of rent to double in the last 12 months or the price of electricity to triple, or the price of food to quadruple in some instances. Rather, this reset trauma is a logical next step in the consolidation of wealth and power in America into the hands of a few hundred billionaires.

Thwarting Obvious Solutions

Listed below are some of the major problems Americans face, along with obvious solutions. Here as well are the reasons our elite claim these solutions are unacceptable, the real reason for their objections, the solutions they’re pushing instead, and why their solutions are dreadfully wrong.

We have expensive energy. The rational solution is to develop more oil and gas, along with nuclear power.

We’re having a drought. The rational solution is to increase the supply of water by collecting storm runoff in new reservoirs and aquifers, desalinate water from the ocean, and recycle wastewater.

We have a food crisis. Irrigate more crops with the enhanced water supply, let cattle graze in the forests, and build more meat processing plants.

We have forest fires, and lumber is too expensive. Bring back the timber industry.

We have a housing crisis. Abolish the ridiculously overwritten building code requirements, relax the zoning laws that prohibit urban expansion, quit charging criminally high fees for building permits, and deregulate the industries that supply building materials.

None of this can be done, however, because all of it would supposedly destroy the environment. Would it? Notice the common thread: the obvious, common sense solutions involve fostering abundance, something Americans used to be good at doing. But the preferred solution to every problem now is to conserve, to restrict, to ration, and to pay higher prices.

When you impose regulatory barriers in the name of sustainability, you don’t merely raise the prices of water, energy, food, and housing. You drive out of business the small competitors that might emerge to

serve the demand for these products and services. They don't have the economies of scale to navigate the regulations, pay the permits, and fight off litigation. Meanwhile, monopolistic multinational corporations with sunk costs and strong balance sheets collect windfall profits because the demand-driven prices they can charge increase far more than their production expenses.

It is impossible to overstate how centralized financial power in America has already become. BlackRock, an investment fund dedicated to the divestment of American fossil fuels, now has over \$10 trillion under management. BlackRock is only the biggest of many powerful investment funds promoting "ESG" (short for "environmental, social, and governance," these are climate change and equity-inspired criteria used to screen investments), with the declared goal of eliminating fossil fuel. Any energy-literate person knows this is impossible. They will not succeed. But they can, and will, make the price of oil and gas prohibitively expensive.

It isn't just BlackRock and the big hedge funds, however, that have tacitly agreed to turn America into a nation of lords and serfs. With a few heroic exceptions, it's every individual and company with a billion or more dollars to throw around.

Homeownership was once the one sure way Americans had to build generational wealth. But housing is becoming more and more unaffordable. A middle class family cannot compete with institutional investors who buy homes by the thousand, and pay for them in cash. To help keep housing prices high, they're letting foreign buyers get a piece of the action. That keeps real estate portfolios appreciating, and it also helps collateralize the dollar. Who wants Chinese gold, when you can buy American real estate with your surplus dollars?

And to make sure that every time a family farm patriarch dies, the land gets purchased by a multinational corporation or a billionaire hedge fund or a foreign sovereign wealth fund, cram down the production of fertilizer, then jack up its price along with every other agricultural input from seeds and tractor fuel to irrigation water, and drive them out of business.

Do all this for the earth. Do it for sustainability.

Never mind that renewables are as destructive to ecosystems as conventional energy. Never mind that without large-scale use of commercial fertilizer, ordinary citizens in developed nations are driven into poverty, and those in poorer nations starve to death. Protect the climate! Fight racism! This is vacuous, unwarranted, evil nonsense, and yet we have to hear Judy Woodruff, Lester Holt, Nora O'Donnell, David Muir, and all the rest of the thespian marionettes who masquerade as journalists intone this litany day after day, until we're so numb we no longer realize we're being fed garbage.

What's happening to Americans right now is a monstrous crime. Through deliberate and easily reversed policies, the cost of living in America is being elevated to empower the wealthy and impoverish everyone else. The justification for all of this is the climate emergency that must be countered by any means necessary, and systemic racism that must be eradicated.

Climate alarmists and equity fanatics must be confronted. If they are sincere, they must be shown how they've been lied to. If they are opportunists, they must be held accountable. Candid and unequivocal rejection of the climate and equity agenda does not diminish concern for the environment and respect for the dignity of all individuals. In fact, it restores authenticity to those sentiments and opens pathways

to practical solutions for genuine challenges. But if the people pushing this extreme agenda are not stopped cold—and soon—they will destroy our civilization.

