

**COLLAB**

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

**WEEKLY UPDATE  
NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2, 2023**

**COLLAB**

San Luis Obispo County



**15TH ANNUAL  
DINNER &  
FUNDRAISER**

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

*Save the Date*

**THURSDAY MARCH 21ST**

**5:30 PM**

**MADONNA INN EXPO CENTER**

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

**SLO COUNTY PENSION TRUST**

*WEAK RETURNS IN 2023*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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

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

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

**2024 FEE INCREASES**  
*WHAT DID YOU GET? - ANOTHER DAY OLDER & DEEPER IN DEBT*

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

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

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

**APCD**

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

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

**LAST WEEK  
SEE PAGE 4**

**NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
OTHER AGENCIES DORMANT**

**EMERGENT ISSUES  
SEE PAGE 13**

**ATTACKS ON DIRECT DEMOCRACY IN  
CALIFORNIA HAVE REACHED A NEW LOW**

**NEWSOM'S QUIXOTIC QUEST**

*Californians need energy to sustain their massive economy, but the state's leaders scorn abundance for green "idealism."*

**STATE DISABILITY INSURANCE TAXES GOING UP –  
FOR SOME, GOING UP A LOT**

*The top 20% of the state's earners will shoulder more than 60% of the tax increase burden*

**US DEBT WILL SOON EXCEED 100% OF GROSS  
DOMESTIC PRODUCT**

*Interest Will Soon Exceed The Defense Budget*

**COLAB IN DEPTH  
SEE PAGE 19**

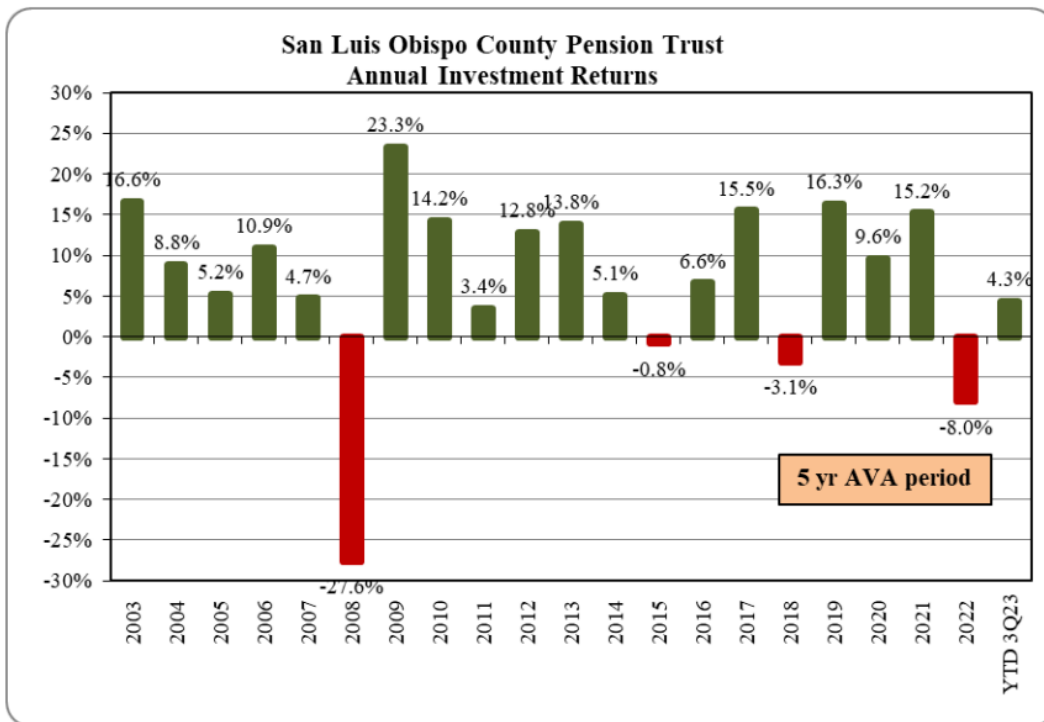
***OFFSHORE WIND IS A FINANCIAL AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE***

*Hasn't anyone calculated what 25 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity is going to look like?*  
**BY EDWARD RING**

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

**SLO County Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, November 27, 2023 (Scheduled)**

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



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

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

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

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

**Authorize the use of Alternative Publication Procedures for the subject ordinance. Hearing set for December 12, 2023.** Per State enabling legislation, the County can adopt and renew an ordinance to relax zoning and permitting standards for affordable housing due to the State housing crisis and evictions. The item sets a required hearing for December 12, where extending the ordinance will be considered.

The write-up states in part:

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

**And**

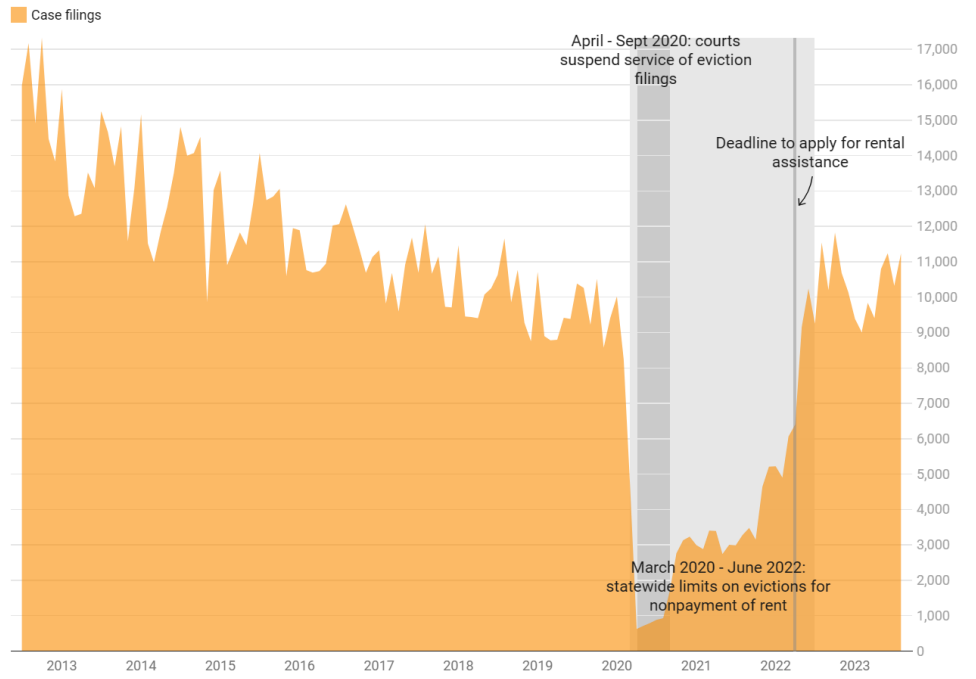
*The most recent Homeless Point in Time Count demonstrated that the number of unhoused individuals residing in the County of San Luis Obispo far exceeds the number of shelter beds available to the extent that only 20% - 30% of the number of unhoused individuals can be accommodated with a shelter bed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

