



**WEEKLY UPDATE JULY 23 - 29, 2023**

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**NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THIS WEEK**

**PLANNING COMMISSION LIGHT**

**MOST OTHER AGENCIES OFF UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

**LAST WEEK  
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**SUPERIOR COURT:**

**COASTAL COMMISSION OVERSTEPS LAW ON DUNES**

**GRAND JURY REPORT CASTIGATES COUNTY**

**HOMELESS CAMP OPERATION**

**GIBSON CASTIGATES COLAB**

**BOARD DENIES CONGREGATION BETH DAVID HOMES**

**OPEN SPACE HIGHER PRIORITY THAN HOMES**

**EMERGENT ISSUES**

**GAVIN NEWSOM'S MENTAL HEALTH PLAN COULD  
STRIP MORE THAN \$700 MILLION FROM SERVICES  
*COULD REDUCE COUNTY SERVICES***

**CALIFORNIA NEEDS A REALITY CHECK:**

*Gavin Newsom's plans for offshore wind energy are more fantasy than strategy*

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**REENGINEERING THE HUMAN SOUL  
*OUR CHILDREN ARE THE GUINEA PIGS*  
BY CHRIS RUFFO**

**CLIMATE HUSTLERS & MEDIA USE SCARE  
TACTICS TO SELL GREEN AGENDA  
*FAKE CLIMATE NEWS IS SOLAR AND WIND PROPAGANDA*  
BY KATY GRIMES**

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

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 (Not scheduled)

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

Planning Commission of Thursday, July 27, 2023 (Scheduled)

The agenda contains no major development proposals, policy document changes, or rezones.

**LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

San Luis Obispo County Superior Court Decision - Friends of Oceano Dunes, Inc. vs. California Coastal Commission of July 19, 2023

**The Court essentially found that the Commission exceeded its authority in ordering the State Parks Department to phase out off-road riding and free style camping at the Oceano Dunes State Park.** The Commission intends to appeal the ruling. The decision is fairly narrow and does not address the Commission's substantive reasons for closing the the dunes. Instead, the decision is based on procedural grounds:

*The Court finds that in permanently prohibiting all OHV in the ODSVRA, the Commission acted "without, or in excess of [its] jurisdiction" pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5, subdivision. (b). As set forth above, the Court's decision regarding the elimination of OHV driving is narrow and based solely on procedural grounds.*

*The Court also finds that the Commission violated CEQA by deciding to close the Pier Avenue entrance to the ODSVRA without evaluating whether it would impact VMT. The Court hereby issues peremptory writ commanding the Commission to vacate its decision adopting the Amendment to the 1982 CDP and remanding the Amendment to the Commission consistent with this opinion.*

In an interesting and dangerous turn of events (given the current Board majority), the Court reasoned that the Dunes off-road riding and free style camping is consistent with the County's existing (and Coastal Commission approved) Local Coastal Plan (LCP).

*A total and permanent ban on all OHV recreation in the OSDVRA directly contradicts the provisions of the certified LCP, which specifically permits OHV riding in certain designated areas of ESHA. The Commission's "reinterpretation" and new findings that OHV riding is not resource dependent use and that any amount of riding causes significant disruption, is finding that the certified LCP, by permitting OHV riding in certain designated areas of ESHA, is not being carried out in conformity with the policies of the Coastal Act. In this situation, the Commission's remedy is to submit recommendations of corrective actions that should be taken to the local government and, thereafter, if necessary, to the Legislature. (§ 30519.5.) As set forth above, the Commission does not have authority to make changes to the content of an LCP during review of CDP. (Security National Guaranty, supra, 159 Cal.App.4th at p. 422.)*

The key finding is:

***The County, not the Commission, is responsible for setting land use rules. (§ 30512.2, subd. (a).) Whether the County could amend the LCP to prohibit OHV recreation is not before the Court.***

*Thus, the Court finds that in permanently prohibiting all OHV in the ODSVRA, the Commission acted "without, or in excess of [its] jurisdiction" pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5, subdivision*

Now the pressure will be on the Board majority to find that the off-road riding is a violation of the LCP. What will be Gibson, Paulding, and Ortiz-Legg's position on that question? All the fury and pressure from the people living in the large Nipomo golf communities will be especially focused on Supervisor Paulding. Of course, Supervisor Ortiz-Legg supports economic development, but will Gibson and the leftist Democratic Party mob pressure her?

In the meantime, everything is pended while the appeal proceeds.

## Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, July 18, 2023 (Completed)

**Note: Item 7**, below, exposes the State and County’s struggles with the current trends and programs to deal with homelessness. It also demonstrates Supervisor Gibson’s unwillingness to listen to anything with which he disagrees on the subject.

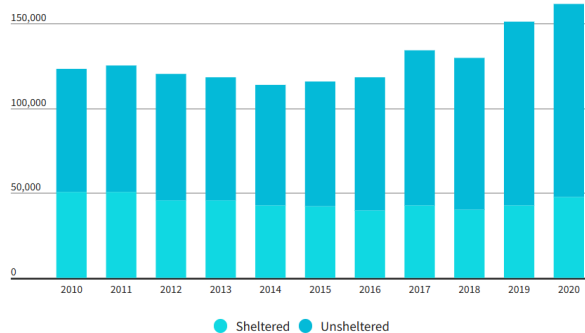
**Item 7 - Request to 1) approve responses to the FY 2022-23 Grand Jury report titled "SAFE PARKING? OKLAHOMA is not OK!" and 2) forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by August 4, 2023.** The report detailed the problems inherent in attempting to serve the homeless population, even those with a recreational vehicle.

