



Weekly Update November 3, - 10 2025

Diablo Canyon Coastal Commission Hearing

The long-term fate of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) will be discussed at a California Coastal Commission (CCC) meeting on Thursday, November 6 in Sacramento. The main thrust of the discussion will be item 8; PG&E's Coastal Development Permit Application for continued operation of the facility beyond its current 2030 expiration.



Public comments are welcome and can be done in person or online. Registration to speak can be found at:

<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/agenda/#/2025/11>

Anyone wishing to speak is encouraged to register on or before Nov. 5.



According to its own website, the California Coastal Commission has 12 voting members and 3 non-voting members. Six of the voting members are "public members," and six are local elected officials who come from specific coastal districts. All voting members are appointed either by the Governor, Senate Rules Committee, or the Speaker of the Assembly; each appoints four commissioners, two public members and two elected officials. Each Commissioner may appoint an alternate to serve in his or her absence. The Secretaries of the Natural Resources Agency and the State Transportation Agency and the Chair of the State Lands Commission serve as non-voting members and may appoint a designee to serve in their place.

Many are frustrated that the CCC is so very powerful and sets so much policy with so little public input. This is your opportunity to provide input at an extremely critical moment.

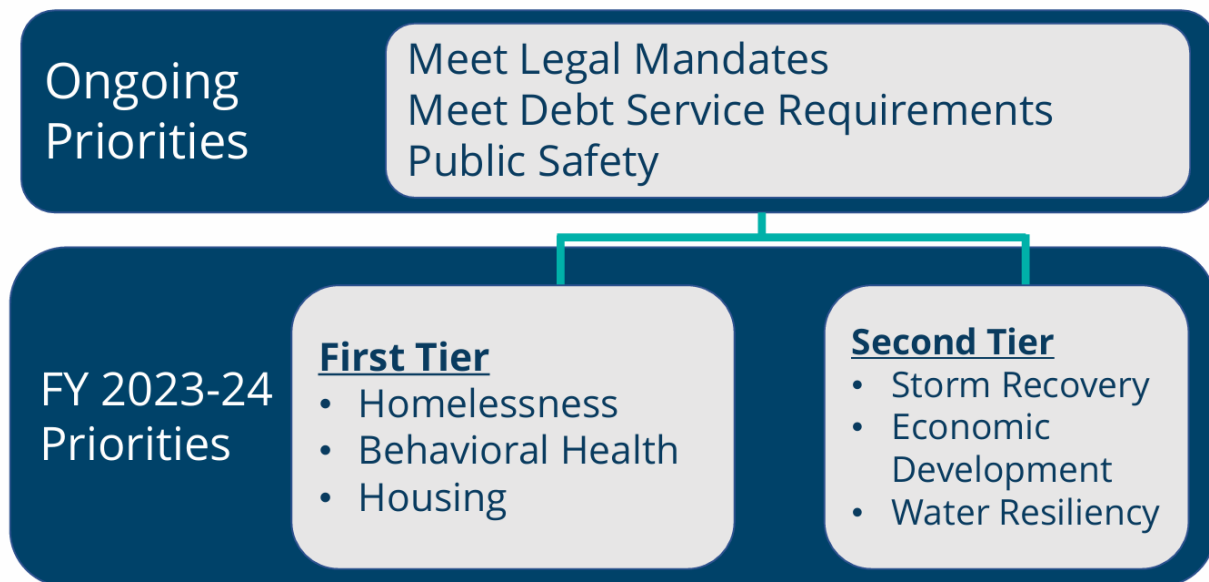
As we all know, the Power Plant is the largest private employer in our county. PG&E is extremely involved in our community. The tax base is critical to our county budget and we need electricity. Even if all the projected wind and solar projects materialize, the reliability of Diablo power is essential to maintaining a strong grid. Wouldn't it be nice if we had excess power and were able to sell some of it to neighboring states?

Hip Hoppin Hypocrisy Happening

Get ready for the big show starring Supervisors Gibson and Paulding at the Tuesday, Nov 4 Board of Supervisors meeting. It's pretty likely that they will be shuckin' and jivin', dancing the hootchie cootchie, hemming and hawing and trying to make people believe that they support a high priority for housing ... just not this housing.

