



COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 12 - 18, 2023

CCLAB
San Luis Obispo County



14th Annual Dinner & Fundraiser

THURSDAY,
MARCH 30, 2023
MADONNA EXPO CENTER

Get the close up dual update on what's happening, what's next, and what you can do about it, direct from San Luis Obispo County Board Chairman John Peschong and Supervisor Debbie Arnold. Rally to their long haul perspective to sustain family, freedom, and heritage.



5:00 pm Social Hour & Open Bar
6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner & Wine
Auction will be held after dinner
(Auctioneer Todd Ventura)

\$125/person
\$1,250/table (seats 10)

For tickets:

On-Line Reservations & Payment can be made at www.colabslo.org/events.asp

or

Mail your check to

COLAB SLO County, PO Box 13601, SLO, CA 93406

Cocktail Attire Optional

More info at (805) 548-0340 or colabslo@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

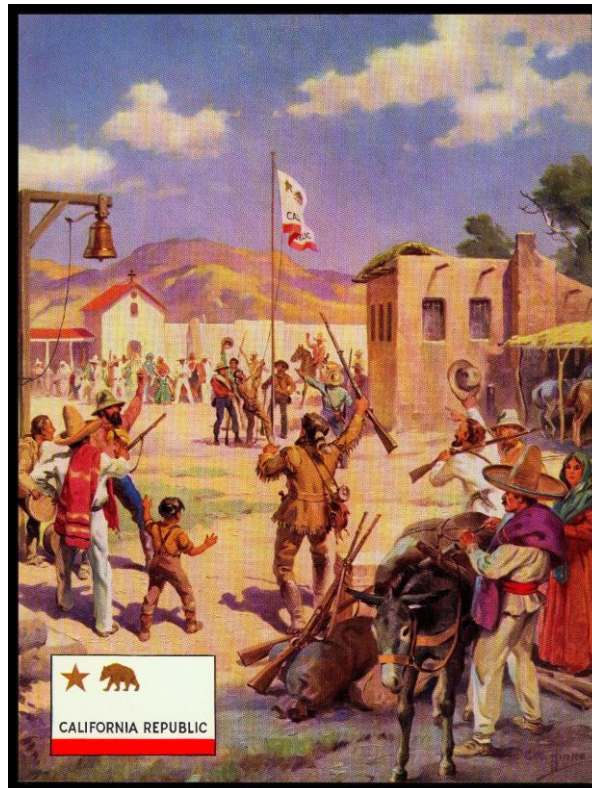
3CE POLICY BOARD

WRESTLES WITH REGULATIONS, FAKE ENERGY, AND FUTURE COSTS

CEN COAST WATER BOARD GOES WOKE RACIALIST

LEVELS ACCUSATIONS OF: *CURRENT BIAS, PREJUDICE, SYSTEMIC, AND INSTITUTIONAL RACISM THAT CONTINUES TO (A) PREVENT EQUAL ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND INSTITUTIONS, (B) UNDERMINES CULTURAL, GOVERNMENTAL, AND NATURAL RESOURCES SOVEREIGNTY, AND (C) LIMITS PROTECTION FROM HARMS AND INJUSTICES*

THEY SAY MINORITY NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE MORE WATER POLLUTION AS PROOF – EUROPEAN DESCENDANTS AND THEIR ANCESTORS ARE GUILTY OF RACIST COLONIALISM WHICH IS CONDEMNING MINORITIES TO DRINKING POLLUTED WATER, PESTICIDES, AND LACK OF ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES



LAFCO CANCELLED

LAST WEEK

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PASO PLANTING ORDINANCE TERMINATED WITH VIGOR

**COUNTY 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM: EXPAND GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENT MAY GET NEW FORMAT**

NO REPORT ON REDISTRICTING FROM CLOSED SESSION YET

PRIVATE RURAL CAMPING APPROVED

EMERGENT ISSUES

**OTHER THAN SPY BALLOONS FLOATING IN,
NOTHING MUCH HAPPENED LAST WEEK**

**OTHERWISE THE BORDER PATROL COMMANDER REPORTED
THAT ABOUT 3,000 CHINESE MALES HAVE PASSED OR
ATTEMPTED TO PASS THE BORDER IN RECENT MONTHS
AFTER 5,000 GET ACROSS, THEY WILL HAVE A BRIGADE SIZE
FORCE HERE**



**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 26**

**CALIFORNIA'S FAILED SOVIET-STYLE HOUSING
MANDATES SHOULD END NOW**

Since 1969, California has used Soviet Union–era central planning methods to try to increase its housing supply. And what California has shown in these 50-plus years is what we have always known about central planning: It always fails. And Miserably so.

BY LEE OHANIAN

UKRAINIAN PARADOXES

Are the borders of country 5,000 miles away more sacrosanct and more worth taking existential risks than our own airspace and southern border?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEE PAGE 34

**California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding,
Landslides, and Mudslides Presidential
Declaration**

**DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER/LOCAL ASSISTANCE
CENTER OPEN IN SAN LUIS OBISPO**

GETTING DISASTER HELP FROM SBA

INITIAL STEPS: Register with FEMA, Apply with SBA, and Visit a Disaster Recovery Center

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 (Not Scheduled)

The next scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) Policy Board meeting of Wednesday, February 15, 2023 (Scheduled)

In General: The status of 3CE will become an important topic soon as the new Board of Supervisors majority has directed staff to bring back information on joining.

Item 6 - Regulatory and Legislative Quarterly Update (Information Only). The 3CE staff continues to warn its Board of the impending risks as State regulators, including the Public Utility Commission, State Energy Commission, and California Independent System Operators express concern about the short- and long-term ability of community choice energy providers (CCE's) to achieve State goals. These include having sufficient short-term energy available for hot days and emergency outages. This is termed resource adequacy (RA).

At the same time, the overall market for RA capacity has tightened due to, among other factors; increasing limitations on the amount of RA capacity certain resources count for. Staff have already been actively engaged with the CPUC around the impact of all these changes on RA procurement planning and will push back strongly on these new proposals in the coming months.

3CE knows that proposed new RA requirements will increase its costs, which in turn can undermine its business model of acquiring term energy contracts at lower costs than the investor-owned utilities such as PG&E.

Another issue is that the State agencies are fully aware that the so-called green energy component of 3CE's energy is not real energy at all. The actual energy being delivered is PG&E's normal mix. 3CE acquires renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), which it uses to claim its green component. The State is pressing the CCEs and 3CE to develop sources that provide real green energy. This is also very costly and could impact the Authorities' costs.

The SLO County Board should receive a full disclosure and analysis of this aspect of the situation as it considers joining 3CE.

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting of Thursday, February 16, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item 7 - Consideration of a Proposed Resolution Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, Bigotry, and Racial Injustice and Strengthening Commitment to Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism in the Central Coast Region (Resolution No. R3- 2023-0002). The Regional Board is about to adopt a wokist Resolution which slanders our history and

racializes its mission so as to give certain racial and ethnic groups preferences on water quality on the central coast. Resolutions are declarations of official government policy and direction. The Resolution goes on to set up a program of psychological conditioning for the Water Board staff.

The Board and its staff regulate water quality and seek to prevent pollution in Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties. Following the lead of the State, the Water Board determined to adopt a resolution stating its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice. Have they not been inclusive up to now? They have certainly gone after small underfunded poor Hispanic farmers over the years with respect to farm tail water and nitrogen.

The resolution covers 14 pages and is too long to replicate here. Some of the more flagrant accusations and conclusions are excerpted here:

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CENTRAL COAST REGION PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. R3-2023-0002 CONDEMNING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, BIGOTRY, AND RACIAL INJUSTICE AND STRENGTHENING COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, ACCESS, AND ANTI-RACISM IN THE CENTRAL COAST REGION

3. Because race intersects with many, if not all, other marginalized identities, prioritizing and addressing racial inequities improves outcomes for other marginalized communities (e.g., gender identity, sexual orientation, physical ability, immigration status, age, etc.). Accordingly, the Central Coast Water Board aims to improve life outcomes for all marginalized communities in the Central Coast Region through advancing racial equity.

9. Commits to implementation of climate change initiative projects, including components of the State Water Board's Resolution No. 2017-0012, Comprehensive Response to Climate Change, that involves the Central Coast Water Board to address, in part, the disproportionate effects of extreme hydrologic conditions and sea-level rise on Black, Asian, Hispanic/Latino/a/e, Indigenous, and other people of color and underrepresented communities, prioritizing: a. The right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible drinking water and sanitation. b. Sustainable management and protection of local surface water and groundwater resources. c. Access to surface waters that support subsistence fishing and other Tribal Beneficial Uses.

15. California Native American Tribes have endured systemic and institutional racism, starting with the establishment of the Spanish Missions in the late 18th century, followed by Mexican ranchos, and as California became a state in 1850. European settlers and their governing authorities took Indigenous land and resources by unjust and inequitable means resulting in the loss of land and resources essential to their spiritual, cultural, and economic well-being and livelihoods. The Central Coast Water Board acknowledges that conditions for California Native American Tribes remain inequitable due to bias, prejudice, systemic, and institutional racism that continues to (a) prevent equal access to resources and institutions, (b) undermine cultural, governmental, and natural resources sovereignty, and (c) limit protection from harms and injustices.

COLAB Note: Could the Water Board members cite some specific current examples of prejudice, systemic racism, and institutional racism against tribes in Monterey, San Luis Obispo, or Santa Barbara County that cause them to suffer from polluted water? After all, they are making an official government finding here.

COLAB Note: Were the Hispanic/Latinos who colonized the Western Hemisphere guilty but are now transmuted somehow to be victims so that only the dependents of other European colonists are guilty?