**During the Meeting:** COLAB reminded the Board that the failures could be harbingers of future problems at the newly proposed South Higuera facility. The Board was also reminded that about 70% of the homeless population is so addicted that its members will never recover. Supervisor Gibson retorted that the speaker was wrong and out of line with SLO county values. He continued his diatribe objecting to the warning and accusing the speaker, and by implication, anyone who agrees, as being inhumane. Supervisors Arnold and Peschong both pointed out to Gibson that he should listen to public speakers openly whether he agrees or not. He had already attempted to justify his outburst on the grounds that the speaker was way out of line.

It is likely that Gibson is receiving encouragement from the “progressive” Democrats to hit back at COLAB and Mike Brown for public comments with which they disagree. Gibson has been a little tenderer on comments recently. Concurrently, he will brook no criticism of the homelessness industry, which has destroyed downtown San Francisco and parts of LA.

Even some of the most left homeless advocates and experts recognize that the decade’s long programs, which represent an accumulative reinforcement of failure, are unworkable. For example, read the short article by Alice Felter, who is a psychiatrist and writer based in Berkeley. Her work has appeared in the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, East Bay Express, Laney Tower, and the opinion pages of the San Francisco Chronicle and New York Times. The article was published in the Cal Matters of July 12, 2023.

California's homeless tally is growing



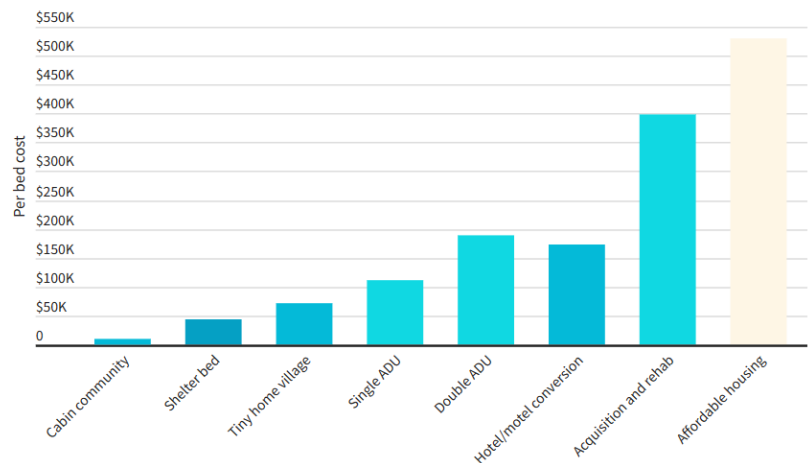
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A person experiencing homelessness is considered "unsheltered" if they have been found living on the streets, parks, or other places not meant for human habitation.

Those numbers should be taken with a grain of salt, as they're gathered on a single cold night in January by volunteers to provide a snapshot of homelessness. Experts say this method likely underestimates the unsheltered, and doesn't capture the total number of people who fall into homelessness over the course of a year, which could be two or three times higher.

It's not surprising that California, the largest state, has the biggest homeless population in the country. But while about 1 in 8 Americans lives in California, more than 1 in 4 homeless Americans live here. New York and Hawaii have slightly higher per capita rates of homelessness, but California has the largest proportion of people living without shelter – about 70% of homeless people here reside outdoors. That means the state's homeless population is far more visible than in other places, and more vulnerable to the illness, violence and death that accompany living on the street. California also saw the largest increase in homelessness of any state in 2020, a 6.8% jump

## How expensive is building new homeless housing?

The Bay Area Council Economic Institute estimated the per unit costs of building various types of homeless housing in Northern California.



Source: Bay Area Council Economic Institute

**The article below raises the issue or return to institutionalization.**

### IN SUMMARY

California psychiatric hospitals began closing their doors in the 1960s, starting a nationwide movement known as “deinstitutionalization.” Today, most inpatient treatment for severe mental illness occurs behind bars. Two changes could help rectify this tragic reality.

*Robbie, our young patient at the county hospital in San Mateo, believed his parents were trying to poison him.*

*He refused to come into the house and foraged in the neighbors' garbage cans for all his meals. Nevertheless, since he was able to survive on garbage, he was judged no longer in need of treatment.*

*I was shocked. It was so callous – such a breach of our usual standard of care. But then I spent a year working as a staff psychiatrist at the county hospital in Oakland. I learned that Robbie's experience was not out of the ordinary; it was the usual state of care in California.*

*In the 1960s, American psychiatric hospitals began to close their doors. The movement began in California, first with the large state hospitals and then the small community hospitals as well.*

*By 1994 nearly half a million former patients had been sent back to live with their families, who were often unable to care for them. A quarter million newly discharged patients ended up on the streets or behind bars.*

*So many were incarcerated that jails and prisons have become our de facto mental hospitals. Today, the vast majority of inpatient psychiatric care in America is provided behind bars.*

*“Deinstitutionalization,” as the movement to close these hospitals is known, began as a cost-saving measure. In 1965 the federal government abruptly withdrew its financial support for the state hospitals, as well as the small community hospitals providing psychiatric care.*

*This was accomplished through a little-known law, the Medicaid IMD exclusion, passed by Congress in 1965 along with the creation of Medicaid. The provision forbids the use of Medicaid dollars to pay for care in a mental hospital. Any psychiatric hospital with more than 16 beds is forbidden to take Medicaid.*

