

# COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

## WEEKLY UPDATE FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 2, 2024



### 15TH ANNUAL DINNER & FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024  
MADONNA INN EXPO CENTER

#### STRAIGHT SHOOTING FROM OUR SHERIFFS

*The central coast's two most prominent lawmen will team up to enlighten us on the current wave of challenges and opportunities facing law enforcement. The epochal woke assault on justice and behavioral standards combined with budget and staffing limitations underscore the dangerous trend. This will be an undiluted straight shooting forum of major relevance.*

5:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR & OPEN BAR  
6:15 PM FILET MIGNON DINNER & WINE

AUCTION WILL BE HELD AFTER DINNER  
(AUCTIONEER TODD VENTURA)

**\$150/ PERSON**  
**\$1,500/ TABLE (SEATS 10)**



Ian Parkinson, SLO County Sheriff



Bill Brown, SB County Sheriff

For tickets:

On-Line Reservations & Payment can be made at [www.colabslo.org/events.asp](http://www.colabslo.org/events.asp)

or

Mail your check to: COLAB SLO County, PO Box 13601, SLO, CA 93406

Cocktail Attire Optional - More info at (805) 548-0340 or [colabslo@gmail.com](mailto:colabslo@gmail.com)

**PENSION TRUST ENJOYING BULL MARKET**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**CANNABIS APPEAL FEE TO BE RAISED**

**CAL POLY HOT HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT UP  
FOR A NEW \$200,000 – HOW MANY COMPANIES GREW AND  
STAYED IN SLO COUNTY?**

**COUNTY COST ALLOCATION PLAN INFORMATIVE  
REVEALS OVERHEAD SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES**

**AUCTION OF SURPLUS COVID EQUIPMENT PROPOSED  
WHAT IF IT COMES BACK IN A WORSE FORM?**

**PROPOSAL TO DILUTE AND DEMOTE THE COUNTY HOMELESS  
SERVICES DIVISION**

**EXCELLENT REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF DIABLO  
AND OFF SHORE WIND**

**THEY HAVE MORE INVOLVEMENT ON THE WIND PROJECT THAN WE KNEW**

**STATE LEGISLATIVE LOBBYIST REPORT  
STATE BUDGET PROBLEMS, PROP I, AND LOONY PROPOSALS**

**FY 2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET UPDATE - \$22 MILLION GAP  
ONLY 3% OF THE ALL FUNDS \$752.4 MILLION BUDGET  
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH COUNTY COUNSEL  
EDGING TOWARD APPOINTMENT OF A CAO  
SPRINGDALE KENNEL MESS**

**PLUMBING FIXTURE RETROFIT REQUIREMENTS AND WATER  
OFFSET REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW STRUCTURES IN LOS OSOS**

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

**NO BOS MEETING**

**CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY**  
**POLICY BOARD**

**INVESTMENT RETURNS BUILD RESERVES**

**REGULATORY CHALLENGES AND COST PRESSURES**

**2022-23 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT SAYS THEY ARE FLUSH**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**CAMBRIA CHRISTMAS MARKET GETS 15-YEAR EXTENSION**

**NEW 312 UNIT APARTMENT HOUSE FOR NIPOMO APPROVED**

**BOTH MARKET RATE AND LOW INCOME UNITS**

*ALWAYS TRICKY WITH 2 CLASSES OF TENANTS*

**STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

**BRIEFING ON OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS**

**LOCALS WON'T HAVE MUCH OF A ROLE**

**EMERGENT ISSUES**

**SEE PAGE 27**

**INSURANCE COMPANIES WOULD HAVE TO REPORT YOUR FIREARMS  
TO THE STATE**

**CALIFORNIA GETS ANOTHER BUDGET SHOCK**

**CALIFORNIA BUDGET DEFICIT BALLOONS TO \$73 BILLION  
ACCORDING TO LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

**ELECTION YEAR DECISIONS: CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATS  
BACKTRACKING ON INCOME-BASED UTILITY BILLS**

*Stuck-on-Stupid climate change nonsense is escalating cost of utility bills*

**WATCHDOG SUES CALIFORNIA COUNTY FOR REFUSING TO  
DISCLOSE FOREIGN NATIONALS REGISTERED TO VOTE**

**COLAB IN DEPTH**  
**SEE PAGE 35**

**THE OIL INDUSTRY IS A KEY PIECE OF OUR  
MODERN WORLD. WHY ARE POLITICIANS  
ATTACKING IT?**

**BY JEFF HEWITT**

**RE-PAGANIZATION OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION**

*Our age is not marked so much by disenchantment as by desecration*

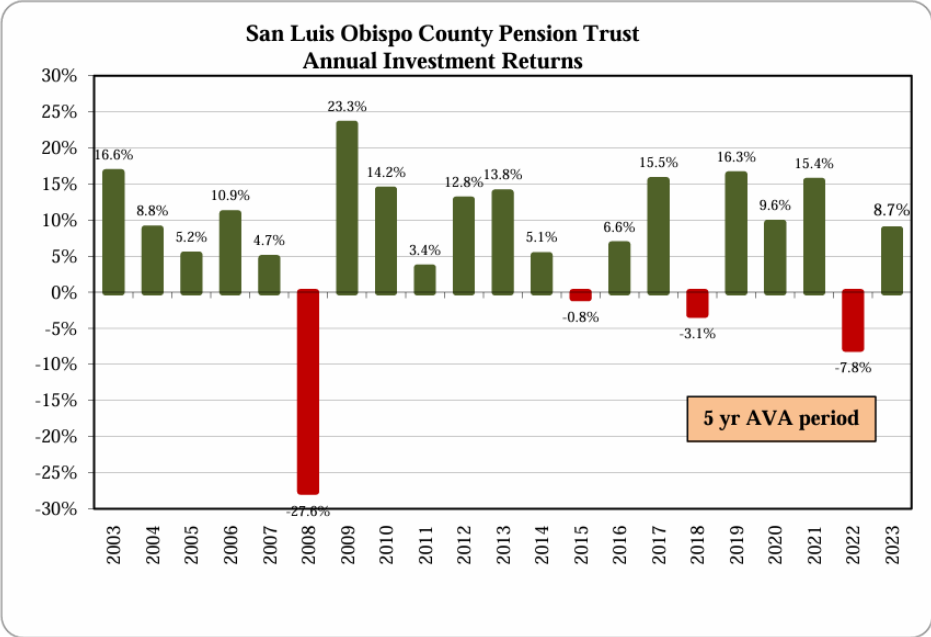
**BY CARL R. TRUEMA**

**(DESECRATION AT ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL)**

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

**SLO Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, January 26, 2024 (Scheduled)**

**Item 7 - Quarterly Investment Report for the 4th Quarter of 2023.** The history of SLOCPT investment returns, gross of fees, is shown below.



**Item 8 - Monthly Investment Report for January 2024.** The January report is positive. It states in summary:

*The attached report from Verus covers the preliminary investment returns of the SLOCPT portfolio and market commentary through the end of January.*

*February saw continued bullish momentum in the financial markets until the release of January's inflation data. The unexpected rise in inflation dampened hopes for potential interest rate cuts and triggered the largest daily loss in the S&P 500 over the past year. However, market sentiment swiftly shifted a few days later with the release of a weak retail sales report. Investors interpreted this as a sign of a potential economic slowdown, prompting equities to rally to a new all-time high. The volatility stresses the market's sensitivity to economic data releases and highlights the importance of monitoring such indicators.*

	1-month	YTD	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total Fund (%) (Gross)	0.3	0.3	8.9	(8.0)	15.2	8.9	16.3
Policy Index (%)*	0.2	0.2	10.2	(9.7)	12.8	10	16.4

	January	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Market Value (millions)	\$1,695	\$1,691	\$1,614	\$1,775	\$1,552	\$1,446

\* Policy index as of Nov. 2021 Strategic Asset Allocation Policy with 2024 Interim targets:  
 Public Mkt Equity- 20% Russell 3000, 17% MSCI ACWI ex-US  
 Public Mkt Debt- 4% Bloomberg/Barclays US Aggregate,  
 Risk Diversifying 8% Barclays 7-10yr Treasury, 7% Barclays 5-10yr US TIPS  
 Real Estate & Infrastructure- 14% NCREIF Index (inc. Infrastructure)  
 Private Equity- 12% actual private equity returns  
 Private Credit- 10% actual private credit returns  
 Liquidity- 8% 90-day T-Bills  
 Pending annual updates to interim targets.

Perhaps the County will be able to avoid rate increases in FY 2024-25.

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, February 27, 2024 (Scheduled)**

**Item 1 - Hearing to consider an ordinance amending a Planning and Building Cannabis Appeal Fee in the County Fee Schedule "B" for Fiscal Year 2024-25.** Currently, opponents to the siting of cannabis grows may file an appeal of a County permit approval for only \$850. Similarly, a permit applicant who is denied may also file and appeal. The processing of these appeals costs the County thousands of dollars. Last years' experience is detailed below:

	FY 2024-25 Projected Expense*	FY 2024-25 Fee Revenue**	General Fund Support
Planning and Building	\$14,788	\$4,000	\$10,788
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,788</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$10,788</b>

The Board had previously directed that the fee be raised to \$2000. The staff has returned with the required ordinance amendment.



Planning and Building Cannabis Fees				
Fee Description	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Amount Increase	Percent Increase
Appeal (Cannabis) - Approval / Denial of a Cannabis-Related Land Use Permit, or Request for Review of an Environmental Determination (A30cn)	\$850	\$2,000	\$1,150	135.3%

The County is generally losing money on the cannabis operation, as the very high permitting fees and taxes are not sufficient to cover the County’s very high permit processing and inspection costs.

**Item 7 - Request to approve a FY 2023-24 renewal agreement with the Cal Poly Corporation to support the Cal Poly - Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the SLO HotHouse in the amount of \$200,000 from Fund Center (FC) 104 - Administrative Office to enhance economic development.** The HotHouse is one of the County’s economic development programs. It is operated by the Cal Poly Corporation, which is a multi-million dollar University captive service entity that provides support services to the University, such as food services, housing, bookstores, and parking management. Universities often get into the economic development business as an opportunity to apply research to practical applications, provide student experience, and benefit their host communities. The Stanford University Research Park is the bell weather historical example with its most famous offshoot founded by grad students Hewlett and Packard.

i. **Scorecard:**

During the six month period between July 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, the SBDC counseled 415 clients and provided a total of 1,545 hours of counseling. In addition to the 1:1 business consulting hours provided, 2,747 hours of Student Engagement hours took place during the reporting period. Student hours are a collaboration between the SBDC and Cal Poly faculty. Faculty support SBDC clients by introducing them to student teams who work on specific projects for these clients in exchange for class credit. During this reporting period, 18 SBDC client companies participated in classes to work with students on Marketing/Sales projects, as well as General Startup Assistance.

<i>We obtained the following 2022 results:</i>	<u>7/1 to 12/31</u>	<u>1/1 to 12/31</u>
Business starts	13	22
Jobs created	17	178
Total Capital (Loans & Equity)	\$16,533,295.90	\$24,738,137.37

Each year the Hothouse reports its companies in the Incubator Program.