21. Farmworkers in the Central Coast Region, who are often people of color, face significant socioeconomic and civic obstacles that increases their vulnerability to impacts from environmental harms including exposure to poor water and air quality, pesticides, and other chemicals. Additionally, farmworker communities often face significant challenges to achieve racial equity and inclusion in the communities where they live and work.

COLAB Note: In which specific cities and unincorporated villages – SLO City, Arroyo Grande, San Miguel, Santa Maria, Santa Ynez – is this currently occurring? Or where exactly?

24. Longstanding racial and ethnic inequities regarding access to nature further excludes these communities from direct and indirect health and environmental benefits of natural spaces. Many Black, Asian, Hispanic/Latino/a/e, Indigenous, and other people of color and underrepresented communities lack accessibility to parks, open spaces, greenways, and green infrastructure, which provide natural flood protection, water treatment, and groundwater recharge, and offer opportunities for recreation, improved health and quality of life. Moreover, the destruction, degradation and pollution predominantly occur in natural spaces in or near communities of color.

COLAB Note: Again, where is this happening in SLO, Monterey, and Santa Barbara Counties now?

The staff report and Resolution itself detail an extensive multi- year process of expensive process, meetings, seminars, etc., to develop the Resolution. What did this cost and how much it divert staff from the actual water quality protection mission? The Resolution itself directs staff to conduct a massive cultural change in the organization. What will this cost in terms of dollars and lost time?

Water Board Members:

Jane Gray - Chair



Ms. Jane Gray, of Goleta, is a regional planner and project manager who has been working in a private sector environmental and engineering firm since 2006 and previously worked as a planner with Santa Barbara County and County of Fresno. Ms. Gray has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and led refugee resettlement programming in New York and Arizona, taught English as a Second Language teacher for public agencies, public schools and private language schools in the US and Germany. She earned a Master's degree in regional planning and management from the Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany and spent time in Ghana, West Africa studying and documenting resource issues and governance as part of her masters program. Ms. Gray served as Vice Chair of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2019 to 2022.

- Term Expires: 09/30/2026

Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff - Vice Chair



Dr. Wolff, Ph.D., of San Luis Obispo, has been the owner and vintner of Wolff Vineyards since 1999. He was an independent consultant providing technical consulting services for privately held corporations from 2000 to 2002, senior vice president for Global Energy Services, a division of Emerson Electric from 1998 to 2000 and Vice President and corporate officer for Electro-Test from 1981 to 1998.

He is a member of the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District and the Agriculture Liaison Advisory Board, Cal Poly Center for Sustainability, Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, Dean's Executive Advisory Board, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, San Luis Obispo Vintners Association and the Central Coast Wine Growers Association. He served as Chair of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2014 to 2022.

- Term Expires: 09/30/2023

Dr. Monica S. Hunter



Dr. Hunter, Ph.D., of Los Osos, was formerly the central coast Senior Program Advisor for the Planning and Conservation League Foundation (PCLF) and since 2004 has conducted numerous stakeholder processes in support of sustainable coastal watershed resource management. Since 2014 she has served as a Board Trustee of the PCL Foundation. Dr. Hunter was a consultant to the Morro Bay National Estuary Program in 2001, and a former member of the Executive Committee, serving on the Education and Stewardship Committee. She was a regional liaison to California Sea Grant focused on central coast marine resource stakeholder engagement from 2000 to 2003. She is currently an emeritus board member of the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy and was also a founding member of the Carmel River Task Force. In 2012 and 2013, she served on the Governor's Drinking Water Stakeholder Group. She served as Vice Chair of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2014 to 2018.

- Term Expires: 09/30/2024

Ms. Stephanie Harlan



Ms. Stephanie Harlan, of Capitola, previously served on the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2018 to 2019 and was reappointed in 2021. Ms. Harlan was a Member of the Capitola City Council from 2010 to 2018, from 1994 to 2006 and 1984 to 1992. She was a Registered Nurse at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital from 1996 to 2015, at Watsonville Community Hospital from 1984 to 1996 and at Santa Cruz Community Hospital from 1983 to 1984. She is a member of the Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters and Friends of the Capitola Library.

- Term Expires: 09/30/2026

Executive Staff

Matthew T. Keeling - Executive Officer



Matthew T. Keeling has been the Executive Officer for the Central Coast Water Board since April 2020. Prior to coming to the Water Board in 1999, he worked in the private sector as a consultant. Matthew has worked for the Water Board in various programs in both technical and management capacities and he was most recently the Assistant Executive Officer between 2018 and 2020 after managing the Water Board's Active Oil Field Regulatory and Land Disposal Programs. Prior to this he developed and managed the Water Board's Groundwater Assessment and Protection (GAP) Program and participated in several regional and statewide technical working groups and advisory committees focused on addressing groundwater contamination and associated environmental justice issues. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Oregon State University, and is a Professional Civil Engineer.

Thea Tryon - Assistant Executive Officer



Ms. Thea Tryon has been the Assistant Executive Officer for the Central Coast Water Board since April 2020. Prior to joining the Water Board family in 2001, she was an environmental consultant and specialized in the investigation and cleanup of groundwater pollution. Ms. Tryon has worked for the Central Coast Water Board for the past 16 years in various programs in both the technical and management capacities. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Western Ontario (Canada) and a Master of Science degree in hydrogeology from the University of Waterloo (Canada).

Tammie Olson - Executive Assistant – Clerk to the Board



Tammie Olson is the Executive Assistant for the Central Coast Water Board and moved to the central Coast from the San Bernardino Mountains in 1990. Once here she worked for the Auto Club for a number of years. She started with the state in 2007 as an office technician for the Department of Juvenile Justice Paso Robles. She quickly promoted and eventually came to the Water Board in 2014.

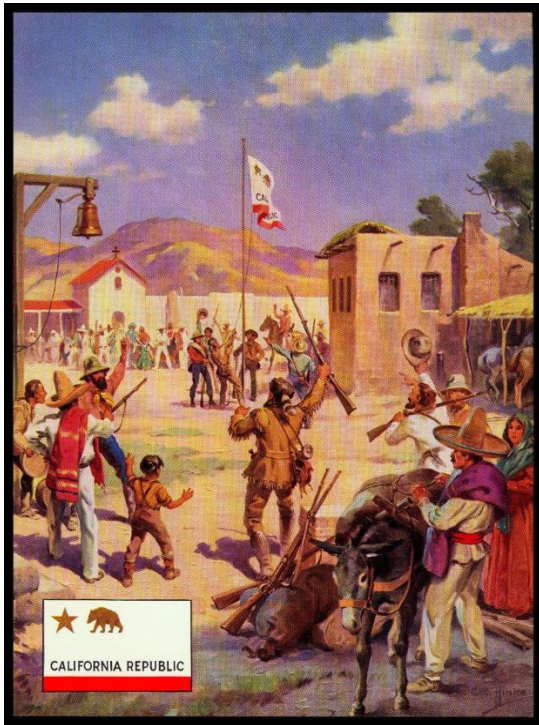
They all look relatively Anglo Saxon or/or Scandinavian – not a person of color in the bunch.

First they want to make us atone for the Spanish takeover of California.



**Cabrillo lands on the California Coast – Mural in Santa Barbara County Court House.
Will the Wokist apparatchiks have it painted over?**

They want to make us atone for the sins of the Dons like the Cotas, Castros, Picos, Arguellos, Bandinis, Carrillos, Alvarados, Vallejos, Avilas, Ortegas, Noriegas, Peraltas, Sepulvedas, Pachecos, Yorbas, etc., as well as the Dens, Hollisters, Danas, and other Yankees who bought up or married into the Ranchos?



Rebellion against the Mexican Dictator Antonio Lopez De Santa Anna.

What penances will the Water Board impose on us to redress our ancestors' colonization of the Western Hemisphere beginning over 500 year ago? Would the Reconquista of Islamic Spain also count as an illegal land taking? Or, going back a little further, would the Islamic conquest of Germanic-Vandal Hispania in 700 count as an illegal land taking? And in turn, would the Gothic conquest of Roman Hispania in 450 count as yet another example? Of course, the Romans drove the indigenous Celts out of Spain (as well as most of Western Europe), which they had inhabited for thousands of years.

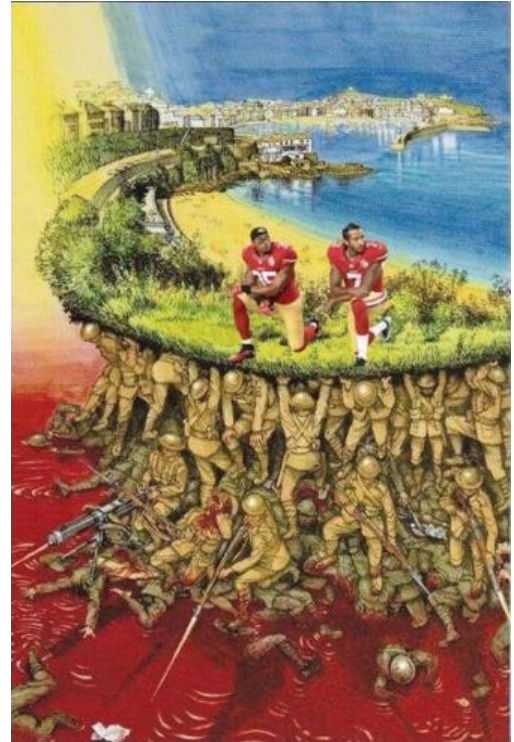
The fact is that when a group of humans with more advanced technology encounters a group with a less advanced technology, the less endowed group often suffers with regard to territory and cultural dominance.

To rewrite anthropological and historic fact with the racialist doctrine is despicable. Finally, the Water Board resolution condemns us for the circumstances under which agricultural labor works. They might better reflect on the advancement of generations of agricultural labor in California.

