



WEEKLY UPDATE APRIL 30 - MAY 6, 2023

THIS WEEK

INTERIM CAO TO RECEIVE \$300,742 IN SALARY ANNUALIZED + 450/ MO. CAR ALLOWANCE + 1,475 PER MONTH TOWARD HEALTH INSURANCE + HE IS ALREADY RETIRED ON A \$200,000/ YEAR PENSION

REFUSE RATES UP @ \$20 PER MONTH IN URBAN AND RURAL SANTA MARGARITA, CRESTON, RURAL TEMPLETON AREA, POZO, LA PANZA, PARK HILL, HUER HUERO, SIMMLER, AND ATASCADERO FRINGE AREA

**MILLIONS IN STORM DAMAGE ROAD REPAIRS TO BE SET - RESERVES WILL BE USED
FEMA REIBURSEMENT SOUGHT**

TROUBLED COUNTY PSYCHIATRIC HEALTH FACILITY (PHF) TO BE PRIVATIZED

CLOSED SESSION - EVALUATION OF THE INTERIM CAO, HUH?

HE DIDN'T START YET – HOW CAN THEY EVALUATE HIS PERFORMANCE?

**MAJOR REPORT ON HOMELESS STRATEGY
PROGRESS TO DATE, NEXT STEPS, AND A WARNING**

LAST WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED

OTHER AGENCIES OFF UNTIL LATER IN MAY

EMERGENT ISSUES

GIBSON STACKING UP BROWN ACT VIOLATIONS

**PROBLEMS WITH MASS TRANSIT WON'T BE
SOLVED WITH MORE MONEY**

*The transit systems we're supposed to hop aboard ultimately operate as
jobs programs for government workers*

COLAB IN DEPTH SEE PAGE 14

**GRAND ALLIANCE TO OVERCOME THE ELITE
BETRAYAL OF AMERICA**

*THE SOONER WE JOIN TOGETHER TO SAVE OUR
CIVILIZATION, THE EASIER THE PATH*

BY EDWARD RING

**WHY FOX FIRED TUCKER: BLACKROCK,
REPLACEMENT THEORY, AND THE ADL**

*Tucker was axed by the regime's henchmen, who work together to
silence dissent, pummel the population with endless propaganda, and
gaslight their victims with lies that represent the precise inverse of truth*

BY MICHAEL RECTENWALD

THE INHUMANITY OF THE GREEN AGENDA
THE ‘SUSTAINABILITY’ REGIME IS IMPOVERISHING THE WORLD
BY JOEL KOTKIN

THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item 15 - Request to approve an employment agreement with Catherine Manning to serve as the Health Agency Deputy Director. This is a promotion from within created due to a retirement.

Ms. Manning has been working in the Health Agency for the past 13 years. She joined the Health Agency fiscal team as a Mental Health Accountant in 2010, eventually working as Public Health Administrative Services Manager and Health Agency Fiscal Department Administrator. Ms. Manning completed her Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Loyola Marymount University in Southern California. While pursuing her MBA she received her Certified Public Accountant license and went on to work in public accounting in Santa Monica, California for over 15 years. She and her family moved to San Luis Obispo in 2004.

The salary is \$159,702 per year. With benefits the cost is about \$207,612 all in.

Item 18 - Request to approve an Employment Agreement with John Nilon to serve as County Administrative Officer (“CAO”) on an interim basis. This item is the ratification of the Board’s appointment of an interim County Administrator. Apparently, the Board intends to conduct a national recruitment for a “permanent” CAO. When the Board emerged from the closed session on the matter back on April 19, 2023, the County Counsel reported that the Board had taken a reportable action. Actually they had voted to appoint Nilon. This looks like yet another Brown Act violation.

Nilon was a long-term Kern County career employee (35 years) who rose through the ranks to ultimately become the CAO, a position in which he served for 8 years. He retired to his vacation home in Cambria in 2016 and has served on several local civic boards. He also served as Interim Director of the Kern County Health System. It is not known how he was recruited or if he simply responded to an ad. It appears he is a qualified professional who has led a large complex County with an annual Budget which is now in excess of \$2 billion.

He will receive compensation of \$11,576 biweekly, which is the equivalent of \$300,742 per year plus a car allowance of \$450 per month and a monthly stipend of \$1,475 per month in lieu of health insurance. He will not receive the full county benefit package. In 2021 his Kern pension was reported to be \$198,533 per year. After several years of COLAs, it is likely to be in excess of \$208,000 currently.

It is an interesting pick, in that Kern County’s primary general local revenues come from the property tax on oil. Presumably Nilon supported the fossil fuel industry over the course of his career and especially as a County leader. Now that he has escaped the grit and heat of Kern for the pines of Cambria, will he support the SLO Board’s suicidal energy policies or tell the Board and public the truth?

The total 2022 compensation and benefits package for the current SLO County Deputy CAO, Rebecca Campbell, was reported as \$331,000. They could have saved a lot by just having her serve in the position. She is a former Kings County CAO.

Item 21 - Request to approve the proposed rate increase of 32.06% and the temporary rate increase due to delayed rate implementation that expires on December 31, 2023 of 27.82% for solid waste collection services provided by Mid-State Solid Waste & Recycling Services, Inc., in unincorporated areas of the County of San Luis Obispo, retroactively effective on May 1, 2023. Refuse rates are going up in unincorporated areas of the County, including urban and rural Santa Margarita, Creston, rural Templeton area, Pozo, La Panza, Park Hill, Huer Huero, Simmler, and Atascadero fringe area.