*Edward Ring is a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. He is also is 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).*



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CALIFORNIA BURNING: BOOK REVIEW

BY HELEN ANDREWS

California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas & Electric and What It Means for America's Power Grid, by Katherine Blunt, (Portfolio: August 2022), 368 pages

Reporter Katherine Blunt of the *Wall Street Journal* was lucky in the timing of her new book, *California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas & Electric and What It Means for America's Power Grid*. Within 24 hours of its release, California declared a “grid emergency” and customers were warned to avoid using major appliances or charging electric cars between 4 and 10 p.m. in order to avert blackouts. It was a clear sign that the dysfunction detailed in Blunt's book is an ongoing concern.

How did we get here? Or, more accurately, how did we get here *again*?

Reading about the California energy crisis brings on déjà vu in those who remember the last one, which wracked the state in 2000 and 2001. That episode also involved rising prices and rolling blackouts. It led to the downfall of a governor, the shuttering of the California Power Exchange, the state's privatized electricity marketplace, and the bankruptcy of the utility company that serves northern California, Pacific Gas & Electric.

Now PG&E is fresh out of bankruptcy proceedings again, for the second time in less than two decades. The deeper problems with its grid have not yet been fixed. Why can't California keep the lights on?

The two electricity crises had different superficial causes but the fundamental problem in both cases was the same. The ideological commitments of politicians and regulators blinded them to the depredations of parasitic actors who extracted huge amounts of money from the system and introduced instability that ultimately led to disaster.

In 2000, the ideology was privatization and the predator was Enron. To introduce market forces into what had been regulated monopolies, California broke up its utilities and separated electricity generation and transmission in the 1990s. Instead of a free market and lower prices, Californians got price spikes caused by the manipulations of traders. Blunt quotes from recorded phone calls where Enron employees told plant operators, "We want you guys to get a little creative and come up with a reason to go down." The plant went down, on the excuse of a turbine inspection, and the price of electricity shot up just as Enron wanted. These kinds of schemes were common.

This time, the ideology that has captured politicians and regulators is climate change. California has been more aggressive than any other state in setting renewable energy targets, currently aiming to be 60 percent reliant on renewables by 2030. Unfortunately for its ratepayers, these renewable energy suppliers rely on billions in subsidies and still cost more per kilowatt-hour than other forms of energy. Solar and wind power are also irregular compared to more old-fashioned power plants. The result has been unreliable electricity supply and some of the highest power prices in the nation.

Of the two energy crises, the current one is more severe than that of twenty years ago because of the added factor of wildfires. More than a hundred people died and more than a million acres burned in these fires. The Camp Fire of 2018, sparked by a downed PG&E transmission line, was the deadliest in the state's history and practically wiped the town of Paradise off the map. The Dixie Fire of 2021 was the state's largest, destroying a total area bigger than Rhode Island.

There are two competing explanations for why the electricity crisis was more destructive this time around. Climate change is the explanation that Governor Gavin Newsom favors, and which Blunt hints at. It argues that hotter temperatures and extreme weather are overtaxing the grid and making disasters more frequent.

The problem with climate change as an explanation, though, is that California's grid is struggling to achieve basic service levels even without extreme weather. Back in May, when California energy officials warned of rolling blackouts later in the summer, they predicted shortfalls even in the absence of heat waves or wildfires. The current heat wave, which led to last week's "grid emergency," is merely aggravating a problem that existed already.

Moreover, Blunt documents in detail all the ways that wildfires were caused not by extreme weather but by PG&E's negligence. The fire that destroyed the town of Paradise was caused by a worn down

iron hook, originally purchased in 1919, that broke and shed sparks onto dry brush. When investigators sought records of how often that part of the line had been inspected, they found no files at all prior to 2001—not unusual given PG&E’s spotty recordkeeping. (When a gas line exploded in 2010 and investigators sought records of pipeline conditions across the system, a PG&E employee responded, “God knows what is underground.”) Records after 2001 showed inspectors viewing the hook from the air and from the ground, but no one had actually climbed the tower to see it up close.

