



**WEEKLY UPDATE
JULY 14 - 20, 2024**

**THIS WEEK
SEE PAGE 3**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GRAND JURY REPORTS

**FAILURE OF CANABIS LEGALIZATION AND IMPENDING
FAILURE OF HOMELESS PROGRAM**

BOB JONES TRAIL COULD SURVIVE

**PASO BASIN WATER RECHARGE BACK AGAIN
STILL NO ONE WILL TALK ABOUT THE MORATORIUM**

BOARD REQUESTS AND NEW ASSIGNMENTS

LAFCO CANCELED

**LAST WEEK
SEE PAGE 9**

BOS MEETING

DISTRIBUTIONS TO NONPROFIT AGENCIES APPROVED

FIVE YEAR DOMINION VOTING CONTRACT APPROVED

**PASO GROUNDWATER BASIN PATRONAGE STALLED
WILL BE BACK NEXT WEEK**

REVIVING WILTING CANABIS INDUSTRY

**CAMBRIA CHRISTMAS MARKET 15 YEAR PERMIT
APPROVED**

**BOARD CONFRONTS FRONTAL NUDITY
AS ANTI LBGTQ+ SPEAKERS RUN VIDEOS OF LEWD ACTS IN PROTEST
AGAINST BOS ADOPTION OF GAY PRIDE MONTH RESOLUTION**



**GIBSON CASTIGATES DEBBIE ARNOLD
BUT ADMITS THAT MUCH OF THE ADVOCACY IS PERVERSION
HE THEN BLAMES THOSE WHO EXPOSE IT IN A DISPICABLE RANT**

**EMERGENT ISSUES
SEE PAGE 19**

**CALIFORNIA'S REGULATORY EMPIRE IS UNSCATHED
BY THE COURT'S CHEVRON REVERSAL
BY WILL SWAIM**

**BUSINESS UNFRIENDLY: THE REGULATORY
BURDEN CRUSHING CALIFORNIA
BY TIMOTHY BELEV AND SHERIDAN SWANSON**

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 25**

**CALIFORNIA GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM CRUSHED
A BALLOT INITIATIVE THAT COULD HAVE
LIMITED TAX INCREASES**

WHAT HAPPENED TO CARING ABOUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE?

BY STEVEN GREENHUT

**CALIFORNIA HAS JUST APPROVED A NEW
BLUEPRINT FOR OFFSHORE WIND. THE
MASSIVE PROJECTS WILL COST BILLIONS**

BY JULIE CART

SPONSORS



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, July16, 2024 (Scheduled)

Item 6 - Request to 1) approve responses to the FY 2023-24 Grand Jury report titled "Growing Pains: The Cannabis Industry in San Luis Obispo County"; and 2) forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by August 17, 2024. The report describes the history of the legalization of cannabis in SLO County. It also points out that the permit fees and taxes are higher than neighboring counties and yet do not cover the cost of

regulating the industry. Few grows have been established due to the costs and time required for permitting. The Grand Jury report does not assess the overall impact of legalization on the people of the County in terms of health, mental acuity, or motivation.

F1. The current fee revenue from the Cannabis Program in San Luis Obispo County is insufficient to support the SOCCU at its current level, preventing the program from being cost neutral as required by Board of Supervisors' policy.

F2. The fees necessary to obtain a cannabis license in the County are significantly higher than surrounding jurisdictions, contributing to fewer than anticipated new license applications.

F3. The Board of Supervisors has not conducted a review of staffing levels needed for the Cannabis Compliance Program to determine if the SOCCU is overstaffed relative to the number of active cannabis cultivators and applications for licenses.

F4. The limited number of new applications in this fiscal year will not generate sufficient revenue to offset the cost of the SOCCU in the County budget, resulting in the program continuing to operate at a deficit.

There is really nothing new here that was not previously known. The larger societal and political issues involving the local, state, and national legalization efforts are not acknowledged. That is, the legalization of cannabis, soon psychedelics, and ultimately heroin and others is a tactic of the ← political left to weaken the society and implement a socialist takeover. The Grand Jury, most elected officials, and opinion leaders (news media, entertainment, educators, and religious groups) are either oblivious or part of the program.

Item 7 - Request to 1) approve responses to the FY 2023-24 Grand Jury report titled “Moving San Luis Obispo County from Homelessness to Hopefulness”; and 2) forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by August 17, 2024. The report summarizes the overall situation (number of homeless people, services provided by government and not-for-profits, and barriers to providing housing, such as lack of sufficient sites, neighborhood opposition, and the slow costly permitting process.

Significantly, the Jury found that that the Five Year Plan to Address Homelessness is lagging. The Jury believes that the County must undertake an in-depth education program to convince the public to stop opposing homeless housing projects with their neighborhoods.

Can you imagine the uproar that would take place if such a matter were placed on the Board agenda with a recommendation to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on such and effort?

F1. There is an absence of predictable year-over-year funding for homeless programs. The “San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness 2022-2027” relies heavily on partner agencies without providing adequate ongoing funding to those agencies.

F2. The County’s staffing turnover and reorganization of its homeless services has caused the overall progress of the implementation of the “San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness 2022-2027” to be slower than projected and is at risk of not meeting County goals.

F3. The County's selection and vetting process for homeless services site selection has not always been successful due to zoning, ordinances, and public perception of the homeless.

F4. The County has failed to implement a cohesive public awareness plan on homeless issues resulting in insufficient public engagement.

F5. The "San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness 2022-2027" lacks quantifiable details and specificity to track progress toward meeting their stated goals.

The Jury never report never really faces the 2 key issues:

1. San Luis Obispo County contains 3,304 sq. miles of land area, or 2,114,560 acres. Less than 4% of this is zoned for urban uses when all 7 cities and the unincorporated County are included. This means that there is not enough land zoned for homes of all types. Lack of water and traffic congestion are cited as the reasons not to zone more land. Efforts to develop more water (desalination and capturing more runoff) are sporadic and lost in the bureaucratic malaise.

Traffic congestion principally occurs on the Route 101 and some arterials during rush hours. The education industry and governments are the largest contributors, as they all start their workdays at 8: 00 AM and end at 5:00 PM. A phased approach to spreading this out could help the situation immensely without the expenditure of billions of new tax dollars sought by SLOCOG and the State. High school seniors who are going into the service next year will be getting up at 5:30 AM and enjoy a duty day which may end at 4:00 PM sometimes. Those who are going to a competitive university will need to adapt to a relentless 4 years of long days and nights of study, including the proverbial "all-nighters." Why is 8:00 AM a sacred cow for the faculty and administrators involved?

2. Homelessness is largely experienced by individuals suffering from mental illness, alcoholism, drug addiction, or some combination thereof. In this regard the government service providers and their contractors need to weed out the "worried well" and concentrate on the truly afflicted patients. Then the governments must have the spine to enforce the concept that if you are too sick or too addicted to take care of yourself properly, you can't sleep out and continue your self-destructive behavior.

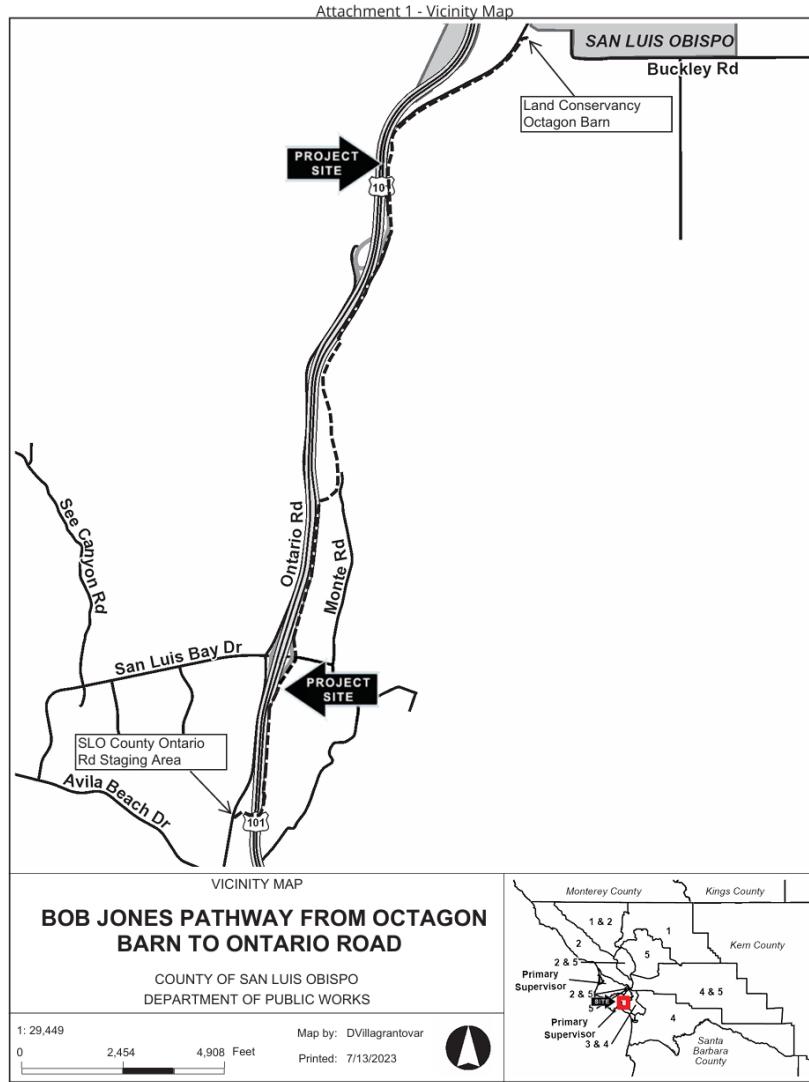
The general public sees no political courage from their elective officials in this regard. Instead they see self-serving accommodation. Why would they tolerate a new apartment house for the habitually intoxicated in their neighborhood?