Container Service Size	Current Rate 5/1/2021	2022 Base & 2023 Interim Years Increase*	Temporary Delayed Rate Increase**	Proposed Rate on 5/1/2023	Proposed Rate after 12/31/2023
Urban Residential: Santa Margarita, Garden Farms, and the fringe area of Atascadero					
32 Gallons	\$ 36.89	\$ 11.83	\$ 10.26	\$ 58.98	\$ 48.72
64 Gallons	\$ 54.00	\$ 17.31	\$ 15.02	\$ 86.33	\$ 71.31
96 Gallons	\$ 71.06	\$ 22.78	\$ 19.77	\$ 113.61	\$ 93.84
Rural Residential: Creston, Rural Templeton, Pozo, La Panza, Park Hill, Huer Huero, and Simmler					
32 Gallons	\$ 38.21	\$ 12.25	\$ 10.63	\$ 61.09	\$ 50.46
64 Gallons	\$ 55.62	\$ 17.83	\$ 15.47	\$ 88.92	\$ 73.45
96 Gallons	\$ 73.04	\$ 23.42	\$ 20.32	\$ 116.78	\$ 96.46

* The proposed rate increase combines both 2022 Base Year and 2023 Interim Year CPI requests

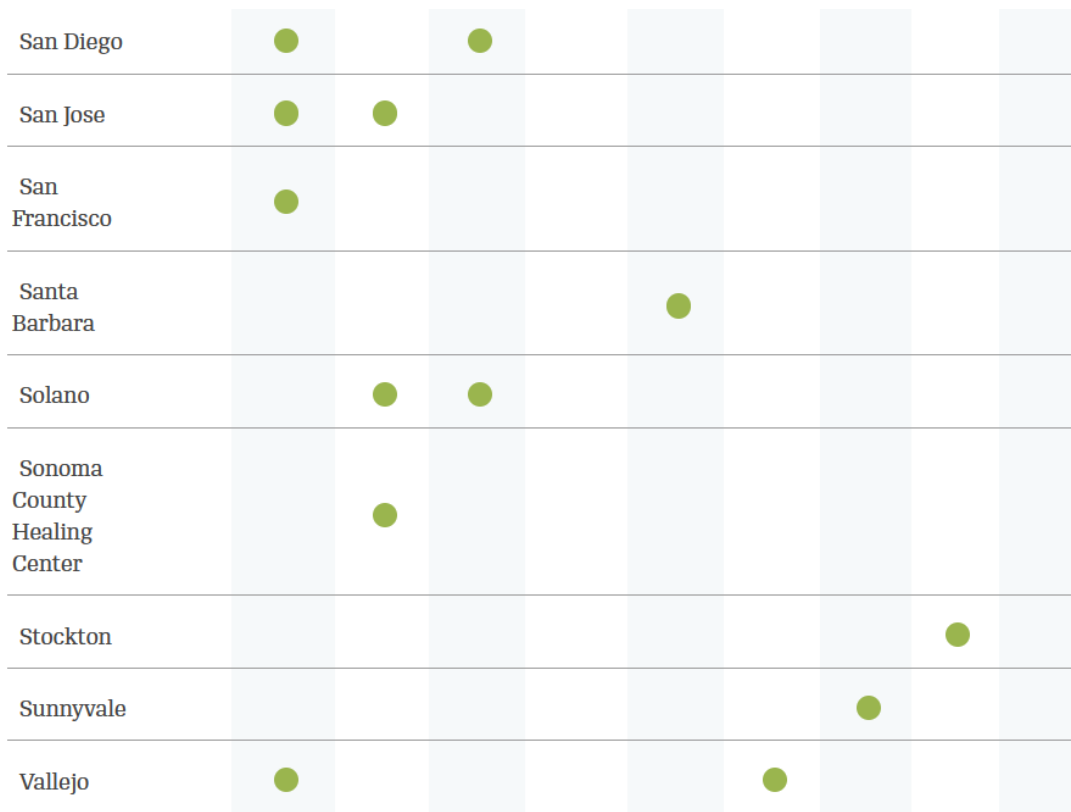
** The proposed temporary short-term rate increase will expire on December 31, 2023.

Item 33 - Hearing to discuss the contracting out of non-medical inpatient psychiatric services at the County of San Luis Obispo Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). The County has determined to contract out non-medical psychiatric services at the PHF. The PHF is a locked facility for patients who are too sick to be free and/or who are awaiting placement in a mental hospital. It is not clear how some of these services are categorized as “non-medical.”

- *Provide safe, therapeutic and/or rehabilitative inpatient services at the PHF for eligible individuals where they can receive assessment and treatment related to mental health disorders.*
- *Serve adults who require acute inpatient psychiatric care due to being suicidal and/or homicidal and/or gravely disabled.*
 - *Serve adults who are Medi-Cal, or Medi-Cal/Medi-Care beneficiaries as well as those who are indigent and without benefits.*
 - *Meet the needs of individuals requiring voluntary and involuntary PHF inpatient services.*
 - *Serve the increased volume of individuals presenting at local Emergency Departments, the SLO Crisis Stabilization Unit, and other referral sources.*
- *Facilitate throughput from local Emergency Departments to enhance care for eligible individuals who require psychiatric inpatient care*

History: In past years the County suffered problems at the PHF, including admissions, treatment gaps, and communications. Jail medical services were privatized several years ago. The trend of privatization of government services will continue as the costs of the unionized civil service model of delivery becomes more and more expensive and obsolescent. The contractor is Crestwood Behavioral Services, which provides services throughout the State.

	 Mental Health Rehabilitation Center	 Psychiatric Health Facilities	 Adult Residential Programs	 Crisis Stabilization Unit	 Crisis Residential Treatment Program	 Residential Care for Elderly	 Snf Neuro-behavioral Programs	 Snf/stp Programs	 Wellness Clinics
Angwin	●								
Bakersfield	●	●	●						
Bakersfield Freise HOPE House					●				
Carmichael		●	●						
Chula Vista	●								
Eureka	●		●						
CSU Fairfield				●					
Fallbrook	●								
Fremont							●	●	
Fresno			●						
Kingsburg	●								
Lompoc	●								
Modesto								●	
Napa County CSS				●					
Pleasant Hill			●						
Redding								●	
Sacramento	●	●							



Crestwood Behavioral Health's Annual Revenue: \$280.0 Million

Crestwood Behavioral Health revenue is \$280.0M annually. After extensive research and analysis, COLAB learned that Crestwood Behavioral Health has 3,000 employees, and the revenue per employee ratio is \$93,333. Crestwood Behavioral Health peak revenue was \$280.0M in 2022.

