

**COLLAB**

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

**WEEKLY UPDATE  
DECEMBER 3 - 9, 2023**

**COLLAB**

San Luis Obispo County



**15TH ANNUAL  
DINNER &  
FUNDRAISER**

**What's in store for 2024?**

*Save the Date*

**THURSDAY MARCH 21ST**

**5:30 PM**

**MADONNA INN EXPO CENTER**

**THIS WEEK**  
**SEE PAGE 4**

**1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**  
*SLOW START*

**ROAD FEES TO INCREASE 5.3%**

**FOUR WOMEN SUING THE COUNTY**  
**WHAT FOR?**

**BOARD PLANNING DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES**  
*CANNABIS DISPENSARIES, NEW NIPOMO PLAN & MORE*

**LAST WEEK**  
**SEE PAGE 8**

**SLO COUNTY PENSION TRUST**  
*WEAK RETURNS IN 2023*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**SHELTER CRISIS CONTINUES**  
*WHAT IS THE EVICTION RATE?*

**WINE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**  
*PROPOSED WITH TAXING POWERS*

**MORE NEW COSTS FOR PERMITTING SOFTWARE**  
*HOW'S THE CURRENT SYSTEM WORKING?*

## **2024 FEE INCREASES**

**WHAT DID YOU GET? - ANOTHER DAY OLDER & DEEPER IN DEBT**

*St. Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go*

*I owe my soul to the Company Store*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION TO APPOINT ANOTHER CAO  
THEY ROTATE THROUGH EVERY FEW YEARS**

**URBAN WINERIES, DISTILLERIES, AND GUEST RANCHES TO  
BE OKAYED**

**LARGE DOG FIGHT OVER RURAL AG BOARDING KENNEL  
GIBSON RUMORED TO BE A CUSTOMER**

**APCD**

**FORMER APCD DIRECTOR LARRY ALLEN TO BE APPOINTED  
TO HEARING BOARD – THEN HE WITHDREW  
HE WANTS TO KILL DUNES RIDING**

**APCD SPENDING MILLIONS ON EV CHARGERS  
LARRY ALLEN IS A MAJOR ADVOCATE**

**EMERGENT ISSUES  
SEE PAGE 18**

**THEY'RE COMING FOR YOUR BEEF  
UN SAYS – "GET YOUR PROTEIN FROM INSECTS"**



# COUNTY SOUND POD - ONLY 30 PATIENTS THIS YEAR FOR OVER \$500,000?



## COLAB IN DEPTH SEE PAGE 22

### CAN EUROPE BECOME WESTERN AGAIN?

*We need the return of a sane and powerful European co-partner*

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

### THE OTHER CRISES DEMANDING OUR ATTENTION

*America at a dangerous crossroads*

BY BRUCE THORNTON

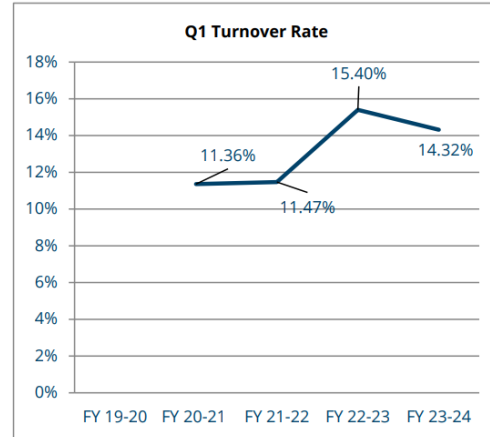
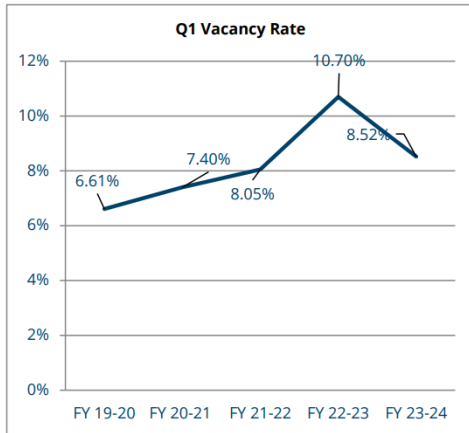
## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, December 5, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item 2 - Submittal of the FY 2023-24 First Quarter Financial Status Report and request to 1) approve resolutions amending Position Allocation Lists for various departments; and 2) approve various financial actions as detailed in the recommended actions (one or more actions require a 4/5 vote). The report does not detail how major revenues such as property tax, sales tax, and hotel tax are performing. It does indicate that the Sheriff's Office is likely to incur

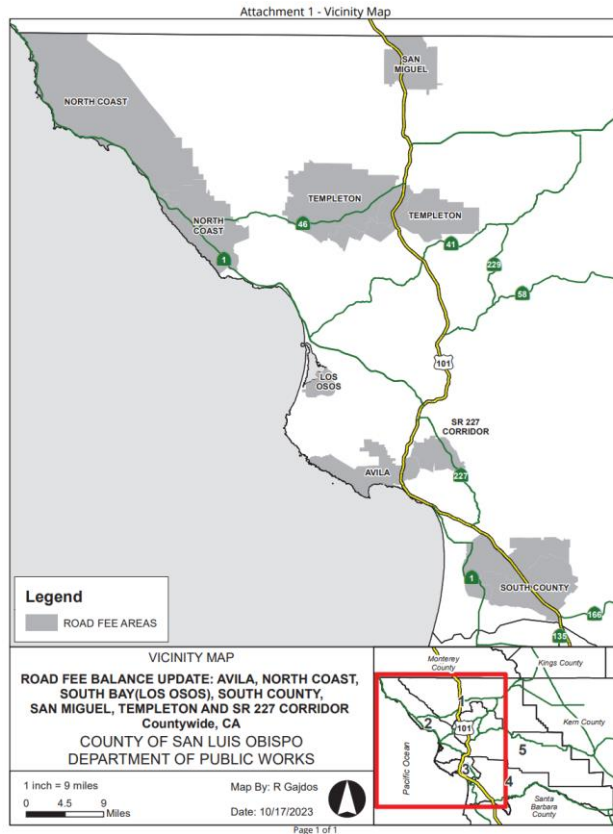
a multi-million deficit due to unbudgeted raises and vacant positions that must be filled with overtime pay.  
 The overall County vacancy rate has declined.



**Item 7 - Submittal of resolutions to adopt the Annual Road Improvement Fee Reports and continuing Road Improvement Fees for the fee areas of Avila, North Coast, San Miguel, South County, Templeton, Los Osos, and State Route 227 Corridor.** The fees are going up. One problem is that the table of fees does not contain the current fees. The report states that they are going up 5.31% on average.

