

WEEKLY UPDATE
AUGUST 25 - 31, 2024

COLAB
San Luis Obispo County



Wednesday, October 23rd
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:
INSURANCE CRISIS - THE REPORTS, THE REASON, AND THE REALITY...HOW DO WE FIX IT?
HEAR FROM OUR INDUSTRY EXPERTS, DAVE BELMONT ADLER BELMONT GROUP, TYLER RILEY RILEY & RILEY, AND DARREN CAESAR HUB.



Dave Belmont



Tyler Riley



Darren Caesar

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

RSVP appreciated by October 16th — there is no charge for this informative event!
Email: colabslo@gmail.com or call (805) 548-0340



**THIS WEEK
SEE PAGE 4**

ALERT

**WATER FOR DANA RESERVE HOUSING – CRITICAL DECISION
NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024 - JON S. SEITZ BOARD ROOM
148 SOUTH WILSON STREET, NIPOMO, CA, 9:00 AM
SHOW UP - SUPPORT THE NEW HOMES – ESP. BUSINESS LEADERS,
REALTORS, HR DIRECTORS, UNIONS, MAYORS, & SUPERVISORS**

DON'T LET THE CLIMATIST RADICALS & NIMBY'S OUTGUN YOU!

PENSION TRUST MEETING

**MARKETS VOLATILE BUT SO FAR SO GOOD
BUT**

**WILL KAMALA'S PROPOSED TAX ON UNREALIZED CAPITAL GAINS
DECIMATE THE MARKETS & PENSION SYSTEMS?**

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

**LAST WEEK
SEE PAGE 8**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COURT DOG HANDLER GETS SPECIAL PAY
EMBLEMATIC OF CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM/UNION COST PRESSURES
PLUM DAY TIME ASSIGNMENT - YOU GET MORE PERKS, A COUNTY CAR &
A FREE DOG**



CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT
COUNTY EXPERIENCING LOW JOB APPLICATION RATE

BOB JONES TRAIL ON LIFE SUPPORT
GIBSON BADGERS ARNOLD ABOUT IDEOLOGY

SALE OF COUNTY SURPLUS WATER TO
KERN WATER DISTRICT APPROVED

SUPERVISOR QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS

EMERGENT ISSUES

SEE PAGE 16

PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

STATE FUNDING IS PROHIBITED FROM BEING USED TO
SUPPORT ANY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR A CHARTER
CITY THAT PROHIBITS A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT

FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND – AN
ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 20

CLIMATE REACTIONARIES

GREEN ACTIVISTS DEFEND POLICIES THAT
DISPROPORTIONATELY HARM THE POOR
BY JENNIFER HERNANDEZ

THE GLOBAL, MULTIETHNIC MAGA MOVEMENT

FOR REASONS THAT ARE BOTH MORAL AND PRGAMATIC, A GOBAL MOVEMENT
THAT VICTORIOUSLY DEFENDS WESTERN CIVILIZATON MUST ACCEPT
EVERYONE WHO IS SINCERELY COMMITTED TO THE PROJECT

BY EDWARD RING

SPONSORS



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

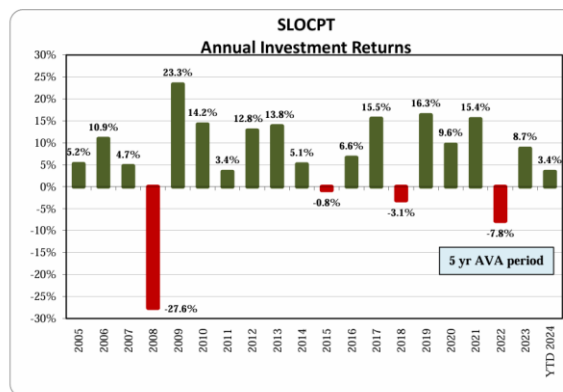
SLO County Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, August 26, 2024 (Scheduled) 9:30 AM

Item 15 - Quarterly Investment Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2024. The fund has an overall return of 3.4% this year (Through July). August returns have been strong so far. If this trend continues, the results could come closer to the Trust's overall assumption rate of 6.75%.

Relatedly:

Presidential candidate Kamala Harris's proposal to tax unrealized investment returns could decimate financial and real estate markets. Imagine, you buy 100 shares of Chevron at \$120 and it closes out the tax year at \$140, a paper increase of \$2,000. Will they tax you 25% on unrealized gains? What about your house that you bought for \$200,000 in 1975 that's now \$1 million on paper. Her current proposal is that the tax would only be levied on people with over \$100 million. This does not mean we are safe. Witness how the Alternative Minimum Tax has crept down the tax tables over the years to now hit people with \$100,000. This would be the foot in the door.

Attached is the 0Q24 quarterly investment report from the Trust's investment consultant - Verus. Claudia Schloss of Verus will present and discuss the quarterly report. The history of SLOOPT investment returns, gross of fees, is shown below.



Item 16 - Monthly Investment Report for July 2024

	1-month	YTD	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total Fund (%) (Gross)	1.20	5.4	8.9	(8.0)	15.2	8.9	16.3
Policy Index (%)*	1.40	6.4	10.2	(9.7)	12.8	10	16.4

	YTD	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Market Value (millions)	\$1,771	\$1,694	\$1,614	\$1,775	\$1,552	\$1,446

Yahoo Finance reported on August 24, 2024:

The Kamala Harris campaign has made one of its first concrete policy proposals this week with a tax plan. The centerpiece of the plan is a series of high-end tax increases on corporations and wealthy households worth approximately \$5 trillion over 10 years. Specifically, Harris has proposed enacting the tax increases detailed in President Biden's [budget](#) released earlier this spring.

One issue in this plan has captured specific attention: a new tax on unrealized capital gains. Biden, and now Harris, have proposed levying an annual tax on the static wealth of households worth more than \$100 million. Specifically, households worth more than \$100 million would pay an annual minimum tax worth 25% of their combined income and unrealized capital gains.

This is known as a "wealth tax," and the goal is to tax wealthy households that increasingly avoid taxation by living off unsold and unrealized assets. However, unrealized capital gains means that the asset has not been sold, and thus a price has not been locked in for the benefit of the asset-holder. This means that taxes may be paid on value that is never received by the owner, ultimately disincentivizing long-term investments by wealthy households. Here's what to know.

What Are Unrealized Capital Gains?

Unrealized capital gains occur when the value of an asset increases over its cost basis (typically the purchase price) while it is held unsold. This can be thought of as [theoretical profits](#). For example, say that you [purchase an equity](#) for \$10 per share. The next day, the price increases to \$12 but you do not sell. That \$2 difference is an unrealized capital gain. While your net worth may have increased by \$2, it remains at risk to change further unless you sell the equity.

Realized [capital gains](#) occur when an asset is actively sold for more than its cost basis. The resulting profits from the sale are considered the realized gains.