This leads to the second explanation for why California is less able to cope with electricity problems today, which is that it is further along in its ongoing Third Worldization. What it means to be Third World has no precise definition but it has to do with losing the capacity to keep basic things functioning. Standards slip, fewer people every year remember how to maintain legacy systems, and eventually those systems collapse.

South Africa’s electricity supplier Eskom was named the best power company in the world in 2001. Twenty years later, the company is plagued by rampant blackouts (known euphemistically as “load shedding”) as well as internal corruption and rate evasion. Last year, President Cyril Ramaphosa passed a new law allowing private companies to build their own power plants up to 100 megawatts (the previous limit was 1 MW). That was a solution for mining companies that were shuttering facilities where they could not count on regular power. Small businesses and residences already considered gas-powered generators a necessity for when load-shedding hits their neighborhood.

A telling episode in Blunt’s book is the search for a new CEO that PG&E undertook in 2016. One of the finalists was Nick Stavropoulos, who had performed an incredible feat in bringing the gas division up to industry standards after the 2010 San Bruno explosion, in the face of widespread employee demoralization after an unpopular CEO’s flat-footed reforms. Stavropoulos was going to work the same magic on the electricity division, which, if anything, needed it more.

Instead, the company went with a woman named Geisha Williams, born in Cuba, who became the first Latina to head a Fortune 500 company. Her resume was impressive on paper. On the other hand, a leaked email from a staffer at the California Public Utilities Commission referred to Williams as “senior vice president of bullshittery.” Stavropoulos was “bitterly disappointed” at being passed over, according to Blunt, and soon left the company. The board forced Williams to resign in 2019, as the company was on the brink of filing for bankruptcy.

California’s power brokers feel that they can focus on political goals, like diversity in C-suites and renewable energy targets, because they trust that the basic functioning of the system is guaranteed. They take it for granted. But as the example of Eskom shows, this is not a safe assumption. A power grid works because people know how to make it work. If those people are sidelined or cast off, or if political priorities drown out their advice, the system can carry on out of sheer momentum for a while, even for years. But not forever.

Helen Andrews is a senior editor at *The American Conservative*, and the author of *BOOMERS: The Men and Women Who Promised Freedom and Delivered Disaster* (Sentinel, January 2021). She has worked at the *Washington Examiner* and *National Review*, and as a think tank researcher at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Yale University. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *First Things*, *The Claremont Review of Books*, *Hedgehog Review*, and many others. You can follow her on Twitter at [@herandrews](https://twitter.com/herandrews).

PLUTOCRATIC SOCIALISM AND WAR ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

The future of the republic depends on the middle-class virtues that property ownership helps to cultivate

BY MARK T. MITCHELL



U.S. President Barack Obama at Farm Neck Golf Club on Martha's Vineyard, August 11, 2013. (Vincent DeWitt-Pool/Getty Images)

It is becoming increasingly obvious something is amiss. One might be tempted to recall the words of a nineteenth-century revolutionary: “A specter is haunting Europe—the specter of Communism.” But the bloody history of the last century has demonstrated beyond question that Marx was no prophet.

However, a specter is, indeed, haunting not just Europe but the entire world, and ground zero for this strange new spirit is the United States, a land where communism never gained a foothold. This rising spirit has no widely recognized name at present, but it has certain definitive characteristics that coalesce into a singular, grotesque reality. Call it Plutocratic Socialism.

First, consider some facts. In a 2019 Gallup poll, 43 percent of Americans claimed that some form of socialism would be good for the country. When the same question was put to Americans in 1942, only 25 percent looked favorably on the socialist agenda. The same poll found that a majority of Democrats today have a positive view of socialism. The political agenda being pushed by Democrats in Congress and by the White House suggests, at the very least, a concerted effort to expand government programs, and in the process expand the lists of clients who find themselves increasingly dependent upon the largesse of the federal government.

Public intellectuals give voice to rising concerns that capitalism is the root cause of some of our most persistent and seemingly intractable problems. Race-guru Ibram X. Kendi puts the matter succinctly and with his characteristic antipathy to nuance: “Capitalism is essentially racist; racism is essentially capitalist.” Climate journalist Paul Mason writes that “to save the planet, we have to end capitalism,” and unless we act swiftly, we face “global catastrophe.” The implications are clear. To end two of the greatest scourges of our day—racism and climate change—we must eradicate capitalism. The apparent alternative? Socialism.