The Board item does not include information on the annual cost of the contract but infers that the costs will be about the same as the current in-house staffing mode. The item also fails to state that cost as well.

Item 34 - Request to 1) receive a presentation by staff regarding road damage from the Winter 2023 Storms and provide direction to staff on how to proceed; and 2) submittal of a resolution amending the Position Allocation List (PAL) for Fund Center 405-Public Works, by deleting a 1.00 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Environmental Specialist I/II/III; adding 1.00 FTE Principal Environmental Specialist; adding a 1.00 FTE Limited Term Project Manager I/II; adding 1.00 FTE Limited Term Civil Engineering Technician Aide/I/II/III; and adding 1.00 FTE Limited Term Environmental Specialist I/II/III; 3) adopt a resolution A) declaring the conditions of emergency consistent with the use of the General Fund General Reserve and B) authorizing the appropriation of \$6,000,000 from the General Fund General Reserve. This year’s rainy season damaged the already underfunded and under-maintained roads of the County. As the write-up states:

As presented to your Board February 2, 2021, State of Good Repair road maintenance needs, which are those activities which sustain the County roadway network to present day conditions, typically outpace available funding by \$5 to \$7 Million.

Keep in mind that the new Board Majority dropped roads from the Budget priority list and substituted homeless services.

The \$6 million requested here is in addition to \$4 million authorized in March. The estimated requirement is displayed below:

FY 22/23: \$11.6 M FY 23/24: \$8.4 M FY 24/25: \$4M FY 25/26: \$4M FY 26/27: \$4M

Up to 75% could be reimbursed by FEMA over the years.

The item contains a request for 5 additional engineering and project manager types to expedite the process. Instead, what if the County went out to the private sector and requested proposals for a combined management and construction package from large, multi-specialty contractors?



The report also contains a review of the extraordinary effort undertaken by the County as the storms progressed and the damage occurred. The Board “rewarded” the organization by canning the CAO.

More rain is due this week.

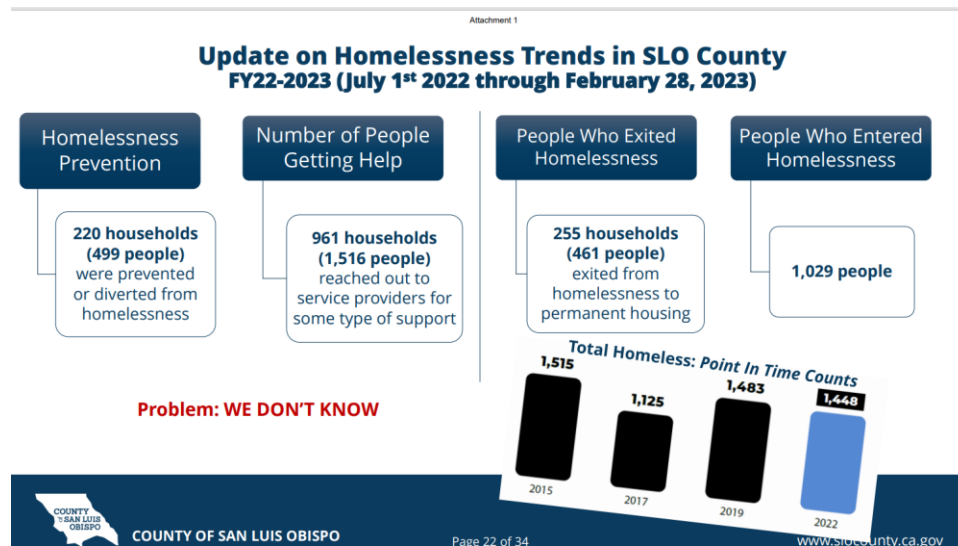
Item 35 - County Counsel - (Government Code section 54957.) It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session to: Consider Public Employee Evaluation of Interim County Administrative Officer. This one seems strange. As noted in **Item 18**, the new interim CAO is just starting this week. What are they going to evaluate? The Brown Act allows the Board to meet in closed session to evaluate or discipline a public employee, but there is nothing yet to evaluate. He hasn't had time to bother anyone on the staff. Is the purpose of their meeting to give forward looking direction? Or are they going to discuss problems of other executives, or what? If they are going to propose general policy direction, organizational culture, a systemic review of the organization, or whatever, it should be agendized and done in open session.

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Request to receive, file, and provide direction as deemed necessary updates on 1) the progress in pursuing the phased priorities of the Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness; 2) the update on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) business case; 3) the update on Oklahoma Avenue parking operations; and 4) the 2023-24 budget recommendations in support of the Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness. This is a major policy item to review the entire problem, progress to date, and future actions and costs, specifically:

- 1) *The progress in pursuing the phased priorities of the Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness;*
- 2) *The update on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) business case;*
- 3) *The update on Oklahoma Avenue parking operations; and*
- 4) *The 2023-24 budget recommendations in support of the Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness.*

This is an impressive report accompanied by an equally impressive PowerPoint summary. It exhibits an analytical approach to problem solving backed up by data. It further exhibits that the developing program is supported by serious and competent project management. The staff has executed the program as scheduled so far and has not over promised. Nevertheless, homelessness seems to average around 1450 people each year. Some cease to be homeless and others become homeless or arrive as homeless from elsewhere.



A great slide!

The problems faced by the staff will become increasingly overwhelming due to the failure of political leadership at all levels to actually adopt policies that will reduce the underlying causes of homelessness at the national, state, and local levels. The staff is being directed to end homelessness without having the power to do so.

