



WEEKLY UPDATE OCTOBER 22 - 28, 2023

ALERT

**1ST MAJOR HOME DEVELOPMENT IN THE
UNINCORPORATED COUNTY IN DECADES UP FOR
PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW THIS WEEK
SUPPORT THE NEW HOMES**

**THIS WEEK
SEE PAGE 3**

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

**MEGA PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 23 & 24**

**DANA RESERVE HOMES DEVELOPMENT IN NIPOMO
AN ACID TEST FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION
MORE HOMES ON A MEANINGFUL SCALE OR NOT?**

**REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 26**

AGENDA LITE

**LAST WEEK
SEE PAGE 9**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING DISAPPOINTING

**BOARD MAJORITY REFUSES TO ADOPT RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING HAMAS**

**COUNTY EXPORTING ITS DYING INDIGENT TO CLOVIS
INSUFFICIENT BOARD AND CARE FACILITIES IN SLO COUNTY**

**NO REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION ON EVALUATION OF
THE CAO**

**EMERGENT ISSUES
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A FREE PEOPLE MUST BE ARMED

**HAMAS MASSACRES: THE NEW FACE OF GUN
CONTROL**

**THE COVID BAILOUT OF STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS WAS UNNECESSARY**

CALIFORNIA'S DISASTROUS INSURANCE LANDSCAPE

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 25**

**CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL SUES BIG OIL
BY EDWARD RING**

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

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 (Not Scheduled)

**Planning Commission Meeting of Monday, October 23 and Tuesday, October 24,
2023 (Scheduled)**

Item 1 - Hearing to consider a request by Dana Reserve, LLC and NKT Development, LLC for the adoption of the Dana Reserve Specific Plan (DRSP), a Vesting Tentative Tract Map (Tract 3159), and Conditional Use Permit for Oak Tree Removal and Grading/Impervious Surfaces. The Dana Reserve Specific Plan would allow for the phased development of a 288-acre master-planned community with up to 1,318 residential units, 110,000-203,000 square feet of commercial and non-residential (Visitor Serving/Hotel, Education) uses, a minimum of 63 acres of open space and recreation, and related circulation and infrastructure. The project also includes a County-initiated General Plan and Ordinance Amendment to change the land use categories within the specific plan area and to incorporate the property into the Nipomo Urban Reserve Line (URL), and to ensure the General Plan is consistent with the DRSP. The project would require annexation into the Nipomo Community Services District service area to facilitate the provision of water and wastewater services to the project. The project would result in site disturbance over the majority of the 288-acre project site. Specific earthwork quantities are unknown; however, excess earthwork material from earlier phases of the project (Phases 1 and 2) would be used as fill material for later phases (Phase 3) to balance earthwork on-site to the greatest extent practicable. The project site is located in the Residential Rural land use category, west of U.S. 101, east of Hetrick Avenue, and adjacent to the Nipomo URL. The project is located within the South County Inland Sub Area of the South County Planning Area.

The full plan can be accessed at the link:

https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Forms-Documents/Planning-Projects/Dana-Reserve-Specific-Plan/Final-Environmental-Impact-Report/Appendices/Appendix-A_Dana-R

The project is well designed and will provide a variety of homes in a defined village center.

There is actually only one question for the Planning Commission: Will it recommend the largest housing plan proposed in the unincorporated County in decades? The Planning Commission does not have approval authority over Specific Plan applications¹ but may recommend them for approval or denial to the Board of Supervisors, which has the final authority. The Commission's recommendation will have weight in the Board of Supervisor's ultimate decision.

The two day hearing will be a long wrangle, as the neighbors in the surrounding areas are opposed to the project. This is natural as some of them have pastoral views of oak trees and cattle on the site at no cost to themselves or the public in general. The change to a multi-density subdivision with 1240 new homes and some commercial space is always disappointing to long existing neighbors of any project. However, as communities grow and more people move to an area, change naturally must occur unless the city or county determine to ban growth. This is not possible under State law in California, due to housing and equity requirements which have expanded over recent decades and especially in the last few years.

The Project:

¹ Specific Plans are a special type of zoning permit under which the actual project design becomes the zoning.

Table 2.1: Land Use Summary

Land Use	Acres	Density Range	Potential Units	Potential Square Feet ²
RESIDENTIAL				
Residential Single-Family-1 (DR-SF1)	130.8 ¹	4 - 7 du/ac	707	
Residential Single-Family-2 (DR-SF2)	15.3 ¹	11 - 13 du/ac	124	
Residential Multi-Family (DR-MF)	24.2 ¹	18-24 du/ac	487	
Recreation (DR-REC) • Neighborhood Park (7 ac) • Equestrian Staging (1 ac)	8 ⁵			
Pocket Parks ³	-			
Primary Roads	22			
Residential Rural (RR) – Existing ⁶	10			
SUBTOTAL	210.3		1,318	
COMMERCIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL				
Village and Flex Commercial Visitor Serving / Hotel Education	22.3 ¹			113k sf 60k sf 30k sf
Internal Neighborhood Roads ³	-			
Park and Ride ⁴	-			
SUBTOTAL	22.3			203k sf
OPEN SPACE/RECREATION				
Open Space (DR-OS) ○ Open Space ○ Trails ○ Basins	54.9 ⁵			
SUBTOTAL	54.9			
TOTAL	288.0		1,318	110-203k sf
Notes:				
¹ All acreage and potential units can be adjusted up to 10% to address site specific constraints and more suitable site design, subject to County review.				
² k indicates thousand.				
³ Internal Neighborhood Roads and Pocket Park acreage located within Residential Single-Family land use acreage calculation.				
⁴ Park and Ride acreage located within Public Collector Roads.				
⁵ Minimum Requirement.				
⁶ Includes approximately 2-acre fire station and a potential 1-acre public safety facility.				

The Context

People often move to counties, such as San Luis Obispo County, that are not next to or part of a large metropolitan area, in the hope of enjoying a more rural ambiance while retaining urban conveniences. Some of the most popular counties are not in remote rural states, but are separated from a major urban area by one or two suburban counties. Thus the residents enjoy country amenities but can access major retail centers, cultural institutions, airports, and job centers within a few hours. San Luis Obispo County, situated between LA and the SF Bay Area, is a classic example. These types of counties are often characterized as “tipping point counties” as the very semi-rural amenities, which make them attractive, also beckon new residents, particularly the retired affluent and independently wealthy who are not job slaves.

The Dana Reserve Project is an attempt to implement the village center concept that concentrates density, preserves agriculture, and provides a hard urban growth boundary. Previous arrivals, who live in the area, naturally object. Of course their own suburban homes once replaced what was previously agricultural or open space land.

