

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE SEPTEMBER 24-30, 2023

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



Wednesday, October 4th
5:30—7:30 PM
Thousand Hills Ranch
550 Thousand Hills Rd.
Pismo Beach, CA

FALL FORUM

Thousand Hills Rd. is off of Price Canyon. Please use caution, as the road is somewhat hidden around a bend in the road and it comes up on you suddenly. Once on Thousand Hills Road, follow the road for approximately one mile to the red roofed barn on right!

Featuring:

TRUCKS, HOMES, AND FOOD
– HOW WE CAN DEFEND
THESE VITAL ESSENTIALS IN
AN AGE OF REGRESSIVE
SUPPRESSION.

HEAR FROM OUR INDUSTRY
EXPERTS, BRENT
BURCHETT EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR SLO COUNTY
FARM BUREAU, LINDY
HATCHER EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR HOME BUILDERS
ASSOC OF THE CENTRAL
COAST AND JOEL DE LA
CERDA FROM CENTRAL
COAST TRUCK CENTER



BEER, LOCAL FINE WINES, AND
HOT & COLD APPETIZERS
WILL BE SERVED

Kindly RSVP by September 27th — there is no charge for this informative event!

Email: colabslo@gmail.com or call (805) 548-0340

**THIS WEEK
SEE PAGE 4**

SLO COUNTY PENSION TRUST

**INVESTMENT RETURNS IN DOLDRUMS
LONG TERM UNFUNDED LIABILITY PROJECTIONS IN LA LA LAND¹**



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SCREWY MATH IN DA'S REAL ESTATE FRAUD PROGRAM

**MORE CANNABIS PLEASE, SINCE WE ARE LOSING MONEY
THE ILLEGAL MARKET IS ALIVE AND WELL
HOW ABOUT THOSE WHO USE THE STUFF?**

**STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM UPDATE
NO LONGER INCLUDES PROTECTION OF 2/3 TAX VOTE
BOS MAJORITY CHIPPING AWAY**

**COUNTY ENDED FY 2022-23 IN BLACK
BUT HAD TO HIT RESERVES TO FUND SALARY AND BENEFIT RAISES**

**VERY PRELIMINARY BUDGET FORECAST FOR 2024-25
\$21 MILLION REVENUE EXPENDITURE SHORTFALL
SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM IN A \$900 MILLION BUDGET
(UNLESS A DEPRESSION HITS)**

¹ *La La Land*, courtesy of 20th Century Fox, 2016

**BOARD OF SUPERVISOR REQUESTS AND MOTIONS FOR
MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

SLO APCD

**GAVE OUR TAX DOLLARS TO SUCCESSFUL PRIVATE
BUSINESSES FOR MEANINGLESS CO₂ REDUCTIONS
SOME GAVE BIG CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEFTISTS**

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**WORKSHOP ON DANA RESERVE PROJECT
NO ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

**LAST WEEK
SEE PAGE 16**

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

LAFCO CANCELLED

OTHER AGENCIES DORMANT

**EMERGENT ISSUES
SEE PAGE 16**

GAS PRICES RAPIDLY RISING AGAIN

**LEFTIST CALIFORNIA CULTURE:
MORE DEAD BABIES FOUND IN TOILETS**

**THE DAILY CHART: WHO GIVES WHAT TO
POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS**

COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 21

THE EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN POLICE STATE
BY STEVE MCCANN

HOW CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS GREENLIT
‘ANY FLAVOR OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING YOU COULD
POSSIBLY WANT’
BY BEN CHRISTOPHER

THE HIDDEN AGENDA BEHIND LOCKDOWNS
Every aspect of our lives is monitored, and everything we do or
consume is rationed
BY EDWARD RING

THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

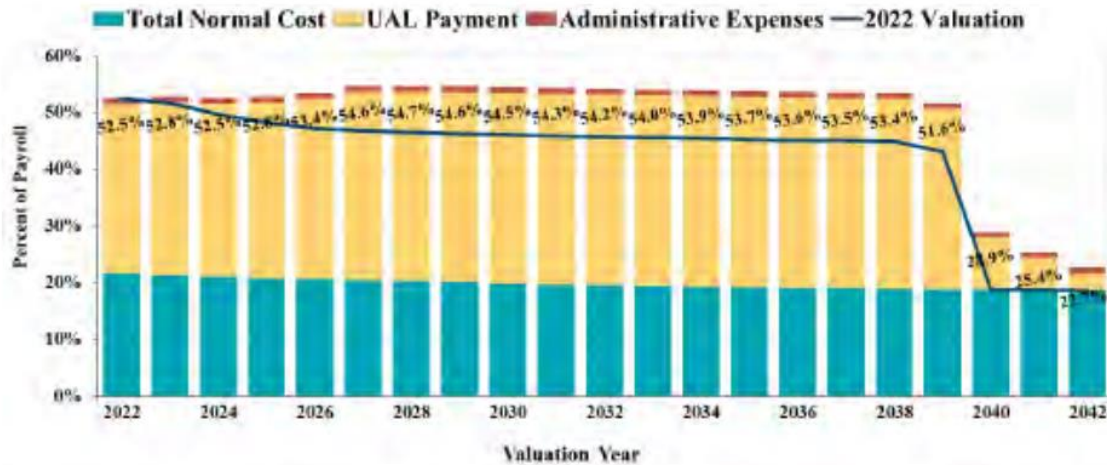
SLO County Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, September 25, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item 11- Monthly Investment Report for August 2023. The doldrums-like stock markets continued in August. September (not yet reported) has been generally poor.

	August	Year to Date 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Trust Investments (\$ millions)	\$1,657		\$1,614 year end	\$1,775 year end	\$1,552 year end	\$1,446 year end	\$1,285 year end
Total Fund Return	-1.0% Gross	+6.1% Gross	-8.0% Gross	15.2% Gross	8.9 % Gross	16.3 % Gross	-3.2 % Gross
Policy Index Return (r)	-1.3%	+6.0%	-9.7%	12.8%	10.0 %	16.4 %	-3.2 %

Item 21 - Funding Policy Projections. The unfunded actuarial liability will continue for many years, placing pressure on the County budget.

The following graph excerpted from the 2023 Actuarial Valuation shows the baseline forecast for the ADC to fund the Plan –



The report states in part:

This is an informational presentation for the Board of Trustees on the topic of managing pension contributions rates over the next 20 years as the Plan reaches full funding.

At the planned culmination of the current funding policy the Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL) is expected to approach \$0 – or a 100% funded ratio – in approximately 2040-2042. At that point, the Actuarially Determined Contribution Rate (ADC) to fund the Plan “falls off a cliff” as projected.

(\$ millions)	2023 Valuation	2032 Forecast*	2041 Forecast*
Actuarial Liability	\$2,622	\$3,427	\$4,288
Actuarial Value of Assets	1,680	2,633	4,304
UAL	\$ 943	\$ 794	(\$ 16)
Funded Ratio	64%	77%	100%
Contribution Rates:			
Normal Cost + Admin.	22.25%	20.60%	19.66%
UAL Amortization	30.56%	33.57%	5.75%
Total ADC	52.81%	54.17%	25.41%



They have about as much chance of achieving this forecast as you have of winning the Powerball. Meanwhile, even under their own projections, the rates to the County and employees will reach nearly 55% and remain high for years. The taxpayers pay for most of the contribution.

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 26, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item 16 - Submittal of the FY 2022-23 Annual Report of the Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Program as required per Government Code Section 27388(d). The State provides District Attorney offices with an annual grant to prosecute real estate fraud. By law the funds must be expended for this purpose and accounted for in a separate trust fund.

The table below indicates that the Fiscal Year began with a \$460,198 balance, received a new \$625,042 grant, and expended \$238,515, which should have left an \$846,723 balance, not \$386,572.

ACCOUNTING

Figure 1 Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Program Trust Fund Revenues and Expenditures (FY 2022-23)				
	Trust Fund Beginning Balance	Trust Fund Revenues	Trust Fund Expenditures	Trust Fund Ending Balance
San Luis Obispo County	\$460,196	\$625,042	\$238,515	\$386,527

The DA’s Budget for FY 2023-24 shows about \$8,067,000 in intergovernmental revenue. Could \$846,723 have been counted outside of the trust fund?