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

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

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

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



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

**Item 5 - Request to 1) approve the contract with Civitas Advisors, Inc. for the examination of Sales or Transactions and Use Tax Records by Civitas Advisors, Inc.; and 2) adopt a resolution declaring the Board's intention to allow the examination of Sales or Transactions and Use Tax Records by Civitas Advisors, Inc. to assist in evaluating a proposed Business Improvement District for the wine industry.** The Paso Robles Wine Alliance and the SLO County Wine Alliance have requested the County to begin the process to form a business improvement district (BID) for the purpose of taxing tasting rooms. The proceeds would be used by the BID to promote the wine industry.

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

Please see the table on the next page.

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

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

**Item 16 - Request to 1) approve a 5-year contract with Tyler Technologies effective July 1, 2024 in the amount of \$1,288,295 (\$257,659 per year) for cloud hosting and licensing for the Enterprise Permitting & Licensing Software (previously EnerGov); 2) approve waiving of the competitive bidding process; and 3) delegate authority to the Planning and Building Director or his designee to sign any amendments to the contract that do not increase the level of General Fund support.** This is a multi-year contract to move the County's online permitting system from in-house servers to cloud servers run by its current vendor, Energov. This is necessary because by 2025, Energov will no longer support the software on its clients' in-house servers. It is not clear if the migration provides any functional enhancements. Nevertheless the County really has no choice.

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

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

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

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

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

How would anyone know?

**Item 35 - Hearing to consider an ordinance implementing the County Fee Schedule "A" for Calendar Year 2024 and Fee Schedule "B" for Fiscal Year 2024-25.** The annual hearing for increasing fees will be in the morning if matters stay on schedule.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

**The underlying problems include:**

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

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

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

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

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

When this item was first agendized, we provided a review of some of the significant the fee changes and additions. **See the Addendum, page 23 below, for that information.**

**Item 36 - Executive Session - Addendum Item 1 - PERSONNEL (Government Code section 54957.) It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session to: (16) Consider Public Employee Appointment for the Position of County Administrative Officer.** At the same time that it was announced that CAO John Nilon had been terminated, it was announced that the current Deputy CAO Rebecca Campbell would be appointed as Acting CAO. This session may be needed to legally make that appointment and agree on any pay and other terms. It could also cover the future recruitment process.

## **MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM**

**Item 37 - Hearing to 1) consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo to approve amendments to the Land Use Ordinance, Title 22 of the County Code (LRP2023-00010) to allow for four ordinance amendments including the Distilleries Ordinance, Guest Ranch Ordinance, Small Urban Wineries Ordinance, and Insertion of Arroyo Grande Fringe Area Map. The requested amendments include: 1) amendments of Title 22 to Table 2-2, Allowable Land Uses and Permit Requirements, Section 22.30, Standards for Specific Land Uses, Section 22.94, Section 22.18, Parking, and Section 22.80, Definitions; and 2) consider options for animal facilities within the Arroyo Grande Fringe Area and provide direction to staff as necessary.** The comingling of a dog kennel issue and other non-controversial improvements to the zoning ordinance will overly complicate this hearing.

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

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

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

***Guest Ranch Ordinance*** - Under the current definition, such facilities would only be allowed on working cattle ranches. This proposed revision would open sites with agricultural operations, such as wine grape vineyards, to commercial lodging facilities. Proposed lodging facilities under this section would require discretionary land use permit approval and would need to be found consistent with applicable specific use standards in Section 22.30.520.B as well as General Plan policies.

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

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

### **Springdale Pet Ranch:**

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

Further complicating the issue is a rumor that Supervisor Gibson is a customer of the kennel. Neighbors are demanding that he recuse himself from the hearing.

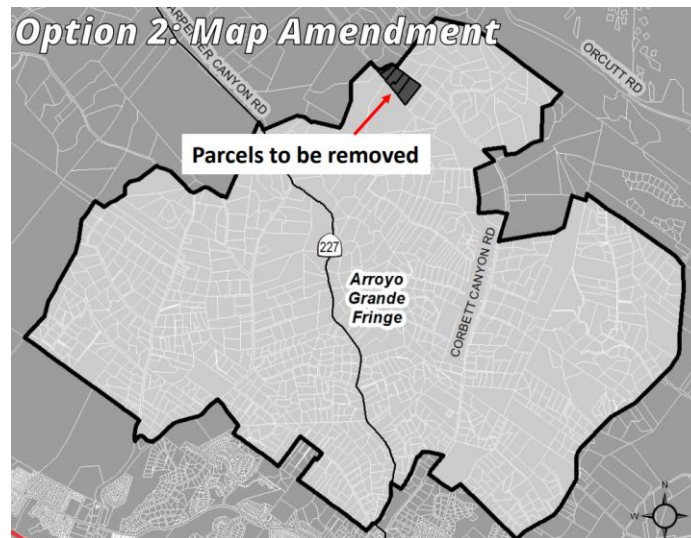
The record is full of letters from customers of the Kennel singing its praises and requesting that the Board allow it to continue in expanded form. Other letters from the neighbors want it shut down.

