COLAB San Luis Obispo County

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE
JUNE 16-22, 2024

THIS WEEK
SEE PAGE 4

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HOUSING OUTRAGE – ONLY 50 UNITS PERMITTED SO FAR THIS YEAR

THE COUNTY STILL WORSHIPS AT THE FALSE IDOL OF "SMART NO GROWTH"
MANY WHO SHOULD BE COMPLAINING ARE ON COUNTY & GOVT PATRONAGE

REACH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO BE RENEWED
PROJECTIONS FOR GROWTH IN TECH, AEROSPACE, AG, ETC.

REACH RESILIENCE ROAD MAP SETS MEASURABLE GOALS FOR ECONOMIC DEVLOPMENT
(THEY NEED ORDINATE NUMBERS (NOT JUST %'s ON THEIR GRAPHS)

GRAND JURY REPORT ON ANNEXATION PROBLEMS
INADVERTANTLY CONFIRMS DEFICIENCIES WITH COUNTY BUDGET STRUCTURE AND PRESENTATION

ABSORPTION OF OCEANO FIRE COSTS AND SERVICES INTO COUNTY IS YET ANOTHER CANARY IN THE COAL MINE

(COUNTY TAXPAYERS BEGIN TO PICK UP A GROWING DEFICIT)

DOMINION VOTING SYSTEM CONTRACT TO BE EXTENDED FOR 5 YEARS

FIVE PASO GROUNDWATER ITEMS ON CONSENT

AT LEAST 2 OF THEM SHOULD BE MOVED TO BUSINESS ITEMS
(ON A FUTURE AGENDA - SO PUBLIC CAN REACT)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WILL COUNTY DEFEND ITS APPROVAL OF THE RESERVE AT DANA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OR WILL GIBSON & PAULDING TRY TO KILL IT LIKE THE REDISTICTING MAP?

APCD

MORE FREE STUFF FOR THE POOR – AIR PURIFIERS & EV CHARGERS
DO RURAL/SUBURBAN COUNTIES ACTUALLY NEED AN APCD?

LAFCO

MEETING CANCELED

LAST WEEK

SEE PAGE 19

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

FLOOD ZONE ORDINANCE REVISIONS APPROVED

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

APPROVED LOS OSOS COUNTY PLAN - COUNTY COULD LIFT DEVELOPMENT MORATORIUM - WILL IT?

COLAB San Luis Obispo is seeking an experienced Executive Director to lead the organization's advocacy and education efforts. This position will report directly to the Board of Directors, and will oversee administration, staffing, scheduling, and communications in addition to being COLAB's principal advocate for a stronger business environment in our region. Qualified candidates will have experience in government, public policy, advocacy, and/or law, experience managing employees, and exemplary communication skills. (This is a 1099 Misc. position.) Interested parties may submit questions, or resumes and cover letters to colabslo@gmail.com.

EMERGENT ISSUES

SEE PAGE 21

YOUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK

POLITICIANS AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY WILL ALWAYS FIND WAYS TO EXECUTE POORLY

CALIFORNIA'S DUMBEST IDEA SINCE THE BULLET TRAIN

The State And County's Zero Emission Clean Vehicle (Zev) Plan Is A Clunker.

BY ANDY CALDWELL

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' BECOMES CALIFORNIA LEAVIN'

The various locations of these cities point to the fact that this is a statewide exodus

CA COASTAL COMMISSION 'EXCLUDED CALIFORNIANS FROM THE COAST AND MADE SEGREGATION WORSE'

COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 29

THE LEFT KNOWS LEFTISM DOESN'T WORK

If Biden and his handlers have taught us anything, human nature cannot be fooled, and the current four-year experiment will have to end before it ends us—and soon.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

SPONSORS

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

Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 (Scheduled)

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, June 18, 2024. The Board will then be on a 2-week summer recess from June 23, 2024 - July 6, 2024. The next meeting after that will be on July 9, 2024. The Weekly Update will shut down after June 18, 2024 until the Week of July 9, 2024.

2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting Calendar - June & July, 2024

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Board Meetings | Swearing in Meeting | Board Break | CSAC Annual Conference
Special Redistricting Eve Mtg | Budget Hearings | Holidays | BOS Chambers AV Work

The Weekly Update will suspend for the week of June 23-29, 2024 and the week of June 30-July 6, 2024.

YOU SHOULD BE OUTRAGED AT THE ITEM BELOW!

Item 1 - Request for (1) annual review of the unincorporated county growth rate for new dwelling units for FY 2023-24; and (2) establishment of the unincorporated county maximum growth rate and allocation for new dwelling units for FY 2024-25, in accordance with the Growth Management Ordinance, Title 26 of the County Code. Exempt from CEQA. (Planning and Building). This is a report on the status of the County Growth Management Ordinance GMO, which was adopted in 1990. At this point, the ordinance should be abolished and replaced with a housing growth ordinance that requires the whole county staff to promote housing, suspend regulatory ordinances, require that applications be approved within 90 days, zone thousands of acres for homes, and otherwise wake up. The County should also work with CSAC to exempt jurisdictions with a low hosing production rate from CEQA.

One of the County's top priorities is housing. This is on the consent calendar, and unless someone pulls it, it won't even be discussed. The housing priority is pure hypocrisy. Just look at the tables below. So far this year the County has issued only 50 permits for homes.

This is total failure and the public should be outraged. Those who are seeking homes should show up at Board meetings and raise hell. Where are the Realtors, home builders, Chambers, contractors, and REACH? Where is labor? The fact of the matter is that many people in these groups worship the current idols of climatism, NIMBYISM, and "smart growth." No one actually wants housing, or if they do, either they are afraid to stick their heads up or they are on the County teat or both.

Picture courtesy of Nina Paley – worshiping the Golden Calf.

The people seeking a building permit for a home actually pay to support this outmoded ordinance and the related staff work, as part of their fees. Cut the fee and suspend the regulations. It's supposedly a crisis.

The Growth Management Ordinance (GMO), Title 26 of the County Code, was adopted in 1990 and requires the Board of Supervisors (Board) to approve the unincorporated county maximum annual growth rate for new dwelling units for each fiscal year after consideration of the most recent Resource Summary Report (RSR) of the Resource Management System (RMS) to ensure new residential development is compatible with the availability of community resources. Accessory dwelling units, affordable housing, and agricultural worker housing are not subject to the requirements of the GMO and are excluded from the accounting for the annual growth rate.

Table 1: FY 2023-24 GMO Allocation, as of April 23, 2024

Area	Maximum allocation for new dwelling units subject to the GMO	Number of new dwelling units subject to the GMO with construction permit applications submitted FY 2023-24	Percent of maximum allocation requested
Countywide	1,133	69	6%
Nipomo Mesa (excluding Monarch Dunes)	133	5	4%

Table 3: Maximum allocation of new dwelling units, FY 2024-25

Type of Dwelling Unit	Maximum number of new dwelling units allowed for FY 2024-25
Countywide, Single-Family	736
Countywide, Multi-Family	396
Nipomo Mesa, Single-Family	86
Nipomo Mesa, Multi-Family	47
Cambria, Grandfathered in New Units	8

New Dwelling Units Subject to the GMO by Planning Area/Sub-Area, Calendar Years 1992-2024[1]

Planning Area/Sub-Area	1992 through June 30, 2023	July 1, 2023 - April 23, 2024	1992 through April 23, 2024
Adelaida	434	4	438
El Pomar-Estrella	2018	4	2022
Estero	1001	1	1002
Las Pilitas	15	1	16
Los Padres (North)	139	0	139
Nacimiento	1116	6	1122
North Coast	1351	0	1351
Salinas River	2439	3	2442
San Luis Bay Coastal	3356	2	3358
San Luis Obispo	472	0	472
Shandon-Carrizo (North)[2]	1447	0	1447
South County[3]	988	29	1017
Total	**14,776**	**50**	**14,826**

1. As of April 23, 2024.
2. Includes Carrizo Planning Area.
3. Includes South County and South County Coastal Planning Areas.

