



**WEEKLY UPDATE
JANUARY 5-11, 2025**

**THIS WEEK
SEE PAGE 3**

**BOS SWEARING IN CEREMONY
NO REGULAR BUSINESS
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR SLOCOG
NO REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY OPS BOARD
CANCELLED WILL NEXT MEET IN FEBRUARY**

PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED

**LAST WEEK
SEE PAGE 5**

**THE VARIOUS JURISDICTIONS HAVE BEEN ON
HOLIDAY RECESS FOR THE PAST 2 WEEKS**

**EMERGENT ISSUES
SEE PAGE 8**

**GOV. NEWSOM IS BANNING GAS CARS, GAS
STOVES, GAS FURNACES, GAS WATER
*IS CALIFORNIA'S WAR ON GAS SUPPOSED TO CRUSH THE
STATE – BECAUSE IT WILL!***

**THE CASE FOR FREE MARKETS IN CALIF. & BEYOND
BY STACEY KORSGADEN**

**INCOMING TRUMP OFFICIALS SEND CA
LAWMAKERS LETTER REGARDING ILLEGAL
SANCTUARY LAWS**

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 15**

**RESCUING CALIFORNIA REQUIRES
CHALLENGING CRONY ENVIRONMENTALISM
BY EDWARD RING**

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THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Special Meeting of Tuesday, January 7, 2025 (Attached)

Special Meeting: New and re-elected Supervisors (Heather Moreno, Dawn Ortiz-Legg, and John Peschong) will be sworn in for full 4 year terms. A Board Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed. It is likely that Supervisor Ortiz-Legg will be appointed Chair. No other business is scheduled at this time. The next regular meeting is set for Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

What Next? Any membership change in a small governing body such as the Board of Supervisors will result in changes in the substance and tone. Heather Moreno is replacing the retiring Debbie Arnold. The left Board majority of Gibson, Ortiz-Legg, and Paulding will remain. Other than restoring the left's advantage in the configuring the Supervisorial Districts and facilitating large water interests to take over the Paso Basin, this coalition has been ineffective in executing a policy program, even from its own ideological stand point. Its overall policy has been "status quo," that has meant preservation of existing service levels, continuous expansion of homeless services (already policy prior to its installation), and continued growth of the staff (also prior policy).

Major policy initiatives that have been lost in the shuffle include:

1. The feasibility of rezoning additional land on a large scale for homes of all types.
2. The feasibility of partnering with Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties to develop industrial scale desalination.

3. Expediting of a real economic development program that provides quantifiable increases in property tax (not the current growth from home price escalation), sales tax, TOT, and jobs.

4. Structural Budget reform. This would include adding the program level to the Budget, abolishing the so-called fund centers, and aligning real performance measures to program cost centers. (Note: First year CAO Pontes may be advocating changes in the future).

5. Regulatory reform (Certainty, consistency, and velocity). For example, is the Board aware of current policy shown below?

To make an appointment with Planning and Building staff, please use the following link: [No Wait Inside](#). Regular walk-in hours are available on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 8:30 to 11:45 AM. Planning information sessions are limited to 15 minutes to accommodate as many people as possible. New building permit applications will only be accepted up to 11 AM to ensure adequate processing time.

To submit electronic Building Permit or Land Use Permit Applications, please visit the [Permitting](#) page.

You would think they are doing colonoscopies. Well, actually, many would agree.

6. A capital investment program and (especially roads – not “transportation”) are prioritized, and the County and 7 cities put real skin in the game prior to requesting a new ½ cent sales tax.

Land use policy is destiny for local governments. The County’s Strategic Growth Policy is a major barrier to the development of housing. It has not been examined or revised since 2009. In fact, the key principles are almost word for word the same as they were in 1980 (Over half a century). The key Plan Elements and Ordinances key off from these policies. Of course, the exploitation of CEQA has not helped either.

Guiding Principles of Strategic Growth

The County Board of Supervisors adopted the following Principles of Strategic Growth, together with policies and implementing strategies:

1. Preserve open space, scenic natural beauty and sensitive environmental areas. Conserve energy resources. Conserve agricultural resources and protect agricultural land.
2. Strengthen and direct development towards existing and strategically planned communities.
3. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
4. Create walkable neighborhoods and towns.
5. Provide a variety of transportation choices.
6. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
7. Encourage mixed land uses.
8. Take advantage of compact building design.
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost-effective.
10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration.
11. Strengthen regional cooperation.

And an interesting personal question.