Fee Area	Sent to Advisory Council	Proposed Fee (Effective March 1, 2024)			Account Balance As of 7/1/22	No. of Permits Subject to Road Fees	Fees Received	Interest	Expenses	Account Balance As of 6/30/23	Major Work Effort	
		Residential (Per pht)	Retail (Per pht)	Other (Per pht)								
Estero Bay	Nov-23	\$ 3,822	\$ 3,822	\$ 3,822	\$ 80,016	3	\$ 6,691	\$ 1,467	\$ 403	\$ 87,772	LOVR Corridor Plan	
Avila	Nov-23	\$ 12,032	\$ 12,032	\$ 12,032	\$ 780,449	6	\$ 121,683	\$ 14,093	\$ 13,497	\$ 902,727	Avila Beach Drive Interchange	
North Coast	Nov-23	Area A	\$ 615	\$ 306	\$ 471	\$ 41,894	1	\$ 1,056	\$ 729	\$ 403	\$ 43,276	N/A
		Area B	\$ 1,158	\$ 306	\$ 471							
		Area C	\$ 1,480	\$ 306	\$ 471							
		Area D	\$ 683	\$ 306	\$ 471							
		Area E	\$ 329	\$ 306	\$ 471							
San Miguel	Nov-23	\$ 7,060	\$ 7,060	\$ 7,060	\$ 1,029,252	9	\$ 37,114	\$ 17,867	\$ 403	\$ 1,083,830	N/A	
South County	Nov-23	Area 1	\$ 14,025	\$ 3,895	\$ 5,993	\$ 1,453,455	24	\$ 291,690	\$ 28,128	\$ 11,731	\$ 1,761,542	Mesa @ Tefft Signalization
		Area 2	\$ 11,733	\$ 5,300	\$ 8,154	\$ 3,557,109	19	\$ 244,832	\$ 61,818	\$ 151,514	\$ 3,712,245	Los Berros Road Widening
Templeton	Nov-23	Area A/B	\$ 9,881	\$ 9,881	\$ 9,881	\$ 320,254	19	\$ 230,812	\$ 4,290	\$ 374,342	\$ 181,014	Vineyard Corridor Plan
		Area C	\$ 9,881	\$ 9,881	\$ 9,881	\$ 2,076,218		\$ 1,557	\$ 35,631	\$ 5,174	\$ 2,108,233	
State Route 227	n/a	Fees Calculated per Individual Projects			\$ 465,304	14	\$ 53,432	\$ 8,592	\$ -	\$ 527,329	N/A	

Note that the measure in the table above is dollars per “pht”. Is this per hundred thousand of value? That would mean that the typical new \$850,000 house in a development in Nipomo would pay **\$119,212**. This seems impossible.



**Item 13 - Closed Session:** It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session concerning the following items: Existing Litigation (Gov. Code, section 54956.9(a)). (Formally initiated.): (3) Dorea Crowell, Jeanetta Griffin-Grisby, Martina Ruiz, and Tomasita Sarabia vs. SLO County - Superior Court Case 21CV-0671. Is it possible that this is a class action by women who were bothered by former CAO John Nilon? The Court website case search feature did not recognize the case.

**MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM**

**Item 17 - Request to receive and file a report on Board-identified priority projects for the Department of Planning and Building and provide staff direction, as necessary.** This is an important item, as it sets the policy for the Long Range Divisions work on Plan of Development Updates, major ordinance revisions, setting of overall land use policies, etc.

One major issue at this point is that the 3 progressive supervisors wish to have the Cannabis Ordinance revised to allow retail marijuana dispensaries within the unincorporated area.

**Existing Projects**



Table 2: 18-Month Long Range Planning Work Program

Workload Type	FTE Allocated and Vacancy Status			Timeframe and Workload Capacity						Est. Completion Date
	FTEs			FY 23-24		FY 24-25				
	Allocated	Filled	Vacant	Q3 <sup>1</sup>	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>Mandatory Workload</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>	
Applicant-Submitted GPAs	1.50	1.00	0.50							Ongoing
Applicant-Submitted Specific Plans	1.00	1.00	0.00							Ongoing
Growth Management Ordinance	0.25	0.25	0.00							Ongoing
Housing Policy and Homeless Division Support	0.50	0.00	0.50							Ongoing
Water Conservation Programs	1.00	0.75	0.25							Ongoing
Williamson Act Program	0.50	0.50	0.00							Ongoing
Tracking and Implementing State Law	0.25	0.00	0.25							Ongoing
Safety Element Update	0.50	0.00	0.50							FY 25-26 Q4
<b>Discretionary Workload</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.125</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.25</b>	
Community Plans - Major	0.625	0.125	0.50	0.125	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	
<i>Los Osos Community Plan LCP and HCP</i>										FY 24-25, Q4
LCP Amendments - Minor	0.125	0.00	0.125	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<i>Density Bonus Ordinance</i>										TBD
<i>Agricultural Worker Housing Ordinance</i>										TBD
Housing Element Implementation	0.125	0.125	0.00	0.125						
<i>Housing Policy Review</i>										FY 23-24 Q3
2024 Minor Ordinance Amendment Package	1.125	0.75	0.375	0.75	0.50	0.50	0.50			
<i>Cannabis Ordinance Clean-up</i>										FY 24-25 Q2
<i>Misc. Ordinance Clean-up</i>										FY 24-25 Q2
<i>Title 19 Los Osos Retrofit-to-Build Ordinance</i>										FY 23-24 Q3
<b>Filled Staff Positions (FTEs)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>7.50</b>	
<b>Total FTE Workload</b>				<b>4.50</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>4.25</b>	
<b>Total FTE Available</b>				<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>3.25</b>	

<sup>1</sup> This work program assumes the Department will fill vacant Long Range planner positions by FY 24-25 Q1.

<sup>2</sup>Resource allocation in this work program does not include the 1.00 FTE Division Manager position, which provides management support and guidance on all Long Range Planning projects.

## Potential New Projects

Table 3: Potential New Long Range Planning Projects

Potential New Long Range Planning Project	FTEs Total	Staff Cost	Professional Services	Total Cost	Timeline (Months) <sup>1</sup>
Safety Element Update	0.50	\$97,087	\$0	\$97,087	18 – 24
Nipomo Community Plan Update	1.75	\$343,138	\$800,000 – \$1,000,000 <sup>2</sup>	\$1,143,138- \$1,343,138	24 – 36
Storefront Retail Cannabis Dispensary Ordinance	0.75	\$148,763	\$50,000	\$198,763	12 – 18
Housing Policy Review	0.125	\$26,646	\$0	\$26,646	3 – 4
San Luis Bay Estates Land Use Category Clean-up	0.33	\$62,667	\$0	\$62,667	6 – 9

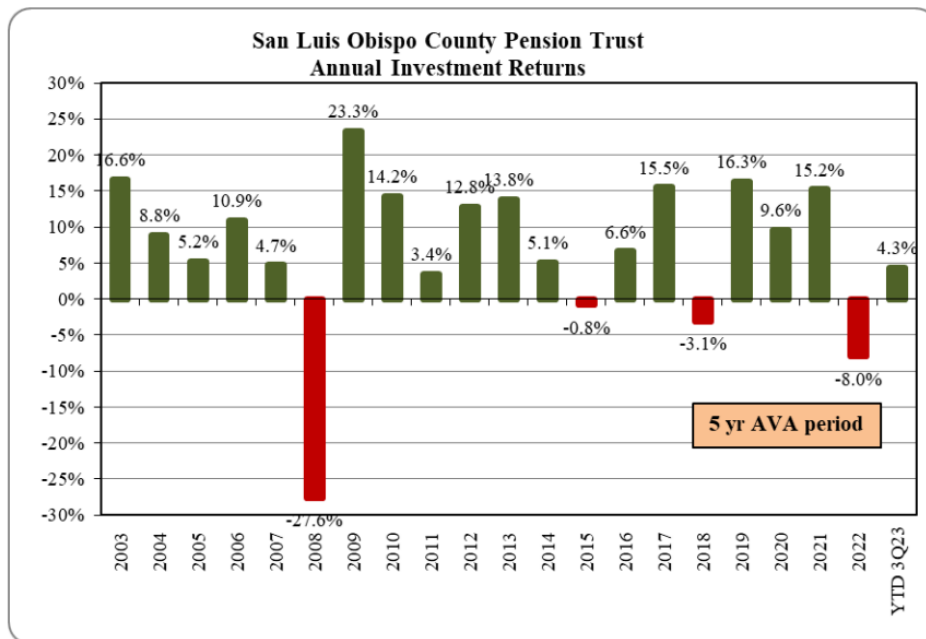
<sup>1</sup>Number of months to complete project after resources are allocated.

