

WEEKLY UPDATE APRIL 16 - 22, 2023

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES

News Corp ****

ΓUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 ~ VOL. CCLXXXI NO. 83

WSJ.com

*** \$5.00

Direct Democracy Dies in California

Progressives want

to stop voters from

challenging state laws.

emocrats hold every statewide office in California and super-majorities in California's Legislature. Apparently

that's not enough. So now they are seeking to entrench this power by making it harder for voters to block their laws. Which party is really undermining voter rights?

Unions and green groups are pushing legislation that would create enormous new hurdles to ballot initiatives that repeal or alter laws passed within the prior two

years. The so-called "ballot reforms" are intended to stop "well-powered set of interests that often undermine the collective will of the people of California," says the bill's Assembly

sponsor Isaac Bryan.

By well-powered interests, he means the voters. His legislation would undermine direct democracy while cementing union and progressive power. For starters, it would limit the time that campaigns seeking to block state laws have to collect some 550,000 signatures to 90 days. Other ballot campaigns would continue to have 180 days.

Ballot campaigns often pay workers to collect signatures because it can be tough to find enough volunteers to do so. The bill would require that at least 10% of signatures be obtained by volunteers. Paid signature gatherers would also have to register with and receive training from the state. These requirements would apply only to initiatives seeking to cancel state laws.

The goal is to limit the supply of signature gatherers that businesses can hire for referenda campaigns. The kicker is that the bill exempts unions so they can rely entirely on paid organizers to collect signatures in the unlikely event Democrats pass a law unions oppose and want to mount a referendum to overturn it.

Petitions would also have to follow a strict template, including a sheet with the list of the "OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS" at the top in bold-

face 16-point font. In addition to signing their names and addresses to the petition, voters would have to initial and date that they reviewed the top funders. Signatures of voters who don't

would be invalidated. Referendum campaigns would also have to immediately note any changes to their top funders. Signatures on allegedly out-of-date petition sheets would be invalidated.

The sum of all this is to create a procedural minefield that voters would have to navigate if they want to challenge a new state law. Make even a small paperwork mistake, and tens of thousands of voter signatures could get nullified.

As progressive power in Sacramento grows, voters are increasingly turning to referenda to restrain the one-party Democratic state. Voters approved an initiative in 2020 that exempted many gig-economy workers from the state's AB5 law, which reclassified many independent contractors as workers. The same year, they blocked a law that ended cash bail.

An initiative to repeal a new law that bars new oil drilling in much of the state has qualified for the November 2024 ballot. As has a referendum to block a law creating a state council to dictate wages and work conditions at fastfood joints. But Democratic lawmakers and their friends don't want to give voters a say over the laws they pass.

Progressives are trying to disenfranchise voters on the sly, trusting that the press won't report on and oppose their attack on democracy because it rarely does.

THIS WEEK

BOS MEETING REFLUX

SPECIAL BOS MEETING APRIL 19TH SELECTION OF A NEW COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

LAFCO MEETING

LAST WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PLANNING COMMISSION LIGHT

3CE ENERGY AUTHORITY
RUNNING OUT OF GREEN FAKE ENERGY CREDITS

FUNDING ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES AND CARS

EMERGENT ISSUES

LAWSUIT SEEKS TO SHUT DOWN DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT

NEW ELECTRIC BILLING STRUCTURE PROPOSED BY CALIFORNIA UTILITIES PARTIALLY BASED ON YOUR INCOME

TEXAS CONSIDERS BILL TO PRIVATIZE THE BUSINESS OF ISSUING BUILDING PERMITS SAVES TIME AND COSTS

COLAB IN DEPTH SEE PAGE 21

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE'S RACE TO MARXISM: 2023 PROPOSED LEGISLATION REVEALS HARD LEFT TURN

CA DEMOCRATS: 'THE VANGUARD OF THE PROLETARIAT?'
BY KATY GRIMES

NOW YOU CAN JOIN OUR WEEKLY UPDATE SPONSORS AND PLACE A DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT



CALL MIKE AT 805-944-4274 FOR DETAILS

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, April 18, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item 4 - Request to terminate the July 13, 2021 Proclamation of Local Emergency for drought pursuant to Government Code section 8630. Some provisions will lapse, but others remain:

On March 23, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom, by Executive Order N-5-23, terminated various provisions of the drought proclamations:

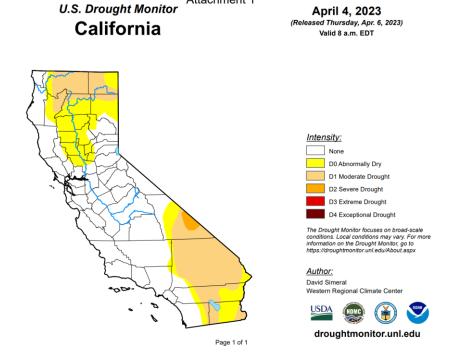
- The voluntary 15% water conservation target, while continuing to encourage that Californians make conservation a way of life;
- The requirement that local water agencies implement level 2 of their drought contingency plans;
- Maintains the ban on wasteful water uses, such as watering ornamental grass on commercial properties;
- Preserves all current emergency orders focused on groundwater supply, where the effects of the multi- year drought continue to be devastating;
- Maintains orders focused on specific watersheds that have not benefited as much from recent rains, including the Klamath River and Colorado River basins, which both remain in drought;
- Retains a state of emergency for all 58 counties to allow for drought response and recovery efforts to continue

Local Reservoir	% Capacity October 2022	% Capacity April 2023
Nacimiento	17%	93%
Lopez	23%	100%
Salinas (Santa Margarita Lake)	50%	100%
Whale Rock	71%	100%

Rainfall Totals since	7/1/22	% of AVG	
Salinas Dam	50.71"	230%	
Lopez Dam	47.23"	236%	
Rocky Butte	96.28"	241%	
Morro Toro	56.97"	203%	
Templeton	33.49"	186%	
Nipomo East	37.15"	206%	