How are the Supervisors going to handle compliance when the Feds declare SB 54 (2018) illegal? SB 54, with which SLO County has been complying with since its adoption, forbids counties to disclose the names of illegals who are held in their jails on criminal charges. A few violent crimes have been exempted by the State, but most are covered. Actually each year under the law, the Supervisors must conduct a special hearing and require the Sheriff to give a public accounting.

What happens when ICE shows up and demands the list? Will some Supervisors resist the State law and risk Federal prosecution? Will they channel John C. Calhoun and invoke the theory of nullification and states' rights?

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956, that the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, has called a special meeting of said Board of Supervisors, to be held beginning at the following date, time and place, to consider the following items of business:

Date and Time of Special Meeting:	January 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
Place of Special Meeting:	Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1055 Monterey Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Business to be considered:	See agenda below.

AGENDA

FLAG SALUTE

SWEARING-IN-CEREMONY

Swearing in of elected and re-elected County Officials.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT ITEMS ONLY

Consent Agenda - Administrative Office Items:

Reorganization of the County Board of Supervisor: Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the 2025 term.

ADJOURNMENT

County of San Luis Obispo Government Center
1055 Monterey St. | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 | (P) 805-781-5000 | 7-1-1 TTY/TDD Relay
slocounty.ca.gov

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, January 8, 2025 (Scheduled) 9:20 AM

This will be an organizational meeting to elect a chair and representatives to various regional and State association boards.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, January 9, 2025. Continued to Thursday January 23, 2025. It is not known why there will be a lack of a quorum.

Date: December 27, 2024

From: Daniela Chavez, Planning Commission Clerk

Subject: Notice of Intent of Continuance and Adjournment of the January 9, 2025 Planning Commission meeting to January 23, 2025

Due to a lack of quorum, notice is hereby given that it is the intent of the Planning and Building Department to Continue and Adjourn the regularly scheduled January 9, 2025 San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission meeting (and all items listed on its agenda) to January 23, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Notice of Continuance and Adjournment will be given following confirmation of the continuance and adjournment by the Planning Commission Secretary on January 9, 2025.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors' Meetings were scheduled during the last 2 weeks of December 2024 and the 1st week of 2025. The other jurisdictions were also dormant.

2025 Board of Supervisors Meeting Calendar

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**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SLOGOG)
SAN LUIS OBISPO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RTA)**

