



WEEKLY UPDATE
March 9 - 15, 2025

COLAB
San Luis Obispo County



16TH ANNUAL
DINNER & FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025
MADONNA INN EXPO CENTER

A NEW ERA IN GOVERNMENT

Enjoy a bipartisan dialogue on the opportunities and challenges faced by the County and State as the current revolution in Washington progresses. How can the County and Cities take advantage at the local level by tailoring initiatives and changes to the best interests of our local circumstances and issues? Two of our collaborative and experienced local elected officials will form an enlightening exploratory panel.



Dawn Ortiz-Legg, Board Chair & District 3 Supervisor



Heather Moreno, District 5 Supervisor

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

AUCTION WILL BE HELD AFTER DINNER
(AUCTIONEER TODD VENTURA)

\$165/ PERSON
\$1,650/ TABLE (SEATS 10)

For tickets:

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

or

On-Line Reservations & Payment can be made at www.colabslo.org/events.asp

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

**THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS
SEE PAGE 5**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

**NACIMIENTO WATER PIPELINE INTERIM FIX
BUT WILL IT WORK? - CORROSION PROBLEMS**

**FY 2024-25 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
A FEW NAGGING ISSUES**

**FY 2029-30 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)
LOTS OF DETAIL - BIG PICTURE MISSING**

**LOS OSOS SUSTAINABILITY GROUP KEEPS HARRASSING
APPLICANTS**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED AGAIN

NO DEVELOPMENT?

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

**LOS OSOS SUSTAINABILITY GROUP ATTACKS
MORE PROJECTS**

**LAST WEEK
SEE PAGE 16**

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

SLO COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING

**APPROVED A NEW \$7.8 MILLION FOR BOB JONES TRAIL
CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY (3CE)
PAYING DEFEATED POLITICIAN \$270,000 +
BENEFITS AS “POLICY ADVISOR”**

(SEE PAGE19)

PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED

NO DEVELOPMENT?

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

EMERGENT ISSUES

SEE PAGE 20

**NEWSOM ORDERS CALIFORNIA STATE
WORKERS BACK FOUR DAYS A WEEK**

**RUMORS OF CALIFORNIA’S POLITICAL
REALIGNMENT ARE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED**

**KOREA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS
& VANDENBERG**

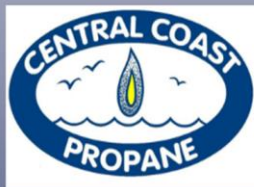
**CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY HASN'T
QUITE DELIVERED ON ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY AND
RATE PROMISES FOR MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 28**

**LIFE AMONG THE RUINS
*THE FEW SOWED THE WIND, AND THE MANY REAPED
THEIR WHIRLWIND*
BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**



SPONSORS



CENTURY 21
Century 21 Hometown Realty

F. Byron Grant

Office: 805-481-4297
Cell: 805-441-2560
Fax: 805-481-0273
CA DRE#00985985

102 Bridge St.
Arroyo Grande (CA) 93420
byron-grant@c21home.com
www.byron-grant.com





TRAFFIC CONTROL SOLUTIONS ▲ EQUIPMENT RENTALS & SALES



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Item 11 - Request to accept the eleventh update regarding, and conclude emergency contracting for, the emergency actions to repair the Nacimiento Water Pipeline at the Yerba Buena Creek crossing in accordance with Public Contract Code Section 20134 and 22050, by a 4/5 vote. The write-up states that repairs are completed “but the pipeline cannot be activated until after the rainy season and Salinas river flows go back down.” Why is this? If the pipeline is repaired, shouldn’t it function in all seasons?

The cause of the leak is a corrosive soil environment in this section. The narrative is not clear on how future corrosion will be prevented. Why wouldn’t this be a continuing problem?

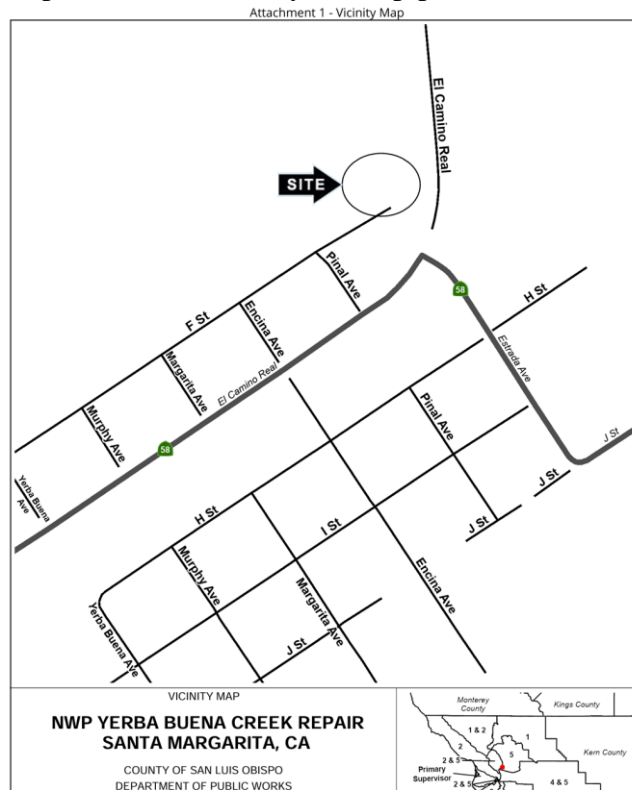
Emergency project costs approximately \$1.2M. During the implementation of the repair, it became more complex than expected and took much longer than estimated. The increased time to complete the work, increased the cost for shoring and dewatering of the approximately 20-foot deep excavation site. It took additional time because there were challenges to 1) remove the pipe from the casing, and 2) design and Page 4 of 5 install a repair that would provide long-term reliability and withstand the corrosive nature of the ground beneath the creek.

Is the new casing in this segment resistant to the corrosion? Does the corrosive soil condition extend beyond this segment?

The report further states:

The leak resulted in the extended shutdown of water supply deliveries to the City of San Luis Obispo and Santa Margarita Ranch. The City typically receives 5.3 million gallons per day from the NWP pipeline and uses this critical source to serve its 47,545 residents.

What is the impact of the long shutdown on the supplies for the City? Have they had to use other sources? Are there cost impacts and/or liability to the pipeline Joint Power Authority?



Submittal of the FY 2024-25 Second Quarter Financial Status Report and request to 1) approve various financial actions (one or more actions require 4/5 votes). At the end of the 2nd Quarter (December 31, 2024), the County appears on course to be able to manage several variances to end the fiscal year within its overall appropriation level. One problem is that while the County lists the revenue and expenditures to date, it does not forecast the next 6 months. The lay reader and policy makers must infer that the final outcome will be within legal and policy bounds.

Comparative Statement of County Funds - Revenue Status
 For the Six-Month Period Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

| Revenue Status by Class | FY 2024-25 Current Budget | FY 2024-25 Actual | % of Budgeted | FY 2023-24 Current Budget | FY 2023-24 Actual | % of Budgeted |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Current Property Taxes | \$190,441,201 | \$111,077,957 | 58.33% | \$178,764,031 | \$106,297,644 | 59.46% |
| Other Taxes | \$91,791,655 | \$19,250,171 | 20.97% | \$89,917,712 | \$20,482,284 | 22.78% |
| Licenses, Permits, and Franchises | \$15,904,306 | \$5,310,852 | 33.39% | \$16,393,245 | \$5,876,277 | 35.85% |
| Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties | \$4,654,550 | \$1,951,323 | 41.92% | \$4,610,008 | \$1,983,997 | 43.04% |
| Revenue from Use of Money & Property | \$10,618,404 | \$4,314,780 | 40.63% | \$8,221,473 | \$3,172,613 | 38.59% |
| Intergovernmental Revenue | \$512,238,751 | \$134,034,942 | 26.17% | \$486,371,091 | \$107,506,560 | 22.10% |
| Charges for Current Services | \$37,053,318 | \$14,059,395 | 37.94% | \$35,858,250 | \$13,356,381 | 37.25% |
| Other Revenues | \$69,958,642 | \$8,952,716 | 12.80% | \$29,965,601 | \$10,494,791 | 35.02% |
| Interfund | \$26,226,032 | \$7,767,861 | 29.62% | \$21,332,324 | \$6,647,416 | 31.16% |
| Other Financing Sources | \$160,403,700 | \$23,641,634 | 14.74% | \$163,778,088 | \$21,706,957 | 13.25% |
| Total Revenues: | \$1,119,290,559 | \$330,361,630 | 29.52% | \$1,035,211,823 | \$297,524,920 | 28.74% |

That being said, there are several troubling variances that, when combined with the projected \$8 million to \$13 million revenue/expenditure imbalance forecasted for FY 2025-26 Budget and other premium pay, could require tough decisions. These include:

| Notable Issues and Updates | Potential Additional GF Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Public Protection | |
| FC 136 - Sheriff-Coroner | |
| Issue: Projecting to be \$4.3 million over its budgeted level of General Fund support due to unbudgeted salaries and benefits including overtime and revenue shortfall. | \$4.3 million |

This one is created by a combination of factors, including the County not budgeting for potential contract labor negotiation increases. The Sheriff’s office, like many agencies, is having continuing difficulty in finding enough qualified recruits and transfers. The vacancies are then filled by means of overtime, which is more costly than regular pay.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| FC 409 - Human Resources - Liability Self-Insurance | |
| Issue: Update on property insurance premiums \$1.2 million higher than adopted budget. | \$187,953 |

They proposed to wash out most of the \$1.2 million problem by charging the other departments for their proportionate share of the increased liability problem. This in turn means that regular programs may suffer from the reductions. The much more serious issue is why liability costs are going up. How much are they in total? These include insurance premiums and the direct costs of legal settlements. What is the big picture here?

