

COLLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE
September 18 - 24, 2022

COLLAB

San Luis Obispo County



FALL MIXER 2022

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 20TH

5:30PM-7:30PM

THOUSAND HILLS RANCH

550 THOUSAND HILLS RD.

PISMO BEACH, CA

APPETIZERS & BEVERAGES
WILL BE PROVIDED



THIS WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

**CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY
TO ADOPT FY 2022-23 ANNUAL BUDGET
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO RETIRE**

**PLANNING COMMISSION
NEEDS TO LOOK AT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

LAST WEEK

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BACK
GRAND JURY PRAISES SHERIFF JAIL MEDICAL IMPROVEMENTS
MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM
GIBSON SHUTS DOWN PUBLIC COMMENT ON VOTING REFORM
BOARD DIVIES UP \$6 MILLION MORE IN BIDEN PATRONAGE MONEY**

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

LAFCO CANCELLED

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID LOW IN COUNTY

VOTE NO ON STATE BALLOT MEASURES

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 19**

CALIFORNIA'S UNELECTED TYRANTS BY EDWARD RING

**THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS
ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 (Not Scheduled)

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is set for Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) Policy Board Meeting of Thursday, September 22, 2022 (Scheduled) 4:45 PM

In General: The 3CE is governed by 2 overlapping Boards. The Policy Board is made of city council members and county supervisors from the member jurisdictions. There is also an Operations Board Comprised of city managers and county administrative officers from the member jurisdictions.

A third Board, the Community Advisory Board (which does not have policy powers), is made up of volunteers from the various member jurisdictions. It contains many well-known environmental activists.

Interestingly, and almost unnoticeable, is notation in the Operations Board Agenda (a separate meeting from the Policy Board), which notes that the current 3CE Chief Executive Officer, Tom Habashi, is retiring in March of 2023. It is not known if it is voluntary or if he is being pushed out due to conflicts with the Community Advisory Board over its proper role last April.



HABASHI

In 2020 he was receiving an annual salary of \$395,243 plus a pension from the city of Roseville of \$206,986. You would be smiling too.

The brief item notes that Santa Barbara County CEO Mona Miyasato will have a major role in the recruitment and vetting process.

The agenda of the Policy Board contains adoption of the FY 2022-23 Budget of \$425.6 million.

FY2022/23 BUDGET

CCCE FY 2022/23 Budget		
LINE ITEM	BUDGET	NOTES
Aggregate Cost of Energy - RA, Energy, PPA	\$377,918,806.77	
Data Manager	\$2,793,200.00	Key Staffing and Support Expenditures \$0.5 MM
Service Fees - IOU	\$2,100,000.00	
Advertising	\$500,000.04	
Contingency	\$1,100,000.00	
Subscriptions	\$611,062.14	
Legal	\$1,844,660.20	
IT Consulting	\$593,469.00	
Other Consultants	\$563,000.00	
Technical consultants	\$1,541,093.00	
Employee welfare	\$1,086,405.60	
Retirement plan contributions	\$707,508.36	
Salaries and wages	\$7,042,640.36	
Energy Programs	\$15,992,012.04	Direct Spend On Programs
Bad Debt Allowance	\$7,500,000.00	
Total	\$425,650,061.49	

- To provide greater clarity, only line items above \$0.5 MM were included in this year's presentation
- Energy Program spend represents new direct program investment; it does not include approximately \$1.85 MM of internal Energy Program support
- Energy prices remain volatile and there is significant downside risk to the forecast
- Due to the difference between CCCE's Fiscal Year (October – September) and Rate Year (January-December), there is a small (<\$5 MM) difference in Cost of Energy between Rate Year 2023 and FY22/23. However, the underlying cash flows are the same

Some of the patronage doled out by the Authority is listed in the table below:

FY 2021/22 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Addressing Climate Change Through Electrification and Innovation