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

### **And**

*The County received some complaints from neighbors about noise and unpermitted expansion of the facility. County staff researched the history of the facility and determined that it was a legal non-conforming use. Staff also determined that in 2002 and again in 2007, the County inadvertently issued two zoning clearances and commercial building permits. The kennel property was sold several years ago and the new owner made some improvements to the facility, including the expansion of the kennel in the front of the property. For the most part, these*

*improvements did not require a building permit since they consisted mostly of fencing, however, technically, the improvements were an unlawful expansion of the legal non-conforming use.*



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

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

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

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

**Attorney Member Alternate:** None

**Engineer Member Alternate:** None

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

Readers may remember that Allen pushed the Dunes closure relentlessly and was the authority and promoter of the now debunked theory that the off-road vehicles cause the dust particles and that those dust particles are carcinogenic. His appointment would be a disaster.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 (Not Scheduled)**

**The next meeting is set for Tuesday November 28, 2023.** That meeting will include consideration of fee increases.

The County was closed this past Thursday and Friday. Most people left early on Wednesday.

## EMERGENT ISSUES

**Item 1 - Attacks on direct democracy in California have reached a new low.**

November 20, 2023 By Jon Coupal

Governor Gavin Newsom and progressive leadership in the Legislature have declared war on California taxpayers. They have filed a lawsuit in the California Supreme Court to have a duly qualified citizen initiative removed from the November 2024 ballot before voters can pass it.



The initiative is called the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act, so there's no mystery about why the politicians oppose it.

What's mysterious, or at least very troubling, is why they think the court should block the power of the people to amend the state constitution through the initiative process.

Over the last three decades, this column has staunchly defended the constitutional rights of direct democracy – initiative, referendum, and recall. These powers have been proven to be effective tools to control indolent or corrupt politicians and are just as important today as they were when they were added to the California Constitution in 1911.

Without the initiative power, California homeowners would never have reaped the benefits of Proposition 13, which has saved California property owners hundreds of billions of dollars since 1978. Direct democracy remains the only avenue for fundamental political reform, tax reform and a host of other important policies that entrenched interests in Sacramento would rather never see the light of day.

Politicians and powerful special interests hate direct democracy and view it as a threat to their political power or, at a minimum, as an intrusion on their legislative responsibilities. It is no surprise, then, that left-leaning legislators repeatedly introduce proposals designed to weaken direct democracy. Recent proposals seek to render the referendum and recall powers wholly ineffective and other bills have made it very difficult to qualify initiative measures. One proposal from 2019 attempted to impose burdensome requirements on those who gather signatures for initiative qualification.

In the legislative session that just ended, Senate Bill 386 became law. Although on its face it appears innocuous, it amended the process by which county registrars verify signatures on initiative petitions in a manner that compresses the time in which to qualify an initiative measure – already a narrow 180 days. This puts initiative proponents at a severe disadvantage. Another attack on the initiative process affects initiatives that would enact tax reforms. Assembly Constitutional Amendment 13 would require that measures such as Proposition 13 secure a

higher statewide vote threshold to pass. This measure is targeted directly at the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act.

The lawsuit by the governor and the legislature is the latest assault on the initiative process. While the legal claims border on the frivolous and, politically, the action is likely to backfire on the politicians, it reveals in stark terms what these political elites think of ordinary taxpayers. Here's an excerpt:

“[B]y compelling voters to assume a far more active role in state government, the Measure [TPA] would have sobering implications for the future of governance. Taxation is both highly complex and essential to the adequate functioning of the State. Sound tax policy therefore requires time and expertise. California's full-time Legislature has the capacity to implement tax policy because legislators can spend weeks in committees reviewing a law and debating its impact, all while being advised by professional legislative staff. Not so with voters. As it is, voters have neither the time nor resources at their disposal to comprehensively study their crowded ballots.”

Translation: Shut up, you deplorable peasants. Let us, the expert politicians, tell you how much we need and how to spend it.

## **Item 2 - Newsom's Quixotic Quest**

*Californians need energy to sustain their massive economy, but the state's leaders scorn abundance for green "idealism."*

Nov 21 2023

Two years ago, California governor Gavin Newsom announced that the Golden State had joined the Beyond Oil & Gas Alliance, whose aim is to bring “together national and subnational governments committed to advancing a just transition away from oil and gas production.” This year, he signed a package of bills that the *Los Angeles Times* described as a continuation of a “fossil fuel crackdown.”

That characterization is apt. Other components of the crackdown include the governor and state attorney general Rob Bonta's lawsuit against oil companies, a call for a windfall-profits tax at a time when profit margins in the energy sector are declining precipitously, ordinances that block the construction of new gas stations, an oil-industry “transparency” bill likely to damage an already-declining business model, and a de facto ban on new oil wells. These actions are inseparable from the state's rush to end industrial and transportation carbon dioxide emissions. But California's leaders don't appear to have a backup plan if things go awry.

What if enough renewable power won't emerge to keep electric vehicles charged? What happens if electric trucks and buses fail to live up to the hype? If “sustainable” aviation fuels are costly or ineffective? If trains and ships (already operating under costly fuel rules near the coast) can't comply with ever-tightening climate regulations? In short, how can California keep its economy healthy if the transition to renewable energy doesn't go smoothly?

Facts demonstrate the centrality of fossil fuels to the state's economy. Oil production in a state with the sixth-most crude reserves nationally has fallen severely. Consequently, the state has

increased its overseas crude-oil imports from 5 percent in 1992 to 59 percent to meet consumption demand. As production falls, imports rise.

Were California its own country, it would have the world's fourth-largest economy. Both its physical size and financial might have necessitated the proliferation of airports, now numbering more than 140. None is quite as busy as LAX, but in a single year California air traffic burns more than 13 billion gallons of aviation fuel. No other state consumes as much.

Shipping, too, bolsters the state's economy. It boasts 12 ports, including the nation's two largest—Los Angeles and Long Beach, which handle large volumes of both imported and exported goods. Much of the more than 400,000 barrels a day of residual fuel—primarily consumed as bunker fuel in the maritime shipping sector—used daily in the U.S. goes to ships moving in and out of California ports. Yet, these are already subject to fuel restrictions. And not only ships but also the trucks moving goods and the equipment handling cargo need massive amounts of fossil fuel.

California is also a rail center. Along with Chicago, Los Angeles and Long Beach are “by far the top U.S. metropolitan areas for intermodal volume” of shipping containers, according to the Association of American Railroads. But the engines feed on diesel fuel; in California, that means diesel-powered locomotives need to be phased out and replaced by engines with a “zero-emissions configuration.”