It's the final approval for the Dana Reserve planned community in Nipomo, with 1,242 homes, a south campus for Cuesta College and community wide infrastructure improvements.

Below is a chart illustrating each of the top priorities as defined by the majority of the members of the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors. The top tier should really be labeled as responsibilities, but the first tier below that is theoretically where the Board wants us to believe it will spend most of its discretionary efforts.



Ironically, not only does this project address housing, but it also addresses economic development through the creation of commercial space and the Cuesta College campus. It also addresses water resiliency. As stated in the Dana Reserve mission

statement: “For the first time ever, more water will be returned into the Nipomo groundwater basin than extracted by the Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) because of the return flows from the Dana Reserve.”

Gibson pretends that his problem with the project is that a settlement agreement was made in a lawsuit between the developer and two community groups - with the details being kept confidential. He makes a big fuss about a “secret agreement”, but in fact, he published the details of said secret in an op/ed piece in one of the local newspapers. Even after disclosing the details that the parties had wished to keep to themselves, Gibson continues to insinuate that there is something nefarious going on and therefor the “public good” outweighs any possible need for homes. By the way, the agreements between the community groups seem pretty benign.

It is expected that Paulding will also try to dance around doing his best Kamala Harris style word salad while pretending to be a housing advocate. To date, he has not taken a formal position on the project but appears to want to be all things to all sides. As he often does, he could end up echoing Gibson.

Tossed into his word salad will be references to the need for low and very low-income housing, and at 206 units, this project is just too insufficient. Therefore, by his logic, it might be better that there are zero such housing than only 206 units. One wonders if he is removing any mention of housing from his campaign brochures.

There may be more feeble excuses thrown about, but the bottom line is that these two County Supervisors are posing when it comes to actually building the housing that they preach so much about.

Maybe the best that we can hope for are mercifully short speeches After all, there is nothing that can be said to cover up the hypocrisy that so many will witness on Tuesday.

Is Rent Control Coming?

As we reported earlier this year, there is activity in the City of San Luis Obispo that could lead to rent control. On Oct. 28, the City of San Luis Obispo held a workshop entitled **Know Your Rental Rights – Join the Upcoming Study Session**.

Discussion points for the study session were listed here:

- State and local renter protections, including habitability standards, eviction protections, and rent control under the California Tenant Protection Act.
- Potential new tools and incentives for renters and landlords, including:
- A **rental** registry to improve data collection and transparency
- Expanded just-cause eviction protections and notice requirements
- Landlord/tenant education, certification, and incentive programs

The rental registry reference indicates an interest in city access to data such as property type, size and facilities as well as rent amounts. With this data in hand, a rent control structure could be established.

Under the Who Should Attend column, the following was posted:

- Renters seeking to learn more about their rights and protections
- Landlords and property managers interested in learning more about landlord incentives, tenant protections and providing feedback on the impacts of existing and future renter protection policies
- Students and families affected by housing affordability
- Community organizations advocating for housing equity
- Residents who want to help shape local housing policy

With the prospect of “future renter protection policies” looming, we wonder how much interest might exist for a rent control measure. Sadly, when renter rights advocates begin stumping, they usually overlook the impact when renters abuse their rights, which can end up costing the system and thus leads to higher rent rates.

It's becoming less attractive to be a landlord and rent control just compounds that problem.

According to the City of San Luis Obispo: To receive updates from the City, please register for City News e-notifications on the City's website at www.slocity.org/subscribe or follow the City of San Luis Obispo on social media.

A Pathway to Prudence?