State Water Allocations

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
5%	20%	60%	85%	35%	75%	20%	5%	5%	75%



Attachment 1

Item 30 - Request to approve a resolution supporting the California State Association of Counties 'AT HOME' Plan. This appears to be a feel-good item, as it lists some vague goals to address homelessness, which are already embodied in programs all over the state:

- \bullet A-Accountability: Clear responsibilities aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government
- T T ransparency: Integrate and expand data to improve program effectiveness
- *H Housing: Increase and maintain housing units across the spectrum*
- \bullet O-Outreach: Develop sustainable outreach systems and increase workforce to support these systems
- *M Mitigation: Strengthen safety net programs*
- E-Economic Opportunity: Create employment and education pathways, as well as supports for basic need

What about accountability for drug use, alcohol use, laziness, and inability to manage medications? Now What?













MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 35 - Hearing to Adopt Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2.60 of the County Code to change Supervisorial District boundaries and submittal of a resolution confirming the Board's findings in support of the new district boundaries.

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1. Select and adopt one of the three previously introduced ordinances which repeals Ordinance No. 3467 and establishes new supervisorial districts based on the supervisorial boundaries described in either Map A, Map B, or the Chamber Map; and
- 2. Waive the reading of the ordinance; and
- 3. Adopt one of the three attached resolutions corresponding to the selected ordinance (Map A, Map B, or the Chamber Map) confirming the Board's findings in support of the new district boundaries; and
- 4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the ordinance summary as a one-quarter display advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation within 15 days after adoption with the names of those supervisors voting for and against the matter, pursuant to Government Code Section 25124(b)(2).

The Board selected the final map on November 30, 2021, known as the Patten map, on a vote of 3/2 with Gibson and Ortiz-Legg dissenting. The other map in contention was the SLO Chamber of Commerce map. After formal adoption of the Patten map, a group of progressive Democrats, the SLO Citizens for Good Government (the Citizens) filed a lawsuit seeking the Court to overturn the Board action on the grounds that the Patten map violated the Fair Maps Act. The leftist plaintiffs asserted that the Patten map violated the Elections Code, which states in part that:

The board is prohibited from adopting supervisorial district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party."

The Citizens asserted that the Patten map violated the Code on 2 grounds:

1. Among other things, the Patten Map changed the boundaries of District 4 to give Lynn Compton a big advantage in the upcoming June 2022 election. In 2016, under the prior District 4 boundaries, Compton won against Paulding by 60 votes. So the Board carved Oceano out of District 4 and replaced it with the Edna Valley Country Club Estates neighborhood. This removed thousands of Democrats and added thousands of Republicans to District 4 to give Compton a better chance of winning. Indeed, in 2016 60% of Oceano voted for Paulding. What this also means is that citizens in Oceano will not be allowed to vote for a Supervisor in 2022 as they normally would have, while residents in the Country Club will get to vote twice in 2022 – once for the Supervisor of District 3 under the old boundaries and once for District 4 under the new boundaries.

And

2. The same adverse effect on fundamental voting rights is also happening on the north coast to voters in Los Osos, Cayucos, and Cambria. For example, voters in Los Osos are being removed from District 2 and transferred to District 5, thereby depriving them of their vote in 2022 and delaying their vote to 2024. Equally troubling is that coastal Cayucos and Cambria are being separated from their longstanding connection to coastal Los Osos and instead combined with rural Atascadero and San Miguel. This has the effect of changing the voting constituency from its former ratio of 46 percent democrat and 26% republican to the new ratio of 34% democrat and 39% republican – flipping the district. This reflects a blatant violation of the redistricting law prohibiting redistricting in order to favor one political party over another.

The Citizens' complaint is based on inference rather than direct evidence. The plaintiff citizens simply rely on the changes from the 2011 map to the new 2021 map as evidence of nefarious manipulation. There are no witnesses, emails, or other independent evidence that would prove that Patten conspired with Republicans to design the map. He himself has stated that he designed the map to comply with the law. The County's independent redistricting consultant, Redistricting Consultants, never warned the Board that the Patten map was illegal. Since the new Board majority surrendered the issue, there has been no pretrial discovery of facts or witness interviews. It has never been objectively proven that the map is illegal.

In effect, the Patten map meets the requirements of the Fair Maps Act in every respect and better than the other maps, which have been resurrected as part of the County Board majority legal settlement.

Criteria for Redrawing Districts Under the California Elections Code, new supervisorial districts must be redrawn using the following criteria, in the following order of priority:

1) To the extent practicable, districts shall be geographically contiguous.

- 2) To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division.
- 3) To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of a city or census designated place shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division.
- 4) Supervisorial district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, supervisorial districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the county.
- 5) To the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria, supervisorial districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

The inference that the adopted map is illegal is false. The map does not violate any of the criteria above. In fact, the map meets these criteria better than any of the other maps. It replaces the 2011 map, which had been manipulated to benefit Democratic party. This is a case of the proverbial "pot calling the kettle black," in that the 2011 map was gerrymandered by the Democrats to inject a portion of San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly leftist neighborhoods into District 5, which mainly represents a large portion of the north County; it also split Templeton to lessen its conservative impact. A citizen filed a lawsuit on this clear violation, but ran out of money while awaiting the appeal court to take up the matter.

The leftist citizens, on the other hand, were well funded and hired the gilt-edged Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger out of San Francisco, which is California's oldest and most famous environmental law firm. The firm is heavily staffed out of UC Berkeley, Stanford, UC Hastings, and Harvard Law schools. Lauren Tarpey is the actual attorney from the firm working on this case. Her background includes:

Supporting local governments' adoption of policies to phase out the use of natural gas in their building stock.

Serving as Co-Editor in Chief of the Stanford Environmental Law Journal.