*Hospital treatment for severe mental illness can mean the difference between life and death, but because of this law such treatment is specifically denied to the people who need it most. No other severe illness is subject to such discrimination.*

*We have come full circle from the early 19th century, when Dorothea Dix campaigned to rescue the mentally ill from the prisons where they languished, often under shockingly inhumane conditions. Due to her work, people with mental illness were rescued from prisons and cared for in hospitals.*

*But today that trend has been reversed. Once again, Americans with serious mental illness are being warehoused out of sight in our prisons. And many more are living unsheltered on our streets. A third of our homeless population today suffer from untreated severe mental illness, most commonly schizophrenia.*

*Schizophrenia is a brain disorder. It affects 1 out of every 100 human beings on Earth. Good parenting doesn't prevent it, and bad parenting doesn't cause it. It begins in adolescence or early adulthood, and without treatment it will be permanently disabling. It leaves the afflicted person living in a psychotic world, unable to tell reality from delusion.*

*Lives are derailed. Suicide is common.*



*Treatment requires early intervention by a specialized team of clinicians who collaborate on patient care. Unfortunately these dedicated programs are rare. Despite mountains of evidence showing their effectiveness, insurers refuse to cover early intervention programs.*

*While hospital care can provide stabilization and enable the patient to use outpatient treatment, insurance coverage for inpatient treatment is rare.*

*California can rectify this situation by obtaining a waiver of the IMD exclusion. We need to restore hospital care to stabilize our patients and enable them to use outpatient treatment. We need to mandate early intervention programs and require insurance coverage for this vital treatment.*

*These two interventions would do more than anything else to help our mentally ill homeless citizens. It is not a simple lack of housing that leaves so many homeless. Like Robbie, our patient who ate out of garbage cans, they are unable to use available housing due to their mental illness.*

### **Background:**

The Jury summarized its findings:

*It became clear early on that the County had put minimal thought or planning into what was needed to establish a successful safe parking program. Overall, the safe parking site and associated programs appear to have been (and continue to be) operated largely in a reactive mode by the County, rather than proactively managed through foresight and planning.*

**This one is too bad:** The County staff has demonstrated strong project management skills in other venues such as compliance with the Groundwater Management Act; winter deluge recovery; early preparation for COVID in case it had developed a very high infection rate and death rate; and implementing greatly improved jail medical procedures. It is strange that this did not carry over here. Is it possible that CAPSLO, which had the contract to manage the camp, was too lax? As we have recommended in the past, the County should consider hiring employees to run camps who have strong disciplinary and leadership presence. Former Army and Marine drill instructors would keep order over the immature and weak individuals who comprise the bulk of the homeless population.

The report continues:

- A major rule that has been and continues to be violated is the 90-day rule limiting a participant's stay at the Site to 90 consecutive days.<sup>18</sup> According to the mission statement, the purpose of the safe parking facility is to provide a "temporary [emphasis added], safe, and sanitary space for vehicle-residing individuals and families." As of the end December 2022, some 85% of the participants had overstayed the 90-day limit, making the Site, in effect, an encampment. As a result of the County's failure to enforce the 90-day limit, other individuals and families needing safe parking have not been able to participate.*

- *Another rule limits the occupants of RVs to owners and approved registered household members. County program and case managers have observed many persons not approved/registered to be hiding inside the vehicles of participants. Although some former participants were banned from the Site, on at least one occasion a banned individual was hidden by another resident.*
- *Some of the vehicles do not run and some are disassembled which is also not permitted.*
- *A major rule frequently violated is the prohibition against illegal drugs or alcohol, either on their person or in their vehicles. In extreme cases, this has resulted in the eviction of the offending participants.*
- *The rules prohibit participants from possessing weapons on the Site. On one occasion a gun was found during a response by a sheriff's deputy.*
- *Aggressive animals are prohibited; however, a County employee was bitten by a pit bull at the Site.*

The tally of Fire (below) and Sheriff's (next page) responses demonstrate the general anti-social behavior implicit in the homeless population. How will the newly proposed \$13 million camp be different if it is not managed by tough staff? Social work school does not prepare individuals to manage this environment.

Table 4. *Summary of Fire Incidents at the Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village*

DATE	CAUSE	OUTCOME
February 2022	RV fire	Death of the occupant Extinguished by Cal Fire
March 2022	Motorcycle caught fire while being worked on in violation of Site rule	Extinguished by security guard
May 2022	Gasoline container fire	Extinguished by security guard
November 2022	Vehicle fire	Extinguished by security guard
March 2023	RV fire	RV completely destroyed Extinguished by Cal Fire

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



Table 3. *Summary of Sheriff's Office Responses to Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village*

REASON	Number of Responses
Coroner's Case	3
Arrests	2
Spousal Abuse/Battery	7
Restraining Order Violation	2
Threats	5
Weapons Offense/Brandishing	1
Vandalism	3
Cruelty to Animals/Animal Services	3
Suspected Criminal Act/Suspicious Subject	22
Citations/Traffic Stops	4
Emergency/EMS	43
Mental Health	50
Suicidal Subject	4
Missing Person	1
Check the Welfare	34
Keep the Peace	7
Alcohol & DUI	4
Burglary, Theft, Fraud & Lost Property	13
Disturbance of the Peace	42
Probation Activity	18
Patrol Check/Extra Patrol	111
Trespassing	9
Field Interview/Follow-up	18
Incomplete 911 Call	24
Miscellaneous	30
Citizen Assistance	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>493 responses</b>