- Disbursed \$2.85 MM in incentives for electric vehicles (EVs), electric bikes, EV charging equipment and installation, reducing an estimated 1,800 metric tons of GHG emissions
- Reserved \$1.25 MM of funding for eight electric school buses across the CCCE service area and promoted an innovated leasing structure allowing school districts to quickly transform their fleets
- Reserved \$4.2 MM total for publicly accessible DC Fast Chargers for communities in San Luis Obispo County (\$1.2 MM) and Santa Barbara County (\$3 million).
- Reserved \$1.7 MM total for Level 2 charging equipment for communities in San Luis Obispo County (\$680,000) and Santa Barbara County (\$1.05 MM)
- Reserved \$1.25 MM to purchase all electric heavy-duty equipment, including refuse haulers, streetsweepers and a transit bus
- Reserved nearly \$800,000 in funding to incentivize affordable developers to build approximately 700 all-electric affordable housing units
- Disbursed \$625,000 of incentives to electrify CCCE agricultural customer's operations, from equipment to vehicles
- Awarded \$640,000 in grants to support six regional planning, implementation, and education initiatives in our Member Agencies
- Provided Member Agencies over \$240,00 to support 22 EV charging stations with 44 ports and 30 new light duty electric vehicles
- Enrolled approximately 80 contractors working in the CCCE service area to participate in an innovated "mid-stream" home electrification program throughout the CCCE service area
- Executed a \$2 MM financing agreement with the County of Santa Cruz to facilitate the purchase and installation of emergency backup generation for critical operations
- Launched a Member Agency Services initiative to engage the unique needs of CCCE's 33 Member Agencies, including regional working groups and regional collaborations

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, September 22, 2022 (Scheduled)

Item 5 - (Continued from September 8, 2022) Planning Commission Purview Workshop update on the development of a Framework and Milestones to implement identified process improvements to ensure land use entitlement review process consistency. The Purview Workshop was held on February 24, 2022, and March 10, 2022, with a summary of the workshop sessions provided to the Planning Commission on June 9, 2022. There does not appear to be a write-up for this item. During the March 10th meeting, when the matter was discussed, the agenda included what appeared to be an orientation of local planning agencies and processes (See the table below).

It's not clear what will be discussed this time.

Attachments



Name	Download	Ext.	Filesize
01. Current Planning and Building Department Organizational Chart - Jan. 2022		pdf	119 kB
02_What is a Planning Commission?		pdf	45 kB
03_The Planning Commissioner's Role - League of California Cities		pdf	267 kB
04_Land Use Permit User Guide		pdf	133 kB
05_Land Division User Guide		pdf	125 kB
06_CC&Rs User Guide		pdf	86 kB
07_Permit Types and Common Definitions		pdf	571 kB
08_Rules of Procedure - Planning Commission		pdf	127 kB
09_RWQCB Overview		pdf	9 MB
10_SLOCOG Overview		pdf	61 kB
11_APCD Overview		pdf	262 kB

The Department has only 3 very anemic and poorly written performance measures related to the amount and velocity of its key permitting function. The Commission could start here to impose some rigor, such as how many permits are processed in each case. The percentages are without meaning.

1. Performance Measure: Percentage of commercial project permits processed within 60 days to complete plan check.

This measure provides information in order to gauge the department's performance in implementing the California Building Standards Code.

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Target	80.00%	80.00%	80.00%	80.00%	75.00%
Actual	58.00%	55.00%	50.00%	50.00%	

Notes: This performance measure goal is being modified to 60 days for FY 22-23 to reflect changes in the department's business model and how processing times are measured. Prior to FY 22-23 the performance measure was 30 days. With the current and projected workload demands, the staff allocated to provide review need 45 days for initial review for residential projects and 60 days for initial review of commercial projects. The following changes contribute to the need for increased processing timeframes. Staff training to accommodate updated permit processing system and processes. Updated intake is required to be completed prior to plan check commencement (versus occurring simultaneously) Updated Permit applications are now appointment based and individualized. Updated plan review requires mark up and corrections to be communicated and resolved electronically with applicants and agents.