For example, our Congressman Salud Carbajal's parents were migrant workers. Many others are business owners, civil servants, and farm operators (no thanks to the Water Board).



Muslim conquest of Spain



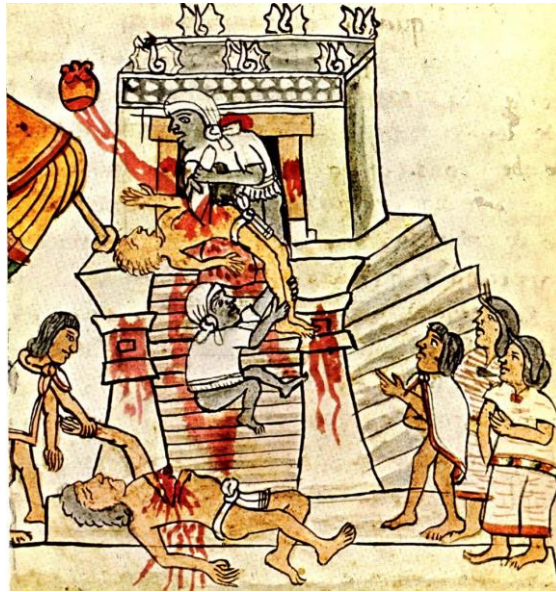
Many died for the right to dissent.



The Irish Brigade, descendants of the Celts, was mauled at the Union defeat at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Sometimes European immigrants gave their lives for the freedom of minorities.

The proposed Water Board Resolution condemns Europeans who settled the Western Hemisphere out of hand "for taking indigenous lands by unjust and inequitable means." Does this mean that the current descendants of the European immigrants should be penalized now?

Aztec Fresco @1450 – Native Americans were, in some cases, brutal conquerors and enslavers themselves, for over thousands of years prior to, up to, and including the period of European colonization.



Sacrificing to the God Quetzalcoatl

Big Picture: The woke revisionist racialists on the Water Board, who have threatened agriculture and promulgated scores of over-reaching regulations, should stick to helping protect pure water rather than spewing divisive ideological propaganda and spending their revenue from fines on indoctrinating their staff.

National DEI expert Christopher Russo¹ outlined some of the steps used by institutions to turn left wing radicalism into a psychological conditioning program:

Diversity bureaucracy has turned left-wing racialism into a new orthodoxy and implemented an administrative policy of racial preferences and discrimination. It divides individuals into categories of oppressor and oppressed, presents “anti-racism” as the solution, and proposes “racial identity development”—which, in practice, resembles a form of cult programming—as the necessary method of atonement” ...for “systemic racism that continues to plague our nation.”

These “diversity, equity, and inclusion” programs are a farce. In practice, they promote ideological conformity, racial and sexual discrimination, and the exclusion of any group that finds itself on the wrong side of the identity hierarchy.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, February 16, 2023 (Scheduled)

¹ Russo, Christopher : DEI Cult, City Journal, February 9, 2023 [Christopher F. Rufo](#) is a senior fellow at the [Manhattan Institute](#) and a contributing editor of City Journal. Sign up for his newsletter [here](#).

The meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2023.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, February 7, 2023 (Completed)

Item 36 - Request by the County of San Luis Obispo to 1) amend Title 8 and Title 22 of the San Luis Obispo County Code and the Agriculture and Conservation and Open Space Elements of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan to rescind Ordinance No. 3483, the Paso Basin Land Use Management Area (PBLUMA) Planting Ordinance, and re-enact and extend until January 1, 2028 the previously adopted Agricultural Offset Requirements for New or Expanded Irrigated Crop Production Using Water from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin; and 2) decertify the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR) for the PBLUMA Planting Ordinance. Exempt from CEQA. Districts 1, 2, and 4. The Board on a 3/2 vote rescinded the Planting Ordinance (Arnold and Peschong dissenting) and reinstated the Paso Basin water moratorium. Pushing forward, and on a second vote, Supervisor Gibson offered a motion to direct staff to develop an ordinance to amend the moratorium ordinance to allow the buying and selling of water credits throughout the Paso Robles Water Basin. This of course when adopted will allow large wealthy owners and corporations unfettered ability to finance the trading of water to their benefit. Small users and blocked users will not be able to afford the costs.

COLAB requested that the Board pend the matter and direct staff to return with a side-by-side analysis of which ordinance (the planting ordinance or the Moratorium), would cause more water to be saved. This idea was ignored and not discussed.

At the Meeting: The San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau and North County Watch supported the repeal of the ordinance. A variety, perhaps 20 individuals, spoke in favor of retaining the ordinance.

Issue Background and History: This Hearing to consider repeal of the PBLUMA was set at a Special Board meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023, to ensure that the repeal would be adopted prior to the actual date on which the PBLUMA was to have taken effect (March 1, 2023).

Why the Urgency? The Planting Ordinance is set to take effect on March 1, 2023. Its opponents want to make sure that it never happens. If it did take effect even for a short time, people might file applications and spend significant sums in reliance on the existence of the ordinance. Such a situation could cloud a future repeal process. Even more significantly, the repeal process would have to deal with the environmental impacts of repealing a live ordinance, which actually restricts water use and sets up a series of CEQA mitigation requirements related to water use, CO₂ reduction, dust, and other environmental impacts.

The PBLUMA ordinance was the long-awaited effort to remedy the water use Catch 22 to which a number of smaller farmers have been subjected in the Paso Basin. The Paso Basin water moratorium urgency ordinance was adopted in 2013. It was converted into a permanent ordinance in 2015. Its key operative provision is that new agricultural wells (generating

increased acre-feet of water usage) cannot be approved unless an equal acre-foot offset can be proven.

The provision means that the prospective permittee must buy credits from someone else, fallow an equivalent amount elsewhere in the basin, or convert high water use crops to lower use crops. One of the premises of the ordinance is that the calculation of increased water use is based on a parcel's prior historic use (now called the look back period). For example, a parcel with a historic use of 400 acre-feet per year is entitled to keep pumping 400 acre-feet per year.

Staff would like to clarify the time limits for the agricultural offset ordinance:

- *Rolling 5-Year Lookback Period* The agricultural offset ordinance requires growers to apply for a clearance within 5 years after they stop irrigating (known as the "lookback period"); otherwise they lose the ability to resume irrigation while the ordinance remains in effect.
- *Agricultural Offset Clearance Expiration Date* Approved clearances (including those issued before March 1, 2023) are valid until the agricultural offset ordinance terminates. This change was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 5, 2019 when the ordinance was first extended.

Therefore, if the agricultural offset ordinance is re-enacted and extended until January 1, 2028, approved clearances would have until January 1, 2028 to plant, regardless of clearance approval date

An important question for the Planning Department is: What is the accumulative approved residual permit acre-feet of clearances existing at this point. In other words, how much more pumping is possible under existing clearances each year between now and 2028?

How does this compare with the estimated maximum new pumping of 450 acre-feet per year under the Planting Ordinance that is proposed to be rescinded?

Trapped in the Moratorium: One group of farmers, usually smaller units, who grew annual crops such as vegetables, hay, and flowers, had ceased planting in the years prior to the moratorium due to a multiyear drought. Their rationale had been that once the drought ended, they would resume planting and irrigating. When the drought ended, the County told them they could not resume pumping because they did not have a sufficiently current historic use. Some members of the Board and especially Supervisor Arnold have sought a means to amend the moratorium ordinance to allow those caught in the trap, and those who would use 25 acre-feet or less per year, to be allowed to resume pumping. The plan states in part:

The proposed ordinance would allow planting per verified 25-AFY exemptions anytime while the ordinance remains in effect (until 2045) and allow an 18-month period to plant per an issued "water neutral" planting permit. The 18-month planting period for a "water neutral" planting permit would need to start within a six-year lookback period from the irrigation stop date for the crop(s) previously irrigated on site.

And

The planting permit time limits are depicted graphically in Figure 2 below. Planning staff would verify final planting with a site inspection and be authorized to conduct annual site inspections as need to verify continued compliance with the approved planting plan while the ordinance remains in effect.

Proponents of the repeal should answer in detail: Since the ordinance has been repealed by the Board of Supervisors, the question remains, how can a more equitable use of the water be established in the near term while the GSP phases in? If it cannot be accomplished by land use ordinance, what about amending the GSP to give a 450 max per acre-feet per year permitting preference to those who would use 25 acre-feet or less. Since everyone seems to agree that there should be some equity, this would shift a little more of the burden to the existing grandfathered-in large users.

It would contain none of the burdens of the land use methodology under CEQA. The State might have some questions, but in the short term the GSP could be dovetailed to fit the situation and treat everyone equally.

Opposition: The ordinance was opposed by the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, San Luis Obispo County Cattlemen’s Association, Grower Shippers of San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara, the Paso Robles Wine Alliance, Sierra Club, and a number of individuals.

The Farm Bureau submitted a 10-page legal brief in opposition, which outlined many reasons why the Bureau believes the ordinance revisions are illegal. A spokesman indicated that if the ordinance were to be approved, there would be a lawsuit.

The proposed amendments to the Paso Basin Water Moratorium are designed to allow smaller users (under 25 acre-feet per year) to apply for a permit to pump if they meet a set of rigorous conditions. These users are now capped at 5 acre-feet per year.

PROJECT SUMMARY The attached ordinance (Attachments 1 and 2) and resolution (Attachment 3) would amend Title 8 and Title 22 of the San Luis Obispo County Code and the Agriculture and Conservation and Open Space Elements of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan to require “water neutral” ministerial planting permits for new and expanded crop production irrigated from groundwater wells within the Paso Basin Land Use Management Area from January 31, 2023 through January 31, 2045 (22 years), allowing a 25-acre-foot per year (“AFY”) exemption per site to continue to exercise the County’s land use authority to regulate irrigated crop planting and to allow farms to irrigate that have not been able to under the current agricultural offset requirements.