1. The anti-family policies of the Federal government and the State are a key cause driving the breakdown of society.

2. Value relativism, including the decline of traditional religions, acceptance of aberrant behavior, lack of standards, and abolition of merit have all contributed to the problem.
3. The government promotion of drugs is further exacerbating the problem.
4. **Item 2** and **Item 3** above are extolled by the government, education, media, entertainment, and woke elite which are running the nation and especially California.
5. Homeless prevention and remediation has become a huge industry with jobs, contracts, political patronage, construction projects, and endless revenue. It is too valuable to succeed.
6. The current species of justice that treats vagrancy, hoboing, aberrant behavior, stealing, and harassing ordinary citizens as remediable social justice diseases, as opposed to pathologic behavior, is undermining the society. Drug courts, schemes of restorative justice, leftist DAs, and over-powered public defenders all contribute to the social decay.
7. The problem will become much larger as the economy and standard of living collapses under the pressures of growing socialist policies, international crises, terrorism at home, inflation, overregulation, higher taxes, underfunded infrastructure, and government union control of governments in which they represent employees. As things get worse, more and more people will drop out of the bottom of civilized society.



8. Unrestricted immigration of millions of uneducated illegal immigrants, largely from rural and poor societies, will further add costs and devolution.
9. A significant number of the homeless individuals are mentally ill, and/or addicted to alcohol and narcotics to the point where they cannot function. Few will ever recover. They must be housed in locked facilities for their own well-being as well as that of the greater society, even though they may technically not be adjudicated criminals.
10. Not all the homeless are helpless nor do they want to be housed.



Hobo Shoestring (hopping a grain car) has parlayed his gig into becoming a national **UTUBE** personality.

Funding: The staff proposes increasing the general fund contribution to homeless programs from \$2.8 million this year to \$7.6 million next year, a \$4.8 million increase. Will Gibson and company pull this out of roads and public safety?

Overall, the staff estimates that the County will be spending about \$158 million on homelessness next year. Most of this is actually State and Federal funding from transfer payments for welfare, food stamps, Medi-Cal, and housing programs.

With about 1450 homeless people on average, that is about \$108,395 per person per year.

4. County Funding towards Homelessness and the Homeless Services Division Budget for Service Programs

In Fiscal Year 2022-23, the County of San Luis Obispo administered \$191M across 3 departments through 23 programs that were intended to either directly or potentially impact homelessness in some way.

Figure 3. County Funding Towards Homelessness (Directly and Indirectly) FY 2022-23

Source of Funding	Estimated/Approximate Funding in FY 2022-23
Direct Support to Homelessness Countywide:	\$ 11,300,291
Estimated County General Fund	\$ 2,799,601
Estimated State/Federal	\$ 7,960,184
Other Related Health and Human Services Countywide:	\$ 180,159,984
Estimated County General Fund	\$ 30,947,411
Estimated State/Federal/Other	\$ 149,212,573
Total	\$ 191,460,275
Estimated County General Fund	\$ 33,747,012
Estimated State/Federal	\$ 157,172,757

Figure 4. County Funding Towards Homelessness (Directly and Indirectly) FY 2023-24

Source of Funding	Estimated/Approximate Funding in FY 2023-24
Direct Support to Homelessness Countywide:	\$ 16,716,777
Estimated County General Fund	\$ 7,555,334
Estimated State/Federal	\$ 9,236,832
Other Related Health and Human Services Countywide:	\$ 178,141,083
Estimated County General Fund	\$ 28,912,526
Estimated State/Federal/Other	\$ 149,228,557
Total	\$ 194,857,860
Estimated County General Fund	\$ 36,467,860
Estimated State/Federal	\$ 158,465,389

No SLOCOG Meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 (Not Scheduled)

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 (Not Scheduled)





BLAZE 'N BEAR
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EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - Supervisor Gibson commits another open Meeting Law (Brown Act) violation.

After the rescission of the 2012 redistricting map, he then moved to direct the staff to prepare a report on options for the formation of a redistricting commission. The item was not on the agenda, and he even elaborated a little. Even though the prior item was the cancelling of a legal map and substitution of an illegal map, the issue had nothing to do with the major policy option of creating a redistricting commission. County Counsel never blinked even after Supervisor Arnold pointed out the problem.

District Attorney Dan Dow has already warned Gibson and County Counsel once on a prior matter.

Item 2 - And Yet Another Violation Last Wednesday. Gibson went to the Paso Basin SGMA Coordinating Committee meeting and floated some sort of “water equity proposal.” It had not been included on the published agenda of the Committee, which is an official Brown Acted Committee. When a citizen objected, no one said a word.

Item 3 - And even more: Appointment of an Interim County Administrator. Back on April 19, the appointment was approved in closed session. County Counsel stated that the Board took no reportable action. Later, last week, the County announced the appointment in a news release.

Item 4 - The Myth of Mass Transit. The Systems have disastrously low ridership and are seeking huge additional State subsidies. See the article below:

Problems With Mass Transit Won't Be Solved With More Money

The transit systems we're supposed to hop aboard ultimately operate as jobs programs for government workers

STEVEN GREENHUT |



(Frances M. Roberts/Newscom)

California's public-transit systems are facing a crisis, as already-declining ridership levels fell another 80 percent in the midst of COVID-19. They have only rebounded to 60 percent after the end of the shutdown. Most agencies are facing fiscal calamity and, predictably, state lawmakers are seeking to infuse them with additional cash now that federal pandemic-related subsidies are subsiding.

With the state government now staring down a \$25 billion deficit, there's no extra general-fund cash to prop up struggling systems. That may be a silver lining. Transit's problems have little to

do with inadequate subsidies, so perhaps this challenge will force policymakers to rethink the fundamental problem: Our transit systems are so unpleasant that people don't want to use them. State planners have been dumping record amounts of money into transit for years in the hopes that Californians will abandon their cars, but to no avail. The Southern California Association of Governments found that the region's "median" resident made zero transit trips in a year—and that transit ridership is concentrated in a fraction of the area's census tracts.

"Without the state stepping in," transit agencies "say they may have to cut service or increase fares," according to a Cal Matters report. That's the definition of a death spiral. Because of less revenue, the agencies will reduce and charge more for their already shoddy service. As a result, fewer people will use the service and that will lead to more cutbacks and higher fares. Transit's problems predate the pandemic, by the way. Per-capita transit use plateaued in 1970.