2025 MEETING CALENDAR (Adopted on August 14, 2024)

SLOGOG/RTA MEETING DATES	GROUP	AGENDA DIST.	MEETING DATE	KEY TOPICS, ISSUES, DEADLINES
JAN. 8, 2025 RTA & SLOGOG	EXEC COM RTA & SLOGOG	12/6/24 12/18/24	12/11/24 1/8/25	RTA: Election of RTA Board Officers (jointly with SLOGOG); Financial audits FY 23/24; Various grant resolutions SLOGOG: New Board Orientation, Election - SLOGOG Board Officers (jointly with RTA); Board Member Committee and Interagency assignments; Advisory Committee Election of Officers (SSTAC, TTAC, CTAC); Reappoint SLOGOG At-Large representatives; Employee Recognition for years of service
FEB. 5, 2025 SLOGOG (RTA tentative)	EXEC COM SSTAC TTAC/CTAC SLOGOG Board	1/10/25 1/16/25 1/17/25 1/24/25	1/15/25 1/22/25 1/22/25 2/5/25	SLOGOG: Plaque of Appreciation - outgoing President; Resolution of Appreciation - outgoing Board members (if any); Statewide ATP; Draft OWP & Budget Assumptions 2025/2026; Proposed 2025 State and Federal Legislative Programs; Review Caltrans SHOPP; 24/25 Unmet Transit Needs & Bike and Ped. Improvements Hearing; 2026 STIP & SB1 Fund Programs update; Regional Rideshare Biannual Progress Report; Call for Projects: Access for All Program; Federal Performance Measures RTA: Tentative
MAR. 5, 2025 RTA (SLOGOG tentative)	EXEC COM (SSTAC) - V (TTAC/CTAC) - V RTA Board	2/7/25 (2/13/25) (2/14/25) 2/21/25	2/12/25 (2/19/25) (2/19/25) 3/5/25	RTA: RTA Budget Assumptions 2025/2026 SLOGOG: Tentative
APR. 2, 2025 SLOGOG (RTA tentative)	EXEC COM SSTAC TTAC/CTAC SLOGOG Board	3/7/25 3/13/25 3/14/25 3/21/25	3/12/25 3/19/25 3/19/25 4/2/25	SLOGOG: FY 2025/26 OWP and Budget Adoption; TDA/STA Fund Apportionment for FY 2025/26; Transit Programming; FY 25/26 Rural Transit Fund & State of Good Repair (SGR) Program of Projects; 25/26 Unmet Transit Needs Findings; FY 24/25 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) programming; Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Goals; Draft Regional Growth Forecast (RGF) RTA: Tentative
MAY 7, 2025 RTA (SLOGOG tentative)	EXEC COM (SSTAC) - V (TTAC/CTAC) - V RTA Board	4/4/25 (4/17/25) (4/18/25) 4/25/25	4/9/25 (4/23/25) (4/23/25) 5/7/25	RTA: Final FY 2025/2026 Operating/Capital Budgets; RTA Budget Adoption SLOGOG: Tentative
JUNE 4, 2025 SLOGOG (RTA tentative)	EXEC COM SSTAC TTAC/CTAC SLOGOG Board	5/9/25 5/15/25 5/16/25 5/23/25	5/14/25 5/21/25 5/21/25 6/4/25	SLOGOG: Conditional Approval of TDA Claims for FY 2025/26; Triennial Performance Audit presentation; 2026 STIP & SB1 Fund Programs update; Polling Results; State Legislative Update; FY 2025/26 Bike and Ped. Improvements Requests Update; Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Status Report RTA: Tentative
JULY 9, 2025 RTA (SLOGOG tentative)	EXEC COM (SSTAC) - V (TTAC/CTAC) - V RTA Board	6/6/25 (6/12/25) (6/13/25) 6/27/25	6/11/25 (6/18/25) (6/18/25) 7/9/25	RTA: Tentative SLOGOG: Tentative
AUG. 6, 2025 SLOGOG (RTA tentative)	EXEC COM SSTAC TTAC/CTAC SLOGOG Board	7/11/25 7/17/25 7/18/25 7/25/25	7/16/25 7/23/25 7/23/25 8/6/25	SLOGOG: Status and Assessment of Programmed Projects; Draft SLOGOG and RTA 2026 Meeting Calendar; Closed Session: Exec. Dir. Performance evaluation; Regional Rideshare Biannual Progress Report; RTP Financial; RGF Adoption RTA: Tentative
SEPT. 3, 2025 RTA (SLOGOG tentative)	EXEC COM (SSTAC) - V (TTAC/CTAC) - V RTA Board	8/8/25 (8/14/25) (8/15/25) 8/22/25	8/13/25 (8/20/25) (8/20/25) 9/3/25	RTA: Tentative SLOGOG: Tentative
OCT. 1, 2025 SLOGOG (RTA tentative)	EXEC COM SSTAC TTAC/CTAC SLOGOG Board	9/5/25 9/11/25 9/12/25 9/19/25	9/10/25 9/17/25 9/17/25 10/1/25	SLOGOG: Adoption of Unmet Transit Needs Criteria; Rideshare Week & International Walk-to-School Day (in Executive Director's Report); Caltrans Community-Based Transportation Planning Grants; Transit Programming; Adopt POP for 5311 non-urbanized formula funds; Transit Needs Assessment Update; SLOGOG Open House (tentative); 2027 RTP; Transit RTA: Tentative
NOV. 5, 2025 RTA (SLOGOG tentative)	EXEC COM (SSTAC) - V (TTAC/CTAC) - V RTA Board	10/3/25 (10/16/25) (10/17/25) 10/24/25	10/8/25 (10/22/25) (10/22/25) 11/5/25	RTA: RTA Budget Amendment (if necessary) SLOGOG: Tentative – SLOGOG Workshop
DEC. 3, 2025 SLOGOG (RTA tentative)	EXEC COM SSTAC TTAC/CTAC SLOGOG Board	11/7/25 11/13/25 11/14/25 11/21/25	11/12/25 11/19/25 11/19/25 12/3/25	SLOGOG: Year-end legislative Report; FY 2026/2027 Preliminary Overall Work Program; Recommendations for productivity improvements of operators; SLOGOG Annual Report 2024/25; SLOGOG Financial Audits FY 24/25; SLOGOG Handbook Update RTA: Tentative
JAN. 7, 2026 RTA & SLOGOG	EXEC COM RTA & SLOGOG	12/5/25 12/22/25	12/10/25 1/7/26	RTA: Election of RTA Board Officers (jointly with SLOGOG); Financial audits FY 24/25; Various grant resolutions SLOGOG: New Board Orientation, Election of SLOGOG Board Officers (jointly with RTA); Board Member Committee and Interagency assignments; Advisory Committee Election of Officers (SSTAC, TTAC, CTAC)

* SSTAC, TTAC and CTAC meet at the SLOGOG Conference Room (1114 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo, California) or Teleconference: SSTAC @ 12:15 p.m., TTAC @ 2:00 p.m., CTAC @ 4:30 p.m.

