COLAB San Luis Obispo County

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE
MARCH 19 - 25, 2023

YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS THE COALITION OF LABOR, AGRICULTURE, AND BUSINESS TO FIGHT FOR OUR ECONOMY, COMMUNITY, AND HERITAGE EVERY DAY

THANKS TO OUR GREAT SPONSORS

ALERT

CENTRAL COAST COMPULSORY ENERGY 3CE

CONTRACT TO SOCIALIZE THE ELECTRICAL ENERGY DISTRIBUTED IN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY, SUBSIDIZE ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT PUBLIC EXPENSE, BAN GAS APPLIANCES, PROMOTE FAKE GREEN ENERGY, AND DOLE OUT FINANCIAL PATRONAGE - ALL IN THE NAME OF TEMPORARILY LOWER RATES

BE READY TO FIGHT BACK ON MARCH 21ST ITEM TO BE HEARD AT @ 1:45 PM

THIS WEEK

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SET HEARING FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE TRICKERY

WILL COUNTY SUBSIDIZE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION?

$2,521,000 FOR STORM DAMAGE TO PARKS

NASTY REFUSE RATE INCREASES FOR LOS OSOS

REDISTRICTNG SELL OUT LEGAL SETTLEMENT?

ARE THE LEFTISTS AFTER THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR?

$20 MILLION IN STORM DAMAGE TO ROADS

DIABLO POWER PLANT RE-USE POWOWS CONTINUE

CENTRAL COAST COMPULSORY ENERGY SCAM

IS GONNA BE A POLICY CRAM **- SEE PAGE 9**

PLANNING COMMISSION
BEAU BIANCHI (BIANCHI WINERY) CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

CONGREGATION BETH DAVID RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION

LAST WEEK

A LIGHT WEEK
SLO COUNTY ENJOYED A SLIGHT BREAK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION CANCELLED

EMERGENT ISSUES

YES, THE LATEST BANK BAILOUT IS REALLY A BAILOUT, AND YOU ARE PAYING FOR IT
BY RYAN MCMAKEN

FRIENDS OF OCEANO DUNES WINS ANOTHER VICTORY AGAINST COASTAL COMMISSION
BY KAREN VELIE

COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 42

RENEWABLES AREN'T RENEWABLE

Why key facts are dismissed by America's elites is a story of corruption, collusion, megalomania, greed, cowardice, intellectual negligence, and delusional mass psychosis

BY EDWARD RING

CALIFORNIA'S GREEN DEBACLE

The state's energy policies impose ruinous costs on residents but make no measurable impact on global climate

JONATHAN A. LESSER

NET ZERO WILL LEAD TO THE END OF MODERN CIVILIZATION, SAYS TOP SCIENTIST

Devastating consequences

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 21, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item 1 - Introduction of an Ordinance Rescinding Local Campaign Finance Contribution Limits. Hearing date set for April 4, 2023. The item is to set a hearing for April 6, 2023 to adopt an ordinance which limits individual campaign contributions to $5,000. This is a trick to limit campaigns to conservatives because it does not limit the amount from independent campaign committees.

An ***independent expenditure*** *is money spent on political advertising in support of or against a particular candidate. An independent expenditure comes from outside a candidate's own election organization and is not coordinated with a particular candidate's campaign, authorized candidate committee or political party committee.*[1] *Generally, there is no limit placed on independent expenditures.*[2]

Individuals, political committees, Super PACs, qualified nonprofit corporations (such as 501(c)(4)'s) and, since Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, corporations and labor unions are permitted to make independent expenditures. Corporations, labor organizations and individuals or businesses with federal government contracts, however, may not make independent expenditures.

Generally, independent expenditures must identify the person paying for the advertisement. [Political action committees](#) and other persons have specific reporting requirements associated with independent expenditures. There are no limits on the amount an individual or group may spend on independent expenditures.[2][3]

These contributions will simply come another way. For example:

08/26/2022	IBEW PAC Educational Fund52-2257109 Washington, DC 20001	☐IND ☐COM ☒OTH ☐PTY ☐SCC		2,500.00	7,500.00	
08/28/2022	Democrats of San Luis Obispo Club (ID# 1397816) San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	☐IND ☒COM ☐OTH ☐PTY ☐SCC		10,385.00	24,685.00	
09/07/2022	Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Small Contributor Committee (ID# 870169) Camarillo, CA 93012	☐IND ☐COM ☐OTH ☐PTY ☒SCC		10,000.00	16,250.00	
09/19/2022	Central Coast Labor Council Political Action Committee (ID# 890222) Long Beach, CA 90802	☐IND ☒COM ☐OTH ☐PTY ☐SCC		2,500.00	4,500.00	

Item 14 - Request to authorize a budget adjustment for Fund Center 110 – Clerk-Recorder in the amount of $150,000 for costs associated with the April 18, 2023, Paso Robles Joint Unified School District Special Vacancy Election, by 4/5 vote. Special Elections are usually paid for by the jurisdiction ordering the election. The County Clerk previously estimated that the election would cost $493,000. The weasel wording in this case states in part:

The Clerk-Recorder is tasked with the conduct of this special election, the cost of which will be reimbursed by the school district after the certification of the election. The requested funding will allow the Clerk Recorder to pay all election-related invoices. The requested appropriation transfer will be funded solely from unanticipated revenue associated with the school district reimbursement funds.

What is the total cost of the election?

Where would the rest of the $493,000 come from?

Would the County general taxpayers be subsidizing the balance?

Item 24 - Request to approve a budget adjustment up to $2,521,000 from the General Fund COVID-19 Designation to Fund Center 222 – Community Parks, Fund Center 305 – Regional Parks, and Fund Center 427 – Golf Courses to restore storm damaged facilities by 4/5 vote. Storm damage to parks needs to be fixed quickly. The County may receive a 90% reimbursement from Federal and State Disaster Declaration.

Item 35 - Hearing to consider protests to the proposed solid waste collection rate increase

within the Los Osos Community Services District boundaries; and, if no majority protest exists in accordance with Article XIIID of the California Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act (commencing with Section 53750 of the California Government Code), adopt a resolution establishing solid waste collection rate increases within those areas. District 5 (Old District 2). Tuesday's hearing will determine under Proposition 218 requirements if the County Board will be allowed to approve the overall proposed rate increase of 97.61% on all solid waste customers in the areas within the LOCSD boundaries. For residents with the single-can (32 gallon) size service, the monthly rate will increase from $25.14 to $49.68 on April 1, 2023, and then reduce to $38.41 when the temporary rate expires on December 31, 2023.

The proposed monthly rates for residential customers are shown in the following table:

Container Service Size	Approved Rate* 1/1/2020	2022 Base Year Rate Increase	2023 Interim Year CPI Rate Increase	Temporary Delayed Rate Increase**	Proposed Rate 4/1/2023
Los Osos CSD area					
20 Gallons	$ 17.68	$ 7.40	$ 1.93	$ 7.93	$ 34.94
32 Gallons	$ 25.14	$ 10.52	$ 2.75	$ 11.27	$ 49.68
64 Gallons	$ 38.60	$ 16.16	$ 4.22	$ 17.30	$ 76.28
96 Gallons	$ 41.40	$ 17.33	$ 4.53	$ 18.55	$ 81.81

* Approved rates shown in the table will not match the current rates billed to customers.
** The proposed temporary short-term rate increase will expire on December 31, 2023.

Item 36 - Hearing to consider protests to the proposed solid waste collection rate increase within the areas of the Baywood Los Osos Urban Reserve Line that surround the Los Osos Community Services District boundaries; and, if no majority protest exists in accordance with Article XIIID of the California Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act (commencing with Section 53750 of the California Government Code), adopt a resolution establishing solid waste collection rate increases within those areas. District 5 (Old District 2). Again, Tuesday's hearing will determine under Proposition 218 requirements if the County Board will be allowed to approve the overall proposed rate increase of 82.22% on all solid waste customers in the areas surrounding the LOCSD boundaries. For residents with the single-can (32 gallon) size service, the monthly rate will increase from $27.97 to $50.97 on April 1, 2023, and then reduce o $43.29 when the temporary rate expires on December 31, 2023.

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Container Service Size	Approved Rate* 1/1/2020	2022 Base Year Rate Increase	2023 Interim Year CPI Rate Increase	Temporary Delayed Rate Increase**	Proposed Rate 4/1/2023
Areas surrounding the Los Osos CSD					
32 Gallons	$ 27.97	$ 11.71	$ 3.61	$ 7.68	$ 50.97
64 Gallons	$ 35.29	$ 14.78	$ 4.56	$ 9.68	$ 64.30
96 Gallons	$ 42.59	$ 17.83	$ 5.50	$ 11.69	$ 77.61

* Approved rates shown in the table will not match the current rates billed to customers.
** The proposed temporary short-term rate increase will expire on December 31, 2023.

Item 37 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PENDING LITIGATION 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. Once again we will see if there is an adopted settlement which reverses the Supervisorial district boundaries adopted last year. We will also see if there is a substantial cash payment to the plaintiff leftists.

And

PERSONNEL (Government Code section 54957.) It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session to: (17) Consider Public Employee Annual Performance Evaluation for the Position of County Administrative Officer. It is not clear if or why the new Board majority would fire the County Administrative Officer Wade Horton. Horton is apolitical, professional, and low key. He has successfully implemented SGMA, advanced the budget process and document, advanced the Capital Budget process and document, made good appointments, and held things together during COVID. The Department Heads support him and he has not slipped into the long established SLO County culture of personal relationships at work.

He is responsive, returns calls, and does not get embroiled in turmoil. Moreover, as a Lt. Commander in the Navy Reserve, he is a public servant beyond the County.

If the Board majority does force him out, who will be his replacement? Professionals will be very leery of applying for the vacancy. Of course if they do force Horton out, the replacement for the position may already be wired for a leftist crony .

Perhaps the Board only wants to set some new expectations and parameters.

Item 42 - Adding Consent Item # 42. Request to authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of $4,000,000 from General Fund Designated COVID-19 Reserves to Fund Center 245 – Public Works – Roads to increase appropriations for ongoing storm response, by 4/5 vote. This add-on item will approve initial funding for over $4 million in road repairs as a start on the $20 million which staff estimates has occurred so far. The Board letter states in part:

For the past two months, Public Works has diverted efforts to focus on storm damage response and repair. The initial damage assessment after the January event exceeded $20 million; with the recent March storm events, damage sites are still being evaluated. While the Department expects a significant cost reimbursement from FEMA and CalOES, the reimbursement funding for long term repairs will not be realized for months to years from now. The Federal and State public assistance programs that have been authorized for both the January and March storm events are well-defined that not all expenses incurred will be eligible for reimbursement, and that eligible costs may not be fully reimbursed.

The Department is requesting $4,000,000 in General Fund support to increase appropriations in the Road Fund to ease the burden of budgetary constraints and provide cash flow while *responding to the continued emergency. Once the initial urgency of the storm response slows the Department plans to return to the Board to provide a substantial report on estimated costs, damage inventory, and discussion on future cash flow needs and funding the un-reimbursable portion of emergency costs.*

Matters After 1:30 PM

ITEM 40 - Submittal of 1) a quarterly update on the PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Project permitting and Environmental Impact Report preparation; and 2) a resolution amending the Position Allocation List (PAL) for Fund Center 142 – Department of Planning and Building to extend the 1.00 FTE Limited-Term Principal Environmental Specialist and 1.00 FTE Limited-Term Senior Planner through February 9, 2027. The project is behind because of changes in the project description which will require further work on the EIR. This will in turn require the extension of extra staffing.

SB 846 signed into law by the Governor in September 2022 provides a path for continued operation of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant beyond its current license termination dates of 2024 for Unit 1 and 2025 and for Unit 2. Given that extended operations is not guaranteed, PG&E has requested that the County continue processing its decommissioning application and preparing the Environmental Impact Report for the project.

Meanwhile everybody and their brother, including dubiously authentic indigenous tribes, environmentalists, Cal Poly, and REACH, among others, are all picking over the future land use as if it were the caucus of a dead whale.

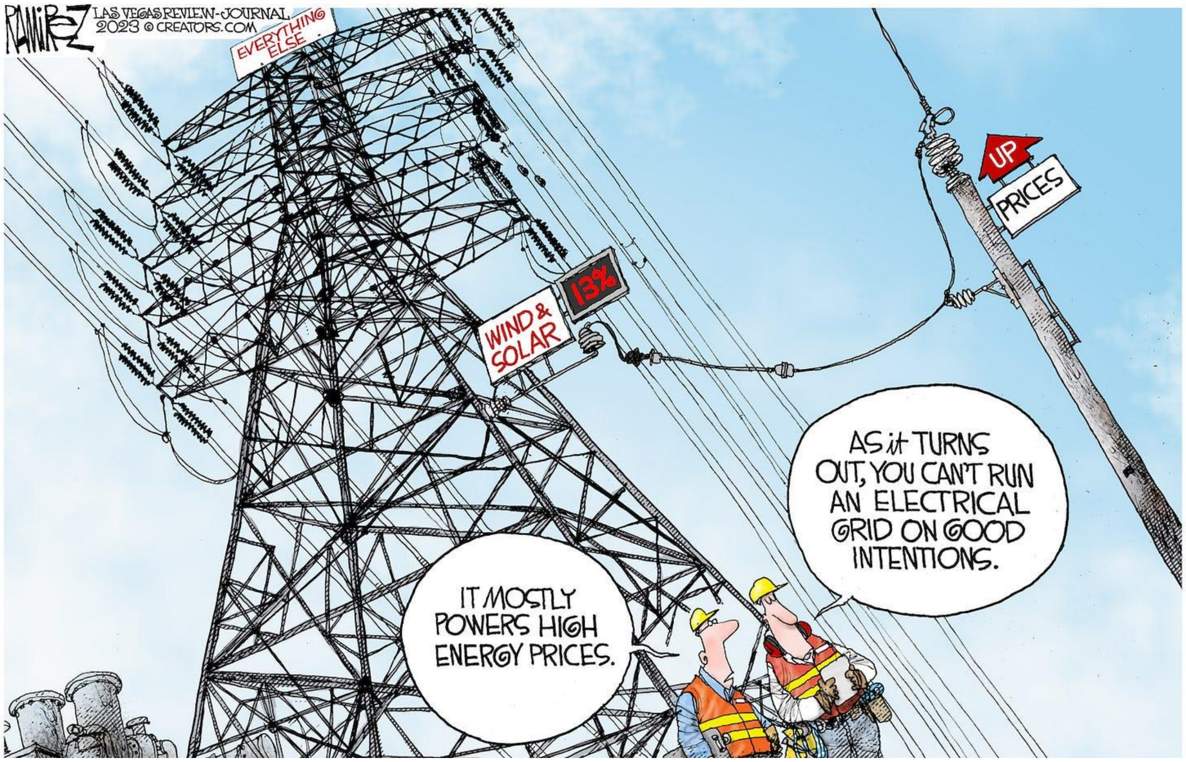
ALERT

CENTRAL COAST COMPULSORY ENERGY 3CE

CONTRACT TO SOCIALIZE THE ELECTRICAL ENERGY DISTRIBUTED IN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY, SUBSIDIZE ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT PUBLIC EXPENSE, BAN GAS APPLIANCES, PROMOTE FAKE GREEN ENERGY, AND DOLE OUT FINANCIAL PATRONAGE - ALL IN THE NAME OF TEMPORARILY LOWER RATES

BE READY TO FIGHT BACK ON MARCH 21ST ITEM TO BE HEARD AT @ 1:45 PM

Item 41 - Hearing to consider: 1) adoption of an ordinance authorizing the implementation of a community choice aggregation program in the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County through the County organization's participation in Central Coast Community Energy's (3CE) community choice aggregation program; 2) adoption of a resolution requesting membership in 3CE's Joint Powers Authority and authorizing the Chair to execute the Joint Powers Authority Agreement as amended with 3CE; and 3) direct staff as appropriate. Gibson and Paulding are attempting to ram through these documents, which would cause the unincorporated County area to become a member of the Authority. It is not clear where Ortiz-Legg stands, as she has working knowledge of energy matters and could be concerned about negative labor and economic impacts of the Community Choice Aggregation movement in general and 3CE in particular. Thus far and over the years, Arnold and Peschong have resisted.



INTRODUCTION
COMMUNITY ENERGY SCAM STATUS ADMITTED BY 3CE

On November 4, 2020, 3CE admitted that the program is a fake. The admission was embedded in a lengthy staff report from the CEO to the 3CE Policy Board. It may have been inadvertent, but it discloses the truth.

Carbon Free Attributes – A Paper Product with No GHG Reduction Benefit
MBCP—like all other CCAs—meets its "carbon reduction" commitment in two ways. First, the

procurement California based renewable credits from eligible renewable resource generation to meet the current state mandate (33% of energy demand in 2020, increasing to 60% by 2030). 3 Second, and as an accounting exercise with no environmental benefit, MBCP—like all other CCAs—acquires renewable credits from ineligible resources like large hydro in order to offset unspecified power purchases (purchased to balance MBCP's load on an hourly basis) on its Power Content Label.