2. Performance Measure: Percentage of Land Use cases processed within established timeframes.

This measure provides information in order to gauge the department's performance in implementing State laws regulating land use/subdivision project processing times. Projects that are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are required to be processed to hearing within 60 days of project acceptance; projects with Negative Declarations are required to be processed to hearing within 180 days of project acceptance.

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Target	0.00%	75.00%	75.00%	75.00%	75.00%
Actual	0.00%	0.00%	89.00%	75.00%	

Notes: No additional Notes

3. Performance Measure: Percentage of single-family dwelling permits processed within 45 days to complete plan check.

This measure provides information in order to gauge the department's performance in implementing the California Building Standards Code.

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Target	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%	75.00%
Actual	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	

Notes: This performance measure goal is being modified to 45 days for FY 22-23 to reflect changes in the department's business model and how processing times are measured. This was a new measure for FY 21-22 which the department has since re-evaluated. The performance measure was 30 days. With the current and projected workload demands, the staff allocated to provide review need 45 days for initial review for residential projects and 60 days for initial review of commercial projects. The following changes contribute to the need for increased processing timeframes. Staff training to accommodate updated permit processing system and processes. Updated intake is required to be completed prior to plan check commencement (versus occurring simultaneously) Updated Permit applications are now appointment based and individualized. Updated plan review requires mark up and corrections to be communicated and resolved electronically with applicants and agents

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

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

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. The Board accepted the report without comment on the consent calendar.

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 complementary about 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, establishing 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. This report and response was also accepted without discussion on the consent calendar.

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, the 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 actually should 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 response abdicates any responsibility, in that it simply adopts the Health Agency and Behavioral Health Department responses as its response.

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 Board's (both left and right majorities) hands off approach to commanding and insuring prompt action by management of 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?

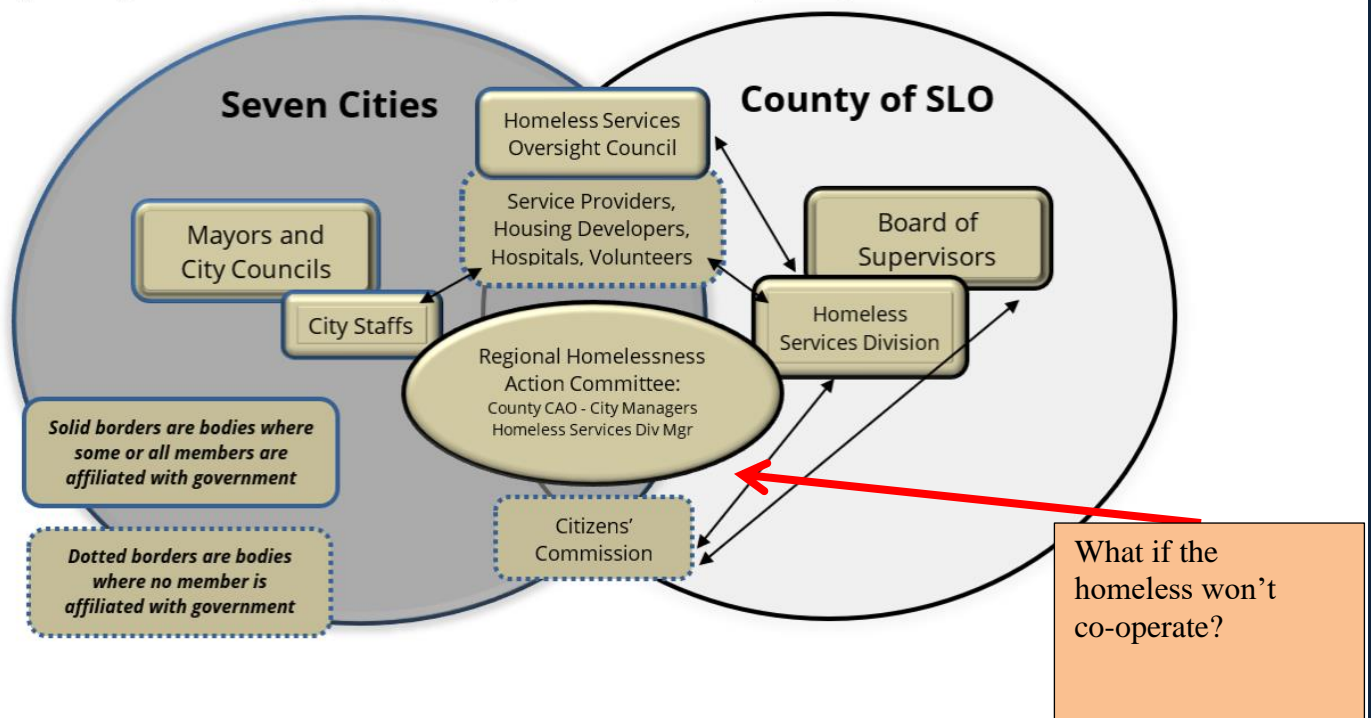
How many patients are cured or move to a less intense level of care?