If you peruse California's transportation documents, you'll find little focus on the nuts-and-bolts of transportation. Instead of improving the roads that most of us rely upon and building quality transit for those who depend upon it, the state is devoted to a policy of planned congestion that seeks to make us so miserable we abandon the cars that we rely upon. Just check out the trendy "road diets" that eliminate vital traffic lanes in favor of bike lanes.

The transit systems we're supposed to hop aboard ultimately operate as jobs programs for government workers and schemes that battle climate change. On the former point, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system has a janitor who earned \$270,000 in total compensation in a year. They view the rider—or potential rider—as an afterthought. That undermines their own stated goals.

"Getting more people out of their own gas-powered cars is essential to meeting the state Air Resources Board's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 48 percent below 1990 levels by 2030," the Cal Matters article added. The state has been underinvesting in freeways given that it perceives transit as the future—and lawmakers are busy trying to re-order development patterns so that more of us live in high-density, transit-dependent neighborhoods.

But no one stops to ask, "How are we going to entice (rather than force) Californians onto these mass-transit systems? And they plow ahead with a \$100-billion "high speed" train that might one day take a handful of residents from Merced to Bakersfield.

Meanwhile, those people who take transit complain about constant delays, long travel times, uncomfortable and dirty buses—and crime. BART is enduring a crime wave. An L.A. Metro survey last year found that ridership among women has fallen off a cliff—with the key cited reason being crime and a lack of cleanliness. After that system experimented with free ridership during the pandemic, vagrants overran their buses and trains. Go figure.

Such mundane consumer-oriented concerns explain why people increasingly avoid transit, yet the California Department of Transportation's main planning document is preoccupied with promoting "vibrant communities," advancing "racial and economic justice" and bolstering "public and environmental health." Those goals are fine, but the agencies can't even manage systems that commuters feel safe to use.

Transit agencies face a conundrum. Because they view transit ridership largely in equity terms, they design the systems largely as social-welfare programs designed to provide poorer residents with a means to get around. Yet when they dump billions of dollars in boutique rail lines, they inevitably cannibalize funds from the bus routes that serve the bulk of their riders—and few drivers end up taking those rail lines, anyway.

The state's progressive leaders seem to disdain cars, so they prefer hectoring drivers about their climate footprint and punishing them for driving pickup trucks. They forget that the bulk of lower-income people also rely on their cars—and that car ownership remains a key stepping stool into the middle class.

Instead of thinking like business-people who need to meet the needs of customers, California transit officials act like government bureaucrats who are married to high-cost government and union solutions, and mainly want to impose their preferences on us—rather than lure us into transit by offering high-quality transportation alternatives. Until they change their thinking, Californians will continue to vote with their gas pedals.

STEVEN GREENHUT is western region director for the R Street Institute and was previously the Union-Tribune's California columnist. This article was first published in the Orange County Register of April 28, 2023. Greenhut has appeared at COLAB of Santa Barbara County events and on the Andy Caldwell Radio Show.

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**

GRAND ALLIANCE TO OVERCOME THE ELITE BETRAYAL OF AMERICA

***THE SOONER WE JOIN TOGETHER TO SAVE OUR
CIVILIZATION, THE EASIER THE PATH***

BY EDWARD RING

For the first time in history, the ruling class of a powerful nation has abandoned its fellow citizens. What is happening in America today is more than a return to feudalism, although the new economic model into which we're being herded is correctly compared to feudalism. The reality is actually much worse: America's elites view ordinary citizens as no longer necessary. Because of globalism, they are replaceable. Because of automation, they are superfluous. Because of environmentalism, they are unsustainable.

These factors explain what is otherwise inexplicable: Constitutional conservatives and Christians, and the values they profess, are now stigmatized by establishment institutions as

often, if not more often, than they are praised. Nationalism and religious faith empower individuals and communities to resist a ruling class that has abandoned them. That makes them a threat. They recognize that the ideology of America's ruling elites is itself leading to disaster. They recognize that America's elites have decided the nation's middle class is disposable, and this is the real reason they are pushing an agenda of woke degeneracy and extreme environmentalism, designed to lower birthrates and reduce standards of living.

It's hard to imagine how America's elites could get things more wrong. Their transhuman and transnational vision is provoking a clash of civilizations at the same time as they are destroying the human foundation of their own civilization. Nations where nationalism or religion remains the prevailing ideology are not about to emasculate their populations and eviscerate their energy sectors.

If America's elites attempt to impose this agenda worldwide, the world will fight back. Do they intend to win this clash with robots? Because if they reduce America to a geriatric, poverty-stricken nation, ruled by a handful of billionaires, robots are all they're going to have left at the rate we're going.

The Grand Alliance

The elites who have betrayed their own people are not invincible. America's historical legacy has built a cultural unity and resiliency that should not be underestimated.

While America's tradition of assimilation is under attack by an elite-driven obsession with multiculturalism, it remains the robust product of more than 200 years as a successful melting pot. Moreover, America's Bill of Rights offers protection to people still fighting for the values of faith, family, and freedom—values that are not as easily undermined as they are in other Western nations with less explicit constitutional safeguards.

Winston Churchill titled the third volume of his [World War II memoirs](#) *The Grand Alliance*. It described an alliance against a threat more obvious and imminent than the one we face today, uniting partners more intrinsically opposed than those who need to join together today. Instead of Western democracies uniting with Communist Russia to fight the fascist dictatorships, we have merely to unite a critical mass of Americans who want to save their nation from an elite that has declared war on their way of life and their future.

This isn't as hard as it seems for two reasons. First, because most Americans don't want to live in a degenerate culture. They don't want to live in a culture that has devolved to cater to society's lowest, most abnormal, deviant, hedonistic, psychotic, sociopathic, dishonest, crooked, lazy, defiant, bizarre, militant cohorts of individuals, regardless of the fact they've become politically organized and demand equality of outcome in every imaginable context. Most Americans understand the inherent necessity and benefits of nuclear families, hard work, and immutable standards for achievement and recognition. There is a deep, latent unity among Americans. It needs only a few sparks to immolate the thin film of oil on the surface.