At the same time, the much-beleaguered middle class struggles. Many young people find that the relative independence that membership in that class promises is simply beyond reach. Consider these changes: A report published by the Economic Policy Institute found that between 1945 and 1973 “the top 1 percent captured just 4.9 percent of all income growth over that period.” However, between 1973 and 2007 the trend dramatically reversed: “58.7 percent of all income growth [was] concentrated in the hands of the top 1 percent of families.”

According to the Pew Research Center, “the hollowing of the American middle-class has proceeded steadily for more than four decades.” In 1971, 61 percent—a clear majority—of Americans were in the middle-class. By 2015, 50 percent were middle-class, with growth occurring both at the upper and lower ends. Home-ownership, long considered a vital indicator of middle-class status, has become an increasingly elusive dream. Under-employment, student debt, inflation, and a general demoralization have led many to conclude that their standard of living, and happiness in general, will not approximate that of their parents.

Almost as if in response to the frustration, the World Economic Forum launched an ad campaign that included eight predictions for 2030. The first: “You’ll own nothing. And you’ll be happy.” This was part of a larger initiative they called the “Great Reset.” The coronavirus pandemic provided a focal point and a sense of urgency. The looming “existential threat” of climate change made sweeping action necessary in order to prevent a catastrophe that would dwarf the carnage inflicted by the coronavirus. The killing of George Floyd in May 2020 touched off protests in the U.S. and around the globe raising awareness of racial injustice that seemed to require profound systemic changes.

The common denominator: crisis. The common agent of change? Government power in partnership with many of the world's largest multinational corporations. According to the WEF website, "The world must act jointly and swiftly to revamp all aspects of our societies and economies, from education to social contracts and working conditions. Every country, from the United States to China, must participate, and every industry, from oil and gas to tech, must be transformed. In short, we need a 'Great Reset' of capitalism."

The Great Reset represents a sweeping vision for world-wide transformation that mirrors, on a larger scale, the ambitions of the Green New Deal here at home. The collaboration of national governments, international organizations, and transnational corporations suggests a consolidation of power unlike any other peace-time initiative in history. If every country "from the United States to China" joins forces with the world's most powerful corporations, the ability to effect change will be almost irresistible.

Consider, in this context, some of the "partner" corporations listed at the WEF website: Amazon, Apple, Barclays, Boeing, China Construction Bank, Deutsche Bank, Discovery, European Investment Bank, Facebook, Goldman Sachs, IBM, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Kaiser Permanente, LinkedIn, Mastercard, Microsoft, Nasdaq, Netflix, The New York Times, PayPal, Pfizer, Tyson Foods, UPS, Visa, Walmart, Western Union, and dozens more. What is described here is a global plutocracy: rule by the wealthy.

The Great Reset makes explicit a dynamic that has been developing for some time. This new plutocracy is expanding its reach and concentrating its power. In the process, the lines between public and private money and power—between big business and big government—become increasingly blurred.

Yet wealth is not sufficient for gaining access to the current plutocratic class. What is also necessary is a particular outlook, a plutocratic psychology, if you will. This illusory meritocracy is rooted in the false belief that wealth, or proximity to wealth, is an indication of special moral virtue. Not surprisingly, this belief manifests itself in a disposition of self-righteousness whereby those infected by it come to see themselves as superior to their fellow-citizens who are, alas, not wealthy or connected. They come to see themselves as above the law, for law is necessary for controlling the common citizen, but it is certainly not something that should limit those possessing the moral superiority that wealth would seem to denote. Thus, the plutocracy is characterized by both insolence and self-righteousness, and it is not conveniently confined to either the left or right.

A plutocratic class, if it is to survive in a democratic age, must placate insecure, propertyless citizens with state-sponsored benefits that provide the illusion of security. This welfare state will, in time, generate explicit calls for socialist policies and programs. Plutocratic Socialism, then, is a system built on a symbiotic relationship between two seemingly opposed classes: plutocrats and socialists.

We are now witnessing this in America. Of course, the call for socialism today is energized by a woke agenda that takes matters far beyond the confines of economic theory. This woke socialism blames capitalism not only for economic injustices but for racism, climate change, and a host of other nefarious wrongs. This sets the stage for a radical economic, social, and political transformation. The language of revolution—even civil war—is in the air, and the pent-up energy is palpable.