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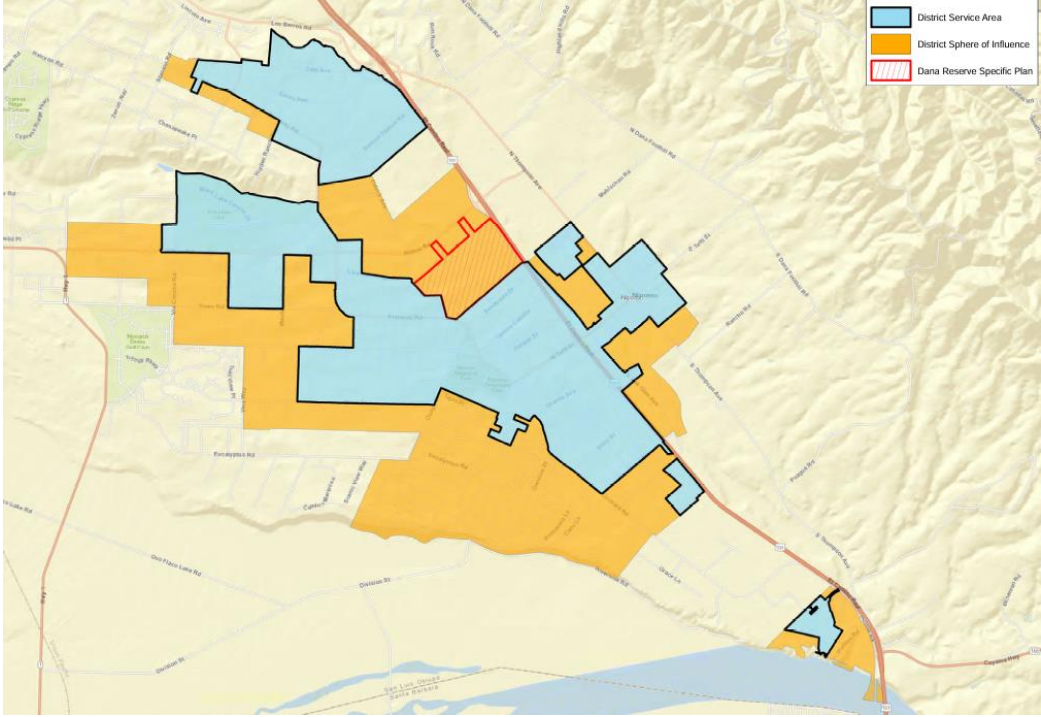
No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is set for September 10, 2024.

Nipomo Community Service District Meeting of Wednesday, August 28, 2024 (Scheduled) JON S. SEITZ BOARD ROOM, 148 SOUTH WILSON STREET, NIPOMO, CA 9:00 AM

Item E – 1 - Consider approving negotiated property tax exchange with the county of San Luis Obispo, annexation agreement, and the local agency formation commission (LAFCO) plan for services, and making required findings under California environmental quality act (CEQA), relating to the Dana Reserve project [recommend: 1. adopt resolution accepting the negotiated property tax exchange; 2. adopt resolution approving the annexation agreement, LAFCO plan for services, and making certain findings under CEQA. The Dana Reserve is a multi-level housing (1400 + units) and mixed use project located in Nipomo next to Highway 101 just south of the Willow Road interchange. The Board of Supervisors approved the project on June 24, 2024 on a 3/2 vote with Supervisors Gibson and Paulding dissenting. It is the most substantial home development proposed in the County in nearly 3 decades. Naturally, some of the neighbors who live next door or nearby oppose the project on the grounds that it will convert raw land into urban development with all the obvious impacts. A number of environmental groups also oppose the project. Of course, virtually all the opponents live in a house that was once developed as the result of the conversion of raw land to homes. The land has been planned for years to become an urban area.

In order for the project to proceed it must be annexed to the Community Service District, which will provide the water. The District has prudently acquired various water supplies, including surplus state water from the City of Santa Maria. One benefit of the Dana Reserve Project is that its water use will provide economies of scale under the Santa Maria Contract, which will actually prevent rate increase for the other customers in the district.



The full NCSB Board item is detailed and thorough and can be seen at the link:

<https://ncsd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/A-08-28-24.pdf>

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, August 20, 2024 (Completed)

Item 15 - Submittal of a resolution approving a) an amendment to the San Luis Obispo County Employees' Association (SLOCEA) 2022 – 2025 memoranda of understanding (MOU) for the Courthouse Dog Program (CDP); and b) a side letter agreement with the District Attorney Investigators Association (DAIA) to the 2022 - 2025 MOU with the County for the CDP. This one is not a big policy deal but is illustrative of how costs of government get built in incrementally over the years.

On October 6, 2020, the Board of Supervisors authorized the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Center to implement a Courthouse Dog Program (CDP). The CDP is overseen by the Christopher G. Money Victim Witness Assistance Center and is primarily intended to provide support to individuals by being present during various stages of an investigation and through the court process. The courthouse dog's presence provides comfort and aid to victims and witnesses of crime, some of whom may have developmental delays or disabilities, during the investigations and/or prosecutions of crimes, or other related traumatic events involving these persons. The courthouse dog also provides assistance to individuals during other activities following a crime such as hospital or doctor visits, forensic interviews, meetings or interviews with detectives or attorneys, court proceedings, follow-up visits with law enforcement and any other interactions between those in the legal system and the victim or witness as appropriate.

- The handler shall be provided with a County vehicle for transporting the courthouse dog to and from work or work-related events, or shall receive compensation and mileage reimbursement pursuant to the County's Travel Policy for use of a personal vehicle.*
- The handler shall be provided with a County vehicle for transporting the courthouse dog to and from work or work-related events, or shall receive compensation and mileage reimbursement pursuant to the County's Travel Policy for use of a personal vehicle.*
- Any costs associated with the care of the courthouse dog will be paid by the County or reimbursed to the handler.*

Item 18 - It is recommended that the Board receive and file the Civil Service Commission Annual Report for calendar year 2023. The County experiences a low level of employee grievances.

GRIEVANCES, APPEALS AND LITIGATION

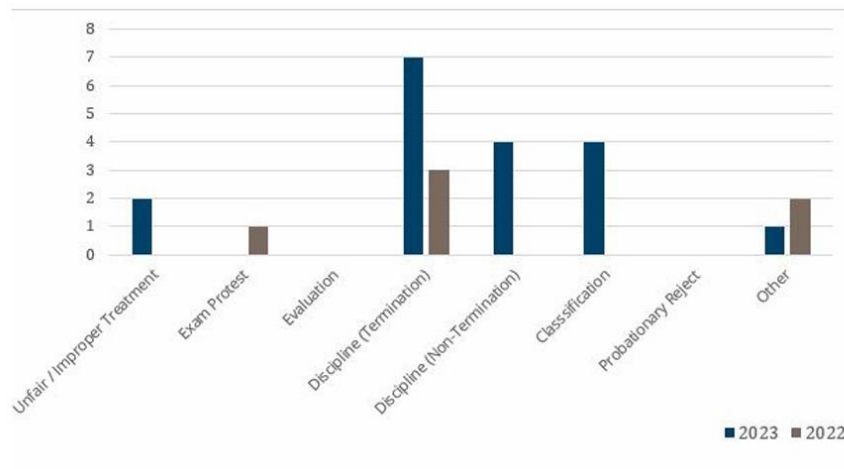
The Commission's rules outline the procedure for resolving employment disputes prior to requesting a hearing.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS FILED BY DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT	2023	2022	2021	2020
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE				
AIRPORTS	1			
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER				
ASSESSOR				
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/TREAS TAX			2	
CENTRAL SERVICES			1	
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES				1
CLERK-RECORDER				
COUNTY COUNSEL				3
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	2			
HEALTH AGENCY	4	2	2	2
HUMAN RESOURCES				
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY				
LIBRARY	1	1		
PARKS AND RECREATION			1	
PLANNING AND BUILDING	1	1		1
PROBATION	1			
PUBLIC WORKS	3		2	2
SHERIFF-CORONER	5	2	3	1
SOCIAL SERVICES				1
VETERANS SERVICES				
TOTAL	18	6	11	11