MBCP's ability to rely on CFAs to comply with Power Content Label accounting rules to appear "carbon free" is increasingly a non-workable solution for the following reasons: (1) appearing to be carbon free is simply not enough; (2) Northwest large hydro CFAs are increasingly scarce and more expensive; (3) spending money on CFAs is impacting CCA's ability to be cost competitive with Investor-Owned Utilities ("IOUs") considering the volatility of the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment ("PCIA"); and (4) changes to the Power Content Label under AB 1110 will require MBCP to report some emissions (related to geothermal and biomass) Regardless of large hydro CFAs.

"THERE ARE ALWAYS MILLIONS OF DUMB SCHNOOKS" [1]

They never made this explicit during their massive marketing campaign and ignored COLAB in both SLO and Santa Barbara Counties every time we brought it up. The dumb left politicians and progressive green advocacy groups had their way. As can be seen in the 2 paragraphs highlighted above, the entire phony model is at risk of collapsing. The resulting financial maneuvering could mean that 3CE will have to burn down its reserves and hope that they and their sister agencies throughout the State can get the Legislature to bail them out by abolishing the PICA charge (which would have to be replaced by the taxpayers) and admitting legally that large hydro and nuclear are carbon free energy.

Of course, the Legislature would never do this for the private investor-owned utilities.

What an infuriating scam and racket! You would think in a state with so many universities, that the people and their elected politicians would have been smarter. The local graduates who fell for this shakedown should ask for their tuition money back. They apparently failed to learn how to analyze issues properly or how to apply the necessary rigor.

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[1] **The Wolf of Wall Street movie – Warner Brothers, 2013.**

Meanwhile, a whole new multi-million-dollar government agency is on its way to growing to 50 employees and building a corporate headquarter in Monterey. It is a paradise for consulting engineers, rate consultants, energy procurement consultants, legal consultants, lobbyists, and PR consultants. Now the 3CE is hiring a flock of community energy representatives to go out and make sure everyone stays in the fold. They will be hawking grants to the city councils and boards of supervisors for natural gas bans, going all electric, car charging stations, and all other types of pork, so that the locals can hire all sorts of consultants and deliver pork too.

The city managers and county CAOs of the member jurisdictions now have to spend significant time studying the massive agendas of the agency in preparing for monthly and quarterly meetings.

3CE's 2021 Annual Financial Report summarizes the purpose and powers of the Agency:

BACKGROUND

CCCE's formation was made possible in 2002 by the passage of California Assembly Bill 117, which enabled communities to purchase power on behalf of their residents and businesses as an alternative to legacy Investor-Owned Utilities (IOU).

CCCE is a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) established on February 21, 2017 pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 366.2 and operating as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) pursuant to Government Code section 6500 et seq. CCCE currently serves residential, commercial and agricultural/industrial customers in communities located within its service area.

CCCE serves approximately 430,000 customer accounts forecast to consume 5,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) per year. CCCE is committed to charging competitive retail rates, offering innovative energy programs to facilitate electrification and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through long-term contracts for existing and new utility scale renewable electricity generation. CCCE has established an innovative procurement strategy to accelerate the reduction of GHG emissions, committing CCCE to developing a resource mix which delivers clean renewable energy for 60% of CCCE demand by the year 2025 and 100% of CCCE demand by the year 2030.

CCCE is governed by a Policy Board and an Operations Board. The Policy Board consists of elected officials from member jurisdictions, while the Operations Board consists of senior staff from those jurisdictions. The Policy Board provides guidance and approval in strategic planning and goal setting, budgets, rates, large capital expenditures, and financing. The Operations Board provides guidance and approval on contracts, agreements, and policies that govern day-to-day operations.

CCCE has the rights and powers to set rates for its services, incur debt, and issue bonds or other obligations.

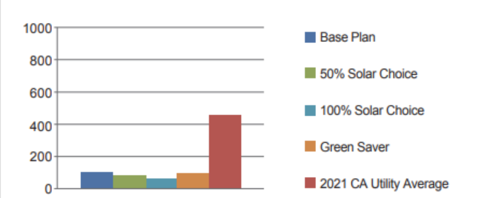
As of September 30, 2021, CCCE's members included the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Capitola, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Gonzales, Greenfield, Grover Beach, Guadalupe, Hollister, *Marina, Monterey, Morro Bay, Pacific Grove, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, Salinas, San Juan Bautista, San Luis Obispo, Sand City, Santa Cruz, Santa Maria, Scotts Valley, Seaside, Soledad, Solvang and Watsonville as well as the Counties of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz and parts of Santa Barbara County.*

A. PG&E energy is cleaner than 3CE energy: The State officially measures the clean energy capacity of the investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and the CCAs by means of the power content label.

PG&E's Power Label demonstrates that it is already 90.3% carbon free.

2021 POWER CONTENT LABEL
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
www.pge.com/billinserts

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Intensity (lbs CO_2e/MWh)				
Base Plan	50% Solar Choice	100% Solar Choice	Green Saver	2021 CA Utility Average
98	78	58	95	456



Energy Resources	Base Plan	50% Solar Choice	100% Solar Choice	Green Saver	2021 CA Power Mix
Eligible Renewable[1]	**47.7%**	**70.9%**	**93.9%**	**89.9%**	**33.6%**
Biomass & Biowaste	4.2%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%
Geothermal	5.2%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%
Eligible Hydroelectric	1.8%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Solar	25.7%	59.8%	93.9%	89.9%	14.2%
Wind	10.9%	5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	11.4%
Coal	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**3.0%**
Large Hydroelectric	**4.0%**	**2.0%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**9.2%**
Natural Gas	**8.9%**	**7.4%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**37.9%**
Nuclear	**39.3%**	**19.7%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**9.3%**
Other	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**0.2%**
Unspecified Power[2]	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**6.1%**	**10.1%**	**6.8%**
TOTAL	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
Percentage of Retail Sales Covered by Retired Unbundled RECs[3]**:**	**4%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	

[1]The eligible renewable percentage above does not reflect RPS compliance, which is determined using a different methodology.
[2]Unspecified power is electricity that has been purchased through open market transactions and is not traceable to a specific generation source.
[3]Renewable energy credits (RECs) are tracking instruments issued for renewable generation. Unbundled renewable energy credits (RECs) represent renewable generation that was not delivered to serve retail sales. Unbundled RECs are not reflected in the power mix or GHG emissions intensities above.

For specific information about this electricity portfolio, contact:	**Pacific Gas and Electric Company: 1-800-743-5000**
For general information about the Power Content Label, visit:	http://www.energy.ca.gov/pcl
For additional questions, please contact the California Energy Commission at:	Toll-free in California: 844-454-2906 Outside California: 916-653-0237

Note: Figures on this Power Content Label can only include RECs generated in 2021. To achieve 100% solar supply in 2021 for customers enrolled in 100% Solar Choice and Green Saver, PG&E retired additional RECs generated in 2020, in accordance with the Green-e Renewable Energy Standard.

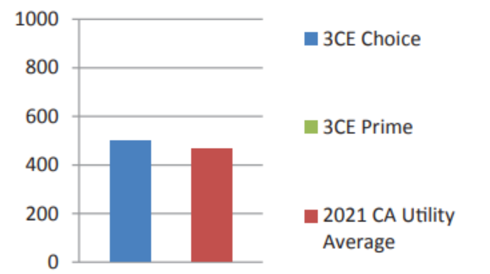
Note that its base plan is 47% eligible renewable, 4% carbon free large hydro-electric, and 39.3% carbon free nuclear; that is 90.3% carbon free. Only 8.9% comes from natural gas.

Other than that, it provides 2,000 career benefited jobs, with an average salary of $141,000 per year, health insurance, and a defined benefit pension in SLO and Santa Barbara counties. 3CE provides 60 bureaucrat jobs in Monterey. It buys much of its fake energy in other states and Canada. 3CE's Power Content Label demonstrates that it cannot even trace 49% of its "energy" to a specific generation cost. This is because it is not real energy, but paper transactions. It could be from anything, including coal, gas, nuclear, or oil.

2021 POWER CONTENT LABEL
Central Coast Community Energy
https://3cenergy.org

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Intensity (lbs CO_2e/MWh)

3CE Choice	3CE Prime	2021 CA Utility Average
494	0	456



Energy Resources	3CE Choice	3CE Prime	2021 CA Power Mix
Eligible Renewable[1]	**38.4%**	**100.0%**	**33.6%**
Biomass & Biowaste	1.6%	0.0%	2.3%
Geothermal	7.4%	0.0%	4.8%
Eligible Hydroelectric	0.7%	0.0%	1.0%
Solar	17.8%	50.0%	14.2%
Wind	11%	50.0%	11.4%
Coal	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**3.0%**
Large Hydroelectric	**11.8%**	**0.0%**	**9.2%**
Natural Gas	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**37.9%**
Nuclear	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**9.3%**
Other	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**0.2%**
Unspecified Power[2]	**49.8%**	**0.0%**	**6.8%**
TOTAL	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
Percentage of Retail Sales Covered by Retired Unbundled RECs[3]:	**0%**	**0%**	

[1]The eligible renewable percentage above does not reflect RPS compliance, which is determined using a different methodology.
[2]Unspecified power is electricity that has been purchased through open market transactions and is not traceable to a specific generation source.
[3]Renewable energy credits (RECs) are tracking instruments issued for renewable generation. Unbundled RECs represent renewable generation that was not delivered to serve retail sales. Unbundled RECs are not reflected in the power mix or GHG emissions intensities above.

For specific information about this electricity portfolio, contact:	**Central Coast Community Energy (831) 641-7222**
For general information about the Power Content Label, visit:	http://www.energy.ca.gov/pcl/
For additional questions, please contact the California Energy Commission at:	Toll-free in California: 844-454-2906 Outside California: 916-653-0237

Accordingly, 3CE is 38.4% eligible renewable, and 11.8 % large hydro – or 50.2% certified carbon free. As noted above, they don't even know what they are buying.

Their website does not list their energy contracts. The Board of Supervisors should demand to see the list, the name of the companies, their location, the contract terms, and the amount of energy per year and total in megawatts.

3CE are aware of the problem because they have the CPUC and the California Energy Commission after them to up their performance. Accordingly, their goal is to be carbon free by 2030,

Chart 1

This plan also include over 400 MW of energy storage of various discharge durations

This in turn means they are out attempting to acquire contracts for real green energy. The problem is that in relation to their total planned energy volume, they are obtaining only a minute amount. Per their load forecast table below, they will need 4,794 GWh this year. But they are in contract for only 233.8 megawatts, per the 2nd table below

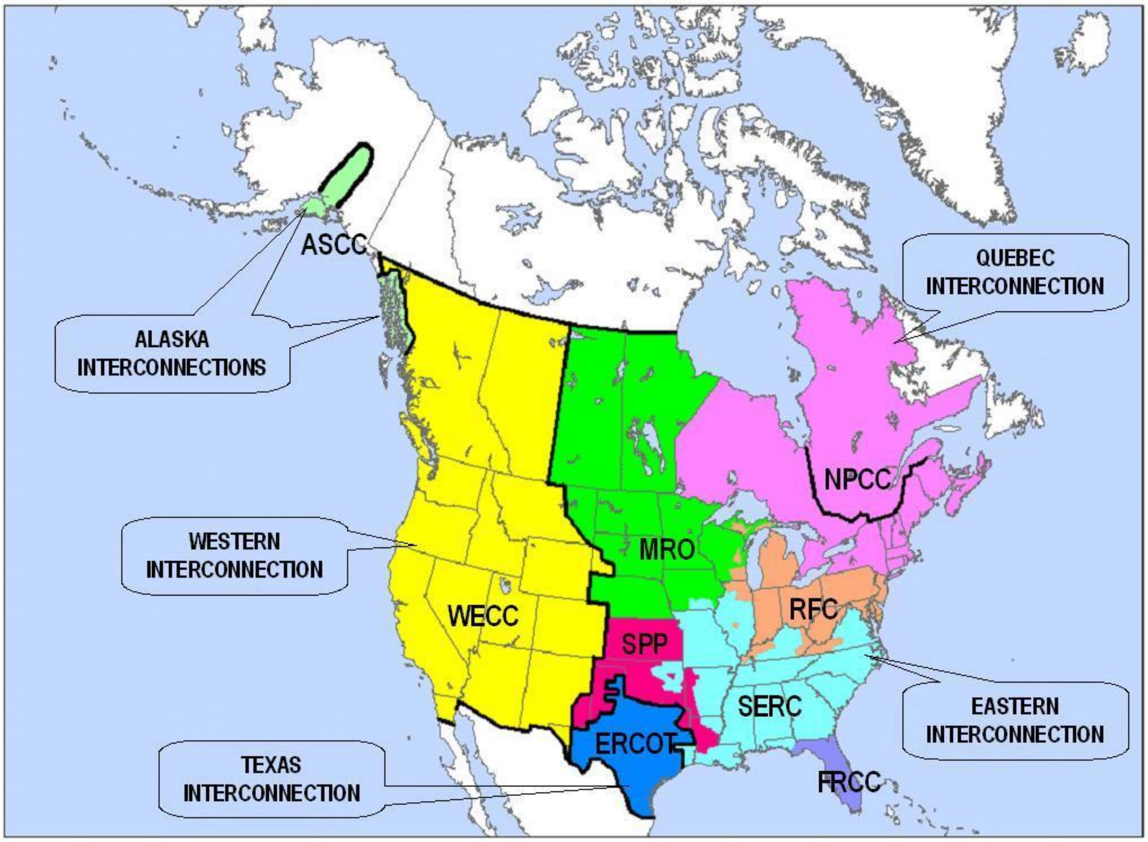
Table 3: MBCP's 2020-2030 Load Forecast within both PG&E and SCE planning areas

Year	Load Forecast (GWh)
2020	3,133
2021	4,828
2022	4,802
2023	4,794
2024	4,801
2025	4,807
2026	4,812
2027	4,811
2028	4,813
2029	4,812
2030	4,814

PROJECT NAME	SOURCE	GENERATION MEGAWATT	BATTERY MEGAWATT	LOCATION	ONLINE DATE	DELIVERY TERM (IN YEARS)
Coso Geothermal Power	Geothermal	66.3	N/A	Inyo County, CA	January 2022	15
Slate Solar + Storage	Solar+ Storage	67.5	33.75	Kings County, CA	March 2022	17
Mountain View	Wind	33.3	N/A	Riverside County, CA	July 2022	20
Mammoth Casa Diablo IV	Geothermal	7.0	N/A	Mono County, CA	June 2022	10
Rabbitbrush	Solar+ Storage	60.0	12.0	Kern County, CA	October 2022	15

B. Fake Green Energy and RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates):

1. All the States (including British Columbia and Alberta) from the Rockies west are part of the Western Grid.



2. 3CE is issuing short- and long-term power purchase contracts (PPCs) for both renewable and CO_2 free energy from suppliers all over the western grid and also some from other parts of the nation. An example: One of its contracts is for 139 megawatts of solar from a company in Arizona. Those electrons are not coming to SLO. They are part of the huge Western Grid pool and will be used locally in Phoenix. 3CE actually buys a PPC representing the Arizona company's 139 megawatts and gets credit for the renewable energy and the use of 139 megawatts of actual energy from the pool.

In reality the system is a scam of renewable energy certificates (RECs), which are paper credits for actual green and CO_2 free energy. 3CE's own FY 2022 Annual Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR) actually obfuscates the point. A REC is a paper certificate of electric capacity - not electrons flowing though the wire to your home.