Item 16 - Request to approve, for necessary right of way and easement access for the Bob Jones Pathway "Gap Closure" Project in San Luis Obispo the following: 1) perpetual and 3-year temporary construction easement agreements with: the City of San Luis Obispo in the amount of \$67,700; Ronald Rinell in the amount of \$500; Sarjit S. Malli and Rupinder K. Malli, Trustees of the Malli Family Trust of June 7, 1994 in the amount of \$29,000; Hobson Ranch, Inc., a Colorado Corporation in the amount of \$17,100; Christopher W. Goodman and Kathryn E. Russum, Trustees of the Goodman Family Trust dated May 14, 2014 in the amount of \$9,400; The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, a

California non-profit corporation, in the amount of \$264,000; and The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, a California non-profit corporation, in the amount of \$41,100; 2) right of way conveyance agreement in perpetuity with Robert L. Kruse, Trustee of the Robert L. Kruse Trust dated December 16, 1999 in the amount of \$25,000; 3) cattle trail access rights modification agreements in perpetuity with: Hobson Ranch, Inc., a Colorado Corporation in the amount of \$1,500; Christopher W. Goodman and Kathryn E. Russum, Trustees of the Goodman Family Trust dated May 14, 2014 in the amount of \$1,500; and Steven Brett Whitaker, Trustee of The Whitaker Family Trust dated November 26, 1997 in the amount of \$1,500; and 4) authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee, to execute any remaining escrow and payment related documents or instructions necessary to close the transactions associated with the acquisition of these real property interests. It appears that staff has found a solution to working around the problem of one of the property owners along the route refusing to sell. Board members Arnold and Peschong are loath to use property condemnation for a recreational project such as a bike trail. The State grant for the project is time deadlined, and the County could lose \$18 million for the project if work is not started timely.

The Bob Jones Pathway Gap Closure Project (Project) is a multi-year project that is a County goal widely supported by the community. The proposed 4.5-mile extension of the Bob Jones Pathway will connect the Land Conservancy Octagon Barn to the County's Ontario Road staging area. The County has previously completed the construction of a public parking lot and staging area at the Octagon Barn site located on South Higuera Street to serve the pathway. This pathway fills an essential link in the County's bicycle transportation network, providing people of all abilities a transportation choice for bicycling and walking to work/school/community destinations. It also offers access through natural and agricultural areas for recreation and exercise.

There is strong support from the County's large (800 member) bicycle coalition and perhaps others who ride casually. The whole bike thing is yet another fetish of the left, designed to work along with other regulatory intrusions in an effort to divorce society from reliance on private automobiles. Tens of millions of Americans riding around in their own gas powered vehicles while armed with semi-automatic rifles are less vulnerable than bike guys in shiny purple suits living in stack-and-pack ghettos.



Consent Agenda Addition Item 29 - Request to 1) approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a professional consultant services contract with Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group through February 28, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$297,990, to perform a Paso Robles Groundwater Basin State Water Project Supplemental Water Supply Project Feasibility & Engineering Study; and 2) delegate authority to the Groundwater Sustainability Director to authorize time extensions and remove scope, in addition to other administratively efficient contract management actions as long as such actions do not increase the level of General Fund support required by the department. The item was stalled last week when Arnold and Peschong voted no. It required a 4/5th vote, as the funding (a state grant) had not been included in the adopted Budget. Supervisor Gibson requested last week that it be brought back for further consideration this week. The item is part of a broader cafeteria of state grants obtained by the county to work on the Paso Basin State Groundwater Management Plan.

The write-up states in part:

The subject of today's action relates to a portion of Component 6, namely an engineering study (Study) to assess the feasibility of using State Water Project water supplies, when available, for recharge to the Paso Robles groundwater basin (Basin) and / or for agricultural use as an in-lieu water supply to allow for reduced groundwater pumping in the Basin. Other portions of Component 6 include an engineering study of the feasibility of using available supplemental water supply from the Nacimiento Water Supply Project blended with City of Paso Robles recycled wastewater supplies to stabilize groundwater levels and address surface water depletion utilizing excess water supplies. In addition, funding for Component 6 included the completion of a rate study to identify and evaluate options for assessing groundwater usage fees to commercial agricultural irrigators.

Is this a deception? Recharge generally refers to water that originates in the basin and is injected, spread, naturally percolated, or otherwise used to fill a basin. Water banking generally refers to water that is imported from outside the basin. Some questions:

1. Does the use of State water pumped into the basin change the legal status of the water in the basin?
2. How do these provisions affect the rights of the Class I overlies?
3. Does the water that is imported to the basin become public domain water of the State of California?
4. If it becomes public domain water, what happens to the existing water rights?
5. How can the imported State water be differentiated from the other basin water?
6. Can the recharged State water be exported from the basin later on, notwithstanding the County's "no export" ordinance?
7. If the Cooperative Committee members acquire State water for recharge and it is stored in the San Luis Reservoir, can it be sold to other system members?
8. Are there any other legal problems for the thousands of small overlies in the Basin who now have only 32% theoretical representation on the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee? Do Bruce Gibson and Matt Turentine actually represent them?

Task (Scope of Work)	Cost
Information Gathering and Analysis	\$80,593
Alternatives Development	\$91,836
Prepare Preliminary Engineering Report	\$56,618
Project Management and Meetings	\$68,943
Total Contract Amount	\$297,990
Total Cost	\$297,990

COLAB has repeatedly objected to these items on various grounds, including the fact that none specifically deal with the smaller water users who are still suffering under the 2013 water moratorium. The old Board majority of Arnold, Peschong, and Compton adopted a plan to give them some relief, which had been named the Planting ordinance. However, the new Board majority rescinded that plan as soon as they were in office.

Interestingly, at last week’s meeting, Paso Wine Country Alliance Government Affairs Director Patricia Wilmore, in response to COLAB comments, asserted that various sub-committees of groups in the basin are working on a plan to bring relief to the smaller users locked in the moratorium. The Board should ask where this is in the process, how will it work, and most importantly, when will it be brought to the Board for implementation.

Until then nothing should move.

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 27 - Board of Supervisor comments, activity reports, and requests for future agenda.

LAST WEEKS HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, July 9, 2024 (Completed)

Item 1 - Request to 1) approve allocations from FC 106 – Contributions to Other Agencies for Community Based Organizations Grant and Preventative Health Grant (CBO-PHG) in the total amount of \$1,263,704; and 2) delegate authority to the County Administrative Officer and/or designee to execute the grant agreements. The Board approved scores of small grants to not-for-profit health and social services agencies. The grants are competitive, based on a County developed point process. Although small, they are important sources of local matching share for the not-for-profit agencies, as they compete for other government and private foundation funding. Click on the link below to see the types of grants, agencies, and amounts.

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/163010>

Item 2 - Request to 1) approve allocations from FC 106 – Contributions to Other Agencies for Other Agency Requests Grant in the total amount of \$124,687; and 2) delegate authority to the County Administrative Officer and/or designee to execute the grant agreements. This item was an addition to **Item 1** above, which was added by the Board during the Budget adoption process.