*The Grand Jury heard reports from multiple individuals regarding the widespread use of illegal drugs at the Site including fentanyl and heroin. This is especially concerning because of the presence of minor children onsite. In one instance during a visit, one of the Grand Jurors witnessed what was perceived to be a drug sale close to the entrance to the Site. There has been at least one death attributed to a drug overdose that occurred onsite, and several people have been removed from the program for reasons related to their substance abuse. The problem persists and appears to be getting worse.*

*Violence and threats of violence are common occurrences at the site. In one incident, Sheriff's deputies found a gun; in another, a resident threatened a County employee with an axe. Incident reports received by the Grand Jury detail episodes in which residents threatened security guards, got into fist fights, threw rocks at other participants' trailers, and so on. In March 2022*

one participant was assaulted so severely by another participant that hospitalization was required.

The safety of minor children at the Site is of paramount concern to the Grand Jury. California Penal Code Section 273a(a)19 makes it a crime to willfully cause or permit a child to be placed in a situation where his or her person or health is endangered. Exposing minor children to the rampant substance abuse and drugs present at the Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village clearly places them in a situation in which they are endangered. Likewise, exposing minor children to an environment where violence and threats of violence are a daily occurrence also clearly places them in a situation where they are endangered. To compound the danger to these minor children, known sex offenders have resided at the Site, without notice provided to other participants.



Again, reference **Item 39** [\[below\]](#) (on page 13) in last week's Update. The County is going to spend \$13 million to transition a few score homeless people from camping to supervised hut camping, and on to permanent housing. The pictures below illustrate where our soldiers and marines live in Iraq. Why not simply set up camps such as these instead of sending millions on interim and permanent shelter? Allow no drugs or alcohol within the camp. The one illustrated

below would hold 720 individuals, or about one half of the County's estimated unsheltered homeless on any given day.



**Living quarters, chow hall, training and counseling space, bathrooms, and perimeter security.**



**Item 24 - Hearing to consider an appeal (APPL2023-00005) by John Rourke of the Planning Commission's denial of a request by John Rourke/Congregation Beth David for a Tentative Tract Map (TR3169) to subdivide an existing 92-acre parcel into 8 parcels: four approximately 2.5-acre parcels intended for future residential development, one 20-acre parcel containing Congregation Beth David, one 5.92 acre parcel to be designated for a low**



**income residence and possible mixed-use development, and two larger parcels of 20.12 acres and 35.93 acres. The division would create one on-site private roadway. The proposed project is within the Agriculture Land Use category and is located at 10180 Los Osos Valley Rd.** The Board unanimously denied the permit on the grounds that the land is agricultural, is open space, and is in the City of San Luis Obispo's open space barrier zone. No one in the County seems to want to work on creative solutions, such as a housing cluster.

**Background:** In March the Planning Commission strongly denied a permit for the project. The Commission also suggested that the applicant should seek relief by appealing to the Board of Supervisors. The staff report recommends denial in very strong language and provides a detailed analysis.

We are only guessing, but it is likely that the Congregation is attempting to raise some money for its endowment to help sustain itself. Government imposed COVID lockdowns damaged religious attendance everywhere. People got out of the church habit and just didn't come back. The lockdown was a government-imposed policy by bureaucrats. The Board should explore the hardship issues, since the government did the damage. The County could consider cutting the Congregation some slack under the COVID restoration polices. Why not work on a low-lying cluster of California bungalow style homes, keeping most of the parcels for agriculture? Note that the Congregation had attempted agriculture but could not find sufficient labor.



The staff report slams the door hard on the application in the Resolution for denial:

*EXHIBIT A –FINDINGS CONGREGATION BETH DAVID VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT  
MAP/CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (SUB2021-00025/TR3169)*

*Environmental Determination*

A. This project is found to be statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the provisions of Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(5), which provides that CEQA does not apply to projects which a public agency rejects or disapproves

*Tentative Map B. The proposed map is not consistent with applicable County General Plan policies. The proposal conflicts with policies for agricultural protection, including AGP 20, AGP 18, AGP 17, AGP 11 because the proposed parcel sizes and development would hinder the agricultural use of the property, could adversely affect water supplies, and the property is proposed to be subdivided in a manner not consistent with the standards for the agriculture land use category. The proposal conflicts with Open Space Policies, including OS 4.6 and OS 4.7 because the proposal would have the effect of expanding small lot rural parcels and conflicts with an established greenbelt program of the City of San Luis Obispo.*

*C. The proposed map is not consistent with the county zoning and subdivision ordinances because the parcels do not meet the minimum parcel size set by the Land Use Ordinance and the design standards of the Real Property Division Ordinance.*

*E. The site is not physically suitable for the type of development proposed because available information indicates serious concerns regarding water quantity and quality and adequate wastewater service has not been demonstrated.*

*F. The site is not physically suitable for the proposed density of the development proposed because the site's ability to support the proposed density of residential development has not been shown. H. The proposed project could result in significant land use compatibility impacts affecting onsite agricultural operations, including complaints about agricultural practices due to the proximity of residential development near agricultural uses.*

*I. There is no conflict between the Framework for Planning- Inland Element of the General Plan and the Land Use Ordinance in terms of determining minimum parcel size. The Framework for Planning does not provide a separate, independent means of calculating minimum parcel size or density. It identifies and defers to the Land Use Ordinance for the standards used to determine minimum parcel size.*