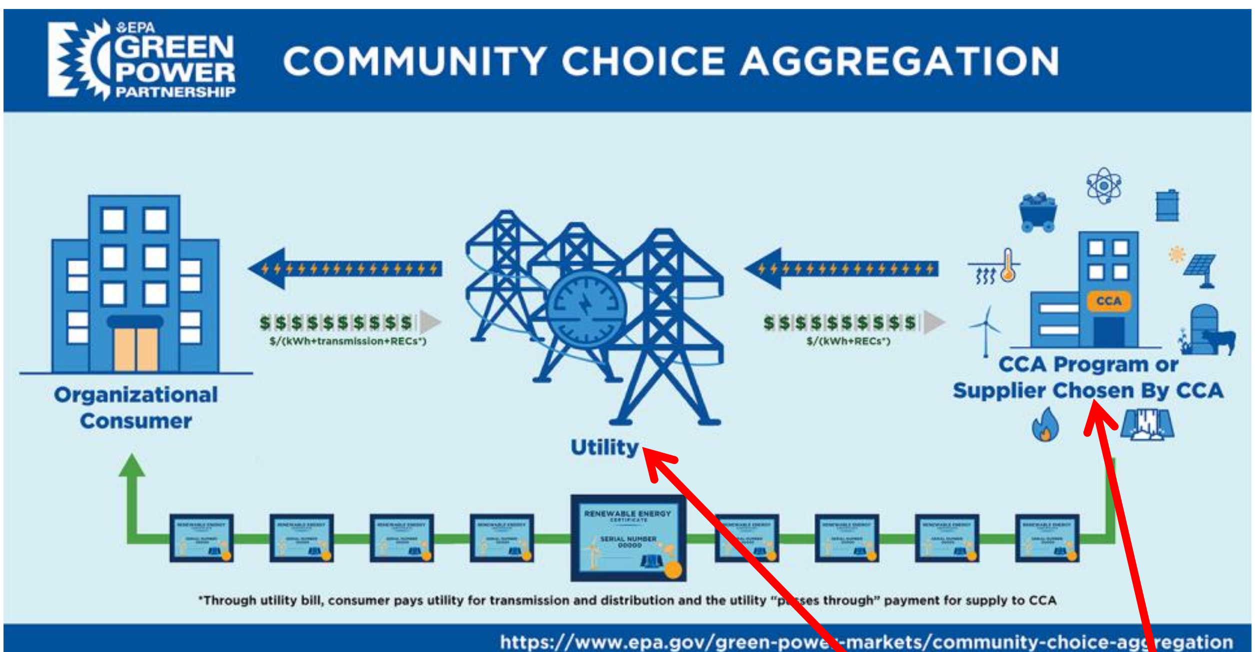
POWER AND ELECTRIC CAPACITY In the ordinary course of business, CCCE enters into power purchase agreements to acquire energy and electric capacity. The price and volume of purchased power is largely fixed. Variable priced power, which is a small part of our portfolio, is generally linked to the market price of either natural gas or power at the date of delivery. Variable volume is generally associated with contracts to purchase energy from resources with varying availability and production, such as solar, wind and hydroelectric facilities. CCCE enters into long-term power purchase agreements ensure stable competitive rates for its customers and to comply with state law and voluntary targets for renewable and greenhouse gas

(GHG) free products. The following table represents the expected, undiscounted, contractual obligations outstanding as of September 30, 2021:

Year ending September 30,	
2022	$ 277,000,000
2023	184,000,000
2024	139,000,000
2025	117,000,000
2026	133,000,000
2027-2055	2,305,000,000
Total	$ 3,155,000,000

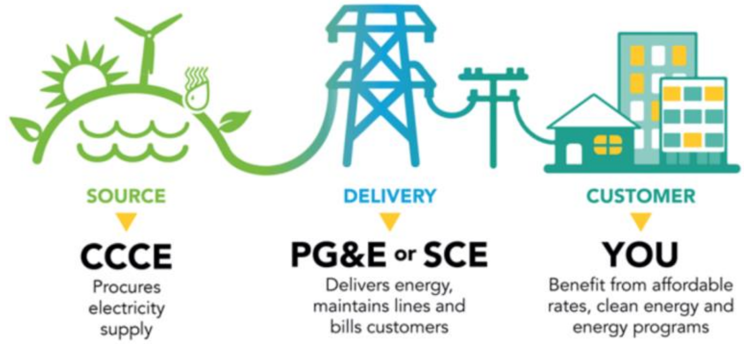
We could not find a more recent (lost) list on the 3CE website or within other documents. We know that they added at least $750 million recently to participate in a massive battery storage facility in Kern County.

The actual process of using RECs to represent energy is illustrated in the graphic below:



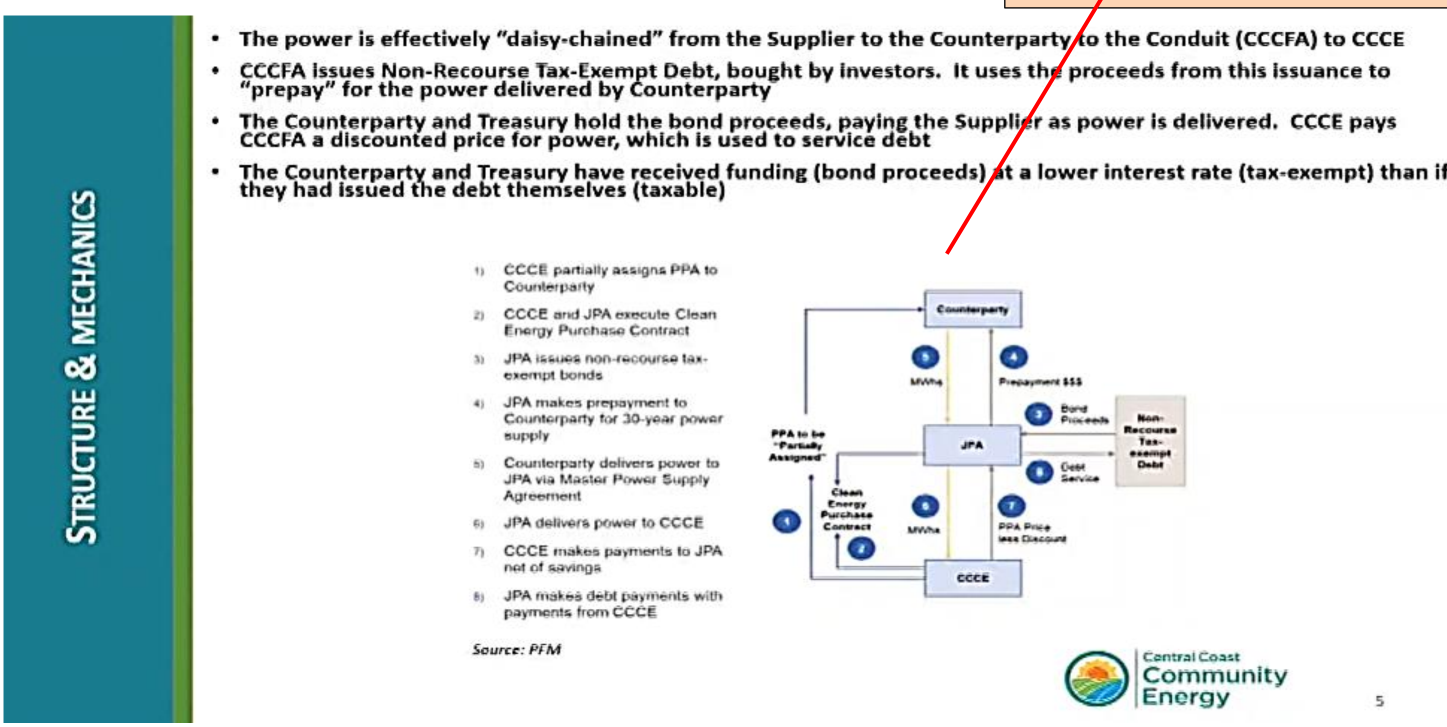
It is actually not the process that 3CE claims in the graphic below.

The power actually comes from PG&E. The RECs represent the "power" which 3CE has bought from its "suppliers."



C. The Counterparty problem: The process is actually even more complicated, per 3CE's own diagram below. A new problem has cropped up in that some of 3CE's "counterparties" (intermediaries who hold the energy contracts) have told 3CE that they will not be able to deliver as much energy as promised and/or will not be able to deliver it on time. The Board of Supervisors should require 3CE to disclose the full extent of this problem, the costs and extent of pending litigation, and the future cost impacts.

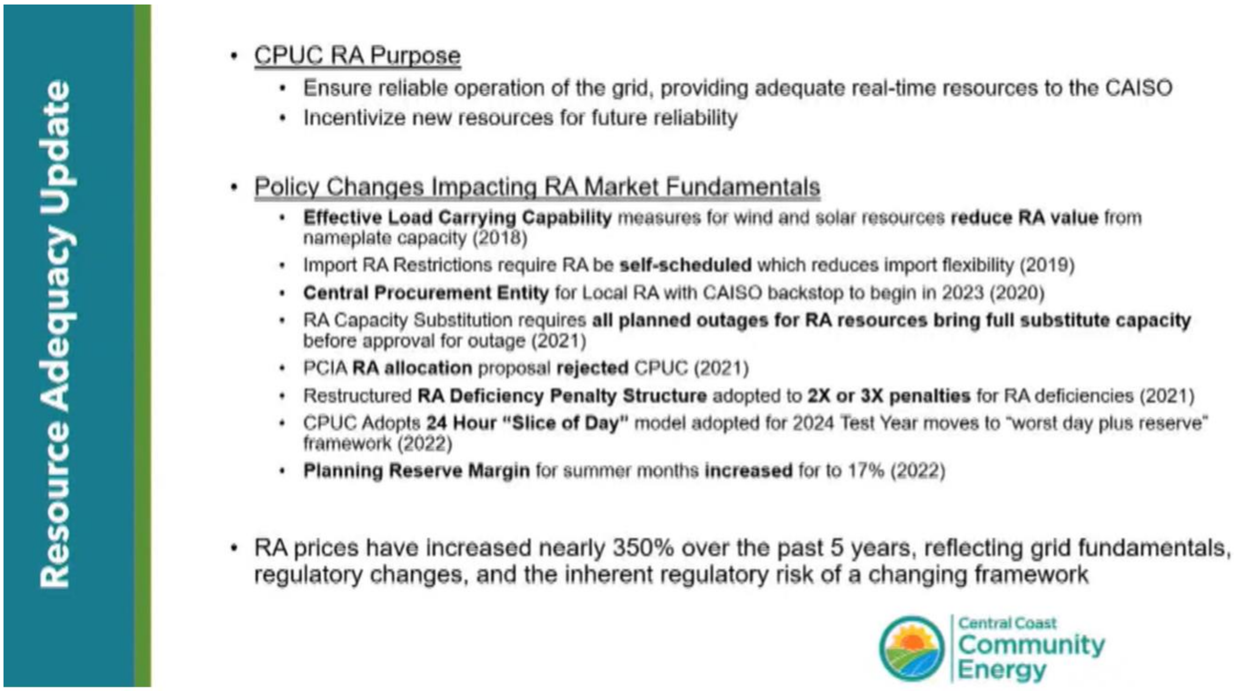
How many counterparties are there? How many could be in default? How many Mgw of energy is at risk? What is the $ value?



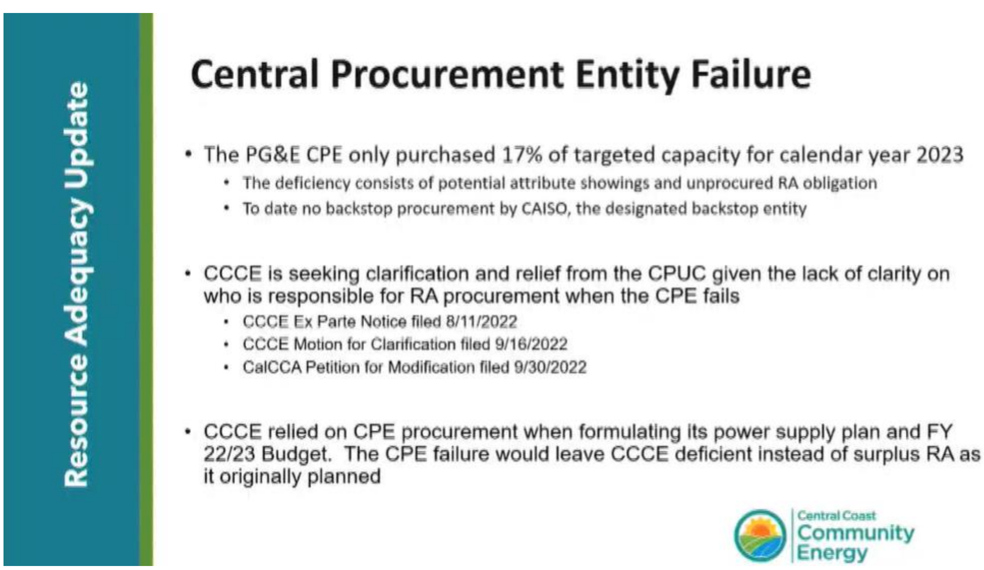
D. Resource Adequacy (RA): Given the problem outlined above, 3CE may have future problems in meeting its energy requirements. State agencies are pushing them to increase RA.

This in turn will interfere with their business model of buying long range energy contracts based on RECs (renewable energy certificates).

Further complicating the picture is the problem that short term contracts to manage demand peaks are very costly. As 3CE's own analysis below demonstrates, there are significant risks.



3CE is actually blaming PG&E for the problem in the slide below. Of course, since 3CE doesn't have any real energy, this is an admission that 3CE is entirely dependent on PG&E. In turn, the government (the State of California) is giving 3CE and the other CCAs legal preference to acquire RECS at less cost and to operate on a tax-exempt basis.



Outrageously, 3CE and the other CCAs are seeking new CPUC rules and State Legislation to put the entire burden on PG&E and the other investor-owned utilities. For example, 3CE's latest regulatory report (which the County is fully aware of, as it is included as **Attachment 7** to this agenda item), actually documents this activity in detail. One section states:

3CE and other load-serving entities are working through the significant uncertainty introduced into RA procurement by the introduction of a Central Procurement Entity (CPE) for Local RA.7 In 2020 the CPUC created the CPE function and awarded it to PG&E and Southern California Edison (SCE) in their respective service areas in an attempt to address increased Local RA market prices. The CPEs (PG&E and SCE) were charged with procuring Local RA on behalf of all load-serving entities in their service areas and recovering the cost of the procurement from ratepayers through the existing Cost Allocation Mechanism (CAM) charge. The inaugural round of CPE procurement has encountered significant obstacles requiring iteration on the process, and ultimately PG&E was only able to procure 74% of the Local RA it was tasked with finding. This outcome has highlighted ambiguities around how the CPE function interacts with the System RA requirements that all LSEs are still individually responsible for procuring and giving LSEs very little time between receiving their final System RA requirement and having to demonstrate compliance.

3CE also plans to rig the game with the Legislature:

The 2022 elections brought several new state legislators into seats representing 3CE's communities. In 2023 four Assemblymembers and two Senators will represent 3CE communities, one less Senate seat than in 2022 due to redistricting. Senator John Laird, Senator Monique Limón, and Assemblymember Robert Rivas remain part of 3CE's delegation, now joined by Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, Assemblymember Dawn Addis, and Assemblymember Gregg Hart. 3CE has begun meeting with legislators to understand their legislative priorities for the year and introduce the agency to those who are newly elected.

Of course, 3CE lacks real energy, can't deliver any, and is simply a huge Ponzi scheme to provide county supervisors and city council members a source of patronage to dole out to their favorite voters. You would think that with $4 billion in energy contracts, 3CE could provide its own RA.

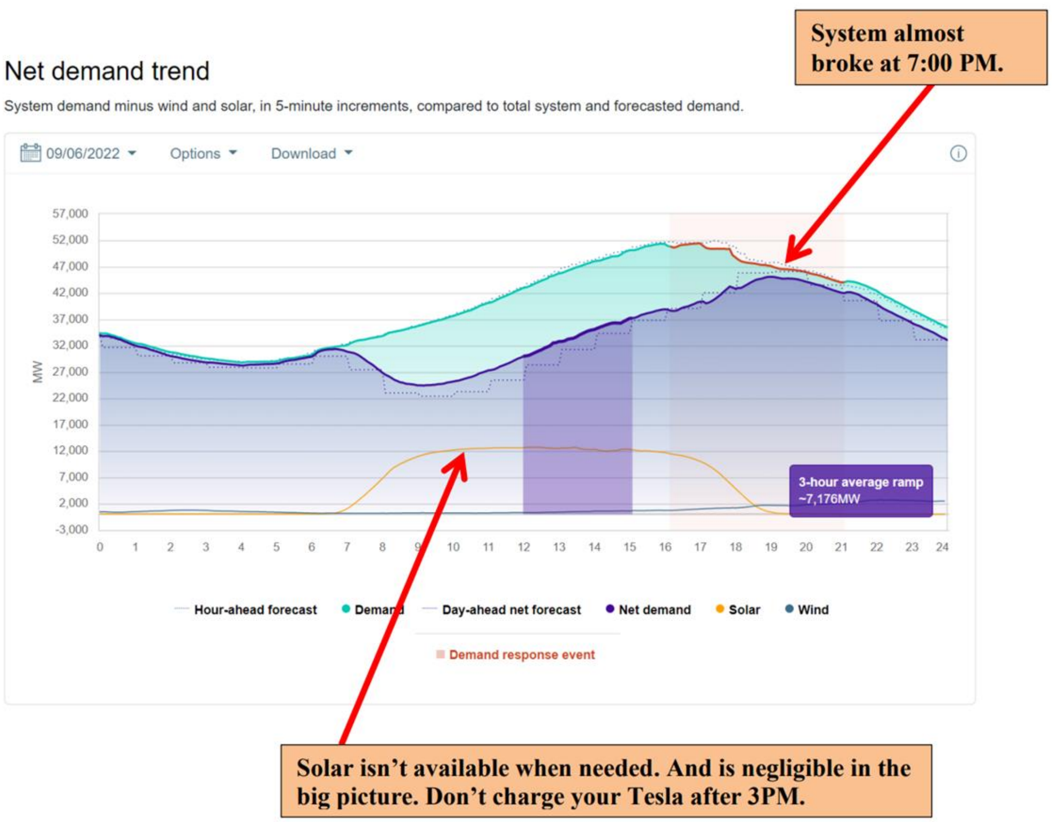
However, the actual megawatts will come from PG&E and the wider western grid, at whatever mix of power is available at a particular time of day. Other than between 9am and 4pm on sunny days, PG&E's energy will be coming from natural gas, nuclear, and large hydro. Note that the State of California does not count large hydro as renewable or CO_2 free. Nor does it count nuclear as CO_2 free. Once Diablo closes, much and more of the power will have to come from natural gas.