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 matter was not controversial and was approved on the consent calendar. It had previously been vetted by the Board when the overall plan for restructuring the homelessness programs was presented last summer.

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 32 - Public Comment for Matters not on the Agenda. A number of voter reform activists appeared in order to speak about election and voter issues. Two of them failed to deliver their speaker slips prior to the start of the item. Chairman Bruce Gibson refused to allow them to speak. When they persisted he recessed the meeting and left the dais. They then addressed the audience in spite of Gibson. In fact, they would not sit down or be quiet.

All in, it wasted about 15 minutes. Had Gibson allowed them to speak, it would have taken only a maximum of 6 minutes.

Gibson cannot abide any criticism of the election system, vote by mail, ballot harvesting, no voter ID required, or anything related to the County elections office.

The entire county is in revolt about these matters, but Gibson knows that the current system is empowering the radical left.

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 did spark some rebuttal from Supervisor Ortiz-Legg when COLAB questioned some of the programs. 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 twelve not-for-profit and two governmental agencies.

Some Board members are nervous about the Citizens Commission, shown in the graphic above, but may address it when the staff proposes members.

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

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. Worse yet, the entire ARPA program is funded by Federal Debt, which is driving inflation by dumping \$1.9 trillion into the economy with no commensurate increase in productivity.

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. There was a long wrangle about the front-end nature of the fees, especially the fee for operator background investigations, \$24,630. In the end the Board convinced staff to remove some steps, which could come later if the operator is found to be qualified in the first place. This dropped the fee to about \$9,000. The Board should actually walk through the time and task analysis for each fee to ascertain if it makes sense.

The item centralized 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. 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.
7002	Cannabis Business License Background (Non-Cultivation)	\$0	\$23,591	Current business license 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.
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. 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.
7007	Annual License Renewal Background (Non-Cultivation)	\$0	\$15,441	

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	
7013	Minor Violation	\$0	\$4,958	
7014	Notice of Nuisance	\$0	\$1,244	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.

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? Basically, the Board is sending a message that it is not too keen on expansion of the cannabis industry.