It is important to appreciate the fundamental tension inherent in the union of plutocracy and woke socialism. Woke socialism is rooted in the claim that the world is sharply divided between two classes construed in various ways as the oppressors and the oppressed, the victimizers and the victims, the

powerful and the weak. Plutocrats clearly hold the power and those deemed oppressed or marginalized—people of color, women, the poor, those identifying as LGBT, etc.—do not.

It is at this point that things get dicey. Plutocrats must appear to make common cause with the oppressed lest they forfeit the perception of moral authority. To do so they must convince themselves that their special virtue and status provide them with the unique opportunity to do important work on behalf of the oppressed thereby legitimating their own relentless hold on wealth, status, and power.

How else can one explain the self-righteous arrogance of the plutocratic class? How else can one explain the full-on embrace of the Woke agenda by corporate leaders, the military, colleges and universities, the media and so on? How else can one understand the Davos set—comprised of political officials, corporate leaders, and prominent media figures—flying private jets to their annual confab in Switzerland to issue vehement condemnations of behavior that contributes to the “climate crisis.” Their sense of self-importance far exceeds their carbon footprints, which are, alas, far larger than average. They are not socialists, and they never intend to forfeit their wealth, power, and status in the name of equality (or even equity).

This, in a curious fashion, brings us back to Marx. Plutocratic Socialism represents a strange alliance that would have stunned and dismayed the old fellow. It is as if the bourgeoisie and the proletariat decided to strike a secret pact and work together rather than allow their rancorous animosity to ignite a full-blown revolution. The leadership of both classes have much to gain by this seemingly bizarre arrangement. Plutocrats gain moral legitimacy, and socialist leaders gain wealth, status, and power.

This hidden dynamic is one reason why socialist revolutions never come to a successful termination but instead remain stuck in a “transitional” phase where the plutocrats—and those fortunate individuals drawn into their orbit—secure the wealth, status, and power while the revolutionary energy of the masses is allowed to fester perpetually. The persistent frustration is kept from exploding by a steady trickle of goods and services that takes the edge off the despair while fostering a habit of dependence. The recent student-loan forgiveness initiative is a perfect example of this dynamic.



Although he was deadly wrong in so many ways, Marx did understand that democracy provided an opportunity for revolutionary change. He argued that the first step in the communist revolution was to “win the battle of democracy.” This battle will be won when a majority becomes convinced that the free market is unjust, that property owners have likely benefited from this unjust system, and that socialist policies are necessary and desirable.

Plutocratic Socialism represents the real-life conclusion to the Marxist fantasy. The plutocratic class—working in tandem with socialist agitators in the streets, the educational institutions, and the media—is striving relentlessly toward this end, one where citizens are increasingly dependent and the power of their plutocratic masters is further entrenched. All that stands in the way of this revolutionary agenda are middle class citizens who disdain both the servility of socialism and the insolent power of the plutocracy.

The American Founders understood that political freedom and broadly distributed private property stand or fall together. Anyone concerned about the future of freedom, and about the future of our republic, must work tirelessly to bolster and expand the middle class, middle class property, and the

middle class virtues that property ownership helps to cultivate. The strength—indeed, the very survival—of our republic is fundamentally tied to the strength of our middle class.

*Mark T. Mitchell is Dean of Academic Affairs at Patrick Henry College and the author, most recently, of *Plutocratic Socialism: The Future of Private Property and the Fate of the Middle Class*.*

ADDENDUM I

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Health Impacts Request for Applications (RFA) Funding Recommendation