Second, what is the nature of this oil that smothers America's ocean of common sense and unity? It is a fractious coalition of fanatics and lunatics, relatively small in number, who harbor an

innate antipathy toward each other that is only held in check by rivers of money flowing to them from globalist billionaires, opportunistic corporations, environmentalist pressure groups, and government unions. Their resources are money and anger. They win elections because all that money, and all that anger, is used to brainwash voters into thinking that tolerating decadence and chaos is compassion, people who oppose extreme tolerance are bigots, and recognizing the indispensability of fossil fuel is, somehow, “fascist.” The brainwashing, in the face of overwhelming contradictory evidence, is wearing thin.

The only thing normal Americans have to do in order to bring America’s swing voters back to the side of common sense is to promote an attractive vision. It is not enough to just explain how bad things have gotten. To begin that process they may start, they *must* start, by bringing the secular and religious wings of the common sense coalition together.

In his 2017 book, [*The Strange Death of Europe*](#), British journalist Douglas Murray suggests those forces still extant in Western societies and still resisting the derangements of our time—the secular and the religious—put aside their differences and unite to save Western civilization.

Finding a new synthesis of Western culture capable of addressing the questions of the 21st century may be a topic of active debate in think tanks. Still, to date, it hasn’t filtered down to retail politics. On the street, politicians trying to overcome woke insanity have limited themselves, at most, to rolling back the insanity. They have not expressed a new vision for America that unites religious and secular conservatives.

This is regrettable, but it also presents a tremendous opportunity.

If religious and secular conservatives reached a consensus, the political agenda they would share would necessarily have attenuated the most extreme positions held by either side, which in turn would attract millions of independent voters. Although it would still be declared extremist by elites who would now see their plans endangered as never before, in reality, it would form a new political center. It would be an irresistible force.

[Vivek Ramaswamy](#), who at the very least is the second most interesting Republican candidate currently running for U.S. president, has made a centerpiece of his campaign answering the question of what it means to be an American. His positions are unequivocal. For example, there need to be clear limits to what we tolerate as normal. The prerequisites for prosperity include clean fossil fuel, and that is nonnegotiable. Meritocracy is the only equitable way to deliver equal opportunity to everyone. Freedom in America, as embodied in the Bill of Rights, must be defended. These are unifying issues because they reject the establishment’s manipulative narrative of anger, resentment, fear, and perpetual crisis, and instead, envision a future of growth and greatness.

Consider the wondrous possibilities a healthy political coalition could express to an electorate desperate for hope. Imagine a political platform centered on deregulation and infrastructure investments to deliver abundant and affordable energy, the foundation of all prosperity. Imagine a foreign policy oriented to helping all nations achieve these gains, instead of being limited to “renewables” that condemn them to poverty, famine, tyranny, and war.

Optimism is contagious. Imagine a strong and united America beginning to harvest the resources of the moon and the asteroids. Imagine a culture that celebrates beauty and talent again. Imagine a generation of youth inspired to work hard so they can play a meaningful part in the brilliant unfolding story of a proud nation in a peaceful world. Imagine good things happening from now on, not out of naïveté, but as the product of practical investment and steadfast resolve.

The sooner we join together to save our civilization, the easier the path.

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WHY FOX FIRED TUCKER: BLACKROCK, REPLACEMENT THEORY, AND THE ADL

Tucker was axed by the regime's henchmen, who work together to silence dissent, pummel the population with endless propaganda, and gaslight their victims with lies that represent the precise inverse of truth

BY MICHAEL RECTENWALD



Why did Fox News fire Tucker Carlson? Some claim that Tucker had planned to leave the network all along, and merely resigned. He had even had a studio built in his own home. He was fed up with Fox and decided to call it quits, so the story goes. But this theory is belied by the fact that Tucker's production team was taken entirely by surprise by the news. For instance, I received the following text message from Scooter Downey, a producer of *Tucker Carlson*

Originals, in response to my query after the announcement: “No idea what’s going on. Crazy!”

Bill O’Reilly, who hosted *The O’Reilly Factor*, which appeared in the same time slot as *Tucker Carlson Tonight*, remarked that Tucker and his staff were blind-sided by the decision. “They were putting together tonight’s, Monday night’s program,” O’Reilly claimed. “They were actively involved with making the rundown as all of us do who go on television each night to talk to you. In the middle of that, boom. Tucker Carlson is history at the Fox News show. That’s how fast it came.”

The other major explanation given for Tucker’s separation from Fox has to do with the settlement of the Dominion Voting Systems defamation lawsuit. But the suit was filed in March of 2021 and Tucker wasn’t dismissed until April 24, 2023. Dominion demanded \$1.6 billion and settled for \$787.5 million. Tucker’s dismissal from Fox was not a condition of the settlement. Meanwhile, as Megyn Kelly pointed out, Tucker was not even among the promoters on Fox of the theory that elections had been rigged using Dominion. “He was not a reason for that 800-million settlement,” says Kelly.

Further, Tucker’s show was no doubt a leading money-maker for the network, or a major means for paying the damages. Why would Fox get rid of an income generator like Tucker Carlson just as the bill came due? The answer is that Fox is not as concerned about making money as it is about being a faithful servant of the regime.

Tucker crossed significant establishment redlines and has finally suffered the consequences. He consistently argued that the ruling elite hates the majority and consistently attacks it, that national sovereignty is being eroded, and that the electorate is being replaced. The redlines included his criticism of Volodymyr Zelensky and the U.S. involvement in the Ukrainian war, his criticism of the covid responses that destroyed the economy, his questioning of the vaccines, and his targeting by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) for various “offenses.”

In February, BlackRock Inc. increased its position in Fox Corporation (FOXA). BlackRock now owns 15.1 percent of the company. BlackRock’s enhanced position in Fox Corporation explains, in part, the Tucker dismissal, and it was a dismissal, not Tucker's choice.