**Item 16 - Any Supervisor may ask a question for clarification, make an announcement, or report briefly on his or her activities. In addition, Supervisors may request staff to report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter or may request that staff place a matter of business on a future agenda. Any request to place a matter of business for consideration on a future agenda requires the majority vote of the Board. This is now a standing item at the end of each Board Meeting. It would be better to set it after General Public Comment, when more of the public is in attendance.**

## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

### SLO County Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, November 27, 2023 (Completed)

**Item 17 - Quarterly Investment Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2023.** The return on the fund for 2023 is likely to be less than the Trust's 6.75 percent assumption rate.



**Item 18 - Monthly Investment Report for October 2023.** October was not so great, reinforcing the low return expectation. This will contribute to pressure for contribution rate increases when the Trust receives the results of its next actuarial study. In turn the increases will mean that the County has less funding for actual services and that the employees will demand higher raises to offset their increased share of the costs.



	October	Year to Date 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Trust Investments (\$ millions)	\$1,602		\$1,614 year end	\$1,775 year end	\$1,552 year end	\$1,446 year end	\$1,285 year end
<b>Total Fund Return</b>	-1.3% Gross	<b>+2.9% Gross</b>	-8.0% Gross	15.2% Gross	8.9 % Gross	16.3 % Gross	-3.2 % Gross
Policy Index Return (r)	-1.6%	+2.0%	-9.7%	12.8%	10.0 %	16.4 %	-3.2 %

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, November 28, 2023 (Completed)**

**Item 1 - Introduction of an ordinance extending the declaration of a shelter crisis by one additional year and extending the County’s local standards and procedures for the design, site development, and operation of emergency homeless shelters at public facilities.**

**Authorize the use of Alternative Publication Procedures for the subject ordinance.** The renewal hearing was set for December 12<sup>th</sup>. Per State enabling legislation, the County can adopt and renew an ordinance to relax zoning and permitting standards for affordable housing due to the State housing crisis and evictions. The item sets a required hearing for December 12, where extending the ordinance will be considered.

The write-up stated in part:

*The County initially declared a shelter crisis on October 2, 2018, however, with that action, the County did not choose to suspend state or local building codes for emergency shelters. On September 28, 2021, however, the County adopted Ordinance No. 3459 re-declaring a shelter crisis and, with that action, suspended and modified certain state and local rules for the design, site development and operation of emergency homeless shelters at public facilities. Ordinance No. 3459 had an automatic expiration date of December 31, 2022. On November 1, 2022, the County renewed the ordinance adopted as Ordinance No. 3479, which has an expiration date of December 31, 2023. County staff recommends that the Board re-declare an emergency shelter crisis and to continue to suspend state and local building codes for emergency shelters on County owned or leased property.*

**And**

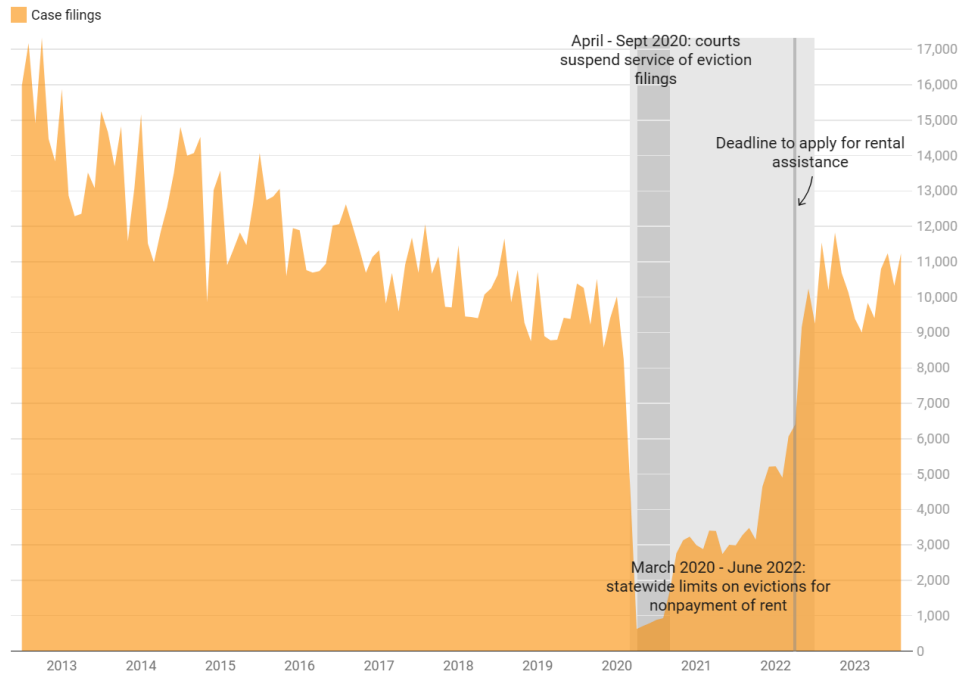
*The most recent Homeless Point in Time Count demonstrated that the number of unhoused individuals residing in the County of San Luis Obispo far exceeds the number of shelter beds available to the extent that only 20% - 30% of the number of unhoused individuals can be accommodated with a shelter bed on any given day*

California eviction cases are still higher than pre-pandemic levels after state moratorium ended.

*Through August, average monthly eviction filings in 19 of the state's most populous counties this year remained higher than in the year prior to the pandemic. Data is shown for the following counties: Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Alameda, Sacramento, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, San Francisco, Ventura, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Stanislaus, Sonoma, Tulare and Santa Barbara.*

The chart below shows the court filings for evictions for California's larger counties for each year over a decade. This is good indicia on the housing crisis. It is much more precise than just the raw number of unsheltered homeless.

Through August, average monthly eviction filings in 19 of the state's most populous counties this year remained higher than in the year prior to the pandemic. Data is shown for the following counties: Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Alameda, Sacramento, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, San Francisco, Ventura, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Stanislaus, Sonoma, Tulare and Santa Barbara



Staff should prepare this same chart for San Luis Obispo County. The data is available from the Court. Perhaps this could be done prior to the December 12<sup>th</sup> hearing.

**Item 5 - Request to 1) approve the contract with Civitas Advisors, Inc. for the examination of Sales or Transactions and Use Tax Records by Civitas Advisors, Inc.; and 2) adopt a resolution declaring the Board's intention to allow the examination of Sales or Transactions and Use Tax Records by Civitas Advisors, Inc. to assist in evaluating a proposed Business Improvement District for the wine industry.** The Board initiated the process, which is outlined in the table below.

**Background:** The Paso Robles Wine Alliance and the SLO County Wine Alliance have requested the County to begin the process to form a business improvement district (BID) for the purpose of taxing tasting rooms. The proceeds would be used by the BID to promote the wine industry.