*J. Neither the Framework for Planning- Inland Element of the General Plan nor the Land Use Ordinance permits a range of densities. The allowable density for any given parcel is calculated by first determining the minimum parcel size using the objective criteria for the respective land use designation in the Land Use Ordinance. Then the number of residences allowed per the land use designation is applied to each parcel created to arrive at total density.*

*Requested Concessions J. Mixed-Use zoning on parcel 2 would not be compatible with the existing or planned development in the area as required by Government Code section 65915(k)(2). All surrounding parcels are zoned agriculture. Existing development is rural and low-density.*

Similarly, the Planning Commission was tough:

### ***Environmental Determination A***

*This project is found to be statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the provisions of Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(5), which provides that CEQA does not apply to projects which a public agency rejects or disapproves.*

***Tentative Map B.*** *The proposed map is not consistent with applicable county general and specific plans. The proposal conflicts with policies for agricultural protection because the proposed parcel sizes and development would hinder the agricultural use of the property, and the property is proposed to be subdivided in a manner not consistent with the standards for the Agriculture land use category.*

*C. The proposal is not consistent with AGP 20, because the smaller parcel sizes and resulting future development would not ensure the long-term protection of agricultural resources. The property does not have a history of sustained irrigated crop production, and has additional agricultural limitations including drainage and flooding concerns, as well as an existing church facility that occupies over 5-acres of the property; thus a larger parcel size is necessary to ensure the long-term agricultural sustainability of the subdivided parcels.*

*D. The proposed map is not consistent with AGP 18 because the proposed parcels would not result in the most productive agricultural land being kept available for crop production. The proposed map would site residential parcels in the area of the site that has most recently been used for crop production and would result in a loss of crop production area.*

*E. The proposed map is not consistent with AGP 17, because the developable area of the residential parcels is not large enough to allow for a sufficient buffer to protect agricultural uses and could severely limit the capacity of the resulting parcels for agricultural cultivation.*

*F. The proposed map is not consistent with AGP 11, because the increased residential density could adversely affect water supplies for agricultural use.*

*G. The proposed map is not consistent with Policy OS 4.6 because it would expand small lot rural development in a rural area.*

*H. The proposed map is not consistent with Policy OS 4.7 because resulting residential and mixed-use development would conflict with the City of San Luis Obispo's established greenbelt policy.*

*I. The proposed map is not consistent with the county zoning and subdivision ordinances because the parcels do not meet the minimum parcel size set by the Land Use Ordinance and the design standards of the Real Property Division Ordinance.*

*J. The site is not physically suitable for the type of development proposed because available information indicates serious concerns regarding water quantity and quality and adequate wastewater service has not been demonstrated.*

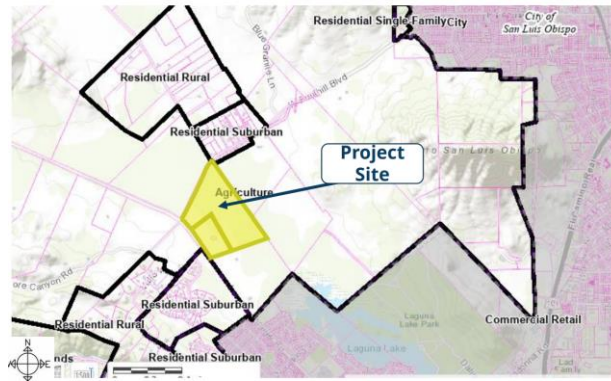
*K. The site is not physically suitable for the proposed density of the development proposed because the site's ability to support the proposed density of residential development has not been shown.*

*L. The proposed project could result in significant land use compatibility impacts affecting on-site agricultural operations, including complaints about agricultural practices due to the proximity of residential development near agricultural uses.*

## *Requested Concessions*

*I. A reduced minimum parcel size would not result in identifiable and actual cost reductions because residential units do not need to be constructed on individual lots. The proposed housing development is surrounded on all sides by parcels zoned agriculture and on at least two sides by land being used for agricultural purposes. The proposed development has serious water and wastewater concerns. J. Mixed-Use zoning on parcel*

*2. would not be compatible with the existing or planned development in the area as required by Government Code section 65915(k)(2). All surrounding parcels are zoned agriculture. Existing development is rural and low density.*



The City of San Luis Obispo piled on and sent a detailed letter opposing the project. The City states that the project is in its open space zone and does not meet the requirements for a density bonus.

## **EMERGENT ISSUES**

### **Item 1 – Gavin Newsom’s Mental Health Plan Could Strip More Than \$700 Million From Services, Report Says**

July 18, 2023 By Kristen Hwang



A major proposal from Gov. Gavin Newsom to overhaul the state’s behavioral and mental health system is likely to take nearly \$720 million away from services provided by county governments annually, according to a [new analysis](#) from the Legislative Analyst’s Office.