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

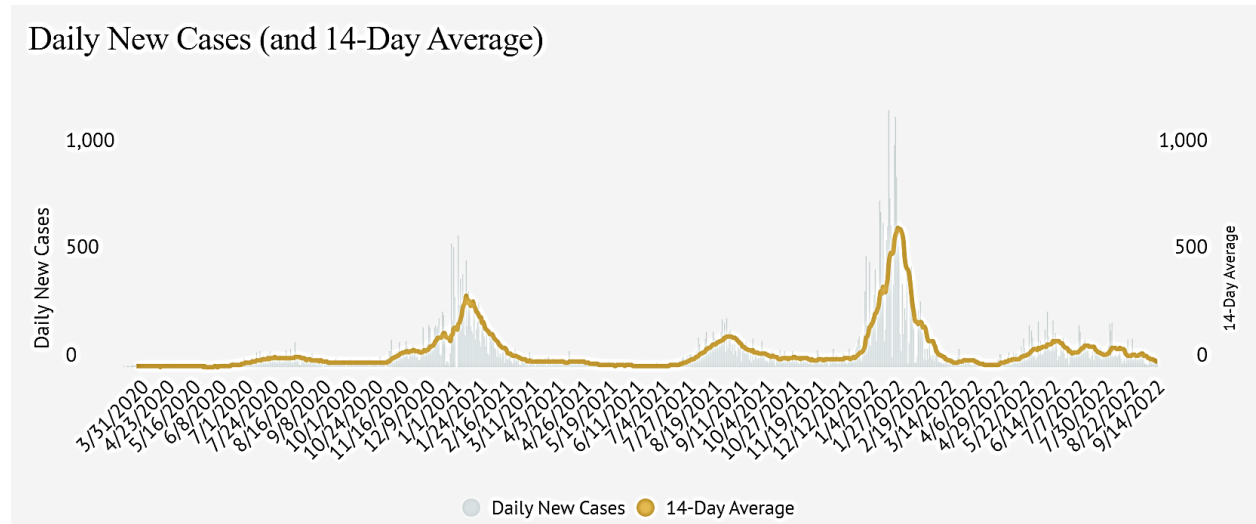
The meeting is heavy duty and includes major financial items, a report on the agency’s office building’s crumbling foundation, and the setting of organic recycled material procurement requirements for each of the 7 cities and the unincorporated county area.

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

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID in SLO County. The new case level remained low on the rolling 14-day average.



9 (2 ICU)** SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

Item 2 - California Policy Center Recommendations on November State Ballot Measures: Basically “NO” on all of them.



Prop 1: Constitutional Amendment to create unrestricted access to abortion

California lawmakers have the authority granted to them to put anything on the ballot that they want, so what do they do this year? In response to the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, state legislators put Proposition 1 on the ballot to ensconce the most extreme abortion policy in the country into the California’s Constitution.

But while polling consistently shows the majority of Californians to support *Roe*, Prop 1 would allow abortion right up to the moment of birth. As California’s *Flash Report* editor Jon Fleischman explained in his [op-ed](#) in the *Orange County Register*:

“Right now, a woman can have an abortion in California up to the point where the baby can survive outside the womb or is “viable.” Viability has been the standard for decades.

...Based on polling, it is likely most Californians are comfortable with that viability standard. But legislative Democrats are testing how far voters are willing to go to allow legal abortions up to a baby's due date. That's what will be on the ballot this November in California with Proposition 1."

Of course, the messaging in support of Prop 1 will be backed by hundreds of millions of dollars, but the campaign is about a lot more than access to abortion. As Gov. Newsom focuses on a White House run, he is desperate to deflect attention from California's myriad problems: rampant homelessness and crime, a failing electricity grid, high gas and housing prices, and the fact that more people are leaving the state than ever before because the cost of living has skyrocketed while the quality of life has nose-dived on his watch.

Props 26 & 27: The high stakes battle over legalizing sports betting

California's Indian tribes are in a heated battle over bringing sports betting to the Golden State. The two sides have already spent \$370 million on their campaigns for and against competing ballot measures, Propositions 26 and 27.

California does not allow sports betting, but online gambling industry leaders DraftKings and FanDuel are pushing Prop 27 to make it legal across the state. From the marketing, you would hardly know that Prop 27 is about gambling. They are pushing the measure as a matter of fairness for smaller tribes who don't have massive casinos — and as a panacea to help California's homeless!

On the other side is Prop 26, the tribes' measure that would allow Californians to bet on sports so long as they place their bets in-person at tribal casinos or California's horse tracks. There's also a third coalition, led by the politically savvy San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, which has raised millions to fight against Prop 27, but isn't contributing to Prop 26 either. This group has submitted signatures for their own ballot initiative to legalize sports betting both online and in-person — but they're aiming for the 2024 election.