Stanford Law School, JD, 2017

Stanford Emmett Interdisciplinary Program on the Environment and Resources, MS, 2017

University of Chicago, BA in Public Policy and Environmental Studies, 2012

Clerkship: Honorable R. Brooke Jackson, U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

No wonder the County had to pony up \$300,000 to settle the case.

Any attempt to overturn the Board majority's action will need to be very well funded.

Supervisor Gibson won by 13 votes out of 23,431, and Supervisor Paulding won by 639 votes out of 20,899. They are jamming through their entire leftist agenda, even though these vote margins do not demonstrate a massive one-sided support for their policies. In fact, it is quite marginal. Any mistake or event could trigger a voter backlash. It is not as if they won by 70%. Yet they are behaving as if they have some sort of huge mandate.

The League of Women Voters (the other Plaintiff) has become a totally leftist shill instead of a good government reform organization. In SLO it seems to be made up of retired former government administrators.

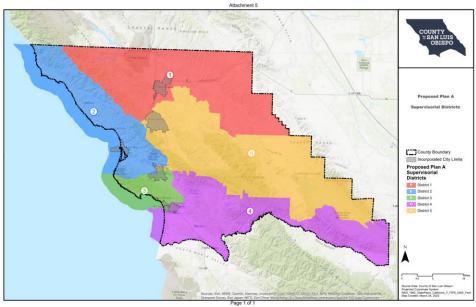
Summary of Litigation and Settlement: On January 12, 2022, an organization called SLO County Citizens for Good Government and three other individuals filed a lawsuit in San Luis Obispo Superior Court challenging the validity of the Board's approval of the Adopted Map. The lawsuit alleged that the County violated the California Fair Maps Act, among other things. On June 17, 2022, the Court allowed the League of Women's Voters to join the lawsuit as an additional Petitioner. On January 26, 2022, Petitioners filed a motion with the court requesting the Court issue a Temporary Restraining Order asking the Court to temporarily invalidate the map for the upcoming 2022 election. The Court denied the motion on the basis that there would be "...[a] significant disruption...if the Court were to order the County to use a different map due to the impending deadlines faced by the Clerk Recorder for the June 2022 primary election." However, the Court did find that the Petitioners "...have established a reasonable probability of prevailing on their claim under [Elections Code § 21500] subdivision (d)." More exactly, the Court made a preliminary determination that the County Board should have considered the evidence in the record on political demographics and the effects when it approved the Adopted Map. The Court did not rule that the map per se violated the Fair Maps Act.

It is not clear at this point which map the Board majority favors. Nor is it clear if there are any citizens with the time and the money to fight the settlement and defend the adopted map.

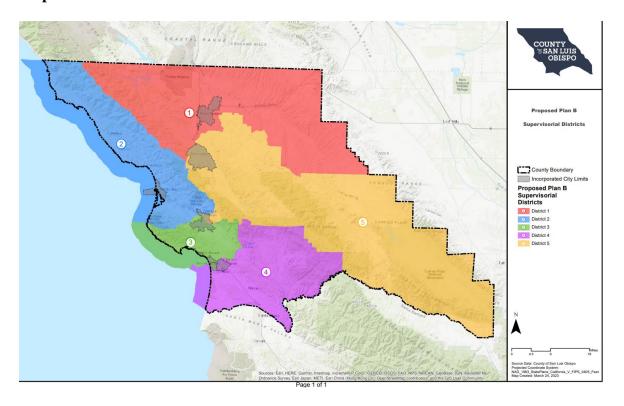
Adopted Map



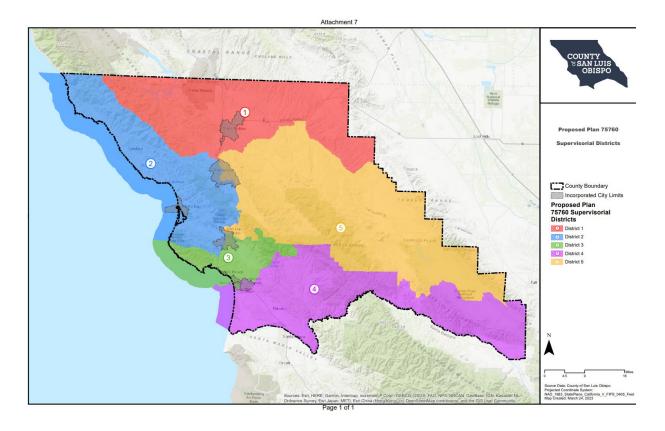
Map A



Map B



Chamber Map



Special Board of Supervisors Meeting of Wednesday, April 19, 2023 (Just Scheduled) 9:00 AM

Item 1 - Closed Session: PERSONNEL (Government Code section 54957.) It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session to: (1) Consider Public Employee Appointment for the Position of County Administrative Officer. Again, and as we have reported, the meeting could involve any number of potential actions and/or discussions involving the appointment of a successor to CAO Wade Horton, who must have been offered a deal he couldn't refuse. The Board could take any number of possible actions:

- 1. Appoint a permanent CAO who could be waiting in the wings.
- 2. Appoint an interim CAO. The logical choice would be the current Assistant CAO Rebecca Campbell. Campbell is a local government professional with significant credentials and experience.
- 3. Let the matter ride. Wade Horton does not leave until May.

- 4. Decide on the terms and conditions for a recruitment. Matters such as education, experience, past successes, pay, etc., could be discussed. Would the recruitment be national or limited to California?
- 5. Will the County HR Department conduct the recruitment, or will they hire a professional recruiting firm?
- 6. Some combination of the above.

Since the Board is conducting a special meeting, the purpose could be to meet with a professional recruitment firm representative to go over the qualifications, desired education and experience, leadership attributes, and other material that would be included in the recruitment profile. There are a number of highly qualified city managers in the area, including some who have served in leftist oriented communities. Such candidates could be attractive to the current progressive Board majority; however, professional city and county CEOs are sworn by their professional association (the International City County Management Association) to stay out of politics and provide recommendations based on the best independent analysis. Those candidates that adhere to the Code are generally not received well by highly doctrinaire leftists who promote a socialist society.