** SSTAC/TTAC/CTAC meetings in PARENTHESIS are TENTATIVE and will occur only if issues are to be addressed prior to "Special" SLOGOG Board meetings.

*** SLOGOG/SLOGOG meetings are normally in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, Katcho Achadian Government Center San Luis Obispo County, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The shaded portions indicate all scheduled SLOGOG meetings. Alternating months are scheduled RTA meetings.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - Gov. Newsom is Banning Gas Cars, Gas Stoves, Gas Furnaces, Gas Water Heaters



Gov. Gavin Newsom glamour shot at the Great Wall of China 10/26/2023 (Photo: gov.ca.gov)

Is California's war on gas supposed to crush the state – because it will?

By Katy Grimes, December 30, 2024 2:55 am

What has very clearly become an “us versus them” issue, an issue near and dear only to leftist politicians, is about to get really messy.

They are coming for your gas-powered car, your gas stove, your gas water heater, your gas furnace, your gas dryer, your gas grille, your gas blower, your gas fireplace, and any other gas-powered appliance or vehicle you can think of.

Who is “they” besides California Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature imposing these policies on you?

California is set to become the first state to ban natural gas heaters, water heaters, and furnaces by 2030, a policy of the California Air Resources Board, entirely made up of appointees by the governor, I reported in 2023 in The Tangled Government Web Behind the Push to Ban Gas Stoves, where we link Harvard Health Publishing, the Rocky Mountain Institute, MDPI International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, and U.S.

National Institute of Health (NIH) National Library of Medicine. NIH is the largest source of funding for medical research in the world. The WHO is named in the studies, as are many Chinese studies.

And *they* don't care if it bankrupts you or causes you undue hardship. They don't care if your public transit system is a hellhole on rails, when they take away your gas-powered car. They don't care if you have to walk 5 miles to work. They don't care. Just remember that they don't care about you. They only care about their autocratic rules – and power.

A California Globe reader sent me a powerful and poignant email today about the South Coast Air Quality Management District plans to rid the region of gas heaters, asking if the members of the district have already replaced theirs:

Your upcoming plans for electric water heaters and home heating units will hurt the poorest of California residents.

Have you all already replaced all the heaters in your homes? Please share at your next meeting what was the total cost and how much your electric bills increased. I'm retired and on a fixed income and will need to know how much to save before I have to take cold showers and wear a sweatshirt in the house.

Have you required your gardeners to use electric tools when they work on your landscape?

Do you all drive only electric cars wherever you go? (Though you might take the bus).

Are your backyard grills all electric?

Do your swimming pools use electric heaters?

Or do you live by “do as I say, not as I do”?

Don Wagner, Chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors and member of the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, wrote an op ed for the OC Register addressing this. Here is what he reports:

SCAQMD intends to adopt two rules on all homeowners, multi-family residents, and businesses – more than 17 million people in all. The goal: eliminate natural gas appliances. Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121 require homeowners, landlords, and businesses to replace furnaces and water heaters with costly new “zero-emission” electrical units.

He said these new rules “will seemingly do little to clean the air,” but will financially hurt many:

If implemented, these rules would impose ruinous expenses on already stretched residents and businesses, potentially cause people to lose housing, and strain an already stretched electricity grid.

We're talking potentially tens of thousands of dollars per unit for every homeowner, landlord, and business forced to make these purchases.

Proving my point that these Air Quality District board members don't care, Wagner says:

You will be forced to comply. The old technology – the water heaters and furnaces you are using today – will be illegal to purchase or install.

Only the wealthiest of Southern California residents can afford such extravagance. Don't even think about buying replacement units in other states and importing them. You will not be allowed to get a permit to install non-complying appliances, nor can you sell a property containing unpermitted units. You will have to comply.

Wagner says the new zero-emission water heaters and furnaces require a substantial increase in electricity usage, which we have heard before. But SCAQMD doesn't even have a cost estimate yet to power these new electric appliances. But their orders will take place anyway. It's another Nancy Pelosi moment: "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it."