To mitigate the impact of this 96% increase, the department requested and received approval to spread the \$1.2 million premium increase in installments over four years, beginning with \$190,154 in FY 2024-25 and \$340,000 in each of the next three fiscal years. The department will continue to monitor the impact of this increase along with other expenses and salary savings in future quarters to assess the net impact of the Property insurance premium rate increase in FY 2024-25 on General Fund support.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| FC 143 - Court Operations | |
| Issue: Projecting \$367,001 revenue shortfall due to decreased revenue received for recording fees and a decreased revenue for fines, forfeitures, and penalties. | \$367,001 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| FC 305 - Parks and Recreation - Regional Parks | |
| Issue: Projecting unfavorable budget variance of \$507,872 due to decline in campground and lake use revenue and increased costs for utilities. | \$0 |

Here, staff asserts that they can manage their way out of the problem without having to rebalance using general fund reserves or savings from other departments. This seems futile in that the problem comes from lower attendance at parks facilities, per the statement below. If your customers aren't coming, there is a larger problem. Moreover, this condition is not described as seasonal variance. When a product or service is not being used, raising the price is not usually a solution. The government mindset in this regard is truly astonishing. They don't understand the concept of price elasticity (or negative elasticity). Perhaps they need a sale.

To mitigate the shortfall, the department implemented camping fee increases in January of 2025 which are expected to improve the revenue collection for the remainder of the year. Additionally, the department will closely monitor utility and operational expenses, adjusting where feasible to maintain current service levels. The department will also track and report any further impacts on the Parks reserve balance to ensure financial stability moving forward.

FC 142 - Planning and Building

Issue: Projecting revenue shortfall primarily due to decline in permit revenues.

\$0

The table above indicates that there is a \$2.7 million problem, but that it will somehow be washed out by a grant and by conducting an "internal staffing level review."

At the end of the second quarter, the Planning and Building Department is projecting revenues that are \$2.7 million, or 5% under budget, at year-end, primarily due to a projected decrease of \$1.8 million or 21% in building and land use permit revenues. Furthermore, the department projects under-realized grant revenue in the amount of \$737,867 (or 2%) primarily due to vacancies in the 3C-REN program, which are expected to be filled in the third quarter.

The department is conducting an internal staffing level review and is adjusting the workload between internal positions and contracts to control expenditures and mitigate the impact of declining fee revenue on General Fund support (GFS). As of the end of the second quarter, the department does not anticipate exceeding budgeted GFS by the end of the fiscal year.

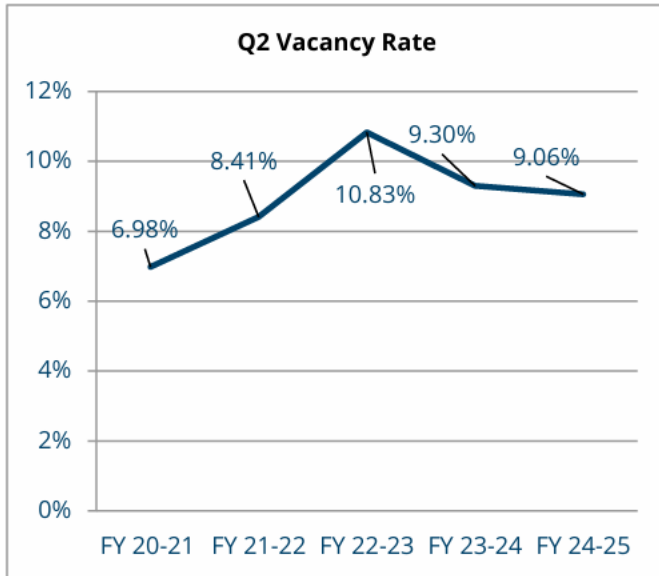
Are they saying that they might be overstaffed due to a decline in business? If so, why does it still take so long to process permits, plan reviews, and code review of construction plans?

Why did they raise rates in December for scores of Planning Department fees?

Is there an economic problem with development and construction slowdown that that could negatively impact other major revenues, such as the property tax in the future?

When a number of these revenue shortfalls and over-expenditures are added up, there could be an \$8.6 million problem here in the current year. Do these problems carry over in to the new FY 2025-26 years? Are they within the staff estimate of and FY 26 revenue expenditure gap of \$8 million to \$13 million, or on top of it?

Vacancy Rate



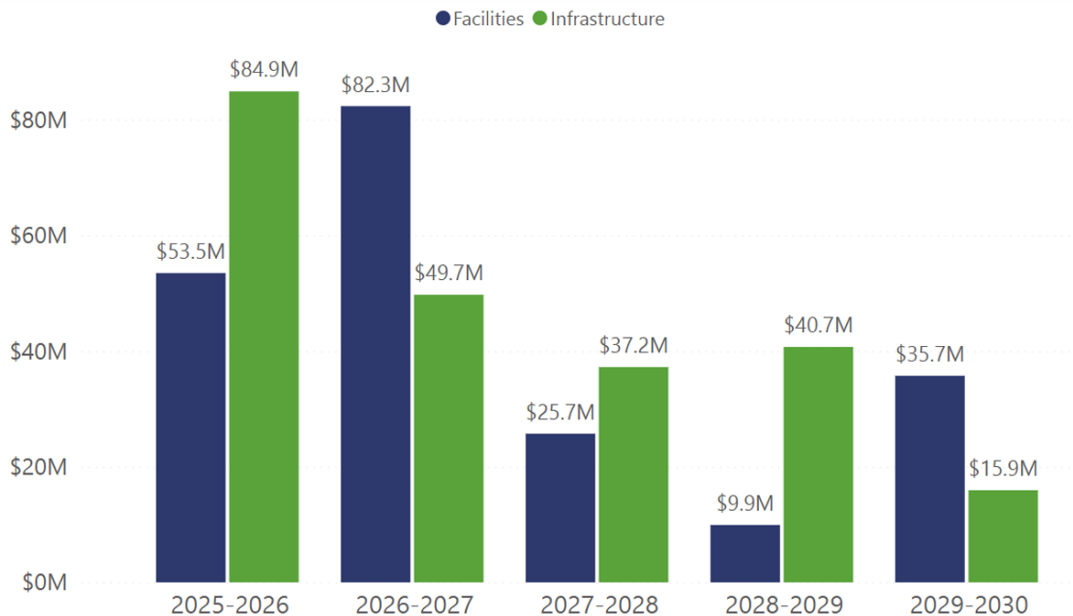
The County employee vacancy rate at the end of the second quarter was **9.06%**. This equates to **268.75** vacant positions. By comparison, the vacancy rate for the second quarter during the prior fiscal year 2023-24 was **9.30%** (**276.5** vacant positions). This represents a decrease of **0.24** percentage points from the prior year; however, there is no significant variance in contributing factors to the vacancy rate.

A vitally missing table is the analysis of lost time due to sick pay, workers comp, and AWOL. This should be presented by department, division, and for the County as a whole. It is impossible to budget accurately without this metric. Lost time is failure to report to work as scheduled for any reason.

Item 26 - FY 2025-26 through FY 2029-30 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). As part of the annual budgeting process, staff recommends a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan that contains funding for both infrastructure development and maintenance and facilities development and maintenance.

- Facilities
 - Airports
 - Community Services
 - General Government
 - Golf Courses
 - Health and Social Services
 - Library
 - Parks
 - Public Safety
- Infrastructure
 - Flood Control
 - Road Capacity
 - Road Preservation
 - Road Safety
 - Transportation Betterments
 - Transportation Structures
 - Wastewater Systems
 - Water Systems

Capital Improvement Plan Estimated Project Costs



A problem is that this table totals only \$435.5 million, not \$689 million as the write-up states for the 5-year total. A further discrepancy is noted below.

The Plan proposes a grand total of \$689 million over the next 5 fiscal years. The write-up states that of this amount, \$99 million, has been funded “and \$499 million” is forecast to be needed over the next five years.” Of course, \$299 + \$499 totals \$798 million. It is not known what the internal logic or lack thereof is operating here.

The write-up also states: “Some funding sources for the \$689 million funding need have been identified, and some have not. Of the funding sources that have been identified over the next five years, approximately \$275 million is proposed to come from sources other than the General Fund. Additional information about funding sources is provided in Appendix 3”

Thus, it is not possible at this time to determine how much of the plan is funded and how much is unfunded.