In short, it takes an enormous measure of crude oil to keep the California economy running—and that's before automobiles enter the picture. The commitment to erase oil and gas from the state's energy portfolio appears to know no bounds. Newsom and other public officials seem unlikely to reverse course or even slow their pace. Proponents call this dedication to the green agenda idealistic, but consigning 39 million people to a future of blackouts seems worthy of a less flattering term.

*Kerry Jackson is a fellow with the Center for California Reform at the Pacific Research Institute. This article first appeared in the November 20, City Journal.*

### **Item 3 - State Disability Insurance Taxes Going Up – For Some, Going Up A LOT**

***The top 20% of the state's earners will shoulder more than 60% of the tax increase burden***

By Thomas Buckley, November 20, 2023

Right now, if you earn the typical California salary of about \$65,000 a year, you – *not your employer* – pay about \$590 each year in state disability insurance taxes.

As of January 1, that tax is going up and you can expect to pay about \$720 next year – that's because the rate is moving from .9% to 1.1% of your income.

Right now, if you make \$153,164 a year, you are paying about \$1,378; that's going up to about \$1,685.



That “\$153,164” figure is used advisably because that is the current cap on taxable earnings when it comes to disability insurance, so anyone making more than that, say \$300,000, will still only pay the \$1,378 this year.

As of January 1, that, too, changes. A lot.

That’s because there will no longer be a wage cap – the new 1.1% tax will be applied to every dollar earned and that will mean an additional tax increase for about 20% of California workers.

For example, the \$300,000 earner who paid \$1,378 this year will pay \$3,300 in 2024, a nearly 140% increase.

For even higher earners, the numbers are, well, even higher. A person making \$1,000,000 this year paid, again, \$1,378 – in 2024 that will balloon to \$11,000, or a nearly eight-fold increase. The increases are, in part, to pay for the expanded Paid Family Leave program, and it part to prevent what happened to the unemployment trust fund – the disability program, is, like the unemployment fund, managed by the epically incompetent Employment Development Department (EDD) – from happening to the disability fund.

Like the unemployment trust fund – which pays unemployment benefits – the disability program is funded by its own trust fund. Unlike the unemployment fund – more on that below – the disability fund has remained relatively healthy over the years.

The increase will also – possibly – cover the increased benefits that are expected to kick in in 2025. Currently, if you are among the lower earners in state (very roughly the bottom third) you are entitled to 70% of your regular weekly pay while higher earners are entitled to 60% of their pay. That puts the overall average weekly disability payout at about \$828.

On January 1, 2025 anyone making less than \$57,000 per year – about 15% less than median – will be entitled to 90% of their pay, with those earning above that mark getting 70% (there is – now it’s \$1,620 per week – and will be an as yet to be cap in the future) of their pay.

The new rate and the elimination of the wage cap is expected to increase disability insurance revenues by about \$4.7 billion dollars each year.

The latest available “Disability Trust Fund Forecast” report seems to indicate that about \$1.7 billion of that increase will come from the rate increase, meaning the other \$3 billion could be coming from the removal of the wage cap alone.

The EDD did not respond to multiple requests for comment and/or clarification.

What, however, that likely breakdown means is that the top 20% of the state’s earners will shoulder more than 60% of the tax increase burden, a fact that has California businesses leaders worried.

While it is a comparatively smaller amount for a high wage earner, it is yet another tax to add to the pile of reasons why people are moving out of California.

“It’s the cumulative impact that is pushing higher earners to leave the state” said Tom Manzo, president of the California Business and Industrial Alliance.

It also may not even be enough to cover the new benefits, said the EDD last year, leading to the possibility the rate could be increased again – soon. While the legislature had to act to eliminate the wage cap, the director of the disability program has the discretion to raise the tax rate – based upon “consultations” – each year until it reaches 1.5%, which would add another \$3-4 billion per year.

A raise of .2% has to meet specific standards, but the director can raise (or lower...hahaha...sorry, couldn't resist) a tenth of a point for whatever reason they want.

The unemployment trust fund operates a bit differently. It, too, has to create a tax rate based upon certain specifications and that rate does have a cap, too – 6%. There are some differences between the programs, though – first, the unemployment insurance tax rate can vary from business to business, second, the rate is already set at the maximums possible already, and third, the tax only applies to the first \$7,000 of earnings, which keep the maximum annual tax to \$42 per employee.

That is, it kept it there until the EDD was forced to borrow \$40 billion from the federal government during the pandemic, managed to lose nearly the same amount to fraud, and still owes the feds about \$19.2 billion dollars. The fed debt – though caused by massive governmental incompetence – is currently being paid by an extra tax on California businesses because the state decided not to pay it back with the federal government COVID grant money it had leftover (remember the budget surplus?)

There have been suggestions in the past to do to the unemployment system what has been done to the disability system: remove the wage cap.

Most such proposals are pitched as being “revenue neutral” and not meant to bring in more money. In other words, if the wage cap – currently one the lowest in the nation – was eliminated, the tax rate – currently one of the highest in the country – would be cut at the same time, therefore the tax bite would not increase.

While the concept has theoretical benefits, anyone who has ever noticed anything that has ever happened in Sacramento in the past 20 years would immediately know that the chances that such a move would be “revenue neutral” are exactly zero. In other words, even if there was a “lower rate” at the outset, it would go up – a lot and very fast.

There is one other side benefit to the disability trust fund being solvent – the unemployment fund can keep borrowing money from it.

Yup – the \$300 million payment made to the feds in late September to cover the interest on the \$19 billion debt was not unemployment money or general fund money or found in the couch cushions.

It was borrowed from the disability trust fund.