This item, if approved, authorizes one of the steps in the process - allowing the Wine Alliance to hire a consultant acceptable to the County to assess the feasibility of the proposal. The full process contains the steps listed below:

**Please see the table on the next page.**

<b>Required Actions</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
1) Map and description of district is developed, along with district management plan.	TBD - To be submitted by the PRWCA and the SLOCWA
2) The PRWCA's and the SLOCWA's consultant finalizes list of assessed wineries from County data, working with Auditor-Controller's Office using information from sales tax records.	TBD - Non-disclosure agreements and resolution required by County.
3) District Management Plan is finalized and circulated	TBD
4) Petition to form the district by those businesses assessed is generated and petition drive conducted by the PRWCA and the SLOCWA	TBD To be submitted by the PRWCA and the SLOCWA to the Board of Supervisors.
5) Public Hearing - Petition in support is submitted to the Board of Supervisors. At the hearing, there is an opportunity for protest votes by businesses in the district (district cannot be approved if protests received from businesses in the proposed district exceed 50 percent of the total assessment to be levied).	TBD - Board of Supervisors hearing
6) Resolution of intent to form the district (and agreeing to be lead agency) Resolution requesting consent by affected cities	TBD - Board of Supervisors following hearing
7) Resolution of consent by cities	TBD - City council meetings
8) Collection of assessment and remittance to Vintners Association	TBD - Third party or public agency entity

Often BIDs favor the larger members. It will be interesting to see how the Paso Basin water issues interact with this proposal.

**Item 16 - Request to 1) approve a 5-year contract with Tyler Technologies effective July 1, 2024 in the amount of \$1,288,295 (\$257,659 per year) for cloud hosting and licensing for the Enterprise Permitting & Licensing Software (previously EnerGov); 2) approve waiving of the competitive bidding process; and 3) delegate authority to the Planning and Building Director or his designee to sign any amendments to the contract that do not increase the level of General Fund support.** The contract was approved without question or comment by the Board.

**Background:** This is a multi-year contract to move the County's online permitting system from in-house servers to cloud servers run by its current vendor, Energov. This is necessary because by 2025, Energov will no longer support the software on its clients' in-house servers. It is not clear if the migration provides any functional enhancements. Nevertheless, the County really has no choice.

The County acquired Energov in 2014. It has been a slow slog for implementation. It is not clear from this report if the County uses the vendor Accela for related services. How much do these cost separately from Energov? Environmental Health uses Accela. How will it interface with Energov?

Prior to approving this contract, the Board should require the administration to present a comprehensive report on the status and functionality of the various systems that support the Planning and Building Department's data systems. What are the current costs? How much of this contract is on top of those? How well are things going? Is the current version fully implemented and working as proposed? What does the user public report about the functionality of the system? How do the employees regard the system?

How much has been spent on Planning and Development data systems each year since 2013, including staff support from the IT Department?

How is Permit View working? Is it part of this issue?

Over the last decade have information technology efforts had any positive impacts on permitting costs, velocity, or quality?

How would anyone know?

**Item 35 - Hearing to consider an ordinance implementing the County Fee Schedule "A" for Calendar Year 2024 and Fee Schedule "B" for Fiscal Year 2024-25.** There was considerable discussion. In the end all the fees except those for the Planning and Building Department were approved on a 3/2 vote, with Arnold and Peschong dissenting.

Separately, Supervisor Ortiz-Legg had concerns about fees such as the Planning and Building Technology fee, Planning and Building Consultant Management fee, and the Planning and Building Management fees. She correctly noted that these are fees on fees, as the cost of these services are already built into the specific types of permit fees - that is Minor Use Permit, Electrical Permit, etc. It will take some untangling for the Board to understand how they work and then determine if they wish to hold them at current rates or abolish them altogether. It is likely that most of the Planning and Building fee increase will then be approved.

**Some samples:**

Department	Projected Revenue Change	% Change
Planning and Building	\$1,712,203	21%
Airports	\$1,004,173	13%
Community Parks	\$176,352	103%
PW Special Services	\$111,928	22%

Fee Grouping Fee Increases by Fee Grouping		
Fee Grouping	% Change	Explanation
New Construction Plan Check and Inspection Fees	8%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes
Fixed Fees _ Mechanical	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes
Fixed Fees _ Plumbing/Gas	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes
Fixed Fees _ Electrical	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes
Fixed Fees _ Grading	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes
Fixed Fees _ Building Miscellaneous	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes
Fixed Fees _ Other Building (Fire-rated and Time extension)	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes
Land Use and Other Fees	8%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes

**Background:** The underlying theory is that users of government services that do not benefit the public at large should pay for them so as not to consume tax supported services, which benefit everyone. Accordingly, citizens should pay fees for services such as public golf courses, beach parking, airport operations, document filing, hunting and fishing licenses, gun licenses, and hundreds more.

On the other hand, services such as policing, fire protection and suppression, public prosecution and defense of criminals, jail, snow plowing, some health services, social services, and public education are regarded as beneficial to the entire society and are largely covered by taxes.

There is a gray area in-between where services such as flu shots, local parks, libraries, etc., are often funded by both taxes and fees. These often are set on a graduated basis to subsidize the poor.

Public transit was once entirely supported by charges but has now become mostly subsidized by general taxes. and the rip off of gas taxes. Roads are funded by a combination of general taxes, user charges, excise taxes, and tolls.

A problematic historical trend is the evolution of local government regulation from tax supported to fee and excise tax supported over the past 70 years. Originally, governments viewed land development, agricultural expansion, and commerce as beneficial. But as so-called safety, zoning, and aesthetic regulations expanded massively, academics and public administrators preached the gospel that “users” should pay the costs of being regulated, that is permitted.

This theory has been exponentially expanded under the regime of environmentalism in recent decades through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CO<sub>2</sub> reduction mandates, and bias against the conversion of land to suburban development (stack-and-pack).

The housing crisis, permanent homelessness, and the decline of the family are all major destructive bi-products.

**The underlying problems include:**

- **There are too many regulations.**
- **The regulations are horribly complicated and subjective.**
- **The cost of administering the regulations is too high, due to featherbedded processes and government unions controlling the government bodies that determine the efficiency, velocity, and cost of the regulations.**
- **Bias against development by college educated bureaucrats who have been brainwashed by the leftist industrial complex at university planning schools.**
- **NIMBY elites.**
- **Powerful elitist environmental groups who contribute to political campaigns on the one hand and sue over development decisions on the other.**

The key operative departments include the Ag Commissioner, Planning and Development, Public Works, Fire, and the Environmental Health Division of the Public Health Department. The County Counsel's office is an underlying controller secretly advising the others in the name of liability prevention.

Once again the Board should have stopped the process and required the subject departments to demonstrate the process and cost for key components such as a minor use permit, building permit, or well permit in public. These should be done in flow chart format with the time and price of each step documented.

Since most plans are produced and stamped by licensed architects and engineers, backed up by other subject specific experts, how does the County, using liberal arts planners, public administrators, and environmentalists, actually have the expertise to judge a project? It does this by setting up its own subjective regulatory scheme under which the applicant can be treated arbitrarily and must play regulatory roulette while the game board is constantly manipulated.

Why not try a fair game? A project that is in the proper zone will automatically be approved within no later than 90 days, unless the County can document actual violation of public health and safety.

**Item 36 - Executive Session - Addendum Item 1 - PERSONNEL (Government Code section 54957.) It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session to: (16) Consider Public Employee Appointment for the Position of County Administrative Officer.** In the end, the County Counsel announced that no action had been taken. Thus, it is not clear what happened. The County Website indicates that the Deputy CEO, Rebecca Campbell is now Acting CAO.