The narrative also states:

The Plan also includes capital projects that have been identified, but are not expected to be delivered within the timeframe of this Plan. Those projects are summarized in Appendix 8.

Roads are Important to Everyone:

The road system in the County comprises over 1,300 centerline miles, and conditions are routinely measured by the Pavement Condition Index (“PCI”). The Board of Supervisors has established a target countywide PCI of 65 or higher, with two-thirds of roads averaging 60 or

higher. Roads with an average PCI 65 or higher can be cost-effectively maintained in perpetuity. As the PCI declines, the cost and complexity of repairs and maintenance increases substantially.

Currently, the countywide average PCI is 59, with over 61% of roads in Good (or better) condition. There are approximately 150 miles of roads in Poor condition, very low-volume roads, largely in the north county, with an average PCI of less than 20. While the average Urban and Suburban roadway is in generally Good condition (average of 63 PCI), the remaining poor condition, low-volume roads are the primary contributor to the depressed countywide PCI of 59.

Essentially, the County is not expending enough money on its roads, as the PCI continues to decline. The quality and safety of the roads is one essential that all citizens depend upon. Both the State and the County have failed to prioritize this issue sufficiently. Instead, the roads budgets are always couched in terms of the need for increased taxes. The voters are exhorted to approve new sales taxes to pay for roads. Why not make roads a priority and allow voters to approve measures for other costs such as raises and benefit increases?

Why are endless raises and benefit increases prioritized, when citizens must vote for improved roads?

Buildings and Parks are key components:

The deterioration of county buildings and parks continues with slight restoration. Note that the condition of most is rated as poor.

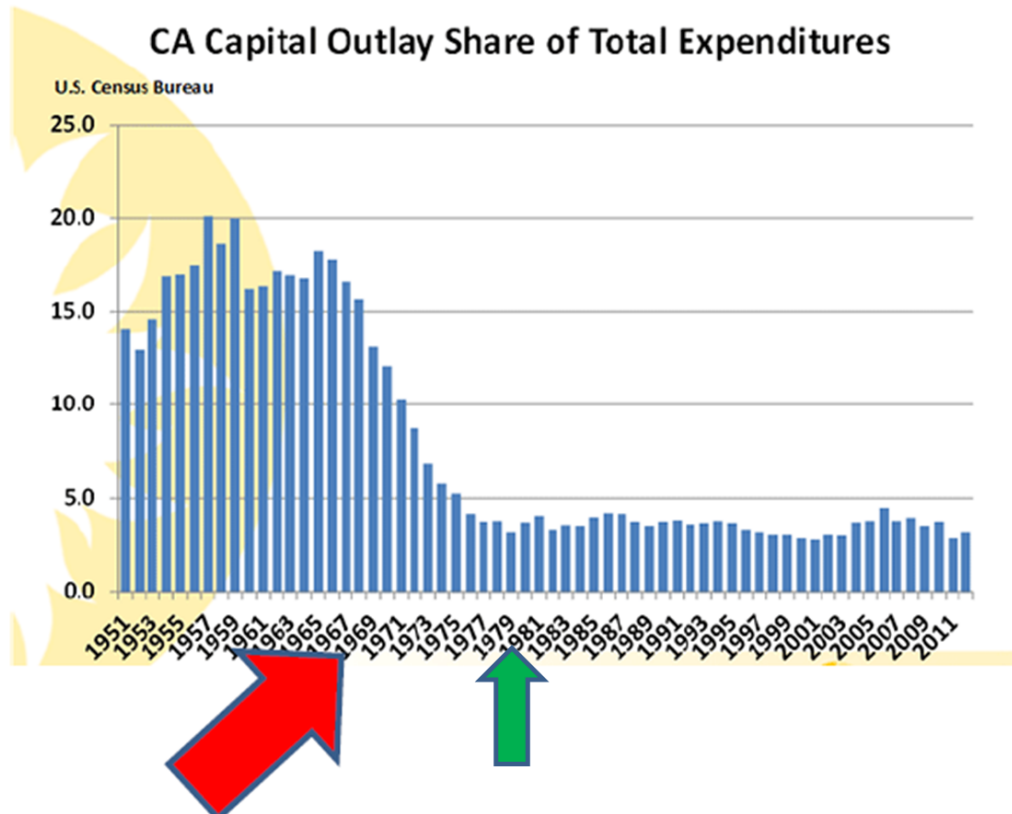
The FCI Condition Scale:



| Facility Type | Average Assessed FCI | Average Current FCI | Target FCI |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|
| PUBLIC | 21.55% | 20.00% | 5.00% |
| NON-PUBLIC | 24.18% | 18.95% | 10.00% |
| GOLF | 14.99% | 14.85% | 10.00% |

Public and Non-Public average assessed FCI and average current FCI exclude buildings planned to be retired within the next 10 years, unoccupied ancillary buildings, and facilities the County is not contractually responsible to maintain.

The larger problem is that salary and benefit increases over the decades have driven capital investment out of public budgets since the legalization of public employee collective bargaining. Leftists often attempt to blame Proposition 13 for the problem; however this is not true.



As the chart demonstrates, the red arrow designates when collective bargaining in California was legalized. The green arrow designates when Proposition 13 was actually implemented. Note that the percentage of capital investment had already been displaced by surging salaries and benefits.

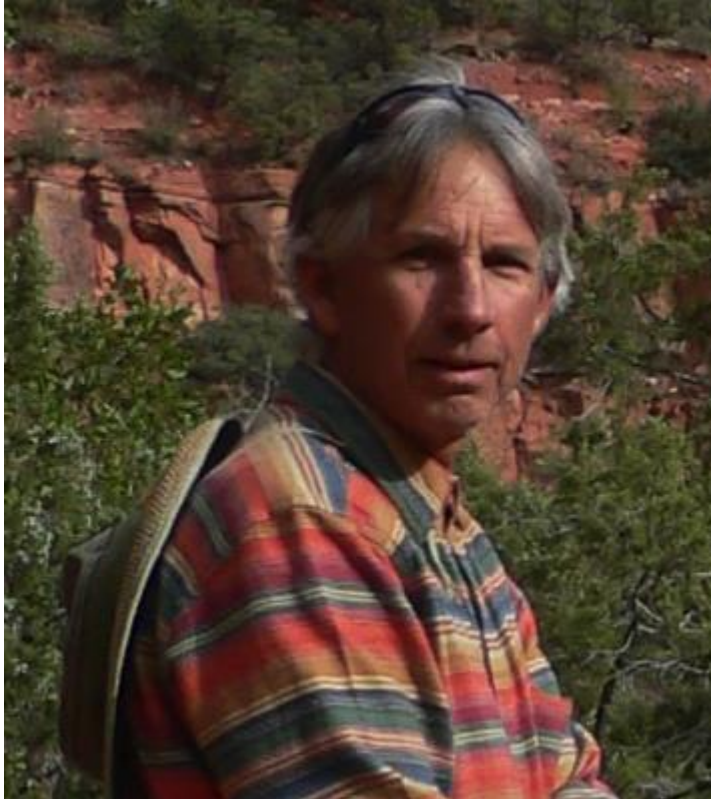
For the left, government programs do not really exist to benefit the public. They are employment and wealth transfer programs for those who support the left.

Items 27-30 - Appeals by the Los Osos Sustainability Group of 4 Projects Previously Approved by the Planning Commission. The appellant is a citizens group that believes that development in Los Osos must be severely constrained due to insufficient groundwater. Over the last few years, the Commission approved the four projects, which include three single family residences, and one small commercial project.

The staff report recommends that the Board deny the appeals and thus approve the projects. If the appeals are denied, it is almost certain that the appellants will go to the Coastal Commission.

Consider that the poor applicants who go through years of expensive processing with the County, making concessions and contracting for mitigation payments, and then having to repeat the whole process with the Coastal Commission.

The driving force for the Sustainability Group appears to be a man named Patrick McGibney. He seems to have allies in the Sierra Club, the so-called Northern Chumash Tribe (not a legally recognized tribe), and promoters of the Chumash Marine Sanctuary that was recently approved by former President Biden back in December. Like barnacles, these parasites suck the life out of society by opposing homes, energy, travel, and just about everything else.



McGibney

Item 32 - Any Supervisor may ask a question for clarification, make an announcement, or report briefly on his or her activities. In addition, Supervisors may request staff to report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter or may request that staff place a matter of business on a future agenda. Any request to place a matter of business for consideration on a future agenda requires the majority vote of the Board. There were no new requests this time. This is a standing item that has been used infrequently so far.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 13, 2025 Cancelled

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on March 27, 2025, in the Katcho Achadjian Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1055 Monterey Street, Room D170, San Luis Obispo.