The key objection is that the ordinance and its CEQA-proposed mitigations include a number of objectionable regulations. Even though these would pertain only to the individuals who apply for a permit, the expansion of regulation over agriculture could be precedent setting, and therefore any gains achieved now are not worth it in the big picture.

Table 1: Summary of Mitigation Measures, Applicability, and Monitoring Methods

Mitigation Measure	Required for Planting Permit and/or 25-AFY Exemption	Monitoring Methods	
		Application	Annual Site Inspections
AQ-1 Construction Emissions Reduction Dust control measures.	Both	Self-certification	Verify measures are in place
BIO-1 Riparian and Wetland Habitat Setback No planting within 50' of riparian or wetland vegetation unless planted when ordinance took effect.	Both	Show on site plan	Verify compliance with site plan
GHG-1 Carbon Sequestration Incorporate conservation practices to sequester carbon at 0.15 MT CO ₂ e per acre of planting per CDFA Healthy Soils Program guidelines.	25-AFY Exemptions	Show in site plan and provide CDFA COMET calculations	Verify measures implemented per site plan
UTIL-1 Well Metering and Reporting Reporting monthly groundwater extraction.	Both	Identify well(s) in site plan	Verify participation in County GSA-approved groundwater extraction program or well meter installed during final planting inspection
UTIL-2 Hydrology Report Verification of no more than two feet of drawdown over five years in off-site groundwater wells within 750 feet.	25-AFY Exemptions	Submit with application as applicable	NA

Proponents of the ordinance argue that most of the water being used in the Basin is being consumed by large corporate vineyards, which will continue unfettered pumping until the SGMA plan bites in decades into the future.

Circumscribed by a scathing 430-page Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the Planning Commission unanimously recommended that the Board of Supervisors reject the proposed ordinance. Of course, this is highly controversial, since it was a Board of Supervisors majority that initiated the ordinance in the first place. They undertook the effort, as they felt that the 2013 moratorium was manifestly unfair to smaller users overlying the Basin.

Commission Rejection: The Planning Commission unanimously determined to recommend that the Board of Supervisors reject the proposed ordinance. Some of the reasons cited in their recommended rejection include:

The ordinance is not needed, as the SGMA process is ramping up and should be used to manage the control of pumping.

The mitigations measures recommended by staff are harmful to agriculture - the fix is worse than the problem.

The ordinance is too complex, and as such, will render it expansive and difficult to administer. It results in 16 immitigable CEQA Class I impacts, which would have to be overridden by the Board of Supervisors in order to adopt the ordinance.

Water Calculations: The most significant objection was that the ordinance would result in the potential use of 450 new acre-feet of water per year accumulatively over the life of the ordinance. Most of the rest of the impacts are bogus. However, with respect to water, the EIR states in part: “this would reach an estimated accumulative 9,900 acre-feet per year by 2045.” The EIR reiterates that the current deficit is 13,700 acre-feet per year. This must be eliminated under the SGMA plan by 2045.

The GSP projects a 13,700-acre-feet per year (AFY) deficit in groundwater storage in the Paso Robles Sub basin (i.e., each year, approximately 13,700 acre-feet [AF] more water exits the sub basin than is recharged to it). The Paso Robles Sub basin Water Year 2020 Annual Report

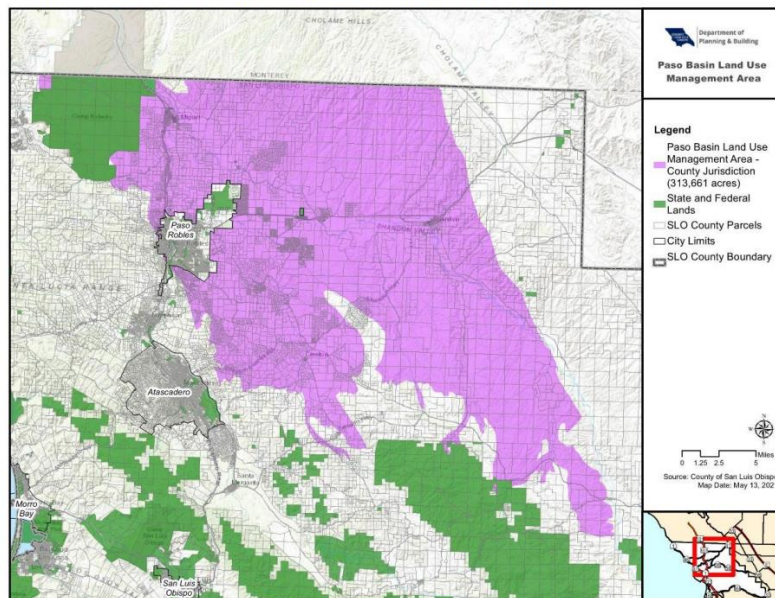
prepared to meet SGMA reporting requirements estimates 90 percent of groundwater extractions are used for the agriculture sector.

Accordingly, the EIR found that since the ordinance would add 450 acre-feet per year to the existing 13,700 ft., it is an immitigable Class I impact.

18. Impact HYD-6: The proposed planting ordinance would allow increased groundwater extraction that would conflict with the GSP's goal of sustainable groundwater Attachment 5 County of San Luis Obispo Paso Basin Land Use Management Area (PBLUMA) Planting Ordinance CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations Program Environmental Impact Report September 2022 management and with the GSP's projections for groundwater extraction within the Paso Robles Sub basin.

Note: COLAB has provided extensive additional review of the Planting Ordinance over the past months.

Figure 2-1 Paso Basin Land Use Management Area (PBLUMA)



Item 30 - Legislative Platform - It is recommended that the Board consider and approve the County's proposed 2023 State Legislative Platform. The Board adopted the Platform with very minor changes.

Supervisor Gibson correctly raised the issue that the Platform has fattened up over the years and it lacks impact and has a cumbersome structure. Thus, separately, several of the Supervisors will form an ad hoc committee to work with staff to develop a more structured and focused document for future years. Notwithstanding any improvements, the prime directive should be to maintain opposition to weakening or abolishing Proposition 13 property taxpayer protections.

The 2 current planks include:

15. Oppose any measures or legislation that reduces the super-majority vote required to raise taxes from 2/3rd to 55%

16. Oppose any legislation or initiative that proposes to modify Proposition 13. Specifically, oppose any legislation or proposal that would establish a so-called “Split Roll” for property tax, which would thereby reduce protections for commercial property owners. Oppose any legislation that would further the effort to modify Proposition 13 in lieu of the ballot proposition

The City of Austin seems to have a nice and fairly concise format, whether or not one agrees with the substance. See it at the link:

[IGRO-2023-StateAgenda-12-22-WEB2.pdf \(austintexas.gov\)](#)

Background: The item is the County’s annual ritual recitation of the expanded funding and expanded programing that it recommends that the legislature adopt.

A key portion involves the continued operation of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant as well as a lengthy list of provisions related to its closure, whenever that may occur.

Most of the document suggests expansions of State programs and restructuring of some State programs, and for the most part, it demands increases in State funding of programs which the County carries out on behalf of the State (many mandated) as well as other services in general. They range over the entire gamut, including mental health, social services, law and justice, fire and emergency services, water management, flood management, transportation, physical health, and on and on.

One problem is that the document exists in a vacuum, as the requests would pertain to just about all 58 counties. While some are SLO specific, most have to be provided on a formulaic basis statewide. There is no analysis of how many additional billions of dollars would be required in the State Budget or where that would come from. Consequently, it is a PR document, most of which can never be fulfilled. This is misleading to the general public as well as to specific constituencies and interest groups.

In the big picture the County is essentially advocating a much larger government sector at both the State and local level.

The 47-page program can be viewed at the link:

[Agenda item details - Provox IIP \(ca.gov\)](#)

Item 33 - Closed Session/Supervisorial District Redistricting. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PENDING LITIGATION (Government Code section 54956.9.) 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) SLO County Citizens for Good Government, Inc., Gomez, Maruska, Villa v. County of Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors, San Luis Obispo County Superior Court, Case No. 22CVP-0007. The Board considered the matter in closed session for the 2nd meeting in a row. When the County Counsel emerged, she reported that the Board took no reportable action. This could mean that the County

and the plaintiff citizens for “Good Government” did not reach agreement. On the other hand, they may have reached agreement, but time is needed for the judge to approve the settlement.

Background: As expected, the new Board majority directed County Counsel to seek settlement of the previously filed suit brought by a coalition of left progressive Democrats, including leaders of the County Democratic Party and the League of Women Voters. It is rumored that they have determined to select a version known as Map B or a version known as the Chamber of Commerce map. The left preferred these maps during the adoption process to the current map, which is known as the Patten map.

After the Board majority voted to reform the Supervisorial District boundaries, the Citizens for Good Government (the “Citizens”) was formed to sue the County to compel adoption of a different version. In February 2022, the Court refused to issue an injunction to prevent the use of the new districts, but did find that the plaintiff Citizens would be likely to prevail at trial on the grounds that the Board majority (at the time) did not consider evidence that the districts had been designed to favor Republicans.

As expected, the new Board majority will settle the case by adopting a version more acceptable to the “Citizens.” The “Citizens” are Democratic Party activists. Although the new 2nd District was claimed to be especially favorable to the Republicans, Democrat Bruce Gibson still won with a 13-vote margin. In the prior 2nd district configuration, he usually won by a margin of 76%. The public will not know what is happening until the deal is done. Perhaps it already is, in ex-parte political discussions or illegal serial meetings, but we don’t know for sure.