DANA RESERVE

Exhibit 2-2a: Concept Master Plan



The opponents of the project will attempt to use six CEQA Class I Unmitigable Impacts to kill it. The Sierra Club is among the opponents. Of course most of their members are environmental Brahmins who already live in nice free standing suburban homes. The table below displays the CEQA impacts. CEQA and these findings are simply the systematic exploitation of the obvious. If new development takes place, there will be more population, more CO₂, more water use, more cars, etc. The real question is whether or not we will allow people to have nice homes in which raise their families. The opposition in this case is selfish and undermines the ability of younger people to find homes and jobs.

CHAPTER 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ANALYSIS

This chapter of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluates the potential environmental effects that would result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the Dana Reserve Specific Plan (DRSP; project) and identifies mitigation measures for impacts found to be potentially significant.

Table 4-1. Summary of Environmental Impacts Analysis

Environmental Resource	Significant, Unavoidable Adverse Impacts	Significant, but Mitigable Impacts	Less than Significant Impacts
Aesthetics		X	
Agriculture and Forestry Resources		X	
Air Quality	X		
Biological Resources	X		
Cultural Resources		X	
Energy		X	
Geology and Soils		X	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	X		
Hazards and Hazardous Materials		X	
Hydrology and Water Quality		X	
Land Use and Planning	X		
Mineral Resources			X
Noise		X	
Population and Housing	X		
Public Services		X	
Recreation		X	
Transportation	X		
Tribal Cultural Resources		X	
Utilities and Service Systems		X	
Wildfire		X	

The large Economic Development nonprofit REACH has come out obliquely in favor of the project. Rather than specifically supporting it, they identify it as one of a number of pending projects “which are promising.” Their Board of Directors contains leaders of most of the large and prestigious firms and institutions within the central coast region. Most other economic development, realtor, and business organizations do not appear in the written record at this time.



WE ALL KNOW WE HAVE A HOUSING PROBLEM. LET'S GET TO WORK.

An urgent call to approve and move on the housing our families, workforce, and economy desperately need

SLO County Supervisors, Mayors, Councilmembers, Planning Commissioners, and all interested in creating more opportunities for housing:

SLO County's persistent housing shortage has become a fundamental threat to our community's livelihood. Businesses can't hire, workers can't afford to live here, and our economy can't sustain our way of life.

As members of the housing advocacy team and partners that supported development of the new Housing and Infrastructure Regional Framework, we believe that swift leadership to create more housing is an economic imperative.

We applaud the regional coordination of SLOCOG, the County and the seven cities in developing new strategies and tools to counteract the overwhelming challenges we face — and we urge you to take action now to approve and move forward on housing of all types and in all stages of development.

PROMISING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AS DETERMINED BY EXTENSIVE PLANNING AMONG THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES



The Dana Reserve is specifically listed here as up for a decision. If not now, when?

This map illustrates potential projects in SLO County where planning allows for over 200 units at the time of this letter. It is not all inclusive and is not meant to represent the totality of possible projects nor their timetables. Further information about projects can be seen below under the details of the Regional Housing Framework.

Decades of inaction have compounded the housing shortage and thwarted our ability to grow and thrive. As we look at our region's project pipeline it is essential that we resist the tendency to delay or deny the housing we need.

We must work urgently at every stage to build the homes and neighborhoods that our teachers, public servants, service workers, nurses and doctors, small business owners and

beyond desperately need — moving projects through the planning pipeline more quickly and approving them without delay. Not in 2 years. Not in 5 years. Today.

The Schedule and rules for the conduct of the mega hearing are listed below:



Planning Commission

Alex Villicana, 1st District
Anne R. Wyatt, 2nd District
Kristina Simpson-Spearman, 3rd District
Mariam Shah, 4th District
Don Campbell, 5th District

DANA RESERVE SPECIFIC PLAN HEARING

Thank you for your interest in the Planning Commission hearing for the Dana Reserve Specific Plan. This is a significant project with the potential to shape the future of the community of Nipomo. The Department of Planning and Building appreciates and recognizes your participation is necessary for informed decision-making.

HOW TO SIGN UP TO SPEAK AND WHEN PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BEGIN:

The public comment portion of the hearing is expected to begin on Monday afternoon when the Planning Commission returns from their noon recess. The Planning Commission typically breaks for a one-hour recess starting at 12:00 P.M. (noon) and returning at 1:00 P.M. This is only an estimate, as the actual break time could be earlier or later at the discretion of the chairperson.

If you would like to provide public comment at the hearing, please complete a speaker slip. Planning staff will be stationed outside of the Board of Supervisors Chambers to hand out and collect speaker slips. All speakers will be assigned a number to allow them to know the order they will be called. Testimony will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

Planning staff expect a significant level of public interest in this project. The number of people from the public requesting to speak is unknown, therefore, the Department cannot predict how long public comment will last.

HOW TO VIEW THE MEETING:

You have the option of viewing the meeting in person at the Board of Supervisors Chambers or to observe the meeting via these platforms:

- Online via the website: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/>
- Cable Channel 21

There is **NO** virtual option to participate remotely.

The best way to ensure you do not miss your opportunity to participate is to monitor the meeting in the Board of Supervisors Chambers or from the Conference Room D161/162, adjacent to the Board of Supervisors Chambers, reserved as overflow seating available to the public.

MEETING DECORUM AND RULES FOR PRESENTING TESTIMONY:

The Planning Commissioners are volunteers, appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Each Commissioner represents one of the five supervisorial districts in the County.

Planning Commission hearings often involve highly emotional issues. It is important that all participants conduct themselves with courtesy, dignity, and respect. All persons who wish to present testimony must observe the following rules:

- When you come to the podium, first identify yourself and please state your area of residence. Commission meetings are tape recorded and this information is needed for the administrative record.
- Address your testimony to the Chairperson. Conversation or debate between a speaker at the podium and a member of the audience is not permitted.
- Keep your testimony brief and to the point. Talk about the proposal and not about individuals involved. Individuals' testimony will be limited to 3 minutes, and speakers representing an organized group may have up to 5 minutes. Focus testimony on the most important parts of the proposal; do not repeat points made by others. No applauding or shouting will be allowed during the hearing.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, October 26, 2023 (Scheduled)

In General – the meeting agenda contains a number of requests for permit extensions – more time to get projects going before the permits expire. There are also several requests to adjust permits for solid waste recycling operations. There are no major land use policy questions.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, October 17, 2023 (Completed)

In General: This was a fairly light meeting which pertained largely to housekeeping matters. One major eruption occurred when the Board leftist majority refused approve a Resolution offered by Supervisor Peschong condemning Hamas and supporting Israel.