Attachment 2

New Dwelling Units Subject to the GMO by Planning Area/Sub-Area, Calendar Years 2006-2024[1]

Planning Area/Sub-Area	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
Adelaida	12	21	11	3	5	3	2	5	5
El Pomar-Estrella	53	33	14	9	11	10	20	38	16
Estero	15	13	6	10	8	3	6	13	8
Las Pilitas	6	5	2	5	1	3	1	2	1
Los Padres (North)	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Nacimiento	32	18	11	7	9	10	33	50	21
North Coast	7	9	1	5	0	3	7	2	3
Salinas River	41	33	36	25	16	15	21	45	60
San Luis Bay Coastal	22	70	7	15	13	17	34	41	25
San Luis Obispo	9	11	2	4	4	5	6	9	2
Shandon-Carrizo (North)[2]	28	11	5	2	4	6	2	4	0
South County[3]	36	83	25	29	50	38	117	168	125
Total	261	307	120	115	123	114	249	377	266

1. As of April 23, 2024.
2. Includes Carrizo Planning Area.
3. Includes South County and South County Coastal Planning Areas.

Planning Area/Sub-Area	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24[1]
Adelaida	4	8	5	8	6	2	3	4	4
El Pomar-Estrella	28	19	22	26	15	19	30	19	4
Estero	7	18	6	10	7	11	3	13	1
Las Pilitas	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Los Padres (North)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nacimiento	20	25	27	18	14	11	17	6	6
North Coast	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Salinas River	65	207	74	86	65	32	13	22	3
San Luis Bay Coastal	30	39	41	9	11	4	0	3	2
San Luis Obispo	4	10	5	8	12	8	14	9	0
Shandon-Carrizo (North)[2]	4	4	3	6	5	3	2	2	0
South County[3]	115	169	135	124	102	106	91	99	29
Total	279	500	319	298	238	197	173	177	50

1. As of April 23, 2024.
2. Includes Carrizo Planning Area.
3. Includes South County and South County Coastal Planning Areas.

Look at the steep decline over the years. The only reason there were a few medium production years was the buildout of the planned golf communities in Nipomo.

Item 16 - It is recommended that the Board approve a grant agreement with REACH in the amount of $300,000 for economic development activities in support of the County. The item, when approved, will continue the services of the County's economic development program contractor REACH.

The main categories of core economic development activities in the scope of work include:
1. Host publicly accessible Central Coast Data Center with available assets and data that support economic expansion
2. Coordinate on county-specific economic development policy and programs
3. Lead a Central Coast economic development program that focuses on the retention, expansion, and attraction of Central Coast businesses
4. Promote the Central Coast region through marketing, storytelling, events, and conferences including a REACH Summit
5. Represent San Luis Obispo County as an economic driver of the Central Coast region in state and federal economic development venues
Background on prior grant agreements
• $300,000 in May 2023 for economic development services
• $400,000 in May 2022 for economic development services
• $300,000 in May 2019 for the Central Coast Jobs Roadmap
• $300,000 in January 2021 to further the REACH 2030 Action Plan for Central Coast Job Creation

The ten pages detailed scope of services can be accessed at the link and control click:

https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/17874

When it opens, click on the:
Exhibit A – Reach Contract Scope of work.

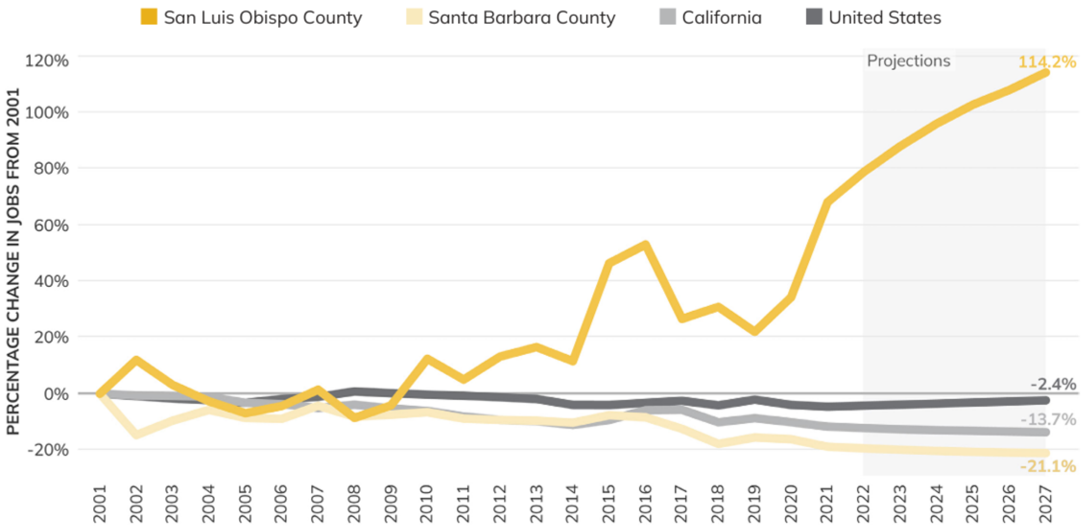
It would be helpful if the performance data included the number of jobs created each year within the key sectors that REACH is working to expand. These include high tech manufacturing and innovation, the continuation of Diablo, the development of wind energy, housing production, agricultural technology, and aero-space. In **Item 17**, below, which is related, we can see the laying of the groundwork to measure progress. This is good news.

Item 17 - Request to receive an update and file the "Resilience Roadmap: A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara" final report. This is a massive report when its subcomponent detailed reports are included. The basis is now here to measure progress against projections, as illustrated in the graphs below. Now we are talking turkey.

The Roadmap expands on the work of REACH 2030 by identifying specific actions that a range of players in government, higher education, nonprofits and industry can take both collectively and in their own spheres toward a more diversified, inclusive, and resilient Central Coast economy.

See the graphics below:

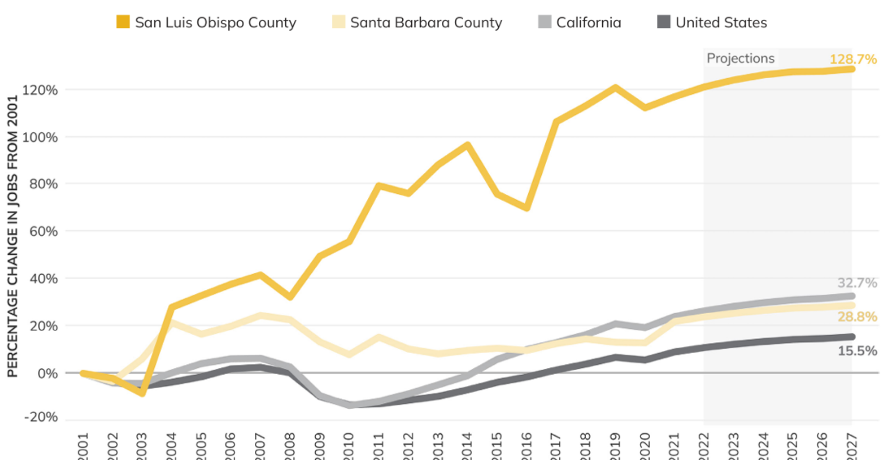
FIGURE 1. CENTRAL COAST EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN THE AEROSPACE & DEFENSE SECTOR
WITH COMPARISONS TO THE STATE AND US



Source(s): US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Lightcast 2022.4—QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed; TIP Strategies, Inc

It is hard to know how well or meaning the data is when it is presented only in percentages. If the underlying ordinate numbers are in the tens, it's not so great. But if it's in the hundreds, it would be significant.