GRIEVANCES, APPEALS AND LITIGATION

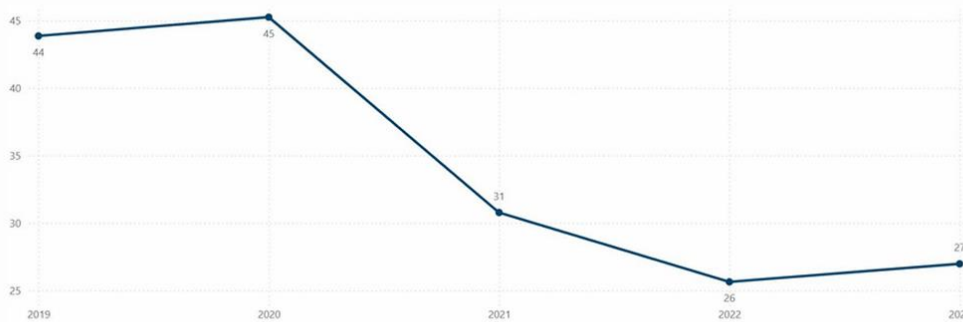
GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS FILED BY TYPE



Attracting applicants for County jobs is becoming more difficult.

RECRUITMENT ACTIVITY

Average Applicants per Recruitment



Item 21 - Submittal of a resolution 1) approving and authorizing the Director of Public Works to execute a letter agreement with the Westside Districts for the temporary transfer of 2024 State Water Project (SWP) water supplies; 2) authorizing the Director of Public Works to execute a corresponding agreement(s) with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR); and 3) finding the transfer exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301. Due to the recent wet years, the County has surplus water allocation stored in the State Water Project at the San Luis Reservoir. The amount that each contractor can store is based on the total capacity of the reservoir relative to their contracted amount. When that limit is reached, the State sells the water to another contractor or sends the water to the Pacific. Now, the County has an opportunity to sell its surplus to other contractors who need more than their contracted allotment. In this case the County is proposing to sell some of its surplus to the West Side Water District in Kern County.

The District is made up of 6 smaller water districts, which are the retailers in their respective areas.

Table 1. State Water Lost to Spill/Storage Limits at San Luis Reservoir

Year	Annual Allocation %	Stored Water Lost to Spill (AF)	Water Lost Due to Storage Limits (AF)	Total Water Lost to Spill or Storage Limits (AF)
2007	60	12,500	None	12,500
2010	50	No Spill	2,201	2,201
2011	80	6,009	4,160	10,169
2012	65	No Spill	3,139	3,139
2016	60	No Spill	2,051	2,051
2017	85	15,267	6,487	21,754
2018	35	No Spill	1,734	1,734
2019	85	18,639	3,719	22,358
2023	100	8,064	10,221	18,285
TOTAL		60,479	33,712	94,191

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed temporary transfer provides the District an opportunity for significant cost recovery and would have no impact on the District's ability to make all payments, including payments due under the District's Water Supply Contract with DWR.

Under the Westside Districts Agreement, up to 8,500 AF (at \$450/AF) of the District's surplus 2024 "Table A" water would be made available to the Westside Districts, and the District would potentially recover up to \$3.7 million, credited to:

- (1) the District's State Water Tax Fund (estimated credit = up to \$2.6-3.1 million), and
- (2) the District's SWP Subcontractors (estimated credit = up to \$0.6-1.1 million), based on their unused share of 2024 Table A water under the 2024 allocation.

The option to make up to 5,000 AF of additional stored water available could result in up to \$1.75 million in additional cost recovery for the District.

Revenue generated from the transfer would actually reduce costs borne by the Countywide taxpayers by providing increased revenue for the District that could be used to help offset other DWR cost obligations (e.g., Delta Conveyance Project planning/design costs).

RFSIII TS

Is Stewart Resnick's Wonderful Company a customer or majority member of any of these districts?

Item 35 - Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution of Necessity for the acquisition of real property interests required from Ray B. Bunnell for the Bob Jones Pathway "Gap Closure" Project, located between Avila Beach and the City of San Luis Obispo, by 4/5 vote. (Public Works) The Board rejected using eminent domain to acquire an easement necessary to complete the trail. Such a condemnation of private property requires a 4/5 vote. Gibson, Ortiz-Legg and Paulding voted yes, Arnold voted no, and Peschong was absent. It is believed he also would have voted no had he been present. A second motion directing the staff attempt to find another way passed unanimously. This could be regarded as a "Hail Mary" play.

If the County can persuade the State to wait until January 2025 before it rescinds the grant, it is possible that incoming Supervisor Heather Moreno might vote to acquire the easement by eminent domain. It is not clear now what she would do, since she might prudently wait for a full presentation, information from her constituents, and facts as they exist in January prior to making a decision. The SLO New Times quoted her in February of 2024 as, saying "if ... the government's coming to me for my property, ... it would need to be for a very important purpose."

At the meeting:

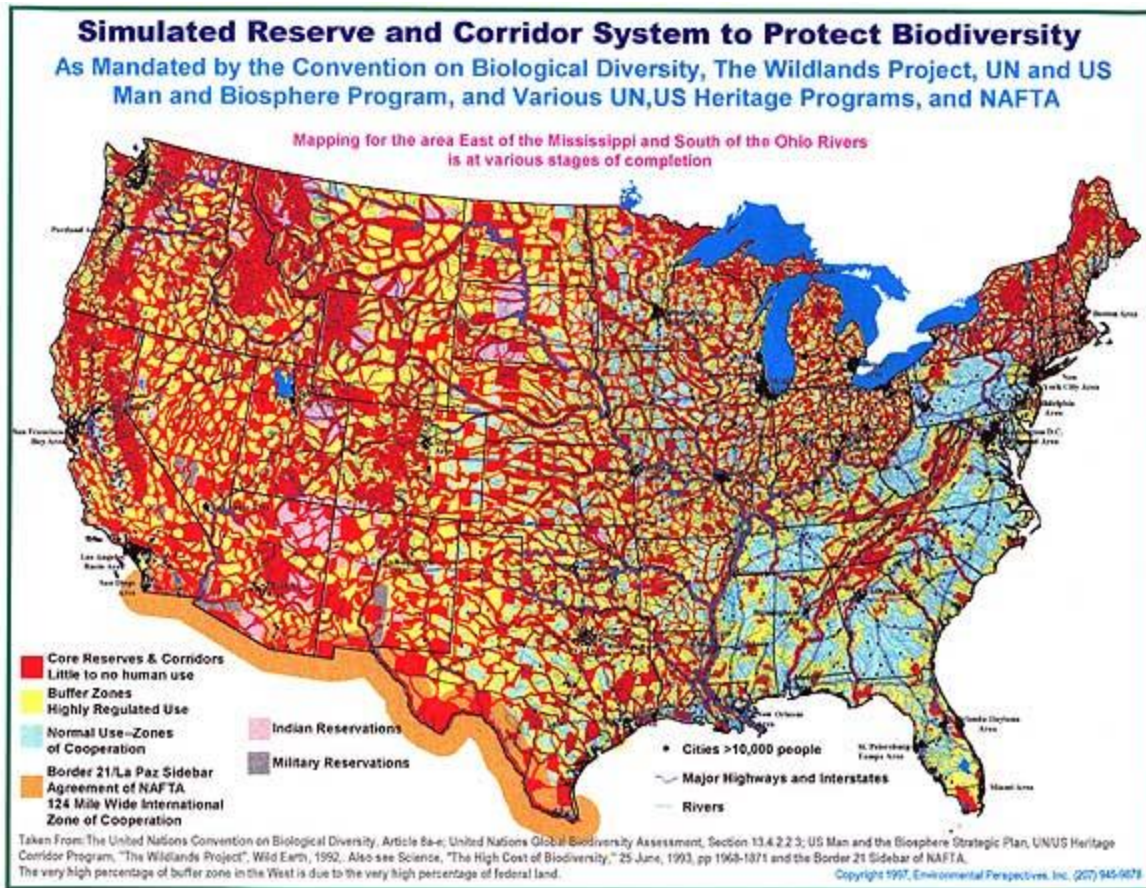
Gibson labeled Arnold's no vote as "ideological resistance." He went on to accuse her of violating her obligation to act in the public interest, undermining the County's reputation, and a host of other shortcomings.

Arnold pointed out that she has been publicly opposed to condemnation in general as well as in this case specifically. She has also repeatedly pointed out that the County’s General Plan Recreation Element states that condemnation will not be used for trails. On a higher level, she pointed out that “property rights are a cornerstone of the Republic.”

Big Picture:

Separately from the instant case in SLO County, Santa Barbara County has used a proliferation of trails to interfere with private property and agriculture. For example, the County will establish a trail, and later tell an adjacent farmer that he can’t spray a crop. In other cases owners have been denied permits for additions on their homes or to build new homes because they are too close to a public trail. Ventura County has used trails and a massive scheme of natural corridors to limit agriculture and home development.

Ultimately the radical environmental left plans to segment the country with vast ecological pathways and prohibition zones where human habitation would be prohibited. People would be locked up in cities and towns in stack-and-pack housing.



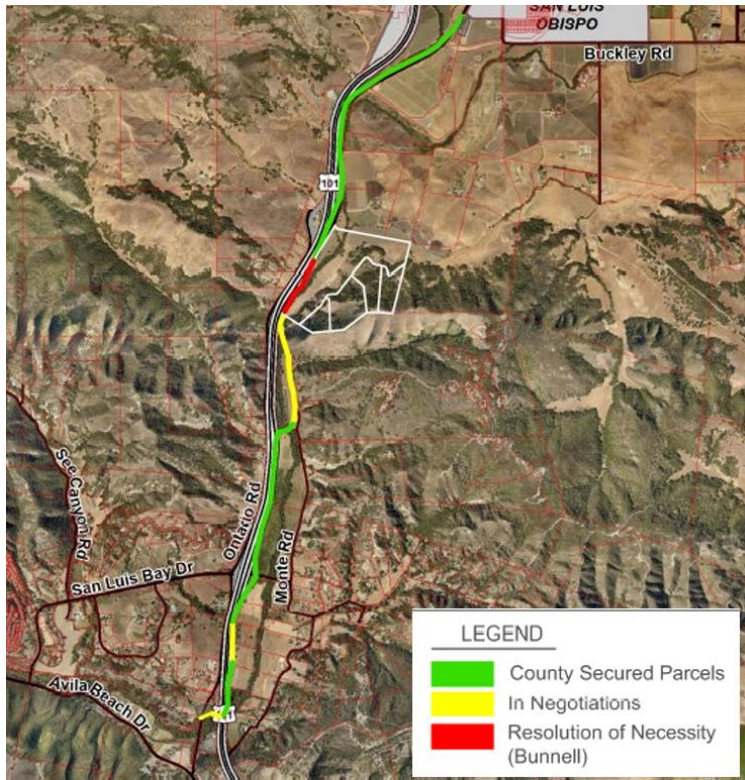
Note on the map table, SLO County is relegated of a “Buffer Zone of Highly Regulated Use, a Core Reserve, and Corridors of No Human Use.”

Background:

1. The County has received an \$18 million grant from the State to complete the Bob Jones Bike Trail from the Octagon Barn off South Higuera Street to Avila Beach. The project is widely supported by the bike community, casual recreationists, and as a way for commuters to get out of their cars. The latter provision is an important credit for the County related to future transportation grants for demonstrating alternate transportation modes and whatever CO₂ reduction credits can be claimed over the years.
2. The County has successfully obtained the necessary right of way from all owners except one, who has stated he will not sell for any reason or any amount.
3. Supervisors Peschong and Arnold have stated repeatedly that they will not vote for condemnation, as they are opposed to real property condemnation by government as a matter of principle. Condemnation requires a 4/5 vote.
4. The County approached the State to see it would allow an alternate route (essentially in the frontage road next to Highway 101 and the holdout's property). The State has now rejected that alternative as being unsafe.
5. Should the County not be able to complete the project on schedule (it is now up against the deadline for starting work), it will lose the \$18 million and will have to pay back \$2.3million of the grant, which it has already expended.
6. The entire Board supports the project. Thus, the condemnation issue is the blocker.
7. Would the Board majority seek compromise by providing Arnold's and Peschong's constituents with tangible benefits (at no costs in this case)? This is a common method to resolve what otherwise are unsolvable public policy conflicts. Both sides have to step up and eat some part of something they don't like.
 - a. Restoration of Arnold and Peschong to the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee.
 - b. Restoration of the Planting Ordinance to provide water to the Paso Basin moratorium victims.
 - c. Unequivocal support for Proposition 13, including no reductions in vote thresholds.