*1. Startups Incubating in the SLO HotHouse:*

*As of June 30, 2023, there are 16 companies in the Incubator Program, including:*

- *Abstract Security Stealth is a cybersecurity startup focused on developing advanced solutions to protect businesses and organizations from cyber threats.*
- *AcreCloud farm-management platform offers growers and contractors customized control over their operations, extensive auditing capabilities, and access to new products.*
- *AMS Pharma is dedicated to finding novel treatments for neurodevelopmental disorders. By repurposing standard medicines and strategizing new formulations, we can accelerate the development of medical treatments from idea to marketplace for children with different neurologic problems.*
- *Castle Innovations is bringing firearm safety into the 21st century with their innovative firearm safety device integrated with high speed biometric technology.*

- *DEMO is a blockchain marketplace for IP licensing, starting with music. We help music creators sell collaboration rights to their content.*
- *Farm to Table is part of the agricultural revolution aiming to transform the agriculture system by enabling local food independence. Utilizing the latest advancements in ag-tech, we will be significantly improving independent access to quality food and maximizing crop yields while reducing the environmental costs of food production in a meaningful way in our communities.*
- *Intersect Fitness is a digital personal training platform. Utilizing artificial intelligence & wearable fitness technology to empower our coaches to bring one on one accountability, and next generation results to the world at an accessible and scalable price point.*
- *Little Place Labs is a software company that specializes in building advanced machine-learning solutions for deployment and execution on satellites and other space infrastructures.*
- *Novocuff is designing a minimally invasive, non-surgical device that will help prevent preterm birth.*
- *Quantum Energy is developing The TotalView Energy Platform and API - a comprehensive AI driven software tool for clean energy decision-makers.*
- *Ryde is a peer-to-peer travel marketplace that connects student drivers with student riders for longdistance travel.*

The County has funded the program each year for about 10 years. We wish they would report accumulatively on the number of start-ups that have survived, how long they survived, and if they remained in SLO County.

If one of the start-ups does explode into a major success, it will have to move to Austin, Boise, or Tucson, because no one will allow the major factory to be built here and there will be no housing for tens of thousands of employees. Below: the new Tesla Factory in Austin.

The question is: What are we really trying to accomplish?



**Item 10 - Submittal of a resolution adopting the Countywide Cost Allocation Plan for FY 2024-25.** This is a little understood process by which the County generates internal revenue for support departments.

*Each year, the County prepares the Countywide Cost Allocation Plan (the Cost Plan) as required under Federal Office of Management and Budget Rules and Regulations 2 CFR Part*

200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" to allow for reimbursement of indirect costs from State and Federal agencies.

The Cost Plan is an important document that allocates the costs of central servicing departments (e.g., Administrative Office, Auditor-Controller, Human Resources, Central Services, County Counsel, etc.) to the departments receiving the services. The Cost Plan also allocates building and equipment use allowance that is based on the cost of the buildings and equipment and their useful lives.

Auditor-Controller James Hamilton was very helpful in helping to interpret the table below, generously taking part of his weekend to share the following information.

The detailed breakout of Exhibit B you asked about is found in Cost Plan Exhibit A (full Cost Plan is attached).

Example: Board of Supervisors share of total overhead is **\$1,877,157**

The individual components of that are seen in Exhibit A below (i.e. their share of building depreciation, County Counsel, HR, my office, etc., etc.).

Each allocation is based on 'rational' methodologies approved by the State Controller (SCO). For example, square feet occupied for depreciation, number of employees for cost of administering payroll, etc.

I think you know, this is all audited by the SCO and departments are permitted to include a share of this overhead in any Fed/State claims.

Feel free with any more questions. Jim

The table below is a sample exhibit for one department, the Board of Supervisors, which shows how the overhead is allocated. For example, of the County's total claimable building depreciation costs, the Board is assigned \$94,834, based on its location and amount of space occupied.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Actuals For Use In Budget Year 2024-25		COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COST ALLOCATION PLAN 2 CFR part 200								Date Printed: 12/29/2023
Cost Exhibit		Exhibit A								
Department	Claimable Totals	100-Board of Supervisors	103-Short-Term Financing	106-Contributions to Other Agencies	109-Assessor	110-Clerk	119-Communication and Outreach	130-Waste Mgmt	131-Grand Jury	
001-Building Depreciation	\$2,485,545	\$94,834	-	-	\$228,026	\$101,439	-	-	-	-
002-Equipment Depreciation	\$782,941	\$987	-	-	\$64,125	\$29,027	-	-	-	-
104-County Administrative Office	\$645,730	\$2,370	-	-	\$13,186	\$4,644	\$231	\$2,182	\$644	-
111-County Counsel	\$4,341,776	\$787,500	-	-	\$11,200	\$141,126	-	-	-	\$38,416
112-Human Resources	\$5,370,665	\$17,065	-	-	\$98,453	\$28,880	\$2,625	-	-	-
113-Facilities Management	\$5,141,474	\$79,947	-	-	\$223,457	\$106,520	-	-	-	\$11,244
114-Information Technology Department (ITD)	\$14,473,210	\$114,489	-	-	\$450,877	\$138,247	\$4,296	\$25,992	\$34,382	-
116-Central Services	\$4,596,862	\$119,362	-	-	\$21,028	\$56,953	-	\$4,354	\$902	-
117-Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector	\$5,153,466	\$16,600	\$844	\$3,356	\$82,844	\$45,101	\$2,261	\$10,930	\$5,669	-
118-Talent Development	\$528,897	\$2,718	-	-	\$15,679	\$4,599	\$418	-	-	-
200-Maintenance Projects	\$2,236,790	\$2,698	-	-	\$5,133	\$4,645	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Actual Costs</b>	<b>\$45,757,356</b>	<b>\$1,238,571</b>	<b>\$844</b>	<b>\$3,356</b>	<b>\$1,214,007</b>	<b>\$651,182</b>	<b>\$9,831</b>	<b>\$43,457</b>	<b>\$91,257</b>	
<b>Roll Forward Amounts</b>	<b>\$10,039,674</b>	<b>\$638,586</b>	<b>(\$1,211)</b>	<b>\$1,077</b>	<b>\$18,381</b>	<b>(\$96,600)</b>	<b>\$3,399</b>	<b>\$26,575</b>	<b>\$32,423</b>	
<b>Regular Adjustments</b>										
<b>One-Time Adjustments</b>										
<b>Total Claimable Costs</b>	<b>\$55,797,030</b>	<b>\$1,877,157</b>	<b>(\$367)</b>	<b>\$4,433</b>	<b>\$1,232,388</b>	<b>\$564,582</b>	<b>\$13,230</b>	<b>\$70,032</b>		



There is a similar analysis for every department. The reader can imagine how much more complicated this is for the large departments with multi-locations and many functions.

Table B, below, shows the totals for all the departments.

<b>COUNTYWIDE OVERHEAD RATES FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR</b>				
<b>Fund Center</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Overhead</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2023-2024 Overhead Rates</b>
100	Board of Supervisors	1,877,157	2,091,479	89.75%
104	Administrative Office	484,542	5,315,028	9.12%
109	Assessor	1,232,388	11,371,666	10.84%
110	County Clerk Recorder	564,582	4,116,082	13.72%
111	County Counsel	350,576	5,272,215	6.65%
112	Personnel	817,019	9,112,734	8.97%
113	Facilities Management	849,485	9,473,108	8.97%
114	ITD	3,099,199	21,076,827	14.70%
116	Central Services	1,782,208	3,085,673	57.76%
117	Auditor-Controller, Treasurer, Tax Collector	1,123,203	9,444,745	11.89%
118	Talent Development	23,987	663,461	3.62%
119	Communication and Outreach	13,230	229,032	5.78%
130	Waste Management	70,032	1,359,192	5.15%
131	Grand Jury	123,680	92,310	133.98%
132	District Attorney	1,471,671	22,171,993	6.64%
134	Family Support	209,373	4,271,531	4.90%
135	Public Defender	377,865	8,117,285	4.66%
136	Sheriff-Coroner	7,593,928	96,226,253	7.89%
137	Animal Services	486,437	3,306,537	14.71%
138	Emergency Services	222,297	1,925,420	11.55%
139	Probation	2,362,279	26,635,065	8.87%
140	County Fire	1,338,892	28,447,939	4.71%
141	Agricultural Commissioner	571,863	7,338,263	7.79%
142	Planning Department	2,364,272	17,434,984	13.56%
160	Health Department	4,655,240	39,832,996	11.69%
166	Mental Health	7,383,398	93,902,150	7.86%
180	Department of Social Services	11,007,404	81,989,743	13.43%
184	LEMC	387,073	9,835,669	3.94%
186	Veterans' Services	135,563	1,099,279	12.33%
201	PW Special Services	109,239	2,722,423	4.01%
205	Groundwater Sustainability	40,734	1,131,197	3.60%
215	Farm Advisor	129,378	592,081	21.85%
222	Community Parks	515,462	5,567,281	9.26%
245	Roads	1,587,212	36,875,835	4.30%
266	Co-Wide Automation	449,490	79,645	564.37%
290	Community Development	88,901	696,894	12.76%
305	Parks	451,717	7,002,997	6.45%
330	Wildlife and Grazing	-394	879	-44.84%
331	Fish and Game	1,823	40,262	4.53%
335	Solid Waste Management	17,925	591,520	3.03%
351	Emergency Medical Services	9,841	319,741	3.08%
375	Drinking Driver Programs	20,411	1,135,952	1.80%
377	Library	860,134	12,101,241	7.11%
405	Department of Public Works	3,200,163	24,291,737	13.17%
407	Fleet	212,064	5,619,820	3.77%
408	Workers' Comp	915,917	5,387,801	17.00%
409	Liability Insurance ISF	318,973	4,569,422	6.98%
410	Unemployment Insurance	3,189	80,438	3.96%
411	Med Mal Insurance	29,892	838,635	3.56%
412	Dental Insurance	8,828	272,549	3.24%
425	Airport	498,042	7,931,418	6.28%
427	Golf Courses	214,390	4,086,993	5.25%
		62,662,174	647,175,420	

These numbers have not been approved by the State and are subject to change.

**Item 17 - Request to 1) adopt a resolution regarding donation of medical equipment and supplies related to the COVID-19 emergency response efforts and extend the delegation of authority to the County Health Officer to dispose of or donate COVID-19 equipment and**

**supplies, and; 2) declare the attached list of COVID-19 pandemic related medical equipment and supplies as surplus, and authorize sale through public auction. The write-up states in part?**

*With the closing of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and the County Health Agency Department Operations Center (“CHADOC”), the County’s Public Health Department (PHD) has continued to oversee the County’s COVID 19 response. The PHD has identified pandemic related medical equipment and supplies that are no longer needed for the County’s response efforts or that have expired .*

What did the stuff cost in the first place?

What is the estimated value now?

What if COVID comes back?

Did they smoke all the cigars?