FIGURE 1. CENTRAL COAST EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN THE CLEAN TECH AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR
WITH COMPARISONS TO THE STATE AND US



Source(s): US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Lightcast 2022.4—QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed; TIP Strategies, Inc.
Note(s): The Clean Tech and Renewable Energy sector includes 37 detailed industries (6-digit NAICS) which are listed in the appendices.

FIGURE 1. CENTRAL COAST EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN THE CLEAN TECH AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR
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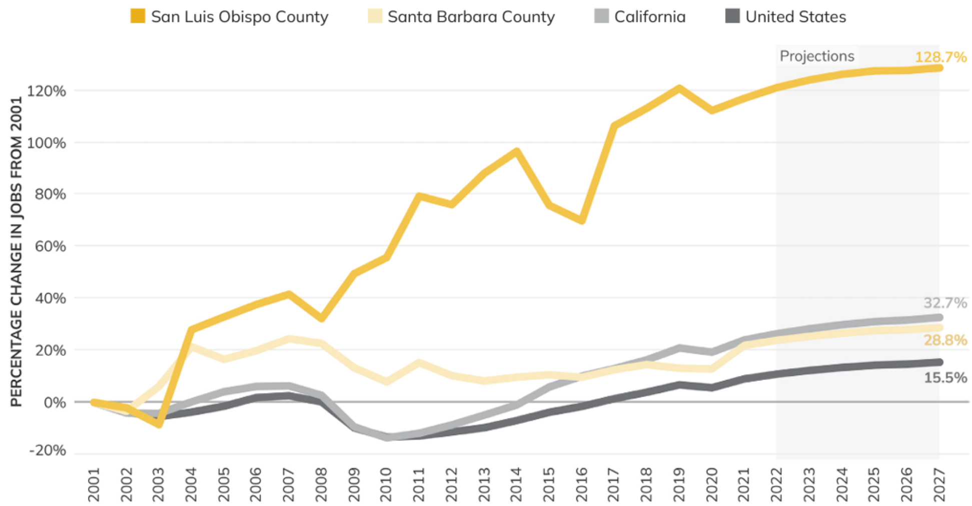


Source(s): US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Lightcast 2022.4—QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed; TIP Strategies, Inc.
Note(s): The Clean Tech and Renewable Energy sector includes 37 detailed industries (6-digit NAICS) which are listed in the appendices.

Item 19 - Request to 1) approve responses to the FY 2023-24 Grand Jury report titled "Annexation: A Taxing Dilemma"; and 2) forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by July 16, 2024. This is ultimately about a dispute between the cities and County over how revenues are divvied up when a city annexes previously unincorporated territory. Back in 1996, the County and the cities adopted a master agreement with a formula that the cities now assert is out of date. In 2019 a consultant was hired to examine the matter and recommend any changes. The project was never completed and ultimately was pended.

The consultant claims the County would not provide or could not provide the required data. The County claims that COVID interfered and that it had a staff shortage. Neither of these causes should have been an obstacle.

It is likely that the real problem, undetected by the Grand Jury, is the obtuse nature of the County Budget structure, which probably meant that a large amount of staff hours would be required to manually extract the required data to determine the correct allocation of property tax, sales tax, and hotel tax between a particular annexation area and the County. This would require an understanding of the deployment of the services, related revenues, and expenditures geographically. Since the County does not budget at the program level, the task becomes very manual and difficult.

Additionally, the County does not have a land based planning information system (LBPS) where it can measure the demographics in a particular area, the incidence of problems in the area (crimes, diseases, fires), the taxes generated in that area, and data about the services delivered in that area. Currently, this data would all have to be accreted manually from a variety of sources drawn within the departments and other agencies. Such systems generally can be built on the

Assessor's property file as each property's physical characteristics are all listed. As the data from different departments is added in layers, non-technical users can create detailed sets of reports and numbers of incidents, responses, and related costs and revenues.

In addition to benefiting management and the Board of Supervisors, such a system deployed as a public application would exponentially expand the ability of the public to assess the quality and cost of the County government. Such a system in combination with a true program performance Budget would be major enhancement to transparent democratic governance. In addition to standard reports, it could support a custom reporting feature.

It would resemble a mini-Amazon. Instead allowing people to buy stuff, it would allow them to see how their government is performing. Files would be updated from operational County files as a bi-product.

Government officials resist the installation of such systems for the obvious reasons.

Item 20 - It is recommended that the Board: 1) review and approve the attached Oceano Community Services District Divestiture of Fire Protection Services Plan for Services (Plan for Service), outlining the County's plan to accept responsibility for fire service to the community of Oceano, if divestiture is approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO); 2) direct County staff to submit the Plan for Service to LAFCO; and 3) approve the attached contract with Five Cities Fire Authority in the amount of $1,706,000 for fire and emergency services to the community of Oceano. This is yet another service and cost canary in the coal mine. The Oceano Community Services District can no longer afford to pay for its own fire service and has petitioned the County to take it over. As we have pointed out for years, this trend will continue throughout the State as smaller and weaker jurisdictions collapse. Soon some cities will also give up the ghost. Many have already adopted tax overrides in order to survive. When costs eat through these over the years, the voters will be reluctant to add more. The counties will end up holding the bag – for a while.

Per the paragraph below, the general County taxpayer starts with a subsidy of $310,000 will grow inexorably over the years.

At the time that the Board directed staff to prepare this Plan for Service, it was estimated that the ongoing annual cost of service including both contract cost and indirect County cost, would be approximately $1,800,000, and the annual General Fund support would be $498,783. Due to conditions included in the Plan for Service, primarily proposed lease agreements between OCSD and the County, the annual General Fund support is estimated to be $310,143

Item 32 - 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. 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.

CAUTION - Items 34 – 38 Paso Basin Groundwater management actions: Items 34 and 35 should be pulled and reset as business items for full public discussion. There are too many policy questions for them to be slid under the door.

Item 34 - 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 overliers?

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 Cooperating 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 overliers 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 35 - Request to 1) approve the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) FY 2024-2025 Budget and County contribution percentage; 2) approve a corresponding budget

adjustment $406,200 in FC 205 – Groundwater Sustainability using reimbursement revenue from the other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) for the proportional share of costs for delivery of the PBCC funded cost components of the PBCC FY 2024-25 Budget, by 4/5 vote; and 3) authorize the Chairperson to sign Amendment No. 2 to Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding Preparation and Implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin between the City of El Paso de Robles, the San Miguel Community Services District, the County of San Luis Obispo, the Shandon-San Juan Water District and the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District to add the County as a contracting agent and establish related payment obligation percentages and terms.

GSA	Voting / Cost Share
County of SLO	32.3%
City of Paso Robles	15.2%
Shandon-San Juan Water District	20.2%
San Miguel CSD	3.0%
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District	29.3%
TOTAL	100%

The County of San Luis Obispo's share of the recommended PBCC Budget is $193,800. These funds were included in the Groundwater Sustainability Department proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget. The remaining $406,200 is requested through a Budget Augmentation Request (BAR) which will be used to pay for the proportional share of costs for the other GSAs, which subsequently be recovered through reimbursement revenues as the other GSAs repay the County in accordance with the MOA as amended by Amendment No. 2.