With all the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in this fight, there is one sure bet: the biggest winners are the political consultants who are paid obscene amounts of money to run these campaigns.

Prop 28: Funding for Arts Education in public schools taps California's general fund

Proposition 28 purports to fund "Arts Education" in California's schools by earmarking more of the state's general fund for that purpose. But California's government-run schools already control the lion's share of the general fund as a result of Prop 98, which passed in 1998 and requires at least 40% of the state's general fund go toward public schools and community colleges. If passed, Prop 28 would mandate an additional 1% of the general fund budget go toward arts education.

Contrary to the claims of the state's teachers' unions, California already spends generously on students. This fiscal year, the *San Jose Mercury News* reports education funding will hit "a record \$95.5 billion for public schools under the Prop 98 funding formula. It works out to about \$17,000 per student ... And that doesn't count one-time money from the federal government."

Teachers unions will, of course, claim that California teachers are always underpaid, but you can go to [Transparent California](#) to see that is patently untrue. As CPC senior fellow Edward Ring explains in his article this week, teachers in LAUSD – the state's largest school district – make an average of \$115,946 in salary, health insurance, and pension benefits for about 185 days of work.

To be sure, Prop 28's backers have a lot of nerve. As California's students have fallen desperately behind on education basics as a result of extended school closures during the pandemic, you would think their focus would be on catching kids up on reading and math.

Why should voters approve more arts education funding when California's government-run schools are some of the worst performing in the nation and California is facing so many serious challenges? The *San Jose Mercury News* called out Prop 28 this way:

"It's fiscally reckless to keep earmarking unpredictable state general fund money when we don't know what the future needs of California will be as it confronts, for example, a housing shortage, climate change, inadequate water supplies and wildfires.

...The answer is not to lock in a bigger share of the state general fund pie for schools. The answer is for schools to better spend the money they have."

Prop 29: SEIU's thuggery against kidney dialysis clinics is back on the ballot – again.

Prop 29 is backed by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which picks a fight every two years against kidney dialysis clinics. SEIU wants you to believe that there is somehow an urgent need to have more SEIU employees in the approximately 650 dialysis centers operating in California. Voters rejected SEIU's Prop 8 in 2018 (59.9%-40.1%) and Prop. 23 went down in flames in 2020 (63.4%-36.6%).

This year, SEIU wants to mandate that a doctor, nurse practitioner or a physician assistant with a minimum 6-months experience be on site 24 hours a day at California's dialysis clinics, which would increase costs at these centers and could force some to close. Patients could be forced to travel farther for this lifesaving service that they receive three times a week.

The California Medical Association opposes the measure because, let's face it, it is not really about protecting patients. Instead, SEIU is trying to strong-arm the kidney dialysis centers to unionize. The unions have more than enough money to put these propositions on the ballot every election cycle and they hope the kidney dialysis industry will tire of spending tens of millions of dollars to defend itself and ultimately capitulate.

Again, the [*San Jose Mercury News*](#) pulls no punches in exposing Prop 29 for what it is:

“Proposition 29 is the worst kind of abuse of California’s election system...The Service Employees International Union realizes by now that it has little chance of winning voter approval. But that’s not the game. Rather, they’re using the initiative system as a form of political blackmail designed to force the leading kidney dialysis firms to eventually cave to demands to unionize clinic workers.”

If you are ever in doubt about how cynical California's powerful unions are, consider that this dialysis treatment is a matter of life and death for 80,000 Californians whose risk of dying increases by nearly a third if they miss a treatment.

Yet another example of how California’s corrupt unions could care less about the lives of Californians, literally.

Prop 30: Lyft’s wealth tax to fund electric cars opposed by teachers’ union?