Item 37 - Public Comment – Hamas War on Israel. After general public comment, Supervisor Peschong requested that a Resolution condemning Hamas and supporting Israel be prepared and brought forward for discussion and a vote. Supervisor Arnold seconded the motion. Supervisors Gibson, Ortiz-Legg, and Paulding all objected for various reasons.

Supervisor Paulding argued against the proposed resolution noting that the “situation is fluid and that a Resolution may not be timely in two weeks.” Instead of a Resolution, Paulding suggested each supervisor write their own statement which staff could post on the county website. Ortiz-Legg voiced concerns that a resolution could be misconstrued and potentially inflame tensions. The board voted 3-2 against a resolution supporting Israel.

Resolutions are often used when specific findings are made by the Board of Supervisors. A Board order is usually a directive from the Board of Supervisors to its subordinate County officers. An ordinance is a local law adopted with all the legal formality of a statute.

Paulding offered a motion, which passed, for the Supervisors to prepare their individual statements instead. This was a cop out by the Board ‘left majority’ as an agenda Resolution would have been a much more solid and forceful commitment on behalf of the people of San Luis Obispo County.

The California State Association of Counties’ advice on the subject of Resolutions states in part:

Legislative Role

As the legislative body of the county, the Board of Supervisors may act by resolution, by board order, or by ordinance. A resolution of a Board is ordinarily not equivalent to an ordinance; it is usually a declaration about future purposes or proceedings of the Board or a policy statement by the Board. Resolutions are often used when specific findings are made by the Board of Supervisors. A board order is usually a directive from the Board of Supervisors to its subordinate county officers.

Why wouldn't the Board want a policy statement with findings and formal force? Instead, the Supervisors' individual statements were posted on the County website home page. These are copied below with our annotated comments on the absolute failure and betrayal inherent in some of them.

Board of Supervisors Condemn Violent Attacks on Israel

Author: Administrative Office

Date: 10/18/2023 4:45:38 PM

Share this

The Board of Supervisors make statements on the attacks in Israel

At the Board of Supervisors Meeting held on October 17, 2023, those who spoke during public comment asked the Board of Supervisors to issue a proclamation condemning the attacks on October 7th that have killed more than 1,400 people in Israel, including children, while also injuring 3,400 individuals.

The Board voted unanimously to provide comments on the recent events that have transpired in the Middle East. The Supervisors have made the following statements:

Peschong was still thinking of the Resolution and the need for the whole Board to act in concert.

I stand with Israel. The coordinated terrorist attacks on October 7th saw the murder of innocent civilians and the kidnapping of women and children. We all should be willing to condemn these attacks. They are wrong and violate international law.” - Supervisor John Peschong. District 1

Bruce Gibson made a clear and unequivocal statement in his first paragraph. It would have made a great first finding clause in a County Resolution:

“The horrifying slaughter and hostage-taking in Israel perpetrated by Hamas terrorists earlier this month is depraved in its inhumanity and is the essence of evil. I condemn these atrocities unconditionally. I stand with Israel and the Jewish people worldwide in support of an appropriate response to this criminal barbarity.

He then undermines his credibility with the next paragraph. Here he appeals to the radical left support on the destruction of Israel by submitting to the moral equivalency that that Israel and Hamas are equally guilty. Yes, innocent Palestinians will die, but the fault lies not with Israel, but with Hamas, who uses their people as human shields.

*Everyone personally involved in this chaotic, unstable and perilous situation should work with a clear moral imperative to restore peace in the region as soon as possible. Those pursuing a military response must be precise in its goals and prosecution. They must also be accountable for the inherent moral danger that innocent civilian lives – Israeli and Palestinian – most certainly will be lost. Let us fervently hope that reason **and restraint can prevail** as those involved seek a just future.” - Supervisor Bruce Gibson. District 2*

If Hamas, North Korea, or anyone else for that matter detonates a nuclear weapon at LAX, how much restraint should we exercise on their territory and populations?

Ortiz-Legg’s statement is simply an effort to court her extreme left leaning supporters who seek the destruction of Israel. She adds a history lesson. At the end of World War I, the victorious allies sought to restore the Jewish people to their ancient homeland and allow them to emigrate from Eastern Europe where they had been persecuted for centuries. Does the Supervisor support the survival of the State of Israel or not? Notwithstanding the Balfour declaration and the displacement of the Palestinian people, a century ago, should their descendants be allowed to repeatedly commit genocide against the Israelis? Should Mexico be allowed to reconquer the southwestern United States? Would it be OK for their army to kill and maim American citizens in the name of recovering their previous territory? Ortiz-Legg states in part:

“My heart goes out to all those affected by the ongoing conflict in the region. Recent events initiated by the actions of Hamas have reopened deep wounds and inflicted pain on both sides. Families have been torn apart, and the impact is felt not only by the citizens of Israel but also by the displaced Palestinians. The loss of innocent lives and any acts that cause harm to civilians are violations of International Law, a sentiment echoed by many world leaders throughout history, including President Harry S. Truman, who in 1947 noted that “Palestine is undoubtedly one of the most difficult problems faced by the world at this present time.” The historical displacement of Palestinians from their land has created a complex and longstanding issue, contributing to the challenges faced by innocent Israelis as well. It is essential to recognize the multifaceted nature of the problem and strive for a peaceful resolution that acknowledges the rights and concerns of all parties involved.” - Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg. District 3

More immoral equivalence: Ortiz-Legg has bought into the radical left doctrine that Palestinian violence is an effort toward decolonialization. They sympathize with Palestine as part of a broader commitment to the principle of decolonialization. For them, moral authority does not arise from just ends pursued through just means, but resides entirely in tribal identity. Describing a conflict as a form of “decolonization” is a blank check in the left’s moral universe.

Paulding’s statement is also an outrageous appeal to immoral equivalence, which puts equal blame on both the Israel and Hamas for the attack. If the attacks are, as he says, “Inhumane, barbaric and unconscionable,” why does he resort to obfuscatory word salad, hoping that “an appropriate response can be effected so that peace can be restored in this region... .” Does he not believe that Hamas should be destroyed forever? What about the hostages? What about Israel’s right to secure borders. What a vacuous and gutless comment.

Compounding his intellectual flatulence, is his lecture to “we neighbors and Americans” to be good neighbors to our Jewish and Muslim friends.