Why wouldn't the other GSAs put up their share now? Is this a County advance? The new memorandum of understanding between the agencies states in part:

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the County may also act as the contracting agent on behalf of the Cooperative Committee with respect to the retention of any and all consultants subject to approval by the Cooperative Committee. If the County acts as the contracting agent, the same provisions applicable to the City under this Section 6 shall apply to the County excepting that the County shall follow its own procurement policies in the engagement of such consultant(s) with inclusion of the Parties and Cooperative Committee in the selection of any consultant as set forth in Section 6.3 above. In addition, notwithstanding Section 5.3, the Parties agree that the County shall calculate each Party's payment obligation based on the following percentages: City – 15.2%; SMCSD – 3.0%; SSJWD – 20.2%; County – 32.3% and EPCWD – 29.3%; and provided that each Party has approved a budget that includes such consultant costs or its share of such consultant costs, each Party shall remit payment to the County within thirty (30) days upon receipt of an invoice from the County that reflects the above percentages.

Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Budget for FY 2024-25.

The Budget is detailed on the page below:

Attachment 2

Recommended PBCC Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

	Budget Components	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
	Grant Funded Cost Components				
	Grant Funded				
1	ET Ag Water Usage Program		$ 120,000		
2	Cost of Service Rate Study		$ 150,000		
3	Address High Priority GSP Data Gaps (Expanded Monitoring Network)		$ 1,400,000		
4	MILR Program Framework		$ 380,000		
5	Well Verification/Registration Program		$ 100,000		
6	Drinking Well Impact Mitigation Program Development		$ 200,000		
7	Blended Irrigation Water Supply Program		$ 300,000		
8	SWP Feasibility Project		$ 200,000		
9	City of Paso Robles Recycled Water Distribution System - Salinas River Segment	$ 3,500,000			
10	San Miguel CSD Recycled Water Supply Project		$ 1,000,000		
	Grant Funded Total	$ 3,500,000	$ 3,850,000		

	Budget Components	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
	PBCC Funded Cost Components				
	SGMA-Required				
11	Annual Report WY 2024	$ 95,000	$ 100,000	$ 110,000	$ 121,000
12	GSP Fifth Year Evaluation		$ 300,000		
13	ET Ag Water Usage Program			$ 120,000	$ 120,000
14	Ongoing Basin Monitoring Operations & Maintenance		$ 75,000	$ 82,500	$ 90,750
	GSP Initiatives				
15	Outreach Program (Continued efforts including new website)		$ 75,000	$ 82,500	$ 90,750
	Administrative				
16	Develop Governance Structure (e.g. JPA, etc.)		$ 50,000		$ -
17	Executive Director and Support Staff			$ 180,000	$ 200,000
18	Legal Counsel			$ 82,500	$ 90,750
19	PBCC Administrative Costs (Insurance, Audit, Accounting, etc.)			$ 82,500	$ 90,750
20	Grant Development (2 grants)			$ 82,500	$ 90,750
21	Technical Consultant(s) (as necessary)			$ 110,000	$ 121,000
	TOTAL	$ 95,000	$ 600,000	$ 932,500	$ 1,015,750

	GSA Cost Share	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	GSA Cost Share %
a	County of San Luis Obispo GSA	$ 30,685	$ 193,800	$ 301,198	$ 328,087	32.3%
b	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District GSA	$ 27,835	$ 175,800	$ 273,223	$ 297,615	29.3%
c	Shandon San Juan Water District GSA	$ 19,190	$ 121,200	$ 188,365	$ 205,182	20.2%
d	City of Paso Robles GSA	$ 14,440	$ 91,200	$ 141,740	$ 154,394	15.2%
e	San Miguel Community Services District GSA	$ 2,850	$ 18,000	$ 27,975	$ 30,473	3.0%

Item 36 - Request to 1) approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a professional consultant services contract with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. through January 24, 2025, in an amount not to exceed $264,070, to perform a Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 5-Year Evaluation; 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 costs associated with the Study are partially reimbursable from the other four (4) GSAs in the Basin, which are parties to the MOA. The County shall be responsible for paying 32.3% of the total project costs, which equates to $85,294.61, and is funded by the General Fund. The remaining $178,775.39 will be reimbursed to the County from the other GSAs in accordance with the provisions of the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). These funds are included in the FC 205 FY 2024-2025 budget.

On January 30, 2020, the Paso Robles GSP was submitted to DWR for review. DWR issued an "incomplete" GSP determination on January 21, 2022, and provided a list of plan deficiencies.

The Paso Basin GSAs submitted a revised GSP addressing DWR's deficiencies on July 20, 2022, and DWR issued an "approved" determination for the revised Paso Basin GSP on June 20, 2023. Under the provisions of the MOA, for the upcoming Fiscal Year, each GSA shall be responsible for funding a portion of the recommended budgeted costs after approval of the recommended budget and contribution percentages by each party to the MOA. The MOA further provides that neither the PBCC, nor any party on behalf of the PBCC, shall make financial expenditures or incur any financial obligations or liabilities pursuant to the MOA, prior to the approval of the budget for the relevant Fiscal Year by each party. Thus, County staff will not proceed with implementing the proposed contract until each of the parties approves Amendment No. 2 to the MOA as well as the recommended budget and contribution percentages (also presented to your Board today) which are based on the voting percentages set forth in the MOA subject to minor modification based on Heritage Ranch Community Services District's withdrawal:

GSA	Voting / Cost Share
County of SLO	32.3%
City of Paso Robles	15.2%
Shandon-San Juan Water District	20.2%
San Miguel CSD	3.0%
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District	29.3%
TOTAL	100%

GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

1. Over the last 5 years, how much has SLO County paid to GSI for various projects and reports?

2. How many more studies of the basin are required? It seems endless. When does it stop?

3. One of GSI's web pages listed its expertise as protecting overliers' water rights.

4. What have they to say about the questions under **Item 34** above?

Item 37 - Request to approve and authorize the Director of Public Works to enter into a Technical Support Services Program Agreement with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and approve and authorize both the Director of Groundwater Sustainability and the Director of Public Works to sign a License Agreement with DWR in connection with the construction, installation, operation, maintenance and administration of one groundwater monitoring station on County owned land (APN 035-081-044) which will enable the County to collect data necessary for the implementation of the Paso Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires sustainable groundwater management in all high and medium priority basins throughout the State of California. The Paso Robles Area of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) is identified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in Bulletin 118 as Subbasin No. 3-004.06. The Basin is part of the greater Salinas Valley Basin in the Central Coastal region of California. The Basin as defined in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) encompasses an area of approximately 436,240 acres, or 681 square miles and is entirely within San Luis Obispo County.

Item 38 - Request to authorize the Groundwater Sustainability Director to enter into agreements with well and property owners for purposes of measuring groundwater levels in a form similar to the Well Access and Data Usage Agreement template and approved as to form by County Counsel.

The number of wells being measured is insufficient to adequately assess the conditions within our aquifers for the purposes of making decisions regarding the impact and success that is being achieved through the implementation of groundwater management activities that are being implemented by the County and other public agencies and GSAs. In reviewing the Paso Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), the Department of Water Resources (DWR) identified "existing Basin monitoring network as a critical data gap" and found that "Monitoring groundwater levels in the Subbasin will be the most important monitoring activity during GSP implementation.

Question: Were there enough wells to measure the status of the Basin in the first place? Back in 2013, the DWR declared the Basin at risk and a class I SIGMA basin, based on its Director reading a SLO Tribune article. If there are not enough wells now, does anyone actually know if the Basin is truly a Class I problem subject to SGMA?

Meanwhile, millions of taxpayer dollars have been and are being spent. People have lost the ability to pump and farm. The patronage for consultants and jobs grows.

Item 70 - Executive Session – Nipomo Action Committee, et al v. County of San Luis Obispo et. al, San Luis Obispo Superior Court, Case No. 24CV-0351. The County is being sued for approving the Dana Reserve project in Nipomo. The Nipomo Action Committee is a group of neighboring residents. The California Native Plant Society is also a plaintiff. Neighbors fear that the project is too large, too dense, and will generate too much traffic. Will Supervisors Gibson and Paulding attempt to persuade the Board to negotiate a smaller project, or if they can sucker-bait Supervisor Ortiz-Legg in the back room, surrender the case?