Governor Gavin Newsom has already fallen quite short of his promise to build 3.5 million new homes in California while in office. He's a victim of his own party's rules and regulations, but won't admit it. Because as Supervisor Wagner knows, the new all-electric rules run counter to building affordable homes. "They achieve minimal air quality improvements, are prohibitively expensive and ignore the region's energy challenges," Wagner adds.

Housing prices in California have dramatically increased since Newsom took office in 2019. And for all of his supposed efforts to streamline new housing construction, it just isn't happening.

"Newsom promised in October 2017 amid his campaign for governor that he would help spur the construction and completion of 3.5 million new housing units by the start of 2025, according to a post the then-lieutenant governor made on Medium," the Daily Caller reported.

"The governor took office in January 2019, when the state had around 14,235,201 housing units, and after five years at the helm, the number of units has increased to 14,824,626 as of the beginning of 2024, totaling just 589,626, according to data from the state's Department of Finance."

That's only 117,925 new homes built every year in California, 2019 – 2024, while Gavin Newsom has been governor.

And Newsom has very publicly berated and sued cities that have not fulfilled his directives to build "affordable housing" – even though he can't even meet his own home building goals. And that is about the cost to build, from multiple layers of permitting, to the state's absurd and cumbersome regulations and requirements... like requiring all new electric appliances.

Many or most of the orders, directives and policies by Gov. Newsom and legislative Democrats are detrimental to California residents. It's clear the politicians aren't asking the voting people what is important to them, and instead are fulfilling policy set by higher powers... by people who not only don't care about you, but who seem bent on harming you, and all of the people of California.

And it appears that Gavin Newsom, legislative Democrats, and his appointees are making this happen – whether it is the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the California Air Resources Board, the State Water Resources Control Board, the CalEPA, the California Coastal Commission, the United Nations or the World Health Organization... behind all of it.

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 2 - The case for free markets in California and beyond By STACY KORSGADEN



Stacy Korsgaden

OPINION

In the great state of California, once known as a beacon of opportunity and innovation, we now find ourselves at a crossroads. As conservatives committed to the principles of economic freedom and individual liberty, it is imperative we address the creeping over-regulation and government interference that threaten to undermine these foundations of our nation. This is not just a Californian issue—it's an American issue.

Free market principles are not merely economic policies; they are the very bedrock of our liberty. They ensure that individuals and businesses can thrive without the heavy hand of government tipping the scales. In California, however, we see a different story unfolding—one where excessive regulations stifle innovation, curb economic growth, and limit consumer choice.

Consider the plight of small businesses across our state and the nation at large. These enterprises, which form the backbone of the American economy, are being choked by regulatory burdens that make it increasingly difficult to succeed. Each unnecessary rule and compliance requirement acts as a barrier to entry, discouraging would-be entrepreneurs from even starting up. This is not the American Dream; this is a bureaucratic nightmare.

The situation in our insurance sector is a glaring example. California's insurance market, once vibrant and competitive, is now languishing under layers of state-imposed regulations. Proposition 103, for example, which was meant to protect consumers by regulating insurance

rates, has had the unintended consequence of limiting insurers' ability to price risk accurately. This has led to fewer choices for consumers and higher costs overall. Such regulations don't protect our citizens; instead, they push the very services they need out of reach.

It's essential to understand that every time the government imposes a new regulation, it's not just adding a rule—it's potentially harming a family's ability to secure insurance, a small business's capability to expand, or an innovator's opportunity to bring new solutions to market. Over-regulation doesn't just impact businesses; it impacts lives.

The allure of socialism and increased government control, as propagated by many on the left, might seem appealing to some. They promise equality and fairness, but at what cost? History has shown us, repeatedly, that socialism's promises are empty: they lead to inefficiencies, stifle creativity, and ultimately result in a lower standard of living for everyone. This push towards socialism, even in subtle forms, must be resisted at every turn.

We need only look at the broader implications of free market stifling to understand the urgent need for change. A thriving insurance industry, for instance, isn't just about policies and premiums—it's about enabling people to take risks, whether that's buying a home, starting a business, or investing in new technology. Insurance is fundamental to economic activity because it provides security that encourages investment and innovation.

Now, imagine a California—and indeed, a United States—where free markets are allowed to flourish once again. Imagine a place where entrepreneurs are celebrated, not saddled with red tape; where businesses compete based on the value they provide to consumers, not on their ability to navigate bureaucratic labyrinths. This is the vision we must strive for, and it is attainable through the reduction of government interference and the preservation of market-driven principles.

What can we do as conservatives to ensure that this vision becomes a reality? First, we must advocate for significant regulatory reform. We need policies that make it easier, not harder, for businesses to operate and for consumers to enjoy a wide range of choices. Every unnecessary regulation should be scrutinized and, if it does not serve a critical public good, it should be eliminated.