Item 39 - Request to receive and file an update on State Legislative activities by Paul Yoder of Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange. The report indicates that the proposed Constitutional amendments, which undermine Proposition 13, have passed the Legislature and are on the Governor’s desk for approval. When he signs, these will be placed on the ballot for November 2024.

- ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry): This constitutional amendment, subject to voter approval, allows a city, county, or special district, with 55% voter approval, to incur bonded indebtedness or impose specified special taxes to fund projects for affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, or public infrastructure, as specified.

ACA 13 (Ward): Requires an initiative constitutional amendment to comply with any increased voter approval threshold that it seeks to impose on future ballot measures. Guarantees in the state constitution the ability of local governments to submit advisory questions to voters.

There are a number of bills on the Governor’s desk or pending final approval which promote leftist policies, including:

Wind Energy

SB 286 (McGuire) will consolidate permitting for offshore wind’s onshore facilities. County staff participated in conversations with the author’s office and Coastal Commission staff to evaluate the process by which county concerns would be elevated during the consolidated coastal permit

process and received assurances from Commission staff that permits would not be issued without extensive consultation with the County. Should the measure be signed (the Department of Finance (DOF) opposes this bill due to costs), it is worth the board's consideration to have a public conversation with the Commission staff to further memorialize the process the Commission will undertake during permitting to ensure county impacts are fully mitigated

AB 1373 (Garcia) authorizes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a central procurement entity that will be the "backstop" purchaser of power generated from offshore wind and lithium-derived energy. Offshore wind developers signaled to the administration that they needed to assure "buyers" of the power to secure financing and investment planning for development. Biomass was purposefully excluded from this procurement.

AB 1373 puts the risk on State taxpayers.

More Labor Pork

AB 1484 (Zbur): Amends the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA) to require inclusion of temporary employees in the same bargaining unit as permanent employees.

Looking Ahead

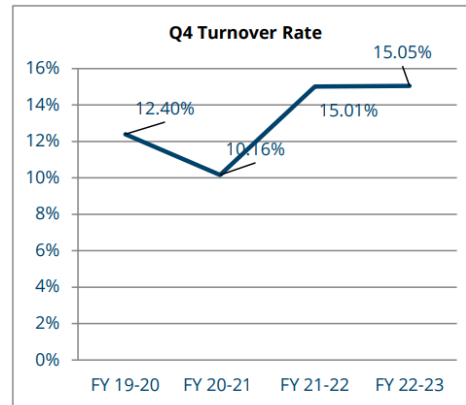
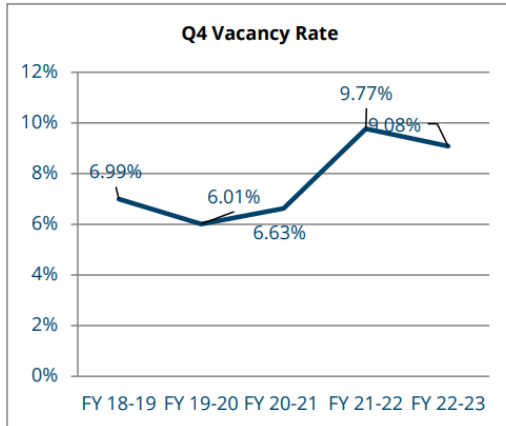
Deficit: *Unfortunately, it appears certain that the State will suffer another significant budget deficit in 2024-25. Fiscally, this will constrain actions by the Governor and the Legislature. As mentioned above, bonding for various purposes will continue to be front and center in terms of generating money for various projects around the State.*

AB 504 Reyes: *This bill would provide, except as specified, that it is not unlawful or a cause for discipline or other adverse action against a public employee for that public employee to refuse to enter property that is the site of a primary strike, perform work for a public employer involved in a primary strike, or go through or work behind a primary strike line. The bill would prohibit a public employer from directing a public employee to take those actions. The bill would authorize a recognized employee organization to inform employees of these rights and encourage them to exercise those rights. The bill would also state that a provision in a public employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that purports to limit or waive the rights set forth in this provision shall be void against public policy, except that the bill would require the parties to negotiate over the bill's provisions if the bill is in conflict with a collective bargaining agreement entered into before January 1, 2024, as prescribed. The bill would exempt certain public employees of fire departments and certain peace officers from these provisions. The bill would include related legislative findings.*

SB 704 Min D: *This bill would prohibit new or expanded oil and gas development from being considered a coastal-dependent industrial facility, as provided, and would permit those developments only if they are found to be consistent with all applicable provisions of the Act and certain conditions are met. The bill would authorize the repair and maintenance of existing oil and gas facilities to be permitted in accordance with the requirements for coastal-dependent industrial facilities, but would authorize that permitting only if the repair or maintenance does*

not result in expansion of capacity of the facility and the same conditions are met. This bill other related provisions and other existing laws.

Item 40 - Submittal of the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Year-End Financial Status Report. This is the full financial report for FY 2022-23. In the end the fiscal year closed in the black. In fact the County substantially underspent the adopted Budget, due to employee vacancies and capital projects that lapsed over into the FY 2023-24 fiscal year. In fact, the County ended up with higher fund balances than were even projected last Spring.



Soon the County will reach 3000 funded positions but with a vacancy rate of 10%. 300 of these will be vacant, on average, over the course of the year. Again, the County should publish a report that lists which positions are vacant, how long they have been vacant, which ones are general fund, and how much salary saving has been accumulated over each pay period.

SUMMARY OF POSITION ALLOCATION CHANGES

FY 2022-23	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Quarter Start	2,932.00	2,958.25	2,965.25	2,969.25
FTE Additions	53.00	27.00	8.00	13.00
FTE Deletions	26.75	20.00	4.00	6.00
Quarter End	2,958.25	2,965.25	2,969.25	2,976.25
Net Change	26.25	7.00	4.00	7.00
% Change	0.90%	0.24%	0.13%	0.24%

The County continues to not budget for expected and currently underway labor negotiations, but instead relies on fund balance and departmental savings to bail out departments that run over. In the larger picture, this means the County is budgeting less precisely, which in turn limits the Board’s ability to prioritize its program of service(whether one agrees with it or not).

Item 41 - It is recommended that the Board 1) approve a resolution adopting final appropriations, reserves, designations, and contingencies for FY 2023-24 pursuant to direction given in Board Resolution No. 2023-159 and relative to the determination of the June 30, 2023, final fund balances, by 4/5 vote and 2) receive and file FY 2024-25 initial look/partial preliminary forecast. This item recommends some clean up issues to close out the

FY 2022-23 fiscal year. These include a few minor corrections and allocation of higher than anticipated fund balance to reserves.

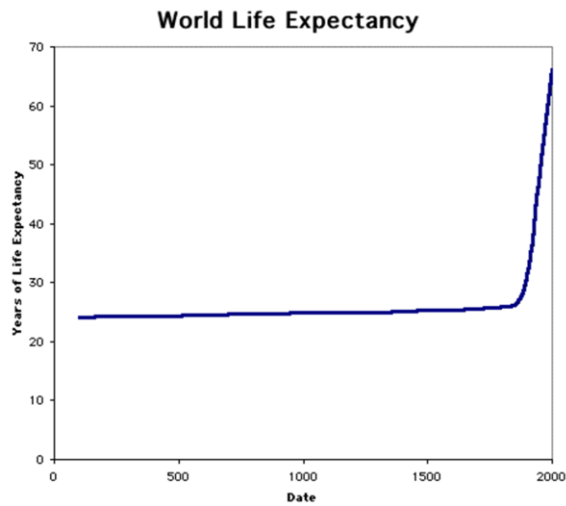
The item also provides a very preliminary list of the issues that will present challenges in balancing the FY 2024-25 budget. At this point, taking all the increased revenues, accounting for expenditures funded by one-time revenues, and known unfunded salary and benefit increases, a possible \$21 million problem is projected. Given that the overall operations budget is approaching \$900 million, this should not be much of a problem by the time they get down to real budget making next Spring.