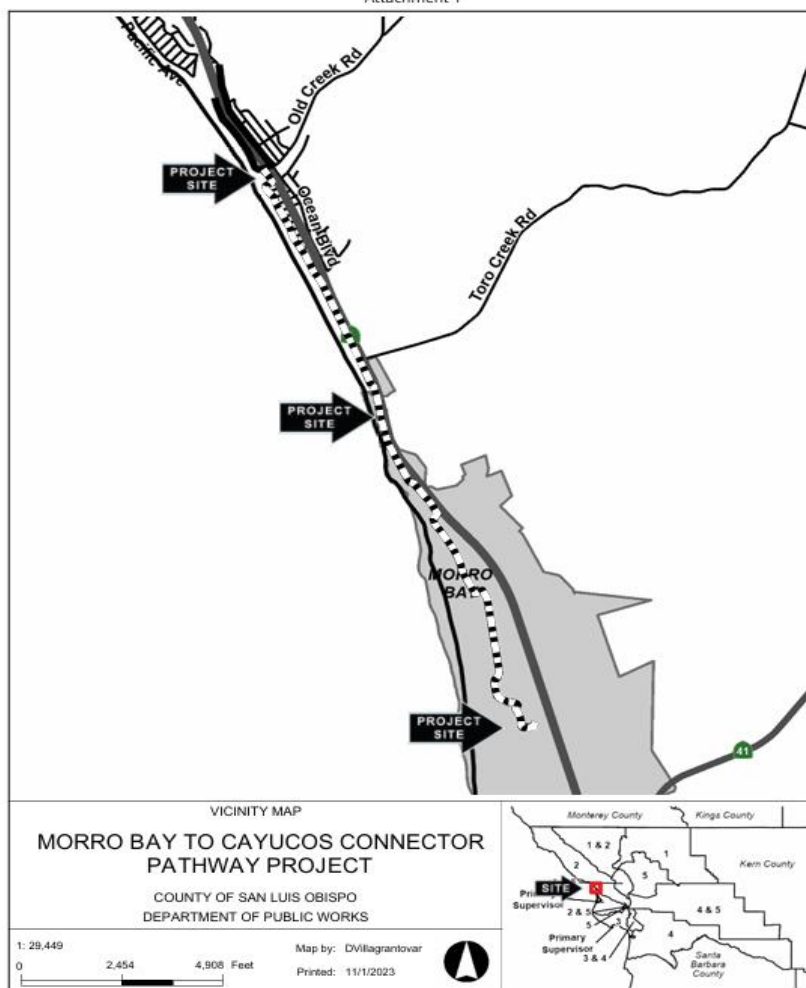
Item number 23 on the October 21 BoS agenda was one of those things that makes people wonder. It was:

Request to: 1) authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$200,000 to FC 230 – Capital Projects in the WBS 320054 – Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector Pathway Project (Project), located between the City of Morro Bay and the Community of Cayucos, using funds from the Parks Public Facilities Fees Designation in FC 247 - Public Facility Fees, by 4/5 vote; 2) approve and execute Contract Amendment No. 9 with Cannon Corporation, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for additional engineering design, environmental review, Caltrans coordination, environmental permitting, right-of-way, acquisition, and construction documents services for the Project; 3) authorize the Director of Public Works to approve amendments to the contract in an amount not to exceed a contingency of \$20,000; and 4) authorize advertisement for construction bids for the Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector Pathway Project (Project).

Here is a budget summary for the project:

WBS	Expenditures:	Approved Budget	Estimated Project Costs	Variance
320054	Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector Pathway	\$1,792,600	\$1,992,600	(\$200,000)
Total Expenditures:		\$1,792,600	\$1,992,600	(\$200,000)
WBS	Funding Source:	Approved Funding	Proposed Funding	Variance
320054	Regional State Highway Account (RSHA)	\$1,192,600	\$1,192,600	\$0
320054	Parks Public Facility Fees (PFF)	\$600,000	\$800,000	(\$200,000)
Total Funding:		\$1,792,600	\$1,992,600	(\$200,000)

Below is a map illustrating the location of the project. According to the scale on the illustration, the project is a little less than a mile and a half long giving it a cost of roughly \$1,330,000 per mile. Seems like a pretty swanky mile and a half:



A cost overrun is not surprising.

What some may find surprising, though, is that the county has a couple million to spend on a pathway.

Yes, it will be pleasant and quaint and much appreciated by some. However, when we are cutting services due to budget constraints, seeing less than anticipated revenues and worried about state and federal funding not materializing, spending nearly two million dollars on a path might strike some as imprudent.