Item 34 - Rural Camping/Request to consider a resolution rendering a final determination and interpretation on Rural Recreation and Camping pursuant to Section 22.30.520 of the Land Use Ordinance (Title 22 of the County Code) and Section 23.08.072 of the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (Title 23 of the County Code). Exempt from CEQA. The approval of the Resolution would allow rural camping within certain bounds. The Board unanimously approved the Resolution. This means that the Planning Department will not apply the permit requirements and development standards of the Rural Recreation and Camping Ordinance to RV camping operations that meet the specified criteria. RV camping operations that do not meet the specified criteria will continue to be subject to the Rural Recreation and Camping Ordinance (including, but not limited to, setback and minimum site area requirements).

Background: The owner would not charge the campers but would participate in programs such as Harvest Host. Benefits include attracting visitors to the County’s rural areas. Often the campers purchase local products such as produce, honey, and wine.

The issue arose as Planning and Building began to suddenly enforce permitting requirements which contained all sorts of restrictions.

On December 13, 2022, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Planning and Building Department (Department) to return to the Board on February 7, 2023 with an ordinance interpretation that limited recreational vehicle (RV) camping meeting the following criteria is not subject to the requirements of the Rural Recreation and Camping Ordinance (Land Use Ordinance Session 22.30.520 / Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance Section 23.08.072):

- 1. The RV camping is an ancillary use to a permitted visitor-serving use that is incidental to a primary agricultural use.*
- 2. The RV must be completely self-contained, with onboard sanitation facilities, and no external hookups are provided.*
- 3. No charge for overnight stays.*
- 4. Starting with a maximum of three overnight RV parking spots, tie the allowable number of RV spots to the size of the parking lot*



Rural camping has become a major part of the RV lifestyle. National membership services that provide previews of sites and reservation services have spread everywhere.

Item 32 - Supervisors Salary Increases. The proposed salary increase was rejected on a 3/2 vote with Supervisors Gibson and Ortiz Legg dissenting (Supporting the raises). Separately, and as a result of the rejection, staff was directed to explore how other jurisdictions handle the issue and if there is a better methodology.

Background: When the item was first introduced to be placed on the Hearing calendar, Supervisors Gibson, Ortiz-Legg, and Arnold supported it. Supervisor Peschong voted no. Supervisor Paulding voted no, stating that he did not want his first vote of his term on the board to be for a salary raise. Supervisor Arnold voted to agendize the item but said that did not mean she would support it in the end. She wanted to hear the presentation and arguments pro and con.

COLAB originally supported the raises for the reasons detailed in the history below. However at this point, and in light of the terrible leftist policy blitzkrieg being undertaken by the Board majority, there should be no cooperation on anything, and instead, as much activist resistance as possible.

History: Per prior policy, the staff is recommending salary increases for the Board members. The basic principle is that they should make 25% more than their Legislative Aides. Applying this formula results in the schedule below:

In order to bring the Board of Supervisors annual salary to be 25% above the annual salary of Legislative Assistants and to address the market position, the attached ordinance proposes to increase the Board of Supervisors' salary as follows:

- *Effective April 16, 2023: increase the annual salary from \$90,417.60 to \$103,979.20*
- *Effective June 25, 2023: increase the annual salary from \$103,979.20 to \$106,597.20*
- *Effective June 23, 2024: increase the annual salary from \$106,597.20 to \$109,241.60*
- *Subsequent to June 23, 2024, members of the Board of Supervisors shall receive the same percentage increase to their annual salary that is applied to the annual salary of the Legislative Assistant classification. This increase shall also be applied at the same time the increase is applied to the Legislative Assistant classification.*

The Board members post-retirement health benefits are also being increased:

County employees participate in one of two post-employment health plans (PEHP), which are funded either through a direct contribution by the County or by employees through their accrued sick leave balances once they leave County employment. The PEHP funded through direct contribution by the County can be used to pay for qualified medical expenses not covered by health insurance after separation of service. The PEHP funded through employees' accrued sick leave balances is an insurance premium reimbursement account, and can be used to reimburse for qualified health insurance premiums after separation of service.

Elected Department Heads and members of the Board of Supervisors participate in the PEHP that is funded through direct contribution by the County and which can be used to pay for qualified medical expenses not covered by health insurance, subject to IRS limitations. The current County contribution is \$600 per year. It is recommended this contribution be increased from the current \$600 annual contribution to \$5,000 per full year of service, or a prorated amount for a partial year of service, as an elected official, up to a maximum County contribution of \$50,000, which will be available upon the termination of the Elected Department Head's or member of the Board of Supervisor's term in office.

The Board members were placed in the awkward position of having to vote for their own raises. For years Alameda County had a better system under which the salaries were made equal to that of a Superior Court Judge. In this way they were actually dependent on the Legislature. At some point a court ruled that the process was illegal.

In any case, the salaries are not extravagant given the time and preparation required for all the meetings, including the County Board, SLOCOG, APCD, and other committee and delegate Board assignments. This is compounded by ceremonial duties, community meetings, and political duties within their respective parties.

Our hope is that Board members will not be so enamored of staff (or perhaps afraid of them). This would mean asking hard questions in public and refusing to accept non-answers and diversionary answers. Being an elected representative is not a team sport. Elected officials are here to represent the voters and to hold the elaborate and permanent organization accountable. This requires maintenance of a degree of distance and uncomfortable tension.

Item 6 - Amendment of the Monarch Dunes Specific Plan. After considerable review, the Commission approved recommending the Plan to the Board of Supervisors on a 4/1, vote with Commissioner Multari dissenting. He was uncomfortable with the reduction in size of a park which had been included in the original Plan back in 1998. A number of residents spoke in opposition.

Background: The evolution of the County's processing of this application perfectly illustrates how the State and County kill housing. After each meeting the Commissioners and staff think up new wickets. The staff report recommends new and expensive requirements for the Commission's consideration. The Commission has considered the application at 2 prior hearings.

On January 12, 2023, the Planning Commission directed staff to provide additional information regarding the following items:

- *Item A – Affordable Housing*
- *Item B – Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction*
- *Item C – Design of Site #4 (Public Park Area)*
- *Item D – Village Center Uses*
- *Item E – Traffic Impacts (as it relates to the Village Center)*

A. Deed Restricted ADUs. *Direction was to explore [a] ensuring accessory dwelling units (ADU) be used as separate dwelling units, rather than as an extension of primary dwelling units, and [b] requiring a percentage (ranging from 3% to 10%) of the 162 primary dwelling units (net increase in number of dwelling units requested by applicant) be deed-restricted affordable dwelling units.*

According to the County's Framework for Planning (Inland), "specific plans are a tool for the systemic implementation of the general plan"; and since residential development is a primary component of the Specific Plan, it is appropriate to implement the Housing Element of the County's General Plan through this amendment process, especially if the implementation would result in effective, impactful contributions towards the County's housing objectives. Requiring a percentage of the 162 primary dwelling units to be deed restricted affordable dwelling units would be significantly more impactful in contributing towards the County's housing objectives, especially since deed-restricted affordable dwelling units are guaranteed to be affordable for a certain number of years

Applicant rejects staff recommendations: *According to the applicant's response, no deed-restricted affordable dwelling units are proposed as a part of this project and requiring deed-restricted affordable dwelling units would result in significant economic hardship. The applicant provided analysis of various scenarios that consider percentage of deed-restricted dwelling units (3%, 5%, and 10%), income category (low-income and moderate-income), and housing type (common wall development dwelling units and village center condominiums). The applicant's analysis shows that if 5% of the common wall development dwelling units (twin homes) are deed*

restricted to be affordable in the moderate-income category, **the applicant would experience a loss of \$2,671,800.**

B. Extra Greenhouse Gas Reduction: *Direction was to explore incorporating additional greenhouse gas reduction requirements above and beyond building code requirements and, more specifically, requiring photovoltaic battery storage systems.*

Even though the plan amendment will generate less CO₂ than the original plan, staff came up with a list of new costly additions for consideration by the Commission.

For residential single-family, new homes are required to be ready for future Planning installation of battery storage systems (also referred to as “energy storage systems”).

- *For residential multi-family, solar panels are required for low-rise and high-rise multifamily buildings and battery storage is required for high rise multi-family buildings.*

- *For nonresidential, solar panels and storage are required for the following: grocery, office, retail, school, warehouse, auditorium, convention center, hotel/motel, library, medical office building/clinic, restaurant, and theater.*

The applicant was provided a list of options that would result in and/or contribute to greenhouse gas reductions above and beyond the new building code requirements. It was recommended that the applicant consider the list and incorporate the greatest number of options feasible. The list of options is as follows:

- *Residential Single Family*
 - o *Require fully electrified buildings*

- o *Require Quality Insulation Installation (QII) Verification by HERS Rater*

- o *Higher EDR requirement*

- o *Add solar/storage capacity above code requirements*

- o *Require Passive House principals for construction to Provide EV Charging Stations and/or prewiring for all single-family dwellings*

- o *CalGreen Building Standards Tier 1 or Tier 2 Compliance – Including Energy Code*

- *Residential Multi-family*
 - o *Require fully electrified buildings*
 - o *Require Quality Insulation Installation (QII) Verification by HERS Rater*

- o *Higher TDV and Source Energy requirement*

- o *Add solar/storage capacity above code requirements*

- o *Require Passive House principals for construction*

- o *Provide EV charging for a percentage of parking spaces*

- o *CalGreen Building Standards Tier 1 or Tier 2 Compliance – Including Energy Code*

- *Nonresidential*
 - o *Require Commissioning from independent third party of all buildings sizes and systems prior to certificate of occupancy*