“The historic Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel that started October 7 are inhumane, barbaric, unconscionable, and I condemn them unconditionally. It is my hope that with US support to Israel, an appropriate response can be effected so that peace can be restored in this region and continued mass casualties can be avoided. Here, at home, we can focus the conversation on human rights – the fact that every human life is important, and that innocent civilians whether Israeli or Palestinian should never be the target of military warfare. And we can encourage our fellow neighbors and Americans to be good neighbors to our Jewish and Muslim friends, and lift each other up and support each other through this increasingly divisive, tragic and chaotic time in history. It is more important than ever that we continue to promote human decency and respect for one another in our community and our country, and seek to unify against terrorism, division, and hate instead of allowing these things to further divide us.” - Supervisor Jimmy Paulding. District 4



What does Paulding say about pro-Hamas demonstrations? Democrat Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez dressed up for the occasion. Any means necessary.

Arnold almost got it right – She supports **Israel’s right to defend itself**. Actually she should support Israel’s right and duty to eliminate Hamas from the Gaza strip forever.

“I whole heartedly support Israel’s right to defend itself after their country was horrifically attacked.” - Supervisor Debbie Arnold. District 5

Item 19 - Request to 1) approve two new contracts with Anjaleoni Enterprises, and Christina’s Care Home, Inc., for FY 2023-24, in the cumulative budgeted amount not to exceed \$4,845,263 to provide residential and intensive mental health services in board and care facilities for adults who cannot care for themselves due to their mental illness; and 2) delegate authority to the Health Agency Director or designee to sign amendments to the board and care contracts, including options to renew for one additional year (through June 30, 2025), that do not increase the level of General Fund Support required by the Health Agency. The contracts were approved unanimously on the consent calendar. There were no comments or questions from the Board.

Background: It appears that the County sends some of its poor and fragile aging and dying people to board-and-care homes in Clovis. The write-up states in part:

The Health Agency’s Behavioral Health Department contracts with various residential providers within a wide range of adult residential services, providing appropriate levels of care to seriously mentally ill individuals in need of residential placement. Board and care facilities offer varying levels of residential care in a non-locked facility, as opposed to State hospitals, acute care hospitals, and Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) which are locked residential facilities providing the most intensive levels of care.

And

Most clients placed in board and care facilities may be stepping down from a higher level of care (IMD) to a lower level of care (board and care facility), or have not succeeded in outpatient settings, and often have been placed in residential settings under conservatorship by the courts. Residential services are designed to enhance basic living skills, improve social functioning, and allow for training opportunities within the community. Mental health support Page 4 of 5 groups are provided at some facilities to help clients gain insight into their illness, assist them in symptom management, and encourage peer support activities. As clients demonstrate stability in the board and care setting, the County residential case manager evaluates the potential of transferring clients to more independent living arrangements within San Luis Obispo County, or stepping down services as appropriate, and board and care facilities provide the assistance and structure necessary for each client to be successful in a less restrictive setting and to reintegrate back into the community. Although the desired outcome is to move clients to the least restrictive level in which they can be successful, a certain percentage of the population with severe mental illness will, at any given time, need the level of treatment offered in a board and care setting.

When we researched the two vendors and the facilities, it seemed that the program is primarily focusing on the mentally ill aging. Several entrepreneurial families in Clovis seem to have captured the Board and Care Industry in the area, offering many locations and levels of service. For example, the Anjaleoni family operates board-and-care homes at the locations listed below.

Anjali House – 2508 Barstow Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611 ii. Leonie House – 2931 Caesar Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611 iii. Stephen House – 1824 Donner Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611 iv. Jana’s Place – 2315 Mitchell Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611

Their website shows 2508 Barstow Avenue among others.



See more on the next page:

EXHIBIT B
CONTRACT FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
COMPENSATION

1. **Compensation.** Prior to commencement of services, Contractor shall provide a valid, current taxpayer ID number to the San Luis Obispo County Auditor/Controller at: 1055 Monterey Street, Room D220, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408. County shall pay to Contractor, as compensation in full for all services performed by Contractor pursuant to this Contract, the following sums in the following manner:

a. Resident charges are as follows:

Basic Care Rates

Client is receiving basic services and is ambulatory. Resident requires no assistance with activities of daily living. Resident has minimal medical conditions and no behavior conditions that require support.

Shared Room	\$3,500/mo
Private Room	\$3,850/mo
Private Room (w/attached bathroom)	\$4,250/mo

Additional Care Charges

Level 1 \$1,000/mo

Client is ambulatory but requires moderate assistance and support with transferring. Client may have episodes of incontinence and require moderate assistance with activities of daily living. Client may have moderate medical or behavior issues which require additional support.

Level 2 \$2,000/mo

Client is non-ambulatory and requires extensive assistance with maximum support for activities of daily living. Client is incontinent or has episodes of incontinence. Client may have significant medical or behavior conditions which require additional support.

Level 3 \$3,000/mo

Client is on Hospice Care and receives comfort measures or palliative care. Client may require total care at this level. Client is bedbound.

Level 4 \$4,000/mo

Client may be bedbound and require total care. Client may have substantial physical, medical, or psychological needs.

Other \$500-\$1,500/mo

Additional health and/or behavior concerns, incidental expense, etc. mutually agreed upon with County and Contractor.

Was this a Freudian slip or was someone at the County just trying to be cute? Were they thinking of the Bach funeral mass?

Evidently, the land use restrictions of SLO County and its 7 component cities are so difficult that places for the poor mentally ill, those suffering from dementia, the fragile elderly, and the dying elderly cannot be planned or receive zoning approval on a sufficient scale to provide for county residents within the county.

1. How many Board-and-Care patients does the County serve per year?
2. What is the average length of stay?
3. How many are served outside the county vs. inside?
4. What are the demographics of this group?
5. What are the total annual costs for board-and-care contracts per year?
6. How many Board-and-Cares exist in the County and how many of these are within the unincorporated county?
7. What are the top 5 diagnoses of County supported Board-and-Care patients?
8. What are the long term trends?
9. How is the legalization of recreational cannabis affecting various types of dementia?

In August, the County received a \$200,000 State grant to study some of these issues.

County zoning limits locations for board and care facilities: Development of a facility requires a full conditional use permit. These permits can take years and cost tens of thousands or more in permitting fees and the cost for hiring experts to help manage the permit application. The Zoning ordinance requires in part:

22.30.320 - Nursing and Personal Care.

Allowable in the Residential Suburban, Residential Multi-Family and Commercial Retail categories subject to the following provisions.

Location. *Nursing and personal care facilities shall be located within an urban or village reserve line.*

Note: This requirement eliminates most of the land area of the County from eligibility. In fact, per the table below they are only permitted in 2 residential zones and the commercial zone.