It could get to the point where we spend so much on bike paths and hiking trails that someone will suggest that we need a special sales tax just to maintain the roads so that people can get to these beautiful pathways...

Bridging a Gap in Logic

Speaking of Public Works projects, a reader pointed out that our recent story about the Cecchetti “bridge” should have mentioned that the structure that washed out in the 2023 storms was not a bridge, but in fact a culvert. The reader further pointed out that replacing it with another culvert should be quick and relatively inexpensive.

All of those observations are spot on. The problem with that reasoning is that it is, well, reasonable. Unfortunately, California regulations are often unreasonable, which is the case in this instance. It seems that the creek is a habitat for creatures that the state demands be afforded easy passage under structures. Apparently, culverts aren’t good passageways for critters, so a bridge must be built.

What seems especially unreasonable is that rather than trying to come up with around \$800,000 for a temporary bridge, why can’t a replacement culvert be installed until the permanent bridge is constructed? This would be an interim of about two years and would simply replace what was there for many years - and would still be if the storms hadn’t hit.

Prop 50 - Don't Forget to Cast Your Vote

Tell Gavin Newsom what you think of his scheme to “save democracy” by rigging the district lines for California Congressional seats.

Polls will be open until 8:00 PM on Tuesday, November 4. Theoretically, mailed ballots with a November 4 date stamp will be counted. If your only choice is to mail your ballot, then by all means get it sent in.

The better approach would be to take the ballot that was mailed to you to the polling place listed on that ballot mailer and cast it in person. Technically, you are allowed to take your ballot to any polling place, including the County Clerk office in the County Administration building in downtown San Luis Obispo. While you are at it, offer to take your friends' and neighbors' completed ballots to the polling place. If they can't get there in person, you are allowed to deliver them.

If you are registered to vote, but have not received a ballot, please contact the San Luis Obispo Clerk/Recorder by clicking on this link: [Elections and Voting](#) or call (805) 781-5000. They can answer any questions you have, including where to find your polling place.



Last Week

Ambulance Service Shifting Gears

After nearly 80 years of exemplary service to San Luis Obispo County, our local family owned San Luis Ambulance Service is facing losing its grandfathered contract with the county through a Request For Proposal.

The October 21 decision to pursue an RFP came about through a request to the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors from the City of Paso Robles. The discussion drew an extremely large turnout of people on both sides of the issue, with standing room only. Total time for consideration of this item was about 2 hours 15 minutes.

It appears that several local fire departments and paramedic services are interested in forming an alliance and contracting with another ambulance company from out of our area.

Motivation seems to be mixed. Some fire department personnel spoke of slow response times, but offered few specific details. What wasn't mentioned was the likelihood that each of the agencies that testified could possibly stand to turn ambulance service into a money maker for their department.



While having a competitive bid process for county contracted services is generally a good idea, in this case, we are concerned that some bidders will be planning to use federal or state funds to help finance their business. Should the winning bidder be reliant on such government funding and later learn that such government funding doesn't materialize, our county could be left making up the difference.

The upside to an RFP is that it could bring about a new approach to the business with possible efficiencies and perhaps more modern equipment. We won't know, however until bids are made.

The downside is the potential loss of a longtime local family owned business employing 150 people. Another potential loss is the local knowledge and relationships that exist with the company that comes with so many years of quality service.

The Board will utilize a consultant to help county administrative staff establish the parameters of the RFP and to assess the results.

Supervisor Moreno offered a middle ground concept which would give county management staff 90 days to negotiate a new contract with San Luis ambulance. This seemed like a great common-sense solution, and if an agreement couldn't be achieved within that time frame, then the process would go to the RFP. When the majority of the Board pretended not to hear Moreno's motion, it became clear that the objective was to open the door for the municipalities to take over the business.

Buddy, Can You Spare Another Penny?

A second tax measure is now officially being prepared for SLO County voters. In addition to the proposed half cent countywide sales tax transportation measure currently being prepared for the November '26 election, we have a new way for you to support your government.