- o Require fully electrified buildings*
- o Higher TDV and Source Energy requirement*
- o Add solar/storage capacity above code requirements*
- o Require Passive House principals for construction Planning Commission LRP2021-00003 – Monarch Dunes Specific Plan Amendment*
- o Provide EV charging for a percentage of parking spaces o CalGreen Building Standards Tier 1 or Tier 2 Compliance – Including Energy Code*

Applicant Rejects Staff recommendation: *However, the applicant indicated that no additional greenhouse gas reduction strategies (aside from those previously proposed) are proposed. Also, the applicant conducted a feasibility analysis relating to installation of photovoltaic battery storage systems and found that the cost to make a residence “battery ready” would be \$2,017 and cost for the battery would be \$11,111. The applicant indicated that the common wall development dwelling units (twin homes) will be “battery ready” (which is required for such dwelling units starting January 1, 2023) but will not install photovoltaic battery storage systems. To review the applicant’s full response and analysis, please see Attachment 2.*

No Staff Recommendation: *STAFF RECOMMENDATION Staff recommends that the Planning Commission consider the analysis and information that staff provided in accordance with the Planning Commission’s direction and determine whether to Planning Commission LRP2021-00003 – Monarch Dunes Specific Plan Amendment Page 12 recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve LRP2021-00003 to amend the Monarch Dunes Specific Plan based on the findings listed in Attachment 1 of the staff report for the Planning Commission hearing on October 13, 2022, and in accordance with the recommended modifications in Attachment 2 of the same staff report with the corrections indicated in staff’s presentation at the hearing on October 13, 2022.*

The staff provided no recommendation but instead told the Commission to determine what it will recommend to the Board of Supervisors. Why should there be millions of dollars of professional staff on the payroll and let them off the hook on the key question? New Commissioner Mariam Shah properly edged up on this issue but then let it go. She had previously served on a City Council in a Council Manager city where the City Manager and staff are expected to make professional recommendations on such matters.

The proposed added requirements are emblematic of the larger problem in the State as a whole, as expert analyst Ed Ring pointed out on February 1, 2023: ²

The economic destruction of California’s middle class is a product of legislation and court rulings that have made it practically impossible for private developers to build affordable homes while still making a profit. They have been driven out of a hostile state, thanks to a protracted approval process, inevitable and endless environmentalist litigation, exorbitant municipal permit fees, ridiculously overwritten building codes, zoning restrictions that drive up the price of whatever raw land remains available for building, the lack of available water, overpriced and scarce building materials, a labor shortage, and the unwillingness of cities and counties—unlike throughout previous decades—to share the burden of enabling streets and utility infrastructure.

² Ring, Edward: Gavin Newsom’s New Freedom State, American Greatness, February 1, 2023

As a result, the average home in California, even in this downturn, stands north of \$760,000. To make up for the shortage of private developers who can turn a profit and are therefore willing to develop housing without subsidies, an entire new class of developers and renters have emerged.

The developer constructs low-income housing, taking advantage of tax incentives and government matching funds, which is then occupied by residents who have some or all of the rent paid for by the government.

There are a number of letters in the file from residents opposed to one or more aspects of the project that contain requests for specific amenities. The homeowners association and maintenance association supported the project.

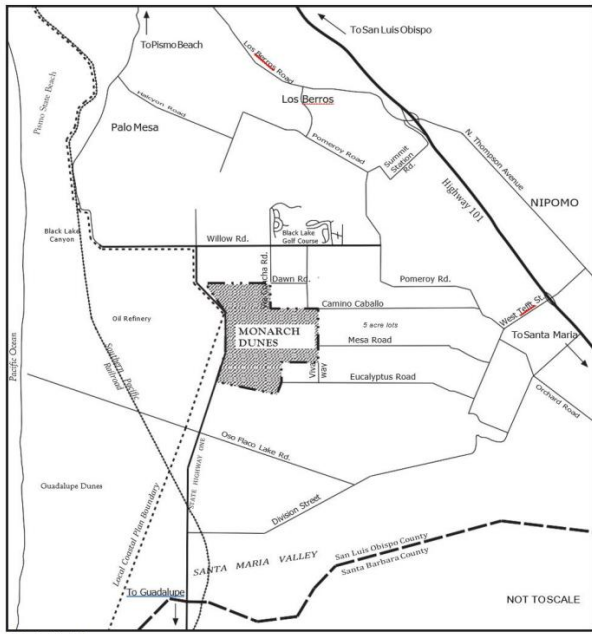
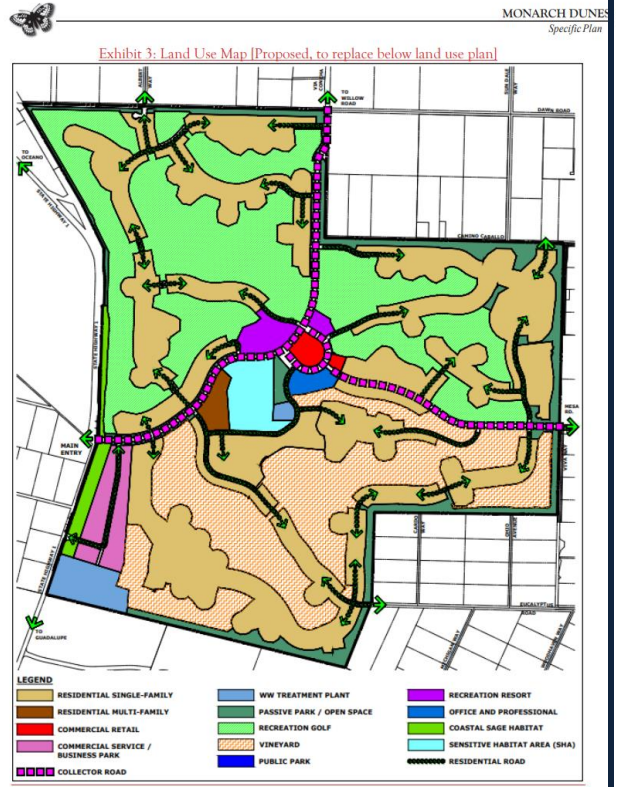


Exhibit 2



EMERGENT ISSUES

Other than spy balloons floating in, nothing much happened.



Then, the Border Patrol Commander reported that about 3,000 Chinese males have passed or attempted to pass the Border in recent months. Perhaps after 5,000 get across, they will have a brigade size force here.

COLAB IN DEPTH

IN FIGHTING THE TROUBLESOME, LOCAL DAY-TO-DAY ASSAULTS ON OUR FREEDOM AND PROPERTY, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE LARGER UNDERLYING IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC CAUSES

CALIFORNIA'S FAILED SOVIET-STYLE HOUSING MANDATES SHOULD END NOW

Since 1969, California has used Soviet Union–era central planning methods to try to increase its housing supply. And what California has shown in these 50-plus years is what we have always known about central planning: It always fails. And Miserably so.

BY LEE OHANIAN

Since 1969, California has used Soviet Union–era central planning methods to try to increase its housing supply. And what California has shown in these 50-plus years is what we have always known about central planning: It always fails. And miserably so.

Top-down command-control programs fail because they violate the basic market forces of supply and demand and because they suppress individual freedoms. California started down the command-control rabbit hole regarding housing with a 1969 state law that created the Housing

Element and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) program. This program mandates that every California community must plan for its housing needs, regardless of income.

The five words “housing needs” and “regardless of income” tell you all you need to know to understand why this program has failed. What are “housing needs,” exactly? Millions would love to live in the areas overlooking the beaches of California, particularly if income weren’t a factor. Does this mean that millions of Californians have an unmet “need” to live in Malibu? Or San Diego? Or Santa Barbara? Or Laguna Beach? And what of the millions more who live outside of California but would flock to the state if they had opportunities to live in some of the most expensive communities in the world, regardless of their income?

California bureaucrats have tried to figure this out by giving every community a mandatory housing quota every eight years. California’s median state home price of nearly \$775,000 demonstrates just how badly this program has worked.

Nowhere is the failure of the state’s top-down housing mandate better illustrated than what happened last week in Atherton, a small (five square miles) community of about 7,100 people in Silicon Valley. Atherton happens to be the home of San Francisco Warriors basketball star Steph Curry and his family, which is why the town was all over the news last week as it was rushing to come up with a plan to submit to the state for its mandated 348 homes to be built between now and 2031.

Where did the quota of 348 new homes come from? The Community Development Agency is supposed to base its quota on its prediction of the number of new jobs they expect in each new community. But there is one big problem with this approach when it comes to Atherton: the town has no businesses, per se. Most of the town doesn’t even have sidewalks. Besides its 2,200 or so homes, Atherton has eight public parcels of land, consisting of schools, a small college, and a park, a town center that houses the library, the mayor’s office, the town council chambers, the police department, and a fire station.

So where does Steph Curry enter the story? Curry wrote a letter to the city expressing concerns about his family’s safety and privacy regarding the town’s consideration of allowing the development of 16 townhomes at a site near Curry’s single-family home as part of its plan to meet its quota of 348 new homes. But Curry’s letter became part of the town’s public record, hence putting the basketball star and Atherton under the media microscope last week. Atherton has always been a community of single-family homes. But new California laws make it easier for developers to construct multifamily housing. The potential 16-unit development near Curry’s home would be the first of its kind in Atherton. And as the town scrambled to figure out just where 348 new homes would fit, it considered the approximately 1.5-acre property at 23 Oakwood Boulevard, whose current owners had expressed interest in developing as a 16-unit complex, as one that could help satisfy its mandate.