Minimum site area. *20,000 square feet.*

Parking requirement. *One space per four beds. The Commission may reduce such requirements where it can be found that parking needs are less than required because of the nature of the facility or residents, and that other transportation is available to the facility as part of the program of care.*

[Amended 1984, Ord. 2163; 1992, Ord. 2553] [22.08.108]

LAND USE (1)(2)(10)	PERMIT REQUIREMENT BY L.U.C. (3)						Specific Use Standards
	AG(9)	RL	RR	RS	RSF	RMF	
Nursing & Personal Care				CUP		CUP	22.30.320

The County itself has identified the lack of these facilities as a problem in its Housing Element and has scheduled a project to amend the zoning ordinance. This section is excerpted below.

Program U Group Homes and Other Residential Care Facilities	Medium	Target Start: January 2023 Target Completion: January 2025	Objective HE 1.00	No
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Program U

Group Homes and Other Residential Care Facilities

Purpose

To comply with state law regarding small residential care facilities and to encourage the development of residential care facilities, particularly group homes.

Description

Amend ordinances to facilitate the development of residential care facilities, particularly group homes. Also, review and, if necessary, amend ordinances to align the definition of "family" with federal and state fair housing law.

Residential care facilities are establishments primarily engaged in the provision of residential social and personal care for children, the aged, and special categories of persons with some limits on the ability for self-care, but where medical care is not a major element and 24-hour supervision is provided. This may include children's homes, orphanages, halfway houses, rehabilitation centers, and self-help group homes with 24-hour supervision.

More specifically, group homes are residential care facilities primarily designed to assist children and adults (including seniors) with chronic disabilities, including physical disabilities, mental disorders, and addiction. Group homes can provide a sense of community and continuous supervision or care.

Desired Result

Increased development of group homes and other residential care facilities.

Responsible Agency

Department of Planning and Building

Time Frame

Target Start: January 2023

Target Completion: January 2025

Funding Status

Unfunded

Potential Funding Source

General Funds

Priority Level

Medium

Item 43 - Conference with legal counsel – Personnel. Consider Public Employee Performance Evaluation for the Position of County Administrative Officer. After the session, County Counsel came out and reported that the Board met in closed session but did not take any reportable action today. Perhaps we will find out what happened at the next Board meeting if they have to publicly ratify whatever action they took.

Background: The Interim CAO has been on board since May. There was a review back in June, after which his contract was extended from 3 months to one year. Are they going to hire him permanently without a competitive search? Permanence in the world of County CAOs and city

managers, like college football coaches, is a relative concept. The current incumbent, John Nilon, appears to be advancing the Board majority's agenda with vigor.

In the meantime, the County lost its Homelessness Prevention and Remediation Program Director, Joe Dzvonic. There was high hope for this effort under his skillful project management. Dzvonic joined former SLO CEO Wade Horton in Santa Barbara County. If they thought SLO is a leftist paradise, wait until they deal with the SB South County's Environmental-Socialist Arch Druids who have Sovietized what used to be one of the sweetest places on the planet.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - A free people must be armed. By Mike Brown. One thing is crystal clear from the Hamas butchery of the Israeli civilians. The police and the military cannot always protect citizens from spontaneous terrorist attacks, let alone organized state sponsored attacks. Of course, the attacks on the World Trade Center were not a one off.

Today in the United States, the Federal government (which refuses to seal the border), the state governments, and local governments cannot protect us from planned and random acts of robbery, looting, and criminal violence. Nowadays, law enforcement has been so hamstrung by woke politicians that urban riots, organized looting of open businesses, and all manner of harassment and subjection to filth and crime are a feature of daily life in many metropolitan cities, not to mention Santa Monica, Berkeley, Santa Barbara, and even outliers such as Walnut Creek and Topanga Plaza. This criminality and violence is actually promoted by leftist mayors, DAs, and public defenders. San Francisco just adopted an ordinance which bans security guards from drawing their weapon to protect property.

Of course, there is no effective southern border, and millions of illegals from all over the world have crossed. There could be full companies or even battalion sized forces of Islamic terrorists or even regular military from enemy nation states which have infiltrated and could be gathered together to launch organized attacks. Police could be overwhelmed in specific areas, and it could take days for organized military response to be assembled.

The gun control lobby has now truly outlived any supposed moral purpose and must be fully rejected. In fact, it is the duty of law abiding productive citizens to arm themselves, become effective marksmen and women, and now learn small infantry tactics.

Instead of neighborhood watch groups, we need neighborhood defense platoons consisting of 4 squads, with each squad containing 3 fire teams armed with fully automatic rifles, a light machine gun, and rocket propelled grenades. There are literally hundreds of thousands of veterans who know how to organize these and train others.

As the cities and counties crumble under the weight of unsustainable finances, outmoded organizational structures, and obsolete personnel systems, citizens will need to be organized to take over and protect themselves.



What are you going to do when he comes for you? Hezbollah fighter.

Check out the report below: Those Israeli kibbutzes which were armed fared much better.

Item 2 - Hamas Massacres: The New Face of Gun Control

By [Hank Vanderbeek](#)

On October 7, the day Hamas attacked Israel, Inbal Rabin-Lieberman, a 25-year-old security coordinator at the Kibbutz Nir Am settlement located near the Gaza Strip, saved lives because she had a gun. After the kibbutz came under attack, Inbal hurriedly opened the armory and distributed guns to the twelve-member security team.

She caught the Hamas murderers unawares because they were not expecting to meet armed resistance. Lieberman killed five terrorists while the others gunned down twenty-five before the Israeli Defense Force arrived. Because of her actions, Nir-Am was the only settlement bordering the Gaza Strip that did not suffer Israeli casualties during Hama's attack.

The number of Israelis killed in the terrorist attack is over 1,400. How many of those deaths could have been averted had more Israelis owned guns? Israel has draconian gun-control laws, worse than those in New York City. Only three percent (3%) of Israeli citizens own guns (compared to about thirty-two percent (32%) of U.S. citizens).

The [NY Daily News reports](#) that less than one percent (about 0.5%) of New York City residents have legal handguns. Jews comprise approximately nine percent (9%) of New York City's population, the largest Jewish community in the world outside of Israel.

New York City is trying ridiculously hard to keep guns away from the residents with its draconian gun "safety" laws including unconstitutional, vague, and broad no-carry zones. New York declared much of the city to consist of sensitive locations where legally permitted guns are outlawed. [Times Square and Central Park will be gun-free sensitive locations](#). Gun-free meaning only those bent on murder and mayhem will be carrying a gun.

The Hamas terrorists were able to get into Israel and kill innocent civilians despite Israel having one of the toughest border security systems in the world, whereas the United States has wide-open borders. Anyone, regardless of their affiliation and country of origin can enter the U.S. at will. Millions a year have been pouring in since January 2020. Is the United States becoming safer as a result? The Justice Department is now warning that terrorist threats were fast evolving in the U.S. and that “we cannot and do not discount the possibility that Hamas or other foreign terrorist organizations could exploit the conflict to call on their supporters to conduct attacks on our own soil.”