The program has its origins in the Federal War on Poverty grants of the 1960's and 70's. When the Federal grants dried up in the 1980's, many local jurisdictions determined to continue the program at a smaller local level using their own local funds.

Item 14 - Request to 1) approve a 5-year sole source contract with Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., including five additional automatic one-year renewals, not to exceed a total of \$848,610 for the first 5 years, and a total of \$704,287 for years six through 10, inclusive, for acquisition of voting equipment, warranties, and perpetual software licenses; 2) authorize the Clerk-Recorder to sign the contract and related documents that do not increase the level of General Fund support; 3) authorize a budget adjustment to increase the appropriation in Fund Center (FC) 110 Clerk-Recorder in the amount of \$287,876 for FY 2023-24 using unanticipated revenues, by 4/5 Vote; 4) declare specified voting machines as surplus property; and 5) update the department's fixed asset list. Ultimately, the contract was approved on a 4/1 vote with Supervisor Arnold dissenting. There was considerable public comment with a large group in opposition and a smaller group, including the League of Women Voters, in support.

Background: This item was carried over from the June 18, 2024 meeting. Supervisor Paulding was out sick and thus the Board majority did not have sufficient votes to jam it through without discussion. The way it is framed here requires a 4/5 vote, which could result in deferral. The issues surrounding the voting and tabulation process are real. Many voters would like to return to real voting, as opposed to all mail ballots, which are subject to chain of custody issues and ballot harvesting techniques. The item should therefore be scheduled as a regular business item, and not slid through on consent. The item, if approved, will continue the contract with Dominion Voting systems for 5 years.

In 2018, the County entered into a contract with Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. (Dominion) to replace its existing voting system. This contract provided the County with hardware, software, and professional services necessary to conduct secure and efficient elections. As the County continues to evolve in its election processes, there is a need to upgrade and maintain systems to ensure the timely and accurate counting of ballots.

What are the exact shortcomings of the current version?

Dominion will continue to perform implementation, training, and election support services associated with the hardware and software listed in the cost proposal included in Exhibit B of Attachment 1. This includes adding one HiPro scanner and six new MBPs to the existing voting system. Additionally, Dominion will prepare and pick up 33 MBP kits and three G2140 scanners for return since they no longer will be of use and will be replaced with the HiPro and six new

MBPs. (These items were originally acquired for administration of elections during the COVID pandemic.)

The larger questions:

Is voting by mail safe in the first place?

How can the system be audited by citizen representatives? Could the Board hire an independent consultant to do this during the counting?

You can't mail in your jury service, you can't mail in your military service, and you can't mail in your diving test. Why not show up and proudly vote?

You have to have an ID to drive, fly, buy prescriptions, go to the football game, stay in a hotel, rent a car, cash a check, and just about everything else. You would think that this very important and fundamental civic act would enjoy a little vetting. The leftists support absentee voting with no ID because it is easier to manipulate. Moreover, being able to lounge around home instead of dressing and showing up appeals to the left's tens of millions of slacker supporters.

Item 15 - Request to 1) approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a professional consultant services contract with Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group through February 28, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$297,990, to perform a Paso Robles Groundwater Basin State Water Project Supplemental Water Supply Project Feasibility & Engineering Study; and 2) delegate authority to the Groundwater Sustainability Director to authorize time extensions and remove scope, in addition to other administratively efficient contract management actions as long as such actions do not increase the level of General Fund support required by the department. The write-up states in part:

The subject of today's action relates to a portion of Component 6, namely an engineering study (Study) to assess the feasibility of using State Water Project water supplies, when available, for recharge to the Paso Robles groundwater basin (Basin) and / or for agricultural use as an in-lieu water supply to allow for reduced groundwater pumping in the Basin. Other portions of Component 6 include an engineering study of the feasibility of using available supplemental water supply from the Nacimiento Water Supply Project blended with City of Paso Robles recycled wastewater supplies to stabilize groundwater levels and address surface water depletion utilizing excess water supplies. In addition, funding for Component 6 included the completion of a rate study to identify and evaluate options for assessing groundwater usage fees to commercial agricultural irrigators.

Is this a deception? Recharge generally refers to water that originates in the basin and is injected, spread, naturally percolated, or otherwise used to fill a basin. Water banking generally refers to water that is imported from outside the basin. Some questions:

1. Does the use of State water pumped into the basin change the legal status of the water in the basin?

2. How do these provisions affect the rights of the Class I overlies?
3. Does the water that is imported to the basin become public domain water of the State of California?
4. If it becomes public domain water, what happens to the existing water rights?
5. How can the imported State water be differentiated from the other basin water?
6. Can the recharged State water be exported from the basin later on, notwithstanding the County's "no export" ordinance?
7. If the Cooperative Committee members acquire State water for recharge and it is stored in the San Luis Reservoir, can it be sold to other system members?
8. Are there any other legal problems for the thousands of small overlies in the Basin who now have only 32% theoretical representation on the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee? Do Bruce Gibson and Matt Turentine actually represent them?

Item 32 - Submittal of a resolution proclaiming June 2024 as Pride Month in the County of San Luis Obispo. About 10 people spoke against the Board passing the Resolution. In the end it was approved 3/2 with Arnold and Peschong abstaining. Objections included opposition to the general concept and singling out a specific social group for recognition.

One group of speakers objected to recognition of Gay Pride on the grounds that the movement has gone beyond the original purpose of protecting the right of people to love whom they choose, regardless of gender. The movement has become much more radical and includes the promulgation of homosexuality to students, promulgation of sex acts and rituals which are considered to be highly aberrant, and promulgation of specific behaviors which are considered odious by many. These include brother/sister love, mother/son love, urinating on partners, orgiastic parties, man-boy love, etc. These speakers asserted that the local public schools are promoting some of these behaviors. The speakers ran videos of such behavior, which apparently took place at the most recent San Francisco Gay Pride Week festival.



The County staff has blotted out genitals for the reruns on its website. This was actually one of the less offensive scenes in what appeared to be a combination of Mardi-Gras, Federico Fellini's Satyricon, the Santa Barbara Solstice Parade, and the perversions of the Roman Emperor Elagabalus.

Both Jimmie Paulding and Bruce Gibson expressed concern that some of this material was inappropriate for presentation at a Board of Supervisor's meeting. In an absurd attack, Gibson blamed Debbie Arnold for allowing it to run. Subsequently, County Counsel was requested to develop some standards for possible incorporation into the Board meeting Rules of Procedure.

Separately from the specific behaviors at issue here, Board members and the public in general should understand that the extreme offensive behavior has been a tool of the American left for decades.

Legalization of drugs, burning the American flag, rioting, burning down builds, and anything else that attracts the news media is fair game. From the Merry Pranksters of the 1960's to Angela Davis shooting up the Marin County Courthouse, to the spitting on our returning Viet Nam soldiers, to closing down highways, to Black Lives Matter, to promoting nauseating sexual practices in public, the left is always there.

Walt Whitman wrote:

Where the happy young husband and wife are, and the happy old husband and wife are, will allure me—

The hot kiss of the new husband to the bride and the kiss of the bride to the husband,

The chaste blessings of the well-married couple,

The shape of the roof over the well-married young man and woman,

The roof over the supper joyously cook'd by the chaste wife, and joyously eaten by the chaste husband,

The married couple sleeping calmly in their bed, he with his palm on the hip of the wife, and she with her palm on the hip of the husband.

The divine institution of the marriage tie—

*The races, neighbors, to marry and be given in marriage—
Lies at the root of the welfare, the safety, the very existence of every nation.*



Item 37 - Hearing to consider proposed Amendments to the Land Use Ordinance (County Code Title 22) and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (County Code Title 23) relating to Cannabis Activities (County File: LRP2023-00013). The proposed Amendments include modifying regulations pertaining to expiration of cannabis cultivation permits, hours of operation for non-storefront retail dispensaries, and abatement procedures and cost recovery relating to unpermitted cannabis activities. (Planning and Building). Here the Board considered several measures to attempt to revive its wilting cannabis industry.

These included:

1. Eliminate the requirement that existing approved permittees must go through a full new permit application process when their initial 5-year permit expires.
2. Set County hours for storefront dispensaries to be consistent with State permits. This would allow them to be open longer in the evening.
3. Set fees for full cost recovery for immediate abatement actions. This one will not be so helpful to the industry.