Caution: This would be not true if the country suffers a severe financial depression, widespread civil unrest by either the socialist left, the increasingly populist right, or both; or the spread of the conflicts in Ukraine, Syria, or the far East, and/or some combination of all three.

Additionally, the California economy could be especially vulnerable, due to the increasingly radical agenda of the State and some local governments that are imposing restrictions on the economy and citizen mobility, and undermining public safety and public health. At some time, a tipping point will be reached where the current zones of crime, filth, and abandonment will spread to the degree that citizens will take matters into their own hands as the established governments lose their authority and legitimacy.

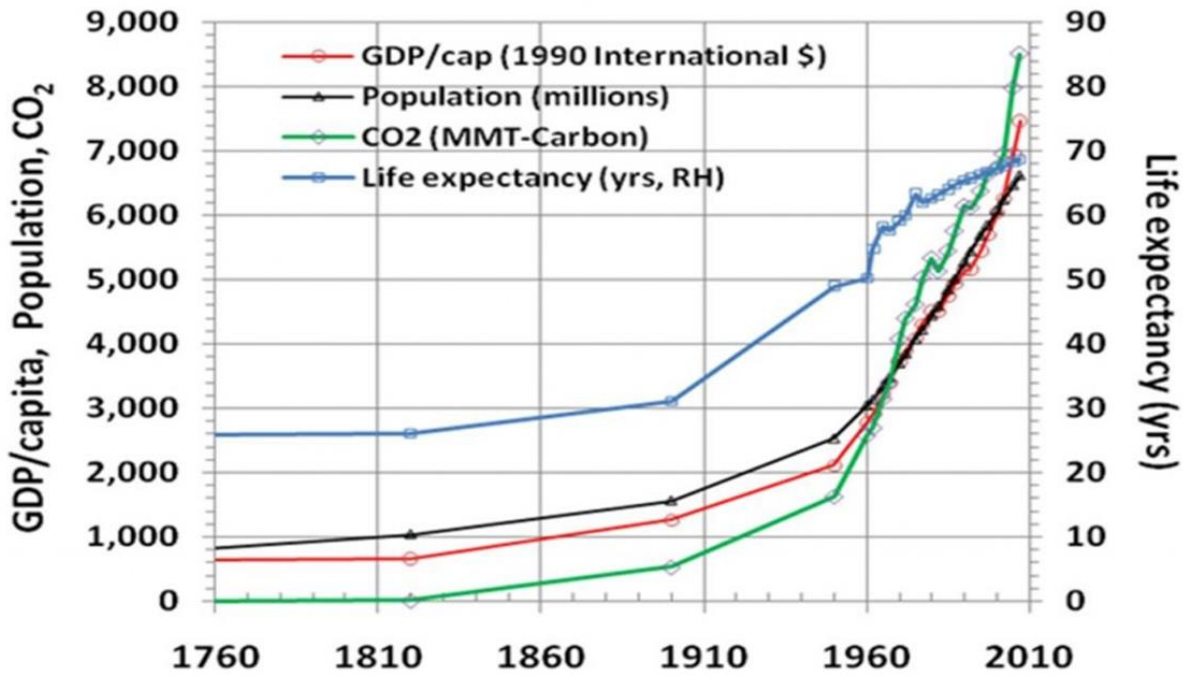


The Goths in the 4th Century, who had actually been invited into the Roman Empire (Open Border Policy), revolted after a generation and looted the dying husk of Classical civilization. Life expectancies dropped in Romanized Europe from the mid 60's to the low 30's, basically remained there until the industrial revolution.



REQUISITES OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY (PRECONDIONS)

- Rule of Law** (property rights, freedom from corruption);
- Limited government** (fiscal freedom, government spending);
- Regulatory efficiency** (business freedom, labor freedom, monetary freedom); and
- Open markets** (trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom).



Matters After 1:30 PM

Item 44 - Receive and file a presentation on the County's Cannabis Program and provide staff direction, as necessary. As demonstrated by the table below, San Luis Obispo County's experiment with legalized recreational cannabis has been a resounding failure. It costs more to permit, regulate, and police it than it generates in revenue.

Please see the table on the next page.

GFS means General Fund subsidy

Program Component	FY 2022-23 Actuals			FY 2023-24 Budget		
	Revenue	Expenditures	GFS	Revenue	Expenditures	GFS
Legal Cannabis						
Land Use Ordinance Development	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land Use Permitting (not including Appeals or PRAs)	\$48,575	\$225,961	\$177,386	\$198,661	\$198,661	\$0
Appeals	\$0	\$23,203	\$23,203	\$1,700	\$13,754	\$12,054
Public Records Act (PRA) Requests and other Public Information Requests	\$0	\$1,073	\$1,073	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Business Licensing and Background Checks	\$185,277	\$581,758	\$396,482	\$516,844	\$1,209,359	\$692,515
Compliance Monitoring	\$217,875	\$425,216	\$207,342	\$460,975	\$885,420	\$424,445
Total	\$451,726	\$1,257,211	\$805,485	\$1,178,180	\$2,308,194	\$1,130,014
Illegal Cannabis						
Civil	\$76,756	\$203,152	\$126,396	\$0	\$132,587	\$132,857
Criminal	\$0	\$66,808	\$66,808	\$0	\$132,587	\$132,857
Total Illegal Cannabis	\$76,756	\$269,960	\$193,204	\$0	\$265,173	\$265,713
Cannabis Business Tax						
Cannabis Business Tax	\$597,747	\$0	(\$597,747)	\$387,000*	\$0	(\$387,000)
Total Cannabis Business Tax	\$597,747	\$0	(\$597,747)	\$387,000	\$0	(\$387,000)
Total Legal and Illegal Cannabis (Including Tax)	\$1,126,229	\$1,527,171	\$400,942	\$1,565,180	\$2,573,907	\$1,008,727

*Adjusts for Board action to reduce the Cannabis Business Tax rate to 6% of gross receipts

This Board item presents a cafeteria of revisions to the County’s Cannabis program and Ordinances for consideration by the Board.

Items of Consideration

- 1. Land use cannabis permit expiration.**
 - County Code Section 22.40.050.B.1 Land use permit expiration.
"All land use permits issued for cannabis cultivation shall expire in five years from the approval date..."
 - Due to the complexity of cannabis regulations- applications are taking a few years to complete Conditions of Approval.
 - The requested change would allow cannabis permits to expire in five years from the date of when the project becomes operational instead from the date of the project's approval.

Items of Consideration

- 2. Mobile Dispensary Hours of Operation**
 - County Code Section 22.40.090.D.3
"Dispensaries may operate from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. daily..."
 - The State allows mobile dispensaries to operate up until 10 p.m.
 - Consider expanding the hours of operation to be consistent with State policy.

Items of Consideration

- 3. Storefront Retail Dispensaries**
 - Currently, the Cannabis Ordinance does not allow for storefront retail dispensaries.
 - This change would allow brick-and-mortar cannabis dispensaries in the unincorporated areas of the County.
 - The Planning Department will collaborate with other stakeholders to understand the implication of the change to address health, safety, and neighborhood compatibility concerns.

What has been the impact of recreational cannabis so far? Before authoring such a project, the Board should request a combined written and live presentation on the impacts of recreational cannabis so far. The expertise of the Behavioral Health Department, the Clinical Health Department, the County Superintendent of Schools, The District Attorney, the County Sheriff, and a representative of the County Police Chiefs Association should be included. An independent consultant should supervise the report design and preparation.

In other words, is it good or bad for children, education and job attendance, cognitive ability, mental and physical health, public safety, and the society in general. For example, what has been the impact on homelessness, school attendance, and crime?

Why expend a million dollars on the ordinance revisions below, when no one knows whether the impact has been harmful or not. The left is always yammering about the precautionary principle. What about here? It's only our kids' future at stake.

Steps Required for Ordinance Amendment

1. Authorization from the Board of Supervisors.
2. Research
3. Develop and update the Ordinance Framework
4. Staff will develop an administrative draft ordinance
5. Public Review Draft Ordinance
6. Agency and stakeholder outreach
7. Tribal Consultation
8. Planning Commission to review draft ordinance
9. Board of Supervisor for adoption

Item 35 - 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.