Again, this an outrageously unfair and politically based program.

Similarly, 3CE says that its mix is about 65% carbon free, which is attributable to its PPC with British Columbia Power, which is mostly large hydro. But as noted in section A above, it is only about 50% carbon free. The power goes into the western grid and is mixed with power sourced from coal, gas, solar, wind, nuclear, and other sources. The energy consumer in SLO is ultimately getting electricity from a varying mix, depending on conditions in the grid. The PPC certificates simply represent a percentage of CO_2 free energy or renewable energy that is going somewhere, not the local reality. In fact, in the daytime when the sun is out, California utilities have pay to export excess solar generated energy to the western grid because there is too much. At night and on cloudy days, things flow the other way.

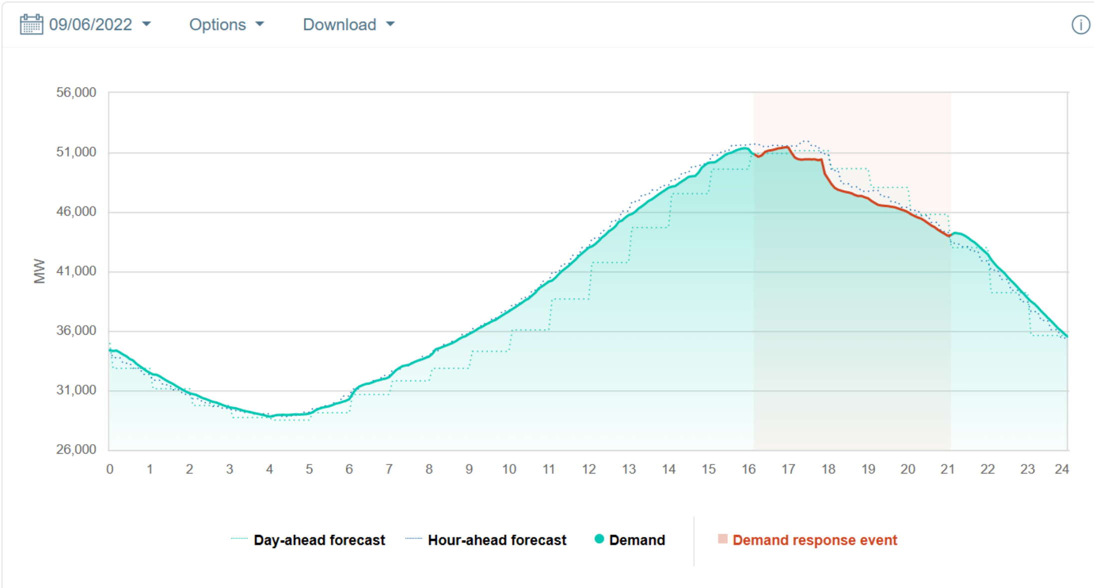
For example, on September 6, 2022, a hot day, the California grid experienced a shortage of energy (a demand response event). Customers were ordered to shut down factories, turn off AC, and stop charging electric vehicles.

The graph below depicts the crisis on September 6, 2022 when the State declared and energy emergency and texted everyone to shut down appliances, air conditioners, and to not charge other electric vehicles to forestall rolling blackouts



Demand trend

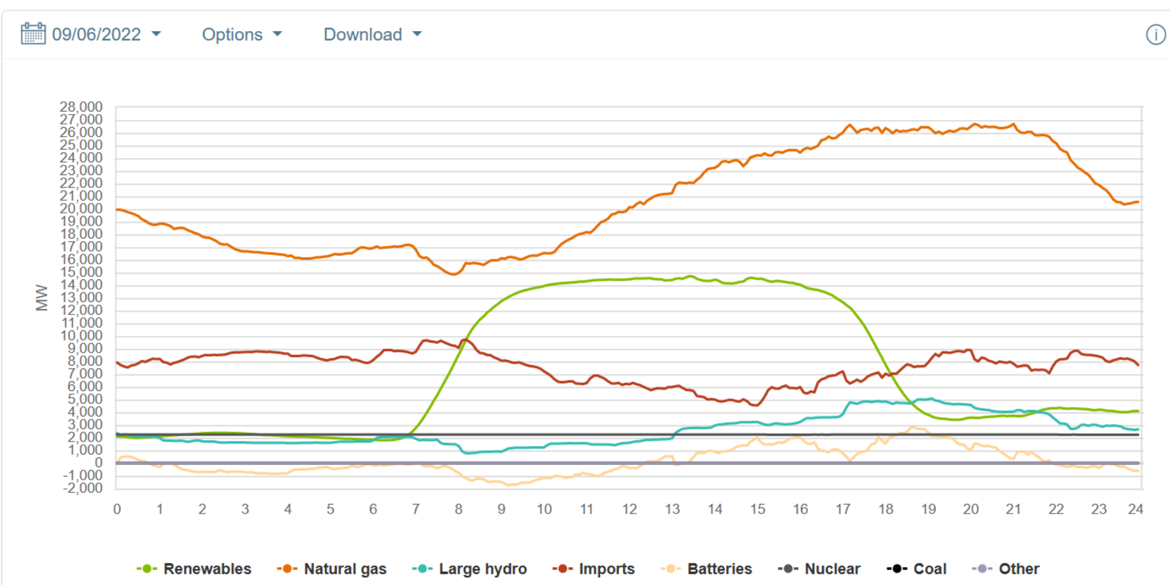
System demand, in megawatts, compared to the forecasted demand in 5-minute increments.

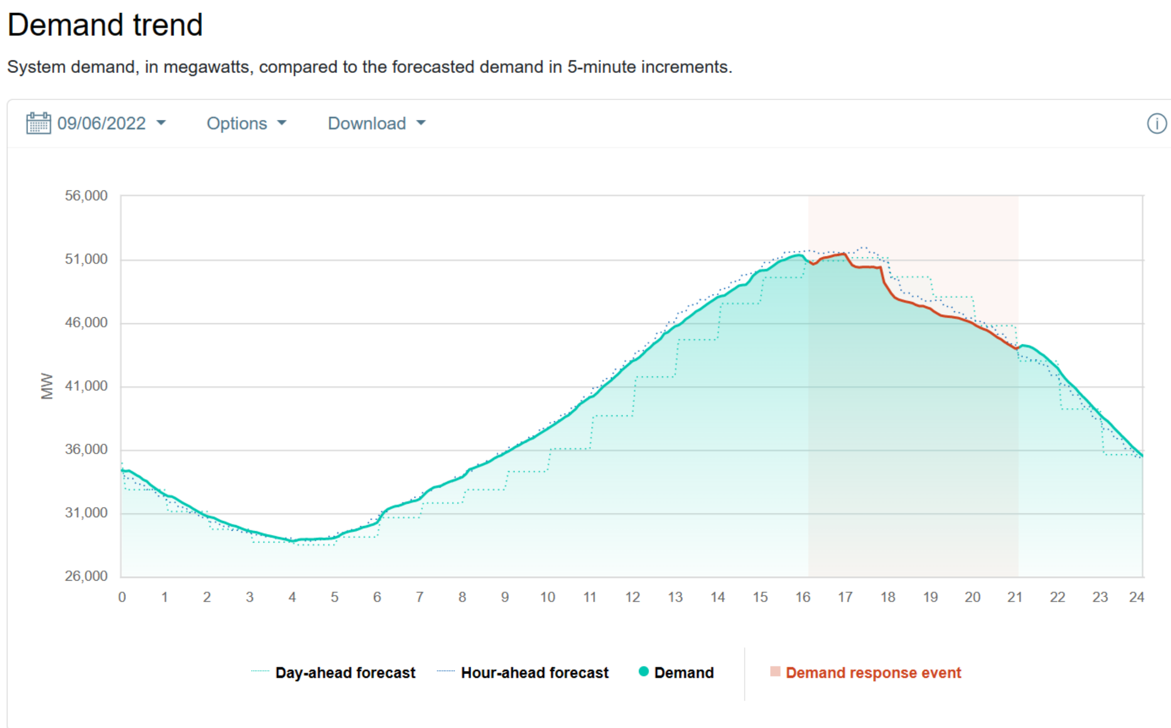


Meanwhile, natural gas provided most of the available energy for the entire 24 hours, per the graph below. It was ramped up for the critical hours when demand peaked at nearly 52,000 megawatts. Note that imports were also important base load generators. Much of this comes from Arizona and is fueled by nuclear and coal mined on the Navajo reservation.

Supply trend

Energy in megawatts broken down by resource in 5-minute increments.





E. Are 3CE's Funds Safe? River City Bank: 3CE banks with River City Bank of Sacramento. Several other CCAs also bank with River City Bank. It also invests its reserves with River City Bank and River City affiliate, Royal Bank of Canada.

River City Bank (RCB) of Sacramento, the largest local bank in the Sacramento Region, has been 3CE's bank since its inception as Monterey Community Power. It turns out that RCB has cornered the market as the bank of choice for many of the community energy authorities throughout the state. Its deposits have grown exponentially since the advent of the CCEs.

Under a new investment strategy, detailed by Staff at the June 2022 Policy Board of Directors meeting, excess cash will be allocated to higher-yielding instruments authorized by 3CE's Investment Policy. Staff allocated $75 MM to RBC Asset Management (GAM Global) under a contract approved by the Operations Board of Directors to Royal Bank of Canada, headquartered in Toronto, Canada, at its June meeting. RBC GAM began managing the funds on August 11. Annualized yields in August on this allocation were approximately 1.8%, reflecting the partial month.

Staff also negotiated an agreement with River City Bank, CCCE's commercial banking partner, to invest in treasury-indexed Certificates of Deposit (CD). These CDs yield Treasury rates + 10 basis points on the date of execution and waive penalties if CCCE needs to withdraw funds early due to business needs. In August and September, Staff allocated $25 MM to these products with a weighted average maturity of 3.9 months and a weighted average annualized yield of approximately 3%. For reference, the iShares Short Treasury Bond ETF, which consists of US Treasury bonds maturing in less than a year, had an annualized yield of 1.67% for the August

11-August 31 period. Staff will begin including performance benchmarks in September, the first full month using the new strategy.

River City itself has substantial investments in US Treasury notes. In fact, they constitute almost half of its assets, which in turn are counted as backup to its depositors' accounts. It is not clear if River City's notes are short- or long-term. The same applies to its Federal Agency Securities. What are their terms and interest rates?

Investments - Total	787	773	698	542
Securities Bought Under Resale Agreement	-	40	-	-
Treasury Securities	331	352	217	45
Federal Agency Securities	91	53	205	373
State & Municipal Securities	5	6	5	5
Mortgage Backed Securities	107	135	133	42
Other Securities	95	165	117	42
Other Investments	158	21	21	35

All we know at this point is that the recent collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) was caused because the Bank holds too many long-term low interest Treasury notes and Federal Agency Securities. As the Wall Street Journal pointed out just last Friday:

SVB held tens of billions of dollars in long-term government bonds. On its face, this may seem like a prudent investment for a bank, but Treasury securities are riskless only when held to maturity. If you have to sell before then, you can easily lose money if market rates have risen since you first purchased the bond. For example, buying a 10-year U.S. Treasury bond with a 2% coupon at par and holding it for 10 years earns you 2% per annum. But if you sell early and rates have jumped—say 4% since you bought the bond—then the price will have declined to about $838 per $1,000 face value, meaning you incur a loss of $162 per $1,000 bond. Though that risk is implicit in every bond purchase, accounting and regulatory frameworks can obscure it in a way that results in big bonuses for bank officer

Before considering joining 3CE, The Board of Supervisors should become clear about this potential risk to the Authority's financial stability. **See the article on page 36 in the Emerging Issues section on Bank Defaults and their causes.**

F. 3CE Negative Labor Impacts and Fake Green Energy: The large national, state, and local trade unions have deduced that 3CE and its sister authorities are bad both for the local workforce and reducing CO_2. Below is some analysis that was sent to the County, which has not been disclosed under the communications attachment to this agenda item. The document is extensive. We provide some pertinent excerpts here:

CCAs have been providing electric service to customers since 2009. During those 12 years, the IBEW has observed several business practices by CCAs which have either interfered with work of IBEW members or directly caused IBEW members to lose work. The CCAs have hurt the Outside by reducing the number of IBEW members working in power plants and as Customer Service Representatives for the IOUs. The CCAs have hurt the Inside by procuring much less power from new-build renewable projects in California than the IOUs, thereby reducing the number of IBEW members building these projects. Instead CCAs are buying hydro or renewable power from out-of-state or from existing in-state resources – this is known as **"resource shuffling"** and reduces the need to construct new-build projects in California. Also, by using resource shuffling, CCAs fail to bring new clean energy resourced onto the grid, thereby failing to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Over those 12 years, CCAs have also procured millions of MWh of unbundled renewable energy credits (RECs) above what is permitted to count toward the RPS under California law and regulations. Instead, they have counted these RECs as clean energy; this is known as **"greenwashing"** and also reduces the need to construct new-build renewable projects in California. By purchasing large amounts of unbundled RECs, the CCAs are using fossil fuel power covered by the unbundled RECs, thereby failing to reduce GHG emissions associated with the electricity they procure for their customers.

Here the unions recommend standards for the CCAs, which, if adopted, will cause their energy procurement costs to rise to be more comparable to the investor-owned utilities (IOUs).

RECOMMENDATION: WORKFORCE LANGUAGE

A beneficial CCA creates high-road jobs and adds new, additional renewable energy to the California grid either locally or at least within the State by:

1) Incorporating labor standards into the CCA's own projects (i.e., projects they build) and into the CCA's local programs;
2) Identifying a preference in power procurement for projects with high-road labor standards and newly-constructed clean energy projects in the local service territory jurisdiction or at least within California;
3) Remaining neutral regarding unionization efforts by the CCA's own employees or the employees of their subcontractors;
4) Will charge their customers the full cost of power procured from feed-in-tariff; and
5) Will not operate electric utility distribution infrastructure, i.e., deliver electricity directly to customers.

This is how workforce policy can make a difference and Locals can advocate for workforce language that advances these objectives.

RECOMMENDATION: POWER PROCUREMENT

For power procurement, a union friendly CCA is one that has at least 70% of its RPS qualified energy coming from new-build projects in California. These are the 'Bucket 1' resources established in law years ago. You can check power content by reviewing the annual California power source disclosure report from each CCA and review the sources of energy procured by a CCA. Locals can also make a public records request of your CCA and ask for a list of projects supplying their energy, which should also be contained in the CCA's Integrated Resource Plan.

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G. Costs of Withdrawal from 3CE – Short- and Long-Term County Liability: The County Board letter spends considerable ink discussing this controversial issue. In the end, the County write-up admits that it is a problem and concludes:

A withdrawing member can withdraw at no cost if they agree to stay in the 3CE program for the minimum duration whereby there are no costs transferred to remaining ratepayers as determined by 3CE. This would allow 3CE to keep its County customers until such date as the energy purchase contracts needed to serve the County expire so no loss is incurred by 3CE on the withdrawal of the County. Upon withdrawal, 3CE may require the member to deposit sufficient funds with 3CE to cover the member's financial obligations. Agencies considering withdrawal are notified in advance of the date upon which they may withdrawal with no obligations. If the Agency elects to withdraw before the end of the minimum waiting period, the charge for exiting is set "at a dollar amount that would offset actual costs to the remaining ratepayers and may not include punitive charges that exceed actual costs" (JPA §6.3).