Unfortunately, there are a number of executives in the business, as well as vulture department heads, who will apply for jobs and do the bidding of whoever has 3 votes. The \$300,000 plus salary and benefits package with a defined benefit pension is just too tempting. Where else can you pretend to run a large organization and not have to worry about making a profit or meeting the payroll? You don't even have to go to lunch with your banker.

At this point there are 3 types of local government CEOs in the business.

- 1. Apolitical professionals who believe in the code of ethics and who do the actual work.
- 2. Political hacks that bend to every whim and grease the internal policy, appointments, and contractual wheels for the dominant political group the servile asshole type.
- 3. Symbolic managers who appear presentable, speak well, go to all the not-for-profit social events, travel, and otherwise go along and get along.

Unfortunately, just about everyone in the business has been educated and acculturated to believe that the city or county in which they serve exists to expand, hire more people, and provide more services, and that the employees' pay and benefits are sacred to the mission. Few understand that the original and proper mission of upper-level executives and managers in cities and counties is

to ensure the most effective use of the taxpayers money, maximization of the units of service delivery, maximization of the hours of actual work that provide services, and otherwise run a tight ship. Values of self-starting, analytical capacity, sense of urgency, mental alertness, delivering successful outcomes, doing more with less, eliminating process steps which are unneeded, and financial success of the community have been abandoned.

Instead, vague notions of collaboration, inclusion, equity, innovation, balanced life work/lifestyle, and all forms of value relativism permeate the business.





Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting of Thursday, April 20, 2023 (Scheduled)

Agenda in General: The meeting agenda is confined to administrative matters, including a quarterly financial report, the proposed FY 2023-24 Budget (about \$301,000), and requests for extensions of several small applications for annexation to community service districts. It also contains a municipal service review of the Heritage Ranch Community Service District. The review finds the District to be financially healthy and in compliance with State and local requirements.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 (Not Scheduled)

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, April 13, 2023 (Completed)

The Commission agenda was light, containing only a winery expansion on state Highway 41 near Creston and an indoor cannabis operation grow in Templeton. Both projects were recommended for approval by staff and ultimately approved by the Commission.

Central Coast Community Energy Authority (3CE) Operations Board meeting of Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 10:30 AM (Completed)

Item 1.2 - Receive FY 2021-2022 Energy Programs Portfolio Evaluation. 3CE is pushing members to accept grants to buy electric school buses. Electric vehicle batteries, especially in large vehicles, are susceptible to explosive fires.



Do you want your kids trapped in a lithium blow torch?

This is how an Eco-Electric bus burns in an accident. This is the full force of lithium batteries burning. Imagine if this happened in a city center or under an apartment block with a car. Seattle recently bought a fleet of these electric buses. Nobody wants this to happen. However, it is one of the unintended consequences of the EV/Green Movement. 3CE has granted millions of dollars for electric school buses on the central coast. These dollars are sourced from your payments to 3CE. This was not included in the presentation 2 weeks ago, when Gibson, Paulding, and Ortiz-Legg voted to sign the County up for sweeping the entire unincorporated area into the 3CE Authority.

Item 2.3 - Delegate Authority to the CEO to Participate in Pacific Gas & Electric's and Southern California Edison's Spring 2023 PCIA Market Offer for Long-Term Renewable Energy Credit Products; and to Execute Agreements for up to the Awarded Volumes in Amounts Not-to-Exceed a total of \$177,000,0000 with Terms of at Least 10 Years. The State is pressuring the Community Choice Aggregators, including 3CE, to purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs), representative of an increasing amount of renewable energy as a portion of their total portfolio. This is becoming increasingly costly and difficult. In fact, during the last round, 3CE could not find any renewable RECs on the market.

In February 2023, 3CE issued our own request for offers for 2023 and 2034 RECs and received zero bids, likely a reflection of the increased demand for RECs caused by industry-wide project delays. The IOUs' Solicitation may represent the only commercially viable opportunity to secure RECs for the current compliance period as the IOUs each control a significant portion of RPS eligible RECs in the market.

Now and ironically, they will attempt to buy renewable energy credits from the very private sector investor-owned utilities, which they are destroying.

On March 7, 2023, the IOUs each issued a Long-Term Market Offer for PCIA-eligible RPS energy. These Solicitations allow load serving entities (LSEs) to offer to purchase the unallocated portion of each IOUs PCIA renewable energy portfolio. The projects being sold off by the IOUs have contract end dates out through 2043. If awarded, and if 3CE accepts the

award, 3CE is required to enter a contract with a term equal to the IOUs contract end dates out through 2043, or up to a 20-year term.

The REC products offered through the IOUs' Solicitations are critical to 3CE's strategy for compliance with its SB 350 obligation, which requires 40% of 3CE's retail load be met with RPS eligible resources over the next compliance period of 2021 through 2024 ("Compliance Period Four"). PPA project delays caused by supply chain constraints and inflationary pressures are impacting 3CE's compliance strategy which relied on aggressively pursuing new incremental RPS projects. Current project delays may result in 3CE being as much as 22% short of its RPS requirements instead of the planned 31% long in Compliance Period 4. Penalties for Compliance Period 4 deficiencies are significant at \$50/MWh. The IOUs Spring 2023 PCIA Long-Term Market Offer provides 3CE an opportunity to pick up additional RECs to avoid penalties while hedging against further project delays and reducing the PCIA obligation of its customers.

If 3CE receives awards from PG&E and SCE for all the submitted offers and the CEO exercises the delegation of authority granted herein, the fiscal impact will not exceed \$177,000,000 over the term required by the IOUs, expected to be a minimum of ten years and up to 20 years.

Once they purchase these contracts, how will customer rates be impacted? Is this \$177 million in their Budget projections?