Separately, was cannabis legalization ever a good idea? What do the educators and employers report? As noted above, you have to have an ID to buy cannabis but not to vote. The left simply wants to keep its voters sedated and on various types of the dole.

Policy makers should consider the agenda as a whole and not just its individual items in isolation. For example, how is cannabis impacting the programs being funded in **Items 1 and 2** above?

Item 38 - Hearing to consider an Appeal (APPL2024-00003) by Claudia Harmon Worthen of the Planning Commission's approval of a request by Pacific Cambria LLC for a Development Plan / Coastal Development Permit (C-DRC2022-00050) to allow a 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. This time the Board unanimously rejected the appeal and approved the new 15 year permit.

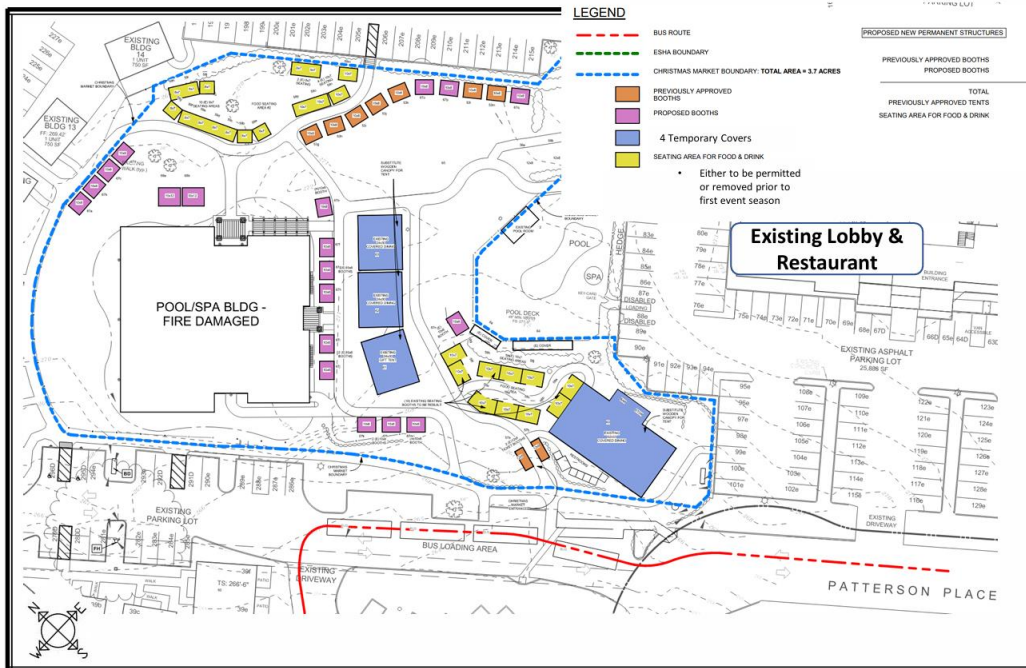
The Cambria Christmas Market was appealed again:

During its meeting of February 22, 2024, the Planning Commission heard and approved the 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 Applicant requests a waiver of the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance requirement for temporary events to be setback at least 1,000 feet from a Residential Single Family land use category. The proposed project is within the Recreation and Residential Suburban land use categories and is located at 2905 Burton Drive and 2801 Eton Road in the community of Cambria

The Appeal:

Pursuant to the (CZLUO) Section 23.01.042, the action/decision by the Planning Commission was appealable to the Board of Supervisors within 14 calendar days after the date of the action. One Appeal by Claudia Harmon Worthen (APPL2024-00003) was received requesting reconsideration of the Planning Commission's action to tentatively approve the request by Pacific Cambria, LLC for a Development Plan / Coastal Development Permit (C-DRC2022 00050) to allow a temporary event program at the Cambria Pines Lodge.

A 20-page staff report defended the Planning Commission's approval but did not state categorically that that the Board should deny the appeal. There are a number of letters and lists of people who oppose or support the market. There is particular opposition by those who oppose a 15-year permit with expanded run dates.



Item 39 - Board of Supervisor comments, activity reports, and requests for future agenda.

As noted above, Supervisor Gibson requested that the Paso Basin water recharge item be brought back for further consideration.

Separately and in light of the videos displaying lewd public acts in connection with the San Francisco Gay Pride celebration, Supervisors Paulding and Gibson requested that the County counsel provide some updated rules for the conduct of Board meetings that would not interfere with free speech, but would prohibit pornography, full frontal nudity and so forth. The rest of the Board agreed.

California Coastal Commission Meeting of Friday, July 12, 2024 (Completed)

Item F9a - Geophysical, geotechnical sampling, and benthic (seabed) habitat surveys in state waters off of San Luis Obispo County from the coast to the three-mile state water boundary to identify preliminary submarine export cable routing options. The permit was

approved with conditions. The staff recommended approval of the permit with a number of conditions. The report stated in part:

Equinor subsidiary, Atlas Wind US LLC (“Atlas Wind” or “Applicant”), proposes to conduct seafloor surveys in state waters offshore of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, from approximately 0.25 miles from the shore to the three nautical mile state water boundary. The proposed survey area extends northwest of Morro Bay Harbor and does not include areas inside or in front of Morro Bay Harbor. No survey activities are proposed within in front of or within Morro Bay. The proposed surveys include: (1) low energy, high resolution geophysical surveys to map seafloor features, sediment types, and subsurface sediments; (2) geotechnical sampling to confirm the data interpretation of the geophysical survey mapping, provide information about sediment variability and stratigraphy, and provide samples for geoarchaeological analyses; and (3) benthic (seabed) habitat surveys, consisting of the collection of sediment plan view and profile images to evaluate the presence and abundance of benthic organisms (including rare or sensitive species).

9-24-0411 (Atlas Wind US LLC)

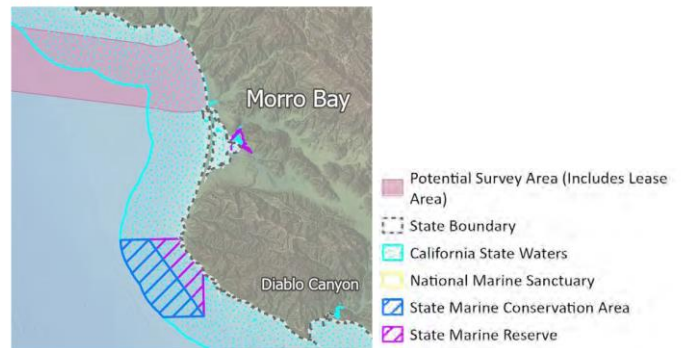


Figure 1 Map of Morro Bay showing Atlas Wind's proposed survey area, where the pink and blue dotted layers overlap, area in California State waters

Are There Any Adverse Impacts Expected From The Survey Activities?

Equinor has selected survey technology which will allow the project to avoid and minimize impact on the marine environment.

Before taking samples, the sea floor will be inspected to avoid placing equipment where sensitive habitats, tribal cultural heritage and marine archeology are present. Although surveying will disturb small areas of seafloor, this is not expected to have a significant impact on underwater life or resources.

Any potential noise impacts from the HRG surveys has been reduced to as low as reasonably practicable and has been closely examined by the regulatory authorities. **NOAA Fisheries has determined that no threatened and endangered marine mammal mortality or serious injury is expected from the HRG surveys.**