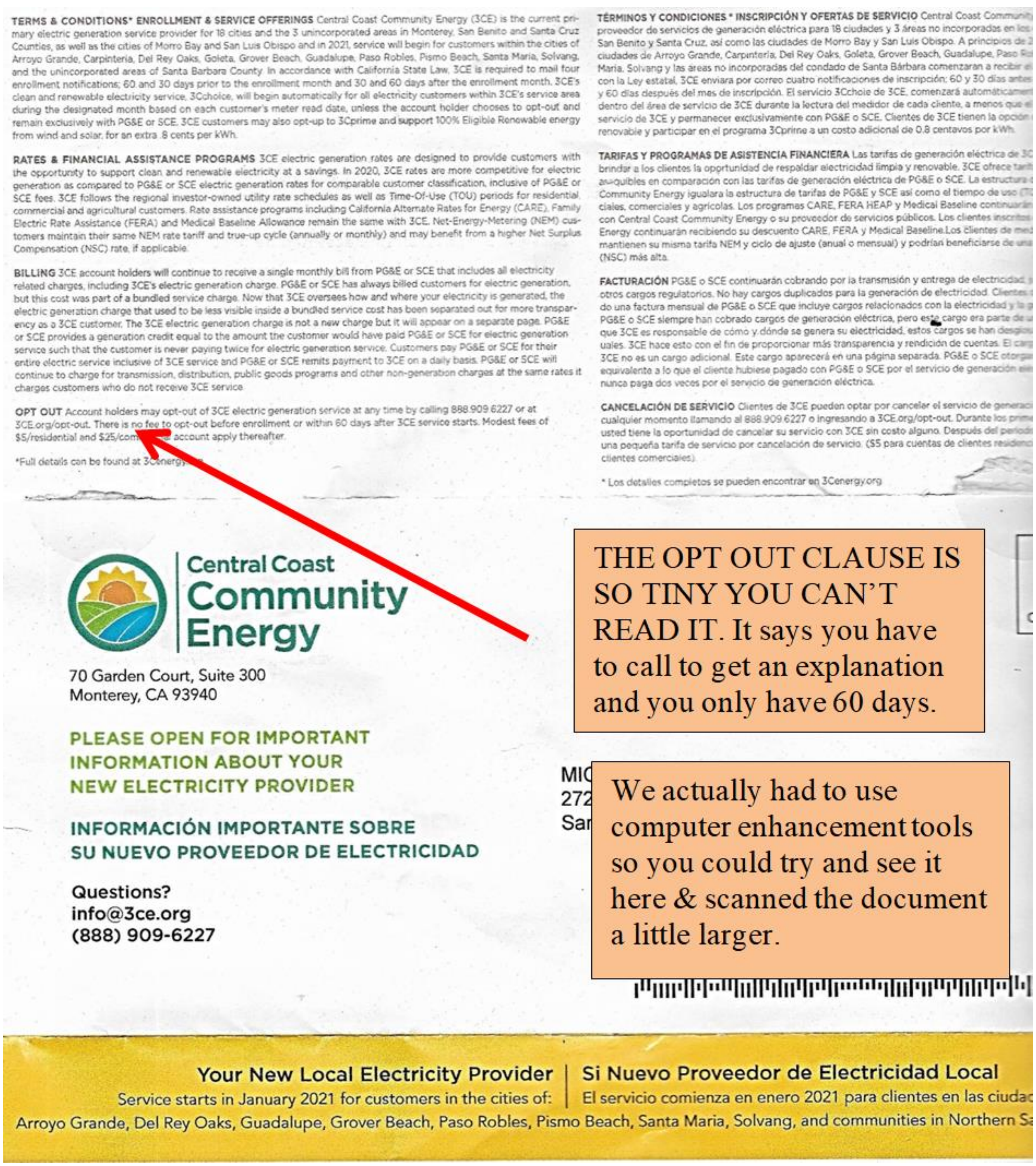
Given 3CE's long procurement contracts, it could take decades for the contracts attributable to the County to be amortized out.

The Board of Supervisors should obtain projections of the amount of energy and the amount of cost which will be attributable to the County customers over a multi-decade horizon.

Some contracts require the supplier to provide CCCE with a security deposit. These deposits are held by CCCE until certain contract milestones are met or contracts are completed. As part of its risk management policy, CCCE requires energy suppliers to post collateral deposits in some cases. During 2021, noncurrent liabilities increased due to CCCE-held collateral deposits with terms exceeding one year. How much are these today? What is the impact on the County if its suppliers default? What happens to rates?

H. Automatic enrollment: In a blatant act of favoritism, the State Legislature, in creating the CCA program, mandated that all energy users in a city or county that join CCA are automatically enrolled in the contracting CCA. This placed the IOUs at a significant competitive disadvantage, given the normal inertia of people and the glowing propaganda issued by the CCAs. PG&E has been forbidden by the CPUC to fight back and present its own case.

A customer may withdraw from a CCA like 3CE, but must affirmatively file an application and pay a fee if they do not do it in the first 60 days after the CCA takes over. 3CE's announcement form provides ample evidence of this discrimination.



TERMS & CONDITIONS* ENROLLMENT & SERVICE OFFERINGS Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) is the current primary electric generation service provider for 18 cities and the 3 unincorporated areas in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties, as well as the cities of Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo and in 2021, service will begin for customers within the cities of Arroyo Grande, Carpinteria, Del Rey Oaks, Goleta, Grover Beach, Guadalupe, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, Santa Maria, Solvang, and the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County. In accordance with California State Law, 3CE is required to mail four enrollment notifications; 60 and 30 days prior to the enrollment month and 30 and 60 days after the enrollment month. 3CE's clean and renewable electricity service, 3Cchoice, will begin automatically for all electricity customers within 3CE's service area during the designated month based on each customer's meter read date, unless the account holder chooses to opt-out and remain exclusively with PG&E or SCE. 3CE customers may also opt-up to 3Cprime and support 100% Eligible Renewable energy from wind and solar, for an extra .8 cents per kWh.

RATES & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS 3CE electric generation rates are designed to provide customers with the opportunity to support clean and renewable electricity at a savings. In 2020, 3CE rates are more competitive for electric generation as compared to PG&E or SCE electric generation rates for comparable customer classification, inclusive of PG&E or SCE fees. 3CE follows the regional investor-owned utility rate schedules as well as Time-Of-Use (TOU) periods for residential, commercial and agricultural customers. Rate assistance programs including California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) and Medical Baseline Allowance remain the same with 3CE. Net-Energy-Metering (NEM) customers maintain their same NEM rate tariff and true-up cycle (annually or monthly) and may benefit from a higher Net Surplus Compensation (NSC) rate, if applicable.

BILLING 3CE account holders will continue to receive a single monthly bill from PG&E or SCE that includes all electricity related charges, including 3CE's electric generation charge. PG&E or SCE has always billed customers for electric generation, but this cost was part of a bundled service charge. Now that 3CE oversees how and where your electricity is generated, the electric generation charge that used to be less visible inside a bundled service cost has been separated out for more transparency as a 3CE customer. The 3CE electric generation charge is not a new charge but it will appear on a separate page. PG&E or SCE provides a generation credit equal to the amount the customer would have paid PG&E or SCE for electric generation service such that the customer is never paying twice for electric generation service. Customers pay PG&E or SCE for their entire electric service inclusive of 3CE service and PG&E or SCE remits payment to 3CE on a daily basis. PG&E or SCE will continue to charge for transmission, distribution, public goods programs and other non-generation charges at the same rates it charges customers who do not receive 3CE service.

OPT OUT Account holders may opt-out of 3CE electric generation service at any time by calling 888.909.6227 or at 3CE.org/opt-out. There is no fee to opt-out before enrollment or within 60 days after 3CE service starts. Modest fees of $5/residential and $25/com[illegible] account apply thereafter.

*Full details can be found at 3Cenergy[illegible]

TÉRMINOS Y CONDICIONES * INSCRIPCIÓN Y OFERTAS DE SERVICIO Central Coast Communit[illegible]
proveedor de servicios de generación eléctrica para 18 ciudades y 3 áreas no incorporadas en los [illegible]
San Benito y Santa Cruz, así como las ciudades de Morro Bay y San Luis Obispo. A principios de [illegible]
ciudades de Arroyo Grande, Carpinteria, Del Rey Oaks, Goleta, Grover Beach, Guadalupe, Paso [illegible]
Maria, Solvang y las áreas no incorporadas del condado de Santa Bárbara comenzaran a recibir [illegible]
con la Ley estatal, 3CE enviara por correo cuatro notificaciones de inscripción: 60 y 30 días antes [illegible]
y 60 días después del mes de inscripción. El servicio 3Cchoie de 3CE, comenzará automáticam[illegible]
dentro del área de servicio de 3CE durante la lectura del medidor de cada cliente, a menos que [illegible]
servicio de 3CE y permanecer exclusivamente con PG&E o SCE. Clientes de 3CE tienen la opción [illegible]
renovable y participar en el programa 3Cprime a un costo adicional de 0.8 centavos por kWh.

TARIFAS Y PROGRAMAS DE ASISTENCIA FINANCIERA Las tarifas de generación eléctrica de 3C[illegible]
brindar a los clientes la oportunidad de respaldar electricidad limpia y renovable. 3CE ofrece tar[illegible]
asequibles en comparación con las tarifas de generación eléctrica de PG&E o SCE. La estructura [illegible]
Community Energy igualara la estructura de tarifas de PG&E y SCE así como el tiempo de uso [illegible]
ciales, comerciales y agricolas. Los programas CARE, FERA HEAP y Medical Baseline continuar[illegible]
con Central Coast Community Energy o su proveedor de servicios públicos. Los clientes inscritos [illegible]
Energy continuarán recibiendo su descuento CARE, FERA y Medical Baseline.Los clientes de [illegible]
mantienen su misma tarifa NEM y ciclo de ajuste (anual o mensual) y podrían beneficiarse de un[illegible]
(NSC) más alta.

FACTURACIÓN PG&E o SCE continuarán cobrando por la transmisión y entrega de electricidad [illegible]
otros cargos regulatorios. No hay cargos duplicados para la generación de electricidad. Clientes [illegible]
do una factura mensual de PG&E o SCE que incluye cargos relacionados con la electricidad y [illegible]
PG&E o SCE siempre han cobrado cargos de generación eléctrica, pero este cargo era parte de [illegible]
que 3CE es responsable de cómo y dónde se genera su electricidad, estos cargos se han desglo[illegible]
uales. 3CE hace esto con el fin de proporcionar más transparencia y rendición de cuentas. El car[illegible]
3CE no es un cargo adicional. Este cargo aparecerá en una página separada. PG&E o SCE otorga[illegible]
equivalente a lo que el cliente hubiese pagado con PG&E o SCE por el servicio de generación el[illegible]
nunca paga dos veces por el servicio de generación eléctrica.

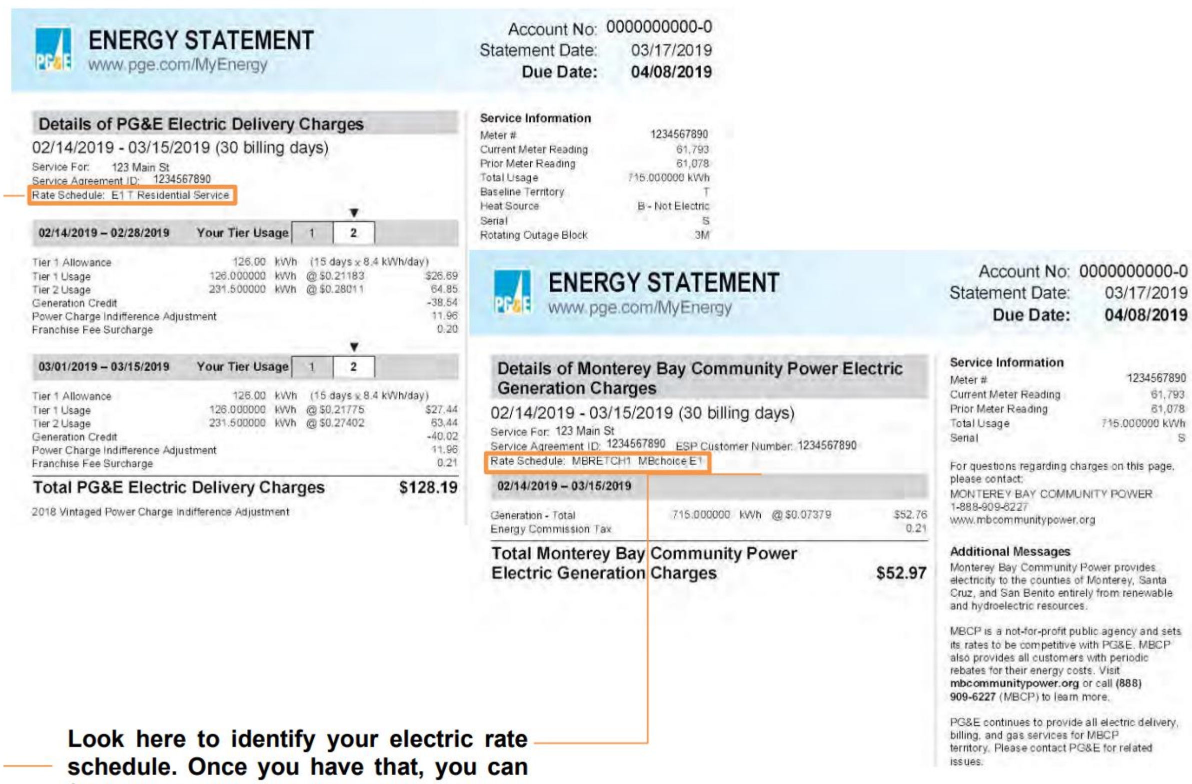
CANCELACIÓN DE SERVICIO Clientes de 3CE pueden optar por cancelar el servicio de generac[illegible]
cualquier momento llamando al 888.909.6227 o ingresando a 3CE.org/opt-out. Durante los prime[illegible]
usted tiene la oportunidad de cancelar su servicio con 3CE sin costo alguno. Después del period[illegible]
una pequeña tarifa de servicio por cancelación de servicio. ($5 para cuentas de clientes residenc[illegible]
clientes comerciales).

* Los detalles completos se pueden encontrar en 3Cenergy.org

I. Rates: Notwithstanding all these problems**,** the 3CE customer is meanwhile feeling environmentally virtuous and paying less than what PG&E charges, but about double for electricity, compared with most of the consumers in the United States. PG&E's level average blended rate is about 22.5 cents per kilowatt hour. The rest of the country pays about 11.5 cents. Customers think they are getting a deal because they pay less to 3CE. But they are already paying much more, as PG&E had to purchase high-cost government supplied renewables as a State mandate and fund all manner of State energy giveaway programs. In effect, they are paying twice to be virtuous. In the end, the actual energy generation portion of the bill is only about 30 % of the total. 3CE has no say in the other costs, which account for about 70% of the bill.

Where Do I Find My Electric Rate Schedule?

Need some help finding your electric rate? Go to the "Electric Delivery Charges" section of your energy statement - you'll find your electric rate in the upper left.



Look here to identify your electric rate schedule. Once you have that, you can find your rate comparison below.

The County board letter presents the rate comparison, but limits it to the energy generation rates and does not include the transportation, distribution, and government-imposed taxes. It is terribly dishonest, as it does not include all the other rates and thus overstates the savings.

Average Rates ($/kWh)

Class	PG&E 2023 Average Rate	3CE 2023 Average Rate	Percent Savings
RESIDENTIAL	$0.14255	$0.08687	39%
SMALL COMMERCIAL	$0.14186	$0.08271	42%
MEDIUM COMMERCIAL	$0.14258	$0.08155	43%
LARGE COMMERCIAL	$0.12946	$0.07767	40%
AGRICULTURE	$0.11728	$0.08198	30%
STREETLIGHTS	$0.12699	$0.08771	31%

In addition to the energy rates, PG&E must be reimbursed for its operational costs and a variety of State fees that have been imposed upon it. What about the other costs that are paid by both the PG&E customer and the 3CE customer? Once the charges listed here are included, what is the actual savings?

PG&E Charges
Current PG&E Distribution Charges
Current PG&E Transmission Charges

State Charges On All Electric Bills
Electric Public Purchase Program
Recovery Bond Charge
Wildfire hardening Charge
Taxes
Energy Commission Tax
Nuclear Decommissioning

Sample typical residence:

Tiered Rate Plan E-1*

Residential: E-1	PG&E	3Cchoice
Generation Rate ($/kWh)	$0.14202	$0.09100
PG&E Delivery Rate ($/kWh)	$0.19978	$0.19978
PG&E PCIA/FF ($/kWh)	$0.01412	$0.00374
Total Electricity Cost ($/kWh)	$0.35592	$0.29452
Average Monthly Bill ($)	**$139.81**	**$115.69**

Monthly usage: 393 kWh

After the other charges are included, the 3CE bill is about 17% lower, not 39% lower, as presented in the County staff report.

Why have the City of SLO City Council or the SLO Board of Supervisors never allowed anyone to lay this out in open session?