Gov. Newsom has mandated that ride share companies magically transform the fleets of cars owned by their independent contractor drivers to electric vehicles by 2030, but he didn’t explain how the average Uber or Lyft driver is supposed to pay for their own high-priced electric car. Rideshare leader Lyft responded by backing Prop 30, a wealth tax on Californians earning more than \$2 million a year that would fund subsidies and rebates to meet Newsom’s mandate.

Taxing the wealthy to fund his green dreams might sound like something Newsom would eagerly support, so why has he come out swinging against Prop 30? He’s joined the California Teachers Association in an aggressive [campaign](#) against Proposition 30, unveiled earlier this week.

If you are scratching your head about why the teachers’ union would weigh in on electric vehicles, you only need to read the press release from Newsom and the CTA to understand what is going on.

“Prop. 30’s narrowly focused tax increase puts a special interest lock box on income taxes that traditionally would fund transitional kindergarten, public schools, community colleges, healthcare, public safety, and other priorities,” CTA President E. Toby Boyd said.

In other words, if anyone is going to fleece the richest Californians, it’s going to be teachers’ unions! The CTA doesn’t want all that cash going to any cause the unions don’t control

Will Californians pass Prop 30? If they do, California's marginal income tax rate – already the highest in the nation at 13.3 – would increase another 1.75%. At that rate, you can expect a mass exodus of those wealthy Californians that Prop 30’s proponents are counting on.

Prop 31: Referendum on flavored tobacco ban for kids ... and adults.

Proposition 31 is a referendum on Senate Bill 793 (Hill, 2020), the California legislature’s ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products. SB 793, the “Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement Act,” was signed into law by Gov. Newsom in 2020.

What is wrong with banning flavored tobacco and vaping products to kids? Nothing, except of

course it was already against the law to sell them to anyone under the age of 21 prior to the passage of SB 793. However, SB 793's title is intentionally misleading. It bans the sale of flavored tobacco products to all customers, regardless of age.

Here's the [Orange County Register's](#) take:

“California has a lot of problems and not all of them are directly taxpayer related. But...they all interconnect in one important way: Control. Our state's government and its boosters think they know better than you. They know better how to spend your money. They know better how to use your land. They know what's best for you. And, if you disagree, the nanny state will just make it illegal.”

Precisely.

Ballots are scheduled to drop on October 10th, so grab your popcorn. California voters are going to face a deluge of advertising in the coming weeks and the mega-millions that will be spent on these battles will surely be something to behold.

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

CALIFORNIA'S UNELECTED TYRANTS

BY EDWARD RING

Zeroing in on “unelected tyrants” in a state as dysfunctional and regressive as California is not easy. There are too many targets. Even California's elected state legislators, as they cook up and pass countless tyrannical intrusions into our lives and livelihoods, are themselves “elected” only so long as they pledge obeisance to a powerful coalition of special interests that have turned California into a one-party state.

But once the state legislature has done what it's been told, whatever glimmer of transparency that still attends to politics in the Capitol Dome is extinguished. Left to implement legislative edicts are unelected bureaucrats, themselves operating under the direction of appointed commissioners. These commissions wield immense power to affect the daily lives of Californians. One recent example of this would be the 11-0 vote in May of this year by the California Coastal Commission to deny approval for a new desalination plant in Huntington Beach. Capable of producing 55,000-acre feet of fresh water per year and impervious to droughts, this badly needed plant would have been a twin to the successful desalination plant further south in Carlsbad, just north of San Diego. But despite spending over \$100 million and over 20 years submitting permit

applications, defending against litigation, investing in engineering plans, and continuously resubmitting to conform with endlessly mutating regulations, the applicant was stopped Cold.

Staff experts” at the Coastal Commission claimed this desalination plant would “devastate” marine life and produce “expensive water too costly for low-income consumers.” These are patently false assertions, but because “devastate” and “expensive” are relative terms, these biased in-house experts can get away with saying them. There are desalination plants operating all over the planet and the proposed plant in Huntington Beach would have incorporated all the latest mitigation technologies.