SLO Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting of Wednesday, September 27, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item B-8: Report on emission reduction projects funded through APCD grant programs during Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The APCD receives State and Federal grants, which in turn are used to fund incentive programs for businesses and individuals to trade out old engines and equipment for newer versions that generate less CO₂.

1. SLO County Clean Air Incentive Program: One focus of the SLO County Clean Air Incentive Program is to reduce emissions by replacing existing older diesel engines with new low-emission engines and electric motors. The program also continues with the retirement of older light-duty vehicles and the support of local infrastructure for alternative fuel and zero emission vehicles. The specific project categories include:

- *Off-road Equipment Replacement Program (ERP): Clean replacements for old tractors and construction equipment.*
- *Off-road Equipment Repowers: Clean replacements for old diesel engines in tractors, irrigation engines, and construction equipment.*
- *Marine Engine Repowers: Clean replacements for old diesel engines in commercial harbor craft, including commercial fishing vessels.*
- *School Bus Replacements: Provides zero or near zero-emission replacements for public school buses.*
 - *Old Car Buy Back: Provides payments to county residents for retiring a light-duty car or truck in our old car buyback program.*
- *Alternative Fuel/Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure: Provides funding for alternative fuel or ZEV infrastructure projects, such as electric vehicle chargers.*

Here is a list of this fiscal year’s awardees.

Table 5. FY 22-23 Project Expenditure Summary

Organized by Expenditure Category & Project Number

Category	Project ID	Company	Project Award
	CM20/21-05	E. & J. Gallo Winery (formerly Denner Vineyards)	\$ 46,260
	CM21/22-04	J. Lohr Vineyards	\$ 54,180
	CM21/22-05	J Lohr Vineyards	\$ 54,180
	CM21/22-06	J Lohr Vineyards	\$ 55,440
	CM21/22-07	Dugan Kelly	\$ 26,930
	AB617-1920-18	San Miguel Vineyards	\$ 50,710
	FARMER4-1	Cagliero Vineyards, Inc.	\$ 231,160
	FARMER4-2	Twisselman Grain & Cattle	\$ 300,000
	FARMER4-5	Mesa View Produce, Inc.	\$ 71,720
	FARMER4-6	Talley Vineyards	\$ 19,760

FARMER4-8	MarketSphere, Inc.	\$ 42,330
FARMER4-10	Vineyard Professional Services	\$ 53,630
FARMER4-11	Red Dog Management, Inc.	\$ 58,480
FARMER4-13	Oscar Buddy Acres	\$ 13,360
FARMER4-14	Benchmark Vineyard Management, Inc.	\$ 46,140
FARMER4-15	Turley Wine Cellars, Inc.	\$ 31,950
FARMER4-19	Humberto Ponce	\$ 49,130
FARMER4-20	John Sonne	\$ 92,940
FARMER5-2	Neal Springs Vineyard LLC	\$ 53,110
FARMER5-3	Brandon Spain	\$ 32,580
FARMER5-4	Dave Spurr	\$ 100,000
FARMER5-10	Grafted LLC	\$ 39,240

EV Charging	CM20/21SR-01	North County Hospitality Group	\$ 51,883
	AB617-1819-01	SLO RTA	\$ 519,650
Wood Burning Device Change Out	Local Mitigation Funds	SLO County Residents	\$ 6,000
Old Car Buyback	AB923-VAVR10-12	SLO County Residents	\$ 48,000
Marine Vessel Repower	CM21/22-01	Casey's Central Coast Charter, Inc.	\$ 226,480
	CM21/22-12	Sub-Sea Tours LLC	\$ 24,162
	CM22/23-02	Endeavor Sports, LLC	\$ 65,000
Total FY 22-23 Project Expenditures			\$2,464,405

Government patronage is spread all over in various ways. The write-up states that this effort reduced 59 tons of CO₂ emissions, or \$41,769 per ton. This is an outrageous use of public tax money.

See the chart below on the next page of political contributions from J Lohr, who received three large grants, not a bad return on investment.

04/13/2022	Ortiz-Legg for Supervisor 2024	\$2,500.00	S497	F497P1	Jerome Lohr	Saratoga, CA 95070		J. Lohr Wines	Founder	View
04/13/2022	Ortiz-Legg for Supervisor 2024	\$2,500.00	RCPT	A	Jerome Lohr	Saratoga, CA 95070		J. Lohr Wines	Founder	View
04/22/2022	Bruce Gibson for Supervisor 2022	\$5,000.00	S497	F497P1	Jerome Lohr	Saratoga, CA 95070		J. Lohr Winery	wine grower	View
04/22/2022	Bruce Gibson for Supervisor 2022	\$5,000.00	RCPT	A	Jerome Lohr	Saratoga, CA 95070		J. Lohr Winery	wine grower	View
08/02/2022	Bruce Gibson for Supervisor 2022	\$5,000.00	S497	F497P1	Jerome Lohr	Saratoga, CA 95070		J. Lohr Vineyards & Wine	Winegrower & Vintner	View
08/02/2022	Bruce Gibson for Supervisor 2022	\$5,000.00	RCPT	A	Jerome Lohr	Saratoga, CA 95070		J. Lohr Vineyards & Wine	Winegrower & Vintner	View
10/22/2022	Bruce Gibson for Supervisor 2022	\$5,000.00	S497	F497P1	Jerome Lohr	Saratoga, CA 95070		J. Lohr Vineyards & Wine	Winegrower & Vintner	View
10/22/2022	Bruce Gibson for Supervisor 2022	\$5,000.00	RCPT	A	Jerome Lohr	Saratoga, CA 95070		J. Lohr Vineyards & Wine	Winegrower & Vintner	View

It was not a bad investment for J Lohr. Why is our tax money being given to successful private entities to subsidize meaningless CO₂ reductions? Of course Gibson is a huge supporter of the APCD and anything it can do to close the Dunes.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, September 28, 2023 (Scheduled)

Item 3 - Dana Reserve Specific Plan Study Session. The original 2-day hearing for consideration of the project was postponed. There is considerable public opposition. Supervisor Jimmy Paulding requested that the Commission allow more time for public review (read organize opposition). The write-up states in part:

The purpose of the study session is to inform the Planning Commission and public about the project, including its objectives, public benefits, and environmental impacts. At the conclusion of the study session, the Commission will scope key issues for Planning and Building Department staff to consider when they present again to the Planning Commission at the hearing on October 23 and 24, 2023. The Commission will not deliberate or decide on the project during the study session.

The proposed project is located near the intersection of Highway 101 and Willow Road in Nipomo. It contains the largest proposal for new homes (about 1430) in the unincorporated County in decades. It also includes commercial and retail sections.



This plan will be an acid test for officials who claim to support more homes when it returns for actual votes in late October.



Architecture connects to the area history, while providing indoor/outdoor community spaces.



A variety of residential home types/sizes creates expanded opportunities for home ownership and apartments.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2023 (Not Scheduled)

Local Agency Formation Commission of Thursday, September 21, 2023 (Cancelled)

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - Southern California Gas Prices Climb at Their Fastest Rate This Year

September 18, 2023 By Carly Olson

Gas prices in Southern California shot up at their fastest rate of the year last week, according to data released by AAA.



A gallon of regular self-serve gasoline cost an average of \$5.62 in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metro area as of Thursday. That is up 18 cents from last week and 38 cents from last month. The national average price is nearly \$2 less — \$3.86 — up 6 cents from a week ago. AAA officials blamed both regional and global factors for high prices, including the [floods in Libya](#). “Our pump prices have been skyrocketing as a result of regional refinery outages, as well as from increasing crude oil prices following deadly flooding in Libya, which will temporarily disrupt oil exports from that OPEC nation,” Doug Shupe, a spokesperson for the Automobile Club of Southern California, said in a statement.