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - Lawsuit seeks to uphold closing California's last nuke plant. An environmental group on Tuesday sued to block Pacific Gas & Electric from seeking to extend the federal operating licenses for California's last nuclear power plant. Michael R. Blood Associated Press: As Mike Stoker reported, (You better hope the enviros lose their lawsuit. They win and your energy bill is projected to go up another 10-15%. Diablo generates 6-10% of California's energy on any given day. Even Newsom supports the extension because he knows California doesn't have the energy the state demands. This is the byproduct of a crazy energy policy in California that has tried to eliminate all carbon-based energy sources to transition this state overnight to sustainable and renewable energy.)

Here is more detail:

Lawsuit seeks to shutdown Diablo Canyon power plant



Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

By KAREN VELIE

A lawsuit filed Tuesday seeks to stop PG&E from continuing to operate Diablo Canyon Power Plant in Avila Beach past 2025.

In 2016, Friends of the Earth and PG&E agreed in a contract that Diablo Canyon would close by 2025. This was in exchange for Friends of the Earth dropping a lawsuit over environmental and public safety concerns at the plant.

Last month, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) determined PG&E could continue operating Diablo Canyon past 2025 while the utility works through the relicensing process.

Friends of the Earth responded with a lawsuit filed Tuesday in San Francisco Superior Court. The suit asks the court to order the utility to abide by the 2016 agreement and shut the plant down by 2025.

"Contracts simply don't vanish into thin air," said Hallie Templeton, legal director for Friends of the Earth. "Yet ever since California passed legislation supporting Diablo Canyon's extension, PG&E has been acting as if our contract has disappeared. Setting aside the agreement to retire Diablo, there are myriad legal prerequisites for extending operations of a nuclear power plant, including federal decisions that states cannot dictate.

"We hope our litigation can push PG&E to reconsider its potential breach and uphold its obligations, including preparing for the agreed-upon retirement."

Friends of the Earth is represented by attorneys at Briscoe Ivester & Bazel LLP.

After agreeing to shut down the nuclear power plant in 2025, PG&E received backing from both federal and state officials to extend the operating life of Diablo Canyon through 2030, with a goal of providing Californians electric reliability.

PG&E needs to obtain license renewals from the NRC, as well as regulatory approval from other federal and state agencies in order to keep operating the plant past 2025. A regulation,

however, requires nuclear power plants to file renewal applications at least five years before their existing license is set to expire.

PG&E requested an exemption to the regulation, which the NRC approved last month.

PG&E is planning to file a new license renewal application by the end of 2023, while it continues to operate under the existing licenses.

This article first appeared in the Cal Coast News of April 12, 2023. Karen Velie is the Central Coasts premier investigative reporter.

Item 2 - New Electric Billing Structure Proposed by California Utilities. If approved, the new structure would charge higher income customers more than lower income customers. The article does not explain how the utilities would legally obtain customer income information. Moreover, such a scheme is a blatant wealth transfer mechanism. Is the State forcing the utilities to do this?

Californians' electricity bills could see huge change if PG&E proposal goes through

Danielle Echeverria



PG&E has proposed a rate plan in which monthly bills would be broken out into a fixed infrastructure charge and an electricity-use charge that would vary based on consumption.

Paul Chinn/The Chronicle

Northern California's largest utility company, Pacific Gas and Electric Co., and its two Southern California counterparts are seeking to restructure how their residential electric customers are billed, potentially reducing costs for lower-income households while resulting in higher-income customers paying more.

Their proposal, filed this week with the California Public Utilities Commission, is a response to a new state law that <u>changed the requirements</u> for how public utilities charge customers, PG&E said. Under the plan, monthly bills would be broken out into two parts: a fixed infrastructure charge, tiered by customer income level as required by the law, and an electricity use charge, which would vary based on consumption.

The rate for each kilowatt-hour of electricity for all residential customers would decrease by about one-third. The proposed changes would not take effect until state regulators make a final decision, which is expected by July 2024.

"This proposal aims to help lower bills for those who need it most and improves billing transparency and predictability for all customers," Marlene Santos, chief customer officer for PG&E, said in a statement. "This proposal will help to limit the impact on disadvantaged communities, as Californians transition to electrification in support of the state's clean energy goals."

PG&E said 30% of its customers are low-income.

But the proposal, which does not change how much revenue PG&E produces, falls short as a solution to soaring energy bills that have left many low-income customers struggling, said Mark Toney, executive director of consumer advocacy group The Utility Reform Network (TURN).

"What it will end up doing is having a slightly higher monthly bill for high-income rate payers," said Toney, who has been pushing for an income-based rate.

Under the utilities' proposal, the monthly fixed charge for PG&E customers would be as follows for a four-person household:

- Less than \$28,000 per year: \$15 fixed charge per month.
- Between \$28,000 and \$69,000 per year: \$30 fixed charge per month.
- Between \$69,000 and \$180,000 per year: \$51 fixed charge per month.
- More than \$180,000: \$92 fixed charge per month.

The proposal recommended a qualified, independent state agency or third party be responsible for verifying customers' total household incomes.

California residents face some of the highest energy rates in the country, and <u>consumers' bills</u> <u>shot up this winter</u> as natural gas prices spiked. PG&E has also proposed a four-year plan that would increase utility rates by about 16% in year one — about \$35.40 more each month for the average customer compared with 2022 — that state regulators are considering.

The new proposal also means high-income customers would see an increase in their monthly bills. By PG&E's estimates, the lowest income customers would receive a 21% bill reduction, other lower income customers would receive an 8% bill reduction, moderate-income customers would receive a bill reduction of 6%, and while high-income customers would see their bills increase 24%.

The rate proposals by investor-owned PG&E come as it <u>faces increasing costs</u> to upgrade an electrical system responsible for scores of wildfires in recent years, including the deadly Paradise and Wine Country blazes. Costs and liabilities related to wildfires pushed the company into bankruptcy in 2019.