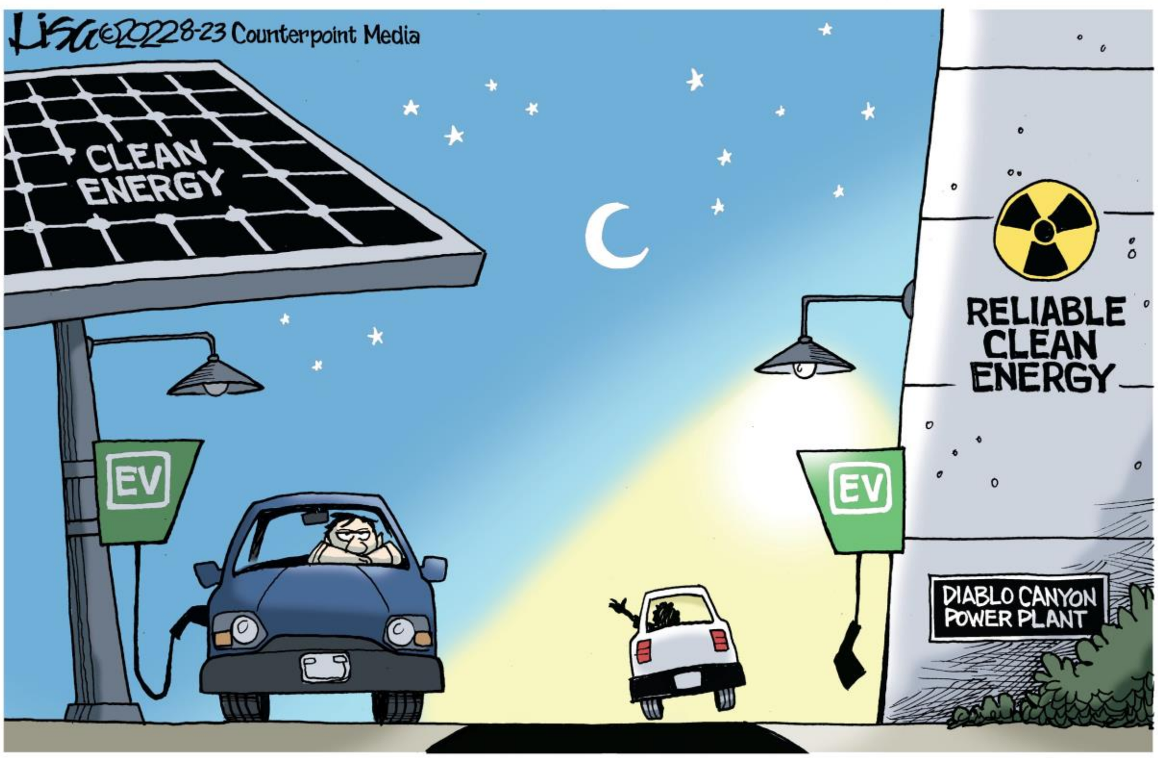
In the end, the War on Carbon will go the way of the War On Poverty, The War on Crime, The War on Drugs, the War on Terrorism, and the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Meanwhile, 3CE's power purchase contracts for Arizona "green" energy are helping to subsidize much lower rates to run air conditioners 24/7 in Phoenix and Tucson.

See the County's own independent report from 2017, in which it recommends that the County not join 3CE.

https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/150034

THIRD-PARTY REVIEW: COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

MRW
MRW & Associates



Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday March 23, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item 6 - Hearing to consider a request by Beau Bianchi (Bianchi Winery) for a Conditional Use Permit (N-DRC2021-00012) to allow phased expansion and remodel of the 14,023-

square foot winery facility and a 2,123-square-foot tasting room that will include at buildout: a 445-square-foot distillery and 295 square- foot second tasting room for distilled spirit tasting within the existing winery building, as well as a 1,647-square-foot limited food serving facility (restaurant) located within the existing hospitality building, consisting of a 426 square-foot kitchen, and an existing 63-square-foot storage area, a 384-square-foot indoor seating area and a 774-square-foot outdoor seating area. The project includes the construction of a new 2,800-square-foot eight-modular unit Bed & Breakfast Inn with 832-square-feet of individual decks plus a 900-square-foot Innkeeper Unit with a 322-square-foot deck. Finally, the construction of a 9,280 square-foot winery production building previously approved under DRC2005-00180 (that was never built) for future storage. The staff recommends approval. However there are 11 pages of detailed conditions and mitigations beyond the regular zoning requirements. The project will create a fun place to visit and or stay. But with the new County attack on events, will they be allowed to have weddings and birthday parties?

Table 1. Project Use Summary

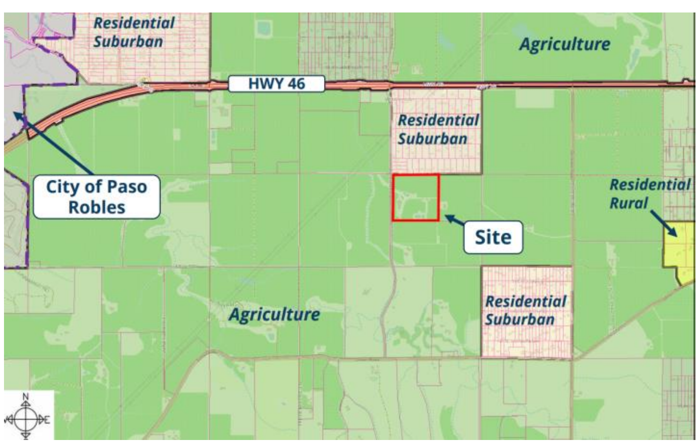
Interior Uses Per Building	Ag Processing Use (SF)	Visitor Serving Use (SF)
Hospitality Building *Includes Limited Food Serving Facility*	342 *(office, support & utility rooms)*	2,216
Winery Production Building	12,700	295 *(distillery tasting)*
Winery Production Building Addition (Case Storage)	9,280	-
Bed & Breakfast Inn Units (8 total)	-	2,800
Bed & Breakfast Innkeeper Unit	-	900
Subtotal	***22,322***	***6,211***

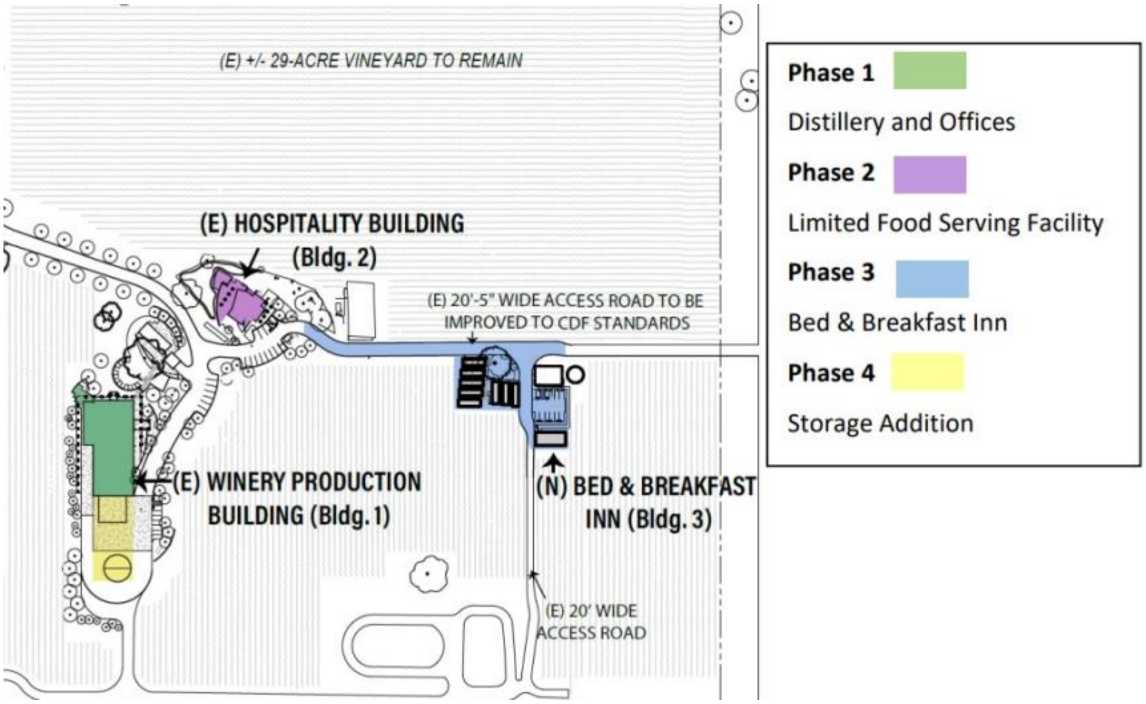
Exterior Uses Per Building	Ag Processing Use (SF)	Visitor Serving Use (SF)
Hospitality Building		774
Winery Production Building	4,827	-
Bed & Breakfast Inn Units (8 total)	-	832
Bed & Breakfast Innkeeper Unit	-	322
Subtotal	***4,827***	***1,928***
Total	**27,149**	**8,139**

Winery Special Events

In addition, the existing, approved special events program allowed under DRC2005-00180 (Resolution 2008-335)will remain in place that allows up to 20 events a year with a maximum of 200 attendees at certain events (including non-profits). The number of persons per event is as follows:

- 7 Events per year with up to 100 people
- 10 Events per year with up to 150 people
- 3 Events per year with up to 200 people





***LEGAL LOT STATUS** The existing lot was legally created by deed at a time when that was a legal method of creating lots.*

The staff picks and chooses on these. Sometimes they will allow an antiquated subdivision: sometimes they won't. When they won't, they require the owner to go through a new subdivision application.

Item 8 - Hearing to consider a request by Congregation Beth David, for a Vesting Tentative Tract Map (TR3169) to subdivide an existing 92-acre parcel into 8 parcels: a 20-acre parcel to contain the existing Congregation Beth David, a 5.92-acre parcel to be designated as a low-income residential parcel with the potential for future mixed-use development, four approximately 2.5-acre parcels for sale and future residential development, and two larger parcels of 20.12 acres and 35.93 acres. The project includes the request for a density bonus to allow for the subdivision of the property into 8 lots, all of which are smaller than 40-acres. The division would create one on-site private roadway for access to the four residential parcels. The proposed project is within the agricultural land use category and is located at 10180 Los Osos Valley Road. The staff recommends against the approval of the subdivision. We are only guessing, but it is likely that the Congregation is attempting to raise some money for its endowment to help sustain itself. COVID 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. Given that government did the damage, the County could consider cutting the Congregation some slack under the COVID restoration polices.

The report slams the door hard on the application.

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.

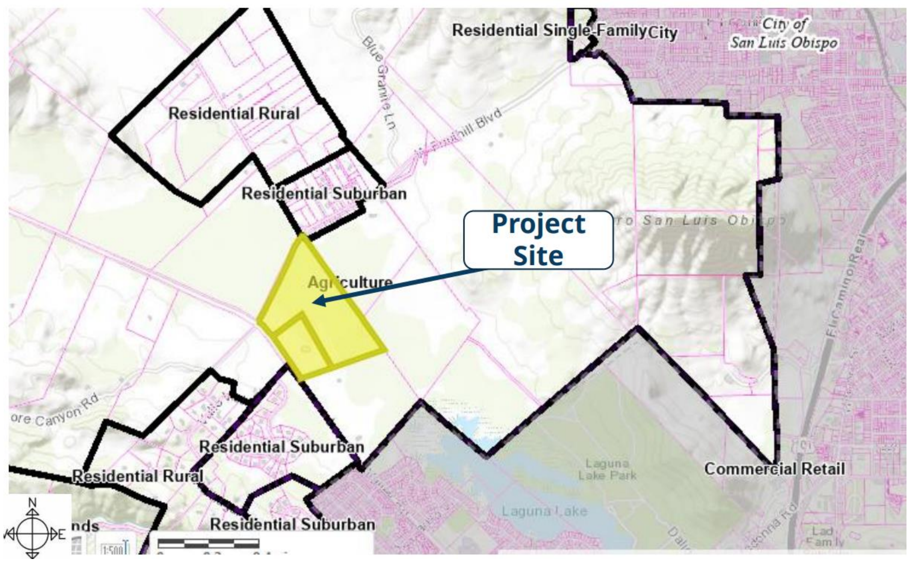
J. The site is not physically suitable for the type of development proposed because available information indicates serious concerns regarding water quantity and quality and adequate wastewater service has not been demonstrated.
K. The site is not physically suitable for the proposed density of the development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



LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

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

Next week's meeting on March 21st, epitomizes how the leftist Empire Strikes Back.

Local Agency Formation Commission of Thursday, March 16, 2023 (Cancelled)

Special Board of Supervisors Meeting of Thursday, March 16, 2023 (Not Scheduled)

Item 1 - The Board of Supervisors ratified the storm state of emergency declared by the CAO in order to be eligible for State and Federal aid. The President did include SLO County in the Federal Disaster Declaration for the storm damage such as flooding, landslides, and road deterioration.

The County (and other local government jurisdictions) may potentially be eligible for 75% reimbursement of certain storm related costs through the California Disaster Assistance Act (Gov. Code, § 8680 et seq.; "CDAA") and FEMA. While there is no guarantee our local public agencies – including the County – will eventually be deemed eligible to receive the disaster reimbursement funds, without a local proclamation we will not be eligible to apply for such assistance. While final costs are not available at this time, damages are being assessed. CDAA and FEMA will offset 75% of disaster recovery costs that are deemed eligible.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - Yes, the Latest Bank Bailout Is Really a Bailout, and You Are Paying for It.

- 

03/13/2023 Ryan McMaken

Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) failed on Friday and was shut down by regulators. It was the second-largest failure in US history and the first since the global financial crisis. Almost immediately, the calls for bailouts started to come in. (Since Friday, First Republic Bank has failed, and many other banks are facing collapse.)

In fact, on March 9, even before SVB failed, billionaire investor Bill Ackman took to Twitter to insist a federal "bailout should be considered" if the private sector could not save the bank. Hours after SVB officially failed, Ackman was still at it, and in a 646-word panicky screed, he demanded that the federal government "guarantee SVB deposits" and essentially backstop the entire banking industry to keep failing, inefficient, and poorly managed banks afloat.

Now, many readers might be saying to themselves, "I thought bank deposits were insured!" That, of course, is correct, but deposits are only legislatively insured up to $250,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Given that most normal people keep less than this in their bank accounts, that means the majority of bank users are not going to lose any of their money should their banks fail. Moreover, it is extremely easy to acquire deposit insurance on much *more* than $250,000 by simply keeping money at more than one bank. That $250,000 limit applies to the deposits *at each bank* where a depositor keeps funds. For customers with high liquidity needs, the financial sector offers tools for dealing with the risk of exceeding FDIC limits.

In an illustration of the laziness and arrogance that so characterizes our modern financial class, however, many of the wealthiest depositors at Silicon Valley Bank couldn't be bothered with managing their deposits, and they essentially ignored the deposit-insurance rules that even a ten-year-old understands when opening his first bank account.

As a result, many venture capitalists and other wealthy SVB customers stand to a lot of money. At least, they *stood* to lose a lot of money *before* Sunday evening, when the Federal Reserve announced its new "Bank Term Funding Program" (BTFP), which promises to flood the banking system with new money and shore up the personal finances of wealthy depositors.

This is part of a two-pronged effort to both make banks appear more financially sound, and to greatly expand FDIC payouts to depositors who have their funds in these banks.

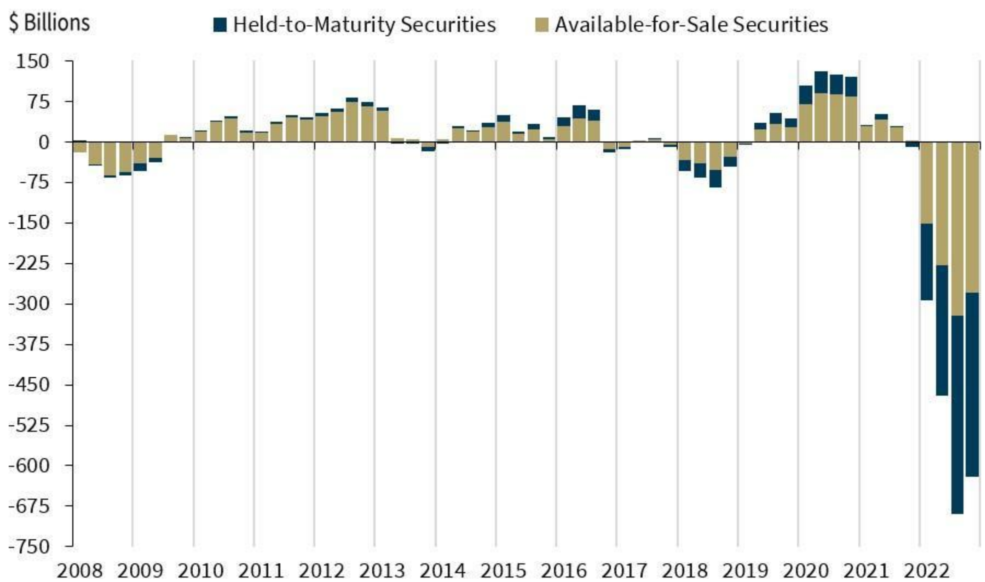
The official propaganda coming out of the administration, and from the usual Fed fanboys, is that none of this is a bailout. That's a lie. The new steps being taken by the Fed and by the Treasury Department's FDIC are indeed ultimately bailouts for billionaires and other wealthy depositors. Moreover, this new program will require at least a partial return of quantitative easing. There's no way to guarantee such huge sums of money without having to fall back on inflationary monetary policy yet again. This also means price inflation won't be going away. Here is why.