As for the cost, the desalinated water would have been purchased by water agencies that would have blended its costs with what they pay their other water suppliers. Consumers would not have been harmed. In fact, having this guaranteed supply of water would have even occasionally helped municipal water agencies in their negotiations with other suppliers, lowering costs. This plant was denied its permit because the California Coastal Commission is dominated by environmentalist zealots who do not care about the welfare of ordinary people. Thanks to their irresponsible ruling, it is unlikely an applicant will ever attempt to build a major desalination plant in California.

For the entire 840 miles of California coast, the California Coastal Commission can prohibit any development within 1,000 yards of the high tide marker. In areas designated “significant coastal estuarine, habitat, and recreational areas” this power can extend much further, up to five miles inland. The Coastal Commission has made it impossible for all but the most powerful corporations and wealthiest individuals to build anything near the ocean, and it frequently harasses small property owners. If the Coastal Commission had been established a century earlier, every single one of the charming towns and neighborhoods lining California’s coast would not exist.

So who runs the Coastal Commission? Who are the individuals who have the power to deny fresh water to a water parched state? The governing board of the Coastal Commission has 12 members. Four are appointed by the governor, four by the State Senate Rules Committee, and four by the Speaker of the State Assembly. No qualifications whatsoever are required. Many appointees are socialites, donors, activists, or all three.

That would perfectly describe one of these board directors, appointed in 2011. She is a major donor to Democratic politicians, and fiercely committed to “protect the coast.” Her late husband, with whom she presumably lived, had a mansion in Pacific Palisades that recently listed for \$35 million. Situated on 1.39 acres, a quick zoom in using Google Maps (satellite view and street view) will confirm the presence of expansive lawns and lush hedges. One may only imagine the monthly water consumption on this property.

Exposing this lifestyle is not to criticize it. People who earn a lot of money should be able to buy nice things, live in big homes on big lots, and use as much water as they can pay for. That's what anyone would believe if they were committed to a rational free-market economy and believed in practical public/private investment in infrastructure to facilitate, at every level, more availability of these amenities for everyone.

But how on earth can someone who has ever lived on a water-guzzling palatial estate in Pacific Palisades be so grotesquely elitist and hypocritical as to deny abundant water to the masses of humans who don't live in \$35 million mansions, but just want to water a patch of lawn so their children have a soft, cool safe space in their small yards to play?

What's happening at the California Water Commission is happening elsewhere. The California Air Resources Board (CARB), with a governing board consisting of 14 unelected political appointees, is outlawing gas powered tools and off-road engines, gasoline powered cars, and even diesel-powered trucks. This barely scratches the surface of how CARB edicts and enforcement actions are harming the prosperity and freedoms of normal Californians. At every layer of California's governments, state, regional and local, commissions ran by unelected appointees are using their power to reduce the standard of living and increase the cost of living.

In the case of desalination plants, which Californians desperately need along with more reservoirs, aqueduct repairs, and wastewater recycling, the Coastal Commission gave cover to Governor Newsom, and to Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, when they voted unanimously to deny the Huntington Beach desalination plant permit. Both these politicians have vocally supported desalination projects, including the big one proposed for Huntington Beach. But if they were serious, each of them could fire four commission board members, and install new directors who would show genuine concern for working families in California.

The solution is to elect politicians with the courage and vision to fire all these commission appointees, everywhere, if they cannot recognize that the environmentalist movement is out of control. They can be replaced with new directors who are willing to restore a humanitarian balance between the interests of people and the stewardship of nature.

This article first appeared in the California Policy Center of September 15, 2022.



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"

KSMARADIO
NEWS • TALK
1240 | 99.5
1240ksma.com

KZSBRADIO
SANTA BARBARA
1290 | 96.9
am1290kzsb.com

K-NEWS
98.5
The Power of Information
knews98.5.com

*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 \(colabslo.org\)](http://COLAB San Luis Obispo County (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: _____