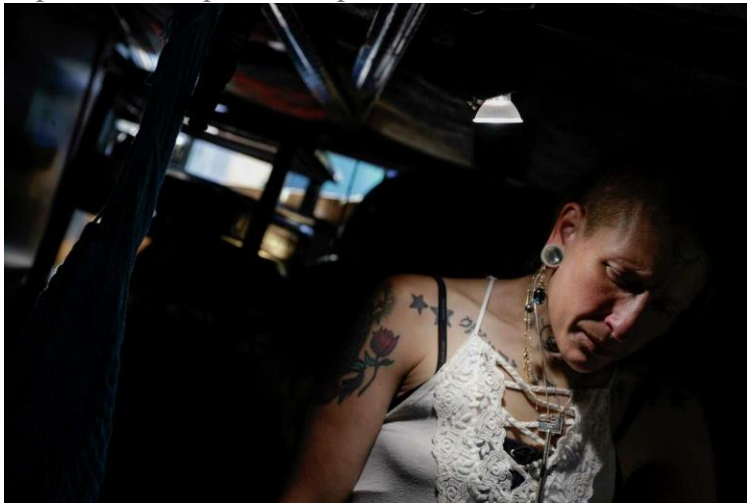
Other parts of Southern California have seen similar eye-popping price increases. In the San Diego metro area, the average price for a gallon of gas is \$5.60, and in Riverside, \$5.50. Both of those figures are up 17 cents from last week and 39 cents from last month.

On the Central Coast, a gallon will cost drivers an average of \$5.53, 14 cents higher than a week ago and 38 cents more than last month.

It remains unclear when drivers might feel relief, but AAA officials said last month that [California has increased oil stockpiles and imports](#), which may drive down wholesale prices soon.

Item 2 - Another stillborn baby found in S.F. toilet points to desperate conditions: ‘It’s hell out here’ [Kevin Fagan](#)

Sep. 18, 2023 Updated: Sep. 19, 2023 7:05 a.m.



Jasmine Byron, 37, has been living on the streets since she was 13. While living on the streets she experienced a stillborn birth. A year ago in August, Byron gave birth to a son. Soon after, child welfare authorities took him away.

Brontë Wittpenn/The Chronicle

Jasmine Byron lives in a squalid shack of metal racks and tarps roped together in [San Francisco’s Tenderloin](#), heaped with clothes and enough foraged stuff to fill more than a dozen shopping carts. At 37, she believes she’s pregnant again.

Living on the street, the prospect distresses her. And the discovery of a stillborn fetus last month in a public toilet at [UN Plaza](#) — confirmed by the Chronicle this past week — struck a raw nerve.

“It’s hell out here, and when something like that, a stillborn baby outside, happens, it just shows how vulnerable you are living outside like this,” Byron said as she waited for street outreach workers to make one of their near-daily visits to her shack.

With ramped-up services for pregnant [homeless women](#) over the past few years, health officials believe the city is treating an increasing number of expectant mothers like Byron who are unhoused — and the reasons for that are not entirely clear.

Some officials say they think it’s simply because health outreach and services for homeless pregnant women have increased, making it possible to reach more people. Others say the skinning back of COVID relief measures that created eviction protections and thousands of temporary shelter spaces in hotels has contributed to more people losing their homes.

The persistent drug crisis may also have a role, as some chronically homeless women coping with the trauma of street life join the growing numbers of fentanyl or methamphetamine users; that can leave them vulnerable to abuse and less equipped to manage their own health and reproductive issues.

The dilemma of street desperation was highlighted Aug. 16 when a fetus was found around 10:30 p.m. in the Pit Stop outdoor toilet at Seventh and Market streets, according to city records and public safety officials with knowledge of the incident.

The city medical examiner and other departments that responded would not release detailed information beyond stating that a deceased male fetus had been found in the bathroom, citing health privacy laws. The medical examiner said the incident is under investigation.

Word of the stillborn fetus found in August spread among the chronically homeless. And though such incidents are a rarity — and housed people, of course, also have stillbirths — the tragedy underscores the precarity of being pregnant without a steady roof overhead.

In January 2022, a homeless woman had a stillbirth in a portable bathroom at a city-sanctioned tent site outside City Hall. The Chronicle reported that the woman was treated at a hospital the previous evening and was back at the site by the morning. People close to her said she told them afterward that her full-term pregnancy was not detected.

Outreach workers, too, were jarred by the news of the August incident, though they couldn't speak directly about the case.

“It’s heartbreaking when a patient of mine delivers like that at home or on the street — any stillbirth is heartbreaking,” said Dr. Dominika Seidman of Team Lily at UCSF, which provides prenatal care and support for homeless and other vulnerable women. “I want to understand that person’s story and make sure we use experiences like that to make sure we are providing the best services we can.”

City health officials say that at any given time, about 25 homeless pregnant women are being treated by roving aid teams, and about half of those are living in the street rather than in a shelter or other temporary accommodations.

“What we are seeing is an increase in homeless families in general, and an uptick in pregnant people with needs,” said Shellena Eskridge, director of the nonprofit Homeless Prenatal Program in San Francisco. One barometer of the need, she said, is the number of homeless pregnant clients her nonprofit served last year: 434, up 8% from the year before.

“During COVID, we had more aid, eviction prevention and extra shelters, and now that has faded or disappeared,” she said. “But families have not.”

Drug use among some mothers-to-be muddles their ability to make the clearest decisions, Eskridge said. “It impedes your ability to focus,” she said. “But the bigger problem is affordable housing. There’s not enough of it.”

Dr. Deb Borne, a city street medicine provider for perinatal and family care, also said drug use is a challenge, but that blaming those in its grip is misplaced. It’s not the root cause of the central problems women faced with street pregnancies, she said.

“People use drugs because of trauma — trauma is the issue,” she said. “And what happens with stigma for pregnant women in the streets is we suddenly think we know better than they do about what they should do with their bodies. They can still make decisions. We work with them.”

Registered nurse Dana Lazarovitz Thompson, who works with unhoused pregnant women, said that increased resources — in roving teams and clinics — means more women are being engaged who may otherwise be overlooked.

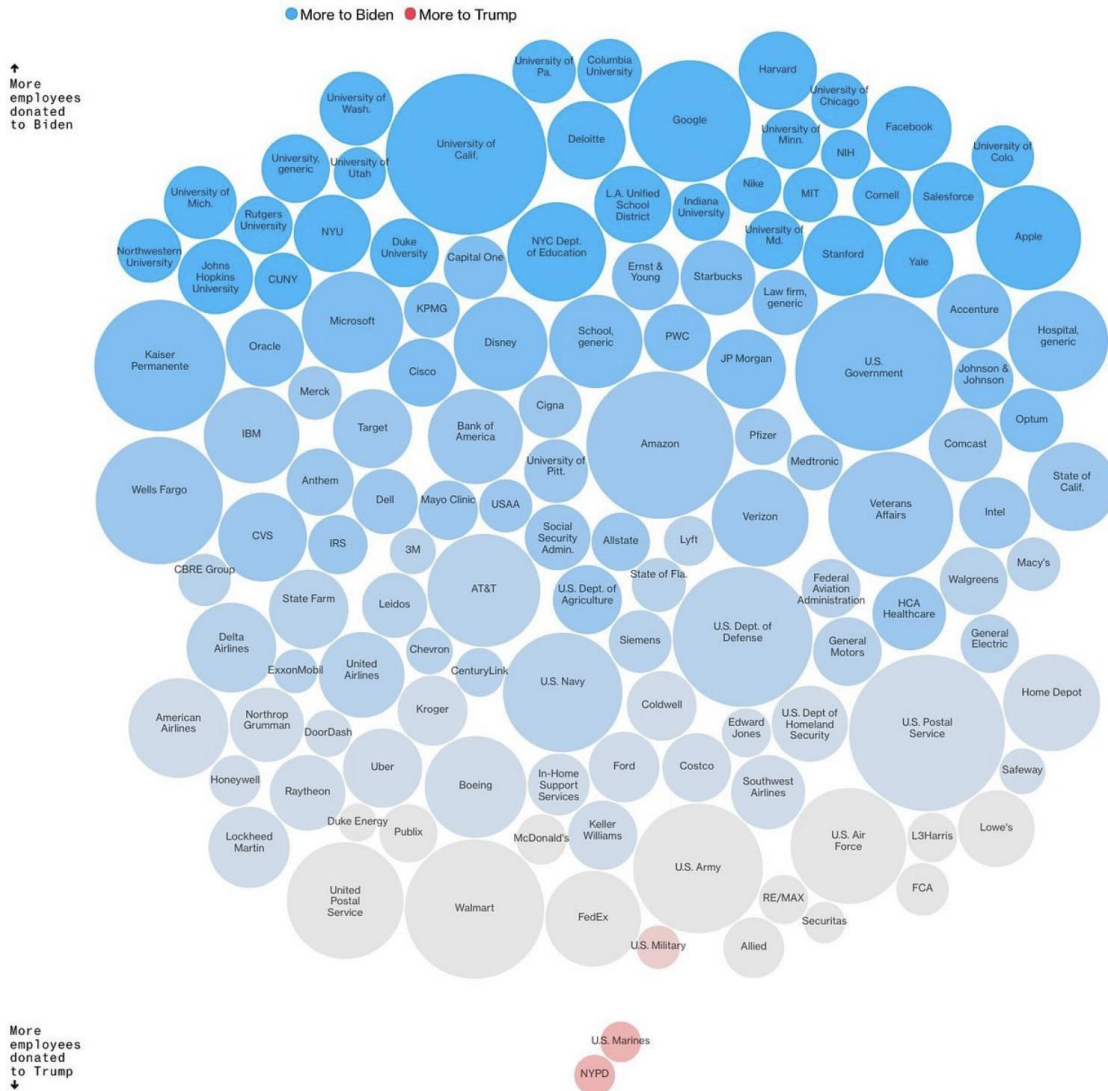
Kevin Fagan is a longtime, award-winning reporter at The San Francisco Chronicle, specializing in homelessness, enterprise news-feature writing, breaking news and crime. He has ridden with the rails with modern-day hobos, witnessed seven prison executions, written extensively about serial killers including the Unabomber, Doodler and Zodiac, and covered disasters ranging from the Sept. 11 terror attacks at Ground Zero to California’s devastating wildfires. Homelessness remains a core focus of his, close to his heart as a journalist who cares passionately about the human condition. Sep. 18, 2023 Updated: Sep. 19, 2023.