Item	QTY
Abbott ID NOW Analyzer	2 each
ACS Oxygen Supply Hardware	1 pallet
Chairs, upholstered, non-folding	13 ea
Cigar Humidor	1 each
Evaporative Cooler, Large	5 each
Evaporative Cooler, Small	3 each
Floor Mat, foam, Interlocking	2 cases
Generator, Champion 8750	1 each
Generator, Predator 8750	1 each
Gloves, Nitrile, Medical	110 cases
Gloves, Nitrile, Non-Medical, Fish Scale, L	10 cases
Gloves, Nitrile, Non-Medical, S	84 cases
Insulated Shipping Containers	11 each
Nasal Canulas	18 cases
Nitrile Gloves, Non-Medical, Large	404 cases
Over-Bed Table	75 each
Oxygen Concentrators, Devilbis	33 each
Oxygen Concentrators, Eclipse 5	30 each
Oxygen Tubing	10 cases
Respirators, N95 1860s	30 cases
Scale, Postage	1 ea
Sink unit w/Water Heater	1 each
Transport Ventilators, Allied Healthcare	2 each
Two-Way Radios	30 each
Ventec Ventilator Consumables	2 pallets
Ventilator Stands, Ventec	10 each
Ventilators, Ventec	25 each
Vital Signs Monitor and Stand, 53NTO	4 each
Wooden Signage Boards	5 each

**Item 26 - Submittal of a resolution amending the Position Allocation List (PAL) 1) for Fund Center 290 – Homeless and Affordable Housing services to delete 1.00 FTE Division Manager-Homeless Services and 2) for Fund Center 180 – Department of Social Services Administration to add 1.00 FTE Deputy Director-Social Services to improve operational efficiency and enhance coordination and program development.** The County appears to be diluting the mission of its Homeless Services unit by combining it with its existing Adult Services Division. The Board letter states in part:

*To further enhance efforts in addressing homelessness, we recommend the appointment of a Deputy Director for Adult and Homeless Services. This position will play a crucial role in overseeing programs and services, providing leadership in program development, policy implementation, budget management, and coordination with partner agencies and stakeholders. Additionally, Adult services, which oversees In-Home Supportive Services, Adult Protective Services and Public Authority, often serves populations who either are homeless, or are at risk of homelessness. By aligning the strategic oversight of both programs, there will be more opportunity to identify areas of overlap, reduce duplication of services, identify funding opportunities, and build strategic partnerships across multiple areas to improve the network of services in the community. The recommended replacement of the Division Manager position with a Deputy Director of Adult and Homeless Services, underscores our commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and improving our organization's effectiveness in combating homelessness and serving the aging population of San Luis Obispo County.*

There are a number of problems here:

- **The County formed the consolidated Homeless Division to focus its resources on the problem.**
- **It hired a strong competent project manager, Joe Dzvonik, who put together an excellent multi-year project plan with real schedules and accountability check points.**
- **Dzvonik was subsequently raided by Santa Barbara County. This could be a little payback by former SLO County CAO Wade Horton, who was hired as an Assistant CEO by Santa Barbara County after suddenly “resigning” last year.**
- **Now it is proposed that the Homeless Program be combined into the existing adult Services Division of the Social Services Department under a new Deputy Department Head who will have multiple programs. See the Budget description of the Adult Services Division below.**
- **What executive at what rank will be fulltime on the Homeless Program?**
- **Who will be the new Joe Dzvonik?**

- **The Homeless Division should never have been assigned to Social Services, but should have been a free-standing developmental division reporting to the CAO.**

What happened to the priority?

## **Homeless Services Division**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Homeless Services Division is to reduce homelessness in San Luis Obispo County by partnering with the community and through the administration of programs and funding that provide affordable housing and sheltering options to the community, and services for our unhoused citizens.

### **SERVICE PROGRAMS**

Homeless Services Division functions under the Social Services Department. Homeless Services Division has a total expenditure level of \$14,182,842 and a total staffing level of 23.00 FTE to provide the following services:

#### **Homeless Services and Affordable Housing Funds**

These programs focus on promoting a communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness and assisting homeless individuals and families by quickly re-housing, minimizing trauma and dislocation, promoting utilization of mainstream programs and optimizing self-sufficiency.

Total Expenditures: \$14,182,842  
General Fund Support: \$6,098,235  
Total Staffing (FTE): 23.00

## **Adult Services**

*Adult Services includes two major programs: Adult Protective Services (APS) and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), including Public Authority. APS provides services to elders and dependent adults who are unable to protect their own interests or to care for themselves. APS Social Workers investigate allegations of abuse or neglect, intervening when necessary, and provide community education and connection to resources. The IHSS Program assists with payment of personal and domestic services that enable blind, or disabled adults & children and elderly individuals, who have a Medi-Cal eligibility determination, to remain safely in their home. The Public Authority program works with IHSS care providers to complete background checks, enrollment processes and assistance with other caregiver related services. Total Expenditures: \$15,195,098 General Fund Support: \$4,130,068 Total Staffing (FTE): 80.50*

*To further enhance efforts in addressing homelessness, we recommend the appointment of a Deputy Director for Adult and Homeless Services. This position will play a crucial role in overseeing programs and services, providing leadership in program development, policy implementation, budget management, and coordination with partner agencies and stakeholders. Additionally, Adult services, which oversees In-Home Supportive Services, Adult Protective Services and Public Authority, often serves populations who either are homeless, or are at risk of homelessness. By aligning the strategic oversight of both programs, there will be more opportunity to identify areas of overlap, reduce duplication of services, identify funding opportunities, and build strategic partnerships across multiple areas to improve the network of services in the community. The recommended replacement of the Division Manager position with a Deputy Director of Adult and Homeless Services, underscores our commitment to addressing*



*the needs of vulnerable populations and improving our organization's effectiveness in combating homelessness and serving the aging population of San Luis Obispo County.*

**Item 32 - Request to receive and file the energy update report that includes updates on Diablo Canyon Power Plant and Offshore Wind, and provide direction as deemed necessary.** This is an excellent and informative report, which details the history and current status of the efforts to extend the both the license and the operation of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant. It also details the history and current status of the proposed development of large scale wind-generated power off the San Luis Obispo County Coast. Further, it details the County's activities and posture with regard to the development of offshore wind power. The report is well prepared and worth a read at [159382 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/159382). Control click and wait, as it takes a bit of time to open. The extensive PowerPoint can be found at the link: <https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/159396>

Key takeaways at this point include:

The Diablo Power Plant provides 9% of the State's electrical energy and will need to be on line for years.

The County's coastal communities, such as Morro Bay and Avila Beach, are not likely to be industrialized for the heavy construction, windmill assembly, and other marine activities. However, they could serve as maintenance bases once the windmills are in operation.

It will be many years, perhaps ten, before the first kilowatt of energy is ever generated and delivered to the grid.

The Feds and State are luring the locals with big grants for job training and development related to the project. Parenthetically (and not part of the report) is the issue of housing for the thousands of new workers who will be required.

The County has been heavily involved in various meetings and interactions with the State and Feds with regard to the project.

The County has by its participation and various policies incrementally and subtly cast itself as a supporter. For example:

*The County's policy work on OSW is further guided by the Board-adopted 2023 State Legislative/Regulatory Platform, which contains the following resolutions:*

- *Section 2F, page 13: Support Statewide OSW development programs and initiatives, as well as funding for Central Coast-specific OSW development, including studies aimed at infrastructure, workforce training and development, economic benefits, supply chain development, environmental analyses, permitting, and more. Support initiatives that improve coordination between local, state, and federal agencies as well as with other communities preparing for OSW development.*

- *Section 1.9, page 11: The County will work to ensure that Diablo Canyon Power Plant's continued operations do not interfere with any efforts to pursue alternative resources that could utilize the existing transmission infrastructure, such as potential large-scale OSW and long-duration storage installations. COLAB NOTE: They snuck this one by us!! One day Gibson will pull it out of his file and assert the utility powerlines must give preference to the wind power.*

- *Legislative Goal 7, page 6: Encourage, seek, and support legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and diversification and increases the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.*

**Below is a high-level timeline of key activities and events pertaining to the County’s involvement in OSW:**

- *March 2, 2021: the Board approved the DCPD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in partnership with REACH, Cal Poly, state and federal, and other partners representing tribal, environmental and labor interests that formed a coordination for a shared vision for the decommissioning of the DCPD and future uses at the industry site, “Parcel P”, creating an opportunity for the Central Coast to become a hub for OSW and cleantech innovation;*
- *June 22, 2021: the Board authorized Resolution No. 2021-134, “Resolution recognizing the potential of renewable wind power generation for, and clean energy infrastructure, as long-term economic benefits to San Luis Obispo County”;*
- *July 16, 2021: work under the DCPD MOU led to Chairperson Compton signing onto a multistakeholder letter to President Biden and Governor Newsom, “Declaration of bipartisan commitment to advance OSW planning and development on the Central Coast of California”;*
- *May 17, 2022: Board of Supervisors unanimously approved funding for a waterfront infrastructure study;*
- *June 30, 2022: County was appropriated \$1 million from State budget for Deep Water Port Feasibility Study for Offshore Wind;*
- *August 1, 2022: the Chairperson of the Board signed a letter submitted to BOEM commenting on the proposed sale notice for the OSW lease auction in fall 2022;*
- *September 8, 2022: Supervisors Arnold and Ortiz-Legg testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee hearing in Morro Bay about OSW;*
- *December 7, 2022: the Chairperson of the Board signed onto the multi stakeholder letter sent to the provisional winners of the Morro Bay Offshore Wind Energy Auction titled, “Community commitment to collaborate to advance OSW on the Central Coast of California”;*
- *December 15, 2022: the Central Coast Emerging Industries Waterfront Siting and Infrastructure Study is published, with financial support from the County partnering with the City of Morro Bay, Santa Barbara, and REACH;*
- *June 20, 2023: Board of Supervisors unanimously approved executing documents necessary to transfer \$1 million to County as designated in the State Budget Act of 2022 for an OSW port feasibility study;*
- *July 10, 2023: the County is appropriated \$750,000 from the State Budget Act of 2023 for staffing resources to support OSW development;*
- *September 12, 2023: the Board requested staff return to the Board with an energy update;*
- *November 1, 2023: the County hosted Congressman Carbajal, Congressman Panetta, Senator Laird, and Assemblymember Addis for a public information session on OSW development; and*
- *January 23, 2024: the Board authorized Resolution 2024-011, “Resolution approving the acceptance of state general fund grant funds for offshore wind resources project”.*

**Item 33 - Request to receive an update on State Legislative activities by Paul Yoder of Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange.** This will be a verbal report. There is no agenda write-up or PowerPoint at this time. It should be interesting, given the State’s looming \$72 billion deficit.

**Item 34 - Request to 1) receive and file a presentation regarding the Fiscal Year 2024-25 County and State Budgets; and 2) provide direction to staff as necessary.** The staff is

forecasting a \$22.2 million impending revenue expenditure gap for the FY 2024-25 estimated operating Budget of \$752.4 million. The \$752.2 million is the estimate for what it will take to provide the current FY 2023-24 levels of services, which the staff refers to as a “status quo budget.”