Consider in [Newsom’s plan](#):

- **Reduced flexibility:** Counties would have less flexibility to determine how money is spent. Based on current expenditures, counties would be required to increase spending on housing by \$493 million and on “full-service partnerships” by \$121 million. “Full-service partnerships” include intensive wraparound services like case management, housing and employment support as well as clinical care.
- **Program cuts likely:** In order to meet spending targets and caps, counties would likely need to reduce spending on current programs including “outpatient services, crisis response, prevention services, and outreach.”
- **Less independent oversight:** The proposed restructuring moves much of the program implementation and oversight authority to the Department of Health Care Services. The change “significantly limits” the independent oversight of the current Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

See the Legislative Analyst’s report by control clicking the link below:

[Mental Health Services Act: Proposed Restructuring of the MHSA Funding Categories and Impacts on County Spending](#)

### **Item 21 - California Needs a Reality Check: Gavin Newsom’s plans for offshore wind energy are more fantasy than strategy – By Edward Ring.**

Earlier this year, after the federal government leased 583 square miles of deep-ocean waters off the coast of California for offshore wind farms, California governor Gavin Newsom [said](#) that “offshore wind energy has gone from a distant pipedream to a burgeoning reality.” Maybe—but it’s hard to imagine an energy project that is costlier, riskier, or less practical.

When completed, the project is set to [deliver 4.5 gigawatts](#) of electricity to the California grid. But because even the steadiest offshore winds blow only intermittently, the [average production](#) of the turbines will be around 1.8 gigawatts—just 5 percent of California’s current electricity consumption. If California goes all-electric, as state regulators insist it must, these wind farms will represent, at best, 2 percent of the electricity the state will require. “California is pinning a lot of hopes on an industry that scarcely exists today,” notes an *MIT Technology Review* [article](#).

The world’s biggest wind turbines can produce ten megawatts at full output. But [these machines are 1,000 feet tall](#)—nearly four times higher than the Statue of Liberty, including its base. Intended to float 20 miles offshore in the Pacific Ocean, California’s comparatively smaller turbines must stay upright through storms, tsunamis, and earthquakes, remaining in a fixed position via cables stretching from the bottom of the floating tower to anchors in the seabed more than 4,000 feet under water. Along with the challenge of building and maintaining them in a

hostile marine environment, the turbines risk affecting birds, whales, and other animals, not to mention boats and ships. Generating 1.8 net gigawatts will require building and floating 450 of these giants of the deep.

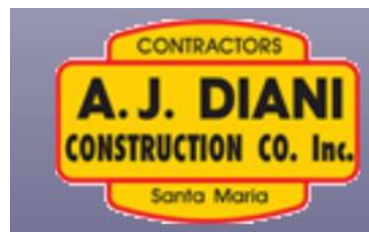
One might ask the environmentalists behind this proposal about the energy required for construction and deployment. Where will the raw materials needed for construction come from? How many ships will the project require? How many submarines and divers? How many port facilities? How many new homes for the construction workers? What about the batteries needed to store up to 4.5 gigawatts of on-again, off-again electricity? What about the ongoing maintenance? What about the billions that will flow into the pockets of the special interests behind this project, paid for by taxpayers and ratepayers? Publicly available reports answering these and other questions are hard to come by at this stage of the process.


California has a culture of innovation that goes back nearly two centuries. It is understandable that it would be inspired to set an example for the world. But the fatal flaw in California's renewable-energy strategy is that other nations aren't looking to the Golden State for leadership in this area. For everyone on earth to consume half as much energy per capita as Americans do, [global energy production needs to double](#). Because energy is the foundation of prosperity, this needs to happen fast, and in an affordable manner.

Californians, then, must develop new energy infrastructure that is practical and cost-effective. Instead of decommissioning its natural gas power plants, the state could upgrade them to the most advanced technologies available. Current combined-cycle designs harvest waste heat from the natural-gas-fired turbine to produce steam to drive a second turbine; new designs replace steam with helium, greatly improving efficiency. California could also opt to be at the forefront of both small modular and large [next-generation nuclear reactor development](#), creating plants that generate emissions-free gigawatts of electricity. And on transportation, the California legislature could make a priority of upgrading the state's roads to accommodate high-speed, self-driving vehicles—rather than banning the sale of everything but all-electric vehicles by 2035, reducing choice while foreclosing the possibility of future innovation.

Instead, Newsom is prioritizing offshore wind farms at a stupefying financial and environmental cost. California, and America, can indeed set an example to the world, but only if that example is one the world is willing to follow. On energy infrastructure—that boring but nonnegotiable prerequisite for any prosperous civilization—California has yet to live up to its illustrious legacy or its undeniable potential.

*Edward Ring co-founded the California Policy Center in 2010 and served as its president through 2016. This article first appeared in the July 19, 2023 Policy Center Website.*



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**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**

**CLIMATE HUSTLERS & MEDIA USE SCARE**  
**TACTICS TO SELL GREEN AGENDA**  
***FAKE CLIMATE NEWS IS SOLAR AND WIND PROPAGANDA***  
**BY KATY GRIMES**

“It’s not your imagination: Sacramento is getting hotter, data shows.” the Sacramento Bee headline cautioned Friday. They also say, “The six warmest years in California have all happened in the past decade, according to NOAA.”  
 Is this just a little misleading? Quite.

The Sacramento region is experiencing a heat wave, which is expected nearly every summer since temperatures were recorded. Media are hyping that Sunday was the hottest in Sacramento history, but they ignore that it is normal to have triple digit temperatures every July in Sacramento. So we reached 109. We do every summer.

As the Globe reported Friday, “Now that Summer has finally arrived in California, many of these shameless green agenda forecasters are warning of a ‘dangerously hot’ summer.”  
 And we went back decades to show the temperatures using NOAA data.

In July 1973, Sacramento's hottest day was 107 degrees; 1983 was 104 °F; 1993 was 106 °F; 2013 was 109 °F, and so on. The highest temperature recorded in Sacramento, California in 1920 was 108 °F – before air conditioning.