TURN, along with the Natural Resources Defense Council, filed its own proposal for fixed rates based on income that would also limit the amount utilities can charge based on demand.

"The problem is the sky's the limit for how much PG&E can request for electricity and gas rates, and the sky's the limit for what the PUC can approve," Toney said. "We need to limit rate increases to the annual consumer price index."

Reach Danielle Echeverria: danielle.echeverria@sfchronicle.com; Twitter: @DanielleEchev. This article first appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle of April 13, 2023.

Item 3 - Texas Considers Bill To Privatize the Business of Issuing Building Permits. Here is a great idea which could improve processing times and lower costs.

If a municipality fails to approve or deny a permit by state-set deadlines, developers could hire private third parties to get the job done.

BY CHRISTIAN BRITSCHGI



(Kevin Ruck/Dreamstime.com)

Dallas builders <u>construct a huge</u> amount of housing, in part because the city government approves their projects pretty quickly.

While it can take <u>some jurisdictions</u> around the country a year or more to process permits, Dallas' in-person approval system could normally get an applicant their permits within a few days.

At least, that was true before COVID, which shut down Dallas' in-person system. Meanwhile, the online permitting system the city had been in the process of setting up proved to be a disaster. The result was a "permitting crisis" says Phil Crone, of the Dallas Builders Association, whereby applications for thousands of new units were sitting idle and untouched at city hall for months.

Under an 18-year-old Texas "shot clock" law, municipalities have to approve or deny development permits within 45 days. Subsequent reforms have reduced those deadlines to <u>30 days</u> for some applications.

If cities miss those deadlines, they have to refund applicants' permit fees. "As far as I know in 18 years, no one has ever gotten a refund," says Crone.

That's because cities like Dallas give applicants the option of waiving their rights to a refund if the city misses the state deadline. The alternative is the city can just deny your permit after the 45 days are up.

Crone says most builders end up taking that deal as the only way of getting their project approved. "You only have one way through if you're applying for a permit in a city. The city is the only vendor you can work with there," he tells *Reason*.

This year, the Texas legislature is considering injecting a little bit of competition into the issuance of building permits.

Working its way through the process currently is <u>H.B. 14</u>. Under the bill, if a city doesn't act on a development application or conduct a necessary inspection within 15 days of state-set deadlines, an applicant could hire a third party to perform the necessary reviews for them and sign off on their permits.

The third party could be a contractor hired by a regulatory agency. Or they could be a private party, provided they're a licensed engineer, or (if they're being hired to perform building inspections) certified by the International Code Council.

The bill requires that these third-party reviewers actually be a third party. They couldn't be the applicant or someone whose work is the subject of the application.

Supporters argue that speeding up the approval of new housing projects will route around Texas' existing layers of bureaucracy.

H.B. 14 creates a "market-based mechanism by which professionals who have already been licensed by the state can apply their talents in such a way that kind of circumvents the bottleneck that exists in municipal governments," says James Quintero, director of the Center for Local Governance at the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

The bill is part of a package of zoning reforms that would make already-affordable, development-friendly Texas an easier and cheaper place to build.

Another bill being considered this session would <u>shrink minimum lot sizes</u> to just 1,400 square feet, down from the 5,000 and 7,000 square feet some cities require. The idea is that by reducing the amount of land required for each house, homes can be delivered more cheaply. Houston's shrinking of minimum lot sizes down to 1,400 square feet is <u>credited</u> with kicking off a boom in the construction of smaller townhomes. The bill would only apply to cities in counties of 300,000 or more people.

Additionally, the legislature is <u>considering bills</u> that would allow homeowners to build accessory dwelling units on their property by right and pare back local height restrictions.

The idea is to "get government out of the way and allow the private sector to increase the supply of housing and meet demand and bring down the cost of living," says Quintero.

This article first appeared in the April 7, 2023 Reason. Christian Britschgi is an associate editor at *Reason* who covers property rights, housing policy, transportation policy, and regulation. His writing has appeared in *The American Conservative*, *The College Fix*, *The Lens, Watchdog.org*, *The Orange County Register*, the *Daily News*, the *New York Post*, *Jacobite*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. His reporting has been cited by *The New York Times*, the Washington *Post*, *The Atlantic*, and the U.S Congress' Joint Economic Committee.

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 LEGISLATURE'S RACE TO MARXISM: 2023 PROPOSED LEGISLATION REVEALS HARD LEFT TURN

CA DEMOCRATS: 'THE VANGUARD OF THE PROLETARIAT?'
BY KATY GRIMES

A review of the 2023 legislation proposed by California lawmakers exposes what is really happening in California – the rise and rule of Marxism in the once Golden State.

According to Karl Marx, the Marxist revolution would be led by enlightened leaders, known as "the vanguard of the proletariat." He advocated an uprising of the working class which he called the "proletariat," against the wealthy owners of capital, the "bourgeoisie." They had already <u>called on the proletariat</u> to capture state power through "revolutionary terror," and in the Manifesto repeated the need to introduce dictatorship through "despotic inroads," Manifesto of the Communist Party, and then to progress to a state of communal ownership through the "abolition of bourgeois property," the Heritage Foundation explains.

This sounds familiar, doesn't it? We have witnessed the Marxist takeover of American education through teachers labor unions, as well as the Marxist attacks on small, medium and large businesses and industries (bourgeoisie). The U.S government under President Barack Obama already nationalized healthcare and the student loan industry. Now attacks on speech, as well as "political correctness" under Marxism, have lead to inevitably tyranny, as Marxism always does everywhere it has been tried.