*A Status Quo Budget generally assumes current year staffing and program levels and costs them out for the next year with no material changes (i.e. inflationary increase only, no increases or decreases to staffing levels, and no new or expanded services levels).*

*The November forecast, presented to the Board on November 7, 2023, for the FY 2024-25 Budget, forecasted a General Fund budget gap between \$16-24 million due to the anticipated elimination of one-time funding as well as a slower rate of revenue growth. At the end of January, departmental budget submittals were due to the Administrative Office and a Status Quo budget gap has been calculated based on initial departmental budget submittals. At this point in the FY 2024-25 budgeting process, the County General Fund is faced with a gap of \$22 million (the Status Quo Budget for the General Fund includes expenditures of \$752 million and revenue of \$730 million) as presented in the table below.*

**Table 1: FY 2024-25 General Fund Budget (Status Quo)**

FY 2024-25 General Fund Budget	Forecast	Status Quo
Total Financing Sources (revenues)	\$710,748,539	\$730,229,770
Total Financing Uses (expenditures)	\$730,886,105	\$752,415,954
<b>Total General Fund surplus/(gap)</b>	<b>(\$20,137,566)</b>	<b>(\$22,186,184)</b>

*A Status Quo Budget generally assumes current year staffing and program levels and costs them out for the next year with no material changes (i.e. inflationary increase only, no increases or decreases to staffing levels, and no new or expanded services levels).*

Salaries and benefits growth constitute the most significant component of increased cost. The write-up states in part:

*Status Quo includes additional salary and benefit costs only for increases **that have already been negotiated and approved by the Board** and are being paid for as of the current year. This includes approximately \$17 million in FY 2023-24 totaled scheduled employee contract increases (All Funds Budget) of which \$11.1 million was estimated to impact the General Fund, as compared to the FY 2023 24 Adopted Budget.*

As we have noted in the past, this does not contain estimates for salary and benefit cost increases, which are currently under negotiation or which will be negotiated in the coming months or the new fiscal year (that impact the new fiscal year). This means that the estimate is deliberately low and that the gap will be larger than projected here.

	FY 23-24 Adopted Budget	FY 24-25 Forecast	FY 24-25 Status Quo
<b>Financing Sources</b>			
Non-Departmental Revenue	\$274,603,870	\$287,383,801	\$286,358,712
Departmental Revenue	\$374,526,742	\$379,796,860	\$402,038,345
FBA	\$50,786,248	\$42,508,752	\$40,262,881
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$699,916,860</i>	<i>\$709,689,413</i>	<i>\$728,659,938</i>
Cancelled Reserves	\$13,801,521	\$1,059,126	\$1,569,832
<b>Total Financing Sources</b>	<b>\$713,718,381</b>	<b>\$710,748,539</b>	<b>\$730,229,770</b>
<b>Financing Uses</b>			
Salary and Benefits	\$386,506,118	\$396,289,499	\$401,904,523
Non-Salary Expense	\$283,095,438	\$294,828,317	\$309,897,562
5% Contingency	\$33,499,242	\$34,555,891	\$35,590,104
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$703,100,798</i>	<i>\$725,673,707</i>	<i>\$747,392,189</i>
New Reserves	\$10,617,583	\$5,212,398	\$5,023,765
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$713,718,381</b>	<b>\$730,886,105</b>	<b>\$752,415,954</b>
<b>Available Funds/(Gap)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$20,137,566)</b>	<b>(\$22,186,184)</b>

One question is: Will the \$401 million highlighted in yellow above actually hold? What is the actual figure forecast for June 30, 2024? This is an important omitted column, which if included, would illuminate the analysis.

In any case, and given the County’s 9.5 % vacancy rate (funded but unfilled jobs), managing \$22 million out of \$402 million (only 2.5%) should not be all that difficult.

Moreover, \$22 million out of \$752 million “needed” expenditures is only three percent (.03 %) of the whole \$752.4 million all funds budget. Only \$11 million of this is within the General Fund. What is all the fuss about?

Fund the Sheriff, Fire, District Attorney, and pave the roads. As the Roman Emperor Diocletian said when asked how he had survived and retired: “Pay the soldiers and forget the rest.”

**State Budget Impacts:** The Board letter points out that: *The County generally receives 38 percent of its General Fund revenue from the State. Therefore, we are and will continue to be mindful of the State’s fiscal challenges and the consequential impacts on the County.*

The impending State deficit of \$70 billion on a proposed \$291 billion budget could be problematical for the County if State support to counties is reduced or even held even. Any reductions would exacerbate the County’s current problem.

**Overhead analysis:** One bi-product of the Auditor Controller’s development of the Cost Plan, (see **Item 10** above) is a table entitled “County Overhead Rates.”

With respect to the overall budget, there might be an opportunity to capture some savings if the internal support services were monitored and rationed by the CAO’s office. For example, instead of employees just calling up the County Counsel's Office (every time they are afraid to make a decision), they would have to get their Department Head’s approval and the CAO’s office approval before incurring hours of cost. Similarly, departmental staff could vacuum the offices, stock the bathrooms, dust, and empty waste baskets, rather than having the Central Services Department incur costs. Our soldiers and sailors perform these functions in the barracks and offices every day.



Supervisor Gibson stocking the 4<sup>th</sup> floor bathrooms and taking his turn to vacuum the Board Chambers would help save budget costs.



The Suits Help Out

COUNTYWIDE OVERHEAD RATES  
FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

Fund Center	Department	Overhead	Expenditures	2023-2024 Overhead Rates
100	Board of Supervisors	1,877,157	2,091,479	89.75%
104	Administrative Office	484,542	5,315,028	9.12%
109	Assessor	1,232,388	11,371,666	10.84%
110	County Clerk Recorder	564,582	4,116,082	13.72%
111	County Counsel	350,576	5,272,215	6.65%
112	Personnel	817,019	9,112,734	8.97%
113	Facilities Management	849,485	9,473,108	8.97%
114	ITD	3,099,199	21,076,827	14.70%
116	Central Services	1,782,208	3,085,673	57.76%
117	Auditor-Controller, Treasurer, Tax Collector	1,123,203	9,444,745	11.89%
118	Talent Development	23,987	663,461	3.62%
119	Communication and Outreach	13,230	229,032	5.78%
130	Waste Management	70,032	1,359,192	5.15%
131	Grand Jury	123,680	92,310	133.98%
132	District Attorney	1,471,671	22,171,993	6.64%
134	Family Support	209,373	4,271,531	4.90%
135	Public Defender	377,865	8,117,285	4.66%
136	Sheriff-Coroner	7,593,928	96,226,253	7.89%
137	Animal Services	486,437	3,306,537	14.71%
138	Emergency Services	222,297	1,925,420	11.55%
139	Probation	2,362,279	26,635,065	8.87%
140	County Fire	1,338,892	28,447,939	4.71%
141	Agricultural Commissioner	571,863	7,338,263	7.79%
142	Planning Department	2,364,272	17,434,984	13.56%
160	Health Department	4,655,240	39,832,996	11.69%
166	Mental Health	7,383,398	93,902,150	7.86%
180	Department of Social Services	11,007,404	81,989,743	13.43%
184	LEMC	387,073	9,835,669	3.94%
186	Veterans' Services	135,563	1,099,279	12.33%
201	PW Special Services	109,239	2,722,423	4.01%
205	Groundwater Sustainability	40,734	1,131,197	3.60%
215	Farm Advisor	129,378	592,081	21.85%
222	Community Parks	515,462	5,567,281	9.26%
245	Roads	1,587,212	36,875,835	4.30%
266	Co-Wide Automation	449,490	79,645	564.37%
290	Community Development	88,901	696,894	12.76%
305	Parks	451,717	7,002,997	6.45%
330	Wildlife and Grazing	-394	879	-44.84%
331	Fish and Game	1,823	40,262	4.53%
335	Solid Waste Management	17,925	591,520	3.03%
351	Emergency Medical Services	9,841	319,741	3.08%
375	Drinking Driver Programs	20,411	1,135,952	1.80%
377	Library	860,134	12,101,241	7.11%
405	Department of Public Works	3,200,163	24,291,737	13.17%
407	Fleet	212,064	5,619,820	3.77%
408	Workers' Comp	915,917	5,387,801	17.00%
409	Liability Insurance ISF	318,973	4,569,422	6.98%
410	Unemployment Insurance	3,189	80,438	3.96%
411	Med Mal Insurance	29,892	838,635	3.56%
412	Dental Insurance	8,828	272,549	3.24%
425	Airport	498,042	7,931,418	6.28%
427	Golf Courses	214,390	4,086,993	5.25%
		62,662,174	647,175,420	

These numbers have not been approved by the State and are subject to change.

**Item 35 - Conference with Legal Counsel-PERSONNEL (Government Code section 54957.)** It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session to: (18) Consider Public Employee Performance Evaluation for the Position of Acting County Administrative Officer; and (19) Consider Public Employee Appointment for the Position of County Administrative Officer.

Why would they be listing performance evaluation of the Acting CAO each meeting?

Otherwise, they could be winnowing down the candidates for a permanent CAO and be getting close to an appointment. Note that SLO City Manager Derek Johnson was just appointed CEO of Marin County. He was probably not an applicant here.

**Conference with Legal Counsel Current Litigation, County of San Luis Obispo, Case No. CODE2022-00041.** The file contains scores of letters and pictures of pets and owners who support the expansion of the kennel. The County is between a rock and hard place on this one. The neighbors oppose a historical expansion, which the County approved. They complain that the dogs bark too much. It appears that the County violated its own ordinance when it permitted the expansion.

## MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

**Item 36 - Request by the County of San Luis Obispo (LRP2022-00004) to amend 1) the Health and Sanitation Ordinance, Title 8 of the County Code, to update the plumbing retrofit fixture requirements for Los Osos; and 2) the Building and Construction Ordinance, Title 19 of the County Code, to update the plumbing fixture retrofit requirements and water offset requirements for new structures in Los Osos based on the new Los Osos Water Offset Study. Exempt from CEQA.** The Board will consider ordinance amendments requiring a variety of water saving devices in Los Osos. These would be required for any renovations or new construction. Showerheads, low flow toilets, sink aerators, and clothes washers will all have new restrictions. The installations will be subject to verification inspections by County personnel. There is controversy building in regard to the ordinance.

Here again, we see the preference by the left progressives and climatists for a world of restrictions as opposed to a world of abundance.

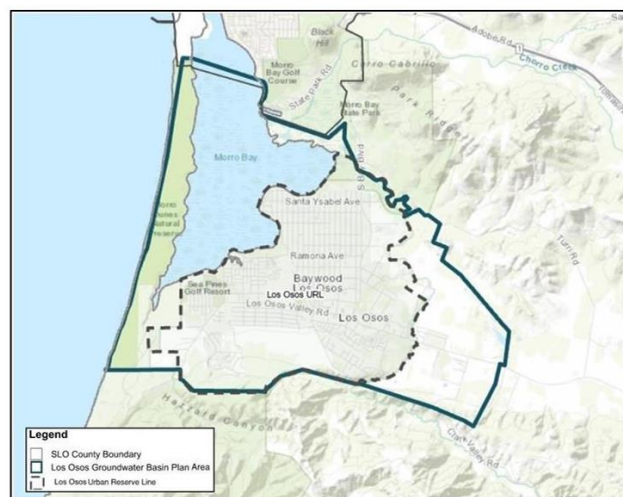


Figure A. Los Osos Groundwater Basin **Plan Area Boundary, not to scale.**

**Item 40 - 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.**

## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 (Not Scheduled)**

**Central Coast Community Energy Authority Meeting of Wednesday, February 21, 2024 (Completed), 1:30 PM, 70 Garden Court, Suite 300 Monterey, CA 93940 and <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82380649701>**

**Item 4 - Receive a report on 3CE's investment returns and diversification.** The Authority has built up a large cash balance of \$260 million as a hedge against future volatility in the energy markets and/or regulatory turbulence.