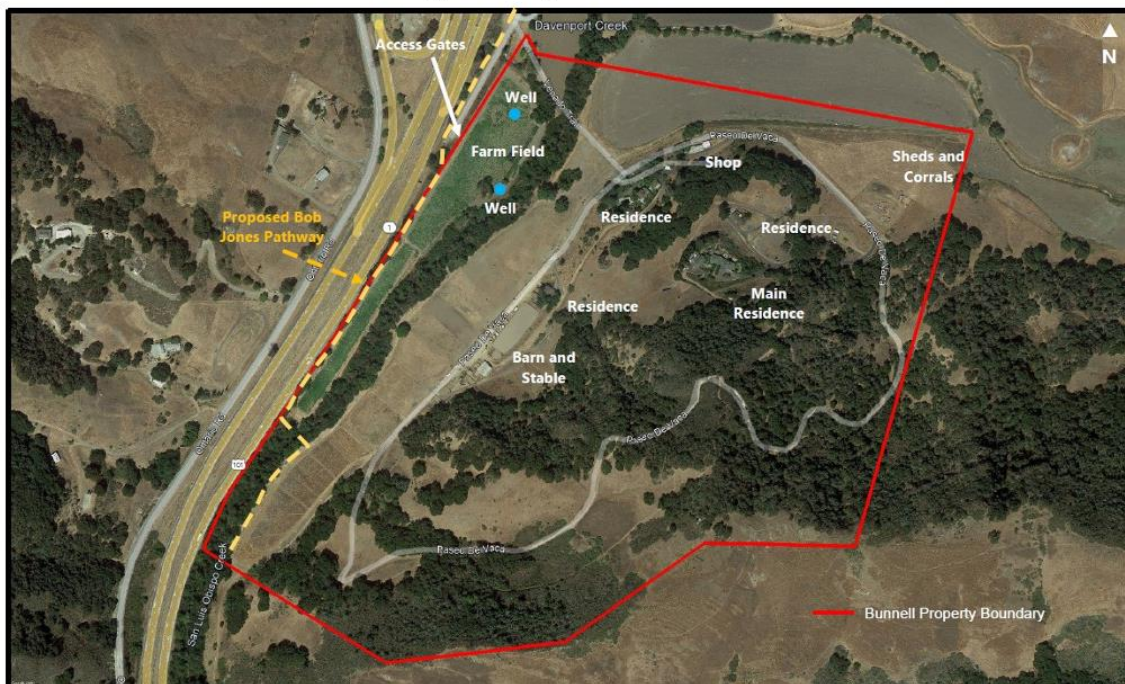
Large public benefits to a substantial portion of the County would occur to offset the negative implications of condemnation in this case.

Overview Map

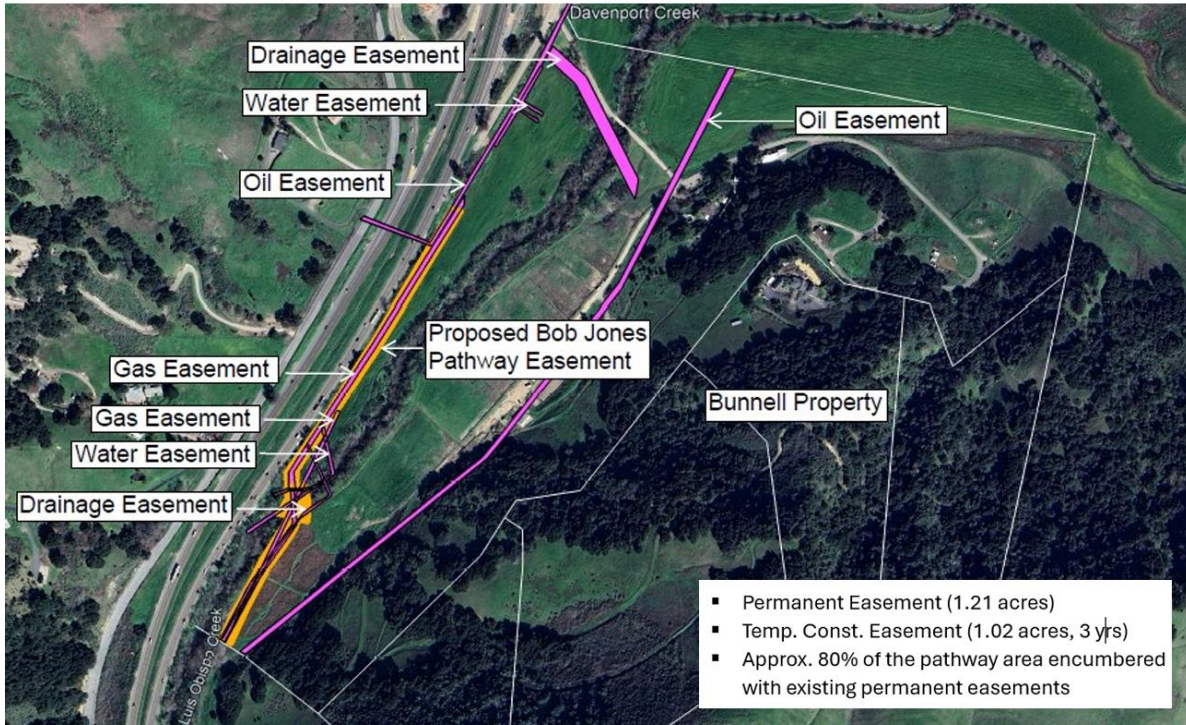


Detail of area

Figure 1: Project Location



Right of Way Needs



It should be noted that COLAB holds no special torch for large public expenditures on bike trails, especially under the false premise that they are good for commuting and CO2 reduction. This is all part of the larger plan to force people out of their cars.



Are you really going to wear this stuff after you peddled up from Avila Beach? Even if you took a shower, the cool down will take 30 minutes. The Judge, your boss, your customer, and your team ain't waiting. What about dropping the kids at school? What about grocery shopping on the way home?

Item 38 - 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.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, August 22, 2024 (Completed)

In General: There are no major policy items on this agenda. There were requests for time extensions of prior approvals that have not started development. There were also requests for cell towers, including one as a faux water tank.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - Project Labor Agreements

State funding is prohibited from being used to support any construction projects for a charter city that prohibits a project labor agreement.

By Chris Micheli, August 21, 2024 2:30 am

California's Public Contract Code, in Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 2.8, deals with Project Labor Agreements ("PLAs"). Section 2500 authorizes a public entity to use, enter into, or require contractors to enter into, a project labor agreement for a construction project only if the agreement includes all of the required taxpayer protection provisions. In addition, this section provides definitions for the terms "project labor agreement" and "public entity."

Section 2500.5 provides that a state agency may use, enter into, or require contractors to enter into, a project labor agreement that applies to a project or set of projects with aggregate construction costs in excess of \$35 million, only if the agreement also includes provisions to address community benefits.

Community benefits may include partnerships with high road construction careers programs, local hire goals, coordination with programs that assist veterans in transitioning to civilian employment, job fairs for construction apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs, or other methods agreed upon by the parties to promote employment and training opportunities for veterans and individuals who reside in economically disadvantaged areas. This section applies to project labor agreements entered into on or after January 1, 2026.

Section 2501 states that the members of the governing board of a local public entity may choose by majority vote whether to use, enter into, or require contractors to enter into a project labor agreement that includes all the taxpayer protection provisions for a specific project or projects awarded by that entity and whether to allocate funding to a specific project covered by such an agreement.