As examples of this move to Marxism, Democrats in the California Legislature are making it easy to see what they are doing through 2023 proposed legislation:

- The continued state Shakedown of the Oil and Gas Industry
- Turning All of California into San Francisco by erasing property rights
- 'Restoring Voting Rights' to Felons
- Taxing Big Business to pay for Climate Change schemes
- Advancing the Abortion Sanctuary State with 17 new abortion bills
- Legislating More Power to California's Unelected State Water Board
- Expanding Homeless grants homelessness Forever in California
- Another Wealth Tax for California's job creators and innovators
- Illegally restricting Gun Rights Again, preventing Californians from defending themselves

• Expanding Transgender Rights Over Parental Rights

Just a smattering of the bills proposed exemplify the race to Marxism in California but the Democrat Supermajority:

Oil and Gas Industry Shakedown



Senator Nancy Skinner. (Photo: Kevin Sanders for California Globe)

The California Assembly hosted a side show in March, when after jamming SBX1-2, Gov. Gavin Newsom's Gas Tax, through an expedited hearing, pretended that was enough exposure to the public, and debated the bill and voted on it. SB X1-2, by Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), will create a new panel of unelected bureaucrats with subpoena power, to investigate oil and gas companies, impose penalties, new costs and regulations, which would inevitably lead to gas shortages, rationing and price spikes. The bill creates a new government agency to arbitrarily decide how much profit oil and gas businesses are allowed to make, disrupting California's energy market and threatening the reliability of the state's fuel supply, according to Assembly Republicans.

Gov. Newsom signed SB X1-2 into law, again growing state government.

Another attack on California's oil and gas industry is Sen. Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), is **SB 252** to divest California's pension funds from the fossil fuel industry. The bill would prohibit the boards of the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from making new investments or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in a fossil fuel company — a violation of the fiduciary investment responsibility of the state retirement system, which is supposed to maximize investment opportunities and decisions. "CalPERS builds retirement and health security for California state, school, and public agency members," CalPERS states.

Turning All of California into San Francisco



Claiming a plan to solve California's affordable housing crisis, Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) has authored SB 4 and SB 423.

SB 4 allows churches and nonprofit colleges to build low-income housing on the properties they own, even in areas that are not zoned for multifamily housing.

SB 423 would allow the Department of General Services to step in and act in the place of local government to streamline review for development on property owned by or leased to the state. So cities and counties won't have a say on how state-owned property will be developed.

'Restoring Voting Rights' to Felons

ACA 4, by Assemblyman Isaac G. Bryan (D-Los Angeles) is a proposed state constitutional amendment granting felons the right to vote. "This measure would repeal that requirement regarding the disqualification of electors incarcerated for felony convictions, thereby authorizing an otherwise qualified elector serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony to vote," the bill says. <u>Bryan says</u> he's "restoring voting rights" to felons.

SB 50 by Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) will prohibit police from stopping or detaining a driver for a low-level infraction, such as expired registration, license plate violation, a broken taillight, illegal window tint, etc...



Senator Steven Bradford. (Photo: Kevin Sanders for California Globe)

Senator Bradford claims "SB 50 will limit law enforcement's ability to stop people for minor, non-safety- related traffic infractions, unless there is an independent, safety-related basis to initiate the stop. It will also provide technical clarification to ensure that localities can explore non-law enforcement approaches to traffic safety. In doing so, SB 50 will help protect Californians of color from unnecessary harms and help ensure that public dollars dedicated to community safety are used more effectively."

Further eroding policing and law enforcement in California, Democrats introduced a bill to stop the use of DOGS from crime enforcement because...they're RACIST, the Globe reported. Assembly Bill 42, introduced by far-Left California Assembly members Corey Jackson and Ash Kalra will "end a deeply racialized and harmful practice that has been a mainstay in America's history of racial bias and violence against Black Americans and people of color," according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Jackson says "The use of police canines has inflicted brutal violence and lifelong trauma on Black Americans and communities of color."

Taxing Big Business for Climate Change

Senate Bill 253 by Senators Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), and Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles), will require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt regulations that would require large businesses operating in California at least \$1 billion in revenue to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions from the prior year to an emissions registry. Assembly Bill 1228 by Assemblyman Chris Holden (D-Los Angeles) was introduced to impose joint employer liability for fast food restaurant franchisors and franchisees. This bill would hold the franchisors like Subway, Burger King and McDonalds, jointly liable for any legal violations committed by their franchisees, as the Globe reported.

California: the Abortion Sanctuary State

The <u>17 New California Bills on "Reproductive Justice" & 'Abortion Rights</u>" are indicative of California Democrats' determination to remain the Abortion Capitol of the country – 15% of all abortions in the U.S. take place in California. The Guttmacher Institute estimates that approximately 154,060 abortions were performed in California in 2020.

Following the leaked United States Supreme Court draft decision in which the Court voted to overturn the federal landmark *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision and send the issue back to the states to decide, Democrats and the left claimed abortion rights were being struck down, and women would suffer "countless attacks on reproductive freedom and abortion access" – thus the apparent need for 17 new bills.

Legislating More Power to Unelected State Water Board

AB 460, by Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda), proposes to authorize the State Water Resources Control Board, in conducting specified investigations to inspect the property or facilities. The bill would authorize the board to obtain an inspection warrant to conduct an inspection without consent or a warrant. Because the willful refusal of an inspection lawfully authorized by an inspection warrant is a misdemeanor, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program by expanding the application of a crime. Violation would result in a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each day, and \$5,000 for each acre-foot of water diverted in violation of the interim relief order.

Another Wealth Tax



Assemblyman Alex Lee. (Photo: votealexlee.com)

Another wealth tax bill has been proposed by Assemblyman Alex Lee (D-San Jose), <u>AB</u> <u>259</u>. Despite the bill being more "modest" in what it would tax – namely <u>imposing an annual</u> <u>worldwide net worth tax of 1 percent on net worth above \$50 million, rising to 1.5 percent on net worth over \$1.0 billion</u>, it's unconstitutional, it applies to intangible assets like goodwill or trademarks, it applies as well to assets that have subjective, wildly fluctuating values, such as fine art, and it even applies to equity owned in private companies that the holder may never convert into real money, Ed Ring <u>reported</u> for the Globe.