We must also educate our fellow citizens about the dangers of socialism and the benefits of a free-market economy. This isn't just about economic theory; it's about the very fabric of our society. When people understand that their freedoms are intertwined with economic policies, they are more likely to support conservative principles.

Furthermore, engagement in the political process is crucial. It's not enough to complain about the state of affairs; we must actively participate in shaping them. This means voting for candidates who support free market policies, getting involved in local and state politics, and holding our elected officials accountable.

Finally, we must stand firm against the progressive narratives that dominate much of our media. As conservatives, it is our duty to support and amplify voices that speak for economic freedom and individual liberty.

In conclusion, the preservation of our economic freedoms through free market principles is not just an economic necessity—it is a moral imperative. It is about defending the very essence of what makes America great. Let us be clear-eyed about the challenges we face in California and

across the nation, and let us be resolute in our commitment to a free, prosperous, and innovative society. Together, we can ensure that the United States remains a land of opportunity for all.

Stacy Korsgaden is a 35-year insurance and financial services professional and consumer advocate for insurance choice and customer protection. She can be reached at stacy@stacykorsgaden.com. This article first appeared in the Cal Coast News of January 1, 2025.

Item 3 - Incoming Trump Officials Send CA Lawmakers Letter Regarding Illegal Sanctuary Laws



Officials who support or enforce sanctuary laws, policies, and regulations have a very personal stake in the matter, & could face criminal prosecution and civil liability

By Evan Symon, December 30, 2024

President-elect Donald Trump's deputy chief of staff for policy, Stephen Miller, sent a letter to multiple California cities, counties, and state lawmakers over the weekend, warning them of the negative consequences they are facing if sanctuary city laws hinder illegal immigrant enforcement once President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

Sanctuary city laws have been in place in different California cities for over a decade, with the state sanctuary city law coming into effect in 2018 following the signing of SB 54. While Trump fought against these laws during his first term in office, he didn't manage to override or get rid of them. The California Supreme Court even ruled in 2020 that all cities in California must obey the law.

However, things drastically changed last month. Following the reelection of Trump and his proposed illegal immigrant policy changes, including ramping up of deportation efforts against illegal immigrants and stricter border measures, many cities and counties in California defiantly decided instead to strengthen and broaden their sanctuary city laws.

The city of Los Angeles made nationwide headlines for their passed ordinance,, which officially bars city resources from being used for immigration enforcement, and stops law enforcement in the city from assisting immigration authorities. San Diego County issued updates. And the state issued major updates too, with Attorney General Rob Bonta further limiting state and local participation in immigration enforcement earlier this month.

This weekend, Miller, who was a senior advisor for Trump during his first term, and is currently the incoming deputy chief of staff for policy, sent 249 letters to lawmakers in cities, counties, and states with sanctuary policies. While they were sent across the United States, the bulk of letters went to California to lawmakers including San Diego County Board of Supervisors President Nora Vargas, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, California Attorney General Rob Bonta and Los Angeles Police Department Chief Jim McDonnell.

Letters from Miller

In the letters, Miller warned of criminal liability and legal action against sanctuary cities and states. Each letter was crafted specifically for the person receiving it, pointing out what they have done and why it violates federal law. In all the letters, Miller points out that “Federal law is clear: aliens unlawfully present in the United States are subject to removal from the country, and it is a crime to conceal, harbor, or shield them.”

In the letter to Bonta, Miller added, “As Attorney General, on December 4, 2024, you stated that the State of California will not enforce federal immigration laws, encouraging defiance by all California jurisdictions. This rhetoric illustrates the State’s intent to blatantly violate federal law. Such lawlessness subjects you and your subordinates to significant risk of criminal and civil liability. Accordingly, we are sending this letter to put you on notice of this risk and insist that you comply with our nation’s laws.”

For Vargas, Miller pointed out the county’s vote earlier this month to strengthen sanctuary laws, saying, “This resolution clearly violates federal law and subjects those who abide by it to significant risk of criminal and civil liability. Accordingly, we are sending this letter to put you on notice of this risk and insist that you comply with our nation’s laws.”

All letters then ended with, “The fact of the matter is that you and the other officials who support or enforce sanctuary laws, policies, and regulations have a very personal stake in the matter — you each could face criminal prosecution and civil liability for your illegal acts,” or “Because your jurisdiction’s sanctuary laws or policies usually require multiple officials to coordinate their activities, all such officials could be criminally liable under multiple federal criminal conspiracy statutes.”