California Coastal Commission Meeting of Wednesday, March 12, Thursday March 13, and Friday, March 14, 2025

Item Wednesday 14a - Morro Shores Mobile Homes Park, LLC. The County Planning Commission approved a small expansion at the mobile homes park. Patrick McGibney of the Los Osos Sustainability Group (See BOS Items 27-30 above for a related matter) appealed to the Board of Supervisors which then denied the appeal. McGibney has now appealed to the Coastal Commission.

The Commission staff recommends that the Commission refuse to process the appeal on the grounds that the facts do not demonstrate a water basin overdraft, as asserted by McGibney.

Its staff report states in part:

San Luis Obispo County approved a CDP to authorize the addition of 10 new prefabricated manufactured homes (mobile homes) and other related improvements and amenities at the existing 164-unit Morro Shores Mobile Home Park. Other site improvements would include the construction of additional walkways, steps to new the units, roadway extensions, fire access improvements, and neighborhood amenities such as a dog park. The project would result in the disturbance of approximately 1.7 acres on the approximately 30-acre mostly developed parcel. The project is located at 633 Ramona Avenue in the unincorporated community of Los Osos in San Luis Obispo County.

And

The Appellant contends that the County's CDP approval raises LCP consistency questions related to the adequacy of water to serve the development, arguing that there is not sufficient water and thus that the project should be denied. Staff respectfully disagrees. The Commission has spent considerable time over the past few years (and well before that) evaluating Los Osos' water supply issues, including groundwater health and any coastal resource concerns associated with community withdrawals, and has concluded that the best available science has demonstrated that the Los Osos Groundwater Basin is not in overdraft, that withdrawals are not resulting in any significant resource harm, and that there is sufficient water to serve new water-using development.

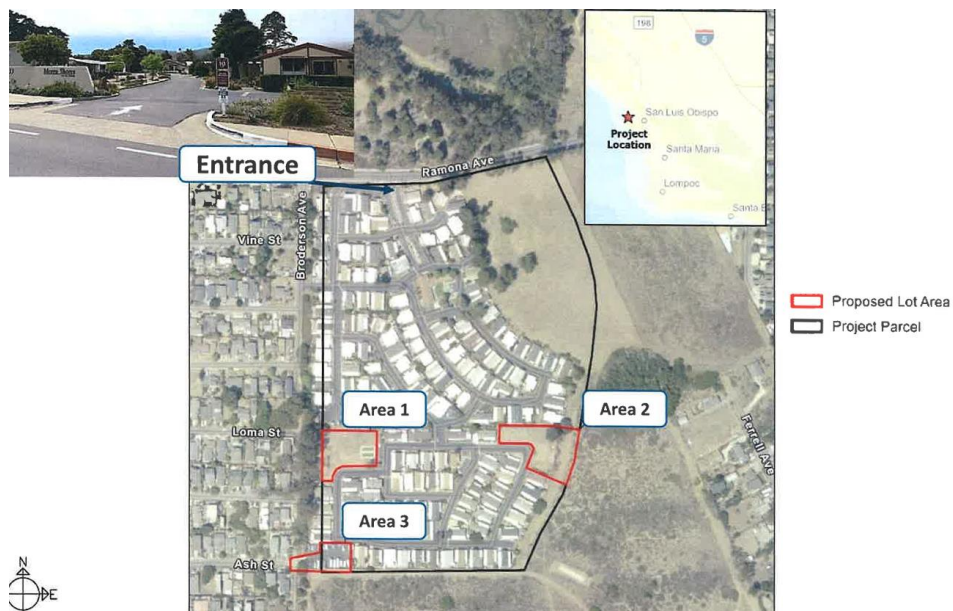
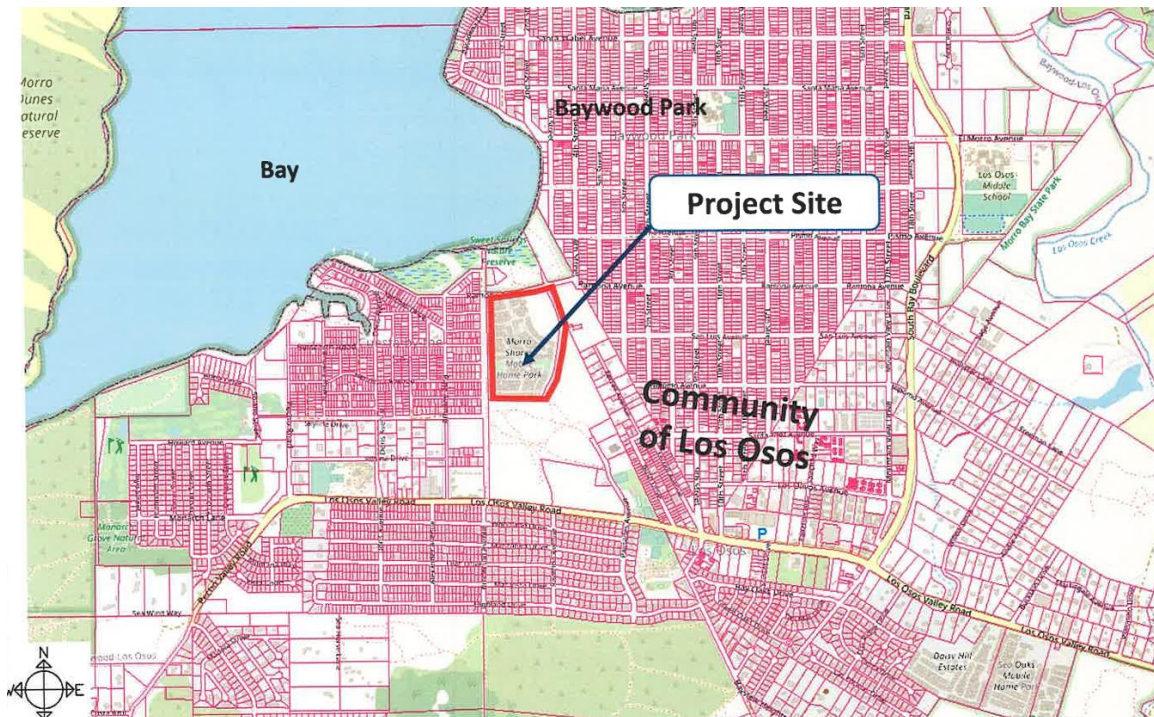
And

In summary, there is no evidence that the project will result in any significant adverse coastal resource impact, and in fact the opposite is true in that the best available science, including as articulated by the BMC and affirmed by the Commission in recent actions, shows the groundwater basin to be in a sustainable state within its identified safe yield and thus able to accommodate new development like this one. The County approved project is also a relatively small but welcome addition to an existing developed mobile home park that will provide 10 new housing units to the community's housing. The BMC estimates that the 2023 (the most recent data available) safe yield for the Los Osos groundwater basin was 2,380-acre feet, and the community used 1,650 acre feet, or 69 percent of the sustainable yield. Page 2 A-3-SLO-23-0014 (Morro Shores Mobile Home Park Expansion) stock, thereby helping further County and Commission efforts to increase a variety of housing types, including smaller housing units (and in this case ones that are age restricted to those 55 and over).

The Larger Issue:

Here again an applicant spent years and tens of thousands of dollars processing its application to allow a few more mobile homes on some vacant portions of the park. Ultimately, the County twice determined that the project should be permitted. Now McGibney puts the applicant through the whole meat grinder again. Shouldn't there be some provision to reimburse the applicants costs, loss of income, and loss of time by such a frivolous intervenor?

At least the Commission Staff thinks the appeal is a dud.



Closed Session: The Friends of the Oceano Dunes now have 5 legal actions pending against the Commission. There is a rumor that the Court may soon be issuing a preliminary decision on some of these that are very unfavorable to the Commission. It is not known if the negative fallout will impact the SLO County APCD. It would be great if both agencies were slugged with large costs, penalties, and damages. Of course, real justice would be that costs penetrate the organizational shields and be levied on the Coastal Commissioners and the APCD Board members, past and present, who have voted to curtail riding and free style camping on the dunes under the false guise of carcinogenic particles.



LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments Meeting of Wednesday, March 5, 2024 (Added) 8:30 AM (Completed)

Item A1 - Bob Jones Trail Project: Funding Plan. The Commission voted 9/0 to provide a new \$7.8 million. Supervisor Peschong was recused, as he had received a campaign contribution from an individual who is in a trail right of way dispute with the County.

Background: The meeting was not originally scheduled. There was only one item. This would appear to be a last ditch effort to save the Bob Jones Trail project. The State rejected the local Cal Trans's application for additional funding on the theory that the trail is part of the transportation system. As noted in the highlighted section below, Caltrans Headquarters in Sacramento rejected the idea as not meeting the requirements.

Caltrans District 5 and SLOCOG have an effective partnership and collaborate closely to fund and deliver transportation projects of mutual interest. Recent examples of funding partnerships include the expressway conversion of State Route 46, State Route 1/41 roundabout in Morro Bay, active transportation improvements at SR1 and Highland Dr. When the Bob Jones Pathway project appeared stalled due to an impasse on securing an easement for the original alignment, District 5 offered a solution to bypass the property owner and use approximately .5 miles of

Caltrans right-of-way for the pathway. The District prepared all the necessary project initiation document materials for Caltrans Headquarters to review. Caltrans Headquarters determined the project realignment feature did not meet the eligibility criteria for the Caltrans funding program (i.e. SHOPP). A funding gap remains of \$7.8M to realign and construct the pathway along the state highway right-of-way.