If the Board does not defend the approval vigorously, the hypocrisy of its housing policy will only be further enshrined. Of course, the developer must pay for the defense of a matter which is in the public interest. Does this mean that the County approval means nothing? Why have all the applications, staffing, analysis, and expense? Just allow neighbors to decide what can be approved in a New England Town Meeting format.

MATTERS AFTER 1:30 PM

Item 74 - Board of Supervisor comments, activity reports, and requests for future agenda items.

SLO County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Board Meeting of Wednesday, June 19, 2024 (Scheduled)

Item A-4 - Request to approve the Year 7 Community Air Protection Implementation Program (AB 617). The item describes the use of State grant funds to provide electronic air filters (390) and electric vehicle chargers (number unknown) to poor people. This is all part of a much larger $3.5 million program spread around different agencies in the region.

The write-up states in part:

The recommended Board actions would make $88,600 of Year 7 CAP Program Implementation funding available as gap funding for SLO County REACH 2.0 EV charger projects in Fiscal Year 2024 2025 and allocate $12,655 for program administrative support by APCD staff, consistent with CAP Program goals.

In the name of equity, shouldn't they all get a Tesla too?

Item B-1 - APCD Annual 2024-25 Budget. Would it make one mote of difference in public safety and air quality if this program were reduced to a measurement tracking program in the non-industrial rural and suburban counties. If something bad came up, couldn't the regular County Health and code enforcement agencies stop it?

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
SUMMARY BUDGET REQUEST - FY 2024-2025

06/19/24

	BUDGET 2023-24	ESTIMATED 2023-24	REQUESTED 2024-25
REVENUES			
Property Taxes	$ 454,736	$ 475,598	$ 479,266
Operating & Authority to Construct Permits	1,800,000	1,831,000	1,943,000
Other District Fees (Asbestos, Environ Assess, Burn Fees)	323,304	340,595	325,104
Mutual Settlements	80,000	275,000	90,000
Interest Revenue	50,000	118,622	75,000
DMV Air Fees	1,080,000	1,080,800	1,080,000
State & Federal Aid	795,923	740,611	292,960
Other Govt Aid	16,355	0	0
Other Sales & Miscellaneous Revenues	15,356	15,356	16,653
Cancelled Reserves & Designations	240,407	240,407	0
Fund Balance From Prior Year	1,760,284	1,760,284	1,750,160
Released Encumbrances	0	33,537	0
Encumbrance Reserve From Prior Year	43,098	43,098	0
TOTAL FINANCING	**$ 6,659,463**	**$ 6,954,908**	**$ 6,052,143**
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, Benefits, & Taxes	$ 4,714,820	$ 3,799,011	$ 4,645,620
Communications - Phones, Mail	34,440	24,689	24,515
Computers, Software, & Support	153,610	129,324	163,725
County Services (excluding Computer Support)	112,087	96,779	246,658
Insurance	71,000	79,390	96,000
Leases & Rents	7,600	3,600	4,200
Maintenance - Equipment & Facilities	162,370	113,636	147,950
Office Supplies & Copies	39,836	22,181	39,786
Other Department Expenses	81,570	90,097	22,250
Professional Services	291,518	105,244	302,935
Public Outreach & Education	48,100	39,185	47,500
Training & Travel	51,442	29,598	64,627
Utilities	21,910	24,676	28,250
Vehicles - Maintenance & Fuel	24,400	21,299	24,400
Subtotal - Services & Supplies	1,099,883	779,698	1,212,796
Other Charges / Contributions to Other Agencies	2,000	2,000	3,000
Fixed Assets	131,740	75,151	0
Contingencies	162,132	0	175,874
Increased Reserves & Designations	548,888	548,888	14,853
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**6,659,463**	**5,204,748**	**6,052,143**
Net District Cost	**$ -**	**$ (1,750,160)**	**$ -**

LAST WEEKS HIGHLIGHTS

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, June 13, 2024 (Completed)

Item 6 - Hearing to consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo (LRP2024-00003) to amend the County Inland and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinances and the Local Coastal Plan to update the Flood Hazard Area Standards and associated definitions per updated flood hazard data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Countywide. Exempt from CEQA. The Commission approved the changes unanimously for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that has the final adoption authority.

The Commission letter summarized the proposed actions as:
In accordance with FEMA direction, it is recommended that the Planning Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors amend the County Inland and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinances and the Local Coastal Plan to update the Flood Hazard Area Standards and associated definitions per updated FEMA flood hazard data. The following is a summary of the recommended amendments:
• Updated references, administrative procedures, and definitions to be consistent with FEMA floodplain management guidance.
• Added and revised floodplain management definitions: base flood; base flood elevation; flood fringe; Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM); Flood Insurance Study; flood plain; flood profile, storm; flood proofing; floodway; lowest floor; new construction; start of construction; substantial damage; and substantial improvement.
• Moved flood hazard-specific definitions to the appropriate ordinance sections for clarity.
• Defined the duties and responsibilities of the Floodplain Administrator to be consistent with NFIP and California Building Code requirements.

If your property is in a flood plain, you should have gone by Planning or called to see if they are doing anything bad to you.

California Coastal Commission Meeting of Thursday, June 13, 2024 (Completed)

Item 14a - Public hearing and potential action on request by San Luis Obispo County to add a Los Osos Community Plan to the LCP's Estero Area Plan, where the Community Plan is structured to address long-standing issues related to development constraints in that unincorporated community just south of Morro Bay, including related to water supply, wastewater services, and ESHA, and if the Commission does not take a final action, possible action to extend the deadline for final Commission action on the amendment. (RM/DJ-SC)

The bottom line of the 31-page staff report is that the proposed County Plan protects water resources sufficiently to allow the removal of the development moratorium in Los Osos. The report notes that the pumping of groundwater has been reduced. The staff report congratulates the County on its long term work efforts to reach this stage. The write-up states in part:

In conclusion, the end result of such suggested modifications is to provide for infill development in a manner that has adequate water supply to serve it, wastewater capacity to treat it, and all *within a protected habitat greenbelt area that will preserve the community's periphery while allowing for infill development. The amendment as modified serves to implement many Coastal Act goals and requirements, including ensuring that development in Los Osos is sustainable, that the legal framework to build housing and community services to keep Los Osos a thriving community is provided, and that statewide and local housing supply needs are met. All of which can hopefully provide some certainty for this community, and all of which definitely shows that, with good planning, communities can indeed solve tough problems related to public services and natural resources. The community should be proud of its efforts and commitment to doing so, and it can be reflected in a comprehensive coastal land use planning document that should ably serve the Los Osos community into the future. Thus, the proposed LUP amendment with the suggested modifications can be found consistent with the Coastal Act.*

There are members of the community who disagree with the data and who will oppose the approval/concurrence with the County Plan. Thus, the matter is not a slam dunk.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - Your Government at Work
Politicians and industrial policy will always find ways to execute poorly. By Andy Kessler, June 9, 2024.

The high-speed railway under construction in Fresno, Calif., May 8, 2019. PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

After the $320 million floating fiasco ran aground, Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance tweeted: "The Gaza pier is a symbol of the Biden administration. A horrible idea executed terribly." True—for almost all government projects. The November election may be about old vs. paroled, but underneath it could mark an overdue transition from heavy-handed government ineptitude back to relying on the private sector. Busybodies vs. market ninjas. It's time.

Remember the $7.5 billion of pork spending set aside for electric-vehicle chargers in the 2021 Infrastructure bill? The administration promised 500,000 of them by 2030, overseen by

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. As of May, only eight had been installed. As they say, “close enough for government work.” Only 150,000 years to go.