Reaction

Many of the lawmakers addressed responded quickly to the letters.

“The threats are a scare tactic, plain and simple,” said Bonta over the weekend. “While we are unable to comment on the specifics of the letter, we want to be clear: SB 54 was upheld by the courts during the first Trump administration, and it prevents the use of state and local resources for federal immigration enforcement with certain narrow exceptions. SB 54 does nothing, however, to block federal agencies from conducting immigration enforcement themselves. California will continue to comply with all applicable state and federal laws, and we expect all local law enforcement agencies to do the same.”

Vargas said, “We will not allow local resources to be used for actions that separate families, harm community trust, or divert critical resources from addressing our most pressing challenges. Immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, and our County will not be a tool for policies that hurt our residents.”

A spokesman for Mayor Bass added, “The letter is wrong on public safety and wrong on the law. We will always act in the best interests of the people of Los Angeles.”

However, with only a few weeks to go before the inauguration, and Trump vowing to put many anti-illegal immigration measures into place on day one, the tone may change very quickly, very.

“Well, first of all, some of these Boards have a lot of outgoing people,” said Lawyer James Haines to the Globe on Monday. “Vargas will be out by that time. They can revoke. But what wasn’t being said was that cities with sanctuary laws can still get a lot of help. First off, ICE will simply send more people to these places, so they’ll crackdown even harder in sanctuary places. But second, authorities in sanctuary places still have to help federal authorities, especially when, say, they are looking for an immigrant who is also a criminal. That way it is a criminal investigation, and they cannot hinder that.

“There’s also work arounds. One that sticks out to me is how one California cop I know is going to say, if asked ‘By law, I cannot tell you. I cannot tell you that that person you are looking for lives at [address]. I cannot tell you they work at [their place of work].’ that sort of malicious compliance.

“But beyond those, yeah, Miller is right on the money. They can fight them legally. You can bet that ICE people are being trained now to record every instance of local authorities refusing to help them. And then they’ll push back and challenge once they get a good number of them. Or if they disrupted an ice investigation that hindered a criminal case or if an illegal immigrant committed a major crime because of local officials not assisting federal officials where it may not have happened if they helped and caught them sooner. If the latter happens, a sanctuary city law causing someone to die or get badly hurt, it will go straight to court.

“That last scenario is very plausible and terrifying for these cities and states with these laws. Sanctuary city laws are losing popularity across the country, even in blue states. A case coming

out where the law causes the death of someone during Trump's second term? That would really turn the tide.

"As for Miller's latter, we'll see how these same people respond closer to election day."

A major nationwide ICE crackdown on illegal immigrants is expected to occur shortly after Trump's inauguration next month.

Evan V. Symon is the Senior Editor for the California Globe. Prior to the Globe, he reported for the Pasadena Independent, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and was head of the Personal Experiences section at Cracked. He can be reached at evan@californiaglobe.com. California Globe, December 30, 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

RESCUING CALIFORNIA REQUIRES CHALLENGING CRONY ENVIRONMENTALISM BY EDWARD RING

The Speaker of the Assembly in the California state legislature, Robert Rivas, recently said that "California must not fixate on Trump and forget about affordability."

Fat chance. California has been under the absolute control of "progressive liberals" for a generation. It's *their* policies that have made the state unaffordable.

By now, the only people who deny that California's state government policies are hostile toward working families and businesses, small and large, are the people running the state government. California is run by activist state bureaucrats, the unions that are funded by their membership dues, and the politicians that are elected and controlled by these unions. This is a racket. An entirely legal, yet entirely corrupt and self-serving system that is designed to grow government, harass businesses, kill good jobs, assess punitively high taxes, and elevate the cost of living to the point where people either become dependent on government assistance, flee to friendlier states, or are so rich they don't care.

Progressive liberals did this. Progressive liberals own all of it.

The reason this system isn't successfully challenged and broken is because surrounding this core coalition are commercial and nonprofit special interests that benefit from the status quo. A prime example of this is the homeless industrial complex, a network of state and local bureaucracies, subsidized developers of "supportive housing," and "nonprofit" providers of services to the homeless. They have collected tens of billions of dollars from taxpayers to implement demonstrably failed policies, and as California's homeless population continues to grow, they collect additional billions.