Item 3 - See how various institutions vote on the leftist/conservative spectrum on the next page.

THE DAILY CHART: WHO GIVES WHAT – BY STEVEN HAYWARD

This **New York Times** chart may be a little hard to make out unless you enlarge it, but it displays by the familiar blue and red colors how political donations from large public organizations and private businesses skew. (The larger the circle, the larger the amount of total contribution dollars.) As you can see it is overwhelmingly tilted to Biden over Trump. Only the U.S. Marines and the NYPD clearly favor Trump. No wonder populist Republicans dislike big business these days.

Whose Employees Have Donated to Biden vs. Trump
 The 100 employers with the most employees who donated to each campaign



Powerline September 22, 2023 **Steven F. Hayward** (born October 16, 1958) is an American conservative author, political commentator, and policy scholar. He is a senior resident scholar at the [Institute of Governmental Studies](#) at the [University of California, Berkeley](#), and a visiting lecturer at the [UC Berkeley School of Law](#).

Hayward was previously the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Public Policy, and was the inaugural visiting scholar in conservative thought and policy at the [University of Colorado at Boulder](#). In 2023, he returned to Pepperdine to serve as the Edward L. Gaylord Visiting Professor of Public Policy at the [Pepperdine University School of Public Policy](#).^[1]

From 2002 to 2012, he was the F.K Weyerhaeuser Fellow in Law and Economics at the [American Enterprise Institute](#) in [Washington, D.C.](#), and has been senior fellow at the [Pacific Research Institute](#) in San Francisco since 1991.^{[2][3][4][5]}

Steve resides in San Luis Obispo County.

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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

THE EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN POLICE STATE

BY STEVE MCCANN

With the unconscionable persecution of the January 6th protesters, the unabashed government censorship of speech, the weaponization of federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies, and the egregious abuse of presidential executive orders and emergency declarations, the

American police state is no longer a hypothetical possibility but an increasingly indisputable reality.

While imperceptibly evolving over many decades, the emergence of the American police state was significantly accelerated with the overreaction to the September 11, 2001 terror attack. Even more important was the Covid 19 pandemic that dramatically increased the momentum toward a police state as once a people are terrorized it is easy to impose a police state on them.

When societies lose their freedom, it is not ordinarily because autocrats or tyrants have forcibly taken it away. It is usually the result of the population willingly surrendering their freedom in return for protection against an external threat. While the threat is oftentimes real it is invariably exaggerated.

In both 911 and Covid-19, the general public was stampeded into demanding action from their elected leaders. The politicians responded and did not pause to ask whether the actions undertaken would work; just do something was the mantra. They were unconcerned about the unintended consequences or the financial and societal cost to the nation.

Any student of history and human nature would recognize that these are the classic symptoms of collective hysteria. Hysteria is contagious. This nation turned itself inside out as the media and unscrupulous politicians grossly exaggerated these threats and did not stop to ask if the cure would be worse than the disease.

In times like those, it was to be expected that the citizenry would look to the government for guidance and assistance. When that happens in an environment of mass hysteria, then it is unsurprising that the state will take on or assume new power as that is what has been demanded of it. This historically has been the process which led to the rise of authoritarianism and police states.

In the immediate aftermath of September 11, 2001, when the reality of international terrorism was fresh in the minds of the American people, The [Patriot Act](#) was passed. An irrational fear had taken over the citizenry that the government used to justify the most sweeping forms of domestic surveillance in the history of the Republic. The law granted virtually unchecked power to domestic intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Powers which were quickly turned against the American people who did not genuflect to the political establishment.

However, it was the exploitation of Covid-19 that dramatically accelerated the formation of a potential all-encompassing police state as it handed the government an unprecedented weapon to manipulate the American people: the declaration of a national health emergency.

The American political class, utilizing the most draconian of tactics, plunged this nation into economic and societal chaos, claiming they had to do so in order to stem the tide of the “life threatening” Chinese Coronavirus. [Grossly error-prone projections](#) and the choreographed [shutdowns and mandates in Communist China](#) were trumpeted by politicians and the media as fear and anxiety gripped the country.

Declaring a national emergency, shutting down a nation, and curtailing freedoms in order to combat a virus with an [infection fatality rate](#) essentially equivalent to the annual flu for people under 70 would have been unthinkable at any other time in human history but the politicians and bureaucrats began clamoring for a national shutdown by pointing to the [spurious success](#) of China’s lockdown policies.

On March 13, 2020 President Trump issued a [national emergency declaration](#) for Covid-19. On March 16, 2020, in the most egregious mistake of his otherwise highly successful presidency, he announced an effective [national shutdown](#) of “15 days to slow the spread”.

Inevitably, [15 days became 45](#) and then extended into multiple months as states and cities initiated their own tyrannical lockdown regimens pointing to Trump’s health emergency declaration as the justification.

The vast bulk of the terror-stricken citizenry dutifully obeyed. They remained silent as the governing class:

- issued [arrest warrants and jailed citizens](#) for attending gatherings of more than ten people,
- prohibited Americans from [attending funerals services and visiting the sick](#) or infirmed,
- levied [excessive fines](#) for not maintaining proper distances in public,
- forcibly [closed businesses](#) they deemed “nonessential”,
- [arrested pastors](#) for holding worship services either indoors or outdoors,
- used law enforcement to [shutter churches and synagogues](#),
- indiscriminately ordered the [closure of schools and universities](#),
- demanded that neighbors as well as ordinary citizens [inform the police](#) if anyone they knew was violating lockdown rules,
- [mandated a vaccine](#) for Covid-19 that was approved with no long-term testing and unknown side-effects.



A surfer arrested for surfing alone (YouTube [screengrab](#), cropped)

Politicians and bureaucrats, constitutionally or statutorily limited in their power, exercised near dictatorial authority in their edicts claiming the pandemic warranted putting much of the nation’s population into house imprisonment.

That is what a police state is like. It is a nation in which the government can issue orders and edicts or convey preferences with little or no legal authority. Yet, it appears the majority of the American people were willing to sacrifice their freedoms and way of life in order to empower such a potential police state in the guise of conquering a pandemic or protection from terrorism.