**Background:** At the same time that it was announced that CAO John Nilon had been terminated, it was announced that the current Deputy CAO Rebecca Campbell would be appointed as Acting CAO. This session may be needed to legally make that appointment and agree on any pay and other terms. It could also cover the future recruitment process.

**Item 37 - Hearing to 1) consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo to approve amendments to the Land Use Ordinance, Title 22 of the County Code (LRP2023-00010) to allow for four ordinance amendments including the Distilleries Ordinance, Guest Ranch Ordinance, Small Urban Wineries Ordinance, and Insertion of Arroyo Grande Fringe Area Map. The requested amendments include: 1) amendments of Title 22 to Table 2-2, Allowable Land Uses and Permit Requirements, Section 22.30, Standards for Specific Land Uses, Section 22.94, Section 22.18, Parking, and Section 22.80, Definitions; and 2) consider options for animal facilities within the Arroyo Grande Fringe Area and provide direction to staff as necessary.** The Board voted unanimously to approve the new regulations enabling the permitting of the distilleries, guest ranches, and small urban wineries. There was no opposition.

After a lengthy public hearing the Board opted to allow the code enforcement action against the kennel to continue. Supervisor Gibson recused himself from this portion of the hearing since he has been a long customer of the kennel. The effort will be to use the code enforcement process to attempt to reach a solution that would allow the kennel to continue while simultaneously abating the barking.

**Background:** Back in August, the Planning Commission and the staff finished development of ordinances to permit small urban wineries, distilleries, and guest ranches. Just about everyone seems to support these. It is likely they will be adopted. However, for whatever reason, a very controversial dog kennel issue has been combined into this hearing item. This means that there will be four distinct interest groups of supporters and opponents, creating increased waiting time. Probably the Chairman can take the wineries, distilleries, and guest ranch portions first.

**Small Urban Wineries, Guest Ranches, and Distilleries:** The Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the ordinances on a vote of 3 yes, 0 noes, 1 recusal, 1 absent. ← Commissioner Villicana recused himself, as he has a distillery. Commissioner Wyatt was absent. There are no letters of opposition in the file. The Paso Roble Wine Alliance supports the ordinances.

***Distilleries Ordinance*** - *This ordinance amendment would allow for distilleries as an agricultural processing use similar to wineries. Changes to Title 22 include updates to Section 22.30.070 Agricultural Processing Uses to include specific use standards, Section 22.18.050 Parking, and 22.80.030 Definitions.*

***Guest Ranch Ordinance*** - *Under the current definition, such facilities would only be allowed on working cattle ranches. This proposed revision would open sites with agricultural operations, such as wine grape vineyards, to commercial lodging facilities. Proposed lodging facilities under*

*this section would require discretionary land use permit approval and would need to be found consistent with applicable specific use standards in Section 22.30.520.B as well as General Plan policies.*

***Urban Wineries Table 2-2 - Allowable Land Uses and Permit Requirements, to allow wineries in the Commercial Retail Land Use Category where the majority of production is used for on-site retail. Wineries would be subject to permit requirements and specific use standards required by Section 22.30.070.***

Control click the link for all the details: [154360 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov)

### **Springdale Pet Ranch:**

The popular dog boarding kennel in rural Arroyo Grande, as a legal non-conforming use, was granted expansion permits in 2002 and 2007 by mistake. A recent owner expanded the outdoor area, which has resulted in louder barking. The neighbors are upset and have requested the County to correct the situation. The perplexed County staff has proposed retroactively removing the property from the zone or amending the zoning of the area to allow it to conform. This has incensed the neighbors. The whole matter has been dropped into the lap of the Board.

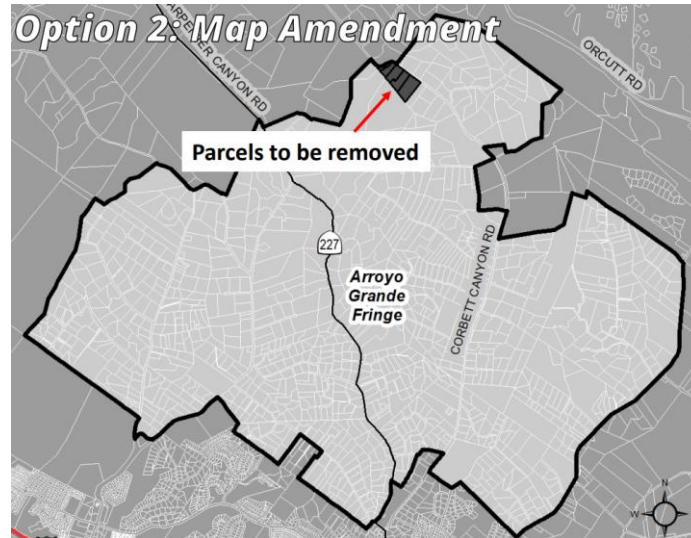
Supervisor Gibson is a customer of the kennel. Neighbors demanded that he recuse himself from the hearing which he did.

The record is full of letters from customers of the Kennel singing its praises and requesting that the Board allow it to continue in expanded form. Other letters from the neighbors want it shut down.

*Under current County code, the Planning Area Standard in Section 22.98.054 prohibits “animal facilities” within the Arroyo Grande Fringe area. As part of the discussion around the inclusion of the Arroyo Grande Fringe Map itself into the land use standard, the issue of potentially allowing animal facilities within this area came up primarily as a result of a County code enforcement case against the existing kennel located at 1731 Corbett Canyon Road. This kennel is a legal non-conforming use.*

### **And**

*The County received some complaints from neighbors about noise and unpermitted expansion of the facility. County staff researched the history of the facility and determined that it was a legal non-conforming use. Staff also determined that in 2002 and again in 2007, the County inadvertently issued two zoning clearances and commercial building permits. The kennel property was sold several years ago and the new owner made some improvements to the facility, including the expansion of the kennel in the front of the property. For the most part, these improvements did not require a building permit since they consisted mostly of fencing, however, technically, the improvements were an unlawful expansion of the legal non-conforming use.*



**Item 41 - Any Supervisor may ask a question for clarification, make an announcement, or report briefly on his or her activities. In addition, Supervisors may request staff to report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter or may request that staff place a matter of business on a future agenda. Any request to place a matter of business for consideration on a future agenda requires the majority vote of the Board.** This is now a standing item at the end of each Board Meeting. It would be better to set it after General Public Comment, when more of the public is in attendance. Supervisor Peschong announced that he had appointed an ad hoc Committee on Wind Energy consisting of himself and Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg.

**SLO County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of Wednesday, November 29, 2023 (Completed)**

**Item B-1: Consideration of Appointment of Air Pollution Control District Hearing Board Members consisting of a Public Member Alternate and Medical Member Alternate.** The Hearing Board consists of professionals who adjudicate appeals and monitor enforcement compliance, such as the progress on Rule 1001, Dunes Dust Reduction. Former and retired APCD Executive Director Larry Allen had applied for a vacancy in the Public Member category. For whatever reason Allen withdrew his candidacy before the meeting.

**Public Member Alternate for William Johnson, Term Exp. 11/25/2025:** Larry Allen

**Attorney Member Alternate:** None

**Engineer Member Alternate:** None

**Medical Member Alternate for Dr. Robert Lapidus, Term Exp. 1/25/2026:** Carmen Morales-Board

**Background:** Readers may remember that Allen pushed the Dunes closure relentlessly and was the authority and promoter of the now debunked theory that the off-road vehicles cause the dust

particles and that those dust particles are carcinogenic. His appointment would [be] have been a disaster.