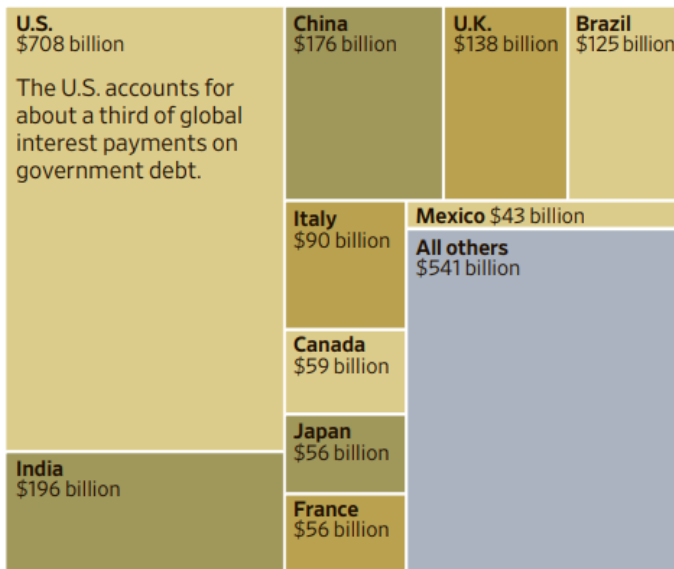
*Thomas Buckley is the former Mayor of Lake Elsinore and a former newspaper reporter. He operates a small communications and planning consultancy and can be reached directly at [planbuckley@gmail.com](mailto:planbuckley@gmail.com). Read more of his work at [his Substack 'The Point.'](#)*

**Item 4 - US Debt will soon exceed 100% of gross domestic product. Wall Street Journal report of November 22, 2023.**

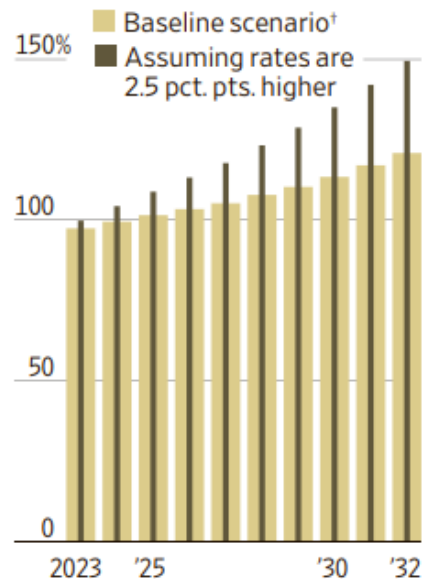
The surge in debt costs is particularly pronounced in the U.S., the largest economy in the world and the one with the most debt. The U.S. federal government spent a record \$659 billion on net interest payments last fiscal year, according to the Treasury Department. At 2.45% of gross domestic product, net interest payments were the largest share of the economy since 1998, according to Treasury.

Net interest is already one of the most costly government expenses, behind spending on the military and entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security. Over time, the Congressional Budget Office expects that net interest could become the single largest government expense.

**General government interest payments, 2023**



**Projected U.S. federal debt as a percentage of GDP**



## Sponsors



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

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



## COLAB IN DEPTH

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

## ***OFFSHORE WIND IS A FINANCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE***

***Hasn't anyone calculated what 25 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity is going to look like?***

**BY EDWARD RING**



Offshore Wind farm. (Photo: Energy.ca.gov)

It's about time Californians of all ideological persuasions wake up and stop what is possibly the most economically wasteful and environmentally destructive project in American history: the utility scale adoption of offshore wind energy.

The California Legislature intends to despoil our coastline and coastal waters with floating wind turbines, 20+ miles offshore, tethered to the sea floor 4,000 feet beneath the waves. Along with tethering cables, high voltage wires will descend from each of these noisy, 1,000 foot tall leviathans, but we're to assume none of this will disrupt the migrations of our treasured Cetaceans and other marine and avian life, not the electric fields emanating from hundreds (thousands?) of 20+ mile long live power lines laid onto the ocean floor, nor from the construction, the maintenance, or the new ports, ships, and submersibles.

This [article from Politico](#), published September 1, seems to celebrate the [passage of AB 1373](#), which authorizes the California Dept. of Water Resources to go "shopping for offshore wind." It includes this quote, "'Central procurement makes offshore wind possible,' said Martin Goff, California project director for the Norwegian developer Equinor." And massive subsidies, perhaps?

One month earlier, in August, [Equinor pulled out of the Trollvind project](#) in the North Sea because of unforeseen challenges including "technology availability, time constraints, and rising costs that made the project commercially unsustainable." Also in August, Equinor sought "[a 54 percent increase for the price of power](#) produced at three planned U.S. wind farms" off the coast of New York. In the face of a likely denial, Equinor announced it could cancel U.S. offshore wind projects. In November 2021, Equinor abandoned a 1.4 GW floating wind farm [off the shores of Ireland](#).

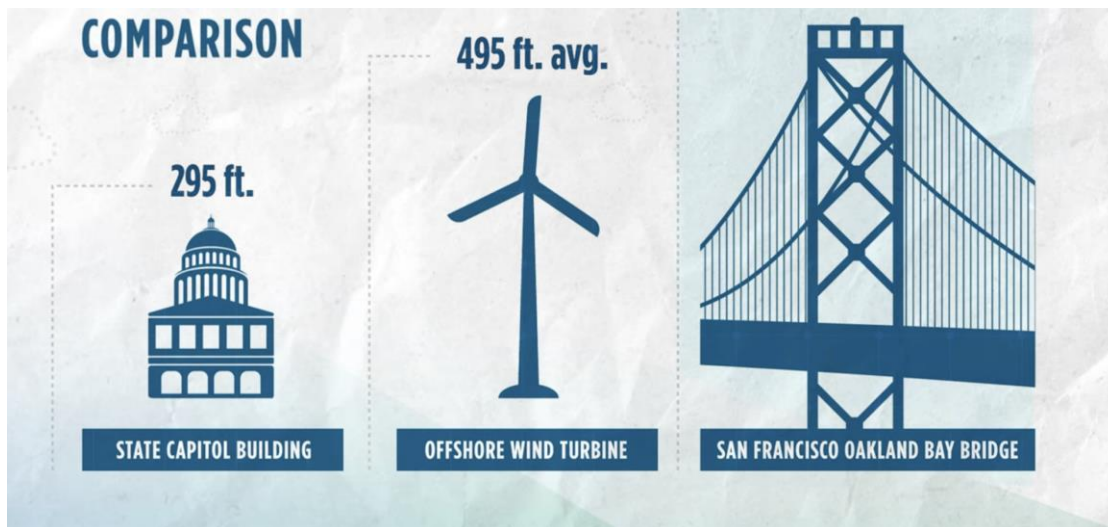
With these financial failures behind them, Equinor is betting California can deliver a level of subsidies that were denied elsewhere, killing those projects. They're probably right.