Propping Up Asset Prices with New Money

The first prong of the bailout plan is to use extremely low-cost loans to shovel more money at banks in order to make them look more financially sound. The idea here is to head off depositor panics over uninsured deposits before they start. The first indication that this scheme is a bailout comes from the text of the press release on the creation of the BTFP. It states that the new program will be offering loans of up to one year in length to banks, savings associations, credit unions, and other eligible depository institutions pledging U.S. Treasuries, agency debt and mortgage-backed securities [MBS], and other qualifying assets as collateral. These assets will be valued at par. The BTFP will be an additional source of liquidity against high-quality securities, eliminating an institution's need to quickly sell those securities in times of stress.

The key phrase is "These assets will be valued at par." That's important because these banks are facing huge unrealized losses, many stemming from losses on assets whose market prices plummeted as interest rates rose. Part of the reason these banks are in trouble is because their assets are no longer worth anywhere near par value in the marketplace:

Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment Securities



Source: FDIC.
Note: Insured Call Report filers only.

Yet, the Fed has decided to simply declare that banks' assets sit at par value and thus far more valuable than is really the case. It will let banks use these assets as collateral at the imaginary (higher) prices.

Moreover, the terms of the BTFP loans reiterate how these are loans designed to hand money to banks for little in return. According to the Fed, "there are no fees associated with the Programs" and there is no penalty for prepayment. Foreign banks are also eligible, by the way. And, of course, "the Department of the Treasury . . . [will] provide $25 billion as credit protection." If history is any guide, we can expect that Treasury backstop to get *a lot* bigger. If and when some of these banks default on the loans, the collateral won't come close to covering the value of the loans. The banks are essentially getting free money.

"Why the Fed Is Bankrupt and Why That Means More Inflation" by Ryan McMaken]

Where will the money to provide these loans come from? It will be printed, of course. The Fed is already bankrupt and has no extra money lying around. The Fed can't just start selling off its $8.5 trillion hoard of Treasury's and MBS to get cash. That would drive down the prices of those assets even further, and this would make balance sheets at banks—who also own Treasury's and MBS—even worse. So, new loans and guarantees will have to come from new money. Another phrase for that is "monetary inflation."

The FDIC Will Need a Bailout

The second prong of the bailout is the FDIC's promise to cover all depositors at troubled banks, rather than just those with deposits up to the usual limit. The not-a-bailout narrative claims that the new promised expansion of insurance will all be funded by FDIC fees and imposes no costs on taxpayers. "The banks will pay for it," we are told.

That's not how it will actually work. In this three-minute video, Peter St. Onge explains the real problem:

St. Onge notes that the FDIC fund available for backstopping deposits is less than $130 billion. Yet deposits in US banks total approximately $22 trillion. The FDIC fund is equal to about 0.6 percent of all the deposits. And it appears that even at the banks with the highest proportion of FDIC-covered accounts, only 42 percent of deposits are covered by insurance. So, clearly, extending FDIC coverage to *all* deposits means the FDIC will have nowhere near the funds it needs to cover potential depositor losses. The FDIC was never intended to insure rich people with deposits well in excess of FDIC insurance maximums. Yet that is exactly what is now happening.

When the FDIC runs out of money, what happens? The FDIC runs to the US Treasury to get a bailout. Where does the money to bail out the FDIC come from? It comes either from current tax revenues or from borrowed money. Either way, the taxpayers are on the hook. Moreover, if the Fed intervenes to buy up some of that new government debt—to keep federal interest obligations low, of course—then taxpayers will also pay via the inflation tax.

"How the Fed Is Enabling Congress's Trillion-Dollar Deficits"

When we consider all this, we can see how the grift works: the Fed or the Treasury Department creates a "fund" and claims that it will be financed by fees and other nontax revenue sources. Thus, when the FDIC or the Fed rush to bail out banks, the politicians can claim the taxpayers will pay nothing. That is only true if the programs themselves receive no backstopping from the Treasury or from monetary inflation. But if we've learned anything since 2008, it's that these programs all enjoy implicit guarantees of taxpayer backing, and that any "caps" on these amounts *can be increased at any time*.

Expect More Price Inflation

In any case, the ordinary taxpayer will certainly feel the pain in terms of ongoing price inflation. Current bailout efforts are inflationary and are thoroughly opposed to the Federal Reserve's recent attempts at "quantitative tightening." The whole point of the bailouts, after all, is to *loosen financial conditions* for banks. So the Fed will almost certainly be backing off whatever it had planned in terms of raising the target interest rate and reducing its portfolio at the next Federal Open Market Committee meeting. Now the Fed will be looking at whatever strategy it can find to increase the flow of dollars to banks, and that will mean more money creation, even if the Fed's official position remains ostensibly hawkish. Put another way, get ready for more entrenched price inflation. But don't forget that the primary focus of all of this is to bail out wealthy depositors and bankers. On top of it all, there's no guarantee that it will even work. There's a reason the financial technocrats are in panic mode. They don't know what will happen next.

Author:

Contact Ryan McMaken

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Item 2 - Coastal Commission Loses Another Round on the Oceano Dunes

Friends of Oceano Dunes wins another victory against Coastal Commission

March 16, 2023

By KAREN VELIE

Friends of the Oceano Dunes won another contentious legal battle against the California Coastal Commission on Wednesday. A judge denied the state's motion for summary judgement in a quiet title lawsuit.

In an attempt to have portions of the Oceano Dunes dedicated for off-highway vehicle use, Friends of the Oceano Dunes filed a quiet title lawsuit on May 11, 2021. The suit argues that because off-road vehicle enthusiasts have recreated on the dunes for more than five years, without asking or receiving permission and without objection, they have the right to continue driving and camping on the dunes.

People began driving on the dunes decades before three defendants named in the lawsuit — California State Parks, the County of San Luis Obispo and the California Department of General Services — purchased the property.

Attorneys for the Coastal Commission argued that other historical uses of the dunes such as horseback riding and clamming were more prevalent then off-highway vehicle use, which the state said were largely limited to holiday weekends in past decades.

San Luis Obispo Superior Court Judge Tana Coates rejected all of the state's arguments and set the case for trial in Oct. 2023.

"The state does not show how each use would negate an element of Friends' cause of action or provide a complete defense thereto," Judge Coates wrote in her ruling. "The fact that the state contends that any implied dedication is broader than the one sought by Friends does not show that an implied dedication did not arise, or that Friends has no cause of action for quiet title."

In March 2021, the California Coastal Commission voted unanimously to phase out off-road vehicle usage at the Oceano Dunes over the next three years and to ban nighttime vehicle riding at the Oceano Dunes. Friends has filed four lawsuits to overturn the commission action.

Friends' quiet title lawsuit also alleges the Coastal Commission "abused its discretion" when it voted to stop off-road vehicle usage on land with an "implied dedication."

More than a decade ago, the SLO County Air Pollution Control Board (APCD) first claimed it had tied off-road vehicle traffic at the Oceano Dunes State Recreational Area to higher levels of dust on the Nipomo Mesa, including a claim that the dust contained dangerous levels of toxic crystalline silica.

After 10 years of warning Nipomo residents of the dangers of silica dust, the APCD decided to run tests for silica in the air. The testing refuted the APCD's earlier claims; concluding the dust blowing from the dunes did not contain dangerous levels of crystalline silica.

Because of the APCD-derived false concerns that silica from the dunes was harming the health of people living on the Mesa, Coastal Commission staff first showed interest in shuttering the off-road vehicle park.

In two other lawsuits filed in 2021, Friends accuses the Coastal Commission of violating laws and exceeding its authority when it voted to stop off-road vehicle recreation at the dunes.

Friends of the Oceano Dunes is a nonprofit that represents approximately 28,000 supporters of off-road recreation.

"Friends' Board of Directors have made clear that Friends will continue to pursue all legal remedies to protect beach driving, camping and off-highway vehicle recreation at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area the way it has been occurring for the last 100 years," Friends wrote in a press release.

KarenVelie is the top investigative reporter in both SLO and Santa Barbara County. This article first appeared in Cal Coast News on March 16, 2023.

COLAB IN DEPTH

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

RENEWABLES AREN'T RENEWABLE

Why key facts are dismissed by America's elites is a story of corruption, collusion, megalomania, greed, cowardice, intellectual negligence, and delusional mass psychosis.

BY EDWARD RING

Today in America, there are obvious disconnects between observable reality and the narratives we get from the corporate special interests controlling the news we consume, along with politicians who are supposedly elected to represent us.

This is nothing new. Elites have defined America's destiny throughout its history. The only difference today is that the internet, despite ongoing crackdowns, still manages to deliver an unprecedented volume of contrarian perspectives to millions of people. We aren't any freer or less manipulated today than we ever were, we're just more aware of it.

What may be different today, however, is the misanthropic folly of America's current energy policies. America's ruling elites are not only imposing these policies on everyone living here, they are attempting to impose them everywhere on earth.

By now it should be beyond serious debate that "renewable" energy cannot possibly scale adequately to replace fossil fuels. Worse still, renewable energy systems are even *less* sustainable than fossil fuels and cause *more* environmental destruction. Renewables also fail to offer significant reductions in carbon emissions, and in some cases actually cause *more* carbon emissions.

Why these facts are dismissed by America's elites is a story of corruption, collusion, megalomania, greed, cowardice, intellectual negligence, and delusional mass psychosis. Modern political theory offers solace to cynics who believe all democracies are actually just "managed" shams by suggesting pluralism and representative government are nonetheless at least approximated if there is competition among the powerful elites running a nation. But what if there is *no* interelite competition in the realm of ideas? What happens when every one of these elites believes the same things? When it comes to "renewables" and "net zero by 2050," that's what we have in America today.

As a result, Americans face a future of perpetual scarcity: rationed, algorithmically micro-managed access to energy, punitive pricing for energy use over government mandated thresholds, and a wasteland of landscapes ruined by solar farms, wind farms, battery farms, distribution lines, open pit mines, evaporation ponds, and dumps; all the destructive consequences of industrial scale "renewables" development. At this rate, the blind rush to eliminate fossil fuel and rely solely on renewables will cause catastrophic worldwide shortages of energy, spawning deadly poverty and desperate wars.

Renewables Are Not Renewable

A recent post by respected investment blogger Wolf Richter, compiling data from the Energy Information Administration, reported "renewables" generated 22.6 percent of all U.S. electricity in 2022, a record high. Proponents of renewables consider this achievement as validating their strategy. But the devil is in the details.

To begin with, hydropower accounted for 6.1 percent of that total. But hydropower is under relentless assault by environmentalists, and even if more hydroelectric dams could be built instead of demolished—which is the current trend—the best sites have already been developed.

But what about wind, which contributed 10.1 percent of all electricity generated in 2022, and solar, which added another 4.8 percent?

To put the question into relevant context, first consider what it's going to take to get America's economy to a "net zero" state by relying solely on wind and solar. To do this, we cannot merely calculate how much additional wind and solar generating capacity would be necessary to replace all other sources of *electricity* generation in the United States. The residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation sectors of the U.S. economy rely on direct inputs of natural gas and petroleum for 62 percent of the energy they require. Electricity is only used for the remaining 38 percent, which means at 14.9 percent of *that*, wind and solar actually only delivered 5.7 percent of *all* energy consumed in the United States in 2022.

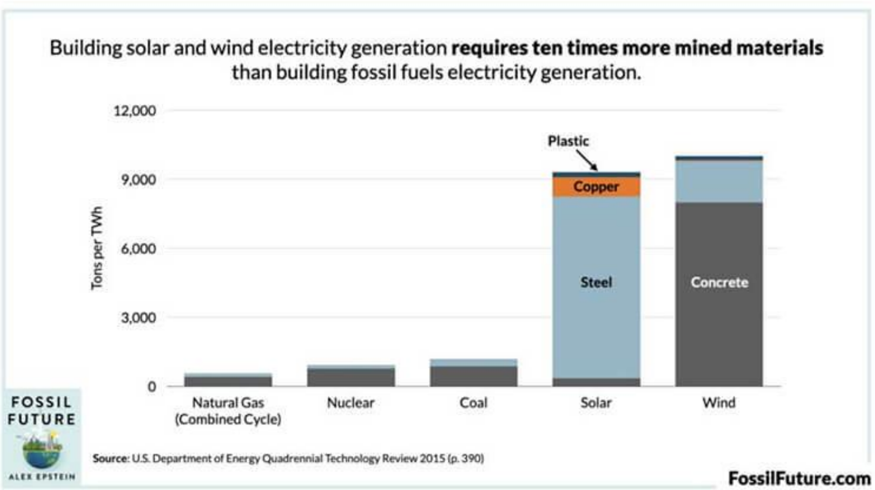
Merely electrifying the transportation sector in the United States would require total electricity generation to nearly double. To electrify the entire U.S. economy would require total electrical generation to *triple*. To do this using only wind and solar power would require the current installed base of wind and solar to expand by a factor of 18 times, and the process would involve far more than erecting 18 times more wind turbines and solar farms than we have already. There remains as well what is euphemistically called "balance of plant."

In the case of wind and solar, balance of plant refers to thousands of miles of additional high voltage power lines and utility-scale battery backup systems. Since most parts of the United States, such as the densely populated Northeast, do not have reliable solar energy and are not the windiest parts of the country, it would be necessary to transmit wind energy from the plains states, and solar power from the southern latitudes. At the same time, hundreds, if not thousands of gigawatt-hours of battery storage would be required.

Peter Ziehan, an economist whose new book *The End of the World Is Just the Beginning* should be mandatory reading for anyone promoting renewables, had this to say about relying on wind and solar power, along with transmission lines and battery backup: "Such infrastructure would be on the scale and scope that humanity has not yet attempted."

The Resources Required for Renewable Energy

One of the most prolific and persuasive advocates for a realistic energy strategy in the U.S. is Alex Epstein, whose latest book *Fossil Future*, makes a compelling case for why the benefits of using fossil fuel far outweigh the costs, including the environmental costs. Using data from the U.S. Department of Energy, he produced the following chart, which ought to make plain the devastation—and complete unsustainability—of so-called renewable power.



Epstein's analysis employs "tons per terawatt-hour," referring to the tons of raw materials required to construct various forms of electricity-producing generating plants; natural gas, nuclear, coal, solar, and wind. As the chart above shows, to generate the same amount of electricity, building a natural gas power plant uses only a small fraction of the raw materials required for a solar or wind system. The magnitude of the stress solar and wind would put onto mining operations is evident when calculating what it would take for them to power the entire United States, or the entire world.

If the entire U.S. annual consumption of energy were expressed in terawatt-hours, that is, if every economic sector of the United States were electrified it would take 28,500 terawatt-hours, based on the most recent data. That would equate to solar and wind farms consuming approximately 256 million tons of concrete and steel. The entire U.S. steel production in 2021 was 86 million tons. The entire U.S. cement production in 2021 was 80 million tons.

Then there's the copper, which for solar requires about 1,000 tons per terawatt-hour. This means if 50 percent of the renewables required to electrify the entire U.S. economy were via solar power, 14 million tons would be required. Total U.S. copper production is only 1.3 million tons per year. This much new solar energy capacity would use up 100 percent of our *entire production of copper for 11 years*.

This only begins to describe the environmental toll "renewables" are poised to inflict on the planet. What about the fact that for every person on earth to consume just *half* as much energy per capita that Americans consume, global energy production would need to *double*? To do that with wind and solar would require roughly 3 *billion* tons of cement and steel, and well over 100 million tons of copper. Have the renewables advocates thought this through?

All conventional power plant alternatives, using gas, nuclear and coal, require *one-tenth* or less raw materials to generate an equivalent quantity of electricity. For modern natural gas combined cycle generating plants, the ratio is closer to *1/20^th^* as much raw inputs. But when it comes to solar and wind power, which is distributed and intermittent, what about the transmission lines and the batteries? What about the service life of all this installed base, the solar panels and batteries and wind turbines that degrade after 20 years and have to be decommissioned, recycled and replaced? What about the environmental costs of extending this resource guzzling scheme to every nation on earth?

A child and a woman break rocks extracted from a cobalt mine in Lubumbashi. JUNIOR KANNAH/AFP via Getty Images

Electric Vehicles Are Not Sustainable

When discussing the sustainability of renewables, of course, an honest analysis cannot focus exclusively on the production side. If the energy consumption of an entire economy is electrified, that would include the transportation sector, where in every significant case the goal of electrification is fraught with challenges. Ships at sea cannot recharge their batteries during a four week voyage on the deep ocean. Can they use hydrogen fuel cells instead? Can they go back to relying on sails?