Allen is also currently the Board chair of the US Department of Energy front group, Clean Cities Coalition, which promotes the conversion to all electric vehicles.

**Item B-3 Spotlight: APCD's Electric Vehicle and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.** The report covers some of the agency's efforts to fund EV charging stations efforts.

The Grant Team is part of APCD's Planning, Monitoring and Grants Division and works to support EVs and EV infrastructure. The staff presentation will cover the following:

- Significant contribution of mobile sources to emission inventories
- California's transportation electrification targets
- Historic and current regional EV infrastructure planning efforts
- Summary of historic APCD-funded electric school bus & EV infrastructure projects
- Current projects staff are working to contract
- Successful strategies and challenges to secure projects
- Anticipated future opportunities to support mobile source electrification

Since 2018, APCD has funded 14 DC fast chargers (DCFC) for \$1.32M, 39 Level 2 chargers for \$310K, and the purchase of 3 electric school buses for \$637K. Through CALeVIP, the California Energy Commission (CEC) is also anticipated to fund an additional 5 DCFCs in SLO County. Also under this program, CEC and Central Coast Community Energy are anticipated to fund up to 96 Level 2 chargers for \$360K.

Do you really want your tax dollars and fees to be greenwashed away on this stuff?

## EMERGENT ISSUES

### Item 1 - THEY'RE COMING FOR YOUR BEEF - BY JOHN HINDERAKER

You're not paranoid. The global ruling class really does want to stop you from eating beef. And pork. And chicken. From [Climate Depot](#):

*The world's most-developed nations will be told to curb their excessive appetite for meat as part of the first comprehensive plan to bring the global agrifood industry into line with the Paris climate agreement. The global food systems' road map to 1.5C is expected to be published by the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization during the COP28 summit next month. Nations that over-consume meat will be advised to limit their intake, while developing countries – where under-consumption of meat adds to a prevalent nutrition challenge – will need to improve their livestock farming....*

So, who "over-consumes" meat? We do, of course:

*The average American consumes about 127 kilograms of meat a year compared with 7 kilograms in Nigeria and just 3 kilograms in the Democratic Republic of Congo....*

That's because they're poor. The UN wants to reduce meat consumption to 15.7 kilograms a year, which for us would be an 88% reduction. What could possibly replace that amount of protein in your diet?

*About 80 percent of the world already eats insects, which are a fantastic source of protein. As Americans prepare for this year's Thanksgiving meal, perhaps it's time to consider the many merits of a bugcentric*

*Leftists claim they are trying to save the planet with their bizarre schemes, but in fact they are power-mad and just want to make your life worse.*

## **Item 2 – SoundHeal Pod Innovation Project: Year One “Progress” Report.**



Author: Landon J. King  
Date: 12/1/2023

This is the \$500,000 project where they put mental health patients in a bright orange booth. The patient sits on a cushion and hears gongs, bells, and other sounds. The report says the patients meditate. It is not clear if anyone actually gets better from whatever illness they are suffering. The write-up states that 30 individual patients have been exposed to the process in one year. Is this \$16,666 per patient per year? The County could have bought them a cell phone with a music service application and a speaker for a few bucks. They could program the Apple or Amazon music app. with the sounds and monitor their use. As part of the program they pay a consultant Swami hundreds of thousands of dollars to oversee the program.

Perhaps the Supervisors should try the thing and see if it improves their wellbeing.

**Is this actually Supervisor Ortiz- Legg in the Pod?**

The County News Release states:

*Progress Update for the SoundHeal Innovation Project Examining Sound Meditation as an Intervention Therapy in the San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department.*

*The SoundHeal project, following the initial year of implementation, has yielded findings that suggest positive outcomes from the use of the Heal Pod meditation sessions. The analysis of approximately 200 Meditation Journals across 30+ clients show an increase in "positive" emotions and a decrease in "negative" emotions following the Heal Pod sessions. Qualitative feedback from clients emphasizes that some participants are actively engaging in the meditation process and report feelings of calmness, relaxation, and other positive emotions associated with the Heal Pod meditation experience.*



*Given the nature of the project and data collection tools, it is difficult to quantify an independent effect of the Heal Pod on client well-being. Clients engaging in Heal Pod sessions also participate in counseling and other services that lead to improvements in well-being over time that may be unevenly weighted to differing impacts. Identifying an independent effect would require a randomized controlled trial, which is not feasible in this voluntary setting. Likewise, data from the meditation journals may suffer from social desirability bias (Grimm 2010), in which research participants communicate what they think they are expected to feel or think. However, several clients provided feedback critical of meditation, suggesting that the effects of potential social desirability bias are not universal.*

*During the next phase of the project, the County will focus on expanding the number of SLO Behavioral Health clients that utilize the Heal Pod. Increasing the number of clients will lead to accumulating more journal entry data and a stronger evaluation of the project. As a supplemental practice to enhance clinical treatment, the Heal Pod also aims to assist clinicians by offering this unique approach by analyzing client's Heal Pod experiences. In support of this objective, the SoundHeal team has begun collecting survey data from clinicians to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the impact from a provider's perspective. Expanding participation, observing trends over a longer time period, and the collection and analysis of clinician feedback will provide further insights into the project's alignment with its stated goals.*

*Please visit the link below for full progress report:*

[SoundHeal-Progress-Report Year-One.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)

The report indicates that this treatment is for patients who are feeling anxiety and stress. They might also try celebrating a good liturgical church service containing a Choral Eucharist with beautiful music, Holy Communion, messages from the Old and New Testaments, and a beautiful sacred ritual. It's free, it's on a regular schedule, and it's worked for nearly 2000 years. They usually serve coffee and pastry afterwards – “The Body and Blood of Christ, Keep you in everlasting life.”







**HERE TOO  
3000 YEARS**

## Sponsors



Barry J. Fisher  
[barry@blazenbear.com](mailto:barry@blazenbear.com)  
Tel: 805-635-7200  
CA Insurance License #0523180  
NP #1617534

Susan M. Blais  
[susan@blazenbear.com](mailto:susan@blazenbear.com)  
Direct: 805-475-7900  
CA Insurance License #0772893  
NP #2533815



## **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**

### **CAN EUROPE BECOME WESTERN AGAIN?**

*We need the return of a sane and powerful European co-partner*

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

For the first time in a millennium, Europe no longer plays a critical role in promoting Western civilization nor in world history at large.

Ostensibly it should. Some 750 million people live on the European subcontinent.

Europe still remains the most popular tourist spot on earth. Its hallowed architecture, art, infrastructure, and natural beauty still remind millions of visitors of the world's once most dynamic and grandiose civilization.

Even now, European nations, in and out of the Europe Union, still produce a combined gross domestic product of \$24 trillion, second only to the United States.

Europe's exports are among the world's most coveted cars, sophisticated technology, and valued industrial goods.

Yet since World War II, Europe has played an increasingly reduced role in world affairs, despite its membership in the NATO alliance and the growth of the European Union.

Why?

The twentieth-century traumas of World War I and II—in which some 70 million Europeans were killed—saw Europe commit near collective suicide. The ensuing Cold War hinged on protecting a relatively unarmed Europe from an aggressive nuclear Soviet empire on Europe's borders.

But as World War II and the Cold War faded into memory, Europe did not snap back and assume its centuries-old role as a world leader and beacon of Western Civilization.