Section 2502 provides that, if a charter provision, initiative, or ordinance of a charter city prohibits the governing board's consideration of a project labor agreement that includes all the taxpayer protection provisions for a project to be awarded by the city, or prohibits the governing board from considering whether to allocate funds to a city-funded project covered by such an agreement, then state funding or financial assistance is prohibited from being used to support that project.

Section 2503 states that, if a charter provision, initiative, or ordinance of a charter city prohibits, limits, or constrains in any way the governing board's authority or discretion to adopt, require, or utilize a project labor agreement that includes all the taxpayer protection provisions for some or all of the construction projects to be awarded by the city, then state funding or financial assistance is prohibited from being used to support any construction projects awarded by the city.

Chris Micheli is an attorney and lobbyist with Snodgrass & Micheli, LLC, as well as an Adjunct Professor at McGeorge School of Law. This article first appeared in the California Globe of August 21, 2024.

Item 2 - Floating Offshore Wind – An Environmental Catastrophe by Edward Ring

Last week we examined California's plans to install between 2,500 and 10,000 floating offshore wind turbines approximately 20 miles off the coast of San Luis Obispo and Humboldt counties. The estimated cost to install 25 gigawatts of capacity, which equates to 10 gigawatts of steady power if adequate storage assets are available, is at least \$100 billion. Those costs don't include the necessary investments in storage assets or additional high voltage transmission lines. Nor do they include the costs to maintain these floating turbines in a hazardous environment.

No other significant energy option costs this much. Even nuclear, at its falsely inflated construction costs, is less expensive. Natural gas electricity generation with CO2 sequestration included is four-times less expensive. Every imaginable "renewable" – solar, geothermal, and onshore wind – is far less expensive. We should not be doing this. It is special interest driven dysfunction at the highest levels of California politics, and it will squander hundreds of billions of dollars.

But beyond its eye-watering costs, offshore wind is an environmental catastrophe.

It doesn't require scientific expertise to recognize that California's treasured marine ecosystem will be disrupted by the presence of somewhere between 2,500 (at 10 megawatts each) and

10,000 (at 2.5 megawatts each) floating wind turbines. That will require between 7,500 and 30,000 tethering cables descending 4,000 feet to the sea floor, along with 2,500 to 10,000 high voltage cables. These power cables will either be individually descending 4,000 feet, or they'll be connecting at shallow depths from one turbine to another, bundled in order to reduce the number of lines that have to traverse the 20 miles from wind farm to shore.

Imagine the impact on aquatic wildlife. Entanglements. Collisions. Broken cables. Electromagnetic fields. Low frequency noise. Sedimentation from anchor use. And so much more, all of it poorly understood.

When it comes to evaluating the environmental impact of offshore wind on whale populations, one would think environmental groups like Greenpeace would offer some criticisms. After all, the heroic original mission of Greenpeace was to save the whales. But today, instead of sending a reincarnation of the Rainbow Warrior to challenge offshore wind installers, the organization issues proclamations such as this: “Protecting whales means busting fossil-fueled myths about wind energy.”

The evidence that underwater sonar used to survey sites causes permanent damage to the ability of marine mammals to navigate and communicate is nearly indisputable. Inexplicable deaths of pilot whales off the coast of Scotland. Hundreds of deaths of minke, humpback and right whales off the coast of New England.

Off the east coast of the U.S., the areas selected for offshore wind farms have to be outside of heavily trafficked shipping routes. That is precisely where whales and other aquatic wildlife have congregated. Into these remaining sanctuaries comes noise from construction vessels, high frequency sonar mapping, and pile driving, releasing sound impacts up to 240 decibels. This is enough to permanently destroy hearing in marine mammals, which is fatal.

An August 2023 report released by a New England fishermen association summarizes research they completed on offshore wind projects. Their findings are stunning. Just the geographic extent of these proposed offshore wind projects is unprecedented. According to the report, “Federal regulators at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) have designated almost 10 million acres for wind farm surveys and development.” That is over 15,000 square miles.

Not included in that allocation are the corridors where high voltage lines will have to cross the ocean floor to transfer electricity from the turbines to land-based power grids. The report found that “electromagnetic fields (EMFs) emanating from subsea cables appear to produce birth deformities in juvenile lobster.”

The report also found that wind farms “increase sea surface temperatures and alter upper-ocean hydrodynamics in ways scientists do not yet understand,” and “whip up sea sediment and generate highly turbid wakes that are 30-150 meters wide and several kilometers in length, having a major impact on primary production by phytoplankton which are the base of marine food chains.” There’s more.

Offshore wind turbines, after the high decibel disruption caused during surveying and installation, “generate operational noise in a low frequency range (less than 700 Hz) with most energy concentrated between 2 and 200 Hz. This frequency range overlaps with that used by fish for communication, mating, spawning, and spatial movement,” and “high voltage direct current undersea cables produce magnetic fields that negatively affect the drifting trajectory of haddock larvae by interfering with their magnetic orientation abilities.” Haddock are “a significant portion of U.S. commercial fish landings and are an important component of the marine food chain.”

Direct destruction of our offshore marine environment are not the only environmental impacts of offshore wind. The interior of the massive blades are typically made of balsa wood, which thanks to the surge in demand has led to Amazon rainforest being replaced with balsa plantations. By now it ought to be common knowledge that the quantity of minerals used to deploy green energy technologies is far greater than what is necessary for conventional energy. Using data from the International Energy Agency, geopolitical writer Peter Ziehan calculated the mineral requirements for offshore wind to be nearly 16,000 kilograms per megawatt, compared to less than 2,000 kg/MW for natural gas. The destructive impact of this mad rush to source minerals around the world so Americans can “go green” cannot be overstated.

Should this be of concern, there’s also the heavy carbon footprint of offshore wind. You have to take into account the carbon footprint of the mining, refining, manufacturing, shipping and installation. Then add to that the ongoing maintenance, sourcing, shipping and installing replacement parts. After no more than 20 years, the turbine and the blades will have to be replaced, with the old parts either disposed (you can’t recycle the massive blades) or recycled. And then there’s the additive impact of quick start backup natural gas power which when turned on and off abruptly to fill in for intermittent wind operates at a far lower efficiency, i.e., about twice as much CO2 emissions per megawatt-hour than when allowed to run as continuous baseload power. In fact, a September 2022 analysis by the US Bureau of Energy Management claimed that offshore wind would have “no measurable impact” on reducing so-called greenhouse gas.

In a must-watch video posted in February 2024, Lisa Knight, an M.D. and PhD and resident of Maine, delivers a 30 minute lecture to concerned local residents that surveys additional environmental harm that accompanies offshore wind farms. It is not possible in a few words to describe every detail of this dense, scrupulously researched presentation. All of it is relevant.

Suggesting that we need offshore wind because of the “urgency” of the climate crisis is an insult to the common sense of anyone who has studied these projects and compared them to every imaginable alternative. California needs to prioritize energy solutions that will do more good than harm.

Edward Ring is the director of water and energy policy for the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. He is also a senior fellow with the Center for American Greatness, and a regular contributor to the California Globe. His work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Economist, National Review, Forbes, and other media outlets. This article first appeared in the California Policy Center of August 23, 2024.