Under direction from the BoS, county staff reported on three possible “revenue enhancements” that the county could utilize to bolster firefighting and public safety programs. As we all know, the term “revenue enhancement” is a euphemism for increased tax revenue.

The problem that our County Supervisors are trying to solve is, for the most part, one that they created in the first place. Our Board of Supervisors have established priorities, which then influences how much tax revenue will be spent on each priority.

If some people might think that public safety is one of the basic high priority things that should be funded first with tax dollars, well silly folk - think again. Same thing with roads.

To be honest, Public Safety is our second highest budget item, but it falls far behind Health and Human Services. HHS of course covers our highest priority, which is homelessness.

All politics aside, the most recent fire season brought the Gifford and Madre fires which burned more than 200,000 acres in SLO County. These fires came close to housing and focused attention on the fact that we are short a few critical fire stations and plenty of fire personnel. Our good Sheriff has been trying to call attention to his staffing issues as well, especially for servicing the more rural communities of SLO County.

So, we have a funding issue that is unlikely to change quickly, and we have public safety needs that must be met. The easy thing to do is put a “revenue enhancement” on the ballot and hope voters are willing to support it.

County staff put forth the following three options:

Revenue Option	Description
District Sales Tax (Transactions & Use Tax)	In addition to the statewide sales and use tax base rate (7.25%), voters in jurisdictions can approve a district transaction and use tax.
Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT / Hotel Tax)	TOT is a visitor tax on individuals staying in hotels or other lodgings, and revenue collected in the unincorporated area of the county supports County general funded services.
Utility User Tax (UUT)	A UUT is a local tax imposed on the consumption of various utility services, commonly including electricity, gas, water, sewer, telephone (including cell and long-distance), sanitation, and cable television.

Supervisor Gibson enthusiastically offered up a fourth option: a parcel tax. He was so very concerned about the regressive nature of a sales tax that despite seeing no support from any of his colleagues, proceeded to present a mini lecture on how great parcel taxes are.

County staff then offered up some important differences between a General Tax and a Special Tax:

Revenue Option	Legal/Voter Approval Requirements		Estimated Yield (Unincorporated Tax)
	General Tax (Use of Revenue Unrestricted)	Special Tax (Use of Revenues Specific Purpose)	
District Sales Tax (Transactions & Use Tax)	2/3 vote BOS + Majority of entire county if levied on entire county -or- Majority of unincorporated area if levied on the unincorporated area	2/3 vote BOS + 2/3 Vote of entire county if levied on the entire county -or- 2/3 Vote of the unincorporated area if levied on the unincorporated area	1% = \$22 million
Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT / Hotel Tax)	2/3 of BOS + Majority of electorate	Majority of BOS + 2/3 of electorate	1% = \$1.8 million
Utility User Tax (UUT)	2/3 of BOS + Majority of electorate	Majority of BOS + 2/3 of electorate	Special analysis would be needed

Staff also provided a comparison of nearby taxing jurisdictions:

Jurisdiction		Sales Tax	TOT	Utility Users' Tax
Counties	Monterey	8.75%	10.5%	None
	San Luis Obispo	7.25%	9%	None
	Santa Barbara	7.75%	14%	None
	Santa Cruz	9.50%	12% for Hotel/Motels and 14% for Vacation Rentals	None
	Ventura	7.25%	8%	None
Cities	Arroyo Grande	8.75%	10%	None
	Atascadero	8.75%	10%	None
	Grover Beach	8.75%	12%	1%
	Morro Bay	8.75%	10%	None
	Paso Robles	8.75%	11%	None
	Pismo Beach	8.25%	11%	None
	San Luis Obispo	8.75%	10%	4.5% on prepaid wireless; 4.8% on telecommunications and video; and 5% on water, gas and electricity

And a few other pertinent details:

- District sales tax initiative in the unincorporated area is recommended as the most viable option to provide the scale and sustainability of revenues necessary to address ongoing public safety needs.
- General vs Special Tax
 - General Tax (simple majority voter threshold, flexible use of revenues)
 - Special Tax (two-thirds voter threshold, legally restricted to a stated purpose).
- **Base statewide tax rate is 7.25%**
 - 6.00% State
 - 1.00% Local Jurisdiction
 - 0.25% Local Transportation Fund
 - Note: Max. combined district tax rate within any county may not exceed 2% unless specifically authorized by statute
- **Functional Differences: Bradley Burns (1%) local tax vs Voter Approved District Tax**
 - Local tax is allocated based on an origin methodology where tax is allocated based on the place-of-sale
 - District taxes are allocated on a destination methodology where tax generally follows the buyer
- **> 90% of State live in communities with a TUT**

After discussion, it became apparent that the Board supported a one-cent special sales tax in unincorporated areas.