Governments never give up power once attained. They only seek to normalize it and now they have in their toolbox the knowledge that the citizenry will meekly acquiesce to any national

emergency being declared an existential health crisis which requires government to unconstitutionally impose its will on the people.

Recently the Governor of New Mexico unilaterally [suspended the right to carry firearms](#) in public across their largest city citing her declaration of a public health emergency as the basis. The Democrats and Joe Biden are plotting to declare a [national climate emergency](#), ostensibly because of health risks due to climate change, in order to impose their radical “green” agenda on America.

The march to a police state cannot be reversed by cosmetic changes to the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The Patriot Act must be repealed. The FBI should be disbanded, and its intelligence functions spread among other agencies and the bulk of its law enforcement activities returned to the various states. The CIA should also be disbanded, and its functions returned to the Departments of Defense, State and Treasury. And the fig leaf that is the [FISA Court must be abolished](#).

Additionally, Congress needs to amend the National Emergencies Act of 1976 to limit and more clearly define the President’s prerogative to declare national emergencies. The various state legislatures must do the same with the Governors in their individual states.

If the Democrats win the White House in 2024 none of these reforms will be undertaken and in combination with their intent to pack the Federal Judiciary, the citizens of the United States will soon find themselves living in a [permanent American police state](#).

This article first appeared in the American Thinker of September 20, 2023

HOW CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS GREENLIT ‘ANY FLAVOR OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING YOU COULD POSSIBLY WANT’

BY BEN CHRISTOPHER



STACK AND PACK FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

Summary : A patchwork of bills are giving housing developers and local governments more options to reduce red tape for housing projects.

You may not have seen the headlines (there weren't any). You may have missed the raucous debate (there wasn't much of one). But with the [end of the legislative session](#) last week, California is now on the verge of laying down a welcome mat for most major affordable housing projects across the state.

That's not because of a single bill, but a patchwork of current and former legislation that, taken together, "basically covers any flavor of affordable housing you could possibly want to build," said Linda Mandolini, president of Eden Housing, an affordable housing development nonprofit.

Homes designated for low-income occupants, like all housing projects, face a gauntlet of potential challenges and hold-ups that add to the [already exorbitant cost of affordable housing](#) in California. Those hurdles include lawsuits filed under the [wide-ranging California Environmental Quality Act](#), extensive public hearings and other forms of opposition from local government.

Now, affordable housing projects — in most places and most of the time — may soon be exempt from all that, fitted out in a suit of procedural armor made up of some half a dozen bills and laws.

A bill now sitting on the governor's desk would cover up one of the last chinks in that armor. [Assembly Bill 1449](#), authored by two Democratic Assemblymembers, [David Alvarez](#) of San Diego and [Buffy Wicks](#) of Oakland, would exempt certain affordable apartment developments from review under CEQA. To qualify, projects would have to be located in dense urban areas, set aside each unit for someone earning less than 80% the area median income and abide by [stricter labor standards](#), among other requirements.

Though modest and technical-sounding, that's unusually broad for new construction in California.

"I do think it's gonna be very consequential but it's kind of flown under the radar," Alvarez said. His explanation why: "The politics of where Californians are and certainly where the Legislature is — we want to see results. We want to see housing being produced."

Taken together with a handful of other bills and current laws, said Mark Stivers, a lobbyist with the California Housing Partnership, which co-sponsored AB 1449, the new legislation "effectively make it possible for affordable housing providers to develop nearly all viable sites in California by-right and exempt from CEQA review."

Speeding up approval for these projects comes with a trade-off. Environmental justice organizations, labor unions and various opponents of new development see CEQA as a vital tool to weigh in on what gets built, where and under what terms.

“Our communities rely heavily on CEQA to be able to get more information about proposed developments that might be contributing to further pollution,” said Grecia Orozco, a staff attorney with the nonprofit Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment.

Local activists also often flood the public meetings of city councils and planning boards to pressure elected officials to [block unpopular projects](#) or extract concessions from developers.

Whether AB 1449 and a handful of similar bills become law is now up to Gov. Gavin Newsom. Supporters have reason to be optimistic. The Newsom administration is pushing local governments to approve an [unprecedented 2.5 million additional homes](#) by 2030, he called the [CEQA process “broken”](#) and in the spring he [rolled out a package of bills](#) aimed at speeding up environmental challenges to projects — though [housing was not included](#).

He has until Oct. 14 to sign or veto the bills now sitting on his desk.

A patchwork of carve-outs

The Alvarez-Wicks bill isn’t the first legislative effort to grease the skids for new affordable housing.

Two others, both authored by San Francisco Democratic Sen. [Scott Wiener](#), would force local governments to automatically approve [apartment buildings in housing-strapped parts of the state](#) and most affordable housing projects on the [properties of houses of worship and nonprofit colleges](#), so long as they comply with a list of zoning, affordability and labor requirements.

A third piece of legislation by San Jose Democratic Sen. [Dave Cortese](#) exempts the decision by local governments to [fund affordable housing projects](#) from environmental challenges, too. Newsom already signed it.

“We want to see housing being produced.”

Still awaiting the governor’s pen are a handful of bills that make it more difficult to stall housing projects through environmental lawsuits in general. That includes a bill by Sen. [Nancy Skinner](#), a Berkeley Democrat, that would make it easier for [courts to toss out environmental challenges they deem “frivolous”](#) or “solely intended to cause unnecessary delay.” Another by Assemblymember [Phil Ting](#), a San Francisco Democrat, would give local officials a [deadline by which to approve or deny a project’s environmental review](#).

The Ting proposal was fiercely opposed by many environmental activists and the State Building and Construction Trades Council, an umbrella group that represents many unionized construction

workers. The bill would also make it more difficult for courts to award legal fees to groups that sue to block projects through CEQA.

J.P. Rose, a staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, which regularly brings such suits, called that provision “the largest weakening of CEQA in recent history.”

The fact that this long list of bills passed the Legislature — some by healthy margins — amounts to a notable political shift, said Christopher Elmendorf, a law professor at UC Davis who advised Ting on the bill.

“I think it illustrates that a sea change is underfoot in how people are starting to think about these environmental review laws,” he said, though he noted that the shift in California is still modest compared to those underway in other states.

Earlier this year, the Washington legislature nearly unanimously passed a law to [exempt virtually all new urban housing](#) from that state’s environmental protection law.

The grand bargain continued

Many of the California bills build on a law passed last year that streamlines affordable housing construction along commercial corridors.

In cobbling together [the law](#), its author, Wicks, [struck a compromise](#): In exempting certain housing projects from environmental challenge and other local hurdles, developers would pay workers a higher minimum wage, provide them with health care benefits and abide by other stricter labor standards. That trade was the [key to winning the support of the state carpenters’ union](#) and breaking up a legislative logjam that had stymied housing production bills for years.

It also provided a template for Wiener’s two streamlining bills this year, along with the Alvarez-Wicks CEQA exemption proposal.

“That really laid the foundation for those of us who did work in the housing space this year,” said Alvarez.

“Our communities rely heavily on CEQA to be able to get more information about proposed developments that might be contributing to further pollution.”

Not every pro-housing advocate or CEQA critic is so content with the bargain.

“A lot of these bills help a little,” said Jennifer Hernandez, a land use attorney at the law firm Holland & Knight, who has [catalogued CEQA challenges to housing projects](#) for years. But she notes that swapping out the threat of environmental litigation with higher payroll expenses just replaces one cost with another.

In practice, she said, these exemptions are only likely to clear the way for substantial new housing construction in higher cost areas where developers can make up the difference by charging higher rents to non-subsidized residents. “You really need premium rentals to pay for those higher labor standards,” she said.

But for many affordable housing developers, it’s still a trade worth making.

“You’ve got really strong laws, clear exemptions, and an attorney general who’s willing to step up and say you got to build it,” said Mandolini with Eden Housing, who has been working on housing in the state for more than two decades. “This is the best it has been in California...If this had all existed 20 years ago, we might have built a lot more housing a lot faster.”