Farm equipment that is too expensive to leave idle during harvests must operate up to 18 hours a day, so how will they recharge in only six hours? Will they swap batteries in the middle of a shift? Perhaps solutions exist. But they are expensive and they squander resources.

It is the ubiquitous automobile, at last count numbering 291 million in the United States alone, where "renewable" technology is most readily exposed as incredibly wasteful and destructive to the environment. Peter Zeihan explains what it takes to build an all-electric vehicle: "You think going to war for oil was bad? Materials inputs for just the drivetrain of an EV are six times what's required for an internal combustion engine. If we're truly serious about a green transition that will electrify everything, our consumption of all these materials and more must increase by more than an order of magnitude."

Not just the environmental, but the human impact of replacing hundreds of millions of conventional automobiles with Evs is outlined in a scathing new book by Siddharth Kara, *Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives*. When every supply chain on earth, egged on by the "climate crisis," is furiously bulking up to source raw materials at 10 times the rate they'd previously required, abuse is inevitable.

The tragedy playing out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to feed cobalt to the "green" West is almost apocalyptic. Kara describes how private militias control mining areas with child slaves picking their way through toxic pits in subhuman conditions. Environmental regulations are nonexistent. Human rights are nonexistent. This appalling drama repeats itself around the world, at the same time as slick television commercials market electric vehicles to Americans as a virtuous choice.

So What Are Some Alternatives?

Current responses to the climate change "crisis" are not serving the interests of people or the environment. Even if every terrifying climate prediction were accurate, most nations of the world are not going to stop developing fossil fuel because, as we have seen, it is impossible to replace based on any existing technologies.

For this reason, the money being directed to retooling the entire energy sector to adopt "renewables" should be redirected to research and commercialize breakthrough technologies. Maybe direct synthesis of carbon dioxide into liquid fuel, or fusion power, or factory farmed high-yield biofuel from algae. Maybe something we can't yet imagine. If politicians are panicked over climate change, put money into research. Because today's renewable energy technology will destroy the planet and the people.

There is an upside to green technology when it is commercially competitive. Hybrid SUVs, which carry a small battery and electric motor to recover energy from braking and downhill coasting can get 40 miles per gallon. Advanced hybrids that might utilize onboard generators, natural gas internal combustion engines, and smaller batteries, could deliver much higher fuel efficiency. So why has California banned emerging hybrid technologies, instead mandating that new cars have no combustion engines whatsoever?

Similarly, there are places where an all-of-the-above energy strategy can make commercial sense, but those places are limited. One of the reasons natural gas power plants are inaccurately stigmatized as not cost-competitive with solar power is because on grids with a large installed base of renewables these plants are only fired up when the sun goes down and the wind stops blowing, meaning their ability to earn revenue is cut in half, even though the cost to build them remains the same.

Rapidly forcing current renewable energy technology onto the American economy comes with staggering opportunity costs. The trillions of dollars in public and private investment could be redirected to upgrade badly neglected existing infrastructure and build new and cost-effective conventional infrastructure in order to deliver abundant energy, water, and transportation assets to the American people. These investments in *practical* infrastructure during the 1930s and again in the 1950s and '60s constituted the enabling foundation for an explosion in manufacturing productivity, well-paying jobs, and affordable market housing.

There is a demographic irony here that renewables advocates fail to appreciate. Prosperous nations are experiencing unsustainably low birthrates because despite freedom from basic hunger, manufactured scarcity has made it necessary for both parents to work just to spend most of their income making mortgage payments on a ridiculously overpriced home. Many have to live in apartments and condominiums where nobody wants to raise children. When it comes to being able to form families, prosperity in developed nations is an illusion. Only with practical infrastructure development will the cost-of-living descend to the point where people in prosperous nations will again choose to start families.

At the same time, in poor nations where labor intensive subsistence farming and child labor are how families survive, birth rates remain unsustainably high. Delivering cost-effective energy and infrastructure solutions to these nations will bring their birth rates down, as it has all over the world. Delivering "renewables," on the other hand, forces both parents to keep working in developed nations, and condemns the people living in poor nations—during even the slightest blip in imported aid—to strip the forests bare for fuel and exterminate the wild and endangered game for protein. That's the green world fully realized. It's a dismal scenario.

Renewables in their current form will never deliver enough energy to sustain a prosperous human civilization. But they will destroy the earth. Wind farms, onshore and offshore, wreak havoc with insect, avian and marine life, and building them will consume more cement than the world can possibly supply. Solar farms consume vast amounts of open land—where, paradoxically, environmentalists prohibit anyone from building to increase the supply of homes—and they will consume more steel and copper than the world can possibly supply. The same goes for Evs, batteries, and new high voltage transmission lines. In exchange for displacing *less than two percent* of oil production, biofuel crops already consume 500,000 square miles; pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer saturated monocrops abound where there were once rainforests or diversified farmland.

The pillaging of the earth to source raw materials for renewables will make the current impact of human civilization on the environment trivial by comparison. In a wealthy nation like America, mandated renewables will complete the destruction of the middle class and will consolidate the power of the surveillance state. If renewables are imposed on poor nations, they will lead to poverty, war, and famine on a scale never seen in human history.

Critics of the renewables mania correctly identify climate crisis passions as a new popular religion for a post-modern culture that has lost its way. But it is the elites who have truly lost their way. They have not only transmuted their natural human need for meaning and purpose into embracing the green religion, but they have become so intoxicated with their wealth and power that they have convinced themselves they are uniquely qualified to control the destiny of the world. They have forgotten the lessons of history. Lost in their own hubris, they are taking this beautiful world and everyone on it straight to hell.

Edward Ring is a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. He is also a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. Ring is the author of Fixing California: Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism (2021) and The Abundance Choice: Our Fight for More Water in California (2022). This article first appeared in the American Greatness of March 7, 2023.

CALIFORNIA'S GREEN DEBACLE

The state's energy policies impose ruinous costs on residents but make no measurable impact on global climate

JONATHAN A. LESSER

Climate change, which serves as the all-purpose villain for every adverse event today, is the driving force behind California's energy policies. Whether in response to summer drought and wildfires, winter rains and mudslides, or alleged price-gouging by climate-denying oil companies, the state has adopted energy policies that will supposedly vanquish climate change, much as Hollywood's heroes vanquish evildoers.

The state's history of climate-related regulation extends back two decades. In 2004, California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order directing state agencies to build a hydrogen-fueling network on state highways by 2010. It never happened. Today, 53 such stations are in operation, concentrated around the Bay Area and Los Angeles, to serve the approximately

10,000 hydrogen-fuel cell vehicles in the state. The average cost to build each station was about $2 million. That works out to about $10,000 per vehicle, excluding the cost of the hydrogen itself.

The following year, Schwarzenegger established the first greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, which required the state to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The state met the 2020 goal and more, with total emissions of just 369 million metric tons.

In 2007, Schwarzenegger signed an executive order imposing a state renewable fuel standard (RFS) requiring a 10 percent reduction in the carbon intensity of all transportation fuels. The RFS was later amended to require a 20 percent reduction in carbon intensity by 2030. In effect, the RFS acts as a requirement for producing biofuels, such as ethanol, and electric vehicles.

Legislation to reduce GHGs began in earnest in 2016 with SB 32, which required a 40 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2030. In 1990, energy-related GHG emissions totaled 387 million metric tons, equivalent to just over 1 percent of the 34 billion metric tons of world emissions in 2021. Moreover, world GHG emissions have been increasing annually by an average of more than 400 million metric tons since 2010, and by an average of almost 500 million metric tons since 2000. So, even if California reduced its emissions to zero tomorrow, it would offset less than one year's growth in world emissions and make no measurable impact on the climate.
More recent legislation established a goal of a 55 percent reduction in GHG emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 and an 85 percent reduction in all GHG emissions no later than 2045. It also requires "zero-emissions" electricity by 2045, which means that the state's electricity needs will have to be met with wind and solar power, with a dollop of geothermal and hydroelectric power thrown in.

To meet these goals—which, again, will have no measurable impact on world climate—the state's politicians and regulators have enacted a smorgasbord of bans on almost everything that uses fossil fuels. The sale of new internal-combustion cars and light trucks will be banned beginning in 2035; the ban on the sale of large diesel trucks starts in 2045. (On January 1 of this year, the ban on operating diesel trucks with engines manufactured before 2010 took effect.) And, though the recent imbroglio over a nationwide ban on the sale of gas stoves has settled down, California has enacted just such a ban, which takes effect in 2030. In that same year, the state will prohibit new gas furnaces and water heaters, and a ban on both the sale and use of gas-powered small engines (for example, lawnmowers, chainsaws, and portable generators) begins next year.

And what good are bans on the "bad" without corresponding mandates for the "good?" In addition to the mandate for 100 percent zero-emissions electricity by 2045, in 2020, the state required that all new single-family homes and low-rise apartments must have solar panels. A similar mandate for all new high-rise buildings took effect on January 1 of this year.

Not satisfied with all these new strictures, in November 2022 the California Air Resources Board presented its all-encompassing Scoping Plan to achieve "carbon neutrality." This plan inserts itself into virtually every aspect of individuals' daily lives, from designing communities that "encourage" people to walk and bike to eliminating meat and dairy consumption. The plan acknowledges that achieving the goals will require inventing technologies that don't yet exist, including burning "green" hydrogen (that is, hydrogen produced by electrolysis of water using wind and solar power) in industrial facilities, such as those that manufacture cement. The plan even requires developing technologies for sucking millions of tons of carbon directly out of the air.

How much all of this will cost remains unknown, though the plan cites studies showing the state and the country can achieve carbon neutrality and save money in the process. But such studies are based on assumptions and projections that lack credibility. Indeed, the plan seems almost to admit this, stating that its work is "fundamentally based on hope."

It's well and good to have hope for the future and for new technologies. But implementing strict mandates based on nothing but wishful thinking is unrealistic. Nothing the state does to reduce GHG emissions will reduce catastrophic wildfires, which in the past five to seven years have been caused primarily by Pacific Gas & Electric's failure to maintain its transmission and distribution system—including the disastrous 2018 Camp Fire, which killed 85 people and for which PG&E pled guilty to manslaughter. Nothing the state does to reduce emissions will reduce periodic droughts or flooding from heavy rains.

But the state's energy policies have accomplished something concrete: damaging California's economy and immiserating millions of its residents. Not for nothing does the state have the highest average electricity price in the 48 contiguous states and the highest average prices for gasoline and diesel fuel. Residents and businesses are unsurprisingly fleeing. And the state's agricultural and manufacturing sectors have been devastated.

California's unwillingness to confront energy, environmental, and economic realities would be almost comical were it not for the increasingly ruinous costs of its green policies, especially for the poor. In 1971, when Boeing was reeling economically, a billboard in Seattle famously read, "Will the last person leaving Seattle turn out the lights?" California may not have to wait for that to happen. More likely, the lights will turn off by themselves.

Jonathan Lesser is president of Continental Economics and an Institute. This *article first appeared in the City Journal of March 13, 2023.*

NET ZERO WILL LEAD TO THE END OF MODERN CIVILISATION, SAYS TOP SCIENTIST

Devastating consequences

A damning indictment of the Net Zero political project has been made by one of the world's leading nuclear physicists.

In a recently published science paper, Dr. Wallace Manheimer said it would be the end of modern 50politicized50. Writing about wind and solar power he argued it would be especially tragic "when not only will this new infrastructure fail, but will cost trillions, trash large portions of the environment, and be entirely unnecessary". The stakes, he added, "are enormous".

Dr. Manheimer holds a physics PhD from MIT and has had a 50-year career in nuclear research, including work at the Plasma Physics Division at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. He has published over 150 science papers. In his view, there is "certainly no scientific basis" for expecting a climate crisis from too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the next century or so. He argues that there is no reason why 50politicized50 cannot advance using both fossil fuel power and nuclear power, gradually shifting to more nuclear power.

There is of course a growing body of opinion that points out that the Emperor has no clothes when it comes to all the fashionable green technologies. Electric cars, wind and solar power, hydrogen, battery storage, heat pumps – all have massive disadvantages, and are incapable of replacing existing systems without devastating consequences.

Manheimer points out that before fossil fuel became widely used, energy was provided by people and animals. Because so little energy was produced, "50politicized50 was a thin veneer atop a vast mountain of human squalor and misery, a veneer maintained by such institutions as slavery, colonialism and tyranny".

This argument hints at why so many rich, virtue-signaling celebrities argue not just for Net Zero but 'Real' Zero, with the banning of all fossil fuel use. King Charles said in 2009 that the age of consumerism and convenience was over, although the multi-mansion owning monarch presumably doesn't think such desperate restrictions apply to himself. Manheimer notes that fossil fuel has extended the benefits of 50politicized50 to billions, but its job is not yet complete. "To spread the benefits of modern 50politicized50 to the entire human family would require much more energy, as well as newer sources," he adds.

The author notes that the emphasis on a false climate crisis is becoming a “tragedy for modern 51politicized51”, which depends on reliable, affordable and environmentally viable energy. “The windmills, solar panels and backup batteries have none of these qualities,” he states. This falsehood has been pushed by what has been termed a climate industrial complex, comprising some scientists, most media, industrialists and legislators. Furthermore, he continues, this grouping has “somehow” managed to convince many that CO_2 in the atmosphere, a gas necessary for life on Earth, one which we exhale with every breath, is an environmental poison.

In Manheimer’s view, the partnership among self-interested businesses, grandstanding politicians and alarmist campaigners, “truly is an unholy alliance”. The climate industrial complex does not promote discussion on how to overcome this challenge in a way that will be best for everyone. “We should not be surprised or impressed that those who stand to make a profit are among the loudest calling for politicians to act,” he added.

Perhaps one of the best voices to cast doubt on an approaching climate crisis, suggests the author, is Professor Emeritus Richard Lindzen of MIT, one of the world’s leading authorities on geological fluid motions:

> *What historians will definitely wonder about in future centuries is how deeply flawed logic, obscured by shrewd and unrelenting propaganda, actually enabled a coalition of powerful special interests to convince nearly everyone in the world that CO_2 from human industry was a dangerous planet-destroying toxin. It will be remembered as the greatest mass delusion in the history of the world – that CO_2, the life of plants, was considered for a time to be a deadly poison.*

Much of Dr. Manheimer’s interesting paper debunks many of the fashionable nostrums surrounding politicized ‘settled’ climate science. It is an excellent read. Discussing some of the contrary opinions that debunk obviously false claims, he says it is “particularly disheartening” to see learned societies make definitive claims when so much contrary information is readily available. He points out that over the last 10,000 years, the Earth has almost certainly been warmer. There have been warmer and colder periods, just like today.

To find the off-narrative information, even Google can be used, Manheimer says – though he does note that the company warns it will not provide information on “claims denying that long-term trends show that the global climate is warming”.

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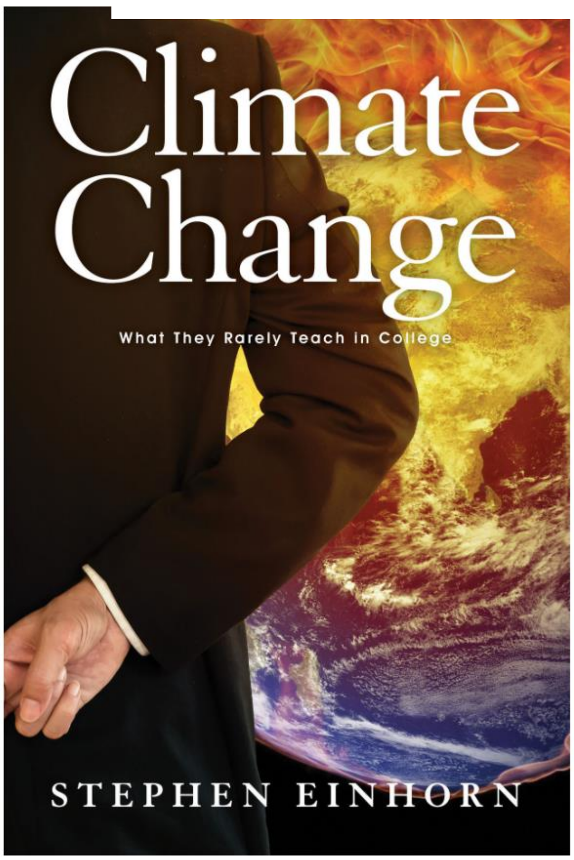

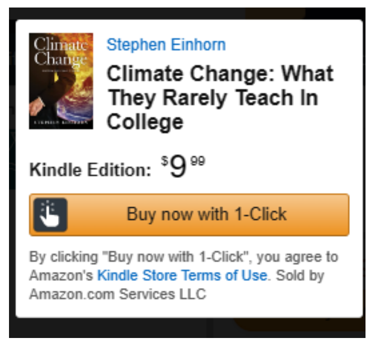

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