Last month Cal Matters published a [reasonably balanced report](#) describing local reaction to planned offshore wind developments in San Luis Obispo and Humboldt counties. But while the article quoted a paid proponent of the project dismissing skeptics as NIMBYs, it didn't investigate the possibility of wind industry contributions flowing into the political campaigns of local elected officials, along with the bank accounts of supportive nonprofits, tribes, and media properties. Hundreds of billions in California taxpayer funded subsidies are at stake.

The Cal Matters article reported the California Energy Commission's goal to achieve 25 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity. Hasn't anyone calculated what that's going to look like? Here is a best case scenario.

Even if these machines had a 40 percent yield, which is a realistic estimate of how frequently there will be enough wind to turn the rotors, and even if each machine had a capacity of 10 megawatts, 2,500 of them would be required to generate 10 gigawatts of baseload power.

Floating wind turbines with a capacity of 10 megawatts have [barely been prototyped](#) and have no long-term record of durability. As designed, [each one is 1,000 feet](#) from the waterline to the tip of the blade, and also require a commensurate flotation vessel and counterweight below the waterline. From tip to tip, they are [longer than a U.S. Navy supercarrier](#).



Wind turbine size. (Photo: energy.ca.gov)

Because these machines only generate power intermittently, generating 10 baseload gigawatts would require proportionate battery storage, along with thousands of miles of new undersea and land based high voltage lines. All this would only deliver 10 percent of the 100 gigawatt generating capacity Californians are going to need if the state legislature succeeds in forcing our residential and transportation sectors to go all-electric.

To get an idea of the environmental impact of offshore wind turbines, [this article](#) from the California Policy Center provides useful links to additional reports on the environmental destruction wrought by wind energy, both onshore and offshore. Wind turbines aren't just Condor Cuisinarts. Along with raptors, condors, and other [magnificent endangered birds](#), they kill bats and insects – their blades are at the altitude insect species migrate.

Offshore, it's worse. According to [a recent study](#) sponsored by a New England commercial fishing association, electromagnetic fields from undersea cables produce birth deformities in marine life and produce magnetic fields that disrupt the orientation abilities of some fish. Their low frequency operational noise disrupts sounds made by fish for mating, spawning, and navigating. The turbines "increase sea surface temperatures and alter upper-ocean hydrodynamics in ways scientists do not yet understand," and "whip up sea sediment and generate highly turbid wakes that are 30-150 meters wide and several kilometers in length, having a major impact on primary production by phytoplankton which are the base of marine food chains."

Support for offshore wind [by environmentalist organizations](#) is inexplicable. Apparently, just say the magic words “climate crisis,” and anything goes.

In California, environmentalist safeguards, always a good idea, have been taken to extremes. On the California coast, hyper-regulation is the norm. Natural gas fueled generating plants situated on the California coast are being decommissioned. Diablo Canyon nuclear power station is one regulatory hiccup away from its demise. A desalination plant that would have made Orange County completely independent of imported water was struck down last year by the coastal commission. As for offshore rigs harvesting from some of the biggest reservoirs of oil and gas in the world? Shut them down!

But if you want to stick thousands of floating wind turbines offshore, at stupefying cost, California’s Byzantine bureaucracy and captive taxpayers are here to help.



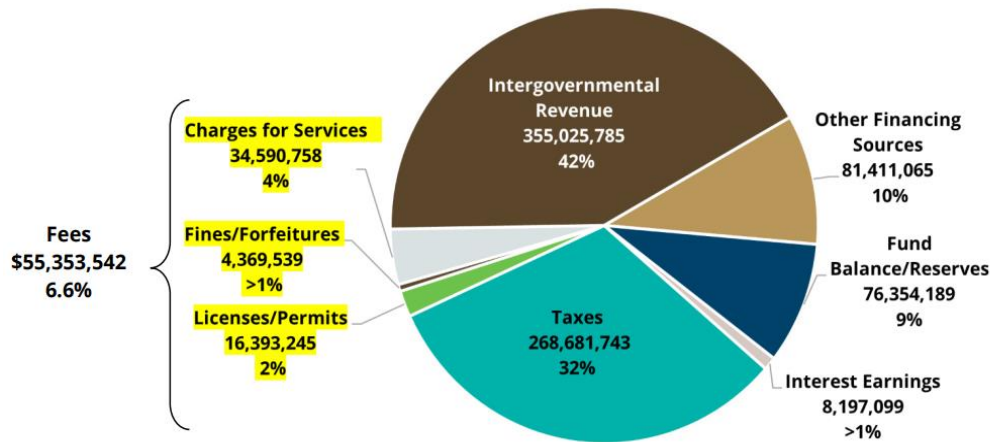
Offshore Wind farm. (Photo: Energy.ca.gov)

*Edward Ring is a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. The California Policy Center is an educational non-profit focused on public policies that aim to improve California’s democracy and economy. He is also a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. Ring is the author of two books: "Fixing California - Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism" (2021), and "The Abundance Choice - Our Fight for More Water in California" (2022).*

## **ADDENDUM I**

### **2024 FEE INCREASES**

Various fees constitute 6.6% of the overall government funds Budget. How much are the permitting fees of this? Are they even relevant?



Many fees are rising and there are a number of new fees. The accession of the leftist Board majority last January gives the staff confidence that fees can be raised without any trouble. For example, no one is going to tie pay raises to results such as doing things at less cost, working faster, or shortening permit review times.

The doctrine of cheaper, faster, better doesn't get a lot of support in government.

Listed below are the Department fees, which primarily impact business, land development, agriculture, construction, and related matters.

#### Agricultural Commissioner – Fund Center 141

The Agricultural Commissioner provides enforcement of state laws and regulations specific to plant quarantine, pesticide use and weights and measures countywide.