But by far the most harmful special interest in California, allied with and benefiting from laws passed by a corrupt state legislature, is what can be broadly described as Environmentalism Incorporated. This is a loosely organized but incredibly powerful network of businesses, litigators, well-funded activist groups, activist judges, lobbyists, PR firms, and captured regulatory agencies and politicians. In the name of protecting the environment, and more recently, fighting the "climate crisis," they now interfere with every imaginable type of economic activity.

This fact, that environmentalist legislation and regulations have harmed California's economy, disproportionately affecting low-income households and small businesses, is not to suggest that environmentalism isn't important. But when it becomes a tool to expand government, harass productive businesses while subsidizing so-called green businesses, and restrict vital economic activity, including home building, farming, ranching, mining, logging, drilling for oil and natural gas, operating refineries, upgrading roads and highways, maintaining a cost-effective shipping infrastructure, or building reservoirs, aqueducts, and water treatment plants, then "environmentalism" must be challenged.

There is no moral imperative used to justify policies in California today that have done more harm to ordinary Californians than environmentalism. It has been corrupted, and it is out of control.

The elected leadership majority in the California Legislature claims they're concerned about the high cost of living and difficulty doing business in the state. But these politicians have no idea how to make California affordable again. The policies they are likely to come up with will only benefit the machine they serve. More subsidized "affordable housing" projects, another attempt at rent control, promises to "investigate" rising energy costs. New ways to regulate refinery and utility profits to prevent "price gouging." More "renewables" to achieve "net zero."

Everything California's progressive liberal politicians propose to supposedly deliver affordability is just an extension of failed policies they've already tried. The result is only to empower quasi-monopolies that can withstand regulatory assaults while destroying businesses that lack the economies of scale required to comply. The result is managed scarcity with higher prices, a situation where the mega-corporations that are left standing take the demand-driven windfall profits from higher prices and split them with the state.

Crony capitalism. Crony environmentalism. Strip away their rhetoric, and that's what "progressive liberal" actually stands for in California.

The foundation of affordability is energy, and California's legislature has made energy scarce and expensive. Shutting down the San Onofre nuclear power plant, decommissioning natural gas-fired generating plants, and driving oil refineries out of business or forcing them to convert to carbon-neutral "biofuel" were the result of policy choices. All of these energy producing assets could have been repaired, retrofitted, or replaced, or even just shut down at a more measured pace. Instead, biased analyses and climate crisis fearmongering were used to pressure these accelerated shutdowns and conversions, which is why Californians pay the highest rates for electricity and have the highest-priced gasoline in the lower 48 states.

With expensive energy, everything else ends up costing more. Businesses and households are impacted directly when their electricity bills go up, but everything else they consume also requires energy, driving those costs up as well. From the cost of pumping and treating water to the cost of gasoline and diesel fuel for shipping, higher costs for energy ripple throughout the economy.

It's not just energy that's scarce, thanks to environmentalist policies. The price of food is elevated because California's farmers no longer get enough irrigation water. The price of housing is elevated because environmentalist restrictions against "sprawl" (in a state that is only 5 percent urbanized) prevent most home building outside of existing cities. The price of lumber and aggregate is elevated because environmentalists have all but destroyed California's timber, milling, and quarrying industries. Everything has to be imported in a state rich in natural resources.

Ultimately, the businesses left in California that need to fight back have to recognize one hard reality. To overcome the overwhelming power of the environmentalist lobby, they have to be willing to challenge the "climate crisis." For at least 20 years, "climate crisis" has been the rhetorical weapon that has been wielded without a serious challenge to its legitimacy. In private, beleaguered business leaders in California almost universally contend that the whole climate movement is based on overhyped theories used to justify policies that are far out of proportion to their urgency.

It is possible to make California affordable again. But what progressive liberal politicians are doing today will not help. They will only expand government and empower the largest, most politically connected corporations and nonprofits. The solution is to assert, without reservations, that today's environmentalism and climate crisis policies are *not* based on "settled science," they are often actually harmful to the environment, and they are not economically sustainable. Only from that premise do genuine reforms become politically possible. Only then can competitive productivity and supply-driven affordability be given back to California's businesses and households.

*Edward Ring is the director of water and energy policy for the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. He is also a senior fellow with the Center for American Greatness, and a regular contributor to the California Globe. His work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Economist, National Review, City Journal, and other media outlets. Ring's undergraduate degree is in Political Science from UC Davis, and he has an MBA in Finance from USC. Ring is the author of several books, including "Fixing California – Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism" (2021), "The Abundance Choice – Our Fight for More **Water in California**" (2022), and "Solutions – Innovative Public Policy for California" (2024). This article first Appeared in the California Policy Center Update of January 2, 2025.*



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