Instead, a weary Europe outsourced its security to the United States. It redefined itself as a postmodern, pacifist, socialist utopian project—most recently predicated on redistributionist entitlements, open borders, and radical green policies that have all inevitably ensured European decline.

Europeans grew louder and whinier the less relevant they became.

Although Europe has large sources of untapped hydroelectrical, nuclear, coal, and natural gas power, its green religion has all but shut down new nuclear and fossil fuel generation and closed existing plants. The result is that the cost of European energy is prohibitive for both the public and industry.

Recent economic growth was essentially zero throughout the Eurozone. The European cradle-to-grave social net, and its hyper government regulations and restrictions on economic activity increasingly are unsustainable.

Few European nations spend even a mere two-percent of their GDP on defense. And the result is that both Europe at large and its NATO members cannot defend their continent without the assistance of the United States.

Nor can Europe project power beyond its shores to preempt dangerous threats on its own horizon or to its allies.

Europe is also shrinking and aging. Its collective fertility rate of 1.5 is far below the rate of replacement. Most young people in Europe—the ancient home of Christendom—express neither belief in God nor any faith in organized religions.

In many European countries, foreign-born emigrants comprise twenty percent of the population. Most of them have arrived poor, without education, in mass, illegally, with little desire to fully integrate, from inimical countries, and holding political and religious views hostile to Europe.

The other half of the West is in little better condition.

The United States is reeling under \$33 in national debt.

After embracing various bankrupt academic critical legal “theories,” major American cities are unsafe, unhealthy, and unsightly. The American southern border is wide open. Eight million illegal aliens have poured in just since January 2021, many of them hostile to the United States.

America is increasingly politically, racially, and tribally divided. It has mysteriously determined not to fully utilize its vast natural resources, especially gas, oil, and rare earth metals.

In this vacuum, the enemies of the West see only opportunity.

Russia invaded European Ukraine. Its ongoing aggression still terrifies frontline NATO nations.

China threatens periodically to storm Taiwan, as it bullies its neighbors, buzzes U.S. ships and planes, and manipulates currency, markets, and trade.

Iran has armed to the teeth anti-Western terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and Hamas.

Iran's "Shiite Crescent" from Tehran to Damascus to Beirut to Palestine threatens both pro-Western Arab regimes and Israel.

Iran brags that its surrogates can destroy Israel and will soon be nuclear with a global reach to both the United States and Europe.

Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, presumably on the assumption that current generations of Westerners in Israel, the U.S., and Europe would not react too strongly to its precivilization barbarity if it entailed a subsequent messy war.

In sum, the world is safe only when a strong America, alongside its European partner, secure their borders, protect the world's sea- and air spaces, support constitutional and pro-Western nations, and deter thuggish belligerents.

Perhaps as war clouds gather and enemies multiply, Europe will rediscover its heritage and reawaken to its historical role.

Increasingly, a lonely U.S.—and the world at large—need the return of a sane and powerful European co-partner, one that emerges from its self-induced slumber, and resumes its ancient role in preserving civilization from its multiplying enemies.

*Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of [The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won](#), [The Case for Trump](#) and the recently released [The Dying Citizen](#).*

# THE OTHER CRISES DEMANDING OUR ATTENTION

## *America at a dangerous crossroads*

BY BRUCE THORNTON

Israel's battle to neutralize Hamas has dominated our collective attention, as it should. For all of its existence, Israel has been the canary in the mine shaft, the west's beleaguered outpost of political freedom, tolerance, and equality in the midst of illiberal and tyrannical enemies that want to destroy the west's power and influence. As Israelis have said over the past month, Israel's fight is our fight, and always has been.

Yet our country is at a dangerous crossroads, with other threats both at home and abroad that demand our attention, and that should be the focus of next year's elections. We are at the point where democracy's historically bad habit of kicking multiple cans down the road is becoming unsustainable, if not lethal.

### **The Ukraine Stalemate**

You didn't have to be Nostradamus to predict that the Russo-Ukrainian war would become a stalemate redolent of the Western Front in World War I. For all the self-congratulation of the NATO countries about standing up to Vladimir Putin and protecting the "rules-based world order," their money and materiel have been just enough to create the current stasis.

We seem to be pursuing a Mr. Micawber foreign policy, waiting for "something to turn up," like a coup in Russia, to get us out of this quagmire. But more-realist commentators are casting doubt on Ukraine's chances of defeating Russia and recovering their purloined territories.

In the U.S., the policy positions have settled into a bipartisan contrast: America First isolationism and a "no more costly endless wars abroad" sentiment vs. "aggression must be checked and deterred" by intervention lest we incentivize other aggressors to try conclusions. The result is the choice still facing us, between the bad and the worse.

Yet this debate is an exercise in shutting the barn door after the horse got out. The real story here is how our feckless foreign policy in the Nineties assumed that in a post-Soviet world we could enjoy the "peace dividend" and cut our defense spending. This bad choice meant that the NATO nations would not have the stockpiles and manufacturing resources— not to mention the will—to quickly ramp up production of weapons like long-range missiles, fighter jets, and tanks, and to quickly get them to Ukraine when they were most needed.

Worse, it's not unlikely that the Nato West will try to pressure Ukraine into surrendering territory to Russia, or simply walk away and vitiate the only justification for supporting Ukraine in the first place— deterring Russia and other aggressors.

This crisis, worsened by the effects of Israel's war to end Hama's serial terrorist attacks on civilians, will likely still be unresolved next November. Nor will take place the reform of our foreign policy fossilized paradigms and group-think— obvious not just in the Ukraine crisis, but also those in the Middle East, Iran, and China's neighbors in the Asia-Pacific.

## **Our Titanic Budget Woes**

Part of the reason our foreign policy is a mess reflects our feckless borrowing and spending policies, which don't leave enough money to create a military powerful and credible enough to deter, let alone defeat our enemies. Instead we are spending trillions on entitlements, servicing our metastasizing government debt, and providing subsidies for corporations being bribed to pursue dubious policies like net-zero carbon, a goal a Princeton study priced at \$2.4 trillion by 2050.

For decades this fiscal iceberg has been relentlessly getting closer, yet few citizens and politicians are interested in slowing down our ship of state, let alone turning it around—even as spending on defense is stuck at 3.4% of GDP, not nearly enough to maintain a military with global obligations and threats to its power.

Raising defense spending, however, is politically impossible given our economic straits and democracy's preference for butter over guns. As of September this year, our government debt reached 123% of nominal GDP, while gross debt hit \$33.7 trillion. The deficit so far for 2023 has reached \$1.5 trillion, more than doubling last year's tab. And Social Security and Medicare trust funds are underfunded by \$75.5 trillion.

Unsurprisingly, The Heritage Foundation reports, “The credit rating agency Moody's last week downgraded its assessment of the federal government's debt outlook to ‘negative.’ The move Friday followed the Fitch agency's August downgrade of the overall federal credit rating.”

This rating means “payments on federal debt are soaring as interest rates rise. CBO says interest payments have climbed \$149 billion in the first 11 months of the fiscal year to \$644 billion, up 30% from last year. Debt payments are getting close to spending on national defense of \$692 billion, if you can believe it. A third of the current deficit is going to pay interest on money borrowed for previous spending blowouts.”

That's not the end of the warning signs. As George Will recently reminded us, “America's population is aging, life expectancy is increasing, a quarter of Medicare spending is on services in the last year of life, and 40 percent of that 25 percent on the last 30 days. Within a decade,



Medicare providers and Social Security recipients are set to face 11 percent payment cuts and 20 percent benefit cuts, respectively.”