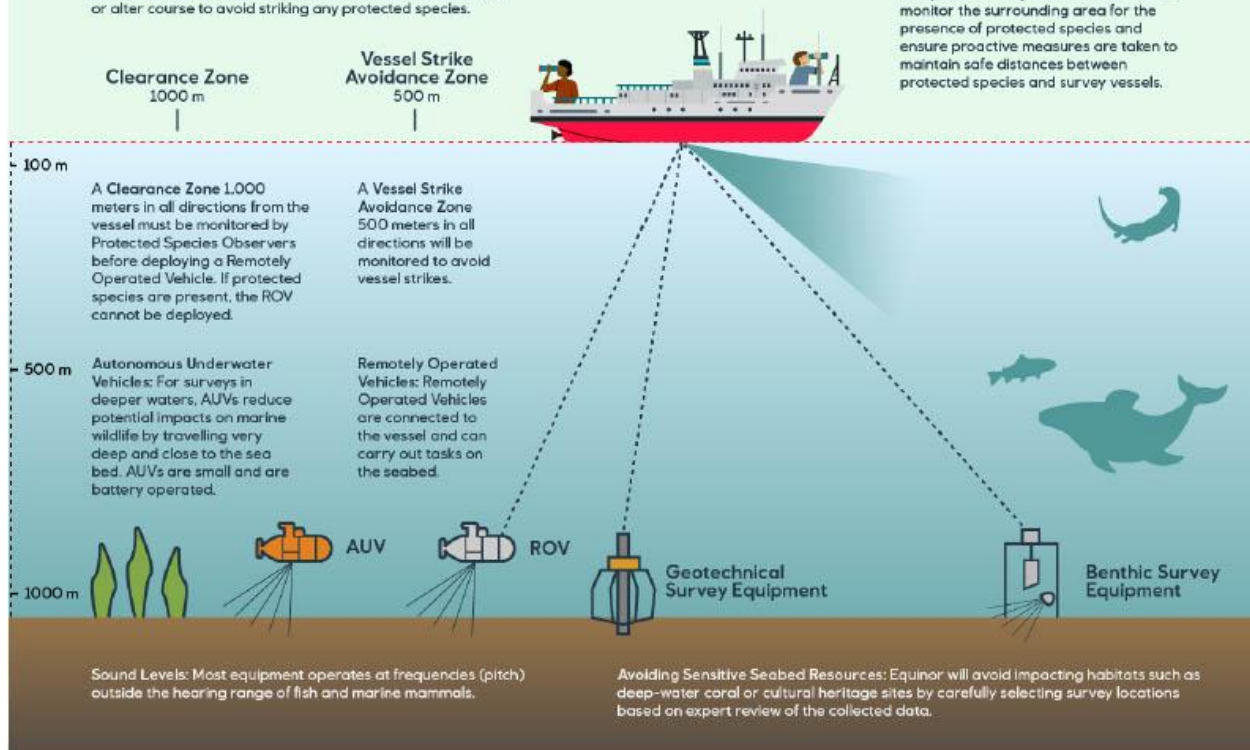
The surveys are also not expected to have an impact on air quality or birds.

How Will Marine Resources Be Protected During Surveying?

Equinor is dedicated to the coexistence of offshore wind development with wildlife and the marine environment. The offshore wind industry adheres to more stringent marine mammal mitigation measures than any other marine industry in the Pacific.

Navigation: Vessel speed will be limited to less than 10 knots, which is a proven measure to reduce lethality if a vessel strike does occur. Vessels will stay at least 500 m away from any visible protected whale and 100 m from any visible sea turtle. Vessel crew will watch for protected marine animals and will direct the vessel to slow down, stop, or alter course to avoid striking any protected species.

Protected Species Observers (PSO): Each vessel will include independent and professionally trained observers to monitor the surrounding area for the presence of protected species and ensure proactive measures are taken to maintain safe distances between protected species and survey vessels.



For More Information

To learn more about Atlas Wind and our commitment to sustainability and environmental protection, please visit [AtlasWind.com](https://atlaswind.com).

EMERGENT ISSUES

CALIFORNIA'S REGULATORY EMPIRE IS UNSCATHED BY THE COURT'S CHEVRON REVERSAL

BY WILL SWAIM

The Supreme Court's 6–2 decision in Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo, which ended the Chevron precedent, sparked something like hysterical vomiting among California reporters and columnists and progressive legal scholars. “An earthquake in U.S. law,” attorney Michael Wara, director of Stanford University's Climate and Energy Policy Program, called it. In Loper, the Court “displayed an alarming willingness to dismiss scientific expertise out of hand, in favor of partisan or religious ideologies,” cried a predictably partisan Los Angeles Times business writer. The decision is “a big win for business,” bemoaned another L.A. Times business writer, who took care to note that the Court majority comprises “Republican appointees” who “fretted about the ‘administrative state.’”

But when their stomachs ceased to bubble and churn, when their eyes stopped watering, some espied a silver lining: Because the Court's decision in Loper applies only to federal — not state — agencies, California's own Ottoman regulatory state can maintain its nearly total sovereignty and operate as an island in the land. And lest you think yourself safe in the Midwest or the South, consider this: California is politically powerful on the national scene, and the state's 200 rogue agencies will continue to shape policy all over America — and, by extension, all over the world.

Take, for instance, the Public Employee Relations Board, the agency charged with overseeing all matters involving the 2 million unionized state- and local-government employees in California. Each of PERB's four board members was appointed by a Democratic governor — either Jerry Brown or Gavin Newsom — and each has been a member of (or a lawyer for) a government union. However legal under California law, that's an obvious conflict of interest. It's no surprise that PERB regularly adjudicates in favor of those very government unions, faithfully rendering decisions that expand their power over California's government.

In one recent [example](#), PERB voted twice to back striking unionized teaching assistants — despite the fact that their walkout, as University of California officials told the PERB trustees, not only violated the union's no-strike contract but was quite clearly causing “irreparable harm” to students heading into finals and graduation. PERB said there was no evidence of harm and accepted the union's argument: that because some union members were arrested while participating in pro-Hamas campus riots, the strike was really about the free-speech rights of government employees and could therefore continue. Entire campuses closed. Finals were

postponed, graduation ceremonies were at risk of cancellation. The campus violence continued until a state judge ended the racket. Enraged by that decision, progressive lawyers and the media roundly denounced the judge as (the horror!) a conservative.

Similarly, state- and local-government agencies have moved to crush “parent notification” policies in schools — which would require simply that parents be notified, just as they are about field trips and sporting events, if their boy (for instance) asks to use the girls’ bathroom and wants his pronouns to be “she” and “her.” Summoned by the California Teachers Association, state attorney general Rob Bonta quickly sued school districts, claiming, “Disclosing that a student is transgender without the student’s permission . . . may violate the student’s right to privacy.” That’s my emphasis because that word suggests that Bonta knows there is no such privacy law, state or federal; indeed, countless state and federal laws embedded in ancient practice prove the opposite. In the absence of constitutional law, there is only arbitrary regulatory state power. There are already mechanisms in place to protect children whose parents are violent — and teachers are legally required to report those parents. But parental violence against children is thankfully so rare and so taboo that it makes headlines. Ironically, there is evidence that the sorts of sex scandals that rocked the Catholic Church in recent years occur regularly in California public schools and reveal that education-union leaders and their members ignored or actively participated in cover-ups.

For his part, preoccupied with carrying the luggage of the teachers’ unions that finance his political campaigns, Bonta failed to notice events that unfolded over the course of a decade in his own hometown. In June, the FBI raided the homes and businesses of a major Bonta donor in Alameda County. The man at the center of that scandal, waste-management exec Andy Duong, is a self-described “family friend” of the attorney general’s (no matter what Bonta says now). Photos discovered in the FBI raids reportedly reveal that Bonta and his wife, Oakland assemblywoman Mia Bonta, partied with Duong and went to NBA games, rolled in limousines, and traveled to the Philippines with him. The FBI says Duong’s businesses are connected to drug-running and sex-trafficking. Bonta, apparently, couldn’t see the trouble through all the confetti — and the distracting work of targeting recalcitrant school boards. (Note: Bonta says he’s shocked and that he will return Duong’s contributions, by which he means that he’ll be giving the campaign cash to Planned Parenthood and the Brady Campaign — two organizations that endorsed him for AG. Does that make the money cleaner?)

The relationship between unions and California regulators extends further. Before being appointed, the members of the state’s powerful Bureau of Registered Nursing (BRN) are vetted by the California Nurses Association, the Service Employees International Union, and by state teachers’ unions eager to maintain their grip on nursing education. No wonder that BRN has waged a decade-long war against private nursing colleges.

After decades of failing to seduce fast-food workers into their “brotherhood,” meanwhile, the Service Employees International Union turned to its relationships with UCLA’s Labor Center and the California Labor Federation — the union hive mind — to persuade Sacramento

lawmakers to impose a wage hike and establish a new agency, the Fast Food Council. In a censorship campaign that was extraordinary even for Newsom, the governor recently [attacked](#) media that have reported on the ensuing (and utterly predictable) layoffs, price hikes, and store closures.