Ben covers housing policy and previously covered California politics and elections. Prior to these roles at CalMatters, he was a contributing writer for CalMatters reporting on the state's economy and budget. Based out of the San Francisco Bay Area, he has written for San Francisco magazine, California magazine, the San Francisco Chronicle, and Pric economics. Ben also has a past life as an aspiring bean counter: He has worked as a summer associate at the Congressional Budget Office and has a Master's in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. This article first appeared in the Cal Matters of September 19, 2023

THE HIDDEN AGENDA BEHIND LOCKDOWNS

Every aspect of our lives is monitored, and everything we do or consume is rationed

BY EDWARD RING

You can call it a “[road diet](#),” or “[15 days to stop the spread](#),” or a “[fifteen minute city](#),” or a “[smart city](#),” a “[central bank digital currency](#),” or just an EV that comes with a virtual leash attached in the form of [limited range](#) and [limited recharging options](#). Or you can be more explicit and just call any one of these examples an assault on your mobility, i.e., a lockdown. Whatever you want to call them, they’ve arrived, and it’s just begun. Americans, along with their European brethren, are being turned into livestock, living in high-tech pens, where literally every aspect of our lives is monitored and everything we do or consume is rationed.

The justification for these lockdowns is to protect us from pandemics, to protect the environment, and – in a society with diminished opportunities and a reduced standard of living – to ensure “equity” for members of protected status groups. The common thread? [Protection](#). And

where there is a need for protection, there is a threat. A killer virus. A “climate crisis.” A toxic environment of white privilege.

In reality, however, the policies being promulgated to counter these supposedly existential threats are grossly out of proportion to the actual threats. There is a hidden agenda.

While the worst interpretations of this hidden agenda may be overstatements, we would be well advised to hear them out. An early and comprehensive assessment of how the COVID pandemic was exploited to move Americans closer to the status of livestock came from Catherine Austin Fitts in her video “[Planet Lockdown](#).” Some of her ideas and allegations may stretch credulity, but nonetheless are essential concepts for anyone trying to make sense of where we could be headed as a civilization.

Fitts observes that the wealth of the world is becoming more and more concentrated into nations with advanced technology, and within those nations, disproportionately to a small elite. She claims the COVID pandemic provided an excuse to institute controls necessary to convert the planet from democratic processes to technocracy.

According to Fitts, in 1995, as neoliberal ideology took hold in both political parties in the U.S., the decision was made to transfer most of the wealth out of the country. This is the hollowing out that Trump’s populism attempted to reverse. But now, with the process nearly complete, Pitt alleges the pandemic is the cover whereby the unsustainable financial situation in the United States – because it was hollowed out – can be “reset.” She then claims the virus is being used as the means to compel mass vaccine injections that will make it possible to digitally identify and track every person. These biometric markers will then be used to connect people to a new cyber currency, allowing complete control. She believes there are five sectors working in tandem to create this new world order:

(1) Technology industry building clouds. (2) Military doing space development. (3) Big pharma developing injections to modify human DNA. (4) Media providing propaganda. (5) Central bankers engineering a new crypto system of global currency.

What Fitts is describing is a dark version of futurism. Her perspective is negative, but coherent. Technology has created barriers to entry that make it easier for a shrinking group of elite special interests to consolidate entire sectors of the economy and become very powerful. But why the new world order? Why the “reset”? Why turn humans into livestock, without rights, without property? Fitts offers a logical answer:

“If technology can make it possible for people to live 150 years, and it isn’t possible to keep this a secret, then why not downsize the population, integrate robots, so you can have a very wealthy and luxurious life without the management headaches?” In one particularly chilling quote, Fitts says “I was having a conversation with a venture capitalist, billionaire type, and he looked at me with these amazingly dead eyes and said ‘I can take every company and completely automate it with software and robotics and fire all the humans. We don’t need them anymore.’”

Another explanatory warning, much more recent, came from Vera Sharav, a Holocaust survivor and founder of the Alliance for Human Research Protection, [speaking at the 75th Anniversary](#) of

The Nuremberg Code. Next to America's Bill of Rights, the Nuremberg Code is one of humanity's greatest weapons against medical slavery. For an 86-year-old who can personally recall being herded into concentration camps, Sharav is remarkably lucid.

Sharav describes the gradual onset of slavery in Nazi Germany, how the instruments of oppression rolled out over several years. In particular, she explains how medicine was perverted from its healing mission and was weaponized. She puts forward the ten-point statement handed down by the Nuremberg Military Tribunal in 1948 as essential guidelines that [restrict medical experimentation](#). As COVID variants, and COVID vaccines, appear poised to make a timely comeback, it will be useful to be familiar with the human rights set forth in the Nuremberg Code. But why is this happening? Sharav is explicit, and like Fitts, references transhumanism:

“Transhumanism is a bio-tech enhanced caste system. Transhumanists despise human values and deny the existence of a human soul. This is the new eugenics. It is embraced by the most powerful global billionaire technocrats who gather at Davos: big tech, big pharma, the financial oligarchs, academics, government leaders & the military industrial complex. These megalomaniacs have paved the road to another Holocaust. This time, the threat of genocide is global in scale.”

[States of Emergency, Permanent Lockdown](#)

To categorically dismiss these terrifying scenarios is to ignore the history of the world and the human capacity for evil. It is to deny the power of deception, and the propensity of millions, gripped by mass psychosis, to participate in abominations while thinking all the while that they are saving the world.

For each of the big three alleged existential threats to the American people – disease, climate catastrophe, and systemic bigotry – there is a curated, sponsored groundswell of popular demand for the government to declare an emergency. And in a state of emergency, human rights are suspended. But some of the more insidious threats to American freedom are moving forward without needing a state of emergency. The official response to the “climate crisis” offers countless examples.

If ongoing pandemics condemn Americans to recurrent lockdowns (a word once only used in the context of maximum security prisons, but to which we are now completely desensitized), it is to save the climate that might inform how our cells are designed. They're not pretty. Across America, single family [homes with yards are being outlawed](#). New construction is prohibited and existing suburbs are being rezoned. This is to reduce “greenhouse gas,” despite weak arguments that low density housing causes more “greenhouse gas,” even if you think “greenhouse gas” is a real problem.

More generally, a whole new genre of creative accounting has been invented, called “[carbon accounting](#),” whereby corporations, along with state and local governments, are now required to calculate how they will reduce their “carbon footprint.” Failure to do so results in the loss of subsidies and grants, as well as access to investment capital. Carbon accounting encompasses every imaginable aspect of life. Have a look at this “[Climate Action Plan](#),” prepared for California city with 400,000 residents. There is nothing it will not regulate; all personal

appliances, building codes, real estate zoning, transportation policy, every business, every industry, right down to cow farts and light bulbs.

The variables that “carbon accounting” purports to measure and manage are infinite. Rarely in human history has a new enterprise been so riven with subjectivity, so conducive to manipulation, so unnecessary, or so parasitical. But these credentialed minions, most of them utterly convinced of their messianic indispensability, are the foot soldiers of the great reset. When they’re done, you will live in small apartments, consuming strictly rationed resources, and locked down like an inmate, like a penned veal calf, whenever there’s a viral surge or the sun is too hot.

The third leg of the triad, equity, is a risky strategy. But so far, it’s working spectacularly well. Every time another outrageous and divisive initiative is announced, whether it’s paying reparations, condoning the 2020 riots, or taking children away from their parents so they can be castrated, the population is distracted. But it is possible that members of these disparate, artificially enflamed identity groups may someday recognize a planetwide lockdown being orchestrated in the background, and stop fighting each other.

It is possible that tens of millions of Americans will begin to question the credibility of pandemic and climate catastrophists, and realize the already red-pilled skeptics are not “conspiracy theorists,” or “haters,” but people just like them, fighting to keep everyone free. That day may arrive, and if it does, there is hope. We may be allowed to remain humans after all, possessing our dignity and our agency, and not turn into livestock.

Edward Ring is a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. He is also a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. Ring is the author of Fixing California: Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism (2021) and The Abundance Choice: Our Fight for More Water in California (2022). American Greatness- Sept 20.



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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: _____