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



CLIMATE REACTIONARIES
GREEN ACTIVISTS DEFEND POLICIES THAT
DISPROPORTIONAETLY HARM THE POOR
BY JENNIFER HERNANDEZ

Despite their progressive bona fides, many California leaders are increasingly comfortable acknowledging that the state’s climate policies will harm the poor and benefit the wealthy. In 2023, Golden State bureaucrats [belatedly disclosed](#) that achieving carbon neutrality by 2045

would cumulatively reduce the incomes of families making less than \$100,000 per year by \$5.3 billion, while enriching higher-income households by the same amount. Earlier this year, some concerned lawmakers asked the nonpartisan state Legislative Analyst’s Office to evaluate how to lessen the “regressive effects” of California’s climate initiatives. Though the request focused on just two items—clean-vehicle and household-energy programs—the LAO [compiled a 16-page response](#) detailing the myriad ways the state’s climate policy hurts the disadvantaged, including through high energy costs, limited access to clean technology, and poorer residents subsidizing wealthier “green” households.

It might seem unthinkable that deep-blue California legislators would deliberately plan to impoverish poor and minority communities. But climate activists rely on two dogmas to downplay social-equity concerns. First, they claim that human-caused climate change will hurt low-income people the most. Second, they argue that cutting greenhouse-gas emissions in California will limit climate risks for everyone, especially the poor. Neither belief withstands scrutiny.

At first glance, the claim that climate change will disproportionately harm lower-income communities makes some sense. After all, the poor have fewer resources than the wealthy. Whether the future is hotter or colder, poorer people will be less able to afford air conditioning or heating. But the same is true today of lower-income families’ ability to secure medical services, education, and housing. California, like other states and nations, already offers taxpayer-funded and charitable services in these areas for the less fortunate; presumably, it would continue to do so in a warmer (or cooler) future.

While California seeks to mitigate hypothetical temperature changes, however, its green-energy policies impose real and immediate harms on the poor—[such as skyrocketing energy prices](#). Those costs plague the less fortunate residents of a state that already has [the nation’s worst cost-adjusted poverty rate](#).

It’s worth noting that human emissions, to whatever extent they are causing a climate “[emergency](#)” or “[crisis](#),” have coincided with one of history’s greatest reductions in global poverty. According to the World Bank, between 1990 and 2019, as emissions surged, the proportion of the world’s population in extreme poverty [fell from 38 percent to 8.4 percent](#). Food production similarly soared from [2000 to 2020](#), with global primary-crop production rising by 52 percent, meat production by 45 percent, and vegetable oil production by 125 percent. Those figures well outstripped population growth and resulted in the [daily caloric intake](#) rising in every region of the globe. At the same time, the [real global economy nearly doubled in value](#).

The Covid lockdowns curtailed these gains, cratering the global economy in 2020. The resulting economic disruption “[dealt a historic blow to poverty reduction](#),” the World Bank found. Nearly 70 million more people globally were in extreme poverty at the end of 2020—the first rise in decades. Yet the lockdowns also [slashed emissions](#) in 2020 by 7 percent. A senior United Nations official hailed these results as a “[fire drill](#)” for climate action; other activists insist that pandemic-level emissions cuts must be duplicated [every two years](#) to meet UN temperature goals by 2100.

If climate activists support the emissions-cutting results of pandemic-era lockdowns, then they will have to live with the corresponding effects on the poorest among us. It's a trade-off they'd rather not talk about.

Climate policymakers' second argument—that California's efforts will make the world more habitable for all, including the poor—runs into a stubborn reality: it's practically impossible for the state to ease global emissions meaningfully on its own. As former governor Jerry Brown recognized, emissions cuts without complementary reductions in China, India, Russia, and the Middle East would “[prove ineffective](#).” Though [state climate bureaucrats](#) claim to have “decoupled” economic growth from emissions-intensive activity, nothing of the sort has occurred on a global scale.

Is it possible to sustain economic growth without carbon emissions? Studies by the [United Kingdom](#) and the [European Union](#) show that low-emissions growth has occurred mainly in wealthier regions, where service-intensive sectors supplanted high-energy goods production. But even these areas require and import huge quantities of items like steel, cement, chemicals, industrial and household equipment, glass, and food. When the “[outsourced](#)” emissions caused by these imports get counted, the U.K. or, say, Denmark has a much larger carbon footprint and, in Denmark's case, “[an undeservedly green reputation](#),” according to scientist Vaclav Smil. In part to account honestly for these hidden emissions, the EU and the [U.K.](#) are imposing a [carbon-content import tax](#). [California refuses](#) to count any nonterritorial emissions.

The displacement—but not elimination—of goods production from supposedly green areas and the desire for better living standards have supercharged energy consumption and emissions everywhere else. Careful studies of emissions and growth show that in some areas, such as the United Kingdom, growth and per-capita emissions are increasingly uncorrelated; but they also show, globally, “[a strong coupling between carbon dioxide emissions and real GDP per head](#).” As global economic growth soared, average per-capita emissions expanded from [3.76 metric tonnes](#) (MT) per year in the 1990s to [4.35 MT](#) per year between 2012 and 2021. Last year, global carbon dioxide emissions hit [37.4 billion MT](#), the highest in history, according to the International Energy Agency.

Since at least the 1990s, when the U.S. Senate rejected the Kyoto climate treaty [by a 95–0 vote](#) because it failed to include emissions targets for developing countries, Western activists have understood that developed and developing nations alike would need to cut emissions to achieve UN climate goals. But climate policymakers have never honestly explained exactly how their proposed emissions cuts would allow economic growth in both poor and rich nations to persist over time.

In 2018, an international group of scholars created new potential “[pathways](#)” for meeting 2100 emissions goals, including both a “[g]reen” and a fossil fuel–use approach. Some of these, according to the researchers, would yield more equitable growth between rich and poor countries. But a recent [study](#) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's “model scenarios” demonstrates that climate policymakers' plans would further disadvantage the world's poor while enriching already wealthy areas. The IPCC's pathways, the analysts concluded, would put the burden of “climate change mitigation . . . squarely on developing countries,” even

as they allowed “developed countries . . . to increase their energy consumption unhindered by constraints on the use of fossil fuels.”

California’s willingness to harm its most vulnerable citizens in its doomed emissions-cut crusade is symptomatic of the West’s climate-policy failures. The transition to a service-sector economy in places like California, the U.K., and Germany has concentrated wealth in households and enterprises least affected by electricity, motor-fuel, and natural-gas costs. Political leaders and activists may be able, for a time, to blunt the aspirations of blue-collar and middle-class communities while claiming to decouple growth from carbon emissions. But as the green-obsessed West [squanders its momentum](#), economic growth, fossil-fuel demand, and political vitality are shifting to China ([the world’s largest emitter](#)) and more rapidly developing nations like [Guyana, the Philippines, Vietnam, India, and Tanzania](#). Meantime, developed countries seeking to remake the world’s energy infrastructure have angered major exporters like [China](#) and [Mexico](#). Many non-Western nations are [reportedly attempting to bypass the dollar-dominated economy](#) entirely to escape American and European influence.