It is close to impossible to own a firearm as a private citizen in Israel. Former Israeli [prime minister Naftali Bennett says](#), “Except during times of heightened terrorism anyone who would possess a firearm without being compelled to do so because of their job (soldier, police officer, etc.) is viewed by the general public as simply being mentally defective. Those same people are the first ones to ask if you sit next to them, if they know you are armed, when you get on Jerusalem’s Lite Rail.”

There is no Second Amendment in Israel. The Israeli gun lobby cannot gain traction due to a liberal/socialist-oriented populace. “Politics rule. Citizens don’t.”

“Much of the opposition to gun ownership comes from the various women’s movements. They point to deaths of women from firearms. Otherwise opposition against private ownership of firearms goes back to the founding of Israel. The second law passed by the Israeli Legislature (1949) was confiscation of all firearms and munitions.”

“The average citizen has no right to own any type of weapon whatsoever, and doing so illegally will land him or her in jail for many years. In situations like these, selecting who gets to have access to firearms and who doesn’t is the equivalent of selecting who gets to live or die.”

Yonatan Stern is the Cherev Gidon Israeli Tactical Training Academy Director. Cherev Gidon instructors are Israeli combat veterans with a mission to provide high-quality Israeli tactical shooting skills to American civilians. [Firearms News](#) reached out to Yonatan, “This is a



topic I am intimately familiar with. I moved out of Israel specifically because of its Bolshevik gun controls that denied me any right to defend myself or my family against heavily armed terrorists. I know first-hand how dangerous and deadly this terrible situation is.”

[Israeli News](#) reported in February that following a deadly terror attack in Jerusalem, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that, “his government will loosen restrictions on private gun ownership in Israel and expand the licensing of weapons for thousands of civilians. Netanyahu justified the action by citing examples in which armed citizens or off-duty soldiers used their weapons to stop terrorists and save lives.”

David Codrea, in [Firearms News](#) reports that:

“While parallels to the situation in Ukraine are understandable enough to make with this new move to recruit civilians into the defense equation, the biggest similarity (and biggest mistake) is, both nations waited until the wolf was at the door to start the process. Our own Second Amendment presupposed an already armed and trained citizenry that could be mustered and deployed to match a professional military threat.”

“And for their part, now that they’re armed and have experienced firsthand what is needed to fight tyranny, don’t look for soon-to-be battle-hardened Ukrainians to give up their guns the next time peace pokes through the war clouds.”

Rabbi Raz Blizovsky, an activist who has been part of grassroots discussions concerning personal arms, told [The Times of Israel](#), “Firearm licenses for private citizens in Israel are typically only granted to individuals who can prove a need for extra security in their line of work or daily life. It’s a “pity” that it took a devastating terror attack to wake up the country to the importance of personal protection for private citizens. I have been involved with groups that have been talking about this issue for years. During calm times, people don’t do anything.”

Blizovsky told the *Times* he believes the atrocities committed by Hamas could have been avoided if more Israeli civilians had firearms.

Never ever give up your guns, because the minute you do you become a helpless victim. You never know when something like an inhumane attack on the homeland will happen. We have open borders through which illegal immigrants pour in from the entire world. We are not just talking about refugees from Central America and Mexico. Deranged Middle Easterners are entering unfettered. What are their plans? Entire terror cells could be walking across the borders.

Don’t believe someone who tells you to give up your guns to make society safe. The Second Amendment allows us to keep and bears arms to keep us safe, not to *take* our arms to keep us safe.

In the end, Stern said the Israeli government’s restriction on civilian firearms ownership cost hundreds of civilian lives. That grave injustice should never be forgotten.

[Stern said](#): “But what I’m talking about right now is the guilt of disarming a population in face of terrorism that is unthinkable and that is evil, and they’re going to have to pay when their day of judgment comes. Whether it’s in front of a judge or whether it’s in front of God, each and every person who wrote those laws and who enforced those laws is going to have to pay for their responsibility for all that blood that was spilled because they disarmed those people and didn’t give them the ability to defend themselves.”

“In the end the Israeli government’s restriction on civilian firearms ownership cost hundreds of civilian lives. And that grave injustice should never be forgotten.” Nor allowed to be repeated in other countries.

Item 3 - The COVID Bailout of State and Local Governments Was Unnecessary

Well over half of those funds remain unspent, according to a new Government Accountability Office report. By Eric Boehm



(Illustration: Lex Villena; Bdingman, Natalia Bratslavsky)

Two years after Congress authorized a hugely expensive bailout of state and local governments as part of a COVID-era emergency spending bill, most of the money still hadn't been spent.

Perhaps the bailout wasn't even needed in the first place?

In a new report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that states (including Washington, D.C.) had spent just 45 percent of the funding they had received through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program, a \$350 billion line item within the \$2 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which passed in March 2021. Local governments had reported spending just 38 percent of their funds received through the same program.

Those figures are based on mandatory reports filed quarterly with the Treasury and reflect spending through the end of March 2023, two years after the bailout was approved by Congress.

"The new GAO study confirms that the ARPA spending was not needed," Chris Edwards, chair of fiscal studies at the Cato Institute, tells *Reason*. "By the fall of 2020, it was clear that the states were in good fiscal shape and not facing Armageddon as many policymakers were claiming. They did not need federal handouts."

Edwards had argued against the bailout of state and local governments during the pandemic, and he wasn't alone. Before the American Rescue Plan passed, there was widespread skepticism about the proposed bailout, in part because three other pandemic-era spending bills had already sent about \$360 billion in aid to states and localities. The effectiveness of that spending has been repeatedly called into question.

In a National Bureau of Economic Research working paper published in June 2022, a trio of researchers found that pandemic-era aid distributed to state and local governments had cost taxpayers about \$855,000 per job saved. The stimulus spending had only "a modest impact on government employment and has not translated into detectable gains for private businesses or for states' overall economic recoveries," concluded University of California, San Diego economists Jeffrey Clemens and Philip Hoxie and American Enterprise Institute senior fellow Stan Veuger, the paper's three authors.

"Even the unstated assumption behind these handouts—that Washington should step in if there are dips in state revenue—is badly flawed," wrote David Ditch and Richard Stern, policy

analysts at the Heritage Foundation, in a report last month that highlighted the state and local bailout among other wasteful COVID-era programs. "Many states are fiscally mismanaged, and federal bailouts enable them to avoid much-needed discipline."

Indeed, as *Reason* has reported, a good chunk of the state and local bailout funds were put to questionable use, including subsidizing money-losing, government-owned golf courses. Lots of other governments used the stimulus cash to pad the paychecks of public employees.