Further, since it's almost a certainty that a half-cent sales tax measure will be put on the November ballot by SLOGOG for transportation, several Board Members pushed for a June ballot measure. In order to meet such a short timeline, language must be submitted by mid-January of 2016.

With such a timeframe, very little polling can be done to help define the parameters and language of such a tax. This raises the question of who will establish the priorities of such a tax, and who will decide the distribution. As an example, Public Safety can be interpreted to mean more Sheriff Deputies and Firefighters serving the public. But, as Supervisor Gibson pointed out, it could mean more staff at the County Health Department.

The voting public has become weary of tax measures on the ballot promising one thing but delivering something very different. Too often, bait and switch schemes are used to fool taxpayers into funding things that they would normally not support if they hadn't been misled by greedy tax and spend elected officials.

County staff has been charged with further research and development of the sales tax concept and will make regular reports to the Supervisors over the next two months. If you have strong feelings about such a tax, it would be wise to be as vocal as possible, directing your comments to each Supervisor.

Housing Help Opposed By No-Growth Sups

The Dana Reserve, a planned housing community for Nipomo, is scheduled to be considered for final approval at the November 4 San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meeting. This 1,242 home community has been in the planning/approval stages for seven years, going through countless revisions and modifications in order to satisfy local needs and desires, as well as all building codes and regulations,

It is a big deal for three reasons; SLO County desperately needs housing at all levels; this project will define which Supervisors are truly committed to achieving

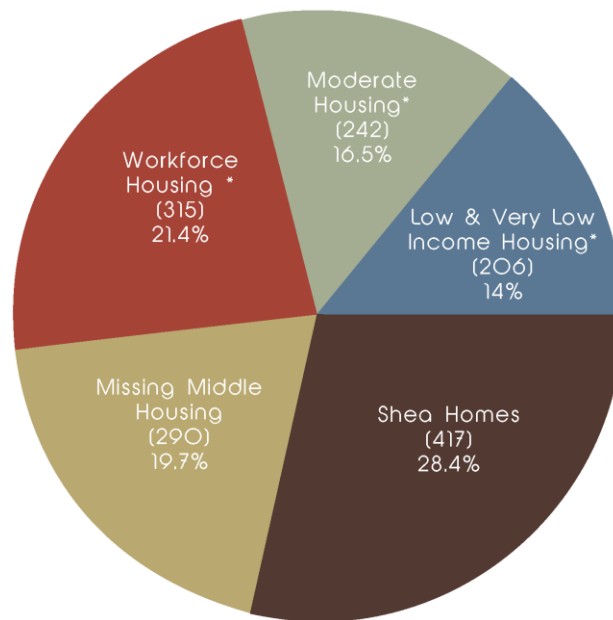
more housing; this project could set the tone for housing development in SLO County for years to come.

In the first point, our county has a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) that is supposed to be used to guide housing policy to meet the needs of various housing categories. It establishes total numbers of new housing needed in each category to maintain a reasonable and healthy housing market for residents.