In 2008 Californians voted for about $10 billion in bonds for high-speed rail connecting San Francisco and Los Angeles—the first payment of a then-estimated $33 billion budget for the 800-mile stretch. So far, only a 1,600-foot Fresno River Viaduct has been built, along with a hodgepodge of guideways and structures. Only 42,000 years to go. Oh, and the estimated cost has risen to around $130 billion. California has also spent $24 billion over the past five years to solve the homeless problem. Meanwhile, the homeless population is up 30%. Why let government do anything?

Jimmy Carter—Joe Biden’s role model—set the pace. In 1979, after six years of oil embargoes and gasoline shortages, Mr. Carter wanted $88 billion ($365 billion today) for, among other things, a Synthetic Fuel Corp. “Synfuels” would enable U.S. energy independence. He got $20 billion.

Fracking went horizontal in the 1980s, thanks largely to private investment. Now the U.S. is the largest oil- and gas-producing country. Yet oil and gas are now considered sin fuels, and the Biden administration paused liquefied natural gas exports in January.

We’re still paying for ObamaCare. A Kaiser survey found that individual premiums between 2010, when ObamaCare was enacted, and 2022 were up 58%. Family premiums rose more than 63%. Inflation was only up 36% over that period. You didn’t build that, President Obama did, and terribly.

Government is bad for your health. Whose idea was it to pay for gain-of-function research in Wuhan? Remember when the Food and Drug Administration delayed the rollout of Covid tests by, among other things, requiring applications on CD-ROMs? In 2020! The FDA interference, according to a Yale Law Journal 2020 Forum, was “possibly the deadliest regulatory overreach in U.S. history.”

I’ll take the private sector every time. The Biden administration throws money and mandates at electric vehicles, and now we have a glut. The Commerce Department delivers semiconductor money from the Chips+ Act to swing states Ohio and Arizona and blue New York, albeit upstate. You could die waiting on hold to talk to the Internal Revenue Service. Mr. Biden’s Federal Communications Commission reinstated net neutrality after Donald Trump’s FCC had killed it, even though the U.S., unlike Europe, enjoyed bandwidth-a-plenty during the pandemic for Zoom and Netflix.

Between the Covid-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan, the Paycheck Protection Program and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program, the FBI reports almost $300 billion in fraud. It was so easy, tens of thousands reportedly filed applications from jail.

And don’t get me started on the Department of Education. Since its founding in 1979, spending per student has been up, up and away. The results? Forty percent to 60% of first-year college students are taking remedial classes “in English, math, or both.” And they can’t deliver the critical Fafsa financial-aid application that Google could probably roll out by tomorrow.

The U.S. isn't alone. In 2021, Saudi Arabia unveiled plans for "The Line," a new $1.5 trillion car-free city stretching 106 miles to the Gulf of Aqaba, the first phase of the 2017-announced megatropolis, Neom. Dream on—it was recently cut back to just 1.5 miles by 2030. My guess is they'll build less than 1,600 feet.

Why are governments so bad at execution? Accountability and incentives. There are no prices or profits, just elusive cost benefits estimated in simple spreadsheets any first-year investment banker could fudge.

But these public-works projects are well intentioned, right? Hardly. Good luck finding all the hidden agendas, political back scratching and paid-off donors. Or, in the case of student loans, bribes to voters. Getting re-elected is how politicians measure the success of government work vs. private-sector profits.

Those profits from each private-sector project or product provide capital that pays for the next important project. In perpetuity. Profits also provide guidance to markets that fund great ideas and kill off bad ones. It's Darwinism vs. kleptocracy. Sadly, politicians and industrial policy will always fund dumb things like electric-vehicle chargers, high-speed rail and Neom—horrible ideas executed terribly.

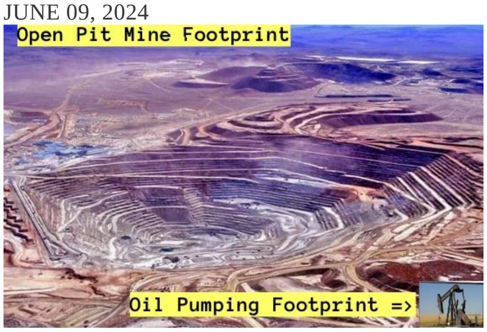
This article appeared in the June 10, 2024 Wall Street Journal , print edition as 'Your Government at Work'

Andy Kessler is the author of Inside View, a column he writes for The Wall Street Journal on technology and markets and where they intersect with culture. He won the 2019 Gerald Loeb Award for commentary. He is the author of several books including Wall Street Meat and Eat People. He used to design chips at Bell Labs before working on Wall Street for PaineWebber and Morgan Stanley and then as a founder of the hedge fund Velocity Capital.

Item 2 - California's Dumbest Idea Since the Bullet Train,

By Andy Caldwell

JUNE 09, 2024



The relative footprints of the Escondida open pit mine vs a mechanical donkey magnified over 6,000x

The state and county's Zero Emission Clean Vehicle (ZEV) plan is a clunker. The associated mandates will force us to purchase electric, hybrid, or hydrogen vehicles to ostensibly reduce transportation-related emissions. Obviously, nobody has done the math on what it will cost to replace California's 31 million registered vehicles or the cost of generating and delivering the power to satisfy the gargantuan electricity demand it will create.

For instance, one trucking company in Santa Maria has ceased doing business due in part to these mandates. ZEV would have cost the company $60 million to replace its fleet of 125 trucks, and that doesn't count the price of the chargers or the cost to upgrade the power lines on site. Moreover, PG&E does not have the line capacity to deliver the additional electricity required for the upgrade.

The ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) program is the California bullet train on steroids.

These government initiatives are nothing more than a compilation of hype, virtue signaling, and wishful thinking, completely devoid of economic reality. Moreover, the county blew up the vertically integrated franchise model of our local utility companies when it joined a community energy partnership program (3CE) which serves as a parasite to the utility companies that serve our region.

In short, 3CE skims off ratepayer monies to create a slush fund for its own electricity generation via solar and wind, while expecting the utility companies and/or consumers to pay for additional transmission and distribution capacity (transmission lines can cost millions of dollars per mile).

The Overwhelming Expense of Going All-Electric

PG&E and So Cal Edison (read: consumers and taxpayers), do not have the financial wherewithal, *sans* additional skyrocketing rates, to radically increase the thousands of miles of transmission lines required to handle a tripling of our current electricity generation. Neither does anyone have the financial wherewithal to increase the line capacity required for the distribution of electricity to and within homes and businesses for us to go all-electric. As the *LA Times* reports, one in five California households (and one in three low-income customers) are behind on their bills right now, owing an average of nearly $800.

The county's draft plan compares the weight of coal, oil, and gas (fossil fuels) to that of rare earth materials such as cobalt and lithium (used in batteries) as if the weight of the materials indicates how green the source of energy is.

This is a complete farce.

First, it takes hundreds of pounds of cobalt and lithium to create a single one-thousand-pound EV battery. Yet that metric ignores the fact that producing 1,000 pounds of rare earth minerals requires extracting and processing some 500,000 pounds of dirt and rock (via environmentally disastrous strip mining which also uses and contaminates vast amounts of water), according to Professor **Mark Mills** from Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science. Moreover, coal is not used to create gasoline or diesel, it is used to create 20%

of the electricity in the U.S. Hence, the environmental impacts derived from coal are used in part to charge electric vehicles and appliances.