Iowa spent \$12.5 million of its \$4.5 billion cut of the federal bailout on a new baseball stadium near the *Field of Dreams* movie set. Because that's an essential public health issue, of course.

The new GAO report adds to that list of seemingly frivolous spending. It points out that Michigan "reported spending \$25.6 million on a travel marketing and promotional campaign," allegedly to "respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on tourism." Louisiana, meanwhile, reported spending \$115 million to construct roads and bridges.

Tourism is nice and roads are in some ways an essential government function, but the emergency COVID spending was meant to help states address an immediate public health crisis—or to offset the costs of it. It's not at all clear how highway construction was a victim of the pandemic, and "travel marketing" is something that shouldn't be funded with taxpayer dollars no matter where they come from.

If there ever was a need for emergency aid to states and localities, it has obviously long since passed. Edwards points out that state and local tax revenue in the first quarter of 2023 was up 25 percent over the first quarter of 2020—which immediately preceded the onset of the pandemic.

"The states have full treasuries, and so they should give any remaining bailout funds back to Washington," he recommends.

Whether that happens remains to be seen. It's probably more likely that, with so much pandemic-era emergency cash still waiting to be spent, state and local governments will find more silly ways to blow through piles of taxpayer money they never should have gotten their hands on in the first place.

Eric Boehm is a reporter at Reason. Reason, October 13, 2023.

Item 4 - California's disastrous insurance landscape. By Sheridan Swanson.

Late last month, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order in an attempt to address the insurance crisis in California that's leaving scores of homeowners without coverage. The executive order comes after State Farm and Allstate, the first and fourth largest home insurers in California, announced this year they would no longer sell new home insurance policies in the state. Additionally, Farmers Insurance (California's second largest home insurer) is capping the number of new policies it will sell in California. These announcements follow a years-long trend of increased nonrenewals of existing policies in the wake of massive wildfires in California.

"This is the very first time in the [75-year] history of our agency that we can't always find insurance for people," Chris Hebard, President of Hebard Insurance Solutions, told California

Insider. Michael D’Arelli, Executive Director of the American Agents Alliance, says he’s flooded with calls and emails from insurance agents telling him, “I’m so angry, because I have consumers in my office literally in tears because they need insurance... and I can’t fulfill their needs.”

Why the startling shortage of insurance coverage? In California, it’s become increasingly expensive for insurance companies to operate.

This is largely because of Proposition 103, which was passed in 1988 and made the Insurance Commissioner an elected office. This means the Insurance Commissioner is inclined to make decisions based on public opinion (often with political aspirations), rather than what’s best for a healthy insurance market and stable economy. The Insurance Commissioner is very hesitant to allow premium increases, and when this goes on for too long, the insurance companies are squeezed by high costs. “You can’t afford to pay 130% of what you take in for very long,” Hebard explains.

California has among the lowest homeowners insurance rates in the nation, which at first glance is good for homeowners. But these low rates are artificial, a result of policy decisions rather than the function of the insurance market. The unintended consequence is that insurance companies are trying to mitigate their risks, so they avoid new policies and/or decline to renew existing policies. And still, premiums are increasing dramatically in California; Proposition 103 isn’t keeping rates from climbing, just from climbing as fast as the market would allow.

Newsom’s executive order blamed climate change and “extreme weather events” for the crisis. And indeed, severe fires in California over the past several years are a primary factor. But this itself stems from California’s mismanagement of forests.

California has, for the most part, rejected strategic, controlled burning to remove underbrush prone to wildfires. As a result, underbrush grows out of control — and California’s forests become tinderboxes. California has heavily regulated the lumber industry, making “modern land management endlessly time-consuming and ultimately cost-prohibitive,” writes Edward Ring, senior fellow at California Policy Center. As a result, California’s forests are full of dead and dying trees.

Contrary to common misperception, a thriving timber industry is completely compatible with healthy forests; it doesn’t require the clear-cutting of vast swaths of trees. As Ring explains, California’s timber industry would need to triple in size in order to balance out a forest’s natural growth to keep the ecosystem healthy and avoid excessive fire risk. But California’s leaders ignore this reality, allowing the forests to grow out of control for the sake of “environmentalism.”

California’s devastating wildfire seasons over the past several years caused massive losses for insurance companies. In 2018, Northern California insurer Merced Property & Casualty went bankrupt due to fires. In 2022, insurers AIG and Chubb decided to nonrenew thousands of policies in California due to the state’s fire risk. Enrollment in California’s FAIR plan — a high-cost last resort that offers minimal coverage — spiked by 70 percent from 2019 to 2022.

Reinsurance — or insurance for insurance companies — is a second factor in California’s dilemma. Reinsurance is a safeguard so insurance companies avoid owing policyholders more money than they can afford to pay. California’s recent wildfires have pushed the prices of

reinsurance upward, but insurance companies are not allowed to pass the cost of reinsurance to their customers in California. These skyrocketing costs are another impetus for companies to reduce and cap the coverage in California, and Newsom’s executive order recognized it as a “primary driver” in the lack of available insurance coverage in the state.

A third leg of the policy-failure-trifecta responsible for the crisis: the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, and its slew of laws and regulations, which have pumped the brakes on the development of new housing in California. The dearth of supply of new homes has made housing even more expensive, and insurers raise their rates accordingly. While the California legislature has attempted to make incremental changes to CEQA’s vise-grip on new housing, these efforts take a “one step forward, two steps backward” approach: many of the bills are rife with regulations and mandates — such as organized labor and low-income housing requirements — that ultimately increase the cost for developers.

Try as he might, Newsom can’t blame California’s insurance crisis on the climate. His executive order calls on the Insurance Commissioner to “take prompt regulatory action” to stabilize California’s insurance market. But California’s plethora of policy failures indicate the opposite is needed: ease regulations on the insurance market, the timber industry and the building process, and the state will see fewer wildfires, more affordable housing and the insurance market return to the Golden State.

This is a shorter version of an article by Sheridan Swanson, California Policy Center's Research Manager. CPC Research Fellow Zachariah Wooden contributed to the research for this article.

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CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL SUES BIG OIL

BY EDWARD RING

“Don’t lie, don’t deceive, don’t hide from the public clean energy pathways forward, and don’t hide from the public the existential threat that fossil fuels created in terms of climate change and extreme weather and damage to the environment.”

— California Attorney General Rob Bonta, [PBS interview](#), Sept. 20, 2023

Bonta’s statement exposes the inherent and fatal flaw in his case. You can’t lie when you’re telling the truth. And the truth is as explicit as it is heretical: The theory that fossil fuel creates an immediate and existential threat in terms of “climate change and extreme weather” is a theory. It is an increasingly discredited theory. It is not “settled science,” and it never was.