3CE banks with River City Bank of Sacramento. Several other CCAs also bank with River City Bank. 3CE also invests its reserves with River City Bank and River City affiliate, Royal Bank of Canada. So much for its adopted policy of utilizing services and vendors within its service area.

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

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

*Staff also negotiated an agreement with River City Bank, CCCE's commercial banking partner, to invest in treasury-indexed Certificates of Deposit (CD). These CDs yield Treasury rates + 10 basis points on the date of execution and waive penalties if CCCE needs to withdraw funds early due to business needs. In August and September, Staff allocated \$25 MM to these products with a weighted average maturity of 3.9 months and a weighted average annualized yield of approximately 3%. For reference, the iShares Short Treasury Bond ETF, which consists of US Treasury bonds maturing in less than a year, had an annualized yield of 1.67% for the August 11-August 31 period. Staff will begin including performance benchmarks in September, the first full month using the new strategy.*

Cash and Investment Balances	
<b>Operating Accounts</b>	
River City Bank	\$ 144,922,284
Chase	5,321,209
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>150,243,494</b>
<b>Investment Accounts</b>	
Royal Bank of Canada	\$ 80,080,243
Schwab	30,230,860
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>110,311,103</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 260,554,597</b>

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

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

**In thousands**

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

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

**Item 6 - Regulatory Update.** Like the investor owned utilities, other CCAs, and industries, 3CE must deal with a multiplicity of complex and ever expanding regulations imposed by the California Public Utilities Commission, State Energy Commission, State Air Board, and the California Independent System Operator, which regulates the grid. A key component is the resource adequacy requirement (RA).

*The Resource Adequacy (RA) program is the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) main grid reliability planning program. All load serving entities (LSEs) under the CPUC's jurisdiction, including CCAs, must demonstrate purchase of a specified amount of eligible RA generation capacity each month and year to comply with RA program requirements. Increasing demand for and a decreasing supply of eligible RA capacity over the past five years have*



resulted in sharply increased prices and unprecedented difficulty procuring sufficient RA to achieve compliance. Over the past year the CPUC has also sought to tie RA compliance to other, unrelated functions such as CCA expansion into new communities.

CalCCA<sup>1</sup> submitted a reform proposal on January 19th seeking to stabilize the RA market, reign in prices, and encourage out of state participation in the California RA market. If accepted, the recommendations would help ensure a smooth transition through the first SOD RA framework compliance year. A PD on party proposals is expected in May.

The inherent tension is that they must have contracts for energy on the most extreme days. This is very expensive, especially since solar is gone on the hot summer evenings. It also undermines their CO<sub>2</sub> free requirements, because nuclear is not counted by the State as CO<sub>2</sub> free and the mix of energy in the evening is mainly natural gas.

**Item 13 - Receive a Presentation of 3CE's FY 2022-23 Audited Financial Statements.** The report states in part:

*For the year ending September 30, 2023, 3CE increased its net position and liquidity by \$34.7 million and \$71.5 million, respectively. These results and ongoing efforts by staff are strong indicators of 3CE's sound financial health and positioned to serve its customers and deliver on its mission. A strong net position of \$243.3 million supports 3CE's newly adopted Financial Policies that established robust strategic reserves to sustain service delivery. Adequate reserves enable flexible financial planning to develop rate structures and future capital projects and deal with unforeseen emergencies. This report was presented to the Audit & Finance Committee on February 21, 2024.*

For FY 2022-23, 3CE had operating revenues of \$461.2 million and a profit of \$34.7 million, or 7%. Thus, while they have built up large reserves, their operating margin is thin.

**California State Lands Commission Meeting of Monday, February 26, 2024 (Completed)  
12:00 PM, Holiday Inn – Downtown Sacramento and [www.cal-span.org](http://www.cal-span.org)**

**Item 84 - Presentation by the California Energy Commission on the Assembly Bill 525 Drafts Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Development.** This was a discussion of the regulatory process by which the permits for the individual leases will be approved or denied.



<sup>1</sup> The lobbying group which represents 3CE and the other CCA's

The key Federal permitting agencies are included in the list below. There seems to be somewhat of a conflict of interest, since BOEM is pushing the whole program. Local permitting involvement seems to be, at best, an afterthought, as noted below.

### **Feds**

- *Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)*
- *Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)*
- *Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)* • *Department of Defense (DOD)*
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*
- *National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)*
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)*
- *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*
- *U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)*

*Local and Other Permitting of California's 58 counties, 19 border the Pacific Ocean. Depending on the location of proposed offshore wind development areas, several counties and cities could be involved in permitting some portion of an offshore wind development project. Counties and cities with certified local coastal programs may conduct Coastal Act review and issue CDPs within their areas of jurisdiction. County and city jurisdictions start at the mean high tide line and extend to the end of the coastal zone, which may vary based on location. A developer must obtain a local coastal development permit for development within the coastal zone. In addition, city permits could be required depending on the location and nature of offshore wind development and any ancillary portions of the project. Additional local ministerial approvals (such as grading, sewer, waste permits, and so forth) may also be required for offshore wind projects.*

*For offshore wind projects in the vicinity of the Humboldt and Morro Bay WEAs, permits and approvals may be needed from the following land use agencies. Humboldt WEA*

- *Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District*
- *Humboldt County<sup>74</sup>*

*The cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Trinidad*

- *The North Coast Air Quality Management District*
- *Other jurisdictions if seaport facilities are outside the county Morro Bay WEA 74 Humboldt County is currently updating its Local Coastal Program, with a goal of gaining approval for permitting authority within the coastal zone in the county 35*

- *San Luis Obispo County*
- *The cities of Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo. Of note, the City of Morro Bay manages Morro Bay Harbor.*
- *San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District*
- *Other jurisdictions if seaport facilities are outside the county*

*Staff will further evaluate how to address local permitting as part of the permitting roadmap in the AB 525 strategic plan.*

**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, February 22, 2024 ( Completed)**

**Item 3 - Hearing to consider a request by Pacific Cambria LLC for a Development Plan / Coastal Development Permit (C-DRC2022-00050) to allow a new temporary event program, the Cambria Christmas Market, to operate for up to fifteen holiday seasons. The holiday season would begin the Friday after Thanksgiving (Black Friday) and would last through the last day of the year (New Year's Eve). The hours of operation are Wednesday through Sunday (and all of Christmas week through the last day of the year (New Year's Eve) from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The market would include temporary lighting, seasonal displays, and concession stands. Forty-six temporary vendor booths would be erected for the event and would be dismantled and removed at the conclusion of the event. Four temporary canopy covers would be erected for outdoor seating and dining purposes. The maximum attendance on any given night would be limited to not more than 3,000 guests. The market would be located within the interior of the Cambria Pines Lodge grounds and at the adjacent Cambria Nursery. The Commission approved the 15-year permit on a 3/2 vote with a number of new conditions, including that the sponsor donate 3000 free tickets to the Cambria Community. The actual Commission questions and deliberations were lengthy and carefully analytical. The discussion was lively, polite, and interesting. The additional costs to the applicant may be significant.**

What if the County extends this principle to winery and cannabis permits? All the neighbors could enjoy a case of Pinot Noir and a kilo of smoke per year as part of the deal. Wait until the State legalizes medical prostitution (as a behavioral health benefit).

Commissioner Anne Wyatt noted that she received the 304-page report the evening before the meeting. She pointed out that this was after she had a bottle of pinot noir.

**Background:** The applicant requested a 15-year extension. The opposition was muted this time, as there were only a few letters of opposition and some of these requested only some modifications. The staff recommended a ten-year permit. There were pages of required conditions with which the applicant will have to agree if the permit is approved. It is a complicated event to stage, with parking off site served by shuttle busses.

Tour companies promote it extensively. Now if Cal Poly, its alumnae, the City of SLO, the County, and REACH would front building the football team into a Class I-A program, we could have a great time. Imagine a Texas football weekend in SLO!

**Comparison Table Showing Proposed Changes from Prior Approval(s)**

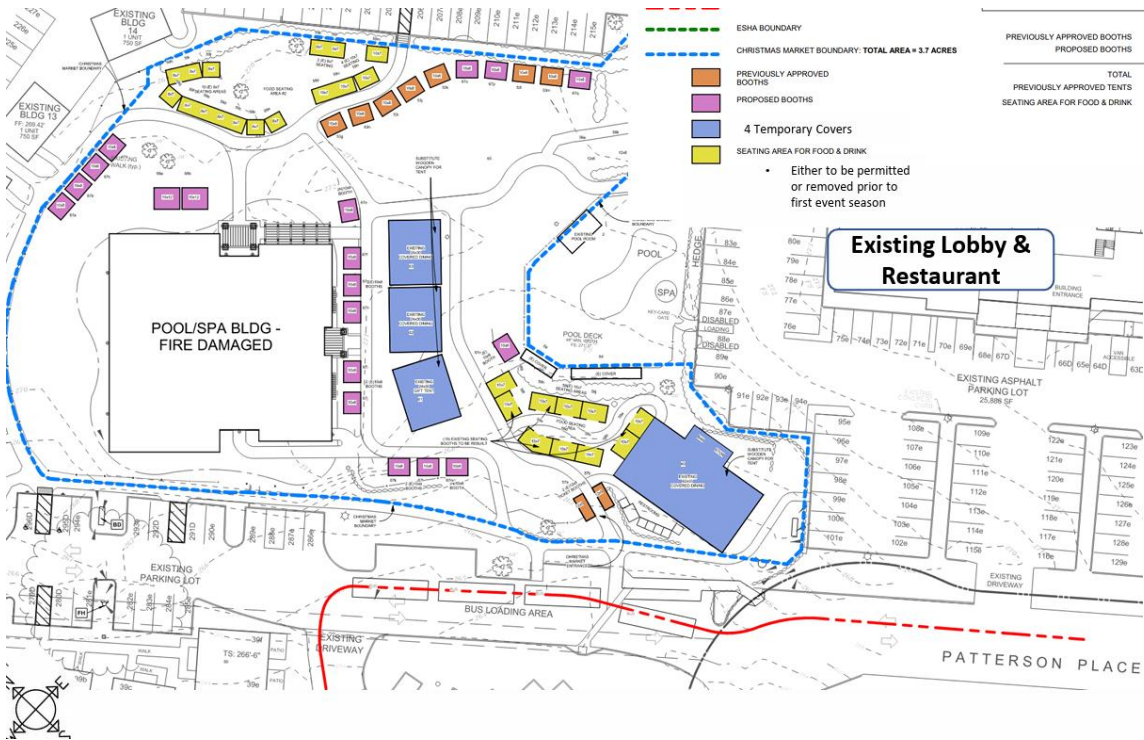
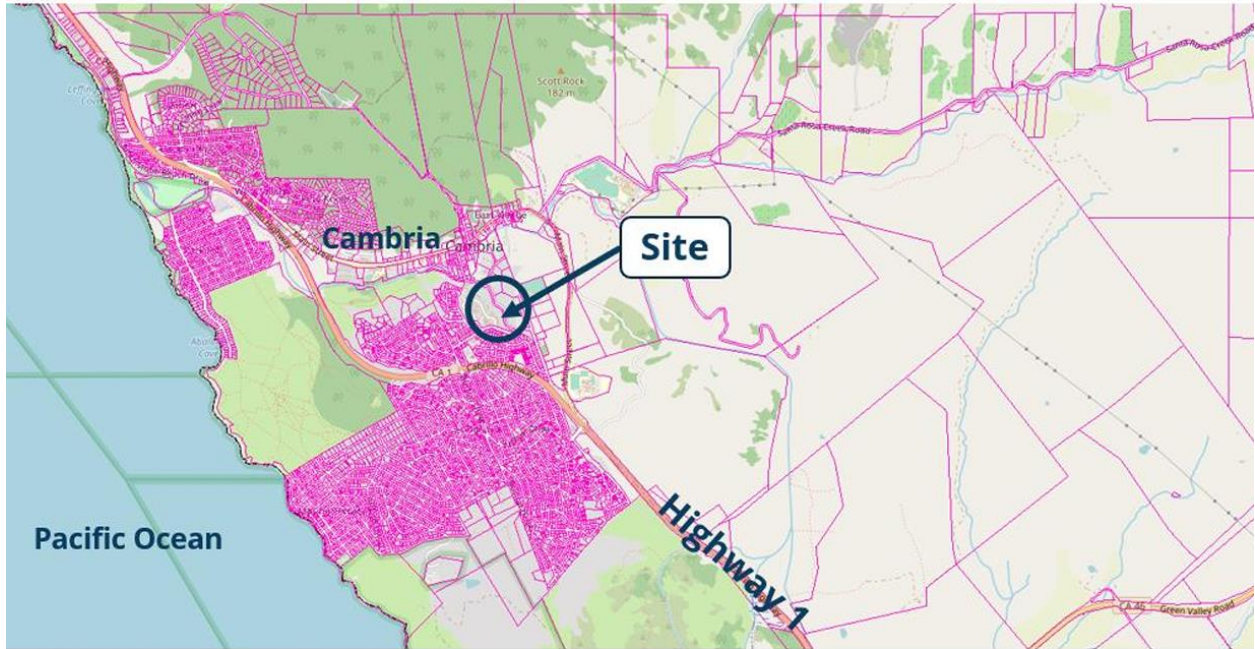
	<b>Prior Approval(s)</b>	<b>Current Proposal</b>
<b>Event Permit Duration</b>	8 years (5 years plus 3-year extension granted)	Applicant requests up to 15 holiday seasons County staff recommends 10 holiday seasons
<b>Event Begin and End Dates</b>	Black Friday through December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Extend the permit from Black Friday through the Last day of the year (New Years Eve)
<b>Number of Temporary Vendor Booths</b>	26	46