Atherton was struggling to figure out its mandate because there are few locations within Atherton left to develop. With a median home price of about \$7.5 million, it is not as if there are dozens of vacant lots within the town just waiting for a new home. There is a beautiful 22-acre park that was willed to the city in the late 1950s, but those 22 acres would be gifted to Stanford University if Atherton did not continue to use the land exclusively as a park. And other than the owners of 23 Oakwood Boulevard, few homeowners have expressed any interest in building multifamily housing.

Curry was decried in some media articles as another member of the “Not in My Backyard” (NIMBY) crowd. But Curry and his family have legitimate safety and privacy concerns. A potential 16-unit multistory complex at 23 Oakwood Boulevard could create a paparazzi’s dream opportunity to take photos of Curry and his family. Celebrity photos now fetch as much as \$85,000, and if those living at 23 Oakwood Boulevard didn’t have the photographic equipment or skills to take such photos, they could charge a hefty fee to professional photographers to use their homes for that purpose.

If Atherton doesn’t come up with a plan, it exposes itself to “the builders remedy,” which forces cities and counties that are out of compliance with their state planning mandate to approve *any housing anywhere in the community* provided that 20 percent of a project’s units are set aside for low-income renters and buyers.

So, just what does Atherton do? It is stuck between the proverbial rock and hard place. Nearly 90 percent of Atherton’s homes are occupied by their owners, and the town can’t force its residents to convert their single-family homes into duplexes or fourplexes or condominium complexes. They can’t tear down their schools. They can’t use their 22-acre park. They can’t tear down their fire station.

They could possibly tear down their town center to build a high rise tall enough to contain those 348 units, probably 25 stories, maybe more. But with an annual city budget of only \$18 million, the town could never pull off such a project, which could cost north of \$250 million given current costs of building “affordable” housing within the state. And building at this location would involve significant environmental complexities, particularly the relocation of major water pipes that lie beneath the town center. This would add years to the completion of such a project, one that would never be move-in ready within the eight-year state planning horizon.

To avoid the “builder’s remedy,” Atherton created a plan that it submitted to the state at the 11th hour last week. Most of the new housing (280 of the mandated 348 units) would be from new Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), which are small guest houses, at existing homes. Additionally, the Menlo School, a prep school located on 62 acres in Atherton, and Menlo College, located on 45 acres, agreed to build a total of 80 units on their campuses, presumably for faculty, administrators, and other staff. All told, Atherton’s plan would create 453 units, well over the 348 mandated units.

As far as the potential 16-unit project at 23 Oakwood Boulevard goes, the town slated four of those units to be set aside for “very low to low”-income households should it be built. For a very low-income family of three, the maximum rent would be \$2,056 per month. This rent is probably 60 to 75 percent below the market rate rent of such a unit.

Ironically, this means that the 16-unit project may never be built, given that the other twelve units would need to be priced at a sufficiently high level to offset the large losses on the four subsidized units. For a project that will likely cost \$40 million or more to build and that may take years to complete, this means that the 12 market-rate units would need to be priced in the \$4 million range to make the project pencil out.

Perhaps there are willing buyers at that price point, but on the other hand, even in Silicon Valley there are beautiful homes that are larger, with much more privacy, and with large private yards, such as this 2,500-square-foot, \$3.5 million single-family home in pricey Woodside, a very similar community to Atherton, located next to it.

Central planning always fails. It failed in the USSR. It failed in China. And it has failed for the last 53 years in California’s housing sphere. Imposing top down, one-size-fits-all housing quotas on every community in the state is inefficient and ineffective and violates individual and community rights. Much more housing within California would be built if legislators were to rewrite the state’s antiquated environmental laws; reduce regulatory burdens that drive constructions costs on affordable housing projects to levels that exceed those of luxury homes; and provide communities with financial support and incentives where more housing, particularly high-density housing, makes sense, with projects that achieve community buy-in.

The state is missing an enormous number of residential development opportunities. There are tens of thousands of vacant lots in Los Angeles alone, many of them vacant for over 50 years, that can be developed. There are retail, industrial, commercial, and agricultural locations throughout the state that have greater value today for residential use that could be developed. Reasonably priced housing is ours for the taking, but only with regulatory reforms, a far greater reliance on the market process, and respect for individual and community freedoms. Since 1969, California’s housing politburo has chronically failed. Isn’t 53 years of failure enough?

Lee Ohanian is a consultant to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, a professor of economics at the University of California–Los Angeles, and a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. This article first appeared in the February 7, 2023 Hoover Institution Update.

UKRAINIAN PARADOXES

Are the borders of country 5,000 miles away more sacrosanct and more worth taking existential risks than our own airspace and southern border?

By Victor Davis Hanson

One of the strangest things about the American response to Ukraine has been the willingness of the Left and the establishment Right to discount completely that the war is heading toward a rendezvous with ever-deadlier weapons and staggering fatalities—even as we witness increasing

nuclear threats from a weakened and adrift Vladimir Putin. They insist that Putin is merely saber-rattling. And he might be. Supposedly, in his diminished and discredited state, Putin would not dare to set off a tactical nuclear weapon (as if diminished and discredited leaders are not more likely to do so).

Proxies Versus Balloons

But while we discount the nuclear dangers of a paranoid Putin reacting to the arming of our proxy Ukraine, the brazen Chinese, in violation of American airspace and international law, sent their recent “weather “ surveillance balloon across the continental United States with impunity.

Only after public pressure, media coverage, and the Republican opposition did the Biden Administration, in the 11th hour, finally drop its increasingly incoherent and disingenuous excuses, and agree to shoot the balloon down as it reached the Atlantic shore—its mission completed.

Given the balloon may have more, not less, surveillance capability than satellites, may have itself been designed eventually to adopt offensive capability, and may have been intended to gauge the American reaction to incursions, the Biden hesitation and fear to defend U.S. airspace and confront China makes no sense.

Contrast Ukraine: Why discount the dangers of strategic escalation in a third-party proxy war, but exaggerate them to the point of stasis when a belligerent’s spy balloon crosses the U.S. heartland with impunity? Are the borders of Ukraine more sacrosanct and more worthy of our taking existential risks than our own airspace and southern border?

When and How Did Russia Enter Ukraine?

Russia did not just enter Ukraine on February 24, 2022. So where were the voices of outrage in 2014, from Joe Biden and others in the highest positions of the Obama Administration when Putin first absorbed Crimea and eastern Ukraine?

Why do the most fervent supporters of blank-check aid to the Zelenskyy government grow indifferent when we ask how Russia in 2014 managed so easily to reclaim vast swaths of Ukraine? Is it because of the 2012 hot-mic conversation between Barack Obama and then Russian Federation President Dmitry Medvedev in Seoul, South Korea, in which Obama promised: “On all these issues, but particularly missile defense, this, this can be solved, but it’s important for him to give me space. . . . This is my last election . . . After my election, I have more flexibility.”

Obama’s “flexibility” on missile defense in eastern Europe was an understatement—given he completely canceled a long-planned major U.S. commitment to Poland and the Czech Republic, a system that might have been of some value during the present conflict with Putin. And certainly, Putin did give Obama the requested reelection “space” by not invading Crimea and eastern Ukraine until 16 months after Obama was reelected in his “last election.” Once he did so, the bargain was apparently sealed, and each party got what it wanted: both space (i.e., temporary good Russian behavior) and flexibility (i.e., canceling an air defense system).

So it was almost surreal how the bipartisan establishment forgot why and how Putin entered and annexed thousands of square miles of Ukraine so easily, and apparently on the correct assumption of an anemic American response. Did James Clapper in 2014 smear Obama as a “Russian asset” as he did Donald Trump in 2017?

In the “Russian collusion” and “Russian disinformation” hoaxes, the purveyors of those hysterias forgot the role of “reset” appeasement in empowering Putin to attack Ukraine in 2014—in the same manner as the Biden Administration’s ignominious retreat from Kabul was the context for Putin’s 2022 attempt on Kyiv. The common denominator in both cases was Moscow’s apparent conclusion that foreign policy under the Obama-Biden continuum was viewed as indifference to Russian aggression.

Who Did Not Arm the Ukrainians?

Why, after 2014, didn’t the Obama Administration arm the Ukrainians to the teeth? The surreal element of the first Trump impeachment was the reality that Trump was impeached for delaying offensive arms shipments (on the understandable and later proven assumption that the Biden family and elements of the Ukraine government were both utterly corrupt).

If Trump was impeached for delaying the offensive arms he approved and eventually sent, what was the proper reaction to Obama-Biden, who vetoed them altogether? And if the fallback argument is that Trump’s delay targeted his 2020 presidential opponent, then we arrive again at the same absurdity. For Joe Biden, by staging the Mar-a-Lago raid to charge Trump with the same “crimes” he knowingly at the time had committed, should then likewise be impeached for targeting his possible future political opponent.

But be clear: there is far more demonstrable evidence that the Biden family was corrupt and leveraging the Ukrainian and Chinese governments than there is of Donald Trump pilfering “nuclear codes” and “nuclear secrets.”

Part of the American people’s bewilderment over the left-wing zeal to send \$100 billion in U.S. aid to Ukraine and to damn anyone who asks for clarification of our long-term strategy in ending the war is precisely the contrast between Putin’s lethargy between 2017-2021 and his restless aggression in 2014 and again in 2022, the bookend years to the hated Trump Administration.

Putin moved on all these occasions because Obama’s refusal to arm Ukraine, his quid pro quos with Putin on missile defense, his rhetorical “red line” in Syria, and his abrupt withdrawal from Iraq that birthed ISIS—in the same manner that Biden scrambled from Afghanistan—promised that America’s response would be muted if Putin’s invasion was “minor,” and offered a safe exit for Zelenskyy.

If we truly seek to navigate an end to Russian aggression, by one means or another, the beginning of our wisdom would entail how exactly we got here in the first place—and require us to learn from our disasters.