Millions of people doubt the climate crisis narrative, and the fact that nearly all of them are afraid to say so testifies to the campaign of intimidation, censorship, brainwashing, and litigation that is condoned and often coordinated by one of the most powerful and pernicious coalitions of special interests in the history of the world. Publicly challenging the “consensus” often spells career and corporate suicide. And that, too, ought to be obvious.

The policies being put in place to supposedly mitigate the impact of CO₂ and other “greenhouse gasses” are enabling a massive transfer of wealth and centralization of public and corporate power. By micromanaging energy use via “climate action plans” and “carbon accounting,” literally every human activity becomes highly regulated and more expensive. This reduces the middle class to subsistence, enlarges the dependent class, drives small and mid-sized companies out of business, allows monopolistic companies to consolidate entire industries, and expands the size and reach of government to grotesque proportions. It erases liberties taken for granted in America for over two centuries, including unrestricted mobility and a reasonable chance to afford a home.

Thanks to environmentalists pressuring the state into imposing ridiculous “net zero” building codes, along with cordoning off cities to prevent the far less expensive option of building on open land, the [average home in California](#) costs over \$728,000. Add to that the most expensive total costs for [natural gas](#), [electricity](#), [gasoline](#), and [water](#) in the United States, and the average Californian is lucky to have anything left over for clothing, groceries, or health care. Want to keep your kids out of the public schools? Good luck. On average that will [cost another \\$16,000 per year](#) in California, per child. And it is not tax deductible.

All of these costs are elevated either indirectly or explicitly thanks to environmentalist regulatory excess. The state has plenty of land for homes, trees for lumber, abundant reserves of gas and oil, and amazingly productive farmland. But in every one of these areas — the foundations of prosperity — environmentalist-inspired rules have restricted supply and raised costs. The only economic interests that have benefitted are monopolists.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, for all his self-righteousness and phony demeanor, is not stupid. He understands the consequences of what he's doing. But Bonta is a puppet. He is owned by public-sector unions, California's most powerful special interest, and nothing will expand unionized government more than climate mitigation — more regulations meant to cope with the “climate crisis” means bureaucracy, more agencies, more fees, and more taxes.

In Bonta's run for attorney general in 2022, he collected the [maximum permissible contribution](#), \$16,200, [from 33 entities](#). Every one of them was a union-funded small-contributor committee. *Every single one*. Of his largest contributors, the first 52 were unions, nearly all of them public-sector unions.

Public-sector unions' control of Bonta is reflected in his actions as attorney general. Does he use the power of his office to make a dent in rampant crime in California counties where district attorneys [won't prosecute criminals](#)? Does he challenge [court rulings](#) that make it impossible to compel homeless addicts and alcoholics to move into safe shelters? Does he investigate the corruption that drives a [homeless industrial complex](#) of public bureaucrats, “nonprofits,” and politically connected developers who have snarfed their way through over \$20 billion in taxpayer money [in just the last four years](#), with [billions more on the way](#), merely to make California's homeless population bigger than ever? Has Bonta supported repeal of [Prop. 47](#), which downgraded property and drug crimes in California? No. No. No. And no. Because if the answer to any of those questions were yes, Bonta would be defying the agenda of unionized government and their quasi-private-sector cronies.

Bonta has, however, [sued a courageous school board](#) that — *gasp* — decided to require parental notification if their children yield to transexual propaganda, online peer pressure, and classroom indoctrination to start “identifying” as members of the opposite sex. Because that's none of a parent's business, right? Let the government raise your child. More school psychologists and counselors, more administrators, more unionized public-sector employees, more union dues, more union power.

Which brings us back to [Bonta's case](#) against Exxon Mobil, Shell, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, and BP. Let's not kid ourselves here. This is extortion. It might be perfectly legal, but it is extortion, following what is becoming a well-traveled path of “[climate change litigation](#).” Sadly, the oil companies will probably refrain from fighting this as aggressively as they [ought](#). The reality, which with aggressive counsel would come out in discovery, is quite likely that through the years, most oil company executives believed, with evidence, that fossil fuel would *not* cause extreme climate change or extreme weather.

Fossil fuel is [not playing a decisive role](#) in affecting climate, the climate is [not rapidly changing](#) in ways to which we cannot [readily adapt](#), gradual warming will probably cause on balance more good than harm, fossil fuel has done far more to [uplift humanity](#) than to harm humanity — including generating the wealth we’ve needed to protect the environment from genuine pollution — and, even today, we are still nowhere near ready to replace fossil fuel with new energy technologies.

Why doesn’t Rob Bonta sue the five biggest environmental advocacy groups in California for their public misinformation campaigns, political lobbying and [litigation](#) that demonized loggers, ranchers, and private property owners, preventing them from performing the logging, grazing, mechanical thinning, and controlled burns that up until the 1990s kept California’s forests [from](#) becoming dangerously overgrown? Why doesn’t Rob Bonta, along with Gov. Gavin Newsom, publicly acknowledge that environmentalist pressure groups regulated sensible forest management out of existence in California, that a century of fire suppression, along with two or three decades of management neglect, have left tree density in California’s forests at five to [10 times what is historically normal](#), and *that* is the reason [they’re dried out](#), unhealthy, and burn like hell?

For that matter, why doesn’t Rob Bonta sue EV manufacturers, and the environmentalist pressure groups that demand rapid and exclusive adoption of EVs? Hasn’t this led to a catastrophic uptick in mining around the world, in nations where environmental and labor standards are nonexistent? Perhaps Rob Bonta should spend some quality time picking [cobalt out of toxic slurry in West Africa](#) before he pretends more EVs will somehow save the planet.

All of this is willful ignorance. Bonta told a fawning [PBS interviewer on Sept. 20](#) that if the fossil fuel companies had been, according to him, paragons of honesty back in the 1950s, “choices would have been different, like doubling down and investing on clean energy and phasing out of fossil fuel.” This is absurd. Even now, the [materials science](#) that may someday result in sustainable, affordable, practical batteries for EVs is still in its infancy.

Bonta is posturing. He might be forgiven for believing the [alleged consensus](#) on climate change, simply because everyone he’s surrounded himself with, including all his donors, are telling him the same story. But Bonta cannot be excused for his blithe indifference to the benefit of fossil fuel, the wealth [and](#) broadly distributed prosperity it has given people everywhere, the fact that it still provides more than 80 percent of global energy, the complete lack of scalable alternatives to fossil fuel in past decades, and the extraordinary technological challenges we still face to successfully replace it.

Rob Bonta needs to go back to prosecuting criminals. And if he wants to courageously face down opportunistic dishonesty and deception, perhaps he should look in the mirror.

This article originally appeared in [The American Spectator](#).



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