Board Discretion Type	Current total	Recommended Changes					New total	Fees at full cost recovery
		Unchanged	Increasing	Decreasing	New	Deleted		
Full	36	17	19	0	0	0	36	12
Partial	23	23	0	0	0	0	23	2
None	20	20	0	0	0	0	20	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>23</b>

Significant Fee Increases				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	% Change
3001	Certified Producer Site Inspection 1 site	\$85	\$100	17.6%
5002	Phytosanitary Field Certificate	\$81	\$93	14.8%
5003	Phytosanitary Office Certificate	\$40	\$47	17.5%
5004	Phytosanitary Per Certificate 5pm to 8 am, holidays and Sundays	\$114	\$140	22.8%
5005	Phytosanitary Emergency Origin Certificate	\$17	\$19	11.8%



### County Fire – Fund Center 140

County Fire provides fire protection services and emergency medical response to the unincorporated areas of the county. Services are provided under a contract with the State of California through CAL FIRE.

Board Discretion Type	Current total	Recommended Changes					New total	Fees at full cost recovery
		Unchanged	Increasing	Decreasing	New	Deleted		
Full	27	27	0	0	13	0	40	40
Partial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>

Proposed Fee Changes				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	Explanation
1008	Code Exception Request - Title 14 Review with Site Visit	-	\$414	This fee is proposed due to new Title 14 specific code exception reviews.
1009	Code Exception Request - Title 14 Review without Site Visit	-	\$164	This fee is proposed due to new Title 14 specific code exception reviews.
2014	Fire Alarm Cell Upgrade	-	\$39	This fee is proposed due to New technology being utilized with fire alarms and the elimination of landlines.

Proposed Fee Changes				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	Explanation
2016	Minor Operational Permit - High Pile Storage Permit	-	\$355	This fee is proposed to address a specific minor operational permit request.
2017	Minor Operational Permit - Hot Works Permit	-	\$88	This fee is proposed to address a specific minor operational permit request.
2018	Minor Operational Permit - Paint Booth Permit	-	\$197	This fee is proposed to address a specific minor operational permit request.
2023	After Issuance Plan Review	-	\$65	New fee for plan review changes after permit has been issued and approved by County Fire.
2026	SB1205 Mandatory Residential Inspection up to 8 units	-	\$86	Inspections mandated by the State of California Senate Bill 1205

2027	SB1205 Mandatory Residential Inspection from 9-19 units	-	\$134	Inspections mandated by the State of California Senate Bill 1205
2028	SB1205 Mandatory Residential Inspections > 19 units	-	\$182	Inspections mandated by the State of California Senate Bill 1205
2029	SB1205 Mandatory R1 (Hotel/Motel) Inspection 1-50 units	-	\$230	Inspections mandated by the State of California Senate Bill 1205
2030	SB1205 Mandatory R1 (Hotel/Motel) Inspection > 50 units	-	\$422	Inspections mandated by the State of California Senate Bill 1205
2031	SB1205 Mandatory Inspection / Reinspection >2	-	\$71	Inspections mandated by the State of California Senate Bill 1205

### Planning and Building - Fund Center 142

Planning and Building provides land use planning, development and permit review, and resource management and monitoring for the unincorporated areas of the county.

Board Discretion Type	Current total	Recommended Changes					New total	Fees at full cost recovery
		Unchanged	Increasing	Decreasing	New	Deleted		
Full	241	35	179	15	10	12	239	218
Partial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
None	5	5	0	0	0	0	5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>219</b>

Proposed Fee Changes				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	Explanation
1002	Agricultural Offset Clearance Fee - Water Duty Factor – RTB Deposit	-	\$3,570	New
1005	Agricultural Preserve –Notice of Full Non-Renewal	-	\$754	New
1004	Agricultural Preserve - Contract Cancellation and/or Preserve Disestablish - RTB Deposit	-	\$3,856	New
24041	Scanning surcharge for Building Commercial Plan submitted via hard copy	-	\$207	New
24042	Scanning surcharge for Building Residential Plan submitted via hard copy	-	\$102	New (fee consolidation)
21004	Electrical Service, New / Meter Replacement	-	\$347.00	New (fee consolidation)
21009	Generator / Compressor Installation	-	\$494.00	New (fee consolidation)
23004	Air Handler / Boiler / Chiller	-	\$359.00	New (fee consolidation)
23010	Furnace - New or Replacement	-	\$326.00	New (fee consolidation)
24004	Awning / Canopy / Covered Porch (supported by building)	-	\$426.00	New (fee consolidation)

Proposed Fee Changes				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	Explanation
21002	Compressor Installation	\$426.00	-	Fee Consolidation
21003	Electrical Service, New	\$300.00	-	Fee Consolidation
21005	Electrical Service - Meter Replacement	\$300.00	-	Fee Consolidation
21008	Generator Installation	\$426.00	-	Fee Consolidation
23003	Air Handler	\$310.00	-	Fee Consolidation
23005	Boiler	\$310.00	-	Fee Consolidation
23006	Chiller	\$310.00	-	Fee Consolidation
23009	Furnace - New	\$281.00	-	Fee Consolidation
23011	Furnace - Replacement	\$281.00	-	Fee Consolidation
24003	Awning / Canopy (supported by building)	\$368.00	-	Fee Consolidation
24013	Covered Porch	\$368.00	-	Fee Consolidation
43007	Scanning Surcharge for Building Plans Submitted via Hard Copy	\$348.00	-	Fee Consolidation

Significant Fee Increases				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	% Change
4003	Continuance - All Hearing / Board Types	\$133	\$943	609%
17004	Environmental - Initial Study (RTB deposit)	\$6,534	\$15,381	135%
17011	Geologic Review - Tier I	\$1,936	\$3,096	60%
17012	Geologic Review - Tier II	\$2,483	\$3,589	45%
3004	Project Modification - Tier I	\$706	\$1,289	83%
3005	Project Modification - Tier II	\$1,358	\$2,533	87%
8002	Lot Line Adjustment - Minor	\$1,241	\$3,254	162%
20015	New Construction - Residential (multifamily) - Plan Check	\$1.05	\$1.74	66%
20016	New Construction - Residential (multifamily) - Inspection	\$1.01	\$1.22	21%
20003	New Construction - Assembly, High Hazard, Institutional- Plan Check	\$1.71	\$2.08	22%