The SLOCOG Board is being requested to reprogram \$7.8 million to fill the gap. It should be noted that it previously switched millions from the Prado Road Interchange project during an earlier round of backfilling.

Projects Delayed or Dropped?

The staff report in this regard is a masterpiece of bureaucratic obfuscation:

The good faith effort from District 5 to bring SHOPP funds to the project funding package are not transferable to other partnership projects. However, SLOCOG staff will examine all possibilities with Caltrans District 5 during the 2026 fund cycle to recoup some or all of the \$7.8M in advance programming identified under Option 1 for improvements in the state highway right-of-way. Staff believes there may be opportunities to offset prior-committed SLOCOG discretionary funding with our project funding partners-both Caltrans District 5 and the County of San Luis Obispo. Partnership projects that warrant a revisit of the existing funding cost-share agreements, or lack thereof, include:

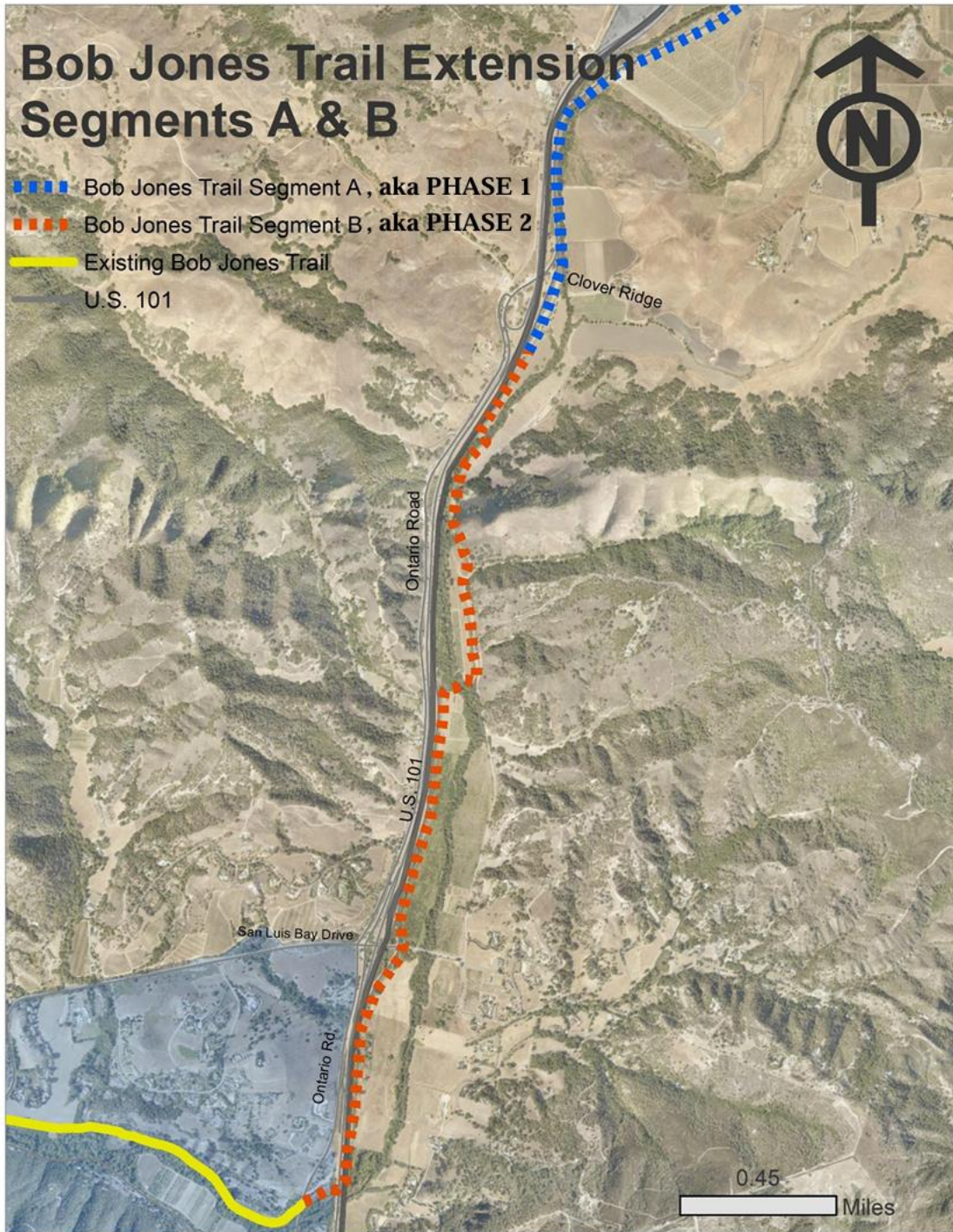
- (1) SR1/41 Roundabout and Safe Routes to School improvements (Morro Bay)**
- (2) Morro Bay to Cayucos Bike and Pedestrian Connector**
- (3) SR 227 Corridor - Roundabouts and Active Transportation Improvements (rural SLO)**

Just about everyone in town will be OK with eliminating the SR 227 Roundabouts.

In any case, it will be interesting to see if this switch receives a unanimous or nearly unanimous lemming vote from the Board.



See the map on the next page for the trial status.



ADDENDUM
A-1-3

Central Coast Community Energy Authority (3CE) non-agenda related development - \$270,000 Patronage Appointment

As of this writing, no one seems to be particularly bothered by this circumstance.

Background: As we reported in the February, 16-23, 2025 Weekly Update, former 3CE Policy Board Chairman Das Williams was appointed to the 3CE management as Senior Policy Advisor. Das, who was the 1st District Supervisor in Santa Barbara County, was defeated in the November 2024 election. It turns out that he was appointed to the 3CE position on January 13, 2025, less than 2 weeks after his term ended in the County, and therefore was no longer a Board Member of 3CE. Since Santa Barbara County makes payroll every 2 weeks, in arrears, he never missed a paycheck in the transition.

The 3CE write-up stated:

*Das Williams joined 3CE on January 14, 2025 as a Senior Advisor of Policy and Legislative Affairs. Das brings over two decades of public service experience to this role, including serving in the California State Assembly and most recently as **Santa Barbara County Supervisor and former Chair of 3CE's Policy Board**. Das has demonstrated strong leadership in environmental and energy policy, including his work on landmark legislation like SB350, which set California's path toward 100% clean energy by 2045. His extensive experience in both state and local government, combined with his deep understanding of our Central Coast communities, will help 3CE advance our mission of delivering economic and environmental benefits through clean energy resources.*

We pointed out that:

It is generally considered bad practice in public serve to appoint recently retired board members of a jurisdiction to management jobs in the same jurisdiction. Some city charters and state statues prohibit this, usually with a few years interval required. In fact, most ethical public administrators, such city managers and county executive officers, almost never consider appointing former elected officials, as their ability to be apolitical is in doubt. Once people have tasted the forbidden fruit, they are forever suspect

And:

This is a blatant patronage appointment designed to secure an income and benefits for Das until some other elected post comes up for which he can run. As readers know, we have asserted for years that 3CE is a patronage machine for engineering consultants, computer consultants, engineers, rate consultants, lawyers, and green advocates. This one is both blatant and sleazy.

It Gets Worse:

It turns out that the staff advisory position pays **\$270,000** plus full benefits for a 40-hour week.

Das's contract states in part:

SECTION 3: COMPENSATION AND WORK HOURS As compensation for Employee's services, Employee shall be paid on an annual salary basis of two-hundred seventy thousand dollars and zero cents \$270,000 per year, less applicable taxes, withholdings, and deductions, and any other deductions which may be authorized by the Docusign Envelope Employee, payable in accordance with the Agency's normal payroll practices. This is an exempt position under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

SECTION 3: BENEFITS Employee shall be entitled to benefits as described in the Agency's Employee Handbook, which may be amended from time to time, subject to eligibility requirements. Employee's position is not subject to the Agency's annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA).

Given this example of pure political patronage, who knows how much waste and fraud is involved in the billions of dollars of energy contracts administered by the agency? The Monterey County DA should investigate (3CE is headquartered in Monterey).

The current SLO County Board majority voted to join 3CE. Do they support this patronage appointment and cost?

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 – Return to office: Newsom orders California state workers back four days a week

By Alexei Koseff March 3, 2025



IN SUMMARY

The governor's announcement affects most of the state workforce and will take effect on July 1.

Gov. Gavin Newsom today signed an [executive order](#) mandating that all state agencies and departments that continue to offer remote work require a minimum of four in-person days per work week starting on July 1. Exceptions may be offered on a case-by-case basis.

“In-person work makes us all stronger — period,” he said in a statement. “When we work together, collaboration improves, innovation thrives, and accountability increases. That means better service, better solutions, and better results for Californians, while still allowing flexibility.”