California and Western climate activists need to change course. Regional decoupling strategies almost certainly will fail to moderate global temperatures, even as they impose prohibitive burdens on the global poor. Instead, policymakers should strive to balance social and economic advancement with reasonable emissions reductions. Otherwise, activists risk creating a less dynamic future—built on the backs of the poor.

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**THE GLOBAL, MULTIETHNIC MAGA MOVEMENT
FOR REASONS THAT ARE BOTH MORAL AND PRAGMATIC, A GLOBAL
MOVEMENT THAT VICTORIOUSLY DEFENDS WESTERN CIVILIZATION
MUST ACCEPT EVERYONE WHO IS SINCERELY COMMITTED TO THE
PROJECT
BY EDWARD RING**

Starting in the 1950s, the conservative movement gradually evolved in two fundamental ways. On one hand, they created a durable coalition of pro-business conservatives, religious conservatives, and Cold War hawks. At the same time, largely under the leadership of William F. Buckley Jr. at the [National Review](#), the movement was purged of factions that were considered extreme; racists and anti-Semites. Sometimes dubbed [fusionism](#), the movement eventually

propelled Ronald Reagan to the presidency and handed control of the U.S. Congress to the Republicans.

The legacy of Reagan and the Republican Party he led through the 1980s is mixed. He won the Cold War and deregulated industry. He also embarked on a debt-fueled spending binge that grew the federal government far beyond the limits he had promised to uphold. But for better or for worse, the fusionism that defined the Reagan era is obsolete today. In its place, conservatives are coalescing again, this time in defense of Western Civilization itself. It is a movement that spans continents, and if it falters, who we are and how we live will be lost forever.

Just as it was more than a half-century ago, this new movement needs to form a coalition in order to have sufficient power to realign America, the UK, Australia, Canada, and other Western European nations in favor of conservatives. And just as it was back then, it also needs to purge itself of those factions that alienate people they ought to welcome. If these two things can be accomplished, we have the potential to build an international movement that shares principles and political objectives and attracts a supermajority of voters that sweeps aside established regimes.

The unifying principles of this movement are rooted in common sense. Enforce the law vigorously and equally. Permit free speech. Respect private property. Require reciprocity in trade with other nations, and preserve essential industries including farming and manufacturing. Protect the environment, but end the fraudulent “climate crisis” policies that are nothing more than a transfer of wealth and power to politicians and monopolists. Deregulate industries so corporations have to compete again on price, and redirect public investment into practical infrastructure and away from costly “green” solutions that are neither green nor solutions. Invest in technological military supremacy, which will deter most conflicts.

If every nation embraced these principles in the interests of their own citizens, it would not lead to a fragmentation of the “world order.” It would enhance a community of like-minded nations, all committed to democracy, and lead to an explosion of middle-class prosperity and upward mobility. The only losers would be government bureaucracies and expansionist corporations. But what of the other half of this dawning and necessary evolution of our movement? Who are the extremists who must be asked to either adapt or be renounced?

To answer this it would be useful to define the enemy. In every Western nation, the political leaders and government bureaucracies, backed up by a dizzying array of NGOs, multinational corporations, international banks, and individual billionaires, are all committed to the same scheme: They are overwhelming our nations with immigrants who are destitute and acculturated to corrupt despotism, and training them to resent us as privileged racists. They are actively indoctrinating our children with bizarre theories of “gender,” terrifying them with “climate crisis” panic, and making them hate themselves for living well on “stolen land.” And they are imposing identity-based personnel quotas at the expense of merit in every major institution, along with climate crisis rationing, social credits, digital currency, and omnipresent surveillance.

These are the cultural, political, and economic objectives of our enemy. And they control every major institution in the Western world. They want to turn us into livestock. They want to erase our national identity, erase our faith, destroy our economic independence, and control every facet of our lives.

The political figureheads of the enemy are easily identified. Keir Starmer. Simon Harris. Justin Trudeau. Emmanuel Macron. Ursula von der Leyen. And then there are the more sinister power brokers and money men: Klaus Schwab. Larry Fink. George Soros. And, of course, we have our very own authoritarian deceivers here in America: Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. It would be hard to imagine a smarmier pair of demagogues, and they are about to con American voters into giving them power.

This is the enemy. They must be stopped.

Now consider the friends we need, but who some still reject. A few years ago, I compiled a database of individuals who were being suppressed by social media. From August 2020 through August of 2021, I added names, eventually creating [profiles for 355 people](#). They were selected for one reason: They had built online followings, usually relying on social media, and were being systematically suppressed. Demonitized, suppressed viewership, de-platformed, denied online payment processing, denied hosting and ISP services, and even canceled bank accounts.

If you look at these profiles, note how many of these individuals are black, Latino, Asian, Jewish, or gay. It's a sizable percentage. For example, 60 of these outspoken, mostly canceled "extremists" in this database are black. Let's be absolutely clear on this: We need these courageous freedom fighters on our side. We need to welcome them. We cannot win without them.

This is more than a pragmatic appeal, however, it is a moral appeal as well. It's the enemy that has cleverly turned to identity politics to divide us. But the division that matters is ideological. Let the other side play that nihilistic game. If we play it, we lose.

Every Western nation has by now admitted immigrants who constitute anywhere between 5 percent and 25 percent of their populations. It has become obvious that a critical mass of these immigrants is coalescing in every nation, some more than others, who are hostile to the host culture and ready to impose their culture in their new home. Their numbers, and all their hostility, are being united with what we might call the indigenous left to form a political bloc that can, along with naive more traditional liberals, form electoral majorities. To see how this works, just look at the gyrations the [political factions in France](#) went through to stop the "far right" in their recent elections.

But within our populations of recent immigrants are also millions of thoroughly assimilated and productive citizens. They love their adopted country with the same fervor that, for example, immigrants arriving on American shores loved their new country a century ago. And they are horrified by the criminal gangs and the religious fundamentalists who are bringing to their new country the same extremism, corruption, and violence that they escaped from in their old

country. We need these people on our side, and we must, with empathy, firmly disagree with those among us who cannot accept them. We must welcome everyone who shares our values and wants to fight with us to uphold our values. And for what it's worth, without them we will lose.

Tulsi Gabbard, one of the most authentic politicians we've got in America today, [recently said](#) "By standing together, while we may not agree on every issue, we come together around our foundation, our core, a foundation of liberty and freedom. We forget sometimes that our founding fathers had strong disagreements with each other. They battled it out in private and in public. But ultimately they recognized the imperative of that moment in time, and the no-fail mission they had before them. We are facing a no-fail mission today."

For reasons that are both moral and pragmatic, a global movement that victoriously defends Western Civilization must accept everyone who is sincerely committed to the project. With that unity, we will win.

Edward Ring is a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. He is also the director of water and energy policy for the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. Ring is the author of Fixing California: Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism (2021) and The Abundance Choice: Our Fight for More Water in California (2022). This article first appeared in American Greatness on August 21, 2021.



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