Why would BlackRock, headed by CEO Larry Fink, pressure Fox News to axe Tucker? For one, Tucker was known for his scathing criticism of Ukraine’s corruption, which put him at odds with the investment giant. In January, Carlson reacted derisively to a video of Ukrainian President Zelensky thanking BlackRock, J.P. Morgan, and Goldman Sachs for “rebuilding” the country. Tucker referred to Zelensky, not as a hero, as the establishment would have it, but as a dictator. Carlson has also been critical of BlackRock's push for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing, claiming, rightly, that ESG is a means of circumventing legislation and thus subverting democratic processes. ESG thwarts the will of the people and installs a “climate change” dictatorship in its place.

BlackRock also has enormous holdings in pharmaceuticals companies, as one of the three largest shareholders of Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and Merck. And Tucker recently interviewed Robert Kennedy, Jr. A presidential candidate, Kennedy has lambasted the covid-19 vaccines as “deadly and worthless.”

Perhaps most significant was the ADL’s calls for Tucker’s removal. Tucker consistently claimed that the Democratic Party is attempting to replace the American electorate with illegal immigrants and the ADL called for Tucker to be de-platformed for holding to “the Great Replacement Theory,” as well as other views that the ADL forbids. The ADL had consistently

pushed for Tucker's dismissal. On The Megyn Kelly Show, after Kelly noted that the ADL was once again pushing for Tucker's firing, Tucker said, "fuck them." And Tucker struck back at the ADL on his own show.

Following Tucker's dismissal, the ADL's Jonathan Greenblatt celebrated Tucker's firing on Twitter, where he also accused Tucker of spewing "antisemitic, racist, xenophobic and anti-LGBTQ hate to millions." He also acknowledged that the ADL had "long called for his firing":

It's about time. For far too long, Tucker Carlson has used his primetime show to spew antisemitic, racist, xenophobic and anti-LGBTQ hate to millions. @ADL has long called for his firing for this and many other offenses, including spreading the Great Replacement Theory.

The Dominion defamation suit was not the impetus for the removal of Tucker Carlson from the Fox News line-up. Nor did Tucker walk out of Fox on his own accord. Tucker was axed by the regime's henchmen, who work together to silence dissent, pummel the population with endless propaganda, and gaslight their victims with lies that represent the precise inverse of the truth. As a propaganda apparatus of the ruling class, Fox News is not primarily interested in profit. Its *raison d'être* is to serve as controlled opposition. And Tucker was out of the establishment's control.

"The media," Tucker recently said, "are part of the control apparatus...not only are they part of the problem, but I spent most of my life being part of the problem, defending the Iraq War, like I actually did that." That is, Tucker came to recognize that the media are ideological state apparatuses whose functions are to indoctrinate, mislead, and support the reigning regime and their narratives, whether past, present, or future. Tucker attempted to subvert those media functions and became a danger to the regime. It is no wonder that he no longer works for Fox News. The question is how he lasted so long.

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THE INHUMANITY OF THE GREEN AGENDA
THE 'SUSTAINABILITY' REGIME IS IMPOVERISHING THE WORLD.
BY JOEL KOTKIN



‘Man is the measure of all things’, Greek philosopher Protagoras wrote over 2,500 years ago. Unfortunately, our elites today tend not to see it that way.

In recent years, the overused word ‘sustainability’ has fostered a narrative in which human needs and aspirations have taken a back seat to the green austerity of Net Zero and ‘degrowth’. The ruling classes of a fading West are determined to save the planet by immiserating their fellow citizens. Their agenda is expected to cost the world \$6 trillion per year for the next 30 years. Meanwhile, they will get to harvest massive green subsidies and live like Renaissance potentates. In *Enemies of Progress*, author Austin Williams suggests that ‘the mantra of sustainability’ starts with the assumption that humanity is ‘the biggest problem of the planet’, rather than the ‘creators of a better future’. Indeed, many climate scientists and green activists see having *fewer* people on the planet as a key priority. Their programme calls not only for fewer people and fewer families, but also for lower consumption among the masses. They expect us to live in ever smaller dwelling units, to have less mobility, and to endure more costly home heating and air-conditioning. These priorities are reflected in a regulatory bureaucracy that, if it does not claim justification from God, acts as the right hand of Gaia and of sanctified science.

The question we need to ask is: sustainability for whom? US Treasury secretary Janet Yellen recently suggested that her department sees climate change as ‘the greatest economic opportunity of our time’. To be sure, there is lots of gold in green for the same Wall Street investors, tech oligarchs and inheritors who fund the campaigns of climate activists. They increasingly control the media, too. The Rockefellers, heirs to the Standard Oil fortune, and other ultra-wealthy greens are currently funding climate reporters at organs like the Associated Press and National Public Radio.

Under the new sustainability regime, the ultra-rich profit, but the rest of us not so much. The most egregious example may be the forced take-up of electric vehicles (EVs), which has already helped to make Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, the world's second-richest man. Although improvements are being made to low-emissions vehicles, consumers are essentially being frogmarched into adopting a technology that has [clear technical problems](#), remains [far more expensive](#) than the internal-combustion engine and depends primarily on an electric grid already [on the brink of blackouts](#). Green activists, it turns out, do not expect EVs to replace the cars of *hoi polloi*. No, ordinary people will be dragooned to use public transport, or to walk or bike to get around.

The shift to electric cars is certainly no win for the West's working and middle classes. But it is an enormous boon to China, which enjoys a huge lead in the production of batteries and rare-earth elements needed to make EVs, and which also figure prominently in wind turbines and solar panels. [China's BYD](#), which is backed by Warren Buffett, has emerged as the world's top EV manufacturer, with big export ambitions. Meanwhile, American EV firms struggle with production and supply-chain issues, in part due to green resistance to domestic mining for rare-earth minerals. Even Tesla expects much of its future growth to come from its Chinese factories.