\*\*All other event components will remain the same as prior year operations such as, but not limited to: Maximum number of attendees, shuttle routes, lighting plan, traffic and pedestrian management plan, on and off site parking plan, hours of operation, etc.

The Coastal Commission has not yet provided any formal comments but is always a lurking threat. That tiger may doze for years and then turn on you savagely in a Nano second. If approved, the permit is appealable to both the Board of Supervisors and eventually to the Coastal Commission.



The event is hugely popular, and policy officials who would kill it would reap severe public criticism.







**Item 4 - Hearing to consider a request by Abbott | Reed Inc. and the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo (HASLO) for a Conditional Use Permit (N-DRC2023-00001) to construct 313 multi-family residential units on three parcels totaling approximately 10.48 acres (project; Mesa Trails Apartment Community). The project would include the development of 240 market-rate residential units configured in 15 three-story buildings, 73 affordable residential units configured in two three-story buildings, on-site parking areas, a variety of on-site amenities, and landscaping. The project would be located on the west side of Frontage Road south of Hill Street within the community of Nipomo, in the Inland subarea of the South County Planning Area and is partially located within the West Taft Corridor Design Plan Area. This is the largest proposed truly new project in the South County that we have seen in years. The staff recommended approval of the application and the Commission approved it unanimously.**

**Table 2. Summary of Proposed Multi-Family Apartment Buildings**

<b>Building Design</b>	<b>Number of Buildings</b>	<b>Affordability</b>	<b>Individual Building Square Footage (sf)</b>	<b>Number of Units per Building</b>	<b>Energy Connections</b>
A	10	Market-rate	11,422	12	All-electric
B	5	Market-rate	19,665	24	All-electric
C	1	Affordable – lower income	26,247	42	All-electric
D	1	Affordable – lower income	22,557	31	All-electric





# EMERGENT ISSUES

## Item 1 – Insurance Companies would have to report your firearms to the State.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3067, as introduced, Gipson. Residential property insurance: firearms.

Existing law generally regulates residential property insurance, including homeowners' insurance and renters' insurance.

Existing law generally regulates the manufacture, distribution, transportation, and importation of specified firearms. Existing law requires persons who obtain firearms to have familiarity with those firearms, including the safe handling and storage of firearms. Existing law requires a purchaser or receiver of a firearm to hold a valid firearm safety certificate.

This bill would require an insurer, by January 1, 2026, to include questions on an application for homeowners' or renters' insurance seeking specified information regarding the presence and storage of any firearms kept in the household, accessory structures, or vehicles kept on the property subject to any applicable insurance policy. The bill would require an insurer to annually report this information to the Department of Insurance and the Legislature beginning on January 1, 2027, and would prohibit the inclusion of confidential identifying information in the report.

### DIGEST KEY

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

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### BILL TEXT

### THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

#### SECTION 1.

Section 2086 is added to the Insurance Code, to read:

#### **2086.**

(a) In addition to existing regulations, an application for homeowners' or renters' insurance shall include questions regarding all of the following:

- (1) Whether there are firearms kept in the household, including in any accessory structures, and if so, how many.
- (2) Whether the firearm, if any, is stored in a locked container in the home, including any accessory structures, while not in use.
- (3) The number of firearms kept in a vehicle located on the property subject to the applicable insurance policy, and if any, whether they are stored securely in a locked container while not in use.

(b) An insurer shall update the contents of their applications for homeowners' or renters' insurance to include the questions regarding the presence, storage, and number of firearms by January 1, 2026.

(c) An insurer shall annually report the information gathered from the questions regarding the presence, storage, and number of firearms to the Department of Insurance and the Legislature beginning on January 1, 2027. The report shall not contain any identifying information contained in a consumer's application for homeowners' or renters' insurance, including, but not limited to, names, addresses, and telephone numbers, which shall remain confidential.



(d) For the purposes of this section, “locked container” has the same meaning as in Section 16850 of the Penal Code.

## Item 2 - Wall Street Journal calls out Newsom’s cover up.

# California Gets Another Budget Shock

The California Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) on Tuesday increased this year’s projected state budget shortfall to \$73 billion—nearly twice as much as Gov. Gavin Newsom forecasted last month. Ouch. Mr. Newsom has ambitions to reside in Washington, D.C., and based on his deficits it looks like he’d fit right in.

Mr. Newsom projected a \$38 billion budget gap last month—\$20 billion less than the LAO did at the time. He’s counting on a surge in tax revenue from capital gains after the rise in stock prices in recent months.

Tech companies based in California have been among the biggest beneficiaries of the bull market. Artificial intelligence chip maker Nvidia’s stock price has increased by roughly 50% since November. The top 1% of California taxpayers pay about half of the state’s income taxes, and state revenue usually rises and falls with capital gains.

The mystery is why this isn’t happening this year. The LAO notes that tax collections in recent month have deteriorated, rather than improved. “Recent revenue collections data reflect even further weakness relative to [earlier] estimates,” the analyst notes. Corporate tax collections were a third lower in December relative to the year before.

Income tax withholding and estimated

payments from capital gains have also been weak. “As California’s tech companies have grown, equity pay withholding has increased as a share of total income tax receipts,” the LAO notes. Yet despite tech stock gains that should boost the amount of tax being withheld from paychecks, it adds, “recent withholding has been underwhelming.”

Perhaps this is due in part to the underperformance of the overall state economy. California’s unemployment rate rose to 5.1% in December from 4.1% a year earlier, while the number of employed workers declined by 108,200. The U.S. jobless rate is 3.7%, and Florida’s is 3%. Sorry, Gov. Newsom.

The LAO recommends that the Legislature pull back one-time spending that hasn’t been disbursed, such as for wildfire resilience, flood control and an IT overhaul for the unemployment-benefit system from which scammers pilfered tens of billions of dollars during the pandemic. As usual, transfer payments would keep growing while important public works would be shelved.

Mr. Newsom’s budget proposal released last month rejects substantive spending cuts and relies on budget gimmicks. The big spenders in Sacramento, as much as in Washington, need a shot of fiscal Ozempic.

**The state’s budget gnomes now project a \$73 billion deficit.**

## Item 3 - California Budget Deficit Balloons To \$73 Billion According to Legislative Analyst.

‘The state should prepare itself for the LAO estimate more seriously’

By [Evan Symon](#), February 20, 2024

According to a [new updated revenue forecast report](#) released by the Legislative Analyst’s Office on Tuesday, California’s budget deficit for the 2024-2025 year was increased from the previously estimates of [\\$58 billion](#) and [\\$68 billion](#) to \$73 billion.

California’s state budget has fluctuated wildly in the past several years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, California saw the largest surpluses in state history, including an [unprecedented \\$31 billion surplus in 2022-2023](#). However a weakening economy, a massive loss of the state population, businesses moving out of state, delayed tax changes, as well as numerous other factors led to a severe deficit the next year. [An initial deficit of \\$25 billion](#), which was later changed in May to [\\$31.5 billion](#), rocked the state. While the Governor managed to continue on with a [reduced budget](#), experts warned that the situation would likely grow worse with continued tax shortcomings.

In December, the LAO announced that the state would be facing [a \\$58 billion budget deficit for at least the next few years](#). However, with lower than expected tax revenues coming in partially because of taxes delayed by atmospheric river storms from earlier this year, as well as recent losses in the tech sector, the amount was [adjusted to \\$68 billion only a week later](#).



CA Gov. Gavin Newsom presenting 2024-25 budget.

(Photo: gov.ca.gov)

However, when Governor Gavin Newsom announced the initial 2024-2025 budget last month, he said that the [state deficit was only \\$38 billion](#), nearly half of the LAO’s estimate. And, while Newsom did pare down the budget somewhat, he wound up only [cutting \\$8.5 billion from the budget](#), with the rest of the offset coming from other sources such as tapping the state financial reserves and internal borrowing.

Despite this, the LAO remained adamant that Newsom had woefully underestimated what the real deficit figure was tens of billions more than Newsom claimed. This led to Tuesday’s announcement when the [LAO issued a report showing that the estimate deficit went up once again to \\$73 billion](#).

“We have just released a post providing an update on the California budget condition based on recent revenue data,” [the LAO messaged](#) on X on Tuesday. “The state already faces a significant deficit this year—we estimate it totaled \$58 billion under the administration’s revenue forecast at the Governor’s budget. Recent revenue collections data reflect even further weakness relative to those estimates. Our forecast is now about \$24 billion below the Governor’s budget across 2022-23 to 2024-25. All else equal, this means the budget problem would grow by \$15 billion: from \$58 billion to \$73 billion.”

“If the budget problem increases by \$15 billion, the California Legislature will need to find this amount of new budget solutions. We recommend the California Legislature start by pulling back more one-time and temporary spending augmentations. We estimate the state possibly could reduce one-time and temporary augmentations by: \$6.7 billion in 2023-24, \$4.1 billion in 2024-25, and \$5.1 billion in 2025-26. These estimates reflect the best information we have available currently.”