Here is our RHNA:

Income Category and example occupations	Number of Dwelling Units			Percent Completed
	Total Need	Permitted (2019-2024)	Remaining Need	
Very Low-Income (e.g., barista, farmworker, childcare employee)	801	7	794	1%
Low-Income (e.g., family social worker, community health advocate, roofer)	505	226	279	45%
Moderate-Income (e.g., occupational health worker, construction cost estimator, electrician)	585	246	339	42%
Above Moderate-Income	1,365	1,132	233	83%
Total	3,256	1,611	1,645	49%

The graph below illustrates the breakout of housing types as planned for the Dana Reserve. Note that the 206 very low and low-income units almost matches the total of 233 constructed over a five-year period throughout the unincorporated portions of the county. The 242 moderate income homes are very close to the 246 moderate income homes built over that same five-year period throughout the unincorporated areas of the county:



Housing types planned for the Dana Reserve

The second point is that we have Supervisors who love to put themselves up as housing advocates fighting to bring about housing solutions. With the Dana Reserve, they can either live up to such a self-portrayal, or they need to find some smarmy excuse that gives them cover to crawl back under their no growth rock.

The third point is a little scary. After watching what it took to get the Dana Reserve this far, what developer would bother bringing a large-scale project to the county? If the Dana Reserve project fails, it will have a deeply chilling effect on new housing.

One of the first things taught in Public Policy school is don't let the perfect become the enemy of the good. Maybe that is what is happening here.

Supervisor Bruce Gibson has already stated his opposition citing some obscure legal settlement made in the course of bringing the project parameters in line with local concerns. (Obviously, this seems to just be his smarmy excuse to hide his real no-growth attitude). He also likes to suggest he is concerned about the "public good" but never seems capable of illustrating that public good and how it outweighs all the

other public goods that the project obviously delivers. He appears to think the public is better off with an empty field than it would be with homes.

Supervisor Paulding has yet to state his intentions but echoes Gibson's sentiment. The irony is that Paulding's district stands to gain the most from the project, including much needed infrastructure improvements, a South County campus for Cuesta College and a healthy job market for the building and trades people who will be constructing the homes and businesses in the Dana Reserve. Oh, there are also the 1,242 individuals and families that will make the Dana Reserve their home.

Paulding's reasoning may be breaking down from the stress of a rigorous challenge in his reelection bid. He is a liberal in a conservative leaning district and he has stepped into too many issues where he is on the opposite side of the majority of his constituents. Will this be another one of those missteps?

Our housing needs impact everybody. Whether you shop at a local store, eat at a local restaurant or use a local service, you are paying higher prices because the business is forced to pay higher wages to get and keep good employees. These employees are struggling to be able to afford to live anywhere near where they work.

Just take a drive down Highway 101 from San Luis Obispo to Santa Maria anytime around 5:00 PM on a weekday and observe how many people are commuting home.

Our housing situation impacts those who hope to raise their family locally. It impacts business owners considering locating their company in our communities.

One naturally wonders why Supervisors Paulding and Gibson would oppose such a strong step forward towards meeting our housing needs. Are they closet no growthers hiding behind hollow rhetoric advocating for housing when they would really prefer that people just go away? Or is it that they are uncomfortable with the kind of people the Dana Reserve might attract?

Perhaps they fear independent, self-sustaining, productive people not reliant on big government. Certainly, Paulding has expressed concern that there is not enough

very low-income housing in the project. So, is it better that nobody gets low income housing than those who will in the Dana Reserve? How can that be reasonable?

We can't predict how the vote on this project will go on November 4. A commonsense approach would seem to favor the project. A genuine recognition of our local housing needs would seem to support the project. But, when Supervisors start grasping at straws in an attempt to find excuses to vote against such a productive project, it is clear politics have been put above solutions. When that happens, personal biases or greed often win out. We hope for a win for the community and a loss for short sightedness.

An Expensive Travesty

We have pointed out the foibles of our county appeal system for coastal zone building permits many times recently. And we will continue to do so because it is a completely lopsided and unfair process.

As a case in point, an appeal came before the BoS at their October 21 meeting involving a permit to build a single-family home on an empty lot in Cayucos. The plans were entirely conforming to all building codes and local regulations and were approved in May of this year. However, a next-door neighbor appealed the permit on the grounds that the owners of the lot chopped down a tree, that the owners were going to stop her (the appellant) from being able to use the owners property to access her own property and that the proposed home was a two story structure that would constrict views of the ocean from the scenic highway.