Fee Grouping Fee Increases by Fee Grouping				
Fee Grouping	% Change	Explanation		
New Construction Plan Check and Inspection Fees	8%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes		
Fixed Fees _ Mechanical	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes		
Fixed Fees _ Plumbing/Gas	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes		
Fixed Fees _ Electrical	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes		
Fixed Fees _ Grading	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes		
Fixed Fees _ Building Miscellaneous	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes		
Fixed Fees _ Other Building (Fire-rated and Time extension)	14%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes		
Land Use and Other Fees	8%	Increase in Salaries, CPI, and other related changes		
20006	New Construction - Business, Mercantile - Plan Check	\$1.69	\$1.96	16%
20007	New Construction - Business, Mercantile - Inspection	\$1.08	\$1.37	27%
20012	New Construction - Factory and Industrial, Storage - Plan Check	\$0.53	\$1.80	240%
20013	New Construction - Factory and Industrial, Storage - Inspection	\$0.41	\$1.27	210%
20024	New Construction - Shell - Plan Check	\$0.89	\$1.25	40%
20025	New Construction - Shell - Inspection	\$0.72	\$0.88	22%
43009	Technology Fee	7.6%	8.6%	12%

Significant Fee Decreases				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	% Change
1003	Agricultural Preserve - Application for Land Conservation Contract (New, Replacement, or Amendment)	\$5,594	\$2,206	(61%)
1006	Agricultural Preserve - Notice of Partial Non-Renewal (J25)	\$2,157	\$1,486	(31%)
1007	Agricultural Preserve - Williamson Act Land Conservation Contract - Compliance Review with APRC Hearing/Referral Response (J27)	\$3,087	\$865	(72%)
1008	Agricultural Preserve - Williamson Act Land Conservation Contract - General Compliance Review (building permits, vacation rentals) (J26)	\$1,209	\$182	(85%)
20021	New Construction - Residential Accessory Structure - Plan Check	\$1.70	\$0.98	(42%)
20022	New Construction - Residential Accessory Structure - Inspection	\$0.87	\$0.68	(22%)

Significant Fee Decreases				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	% Change
20036	New Construction - Utility & Misc (commercial accessory structure) - Plan Check	\$1.14	\$0.97	(15%)
20037	New Construction - Utility & Misc (commercial accessory structure) - Inspection	\$0.76	\$0.69	(9%)
20027	New Construction - Tenant Improvement (A, H, E, I) - Plan Check	\$3.15	\$1.36	(57%)
20028	New Construction - Tenant Improvement - (A, H, E, I) Inspection	\$1.89	\$0.96	(49%)
20033	New Construction - Tenant Improvement (F, S) - Plan Check	\$1.91	\$1.17	(39%)
20034	New Construction - Tenant Improvement (F, S) - Inspection	\$1.35	\$0.82	(39%)
26002	Construction Waste Management Plan (CWMP) - Non-Compliance Fine	\$20 Per Ton	\$1.00 per square foot	N/A

**Public Health - Environmental Health - Fund Center 160**

Board Discretion Type	Current total	Recommended Changes					New total	Fees at full cost recovery
		Unchanged	Increasing	Decreasing	New	Deleted		
Full	44	3	41	0	0	0	44	36
Partial	131	3	128	0	0	0	131	109
None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>145</b>

Significant Fee Increases				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	FY 24-25 Fee	% Change
4008	Cross-Connection Inspection	\$132	\$146	10.6%
4009	Cross-Connection Plan Check	\$132	\$146	10.6%

**Public Works – Special Services – Fund Center 201**

Special Services provides review of recommended land development, water and wastewater for the County operations center, services for special districts, and franchise administration.

Board Discretion Type	Current total	Recommended Changes					New total	Fees at full cost recovery
		Unchanged	Increasing	Decreasing	New	Deleted		
Full	25	9	15	1	0	0	25	23
Partial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>

Significant Fee Increases				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	% Change
2005	Bldg Permit – Residential	\$313 + optional C&I Agreement	\$373 + optional C&I Agreement	19%

Significant Fee Increases				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	% Change
2006	Bldg Permit – Commercial	\$375 + optional C&I Agreement	\$447 + optional C&I Agreement	19%
2007	Bldg Permit – Grading	\$375 + optional C&I Agreement	\$447 + optional C&I Agreement	19%
2008	Bldg Permit – Solar	\$63.00	\$75.00	19%
2011	Certificate of Compliance - Application (Non Lot Line Adjustment)	\$279.00	\$323.00	16%
2016	Lot Line Adjustments	\$326.00	\$397.00	22%
2017	Pre Application Fee	\$206.00	\$240.00	17%

Significant Fee Increases				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	% Change
4002	Road Impact Fee Appeal	\$684	\$821	20%
4005	Utility Encroachment: Non-Routine	\$654	\$1,157	77%

Significant Fee Decreases				
Fee Indicator No.	Fee	FY 23-24 Fee	Proposed FY 24-25 Fee	% Change
4004	Driveway Encroachment Permit	\$1,170	\$1,036	(11%)
4007	Utility Blanket Encroachment: CSDs	\$2,168	\$1,949	(10%)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

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

We are pleased to announce that The Andy Caldwell Show is now broadcasting out of San Luis Obispo County on FM 98.5 in addition to AM 1290/96.9 Santa Barbara and AM 1240/99.5 Santa Maria



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

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

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

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

*Listen to The Andy Caldwell Show "LIVE"*

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

**KZSB RADIO**  
**SANTA BARBARA**  
**1290 | 96.9**  
am1290kzsb.com

knews985.com

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

**SUPPORT COLAB**





**MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS**



**VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM**



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



**AUTHOR & NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COMMENTATOR BEN SHAPIRO  
APPEARED AT A COLAB ANNUAL DINNER**



**NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER**



**MIKE BROWN RALLIED THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN**

**JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE TO COLAB ON THE NEXT PAGE**  
Join COLAB or contribute by control clicking at: [COLAB San Luis Obispo County \(colabslo.org\)](https://colabslo.org) or use the form below:

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

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

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

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

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

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

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

### How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio  Internet  Public Hearing  Friend

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

### NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

**For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.**

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.

Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

### PAYMENT METHOD:

Check  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Amex NOT accepted.

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

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

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