The order is likely to inflame tensions between the governor and labor unions representing public employees, which have fought back against previous efforts to limit telework for the state workforce. About 95,000 employees continue to work remotely or in a hybrid capacity, according to the governor's office.

Newsom already [called workers back to the office](#) at least two days per week last April, citing enhanced efficiency, mentorship and supervision from in-person work.

His new order argues that those benefits have been undermined by employees' schedules not being aligned and also notes that “several leading private sector employers have recently increased in-person work requirements.” But the governor's office refused to answer a question about why Newsom was moving now to bring state workers back to the office most days.

Legal challenges to return-to-office orders are ongoing and almost certainly will not end with Newsom's latest mandate. An arbitration decision last year involving CASE, the union representing state attorneys, [bolstered California's authority](#) to compel employees back to work in person, but the union appealed and other cases continue.

Timothy O'Connor, the president of CASE, said Newsom was overlooking the effectiveness of remote work, which proponents believe boosts employees' productivity and well-being while saving money for the state.

“We think this is just sudden, comes out of nowhere, and it's a misguided mandate that really ignores the benefits of telework,” O'Connor said in an interview. “This is a very harsh order.”

But the governor has cast it as an issue of fairness for the entire state workforce of more than 224,000 people. More than half continued to report to work in person every day throughout the pandemic and more have since returned to the office, according to his order, including law enforcement officers, health care providers, highway maintenance workers and janitorial staff.

Amid [mass firings in the federal government](#), Newsom’s order also includes a provision to streamline hiring of former federal employees in key roles such as firefighting, weather forecasting, forest management, mental health and the sciences.

Item 2 - Rumors of California’s Realignment Are Grossly Exaggerated - California voters doubled down on taxes, debt, and one-party rule—despite crumbling infrastructure, failing schools, and past broken promises. By Edward Ring – March 5, 2025

Despite the congratulatory spin that Republican consultants and politicians in California put onto voting results in November 2024, there was little to celebrate. The most consequential election outcome in the state came perilously close to delivering a national catastrophe. California’s Republicans lost three more seats in the U.S. Congress, nearly handing control to the Democrats. In California, Republicans now [hold only nine seats](#) out of their 52-seat delegation in Congress.

And while Republicans picked up two seats in the State Assembly and two seats in the State Senate, they remain a mega-minority, outnumbered [60 to 20 in the](#) Assembly and [30 to 10 in the](#) [Senate](#). Every one of the eight statewide elected executive positions—governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer, controller, superintendent of public instruction, and insurance commissioner—are held by Democrats. And for the last 15 years, [Democrats have wielded a trifecta](#)—control of the state senate, state assembly, and governor’s office. They wield absolute political power.

Such is the level of delusion that informs Republican state party officials and affiliated consultants when they speak of “progress” made in 2024.

These same Pollyannas mention the passage of [Proposition 36](#) as a significant accomplishment, and perhaps it is, if you consider it an accomplishment to again make criminal behavior a crime. And Proposition 36, for all its much touted restoration of common sense law enforcement, does not compel prosecutors to implement most of the new and tougher charges or judges to impose the new and tougher sentences. It only restores that option.

Meanwhile, and here’s the real news: Californians have continued to display an appetite for higher taxes and borrowing. Also put before voters along with Prop. 36 were two \$10 billion bonds, which were both overwhelmingly approved. [Prop. 2 borrows \\$10 billion](#) to construct more public education facilities, and [Prop. 4 borrows \\$10 billion](#) to fund “parks, state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure projects, energy projects, and flood protection projects.”

That all sounds great, until you consider where this money is really going. The state is borrowing another \$20 billion to, for example, perform “deferred maintenance” on school facilities, i.e., work that used to come out of operating budgets, and, quite likely, subsidies for “renewables” and spending to implement water rationing. California’s record on big capital project spending is abysmal. [Prop. 1 in 2014](#) borrowed \$7.1 billion and was sold to voters on the promise to build or expand four major reservoirs. Not one of these projects has even begun work. And then

there's [Prop. 1A, approved by voters in 2008](#), which borrowed \$9.9 billion to build “high-speed rail.” It's been 17 years, and not one mile of track has been laid.

This is the corrupt context in which California's voters have just saddled themselves with another \$20 billion in debt. For the financially uninitiated, let's be clear. Bonds are taxes. At a rate of 5 percent interest over a 20-year term, California's taxpayers are now on the hook for another \$1.6 billion per year to pay principal and interest on these newly approved bonds.

Underreported but equally significant is the appetite of California voters to approve taxes and borrowing at the local level. The numbers are smaller, but they add up. Altogether, local government officials and [heavily funded](#) pro-tax “citizens groups” placed [533 tax and bond measures](#) on the November 2024 ballot in California. Voters approved 405 of them, a success rate of 76 percent.

Never forget, once approved, these new taxes never go away. In five cases, local, underfunded citizens groups placed tax repeals on local ballots. Heavily opposed by the usual suspects—government unions and government contractors—they all failed.

The financial impact of these local measures exceeds the damage at the state level. The total amount of newly approved local taxes is \$2.3 billion per year. The total amount of new borrowing approved at the local level is an eye-popping \$47.1 billion, which equates to \$3.8 billion per year in principal and interest payments.

California's voters, in their infinite wisdom, imposed upon themselves a total of \$7.7 billion in additional taxes per year, in what is already the most heavily taxed state in America.

Without DOGE-style intervention and fundamental realignment, California's tax and spend orgy has only just begun. The Democrat-controlled legislature has the power to place initiatives on the state ballot without going through the arduous petition process required of citizen groups. And their current plans include at least [two new tax schemes](#). The first will gut [Prop. 13, the legendary 1978 reform](#) that capped property tax reassessments at 2 percent per year. Prop. 13 remains the only protection allowing long-time small businesses to stay competitive and allowing retirees to stay in their homes. The second, convoluted enough to [ensure deceptive ballot language](#), will in effect take away completely the already tenuous ability for Californian citizen groups to ever qualify and pass [effective anti-tax measures](#).

It is difficult to put into words the level of greed and dysfunction that defines California's public sector. Along with the exemplary disasters of the 2014 water bond and the 2008 high-speed rail initiative, consider the union-run K-14 (K-12 plus community colleges) public school system. In 1988, in a close election, the teachers' union supported [Prop. 98 was approved](#) by voters. It mandated 40 percent of the state's general fund to be spent on K-14 education.

Like all big-government, public-sector union-supported initiatives, it sounds great. “For the children,” etc. But California's [general fund spending](#), adjusted for [inflation](#), has increased nearly 60 percent since 2001, while California's K-12 enrollment is actually [down](#), from [6.1](#)

[million in the 2000-01](#) school year to only [5.8 million in 2023-24](#). Has anything improved since then? Are California students performing 60 percent better on achievement tests?

No. Currently only 35 percent of K-12 students meet state math standards, and only 47 percent meet state English language standards. Nearly two thirds of California's Latino students and 70% of Black students [do not meet basic standards](#) in English; for math it is even worse, 77% of Latinos and 83% of Black kids do not meet basic standards.

In every sector of public service, California's public sector is failing. But voters continue to back the same politicians, the same partisan rhetoric, the same failed model, and in the process, more taxes and more borrowing.

Such is life in the Golden State. Thank goodness for the good weather.

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

Item 3 - Korea's Nuclear Weapons Story by Ryan Chan

The United States has recently constructed more silos for launching interceptors to protect its homeland against potential North Korean attacks with its long-range nuclear missiles. *Newsweek* has contacted the North Korean Embassy in Beijing for comment by email. The U.S. Missile Defense Agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

What People Are Saying

Ted Kerzie, senior director of Boeing's Strategic Missile and Defense Systems, said in a statement to *Newsweek* on Wednesday: "We remain committed to our nation's top priorities of defending the homeland and ensuring peace through strength."

An executive order signed by President Donald Trump on January 27 read: "The threat of attack by ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missiles, and other advanced aerial attacks, remains the most catastrophic threat facing the United States...The United States will provide for the common defense of its citizens and the Nation by deploying and maintaining a next-generation missile defense shield."

Ground-Based Midcourse Defense

U.S. expands anti-ballistic missile system for homeland defense



Newsweek

What Happens Next

Another defense contractor, Lockheed Martin, was selected in April 2024 by the U.S. Missile Defense Agency to develop the Next Generation Interceptor (NGI), which will be equipped with multiple kill vehicles per interceptor, as opposed to a single kill vehicle as the GBI uses.

Newsweek, March 4, 2025

COLAB NOTE: Will the Coastal Commission oppose testing these at Vandenberg?

Item 4 - Central Coast Community Energy hasn't quite delivered on its renewable energy and rate promises for more renewable energy and electricity rates lower than PG&E

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) has promised these to its ratepayers in Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties since 2018.

Through electric energy incentive programs and investments in renewable energy storage facilities, the electric utility provider promised rates as much as 6 percent lower than those of PG&E alongside its goal to deliver 60 percent renewable energy by 2025 and 100 percent by 2030.