In their report, the LAO pointed out several different factors that led to the budget deficit to be increased yet again, including [Prop. 98](#) spending requirements for schools in the state.

“Specifically, our forecast is about \$24 billion below the Governor’s budget across 2022-23 to 2024-25,” said the LAO in the report. “All else equal, this means the budget problem is likely to



be higher at the time of the May Revision. The actual increase in the state's budget problem will depend on a number of factors, including formula-driven spending changes, most notably Proposition 98 spending requirements for schools and community colleges. (Due to specific circumstances this year, changes in revenues are unlikely to have a significant effect on the state's other major formula-driven spending requirements, specifically related to Proposition 2.) Roughly, a \$24 billion erosion in revenues corresponds to a \$15 billion increase in the budget problem. This would expand the \$58 billion estimated deficit to \$73 billion under our updated revenue forecast."

In response, the California Department of Finance, which answers only to the Governor, said that the LAO is failing to not work in both income and corporate taxes coming in, and defended both Newsom's \$38 billion deficit figure as well as his \$8 billion in proposed cuts to the 2024-2025 budget.

"From now through April, more than \$51 billion in income and corporate tax receipts are forecast to come in," said Department of finance deputy director H.D. Palmer. "No one can say today with certainty how those numbers may change the budget estimate of a \$38 billion shortfall. A responsible step would be for the Legislature to act now on the early action budget measures needed for \$8 billion in solutions to help close this gap."

However, financial experts told the Globe that the Governor's forecast was wildly optimistic, and that the state should prepare itself for the LAO estimate more seriously.

"That \$8 billion or so Newsom cut from the budget should have been the start of cuts, and not the end of them," said Lee Greenman, a California-based accountant who helps city and other regional entities fix budget problems, to the Globe on Tuesday. "When businesses, or even smaller governments, have a deficit that is larger than normal, they calmly explain the reasons, show people what steps they are taking to correct it, offer a forecast, and most importantly, keep a very close eye on spending."

"This LAO report shows the need to act rationally and logically during this time. They took the surpluses for granted and increased spending at a time when everyone was warning them that rainy days were ahead. In the last few years, there have been some efforts. For example, many bills were either not passed or vetoed because of budget reasons, but again, you need to go way beyond that. This is \$73 billion now. In December, we were only at \$58 billion. Reckless spending has been going on like this for too long. The surpluses, which could have been a good point to help level things out, was squandered and now the chickens have come home to roost."

"The Department of Finance's response was very protective of the Governor. And they know what is coming. California had a [major fiscal crisis in the late 2000's that was very hard on many people](#), but the state managed to get by making hard calls. That included big time budget cuts and reducing worker hours and major reductions. This is an election year, and no one wants to be the person in charge who furloughs thousands of state workers or something else drastic. We'll have a better idea financially in the next few months, but this \$73 billion deficit is huge. You can't ignore this."

More on the 2024-2025 state budget proposals are due out soon.

*Evan V. Symon is the Senior Editor for the California Globe. Prior to the Globe, he reported for the Pasadena Independent, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and was head of the Personal Experiences section at Cracked. He can be reached at [evan@californiaglobe.com](mailto:evan@californiaglobe.com).*

#### **Item 4 - Election Year Decisions: California Democrats Backtracking on Income-Based Utility Bills.**

##### ***Stuck-on-Stupid climate change nonsense is escalating cost of utility bills***

By [Katy Grimes](#), February 22, 2024

California is falling apart. We are witnessing the demise of the Golden State in every patently absurd bill introduced in the Legislature, every new regulation imposed, every tax increase, every constitutional right eroded – and every climate change policy inflicted, despite having no impact on temperatures or climate.

Confirmation of this demise is the state’s income-based utility pricing – the more you make, the more they take, regardless of your actual electricity usage. But worse than income-based utility rates is how the deck is already stacked: California Democrats are taking hydroelectric dams offline and have passed bills forcing the state to convert to an all-electricity grid.

In 2022, the California Legislature passed [AB 205](#), which required the CPUC to move the state to an income-based system of paying utility bills, set by their income. This is supposed to cover the costs of building and maintaining electrical infrastructure, and to account for the energy they actually use.

Last month the Globe reported, “Ten Senators led by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) released a letter calling on the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to reject a utility-backed proposal that would raise energy bills for millions of Californians by \$360-824 per year.”

You read that right.

“The proposed fixed charge is 4-6x higher than similar charges in other states, and removes the incentive for customers to reduce their bill by conserving energy. To date, the CPUC has not held public hearings on this proposal.”

These Senators voted for the tiered utility rate increases, and are now shocked by the results. Democrats always overreach, despite warnings, and are then forced to undo the messes, while never admitting their epic failures.

The Globe reported on a [2021 report from the University of California at Berkeley](#) recommending that the state link California’s highest-in-the-nation electricity bills to customer incomes – ie. your ability to pay.

The Legislature and Governor [approved this income-based electric rate scheme](#) through [AB 205](#), which was signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in June 2022 claiming it was needed because the wild swings in utility prices that California experiences.

Here are the party-line votes on AB 205:

Bill Votes	
<b>Date</b>	06/29/22
<b>Result</b>	(PASS)
<b>Location</b>	Assembly Floor
<b>Ayes Count</b>	64
<b>Noes Count</b>	13
<b>NVR Count</b>	3
<b>Motion</b>	AB 205 BUDGET Concurrence in Senate Amendments By TING
<b>Ayes</b>	Aguilar-Curry, Alvarez, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Mia Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Cooley, Cooper, Daly, Flora, Mike Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Gray, Grayson, Haney, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Lee, Levine, Low, Maienschein, Mayes, McCarty, McKinnor, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Stone, Ting, Villapudua, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, Wilson, Wood, Rendon
<b>Noes</b>	Bigelow, Megan Dahle, Davies, Fong, Kiley, Lackey, Mathis, Nguyen, Seyarto, Smith, Valladares, Voepel, Waldron
<b>NVR</b>	Chen, Choi, Cunningham

Assembly votes on AB 205.

Bill Votes	
<b>Date</b>	06/29/22
<b>Result</b>	(PASS)
<b>Location</b>	Senate Floor
<b>Ayes Count</b>	27
<b>Noes Count</b>	8
<b>NVR Count</b>	5
<b>Motion</b>	Assembly 3rd Reading AB205 BUDGET (Ting) By Skinner
<b>Ayes</b>	Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Becker, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Hertzberg, Hueso, Hurtado, Kamlager, Leyva, McGuire, Min, Newman, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Stern, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener
<b>Noes</b>	Bates, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Melendez, Nielsen, Ochoa Bogh, Wilk
<b>NVR</b>	Borgeas, Glazer, Gonzalez, Laird, Limón

Senate votes on AB 205.

How did this happen?

Authors [Severin Borenstein](#) (an “economist”), Meredith Fowlie, and Jim Sallee of the UC Berkeley and the Energy Institute at Haas admitted that California’s electricity rates are so high, lower-income households pay a larger share of their income on electricity.

Taking more from the wealthy, from job creators, and those already paying the most taxes in the state is never the “equitable” answer, but it is the one the left always defaults to.

So, rather than using all available energy sources to create energy abundance and lower energy costs for everyone, the Berkeley report proposed “cutting back on the volumetric per-kilowatt-hour charges on customers’ bills and recovering the missing money through constructs tied to customers’ income.”

This is life in California under one-party rule, and why so many residents and businesses are leaving the state.

Democrats imposed a socialistic utility rate structure on California residents. And now residents are screaming about utility bills doubling and tripling.

California has the highest electricity rates in the country. Nearly every Democrat in the California Legislature voted for this.

Now Democrats are forced to undo this mess.

It is an election year. So naturally, a bipartisan effort to backtrack on the income-based utility rates is underway. It is necessary, and the residents are nearly at a breaking point. But remember who voted for this disaster, even after being warned what would happen.

California's politicians and unelected agency leaders are limiting energy sources rather than using an all-of-the-above approach to energy production in California: Oil, gas, coal, nuclear, hydroelectric, solar, and wind.

If all we are allowed to use is renewable energy for electricity production – a deliberate energy shortage – higher bill, statewide shortages and rolling blackouts inevitably become the new California normal. Democrat's solution is no solution – opening up all energy sources is the only solution.

*Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of [California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?](#)*

#### **Item 5 - Watchdog sues California county for refusing to disclose foreign nationals registered to vote.**



1,106

[JOHN BINDER](#)

FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP via Getty Images

The Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) is suing election officials in Alameda County, California, which includes Oakland and Berkeley, for refusing to disclose those foreign nationals who are on the voter rolls and have voted in past elections.

This month, PILF filed a lawsuit against Alameda County Registrar of Voters Timothy Dupuis, accusing him of violating the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) when he failed to turn over all records related to foreign nationals voting in the area.

“For more than four months, we have been trying to obtain records about foreign nationals getting on the voter roll,” PILF President J. Christian Adams [said](#): **Alameda County’s lack of transparency is concerning as we enter a presidential election year.** The public has a right to inspect election records, including these important records that reveal mistakes and errors by election officials. [Emphasis added]

In September of last year, PILF asked Alameda County election officials for all records showing the number of foreign nationals who have had their voter registrations canceled, as well as records for each foreign national who voted before having their registration canceled.

The following month, PILF notified Dupuis that his office violated the NVRA, which requires counties and states to hand over records on voter rolls and voting history. Dupuis’ office suggested they would make such records available to PILF, if the office had them, by mid-January 2024.

Lawyers with PILF, though, said they have yet to hear back from Alameda County.

Foreign nationals being registered to vote is not uncommon, [records](#) show. For example, nearly 200 foreign nationals have been purged from Pima County, Arizona, voter rolls since 2021 — 65 percent of whom landed on the voter rolls thanks to a third-party registration drive.

Similarly, more than 220 foreign nationals have had their voter registrations canceled in Maricopa County, Arizona, since at least 2015. One foreign national had been on the county’s voter rolls for nearly 30 years.

The case is *Public Interest Legal Foundation v. Dupuis*, No. [3:24-cv-00679-LB](#) in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

*John Binder is a reporter for Breitbart News. Email him at [jbinder@breitbart.com](mailto:jbinder@breitbart.com). Follow him on Twitter [here](#). Breitbart News February 20, 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**

**THE OIL INDUSTRY IS A KEY PIECE OF OUR**  
**MODERN WORLD. WHY ARE POLITICIANS**  
**ATTACKING IT?**  
**BY JEFF HEWITT**





At the start of the twentieth century horse drawn carriages were still the dominant form of transportation for humanity. Over a few years livery stables were replaced by gasoline stations and with Henry Ford's assembly lines even the hard-working blue-collar family could afford an automobile.

By 1915, there were 2 million autos sold in the United States. Five years later there were 8 million registered cars. Over the last 50 years, new car sales in the U.S. have averaged 15 million per year. All this increase in mobility needed the life blood or fuel to bring it to life. Petroleum had been extracted through wells since 1859 in Pennsylvania. Millions of new customers that needed gasoline stimulated a "black gold" rush throughout the country.

The combination of seemingly unlimited fuel and a middle class that built increasingly faster and more luxurious "chariots" for the common man enabled a level of prosperity and freedom of movement unparalleled in history. This partnership provided jobs for millions of Americans in the form of engineers, welders, electricians, assembly line workers, mechanics, salesmen, parts sales, truck drivers and many more.