As the Globe reported last summer, between 1972 and 1992, over 20 years, every summer in Sacramento was in the triple digits, and there were four summers that had days hotter than 110 degrees.

The highest temperature recorded in Sacramento, California in 1877 was 103 °F which happened on Jul 12.

The Sacramento Bee claims “the six warmest years in California have all happened in the past decade, according to NOAA,” the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Alex Epstein, who is an energy expert and not a climate pimp, says the amount of warming that has occurred is about 2°F in 100 years. And he says 2°F increase in temperatures would not challenge a grid fueled by fossil fuels and other reliable, resilient fuel sources.

Epstein is also the author of the New York Times bestseller **The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels** and **Fossil Future**.

As Epstein notes, heat waves are not unprecedented: “An extreme heat wave and high electricity demand in summer are not unexpected for grid planners.”

“Around the world, countries use fossil fuels to deliver reliable electricity under heat and cold extremes beyond what we face in the US,” Epstein says.

It seems incongruous that so many Democrats would be so enthusiastic and even forceful about the green energy agenda given that they too are paying a premium for alternative energy and suffer under rolling blackouts and energy shortages.

Headlines such as this one explain why:

“Biden pushes green energy agenda after campaign donations from green industry.”

And sure enough, less than a month into his presidency, Biden shut down work on the Keystone XL pipeline and banned future gas and oil leases on federal lands, ending U.S. energy independence and ensuring an energy crunch.

The concept of “public service” went out the window with the Clinton administration. Politicians today have become pass-throughs for donors – in both directions – to the government, and from the government into green energy projects.

Here is why: The green industry is heavily reliant on government-awarded funds.

And that explains why no amount of common sense or even science is used in America's current energy focus.

Epstein **blows apart** the Green Agenda's claims:

Myth: Fossil fuels are making electricity unreliable via “extreme weather”—so we need to use solar and wind.

Truth: **Fossil fuels can provide reliable electricity even under the most speculative extremes**—whereas **unreliable solar and wind alone can’t provide it** under any conditions. The latest attempt to pretend that fossil fuels are causing electricity problems that can only be solved by solar and wind is to **dishonestly fixate on the moments during a heatwave when solar and wind happen to produce electricity** and ignore (the many more) moments they don’t.<sup>4</sup>

*Myth: Solar and wind are helping save our grid from extreme heat caused by fossil-fueled climate change.*

*Truth: Preferences for solar and wind have made our grid embarrassingly vulnerable to heat waves—and cold snaps—that a fossil-fueled grid could easily manage.* (emphasis Alex Epstein’s)

- Bloomberg: “Green-power sources contributed about a third of total output Wednesday. “This is blatant **cherry-picking: taking an unusually good day of sunlight and wind and pretending it can be generalized.** Also, the unreliable output was **100% dependent on fossil-fueled life support.**
- Even during the period of unusually high solar and wind that Bloomberg cherry-picked to claim “Air Conditioners Keep Humming on Renewable Power,” **solar and wind at times provided < 20% of Texas electricity.** Of course, that portion of the time didn’t make the Bloomberg story.

Epstein laments that Texas and California bought into the green agenda with unreliable wind and solar, sacrificing energy independence as both states are rich in oil and gas. And both states experience rolling blackouts during weather events.

California is rich in natural resources which once powered the state: natural gas deposits in the Monterey Shale formation; geothermal energy, abundant rivers and waterways such as the San Joaquin River Delta and hydroelectric dams; the Pacific coastline; 85 million acres of wildlands with 17 million of those used as commercial timberland; and mines and mineral resources. Environmentalists have no special love for electric cars – they just want everyone out of cars. So if they can make electricity so expensive that people can’t afford to drive electric cars, well then good.

And this is done by California’s politicians and political appointees by limiting energy sources rather than using an all-of-the-above approach to energy production in California: Oil, gas, coal, nuclear, hydroelectric, solar and wind.

If all we are allowed to use is renewable energy for electricity production – a deliberate energy shortage – statewide shortages and rolling blackouts inevitably become the new California normal. We are being conditioned to accept this as normal by some very evil leaders.

As Epstein explains:

“Fossil fuels’ CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have contributed to the warming of the last 100 years, but that warming has been mild and manageable—~1°C, **mostly in the colder parts of the world.**



And life on Earth thrived (and was far greener) when CO2 levels were at least 5 times higher than today's."

"Fossil fuels have actually made us far safer from climate by providing low-cost energy for the amazing machines that protect us against storms, protect us against extreme temperatures, and alleviate drought. Climate disaster deaths have decreased 98% over the last century."

As for the claim by Green Agenda hustlers that "extreme heat" and man-caused CO2 emissions are causing more warming, Epstein refutes that:

**What's your plan to keep warming under the 1.5°C that scientists say is necessary?**

The goal of rapidly eliminating fossil fuels to limit warming to 1.5°C since the 1800s—~0.5°C from today—in a world where far more people die of cold than of heat—is genocidal pseudoscience.

Apparently Democrats don't want the people to be safe against heat and drought with low-cost energy.

Take a look at Alex Epstein's "[How to Answer Loaded Climate Questions](#)" – thoughtful answers, including when you are accused of being a climate denier.

*Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of [California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?](#)*

*CA Globe – July 18, 2023*

## **REENGINEERING THE HUMAN SOUL OUR CHILDREN ARE THE GUINEA PIGS BY CHRIS RUFFO**



*The following is excerpted from [America's Cultural Revolution: How the Radical Left Conquered Everything](#), out today from [Broadside Books](#).*

The Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin raised his glass to a group of artists assembled at the home of famed writer Maxim Gorky in 1932. “The ‘production’ of souls is more important than the production of tanks,” he said, explaining that the communists desired not only to remake the world of politics and economics, but to reshape human nature according to the dictates of left-wing ideology. “And so,” he continued, “I raise my glass to you, writers, the engineers of the human soul.”

This concept—the ruthless application of politics to the most intimate recesses of the human spirit—would drive the communist regimes for the middle part of the twentieth century. The Soviets had their artists. The Chinese had their propagandists. The Third World armies had their pedagogists. All were committed to the creation of the New Man.

The Marxists in the West, such as Paulo Freire, held the same philosophy. Freire and his disciples believed that the critical pedagogies could reengineer the human soul and inspire a revolution from the bottom up. But in contradiction to their counterparts in the East, the dividing line between oppressor and oppressed in the West was not social class, but racial identity.

“Although [Freire]’s early work was understandably rooted in an almost exclusive concern with class, many of us realized that it had theoretical shortcomings in dealing with the central issues shaping the multicultural debate,” explained Freire’s closest American collaborator, Henry Giroux. “Many of us began to expand the notion of social justice to include a discourse about racial justice. That is, justice could not be taken up solely in terms of the ownership of the means of production, or strictly around questions of labor or the division of wealth. These were very important issues, but they excluded fundamental questions about racism, colonialism, and the workings of the racial state.”

Echoing Marcuse’s redefinition of the proletariat—the white intellectuals united with the black underclass—Freire’s American disciples developed an elaborate framework for categorization and subversion of the ruling order. Their primary pedagogical strategy was to pathologize white identity, which was deemed inherently oppressive, and radicalize black identity, which was deemed inherently oppressed. In the academic literature, this technique is sometimes referred to as “revolutionary pedagogy,” “critical multiculturalism,” or “decolonization,” which entails ridding the education system of the repressive influence of “whiteness” and infusing it with the liberating influence of “blackness.”

Peter McLaren, another Freire disciple who worked in tandem with Henry Giroux, laid out the mechanics of how this new pedagogy of revolution would work in practice. American teachers and students, McLaren argued, must “[break] the imaginary power of commodified identities within capitalism” and “construct sites—provisional sites—in which new structured mobilities and tendential lines of forces can be made to suture identity to the larger problematic of social justice.”

Appealing directly to figures such as Che Guevara and Vladimir Lenin, McLaren contended that the ultimate end of critical pedagogy was to use the power of identity politics in order to “gain control of the production of meaning” and to usher in a “democratic socialist society” that combined the identity-based “struggle over cultural meanings” with the traditional Marxist “redistribution of material resources.” For McLaren and the critical pedagogists, this movement



of decolonization was already gathering at the margins in the 1990s as the influence of Freire's theories began to expand in academia and school administration. "Decolonized spaces are forming in the borderlands," McLaren predicted a quarter century ago. "And these will affect the classrooms of the future."

That future has already arrived. Public school districts across the country have begun to apply the principles of critical pedagogy in the classroom. The practice follows a recurring pattern: Teachers set an emotional anchor by framing the United States as an oppressive society, separate individual students into the categories of "oppressor" and "oppressed," and direct the group toward prearranged political conclusions. As the diversity czar and activist teachers at Buffalo Public Schools recently explained, school districts that follow the "pedagogy of liberation" begin "preparing [students] at four years old," train them to achieve "critical consciousness," and transform them into "activists for antiracism."

And just as it was for the revolutionaries in the Third World, the goal for Giroux, McLaren, and the second-generation critical pedagogists is always the same: dismantling the criminal justice system, disrupting the nuclear family, overthrowing the system of capitalism, and, in the words of Freire, turning the schools into "an extraordinary instrument to help build a new society and a new man."

The critical pedagogists of today have combined that long-standing vision with the latest techniques of the social and behavioral sciences. Freire's techniques have been adapted, merged, and combined with a range of other educational approaches, including critical social justice, critical ethnic studies, critical whiteness studies, culturally responsive teaching, anti-racist pedagogy, and social-emotional learning. The theoreticians divide the world into identity hierarchies; the teachers engage in the work of decolonization; the students become entries in sprawling databases; the bureaucracies process human data into social change.

"It's important to recognize that now is the time to brush hard against the grain of teaching until the full range of revolutionary pedagogical options are made available in the public schools of the nation," says the pedagogist McLaren. "Part of the task is ethical: to make liberation and the abolition of human suffering the goal of the educative enterprise itself. Part of the task is political: to create a democratic socialist society in which democracy will be called upon daily to live up to its promise."

When Stalin toasted the artists of postrevolutionary Russia as "engineers of the human soul," he was speaking metaphorically, imagining the day that artists could create new men with scientific precision. That time, the critical pedagogists believe, has now come. The cherished goal of liberation through education, emblazoned in the sky by Guevara and implanted in the soul by Freire, might finally be within reach. After students are primed emotionally, categorized individually, and mobilized collectively, they can set about doing the work of revolution.

*Christopher F. Rufo is a senior fellow and director of the initiative on critical race theory at the Manhattan Institute. First things July 18.*

*From the book America's Cultural Revolution: How the Radical Left Conquered Everything by Christopher F. Rufo. Copyright © 2023 by Christopher F. Rufo. Reprinted by permission of Broadside Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.*



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