Now serving all of SLO County [after Atascadero and unincorporated areas joined in January](#), 3CE has kept its word in some ways, according to Chief Communications Officer Catherine Stedman. In others, it hasn't.

Since the agency started, Stedman said 3CE has consistently delivered on promises to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide electric power at rates that are competitive with PG&E, carry out programs that facilitate the electrification of transportation and buildings, stimulate the local economy, and provide long-term electric rate stability.

While Stedman said these things technically have been delivered to its ratepayers, 3CE's numbers aren't what it originally projected when it comes to competitive rate savings and the grid of renewable energy.

As a community choice aggregation utility, 3CE buys power on behalf of nearly a half-million customers on the Central Coast, while PG&E continues to manage the grid. SLO County residents are automatically enrolled in 3CE services, but they have the choice to opt out and continue receiving service from PG&E.

Since its beginning, [3CE's rate report](#), as of October 2024, residents who used 3CE services paid an average of \$162 monthly while PG&E customers paid an average of \$171.

The sustainability of these savings is unclear, as Stedman said she doesn't anticipate those savings to continue through the end of year, thanks to a California Public Utilities Commission decision affecting both PG&E and 3CE's competitiveness, increasing the cost of energy for both companies' customers.

"We are going to our board in March, and we'll be recommending a rate adjustment, and if the board approves that adjustment, it would have our customers across our service territory with between 1 to 2 percent savings," she said. "If the board approves the new rates, then that would be going into effect in April."

Some customers won't see immediate savings, either, which are projected over time, Stedman told *New Times* in a previous interview.

In November, Stedman said that Atascadero customers wouldn't see any additional charges if they opted to go with 3CE over PG&E.

"It's taking the place of the charge that would otherwise be there from PG&E if they were providing generation service," she said. "We have provided the generation service at a rate less than what PG&E has provided, and we hope to continue that."

Now that it's 2025, 3CE's providing 30 percent renewable energy to its customers rather than the projected 60 percent.

According to Stedman, when the utility company entered its contracts to invest in solar and wind projects, 60 percent seemed attainable, but amid "transmission and distribution delays," that goal seems more attainable by 2026.

"Solar and batteries and geothermal projects, all of them are facing the same challenges, which are getting your permit to connect to the grid," she said. "Then if transmission improvements are required to deliver the energy—and they generally are—it's the time that it takes to make those improvements."

When it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Stedman said 3CE initially planned to purchase carbon-free facilities but has since shifted its focus to investing in new projects that add new renewable energy sources to the grid.

"So we have procured over 1,000 megawatts of new geothermal, solar, wind generation. And then we've also been investing in energy storage projects," she said.

This includes storing renewable energy in batteries, she said. The safety of such battery storage facilities is at the forefront of many SLO County residents' minds after a January fire at a Monterey County facility. A similar plant is proposed in Morro Bay and a battery storage plant was [recently completed in Nipomo](#)—both of which have met residents' resistance.

Stedman said that 3CE is looking to invest in lithium-ion phosphate storage, as opposed to the lithium nickel-manganese-cobalt oxide batteries that caught [fire at Moss Landing](#).

"[Lithium-ion phosphate] just performs better in terms of a safety metric," Stedman said. "The industry, in terms of these utility scale battery projects, is moving to lithium-ion phosphate, and so I think that there's a lot of valuable lessons to be learned, but I also know that energy storage is incredibly important to making the transition to renewable energy."

Current 5th District SLO County Supervisor and former Atascadero Mayor Heather Moreno was on the Atascadero City Council that approved joining 3CE in 2022. She said she's not that concerned about whether the utility company is meeting its projected goals. What she found most important in joining was providing residents with a choice between service providers.

"It comes back to choice. I think any company can only say, 'Hey, this is what we're aiming for,'" she said. "The people that wanted 3CE were in favor of us going with 3CE. And you know, they wanted a choice. They liked the idea that if 3CE is offering lower rates, they wanted to be able to take advantage of lower rates. If 3CE is offering incentives, they might be interested in those kinds of incentives."

[Atascadero was the last SLO County city to enroll with 3CE](#). Moreno said her only reservation at the time wasn't with 3CE itself, but with the government's ability to potentially place responsibility on the city if things went awry.

Joint powers authorities like 3CE are public entities contracted by the government and allow at least two public agencies to jointly exercise power. Under classification as a joint authority, if the public agencies fail or don't meet the public's need, they are liable for those mishaps.

What Moreno said she worried about most was if somehow the city of Atascadero, as an underlying municipality, would be held liable if 3CE were to fail.

Her mind was put at ease, she said, after two other joint powers authorities went defunct during COVID and legislation still held the public agencies liable for the failing—not the underlying municipalities.

"And so, I thought, OK, that gives me a little bit of peace going forward, that I wouldn't be putting my entity, my city, the municipal government, at risk," she said.

Reach Staff Writer Libbey Hanson at lhanson@newtimeslo.com. This article first appeared in the SLO New Times of March 6, 2025

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

LIFE AMONG THE RUINS

***THE FEW SOWED THE WIND, AND THE MANY REAPED
THEIR WHIRLWIND***
BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON



American society is facing three existential crises not unlike those that overcame the late Roman, and a millennium later, terminal Byzantine, empires.

Premodern Barbarism

We are suffering an epidemic of premodern barbarism. The signs unfortunately appear everywhere. Over half a million homeless people crowd our big-city downtowns.

Most know the result of such Medieval street living is unhealthy, violent, and lethal for all concerned. Yet no one knows—or even seems to worry about—how to stop it.

So public defecation, urination, fornication, and injection continue unabated. Progressive urban pedestrians pass by holding their noses, averting their gazes, and accelerating the pace of their walking. The greenest generation in history allows its sidewalks to become pre-civilizational sewers. In a very brief time, we all but have destroyed the downtowns of our major cities—which will increasingly become vacant in a manner like the 6th-century A.D. Roman forum.

All accept that defunding the police, no-cash bail, Soros-funded district attorneys, and radical changes in jurisprudence have destroyed deterrence. The only dividend is the unleashing of a criminal class to smash-and-grab, carjack, steal, burglarize, execute, and assault—with de facto immunity. Instead we are sometimes lectured that looting is not a crime, but lengthy incarceration is criminally immoral.

We have redefined felonies as misdemeanors warranting no punishment. Misdemeanors are now infractions that are not criminal. Infractions we treat as lifestyle choices. Normality, not criminality, is deemed criminal. We all know this will not work, but still wonder why it continues.

Many among the middle classes of our cities who can flee or move, do so—like 5th-century equestrians who left Rome for rural fortified farms before the onslaught of the Ostrogoths and Visigoths. For most of our lives we were lectured that the old southern states—Florida, Tennessee, Texas—were backward and uninviting. Now even liberals often flee to them, leaving behind supposedly cosmopolitan Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, Baltimore, and New York. The more people leave the blue states, the more those states praise themselves as utopian.

The less well-off, without the means to leave, hope that their environs have hit bottom so things can only improve. The elite who caused this premodern catastrophe assumes they will always have the money and wherewithal to ensure that themselves and their own can navigate around or even profit from the barbarism they unleashed. For them the critic, not the target of criticism, is the greater threat.

The hard urban work of the 1990s and early 2000s—cleaner, safer subways, secure nightlife downtown, clean sidewalks, low vacancy rates, little vagrancy, and litter-free streets—so often has been undone, deliberately so. We are descending to the late 1960s and 1970s wild streets—if we are lucky the mayhem does not devolve even further.

A mere 10 years ago, if an American learned that a man was arrested for clubbing, robbing, or shooting innocents, and yet would be released from custody that day of his crime, he would have thought it an obscenity. Now he fears that often the criminal will not even be arrested.

A once secure border no longer exists. Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas simply demolished it and allowed 6-7 million foreign nationals to cross illegally into the United States without audits—to the delight of their apparent constituent, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

What would shame a Biden or Mayorkas? What would change their minds? Billions of dollars spent on social services for the lawbreaking at the expense of the American poor?

Would 100,000 annual lethal overdoses—12 times more than those who died over 20 years in Iraq and Afghanistan combined—from drugs that flow across the open border sway them? Or would it take 200,000, or 300,000 deaths before Joe Biden relented and ceased his chuckling?

What does a people do when its highest officials simply renounce their oaths of office and refuse to enforce laws they don't like? Everyone knows the border will eventually have to become secure, but none have any idea whether it will take another 20, 30, or 50 million illegal entrants and 1 million more fentanyl deaths to close it.

Polls show race relations have hit historic lows. Much of the ecumenicalism of the post-Civil Rights movement seems squandered—almost deliberately so.

The Left now rarely mentions Martin Luther King, Jr. or even the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964. Perhaps it knows it has violated the spirit and legacy of both.

Today, our identity politics leaders believe that the color of our skin, not the content of our character, certainly matters more. The practitioners of the new tribalism in some sense fear outlawing segregation and discrimination by race. They know to do so would end racially restricted houses and safe spaces, racially exclusive graduations, and race-based admissions, hiring, and promotion on campus.