It's not just government unions that get special treatment. It's anybody whose politics or financial interests match the flavor of the month in Sacramento. Take the California Public Utilities Commission, the agency behind the radical move to ban gas stoves and internal-combustion-engine vehicles — anything that burns fossil fuels — by 2035. That same agency manages in molecular detail the utility companies that deliver electricity to California homes and businesses. But because environmentalists at the PUC prize green-energy projects above an efficient electricity grid, the agency prohibits utilities from passing along to ratepayers the costs of upgrading their infrastructure — except at bankrupting cost. And when late-summer Santa Ana winds predictably snap ageing power lines and spark wildfires, Governor Newsom and the regulators [blame](#) the utilities — and, of course, capitalism. Demands to punish industry then follow as surely as autumn follows summer.

The governor regularly blames “Big Oil” for the high price of gasoline in California. But it's his own California Air Resources Board that imposes the “clean-air” [regulations and taxes](#) that boost the cost of producing gasoline to the No. 1 highest in the country. And when oil companies try to produce more oil in California, they're frustrated in that effort by another state agency, the California Geologic Energy Management Division. In 2019, Newsom [fired](#) the director of that agency because he insisted on approving legal applications to drill; when his replacement followed the same, lawful practice, Newsom [fired](#) him, too. Beheadings generally have a way of sharpening the mind: The agency's latest director has reportedly canceled all those permits and gone on a climate-saving offensive — using tax dollars to [plug wells](#). The result: Gasoline prices continue to rise, and Newsom has created a [new agency](#) to investigate the oil industry's “price-gouging.”

The state Department of Fair Employment and Housing regularly [sues](#) California companies on frivolous complaints and then hires politically connected trial attorneys to pursue them. Even in progressive California courts, those lawsuits frequently fail, but not before the state and the companies have spent millions litigating them. Meanwhile, everyone complains about the cost of California housing; it's the highest in the nation. But the [Coastal Commission](#) won't allow local governments to build houses. That irony doesn't stop the governor and progressive legislators from complaining that local governments won't build more housing — and then [suing](#) them.

If you run a farm that your Central Valley family has owned for generations, you'll need permission from regulators for virtually every activity. California's Department of Food and Agriculture, the state Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Department of Water Resources, the Air Resources Board, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife will each have their say. And when the United Farm Workers union doesn't like the results of a vote it calls in order to take

control of your workers, it can count on the UFW-controlled California Agricultural Labor Relations Board to [lock up the ballots](#) and impose the UFW’s labor contract on you.

The administrative state is everywhere in California, and it’s smothering, totalizing. Never mind their initial panic over [Loper](#). Sharp-eyed progressives already see the utopian possibility that California can act as a beachhead for a counterattack on the Constitution. UCLA environmental-law professor Julia Stein makes that case on the University of California’s Legal Planet blog, [concluding](#) that [Loper](#) “underscores the augmented role states, including California, will need to continue to play in fighting climate change.”

That sort of augmentation has national implications: Golden State regulators speak often and glowingly of their national leadership, of providing a model for other progressive state officials. In October 2022, for example, Newsom signed a pig’s trough of new laws to bolster the power of state agencies — a set of measures that (he said) represents the “most significant action on the climate crisis in California’s history and raises the bar for governments around the world.” California’s vehicle standards, for instance, are [readily adopted](#) in other states, often by legal statute. As Virginia just [proved](#) by ending that state’s suicide pact with California, these state relationships will now become the front lines in the emerging legal battle over what’s constitutional and what is regulatory authoritarianism.

Such an “augmented” role for the state in California will be enforced by a governor who brags openly that his model for good government is [Culbert Olson](#), California’s 29th governor, a Marxist who believed in what he called “unitary action” of government — the 150-year-old progressive dream (descended from Hegel and then Marx) of a world in which regulators impose on us the most “scientific” ideas of the moment, no matter their constitutional implications, no matter that the so-called science may [mask](#) malignant political impulses. And then, of course, in this utopia, the struggle between Chevronistas and conservatives will melt away, Marx’s friend Engels [promised](#), as the “interference of the state power in social relations becomes superfluous in one sphere after another, and then ceases of itself.” Eventually, “the government of persons is replaced by the administration of things and the direction of the processes of production.”

For Californians, and all Americans by consequence, this means that the administrators’ attacks upon our rights — the government-sanctioned regulatory beatings — will continue until morale improves. This article originally appeared in [National Review Online](#).

Will Swaim is president of the California Policy Center and co-host with David Bahnsen of National Review’s “Radio Free California” podcast.

BUSINESS UNFRIENDLY: THE REGULATORY BURDEN CRUSHING CALIFORNIA BY TIMOTHY BELEV AND SHERIDAN SWANSON

Last month, Rubio’s Coastal Grill announced the permanent shutdown of 48 of their California locations. Ralph Rubio opened his first restaurant in 1983 in San Diego with a loan from his dad. After years of effort, Rubio’s expanded to approximately 200 locations throughout several states. Traditionally, this anecdote would serve as an example of the power of the American dream, but now the story of Rubio’s seems to be an example of the opposite: the harmful effects of California’s economic policy.

Rubio’s shutdown comes shortly after Governor Newsom signed into law a minimum wage increase for fast food workers (ensuring, of course, that his [donors were strategically exempt](#)). A spokesperson for Rubio’s Coastal Grill stated that though the decision was “painful,” the closures “were brought about by the rising cost of doing business in California.” This is a blow not just to the Rubio’s customer base and the employees of those 48 locations, but also the everyday Californians who are struggling due to the high costs of living and doing business in the state.

As California Policy Center President Will Swaim [wrote](#) in response to Newsom’s State of the State Address, “The hike in fast food wages has led to predictable outcomes – thousands of layoffs, stores closures and menu price hikes... the goal was always to create disruption in an industry that unions could not successfully organize in order to force other industries to compete for low-level workers with the artificially high wages in fast-food.”

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that from November 2023 to April 2024, the unemployment rate in California grew slightly from 5.1 percent (revised figure) to 5.3 percent (preliminary figure). While California has weathered worse unemployment, the state cannot afford to lose revenue from unemployment (because jobs mean payroll taxes) and business closures (because businesses mean taxes for both the state and local governments), not to mention unemployment payouts.

It is no surprise that California continues the trend of being ranked the worst state for business in 2024, [according to a survey of more than 600 US CEOs by *Chief Executive*](#). Their 2024 survey ranks California at 50th place – unchanged in rank since at least 2014. The [2023 edition of the survey](#) was very clear as to why California continues to rank so low: “The Golden State’s anti-business policies have been chasing enterprises to elsewhere for many years.”

Additionally, last year's [California Competitiveness Study](#) found that among business executives, "a recurring theme [of the survey] centered on the concern for the state's ability to remain competitive, given the high cost of doing business in the area and the chronic lack of housing affordability." While some optimism about doing business in California remains, the business experts "mentioned concerns about taxation and regulation, as well as a sense that elected officials either ignore the needs of business or do not understand how business works." This election cycle, Gov. Newsom and California's leaders would do well to take the business community's concerns seriously.

Last year's "[America's Top States for Business](#)" study, published by CNBC, found that although California was not the lowest scoring state overall, it continued to score low in a number of vital categories. California was ranked 45th for the cost of doing business, a category which will likely be much worse this year due to the [increase in taxes](#) and minimum wage. California also scored 47th for business friendliness, a marginal increase from its 48th place the previous year. And finally, and worst of all for the average Californian, the state ranked 49th for cost of living. This is not surprising, since Californians consistently pay more than any other contiguous state for [groceries](#), [gas](#), and many other basic needs. On June 27, John Lansner with the *Orange County Register* [reported](#) record California home prices, with a median home price of \$908,040 in May.

The problem has become so undeniable that even prominent Democrats are finally addressing it. Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas said in a recent [Fox11 interview](#) that "you're not going to convince me that residents today are better off today than they were a decade ago." The question for Californians: who has presided over this trend? And the answer is clear: It is Speaker Rivas's own party which has been holding the reins of the state for [over a decade](#).

To fix the economic issues which are preventing California, and its residents, from achieving the prosperity the state used to promise, Californians should consider voting for legislators who prioritize hard-working Californians over special interests and government unions. California leaders should make simple changes to help businesses flourish. Lowering the corporate tax rate and easing business regulations would be good places to start.

Timothy Belev is a student at Jessup University and a Policy Research Intern at California Policy Center. Sheridan Swanson is the Research Manager at California Policy Center.

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

CALIFORNIA GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM CRUSHED A BALLOT INITIATIVE THAT COULD HAVE LIMITED TAX INCREASES

WHAT HAPPENED TO CARING ABOUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE?
BY STEVEN GREENHUT



(Hector Amezcua/TNS/Newscom)

Both major American political camps are convinced that democracy is under attack by the other side, and they probably are both largely correct. There simply are different styles and approaches for thwarting the supposed will of the people—or at least for undermining the complex system that allows people to choose the way their nation is governed.