A $5-Trillion Charging Station Behemoth Required

Southern California has a grand total of one (count 'em, one) large-scale charging station for big rigs that can charge up to 32 trucks at a time. However, the charging station gobbles up the electricity required to power a city of 200,000 people. We would need thousands of these charging stations to power all the trucks that come and go throughout our state, along with farm and construction equipment, not to mention the new electrification mandate for rail locomotives. Altogether, we would need the electrical generation, transmission, and distribution capacity to serve the equivalent of another 200 million people in our state.

The ZEV program is the CA bullet train on steroids.

The doomed-to-fail bullet train cost projection has ballooned to $128 billion, nearly four times the 2008 estimate and it is still not operational. The estimated cost for America to go all-electric?

$5 trillion!

Item 3 - California Dreamin' becomes California Leavin'

The various locations of these cities point to the fact that this is a statewide exodus

By Katy Grimes, June 10, 2024

Californians are moving out. Still.

"The top states Californians were leaving for – as we've become accustomed to, Florida and Texas, North and South Carolina and Tennessee," the Globe reported in January. "U-Haul reports that Idaho, Washington, Arizona, Colorado and Virginia were also in the top 10 states for inbound migration."

There's a new report out from PODS, the moving and storage company, which finds Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay area, South Florida's Miami metro, and Long Island, New York continue to see the largest population exoduses – largely because of high housing costs, high costs of living, and compromised quality of life issues.
Who better than a moving and storage company to keep the stats on inbound and outbound migration?

"In 2020, the state's population loss was enough to cost it a congressional seat. And although population loss has lessened, it was still at a net loss of over 91,000 people in 2023," PODS reported.
"Exorbitant housing costs, overcrowding, and hefty tax burdens have become, for some, insurmountable challenges in these urban centers," PODS reports. "As a result, many residents find themselves priced out and seeking reprieve from major cities. This mass relocation underscores the growing appeal among Americans in prioritizing access to nature and a more sustainable quality of life over the pace of city living."

"High taxes, high cost of living – highest-in-the-nation housing costs, highest-in-the-nation gas prices, failing public schools, and loss of parental rights – all factor in the decision to move," the Globe reported in January.

PODS also notes that Companies are flocking to southern sunbelt states like Texas, Georgia, Arizona, North Carolina, and Tennessee, according to global data center Iron Mountain. because of lower operational costs, tax incentives, and better value for employees.
Now PODS reports California makes the top 10 list of highest number of move-outs with four cities/regions, and has 7 cities out of the top 20 move-out cities. "The various locations of these cities point to the fact that this is a statewide exodus," PODS said.

Here is PODS' **Top 10 cities with the highest number of move-outs:**
1. **Los Angeles, CA** (1st in 2023)
2. **Northern California (San Francisco area)** (2nd in 2023)
3. South Florida (Miami area) (5th in 2023)
4. Long Island, NY (Serving parts of NYC) (4th in 2023)
5. Austin, TX (Not ranked in 2023)
6. Central Jersey, NJ (6th in 2023)
7. Chicago, IL (3rd in 2023)
8. **San Diego, CA** (14th in 2023)
9. **Stockton-Modesto, CA** (9th in 2023)
10. Hudson Valley, NY (11th in 2023)

PODS reports they are seeing "more people move to the Southern Appalachian region, which includes states like North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. People are also continuing to move to select Florida cities and long-standing retirement favorites such as Boise, Portland (ME), and Phoenix."

They also say many people have the Carolinas at the top of their lists as the best state to live in.

"This year's PODS long-distance moving data reveals that movers are swapping out previously hot move-to markets like Florida and Texas for spots in Tennessee, the Carolinas, and Georgia. More than 60 percent of the most moved-to cities were in these three southern states, with the Carolinas accounting for a whopping 30 percent of the top 20 cities with the most move-ins."

Cities With the Highest Number of Move-Ins Ranked – *Not one in California*

Rank	**City**
1	Myrtle Beach, SC/Wilmington, NC (1st in 2023)
2	Ocala, FL (4th in 2023)
3	Houston, TX (5th in 2023)
4	Greenville-Spartanburg, SC (10th in 2023)
5	Charlotte, NC (16th in 2023)
6	Raleigh, NC (20th in 2023)
7	Phoenix, AZ (18th in 2023)
8	Knoxville, TN (7th in 2023)
9	Jacksonville, FL (8th in 2023)
10	Asheville, NC (17th in 2023)
11	Boise, ID (15th in 2023)
12	Portland, ME (13th in 2023)
13	Nashville, TN (11th in 2023)
14	Atlanta, GA (Not ranked in 2023)
15	Johnson City, TN (Not ranked in 2023)
16	Huntsville, AL (Not ranked in 2023)
17	Dover, DE (Not ranked in 2023)

18	Orlando, FL (3rd in 2023)
19	Savannah, GA (19th in 2023)
20	Greensboro, NC (Not ranked in 2023)

PODS said last year Florida claimed half of the top 10 spots on their top move-in list. This year, Florida tied for third. The Myrtle Beach, South Carolina/Wilmington, North Carolina, area holds remains the number one most moved-to city for the second year in a row.

“Tennessee tied with Florida for the third most popular state for new moves,” PODS said. “This year’s Tennessee takeover sees Knoxville, Nashville, and Johnson City in the top 20. It seems the Volunteer State is next in line for a population boom, with many of its new residents reportedly **moving from California** or flocking from former favorites like Florida and Texas.” PODS concludes:

“The Golden State has a reputation for imposing high sales, income, and property taxes. The cost of living is approximately 50 percent higher in California than the national average, and housing costs can be prohibitive. For example, home values in California have increased 6.4 percent over the last year, more than 2 percent above the national average, according to Zillow. And the national average cost for a rental in the U.S. is around $1,725 for a one-bedroom apartment, but it reaches an average of $2,525 in California, $3,275 in San Francisco, and $2,700 in Los Angeles, according to RentCafe data.”
“Additionally, California’s congested cities and rising rates of crime and homelessness may also be contributing factors.”

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 4 - REPORT: CA COASTAL COMMISSION ‘EXCLUDED CALIFORNIANS FROM THE COAST AND MADE SEGREGATION WORSE’

Report accuses California Coastal Commission of adding to racially segregated housing
ANDREW SHEELER JUNE 13, 2024

A Southern California-based think tank, Circulate San Diego, published a report this Thursday morning that highlights the need for reform at the California Coastal Commission. The commission was established in the 1970s through the state Coastal Act to protect California’s coast from over-development, environmental harm, and keep the Golden State’s 800 miles of coastline accessible to the public.

But the report, “A Better Coastal Commission,” claims that the commission’s recent opposition to affordable housing developments “has made the coast the least accessible part of California” and, contrary to its progressive rhetoric, has contributed to exclusivity and racial segregation on the California coastline. The report cites the instances in which the Coastal Commission has resisted housing reform efforts, such as its exemption to the Housing Density Bonus Law, which allows certain housing developments to bypass certain development requirements if a certain percentage of housing units are reserved for moderate, low and very low income households. The Coastal Commission has worked to keep the Coastal Zone from complying with the density law. A new bill, authored by Assemblyman David Alvarez, D-San Diego, would eliminate that exemption.

“The Coastal Commission is supposed to protect the environment and coastal access for all Californians,” said the report’s primary author, Will Moore, Policy Counsel at Circulate San Diego. “But their actions have excluded Californians from the coast and made segregation and climate change worse. We need the Coastal Commission to live up to its mission and its rhetoric. We hope this report pushes them to do better.” In the 27-page report, authors point to various instances of the California Coastal Commission voicing progressive beliefs — such as its 2022 report on the “Historical Roots of Housing Inequity and Impacts on Coastal Zone Demographic Patterns,” which explored the discriminatory, and now illegal, practice of redlining — while themselves not advancing progressive housing measures.