Read Professor Ibram X. Kendi and his message is implicit. For him, the problem with a Jim Crow-like system was not segregation or racial chauvinism per se, but merely who was doing the victimizing and who were the victims: so the original racism was bad; but racism in reverse is good.

We abhor violence, racism, and misogyny—in the abstract. Yet the entire hip-hop industry would find no audience—or so we are told by its appeasers—if rappers refrained from “ho” misogyny, brags of violence against law enforcement, and self-described proprietary use of the N-word.

Most know that young black males under 30 commit violent crimes at well over 10 times their 3-4 percent demographic of the population—so often victimizing the nonwhite. All know that reality must remain unmentionable even as its causes need to be debated and discussed if lives are to be saved. Yet the greater crime seems not the crime itself, but even mentioning crime.

Postmodern Abyss

Postmodernism in our age is deadlier even than premodernism. Sexually explicit drag shows that allow the attendance of children 20 years ago would have been outlawed—by liberals worried over the trauma of the young watching performance-art simulated sex.

Now the children come last and the performers first—as ratified by the same liberals. But to fathom the new transitioning, simply learn from ancient transitioning and gender dysphoria, an unhappy classical theme from [Catullus' Attis](#) poem (stimulatus ibi furenti rabie, vagus/ devolsit ili acuto sibi pondera silice/ itaque ut relicta sensit sibi membra sine viro) to Giton in [Petronius' Satyricon](#).

Current “science” is now synonymous with ideology, religion, or superstition. Lockdowns, mRNA vaccinations, masking, transgenderism, “climate change,” and green power brook no dissent. They are declared scientifically correct in the manner that the sun used to revolve around the earth, and any dissenting Galileo or Copernicus is cancel-cultured, doxxed, and deplatformed.

It is now verboten to cite the causes of the current upswing. We must remain silent about the classical exegeses that cults, pornography, and constructed sexual identities, when not biological, were the manifestations of a bored culture's affluence ([luxus](#)), leisure ([otium](#)), and decadence ([licentia/dissolutio](#)).

The classical analyses of an elite collapse focus on a falling birth rate, a scarce labor force, ubiquitous abortion, an undermanned military, and a shrinking population. We suffer all that and perhaps more still.

Millions of young men are detached and ensconced in solitude, their indebted 20s too often consumed with video-gaming, internet surfing, or consumption of porn. Many suffer from prolonged adolescence. Many assume that they are immune from criticism, given that the alternative of getting married, having children, finding a full-time job, and buying a house is society's new abnormal.

Rarely has an elite society become so Victorian and yet so raunchy. A slip with an anachronistic “Gal” or “Honey” can get one fired. Meanwhile, grabbing one's genitals while pregnant on stage before 120 million viewers is considered a successful Super Bowl extravaganza.

Our army is short of its annual recruitment by 25 percent. We all suspect but do not say out loud the cause. The stereotyping of poor and middle-class white males as both raging and biased, and yet expected yet to fight and die in misadventures in Afghanistan and Iraq, has finally convinced the parents of these 18-year-olds to say, “no more.”

Need we say anything about the lack of efficacy or morality of the Department of Justice, FBI, or CIA?

Or rather is there anything the FBI will [not](#) do?

Doctor court evidence? Hire Twitter to suppress the news? Monitor parents at school board meetings? Allow directors to lie under oath or “misremember” before Congress?

Swiping clean subpoenaed phones? Hiring fakers to compile dirt on a presidential candidate—and then using that known smear to hoodwink a judge to allow spying on Americans?

Suppressing evidence on a laptop to warp an election? Raiding an ex-president’s home with a SWAT-like team? Spying on Catholics in mass? Storming a home full of children of a man accused of a politically incorrect misdemeanor?

The more the military has been stalemated in Iraq, humiliated in Afghanistan, and dreading what China will soon do or what Iran will even sooner let off, the more it insists our priorities should be diversity, equity, and inclusion. Will that escapism ensure more lethal pilots, tank commanders, and Marine company commanders?

The mindsets of too many of our new generations of command are twofold: first to be promoted by virtue signaling woke policies that they must know eventually will hamper combat readiness, and then in the future to rotate at retirement into multimillionaire status by leveraging past expertise for defense contractors. Keep that in mind and almost every publicly uttered nonsense from our highest in the Pentagon makes perfect sense.

Them

There is a third challenge. Our enemies—illiberal, deadly, and vengeful—have concluded we are more effective critics of ourselves than are they. They enjoy our divided nation, torn apart by racial incivility, dysfunctional cities, and woke madness. (Notice how even the communists long ago dropped deadly Maoist wokeism, or how the Russians viewed the Soviet commissariat as antithetical to their military and economic agendas.)

Iran believes that this present generation of Americans would likely allow it to nuke Israel rather than stop its proliferation. China assumes that Taiwan is theirs and the only rub is how to destroy or absorb it without losing too many global markets and income. Russia conjectures that the more we trumpet its impending defeat, the more it will destroy Eastern Ukraine and call such a desert peace.

Our “friends” can be as dangerous as our enemies.

A visitor from another world might conclude Mexico has done more damage to America than North Korea, Iran, and Russia combined. It has, by intent, flooded our border with 20 million illegal aliens. It has allowed cartels with Chinese help to conduct multibillion-dollar profiteering by killing 100,000 Americans per year (did the Kremlin ever match that tally in a half century of the Cold War?).

Mexico drains \$60 billion from its expatriates on the expectation that American subsidies will free up their cash to be sent home. The more the cartels run wild, the more money trickles

down—while their top drug enforcement official Genaro García Luna was found guilty in a New York courtroom for collusion with the cartels.

How did all of this so quickly erode our great country? Our crisis was not the next generation of foreign Hitlers and Stalins. It was not earthquakes, floods, or even pandemics. It was not endemic poverty and want. It was not a meager inheritance from past generations of incompetents. Nor was it a dearth of natural resources or bounty.

Instead our catastrophe arose from our most highly educated, the wealthiest and most privileged in American history with the greatest sense of self-esteem and sanctimoniousness. Sometime around the millennium, they felt their genius could change human nature and bring an end to history—if only they had enough power to force hoi polloi to follow their abstract and bankrupt theories that they had no intention of abiding by themselves.

And then the few sowed the wind, and so the many now reap their whirlwind.

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 O'Malley Distinguished Visiting Professor at the School of Public Policy, Pepperdine University. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush, and the Bradley Prize in 2008. Hanson is also a farmer (growing almonds on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author of the just released New York Times best seller, The End of Everything: How Wars Descend into Annihilation, published by Basic Books on May 7, 2024, as well as the recent The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won, The Case for Trump, and The Dying Citizen.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUTY

Now you can listen to THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW

in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria & San Luis Obispo Counties!
We are pleased to announce that The Andy Caldwell Show is now
broadcasting out of San Luis Obispo County on FM 98.5 in
addition to AM



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

THE only show of its kind on the Central Coast covering local,
state, national and international issues! 3:00-5:00 PM
WEEKDAYS

You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show LIVE on the [Tune](#)
[In Radio App](#) and previously aired shows at: 3:00-5:00 PM
WEEKDAYS

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

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

Listen to The Andy Caldwell Show "LIVE"

KSMARADIO
NEWS • TALK
1240 | 99.5
1240ksma.com

KZSB RADIO
SANTA BARBARA
1290 | 96.9
am1290kzsb.com

knews985.com

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

SUPPORT COLAB



**MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES
BEFORE THE BOS**



VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HUGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER



MIKE BROWN RALLIED THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

KEEP HANDY * CONTACT YOUR ELECTEDS

**ON ISSUES OF CONCERN!
THEY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Elected Officials Representing San Luis Obispo County

**Governor Gavin Newsom
916-445-2841 Sacramento
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/>**

**Senator Alex Padilla
202-224-3553 DC\
<https://www.padilla.senate.gov/contact/>**

**Senator Adam Schiff
202-224-3841 DC
<https://www.schiff.senate.gov/contact/>**

**Representative Salud Carbal
202-225-3601 DC
805-546-6348 District
carbajal.house.gov/contact**

**Representative Jimmy Panetta
202-225-2861 DC
831-424-2229 District
panetta.house.gov/contact**

State Senator John Laird
916-651-4017 Sacramento
805-549-3784 District
senator.laird@senate.ca.gov

State Assembly Member Dawn Addis
916-319-2030 Sacramento
805-549-3001 District
assemblymember.addis@assembly.ca.gov

SLO County Supervisor Bruce Gibson
805-781-4338 District
bgibson@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor Heather Moreno
805-781-4339 District
hmoreno@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg
805-781-5450 District
dortizlegg@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor Jimmy Paulding
805-781-4337 District
district4@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor John Peschong
805-781-4491 District
jpeschong@co.slo.ca.us

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

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio Internet Public Hearing Friend

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

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

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

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.

Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check Visa MasterCard Discover Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

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

TODAY'S DATE: _____