Building cars from primarily Chinese components will have consequences for autoworkers across the West. Germany was once a car-manufacturing giant, but it is expected to lose an estimated 400,000 car-factory jobs by 2030. According to [McKinsey](#), the US's manufacturing workforce could be cut by up to 30 per cent. After all, when the key components are made elsewhere, far less labour is needed from US and European workers. It's no surprise that [some European politicians](#), worried about a popular backlash, have moved to slow down the EV juggernaut.

This dynamic is found across the entire sustainability agenda. The soaring energy costs in the West have helped China expand its market share in manufactured exports to roughly equal that of the US, Germany and Japan *combined*. American manufacturing has dropped recently to its [lowest point since the pandemic](#). The West's crusade against carbon emissions makes it likely that jobs, 'green' or otherwise, will move to China, which already emits more greenhouse gases than the rest of the high-income world. Meanwhile, the Chinese leadership is looking to [adapt to changes in the climate](#), instead of undermining economic growth by chasing implausible Net Zero targets.

There are clear class implications here. California's regulators recently admitted that the state's strict climate laws aid the affluent, but hurt the poor. These laws also have a disproportionate impact on ethnic-minority citizens, creating what attorney [Jennifer Hernandez](#) has labelled the 'green Jim Crow'. As China's increasingly sophisticated tech and industrial growth is being joyously funded by US venture capitalists and Wall Street, living standards among the Western middle class are in decline. Europe has endured a decade of stagnation, while Americans' life expectancy has recently fallen for the first time in peacetime. [Deutsche Bank's Eric Heymann](#) suggests that the only way to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050 is by squelching all future growth, which could have catastrophic effects on working-class and middle-class living standards.

Rather than the upward mobility most have come to expect, much of the West's workforce now faces the prospect of either living on the dole or working at low wages. Today, nearly [half of all American workers](#) receive low wages and the future looks worse. Almost [two-thirds of all new](#)

[jobs](#) in recent months were in low-paying service industries. This is also true in Britain. Over recent decades, many jobs that might have once supported whole families have disappeared. According to [one UK account](#), self-employment and gig work do not provide sustenance for anything like a comfortable lifestyle. Rates of poverty and food shortages are already on the rise. As a result, most parents in the US and elsewhere doubt their children will do better than their generation, while trust in our institutions is at historic lows.

The fabulists at [places like the New York Times](#) have convinced themselves that climate change is the biggest threat to prosperity. But many ordinary folk are far more worried about the immediate effects of climate policy than the prospect of an overheated planet in the medium or long term. This opposition to the Net Zero agenda was first expressed by [the gilet jaunes movement in France](#) in 2018, whose weekly protests were initially sparked by green taxes. This has been followed by protests by [Dutch and other European farmers](#) in recent years, who are angry at restrictions on fertilisers that will cut their yields. The pushback has sparked [the rise of populism](#) in a host of countries, notably Italy, Sweden and France. Even in ultra-with-it Berlin, a referendum on tighter-emissions targets recently failed to win over enough voters.

This is class warfare obscured by green rhetoric. It pits elites in finance, tech and the nonprofit world against a more numerous, but less connected, group of ordinary citizens. Many of these folk make their living from producing food and basic necessities, or from hauling these things around. Factory workers, truck drivers and farmers, all slated for [massive green regulatory onslaughts](#), see sustainability very differently than the urban corporate elites and their woke employees. As the French *gilets jaunes* protesters put it bluntly: ‘The elites worry about the end of the world. We worry about the end of the month.’

This disconnect also exists in the United States, according to long-time Democratic analyst [Ruy Teixeira](#). Attempts to wipe out fossil fuels may thrill people in San Francisco, but are regarded very differently in Bakersfield, the centre of the California oil industry, and in Texas, where as many as a million generally good-paying jobs could be lost. Overall, according to [a Chamber of Commerce report](#), a full national ban on fracking, widely supported by greens, would cost 14million jobs – far more than the eight million jobs lost in the Great Recession of 2007-09.

No surprise then that blue-collar workers are not so enthusiastic about the green agenda. Just one per cent, according to [a new Monmouth poll](#), consider climate as their main concern. A [new Gallup poll](#) shows that just two per cent of working-class respondents say they currently own an electric vehicle and a mere nine per cent say they are ‘seriously considering’ purchasing one. These Western concerns are nothing compared to how the sustainability agenda could impact the developing world. Developing countries are home to roughly 3.5 billion people with no reliable access to electricity. They are far more vulnerable to high energy and food prices than we are.

For places like Sub-Saharan Africa, green admonitions against new agricultural technologies, fossil fuels and nuclear power undermine any hope of creating desperately needed new wealth and jobs. It’s no wonder that these countries increasingly ignore the West and are looking to China instead, which is helping the developing world to build new fossil-fuel plants, as well as hydroelectric and nuclear facilities. All of this is anathema to many Western greens. To make matters worse, the EU is already considering carbon taxes on imports, which could cut the developing world off from what remains of global markets.

More critical still could be the impact of the sustainability mantra on food production, particularly for Sub-Saharan Africa, which will be home to most of the world’s population

growth over the next three decades, according to [United Nations projections](#). These countries need more food production, either domestically or from rich countries like the US, the Netherlands, Canada, Australia and France. And they are acutely aware of what happened when [Sri Lanka adopted the sustainability agenda](#). This led to the breakdown of Sri Lanka's agricultural sector and, eventually, to the violent overthrow of its government.

We need to rethink the sustainability agenda. Protecting the environment cannot come at the cost of jobs and growth. We should also assist developing countries in achieving a more prosperous future. This means financing workable technologies – gas, nuclear, hydro – that can provide the reliable energy so critical for economic development. It does no good to suggest a programme that will keep the poor impoverished.

Unless people's concerns about the green agenda are addressed, they will almost certainly seek to disrupt the best-laid plans of our supposedly enlightened elites. In the end, as Protagoras said, human beings are still the ultimate 'measure' of what happens in the world – whether the *cognoscenti* like it or not.

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