Homelessness Forever in California

AB 799 by Assemblywoman Luz Rivas (D-San Fernando Valley) would turn the one-time grant funds for cities and counties from the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program into ongoing grant funds. The bill supports the failed "housing first" scheme, rather than treatment and therapy for California's mentally-ill, drug addicted homeless.

On <u>California's burgeoning homeless population</u>, despite spending nearly \$23 Billion (\$23,000,000,000) on California's homeless housing, homelessness continues to grow in California. <u>According to the Public Policy Institute of California</u>, "nationally, California has topped the list for the state with the largest homeless population for more than a decade. As of 2022, 30% of all people in the United States experiencing homelessness resided in California, including half of all unsheltered people (115,491 in California; 233,832 in the US)." "This is a solvable problem made impossible by a corrupt government," a Sacramento source told the Globe.

Restricting Gun Rights Again

AB 1133 by Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo (D-Chatsworth) is seeking to impose training for a concealed carry firearm permit by the California Department of Justice, rather than a private gun expert. This bill would require the DOJ to create standardized curriculum for a CCW applicants. "These is no need for this bill as CCW carriers are the most law-abiding sub-section of individuals in the country," Gun Owners of California reports.

AB 574 by Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles) would require a firearms dealer who keeps a register or record of each firearm transaction, to include a list of every firearm that the purchaser owns or possess.

AB 28, by Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel, D-Woodland Hills, seeks to impose an excise tax on firearm and ammunition sales, almost identical to AB 1227 last year which sought to create a 10% tax on the sales price of a handgun, 11% tax on the sales price of a long gun, rifle, firearm precursor part, and ammunition. Guns Owners of California says it is unconstitutional to tax the exercising of an enumerated Constitutional right – the sale of firearms and ammunition.

Gov. Newsom, Democrats Targeting Legal Gun Owners Rather than Felons in New Bill Governor Gavin Newsom's, Attorney General Rob Bonta's and Senator Anthony Portantino's (D-La Cañada Flintridge), press conference in February announcing a bill aimed at adding restrictions to California's concealed carry permit requirements and gun ownership, is yet another attempt by the California Governor to infringe on the constitutional rights of legal gun owners, while letting felons out of prison early, and ignoring felons with illegal guns.

SB 2 by Sen. Anthony Portantino (D-Burbank) would make it exceedingly difficult to obtain a concealed carry permit, and imposes extraordinary impositions on where people can carry in public. Existing law also considers criteria among other things, whether the applicant is of good moral character and has completed a specified course of training. This bill would increase the fees for the CCW. "Its legislative 'twin' in New York has been declared unconstitutional TWICE in federal court," Gun Owners of California reports.

Permitless open carry, also called constitutional carry, is law in 25 U.S. states, while California, New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Washington D.C. not only prohibit the open carry of guns, they require a permit for concealed carry.

Expect to see these bills overturned by a federal court should they pass.

As Breitbart <u>explained</u>: California already bans ghost guns.
California has required background checks for all gun sales since the 1990s.
California has banned "assault weapons" since the 1990s.
California bans "high capacity" magazines.

Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) <u>pushed</u> to allow private citizens to sue gun makers. The Legislature passed the bill and Newsom signed it into law, but was blocked by a federal judge. Additionally, California has a red flag law, gun registration requirements, a 10-day waiting period on gun purchases, a "good cause" requirement for concealed carry permit issuance, a

ban on campus carry for self-defense, a ban on teachers carrying on K-12 campuses for classroom defense, and a limit on the number of guns law-abiding citizens can buy each month. California also requires would-be purchasers to pass a background check before acquiring ammunition.

Transgender Rights Over Parental Rights

Since before WWI Marxists have continued to <u>indoctrinate youth</u> in radical sexual ideology in the hope of destabilizing Western societies, in order to usher in Marxism. California is playing its part.

AB 223, by Assemblyman Chris Ward (D-San. Diego) would require any petition by transgender youths seeking to change their gender to be filed under seal. The bill states: "It is in the best interest for the public to seal these records from the public to ensure the privacy and safety of transgender and nonbinary youth. Transgender and nonbinary youth are 2 to 2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide compared to their cisgender LGBQ peers. Being outed is a traumatic event for any individual, especially for individuals under 18 years of age. Allowing our children to choose when and how they decide to share their personal details is vital in protecting their mental and physical health." The counter to AB 223:

AB 1314 by Assemblyman Bill Essayli (R-Riverside), would provide that a parent or guardian has the right to be notified in writing within 3 days from the date any teacher, counselor, or employee of the school becomes aware that a pupil is identifying at school as a gender that does not align with the child's sex on their birth certificate. *This bill was killed Monday morning when Assembly Education Committee Chairman Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) announced that he would hold the bill and not allow a hearing*.

To show just how depraved mainstream media is, the <u>Sacramento Bee said</u> AB 1314: "requires school employees to out transgender students to their parents." Parents and the nuclear family are the enemy in Marxism.

This is not an all-encompassing list, but readers can see that when these bills are passed and signed into law, California's race to Marxism will be that much closer.

As John Stossel correctly notes, "Socialists call capitalism 'immoral' for allowing some to become super rich while others are poor. They have it backwards."

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of <u>California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Los</u>



ANOUNCEMENTS 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 <u>Tune In Radio App</u> and previously aired shows at: 3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the <u>Tune In Radio App</u> and Previously aired shows at:

COUNTY UPDATES OCCUR MONDAYS AT 4:30 PM MIKE BROWN IS THE REGULAR MONDAY GUEST AT 4:30!



SUPPORT COLAB



MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS



29

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 RALLIED 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) 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 + \$\sum_\$ (Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)				
General members will receive all COLAB updates and newsletters. <u>Voting</u> 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			
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 □ Disco	ver Amex <u>NOT</u> accepted.			
Cardholder Name:	Signature:			
Card Number: Exp	Date:/ Billing Zip Code: CVV:			
	TODAY'S DATE:			