Why Are Our Arms Depots Depleted?

If we wish to wonder why Vladimir Putin believed that the Biden Administration's response to his aggression would be like the Obama-Biden reaction in 2014, then we need only look to the August 2021 American collapse in Afghanistan. That summer, Joe Biden made the decision to yank precipitously all U.S. troops out of Afghanistan, abandoning a \$1 billion embassy, a multimillion-dollar refitted airbase, and hundreds of billions of dollars in U.S. military equipment, including 22,174 Humvee vehicles, nearly 1,000 armored vehicles, 64,363 machine guns, and 42,000 pick-up trucks and SUVs 358,530 assault rifles, 126,295 pistols, and nearly 200 artillery units.

Recent reports, denied by the United States, allege that Putin is negotiating with the Taliban to buy some of the abandoned American arsenal to help replenish Russia's enormous materiel losses in Ukraine. What helped the Soviets win World War II were the American gifts of 400,000 trucks and Jeeps. Over 60,000 American armored vehicles, Humvees, and trucks, now in the hands of the Taliban would be a valuable addition to Putin's arsenal. The media assures us that poorly equipped Russian soldiers struggle with obsolete guns dating back to the early postwar period, while assuring us that either the Taliban would not sell, or Russians could not use, over a half-million late-model American automatic pistols, assault rifles, and machine guns.

Americans are quite critical of the supposed anemic European response and lack of aid matching the American largesse. But, in fact, Biden likely reversed course from his initial remarks about minor incursions and a safe ride out for Zelenskyy, and a prior aversion to sending offensive arms, because the frontline Europeans were terrified of Putin on the move and demanded an American-led NATO joint effort to supply Ukraine.

The belated but increasingly muscular response of the United States to pour aid into Ukraine may stall the Russian advance and even its anticipated spring offensive. But the growing involvement of the United States has raised the issue of deterrence, as China closely watches both the response of Europe and the United States and the ability of revanchist Russia to invade. If Russia were to mobilize and use all its resources—10 times the GDP of Ukraine, 30 times the territory, 3.5 times the population—it would likely require a far greater sacrifice of Ukrainian blood and Western treasure. And the war that may have already cost over 200,000 dead and 300,000 wounded will likely prove the most lethal since the Vietnam War, in which over 3 million soldiers and civilians died on both sides of the conflict.

More importantly, will the zealots, who demand that we empty our arsenals to supply Ukraine, vote in Congress for massive increases in the defense budget to ratchet up arms production to ensure that our depleted stocks of weapons are restored rapidly?

In sum, there would be broader support for Ukraine's military aid if advocates were transparent on the following 10 issues:

- 1) The United States will be as firm and deterrent vis à vis China as it is now belatedly with Russia.

2) We will acknowledge that Ukraine is a mess because Vladimir Putin between 2009 and 2016, and again in 2021, concluded that the United States either would not or could not deter his aggression.

3) Just as we attempt to help to protect the sovereign borders of Ukraine, so too must we consider just as sacrosanct our own airspace and our southern border.

4) All those in government and the media who demand more weapons for Ukraine, after the war ends, with the same zeal must demand immediate increased arms production to ensure their own country is as well protected as Ukraine.

5) Just as we deplore Russia interfering in our elections, so too we must cite Ukrainian interference in 2016, as evidenced by the pro-Clinton skullduggery of Alexandra Chalupa, Valeriy Chaly, Serhiy Leshchenko, Oksana Shulyar, and Andrii Telizhenko, along with the Biden family's financial relations with Burisma and top Ukrainian officials. We expect and prepare for enemies to tamper with our elections, but Ukraine is a supposed friend that nonetheless likely was more involved in 2016 than were the Russians—and yet was never held to account.

6) Unfortunately, we cannot believe any of the predictions emanating from our top intelligence and military leaders about the course of the Ukrainian war, given they were simply wrong about the Afghanistan collapse, wrong both about the initial resiliency of the Ukrainians and later the supposed imminent collapse of the Russians, both biased and wrong about Hunter Biden's laptop, implicated in the Russian collusion hoax, and once again misled the American people about the time of arrival, the nature, and the purpose of the Chinese balloon, and the various garbled reasons why it was not immediately shot down.

7) Those who feel international negotiations about the status of Crimea and the Ukrainian borderlands are tantamount to surrender, and therefore taboo, must prepare the American people for their envisioned victory of ejecting every Russian from pre-2014 Ukraine, by assessing the dangers of a nuclear exchange, the eventual cost in arms and weapons of \$200-500 billion, and a price tag of economic aid to rebuild a ruined Ukraine that will vastly exceed our military aid.

8) Those who advocate Ukraine's entry into NATO, must remind the American people that should Putin then mount a second offensive into Ukraine, American troops, along those of 29 other NATO nations, would be sent to Ukraine to fight nuclear Russia and its allies.

9) We should apparently accept as regrettable, but tolerable that the war in Ukraine has united China and Russia, ensured they are both patrons for nuclear North Korea and soon-to-be nuclear Iran, and are near to drawing Turkey and India into their orbit—or nearly half the world's population.

10) Given that China is a more existential threat than Russia, and given that the Chinese danger to the whole of Taiwan is far greater than is the Russian threat to all of Ukraine, we would expect those advocating blank-check support for Ukraine, would of course be as adamantly protective of Taiwan, even if the two wars were to become simultaneous. We expect those who demand no

limits in weakening Putin's dictatorship, harbor even more animus for the far more dangerous totalitarianism of China.

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 newly released The Dying Citizen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Disaster Recovery Center / Local Assistance Center to Open in San Luis Obispo

Author: County OES

Date: 1/23/2023 3:36:25 PM

A Disaster Recovery Center / Local Assistance Center will open Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 12:00 PM in San Luis Obispo



San Luis Obispo, CA – On Tuesday, January 24 at 12:00 PM, a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) and Local Assistance Center (LAC) will open in San Luis Obispo to provide resources to residents who were affected by the storms. The DRC/LAC is a partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and County of San Luis Obispo.

The DRC/LAC will be open seven days a week, from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the Veterans Memorial Building, 801 Grand Ave in San Luis Obispo. Residents can get help applying for federal assistance and disaster loans, update applications, and learn about other resources that are available. Spanish and ASL interpreter services will be present. If you need transportation to the DRC/LAC, please call the County Office of Emergency Services at (805) 781-5678.

Information and services will be available from agencies such as: County Behavioral Health, Environmental Health, and Planning and Building; DMV, IRS, insurance services, Small Business Administration, legal assistance, and non-profits. Information from the Ag Commissioner, County Assessor and Clerk Recorder will also be available.

In addition to the Disaster Recovery Center, FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) teams are visiting neighborhoods impacted by the storms to help residents apply for FEMA assistance and answer questions about federal assistance. DSA teams wear FEMA attire and have federal photo identification badges.

To apply online for assistance, visit disasterassistance.gov. You may also use the [FEMA mobile app](#) or call 1-800-621-3362. The line is open every day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET. Help is available in most languages.

If you have questions, call the County Office of Emergency Services at (805) 781-5678. Follow the County of San Luis Obispo Office of Emergency Services on [Twitter @slocountyoes](#) and [Facebook.com/SLOCountyOES](https://www.facebook.com/SLOCountyOES).

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE CENTER TO OPEN IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

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Information and services will be available from agencies such as: County Health and Wellness, Environmental Health, and Planning and Construction; DMV, IRS, insurance services, Small Business Administration, legal aid and nonprofit organizations. Information from the Commissioner of Agriculture, County Appraiser, and Registrar of Records will also be available.

In addition to the Disaster Recovery Center, FEMA's Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) teams are visiting storm-affected neighborhoods to help residents apply for FEMA assistance and answer questions about federal assistance. DSA teams wear FEMA attire and have federal photo identification badges.

To apply for online assistance, visit disasterassistance.gov. You can also use the [FEMA mobile app](#) or call 1-800-621-3362. The line is open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET. Help is available in most languages.

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[Twitter @slocountyoes](#) and [Facebook.com/SLOCountyOES](#).

Full press release in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

GETTING DISASTER HELP FROM SBA

INITIAL STEPS: Register with FEMA, Apply with SBA, and Visit a Disaster Recovery Center

- ◆ **Step 1:** Register with FEMA at www.disasterassistance.gov -or- www.disasterassistance.gov/es (Spanish). This is the fastest way to register for help and you will receive a FEMA number unique to your application.
- ◆ **Step 2:** [Apply For A Disaster Loan \(sba.gov\) \[disasterloanassistance.sba.gov\]](http://Apply For A Disaster Loan (sba.gov) [disasterloanassistance.sba.gov]). The section "What You Need to Know" provides information on the SBA federal low-interest disaster loans for **businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations (including places of worship), homeowners, and renters.**
- ◆ **Note:** Homeowners and renters should submit their SBA disaster loan application, even if they are not sure if they will need or want a loan. If SBA cannot approve your application, in most cases we refer the applicant to FEMA's Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program for possible additional assist.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ◆ SBA offers federal low-interest disaster loans to **businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters.**
- ◆ Businesses of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair and replace damaged property and working capital needs caused by the disaster.
- ◆ Small businesses, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations (including places of worship) may borrow up to \$2 million to repair and replace damaged property and working capital needs caused by the disaster.
- ◆ If over 50% of revenue is carried from agricultural, farming, and ranching business-contact your local United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) for available programs.
- ◆ If you are a homeowner or renter, FEMA may refer you to SBA.
- ◆ Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace their primary residence.
- ◆ Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to replace personal property, including vehicles.
- ◆ SBA Customer Service #: 1.800.659.2955
- ◆ FEMA Customer Service # 1.800.621.3362

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MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

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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:

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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.
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