Our democracy may be the equivalent of "two wolves and a sheep voting on what's for dinner," as one aphorism puts it, but it's also "the worst form of government except for all those other forms," according to another. Our system certainly is flawed—laughably so at times—but I doubt most Americans would be pleased with the results if it were replaced by something more efficient.

In terms of attacking that system, we've seen one approach on vivid display. First, refuse to concede an election. Second, concoct an elaborate legal and political scheme to overturn the election results. Third, energize a ragtag mob to invade a public edifice and then, finally, spend years poisoning the public's faith in elections by peddling conspiracies and attacking opponents in intemperate ways.

We'll call that the "iron fist" approach. It's destructive, but is easy to recognize and understand: If we win, the People have spoken. If we lose, everything is rigged. If this sore-loserism ultimately tears down the constitutional order that protects our liberties and destroys the civic restraints that bolster that order, then so be it. It's a short-sighted power move driven by one person's whims.

But there's a longer-game, institutional approach that's equally destructive of democracy, but is dressed up in a way that's easier to overlook. We'll call that the "iron fist in a velvet glove." In this case, officials give grandiose lectures about democratic ideals, but quietly dominate the myriad levels of government power to advance their interests and quash dissent. It's insidious. Once in a while, however, the natives get restless and officials are forced to remove that velvet glove.

We've seen the latter play out recently in California. Our state is dominated by Democrats, who control every statewide constitutional office and have supermajorities in the Legislature. In a democracy, that's just the way it goes sometimes. However, Californians aren't nearly so progressive when they vote on statewide ballot initiatives, which infuriates the majority party.

Many residents are tired not only of the endless tax increases—but of how little the public gets in services in exchange for nationally high tax rates. The media regularly reports on California residents and businesses who continue to flee the state in large numbers, and on various scandals involving the government's absurd misspending of public funds.

Enough is enough. The California Business Roundtable responded by collecting sufficient signatures for a November initiative that would have limited state and local governments' ability to raise taxes. The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act would have required voter approval for any tax increase passed by the Legislature and two-thirds approval for local tax hikes. It would have made it harder for agencies to impose "fees" by forcing them to classify them properly as taxes.

This, of course, would have hit the majority party (and its masters, the public-employee unions) where it really hurts: in the pocketbook. With most conservative-oriented initiatives, the majority has a variety of velvet-gloved anti-democratic tools in their toolbox. The Legislature might, say, fill the ballot with legislatively approved similar-sounding measures designed to confuse voters. The attorney general will write a horrifically biased title and summary.

This was too important for them to deploy subtlety. Last year after Gov. Gavin Newsom and lawmakers saw the tax-limiting initiative gathering steam, they filed a dubious legal challenge claiming that the changes went too far and amounted to a constitutional revision. The state

Supreme Court recently agreed—and pulled the measure from the ballot, thus denying the state's Democratic-leaning voters a chance to weigh in.

Typically ballot measures are challenged after they pass, rather than preemptively removed from the ballot. But Newsom and Co. weren't about to take chances on having another tax revolt, of the sort that enacted property-tax-limiting Proposition 13 in 1978.

But consider this bare-knuckled action in the face of Newsom's pre-recorded State of the State speech, where he depicted California as a bastion of democracy: "We are presented with a choice between a society that embraces our values and a world darkened by division and discrimination." Right-wing anti-democratic forces are despicable, but at least they don't dress up their behavior with smarmy lectures.

The Legislature and Newsom also qualified two ballot measures to undermine the Taxpayer Protection Act had it passed and also make it easier to raise taxes in general. They're perfectly fine with Californians voting—but only on measures that expand the Legislature's ability to raise taxes. It certainly is amazing how quickly California's Democrats dispensed with the niceties as soon as the stakes got high.

This column was first published in The Orange County Register.

STEVEN GREENHUT is western region director for the R Street Institute and was previously the Union-Tribune's California columnist.

CALIFORNIA HAS JUST APPROVED A NEW BLUEPRINT FOR OFFSHORE WIND. THE MASSIVE PROJECTS WILL COST BILLIONS

BY JULIE CART



Boats are docked in Humboldt Bay in Eureka. Ocean waters 20 miles off this coast have been leased to energy companies for offshore wind platforms. Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

IN SUMMARY

Harnessing clean energy is a venture of unprecedented scope in California, bringing big changes to Humboldt and the Central Coast, and requiring 26 ports along the coast.

The California Energy Commission today unanimously approved a [sweeping plan](#) to develop a massive floating offshore wind industry in ocean waters — a first-of-its-kind undertaking that will require billions in public and private investments and could transform parts of the coast.

The new state plan sets the path for harnessing wind power from hundreds of giant turbines, each as tall as a 70-story building, floating in the ocean about 20 miles off Humboldt Bay and Morro Bay. The untapped energy is expected to become a major power source as California electrifies vehicles and switches to clean energy.

California’s wind farms represent a [giant experiment](#): No other place in the world has floating wind operations in such deep waters — more than a half-mile deep — so far from shore.

The commission’s vote today came after representatives of various industries, environmentalists, community leaders and others mostly expressed support for offshore wind, although some voiced concerns.

State and federal officials use the word “urgency” to describe the frenetic pace needed to lay the groundwork for development of five areas that the [federal government has leased to offshore wind companies](#).

“I feel the urgency to move forward swiftly,” said energy commissioner Patty Monahan. “The climate crisis is upon us. Offshore wind is a real opportunity for us to move forward with clean energy.”

She added, though, that the plan “is a starting point... There are a lot of uncertainties about environmental impacts. We need to be clear-eyed and engage the right scientific interests and move carefully.”

- 1. Become a CalMatters member today to stay informed, bolster our nonpartisan news and expand knowledge across California.**

[Donate](#)

The [five energy companies](#) are now assessing sites within the 583 square miles, which is expected to take five years. That will be followed by about two years of design, construction and environmental and technical reviews.

“There are a lot of uncertainties about environmental impacts. We need to be clear-eyed and engage the right scientific interests and move carefully.”

ENERGY COMMISSIONER PATTY MONAHAN

Energy Commission Chairman David Hochschild recently called it “one of the single most complex processes I’ve been involved with.”

That complexity was reflected in the heft of the strategic plan, which includes three volumes and 500 pages of public comment. The breadth of the document — which involved coordination among 10 state agencies — reflects the sheer size and scope of what’s being envisioned. State officials said offshore wind requires an unprecedented level of planning and policy development in California.

The offshore wind industry must be created almost from scratch: a new manufacturing base for the still-evolving technology; a robust and reliable supply chain; transportation networks on land and sea; specially configured ports to make, assemble and maintain the gargantuan seagoing platforms; finding and training a highly specialized workforce; building a large transmission network where none exists and beefing up those that operate now.

The Energy Commission’s plan estimates that just the work to upgrade California’s ports will cost \$11-\$12 billion, much of it publicly funded. The plan identifies the large ports of Humboldt, Long Beach and Los Angeles as viable for storing, staging and assembling parts needed for offshore wind operations.