Redlining usually involved lenders drawing “red lines” around certain areas, usually with racial or ethnic majorities, and making it difficult for them to get help buying a home. “The Coastal Commission’s actions do not live up to their claimed values when they are faced with an actual proposal to build affordable homes,” the authors wrote, citing a series of recently proposed affordable housing projects in Santa Cruz, Los Angeles, Encinitas and Oceanside that were stymied by the commission. The report fans the flames in the already-contentious YIMBY v. NIMBY housing debates among lawmakers and the commission; Alvarez backed the report, and co-authors of his bill, AB 2560, have called for Coastal Commission reform as well.

“The Legislature should take a skeptical view to any demands by the Coastal Commission for more authority over housing of any kind,” the report states. “The Commission has a proven track record of using its authority to impose additional burdens that prevent and delay affordable homes.”

Sacramento Bee, June 13, 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 LEFT KNOWS LEFTISM DOESN'T WORK

If Biden and his handlers have taught us anything, human nature cannot be fooled, and the current four-year experiment will have to end before it ends us—and soon

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Do not expect the radical left to survey the wreckage of socialism and communism in history and accept that statism impoverishes people and erodes their freedoms. There will never be admissions by our elite that progressivism exists mainly for the acquisition of power by the utopian and virtue-signaling few, who ensure that they are never subject to the baleful implementation of their ideological agendas on the rest of us.

Still, leftists look around at what they have done to America in the last four years and implicitly know that the plan did not work, the people detested it, or both.

How do we know this? By a variety of barometers.

None of the major Biden "achievements"—10 million illegal aliens across a nonexistent border, key components of the cost of living 25-30 percent higher than in 2020, wars and chaos abroad, DEI racial and tribal obsessions, wars on fossil fuels—poll at even 40-45 percent. Biden's own approval ratings, as the nominal architect of the most left-wing agenda since the Roosevelt administration, hover between 36 and 34 percent.

But most importantly, the left is not running on its record of the last three-and-a-half years but instead studiously ignoring it, at least temporarily through November. Suddenly, we aren't hearing so much about cancelling pipelines and freezing federal oil leases, or so much demonization of the "greedy" oil companies. Instead, Biden is further draining the strategic petroleum reserve and begging OPEC in general and the no-longer-demonized Saudi Arabia in particular to pump oil as fast as possible.

We were lied to for nearly four years that the border was "secure," as 10 million foreign nationals flooded across. Then we were told Biden was helpless to stop the deluge since he had no legal right to enforce federal immigration law through executive orders—a ridiculous excuse that even he would soon drop. Despite their eagerness for new constituencies, no one on the left dares to openly praise the influx of the last four years, much less demand more illegal immigration.

Instead, as November looms, Biden is suddenly reinstating the very Trump executive orders that once, despite deep state and court obstruction, finally closed the border—and which Biden himself had originally overturned. Note that Biden is now partnering with the Mexican government—which terribly fears another Trump presidency endangering Mexico's annual $60 billion in remittances from mostly illegal aliens in the United States—to curb some of the illegal immigration before the November election.

The administration's pandering at election time is a de facto admission that its agendas did not work, permanently alienated the people they hurt, and are now being forgotten or reversed—albeit temporarily—to retain power at all costs.

Few on the left praise the disastrous COVID lockdown, the canonization of Dr. Fauci, the mask and social-distancing craze, and the gospel that endless boosters were necessary to protect Americans. Even the left, although again quietly, assumes that the lockdowns did more damage than the virus, that Dr. Fauci repeatedly lied when he swore he did not subsidize gain-of-function viral research at the Chinese top-security virology lab at Wuhan, and that the virus came not from the lab but from a wandering pangolin or errant bat.

Biden and his supporters are no longer blaming or firing the police but rather trying (albeit quietly) to get more law-enforcement officers to serve—given the predictable crime wave that followed the George Floyd riots.

Ditto for all the left-wing hysterias of the last eight years. No one any longer claims that Christopher Steele's dossier was factual. No one insists that Hunter Biden's laptop was likely "Russian disinformation", or that "Anonymous" was a courageous "top-ranking" administration official. All these hysterias, it is tacitly admitted, were cooked-up left-wing canards to emasculate the Trump candidacy and presidency.

Outside of politics, leftists are quiet as their failed bromides are being undone. The idea of the FBI partnering with social media to suppress politically-dangerous news is something the left is not eager to repeat.

The same recognition is beginning to apply to the lawfare waged against Donald Trump. Jack Smith's crusade to get Trump is undermined by prosecutorial misbehavior concerning the evidence seized at Mar-a-Lago and by the asymmetrical treatment by another special counsel accorded Biden in comparison with Trump. Smith's efforts to speed up the trial before the election only made his persecution more politically transparent.

Fani Willis's outrageous behavior will likely delay indefinitely her weaponized indictments. The James and Bragg convictions will likely be overturned and were intended mostly to embarrass Trump, bankrupt him, and harm his presidential campaign.

All of the left's once-grandiose ideas of packing the Supreme Court, ending the filibuster, admitting two new states to win four more liberal senators, and destroying the Electoral College have little public support and will go nowhere. Corporations like Disney, Target, and Anheuser-Busch have all begun backtracking on their money-losing, market-share-eroding woke/DEI agendas.

Universities are terrified that their endowment income is either static or in decline, given a rising drop-off in public and alumni giving. They know their race-based, non-meritocratic admissions and hiring are increasingly destroying their brand names. To accommodate their new non-meritocratic student bodies, they have variously inflated their grades to the point of parody, watered down work requirements, or introduced gut courses—and as a result, they are quickly losing their once-coveted prestige. Some campuses are already reinstating the SAT and ACT requirements that were thrown out in 2020-21 in the hysteria that followed the death of George Floyd. Harvard and Stanford aren't boasting that the erasure of the SAT created a more competitive student body and raised standards to new levels.

The twin ideas of foreign-funded Middle-Eastern-studies centers and of admitting tens of thousands of affluent, full-tuition-paying Middle-Eastern students led to institutionalized anti-Semitism on campus and eliminationist rhetoric right out the old Klan playbook. The appeasement by university presidencies only whets the appetites of those who unlawfully occupy, vandalize, deface, and disrupt. Their pro-terrorist chants and emblems are bleeding the universities of billions of dollars in lost donations.

In short, the policies that the left has given us over the last years—hyperinflation, spiking staple and gas prices, racial and tribal chauvinism, dangerous streets, an emasculated and politicized military, and wars abroad—did not work, and are now being masked to retain power, put on hold, or even reversed.

The reasons for the failure are ancient, given that socialism and progressivism are contrary to human nature.

Borders are essential to national sovereignty and confidence and delineate the unique values, traditions, and customs of a people, without which they revert to mere tribes without social commonalities and political cohesion. No society can pick and choose which national laws are enforced and which ignored—and still remain a nation of laws.

People obey laws because, in a cost-benefit analysis, they fear the consequences of lawbreaking. Otherwise, the laws of the wild prevail and the strongest dictate to the weaker. Citizens must be discouraged, not encouraged, from favoring their own tribe and race, tribalism being the oldest of human biases. Money is not a construct but represents the real value of capital and labor and cannot be printed into national wealth. Abroad, most nations are illiberal and their aggressiveness is deterred only through guarantees that they will lose more than they will gain through war.

We sometimes forget all that unpleasant human baggage, due to irrelevant distractions, or the utopianism that is the handmaiden of affluence and leisure. Often, the opulence and freedom arising from free-market economies and limited constitutional government create so much prosperity and liberty that its beneficiaries believe such good fortune to be their natural and commonplace birthright and so begin destroying the very system that blessed them.

But if Biden and his handlers have taught us anything, human nature cannot be fooled, and the current four-year experiment will have to end before it ends us—and soon.

Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004, and is the 2023 Giles

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