In 2017, a study commissioned by the Western States Petroleum Association showed that nearly 366,000 jobs in California relied on the industry. That's 1.6% of the total workforce. These workers and their families have been treated by a state government and many of the elected officials as if they were complicit in destroying our planet at the very least. This mistreatment has filtered down to local governments as well, banning everything from new wells to a moratorium on new service stations. Let's look at life as it was in 1900 and compare it to today and see what progress might never have happened without these hard working and courageous individuals from wildcat drillers to midnight service station clerks in dangerous neighborhoods.

At the start of the 20th century, the average income for a family in the U.S. was \$3000 in today's dollars. There was no plumbing, no phone and no car. Average life span was 47 years. Today average family income is over \$76,000 and nearly every home has indoor plumbing, several phones and more than one car. Average life span is 77 years. None of this increase in prosperity and quality of life had much of a chance without the fuel to carry us into the future.

Yet if you ask a recent graduate from a public school to name anything good about fossil fuels, they have a hard time thinking of any redeeming qualities in history or now.

In August of 2022, the California Air Resources Board, or CARB, issued a directive stating that all new autos sold in the state by 2035 must have zero tailpipe emissions. Why would anyone build a new service station if your product was contraband in 12 years? We already have twice as many cars per station as other states.

Last September, the attorney general, Rob Bonta sued the five oil companies along with the American Petroleum Institute for knowingly promoting, marketing and selling products that have been destroying the environment and climate for over 50 years. I suggest everyone read the content of the lawsuit as it paints the executives and all their agents (366,000 employees) as no better than fentanyl dealers wreaking havoc on young lives.

### **California should welcome licensed workers, not make them deal with unnecessary hurdles.**

Recently, the legislature passed, and the governor signed a bill that creates a commission to set profits of these same companies to what it thinks is a fair return while taking any “excess” from their obscene markup and returning it to the public. The governor is blaming California’s relative high gas prices on corporate greed instead of smothering taxes, fees and regulation.

The state has made it more than obvious that they want fossil fuels out and it can’t be soon enough. However, be careful what you wish for. If all five companies decided to take their products elsewhere and left the state in a short period of time, a true catastrophe would ensue. It wouldn’t take PhDs at elite universities to see the quick disintegration of our society and standard of living in weeks, not years. These companies have more leverage than they know and it’s time to quit enabling the state to abuse them this way.

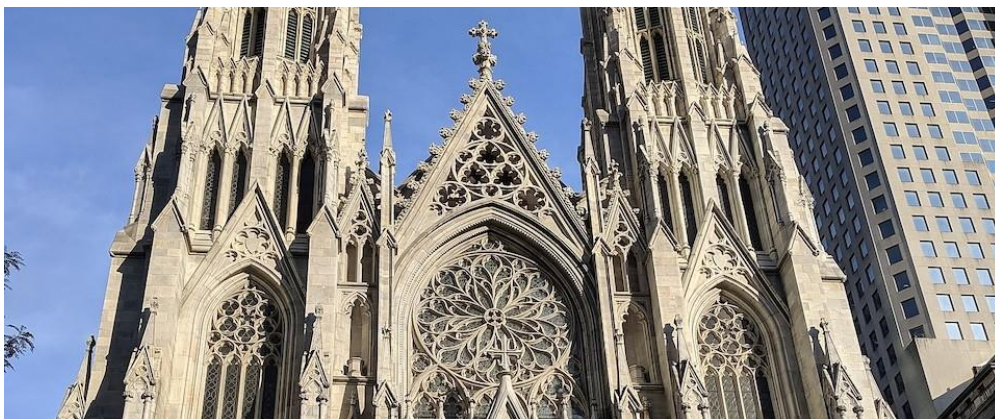
*Jeff Hewitt previously served as a Riverside County supervisor. This article first appeared in the February 12, 2024 Orange County Register.*

## **RE-PAGANIZATION OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION**

*Our age is not marked so much by disenchantment as by desecration*

**BY CARL R. TRUEMA**

**(DESECRATION AT ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL)**



The controversy surrounding the recent funeral for Cecilia Gentili at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has been well-documented in the press. Gentili was a transgender prostitute, an atheist, and a misogynist who denied that women's bodies were of any real relevance. The service has been decried by Catholic conservatives as blasphemous—among other things, it featured prayers for transgender rights and a eulogy that praised Gentili as “Saint Cecilia, the mother of all whores”—and celebrated by Catholic progressives. The priest in charge of the cathedral has issued an apology, claiming that when he agreed to host the service he had no idea of what was to transpire. A mass has even been offered by way of atonement.

The incident is eloquent testimony to the nature of this moment in American, even Western, culture. That actor Billy Porter played a lead role at the funeral is unsurprising: If anyone could be said to represent the real presence of the absolute absence of intellectual or cultural substance, it is he. Only a cultural vacuum could be filled by such a caricature, and his comment on the funeral bears testimony to this: “There's no right or wrong way to grieve. But just make sure that you do, you allow yourself to do that, so that we can get to the other side of something that feels a little bit like grace.” What exactly that means is anybody's guess.

One obvious question is why an atheist man convinced that he is a woman and committed to a life of prostitution would wish to have a funeral in a church. One answer is that the struggle for the heart of a culture always takes place in two areas: time and space. As the Christian transformation of the Roman Empire was marked by the emergence of the liturgical calendar and the turning of pagan temples into churches, so we can expect the reverse to take place when a culture paganizes. The pagans will respond in kind. And so we have a month dedicated to Pride and church buildings used for the mockery of Christianity. Time and space are reimaged in ways that directly confront and annihilate that once deemed sacred. A funeral in a Catholic cathedral for an atheist culture warrior is a first-class way of doing this.

This goes to a point I have made before: Our age is not marked so much by disenchantment as by desecration. The culture's officer class is committed not merely to marginalizing that which previous generations considered sacred. It is committed to its destruction. Disenchantment has passive connotations, a dull, impersonal, somewhat tedious but inevitable process. But desecration speaks to the exultation that active destruction of the holy involves. When Gentili is celebrated as a “great whore” in Spanish by trans rights advocate Liaam Winslet in a eulogy greeted with wild applause, then “desecration” seems the only word that captures both the blasphemy and the exhilaration of the moment.

To quote another person present, artist Rio Sofia, “It's Cecilia day. She's an immigrant, so it's international. It's a day to celebrate the fact that we flooded Saint Patrick's Cathedral with trans people. That was nothing less than historic.” Notice the language of celebration. The same note was struck by one Oscar Diaz: “To have St. Patrick's Cathedral full of trans and queer folks, sex workers, immigrants, Black and

brown folks, folks in solidarity with Palestinians—a crowd roaring her name—cements the sainthood of the legacy she left behind.”

The question of whether the typical Palestinian would find much solidarity with “queer folks” and trans activists is a matter for another day. What is clear is that none of these individuals speaks the language of mourning or loss. These are not words of disenchantment. They are the exultant words of desecration. To quote the commentary at [CNN](#), “Gentili may not have been a believer, but she likely would have delighted in the spectacle at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.”

Yet there is an irony here. Gentili is dead. There are limits to human self-creation. You can pretend your body has no authority. You can kid yourself and other people that you are a woman when you are a man. But you cannot defy your bodily limits indefinitely. Sooner or later, your body has the last word and you will, to use the American idiom, sleep the big sleep.

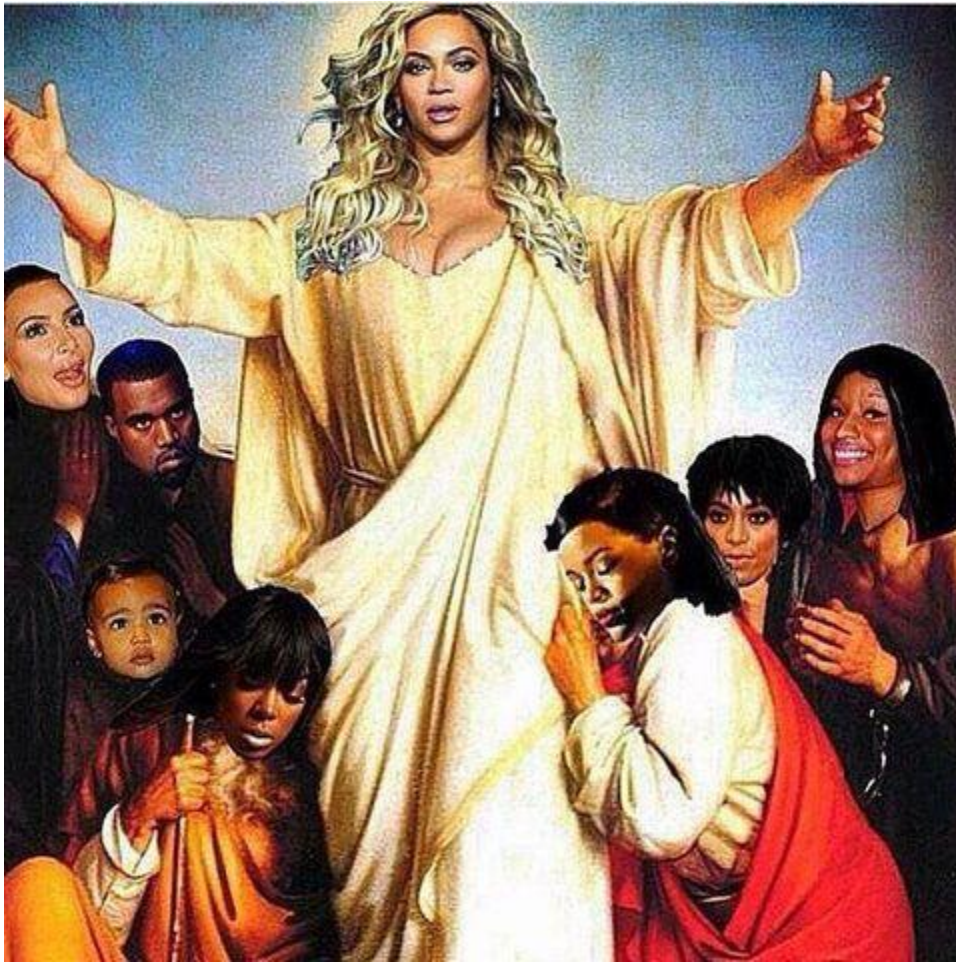
And that is where the irony becomes tragedy. As a number of individuals associated with the funeral commented to the press, Jesus did not turn people away and even welcomed prostitutes. That is true. But the key thing to remember is that he did not offer them affirmation. He offered them the possibility of forgiveness and grace and liberation from the self-destruction to which they were in bondage. Affirmation of such self-destruction and of rebellion against God is neither loving nor kind. And it too is a form of desecration—the desecration of man, man denied the opportunity to live freely as God intended. Billy Porter might use the word “grace,” but upon his lips it is an empty cypher that connotes nothing but feckless sentimentalism and impotence in the face of an overwhelming reality—death—to which he has no response. And, most tragically of all, he and his friends seem to think that is something to celebrate.

Desecrating the cathedral is not the only thing they should be ashamed of.

*Carl Trueman is a professor of biblical and religious studies at Grove City College and a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. First things February. 22, 2024*

**In another example:** Beyonce starts her own church called “The Church of Bey” See Below:





Beyonce conducts mass at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.





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