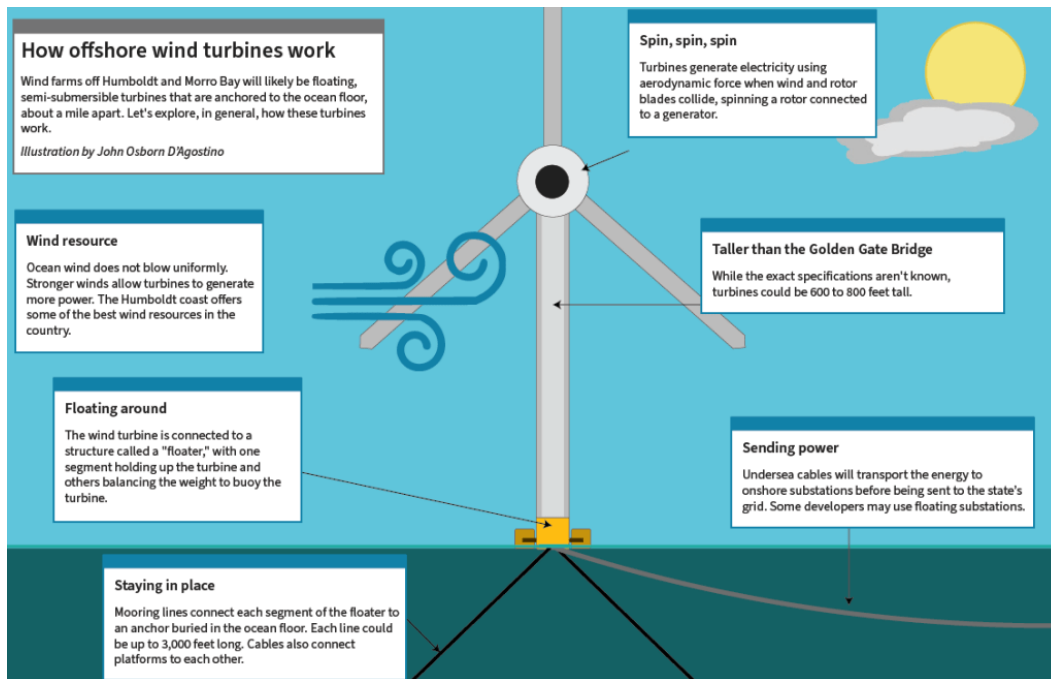
By 2045, 16 large and 10 small ports will be needed along California’s coast for various aspects of development and support, according to the plan. “Funding and permitting for these projects are a critical challenge to address,” the plan says. An estimated \$475 million would be set aside for port infrastructure in a [climate bond measure that will be on the November ballot.](#)

Some people at the hearing raised concerns about increased activity around major ports, where ships and trucks already create serious air pollution problems that can trigger asthma and heart attacks.

“This plan does not alleviate that. It increases that,” said Therai Golden, who lives near the Port of Long Beach. “We have a 75 to 100 year legacy of death with the current pollution. It is insane.

We don't oppose offshore wind. We oppose the development in our backyard, where we are already dying.”

Another pressing challenge is transmission — the complex job of getting the power onshore and distributing it to users. The Humboldt area presents the biggest challenge, the report says, given the rural region's already sparse transmission network.



Capturing wind energy from giant floating ocean platforms is considered essential to achieving California's [ambitious goal](#) of electrifying its grid with 100% zero-carbon energy. The state's blueprint envisions offshore wind farms producing 25 gigawatts by 2045, powering 25 million homes and providing about 13% of California's electricity.

Powering an expansive economy free of fossil fuels by 2045 means the state [must triple its power generation capacity](#) and deploy new solar and wind energy at almost five times the pace of the past decade.

The endeavor will require coordination with multiple state and federal agencies, as well as local and tribal governments, with overlapping jurisdictions and sometimes conflicting priorities.

That heavy lift, said Adam Stern, executive director of [Offshore Wind California](#), an industry group, made it all the more remarkable that the strategic plan was finalized.

“This is tangible progress. It’s a remarkable record of intent and determination,” he said. “None of these things was happening a year ago. The plan mobilized the ecosystem of state agencies, industry, organized labor, environmental groups and tribes. There are lots of challenges ahead, but this is a great start.”

The plan “is tangible progress. It’s a remarkable record of intent and determination. None of these things was happening a year ago.”

ADAM STERN, OFFSHORE WIND CALIFORNIA

The Energy Commission missed its March deadline included in [state law](#) to approve the plan. Then the agency postponed a scheduled vote two weeks ago to give interested parties enough time to digest the dense package of documents.

The shipping industry is concerned that the plan doesn’t “address and ensure navigational safety and efficiency” for the commercial ships that serve California’s seaports. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are the nation’s busiest.

“The plan lacks any effective identification and analysis of potential impacts to the commercial shipping industry,” the Pacific Marine Shipping Association wrote in a letter to the Energy Commission. “It is frankly confounding that there is resistance to include the maritime industry in this vital Plan; to be clear, the industry is not opposed to offshore wind development in practice.”

Environmental groups scoured the documents for answers to what have been unanswerable questions about offshore wind’s potential effects on marine life, migrating whales and birds, and the onshore environment.

Even state scientists have publicly noted a “data gap” when it came to understanding the impact of platforms in the sea, electrified underwater cables, huge spinning blades and increased boat traffic.

To answer those questions, the commission’s plan calls for a broad-based science consortium and a bird and bat conservation strategy, among other topics. Recreational and commercial fishing will be affected, the report says, and that will require continued research, officials say.

Some environmental groups have come to terms with the uneasy tradeoff between the need to address climate change with cleaner energy and the potential harmful impacts that come with any energy development.

Understanding that climate change is contributing to the rapid decline of bird populations means accepting some development, said Mike Lynes, director of public policy for Audubon California. “We want these projects to be successful. But we want to avoid impacts first and mitigate where we can.”

Dan Jacobson, senior adviser to the advocacy group Environment California, said he is becoming comfortable with the unknowns. “But we can’t slow down on the science and information that we need. We have to do things quickly, inexpensively and very smartly. You usually get two out of three of those things. How do we do this so that we cause the least harm and get the most good out of it?”

Map showing five proposed offshore wind projects: two off Humboldt County coast and three off coast near Morro Bay.

Offshore wind leases off California

The federal government auctioned off leases for offshore wind production in 583 square miles of deep ocean waters off Humboldt County and Morro Bay. The areas, about 20 miles offshore, have the potential to produce more than 4.5 gigawatts to power about 1.5 million homes.

© [OpenStreetMap](#) contributors

Two projects: 207 square miles total

Three projects: 376 square miles total

Morro Bay
Eureka

50 miles

Map: John Osborn D'Agostino, CalMatters Source: [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#) Embed Download image Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Assemblymember Dawn Addis, whose district includes 200 miles of the Central Coast, said it is clear to her that her constituents don’t have enough information to understand the implications of the new industry. Her 2023 bill to [fund offshore wind scientific research](#) was folded into the budget, with \$3.6 million going to the state Ocean Protection Council to organize the research effort.

“Everyone’s hungry to understand the science,” said Addis, a [Democrat from San Luis Obispo](#). “There’s still work to do to get that science into the world. This is a tremendous opportunity to study the deep ocean.”

Addis, who chairs the Legislature’s select committee on offshore wind energy, said lawmakers will analyze the strategic plan and “uncover needs that we just don’t know about yet. Getting this right is not just a slogan for me.”

Generally, the plan acknowledges environmental impacts but says that so-called “adaptive management” — flexibility to change an approach if it proves unexpectedly damaging — can address most concerns.

The projects will industrialize sections of the California coast with an indelible footprint, and could usher employment and revitalized economies to neglected regions. Nearly a fifth of [Humboldt County households live in poverty](#).

Community groups and tribes along the North Coast, in particular, have been participating in formulating the state’s strategic plan to make sure that wind development doesn’t follow the boom-and-bust cycle of so many extractive industries, such as mining and timber. that have come and gone from the Humboldt region.

“We need to be part of the decision-making structure, to make sure that this industry delivers local community protection and investment, through legally binding and enforceable mechanism,” said Katerina Oskarsson, the executive-in-residence at CORE Hub and the Humboldt Area Foundation, part of a coalition of community groups and tribes.

“If this industry moves forward, host communities need to benefit. This is not just about jobs and economic benefit. It’s about justice beyond jobs. This needs to be transformational in a meaningful way,” she said.



Julie Cart is a projects reporter on CalMatters' environment team who focuses on wildfires and natural resources. Julie's work for CalMatters has received numerous national and regional journalism.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

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

We are pleased to announce that The Andy Caldwell Show is now
broadcasting out of San Luis Obispo County on FM 98.5 in addition to AM



1290/96.9 Santa Barbara and AM 1240/99.5 Santa Maria
The show now covers the broadcast area from Ventura to Templeton -

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

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

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

Listen to The Andy Caldwell Show "LIVE"

KSMARADIO
NEWS • TALK
1240 | 99.5
1240ksma.com

KZSBRADIO
SANTA BARBARA
1290 | 96.9
am1290kzsb.com

K-NEWS
98.5
The Power of Information
knews985.com

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



SUPPORT COLAB



MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES
BEFORE THE BOS



VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM



AUTHOR & NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COMMENTATOR/RADIO HOST BEN SHAPIRO APPEARED AT A COLAB ANNUAL DINNER



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER



MIKE BROWN RALLIED THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

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

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio Internet Public Hearing Friend

COLAB Member(s) /Sponsor(s): _____

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation. I would like to contribute \$ _____ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.
Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.
Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check Visa MasterCard Discover Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: ____/____ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____