But as Will warns, these cuts “will not happen. General revenue (including borrowed money) will be poured into both programs to protect incumbent legislators and prevent social upheaval.” The political price for even proposing such cuts can be fatal, as the powerful retiree lobbies flood the news with attack ads. Meanwhile, the younger generations, those whose payroll taxes are funding these benefits, are oblivious. No wonder, as Heritage’s David Ditch adds, “Perhaps the most astonishing thing about these depressing numbers isn’t the size of the problems they point to, but the complete unwillingness of most of the U.S. political class to take the situation seriously.”

So don’t expect any candidates next November to propose solutions to this fiscal doom loop. We the people have repeatedly shown that we’d much prefer borrowing from the unborn to making the sacrifices needed to stave off the coming disaster. Meanwhile, our military can’t meet recruitment quotas, we’re running out of ammunition and materiel, our navy is dwarfed by China’s, and Iran is on the brink of possessing nuclear weapons.

## **Culture Rot**

Finally, we can’t ignore the longest-running crisis in our times: the degradation of our public discourse and policies by unscientific fads like transgenderism, the blatant racism of “systemic racism” and “white fragility,” and their “praxis,” as the cultural Marxists put it, in policies such as the “Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity” shibboleths, this year’s model of the old “multiculturalism” and “political correctness.” All of these toxic ideas were incubated in universities, whence they trickled down to the public schools.

The great ignominious leap forward in this anti-American and anti-Western oikophobia has been the protests and attacks on Israel and Jews by pro-Hamas, anti-Semitic “woke” university students and Middle Eastern foreign students. The latest enormity is Tik-Tok’s posting of Osama bin Laden’s 2002 “Letter to America,” which until Tik Tok took it down, elicited reams of positive responses from juvenile “woke” supporters of Hamas.

But as the *Wall Street Journal* wrote, it’s what this bit of stupidity tells us about our institutions of higher education that’s telling: “It should be a cause for contemplation on university campuses that some young Americans in 2023 can apparently read Osama bin Laden’s justifications for 9/11 and see a reflection of what they’ve been taught about ‘settler colonialism.’ To some degree, those who embarrass themselves on social media are merely publicizing who they are in ways that could not have been revealed in an earlier age.”

However, we shouldn’t be surprised. Osama bin Laden knew well the affinity the West’s left has for terrorism. In his other communications to Americans and Muslims, he cleverly evoked numerous leftist ideological hobby-horses, on the principle that the “enemy of my enemy is my friend.”

In his 2002 letter he evoked George Bush's failure to sign the Kyoto agreement on global warming "so that you can secure the profit of your greedy companies and industries." He also stated that "your law is the law of the rich and the wealthy people," and accused the U.S. of using "your power to destroy more people than any other nation in history—not to defend principles and values, but to hasten to secure your interests and profits."

In his 2002 address "To the Muslims of Iraq," bin Laden urged Iraqis not to fight for "capitalists, the lords of usury and arms and oil dealers." In 2003 he told American soldiers that they were "spilling [their] blood to swell the bank accounts of the White House gang and their fellow arms dealers and the proprietors of great companies."

And in 2004, he warned American voters not to support the war in Iraq "in order to give business to their [the Bush administration's] various corporations." And channeling Michael Moore's cinematic agitprop *Fahrenheit 9/11*, he claimed that Bush brought "tyranny and the suppression of freedoms to his own country—and this they called the 'Patriot Act,' implemented under the pretext of combating terrorism."

Obviously, bin Laden was pandering to Western leftists, recycling bromides from Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky, Robert Fisk, and the editorial board of the *New York Times* or the editors of the BBC. And given bin Laden's plutocratic background, that hypocrisy also bespeaks the Western left, especially the well-heeled professors who run-down our country from the comfort of tenure, IRAs, and captive callow students.

Indeed, the reactions of many academics and intellectuals after 9/11 confirmed bin Laden's analysis. The Dean of the prestigious Woodrow Wilson School told Americans to "think about our own history, what we did in World War II to Japanese citizens by interning them," an egregiously false analogy. A Brown professor similarly equated the attacks to the first Gulf War, which was "also terrorism." A journalist at a University of North Carolina "teach-in" wanted the president to apologize to "all the millions of victims of American imperialism," sheer ignorance of history and imperialism. A Rutgers prof opined that the "ultimate cause [of 9/11] is the fascism of U.S. foreign policy over the last many decades," obvious ignorance about fascism.

Another professor at the University of Texas asserted that 9/11 "was no more despicable than the massive acts of terrorism . . . that the U.S. government has committed during my lifetime." And who can forget University of Colorado professor and fake American Indian Ward Churchill, who smeared the victims of 9/11 as "little Eichmanns"? Or the dean of lunatic anti-Americanism, MIT professor Noam Chomsky, who accused the U.S. military of conducting a "silent genocide" in Afghanistan, and while on tour in Islamabad called the U.S. the "world's biggest terrorist state"?

So no wonder that decades of toxic higher education curricula produce ignoramuses and moral cretins like the TikTok commentators who enthusiastically approved of bin Laden's left-wing boilerplate, or marched in support of terrorist murderers, or shamelessly flaunted their antisemitism and barely veiled approval of the Holocaust.

The crisis of education that has created this cultural, intellectual, and moral rot is unlikely to be resolved by whatever party gets elected, though it's safe to say that Democrats, who have ceded their party to their radicals, won't make any changes.

Likewise with other crises. As usual with representative governments whose officials are dependent on the people's votes, in the end these crises are unlikely to be resolved by whoever is elected president next year. We'll just keep ignoring those crises until we have one foot dangling over a cliff, and the other on a banana peel before we rouse ourselves to action. Let's hope the awakening doesn't come too late.

*Bruce S. Thornton is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, an emeritus professor of classics and humanities at California State University, Fresno, and a research fellow at the Hoover Institution. His latest book is Democracy's Dangers and Discontents: The Tyranny of the Majority from the Greeks to Obama.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

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

We are pleased to announce that The Andy Caldwell Show is now  
broadcasting out of San Luis Obispo County on FM 98.5 in addition to AM

1290/96.9 Santa Barbara and AM 1240/99.5 Santa Maria

The show now covers the broadcast area from Ventura to Templeton -



THE only show of its kind on the Central Coast covering local, state, national and international issues! 3:00-5:00 PM WEEKDAYS  
You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and previously aired shows at: 3:00-5:00 PM WEEKDAYS

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

*A Voice for Reason  
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM Monday thru Friday  
- Ventura to San Luis Obispo -*

*Listen to The Andy Caldwell Show "LIVE"*

**KSMARADIO**  
NEWS • TALK  
**1240 | 99.5**  
1240ksma.com

**KZSBRADIO**  
SANTA BARBARA  
**1290 | 96.9**  
am1290kzsb.com

**K-NEWS**  
**98.5**  
The Power of Information  
knews985.com

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



**SUPPORT COLAB**



**MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES  
BEFORE THE BOS**



**VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM**



**DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM**



**AUTHOR & NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COMMENTATOR/RADIO HOST 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 \(colabslo.org\)](https://colabslo.org) or use the form below:



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

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 - \$249  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Voting Member: \$250 - \$5,000  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio  Internet  Public Hearing  Friend

COLAB Member(s) / Sponsor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

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

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

### PAYMENT METHOD:

Check  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_