14 Applications Recommended for Funding			
Applications	Brief Project Description	Primary Health Impact Area	Recommended Funding
Boys & Girls Club of Mid-Central Coast	Opportunity to Thrive: After school programming with mentors for youth and teens to improve academic success, reduce risky behaviors, decrease mental health issues, and provide emotional support to families.	Mental Health & Substance Abuse	\$ 300,000.00
CAPSLO Project #1: Adult Day Care	Adult Day Center (M-F, 8am to 5pm): Serve adults with early-stage Alzheimer's disease, dementia, & cognitive impairments to maximize living skills and maintain highest level of cognitive functioning. Also provide caregiver respite, community outreach, and education.	Healthy Aging	\$ 200,000.00
CAPSLO Project #2: Mobile Reproductive Health Clinic	Mobile Reproductive Health Clinic: Purchase, license, and equip a mobile licensed medical facility to increase access to care by removing barriers such as transportation, insurance, legal status, finances, and linguistic or cultural barriers.	Access to Care	\$ 500,000.00
CFS/Promotores Workforce Capacity Building Coalition	Promotores Collaborative: Expand its organizational capacity to convene partner agencies to implement a San Luis Obispo County Community Health Worker/Promotor Workforce Capacity-Building Coalition based on established Spanish/Indigena/Mixteco bilingual and bicultural Latinx Health Outreach Program.	Access to Care	\$ 300,000.00

City Farm	Serve residents county-wide through the Youth Empowerment Program (includes bilingual English/Spanish career & college readiness, financial literacy, emotional wellbeing & mental health, agriculture training, paid internships), provide fresh food to the SLO Food Bank for county-wide distribution, & purchase a van to transport youth from throughout the county to the farm.	Mental Health & Substance Abuse; Food Access	\$ 205,000.00
Community Counseling Center / CONSOLE (partners: Parenting Support, Center for Family Strengthening)	Strengthen the network of mental health services; increase the number of volunteer and paid therapists, non-clinical family advocates, and Promotores; & increase the bilingual/bicultural capacity of coalition members.	Access to Care; Mental Health & Substance Abuse	\$ 450,000.00
Food Bank	CalFresh Outreach Project: Connect more residents with long-term financial support for food to reduce hunger and improve health. Increase enrollment by training SLO Food Bank partners to enroll participants, hosting targeted enrollment events with the SLO County Dept. of Social Services, leveraging SLO County CalFresh Alliance partnerships, implementing targeted media campaigns and communications, and utilizing data analysis and evaluation services through UC Cooperative Extension.	Food Access	\$ 985,000.00
French Hospital / Hearst Cancer Resource Center	Cancer Patient Navigator & Outreach Program: Offer bilingual navigation, outreach, and transportation to guide patients through cancer care, provide knowledge of diseases and treatments, help navigate the healthcare system, and provide emotional support.	Access to Care	\$ 400,000.00
HASLO: Housing Authority of City of SLO	Creating Resilient Communities: Acquire a disability-accessible van to take clients to physical and mental health appointments; provide one-on-one and group mental health and substance use counseling; assist in applying for CalFresh benefits; provide community-based and individualized services to seniors that are aging in place.	Access to Care; Mental Health & Substance Abuse; Food Access; Healthy Aging	\$ 450,000.00
Lumina Alliance	Provide direct services for adult & child survivors of sexual & intimate partner violence (no-cost, culturally-sensitive, age appropriate,	Access to Care; Mental Health & Substance	\$ 200,000.00

	directive and non-directive, individual and group therapy services).	Abuse; Healthy Aging	
One Cool Earth	SLO County Garden-based Nutrition Project: Expand year-round, bilingual, weekly, garden-based, science-linked nutrition education program and grow fresh produce at 42 schools with 19,000 students. Increase food access to families by promoting Cal Fresh enrollment and contributing fresh produce to food distribution agencies.	Access to Care; Mental Health & Substance Abuse; Food Access	\$ 400,000.00
SLO County Office of Education (SLOCOE)	Purchase 3 minivans and a mobile kitchen to increase student attendance for the most vulnerable secondary students, connect them to wrap-around services, & increase positive engagement in the community by providing school transportation, increasing access to medical and mental health services, and offering 2 meals per day.	Access to Care; Mental Health & Substance Abuse; Food Access	\$ 245,000.00
SLO Noor Foundation	Whole Community Care Project: Provide mobile, bilingual, accessible, inclusive primary care in residential and commercial areas where underserved populations reside, work, congregate; expand follow-up preventive health and access to community support services.	Access to Care	\$ 840,000.00
Transitions-Mental Health	Youth Mental Health & Suicide Prevention: Implement a series of 5 coordinated and complementary program components that will provide an overall response to the mental health needs of our young people.	Mental Health & Substance Abuse	\$ 450,000.00
Recommended for Funding Subtotal			\$ 5,925,000.00



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