The empty lot in question is designated with a star in the photo below:



It turns out that the tree is actually a shrub (not a tree) and was only trimmed, not removed. The access issue was adjudicated and resolved, and had no bearing on the permit, and the real kicker – the appellant’s house is a two-story house as are the rest of the houses on the street.

This travesty cost taxpayers between \$8,500 to \$13,000 for county staff and County Council to review. It cost the lot owners five months of delays and the expenses involved with retaining council of their own. It cost the appellant NOTHING!

This is not an unusual case. In one local coastal community, almost every building permit seems to get challenged, including permits for interior renovations or to replace an existing rotting structure such as a deck with the same but new materials.

Thank goodness we have big bunches of very wealthy taxpayers happily sending huge tax payments in as frequently as they do and thank goodness nobody really cares about being unjustly delayed in their efforts to build their dream home.

Prop 50 Home Stretch

By now, every California voter should have received their Proposition 50 special election ballot. That Prop 50 is unfair, undemocratic and tragically expensive has already been established. Whether voters will be fooled by the lies and misrepresentations from the Yes campaign remains to be seen.

Please take the 30 seconds required to fill out your ballot and encourage family and friends to do the same.

There are still opportunities to help defeat Prop 50. The two GOP headquarters listed below are running get out the vote programs and will be thrilled to have your help.

Atascadero

[7357 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422](#)

[\(805\) 541-4010](#)

Arroyo Grande

[1312 E Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420-2422](#)

[\(805\) 668-2064](#)

If you are registered to vote, but have not received a ballot, please contact The San Luis Obispo Clerk/Recorder by clicking on this link: [Elections and Voting](#) or call (805) 781-5000.

If you plan to vote in person at a balloting location, please verify the address of your polling location as listed on your ballot. Many precincts have had consolidations for polling place locations, so your usual spot may have changed.

Governor Newsom and his legislative friends have invested between two hundred million and three hundred million of our tax dollars to try to fool voters into supporting a rigged election scheme where politicians get to draw their own heavily partisan districts.

Cast your ballot to show Newsom what you think of his scheme.

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If You Don't Vote, We Can't Win!

**Greenberg: Newsom's Behavior – A Need
for Evaluation?**

COLAB In Depth
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**California's Oil and Gas Policies: A 'Clear
and Present Threat to National Security'**

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If You Don't Vote, We Can't Win!

After Prop 50, Voter ID and Prop 13 are going to be on the ballot

By Andy Caldwell, October 30, 2025

One of my favorite movie lines, because it made me think, was in “Chariots of Fire.” Chariots of Fire is a true story, a 1981 film about two British track athletes, one a determined Jew, and the other a devout Christian, who compete in the 1924 Olympics. The film was the winner of four Academy Awards including best picture. Harold Abrahams is afraid he can't beat Eric Liddell. He tells his girlfriend, “If I can't win, I won't run!” She aptly observes, “If you don't run, you can't win.”

Too bad Republicans (and a good number of independents) in California don't have wise and discerning girlfriends! I have witnessed several elections over the years where the margin of victory by which the Democrat won was the exact number associated with Conservatives who didn't vote because they thought they could not win. It is a very perverse and disastrous self-fulfilling prophecy to lose because you don't think you can win, when the only thing you had to do to prove yourself wrong was to vote.

I am often asked, “What can I do to make a difference?” The simplest thing is to get involved and recruit other “unbelievers” to do the same. Today I will outline three things you can do.

The first is vote! Proposition 50 is before voters, and it is as extremely important as it is devious. The fake excuse to redistrict California mid-census has to do with Texas doing the same. But Texas redistricted because it was found to be in violation of the laws pertaining to how districts can be drawn in light of the Voting Rights Act. Regardless, Texas had a legitimate reason to redistrict, and was ordered to do so, while Gavin Newsom's Prop. 50 is nothing less than a raw power grab. What is at stake? The elimination of all but three congressional seats held by Republicans in California. The goal? Shift the balance of power in the House back to Democrats to stonewall the Trump agenda. What to do? VOTE! And urge everyone you know to vote NO on Prop. 50. The deadline to vote is this Tuesday. Prop. 50 suspends California's Citizen's Redistricting commission for purely partisan purposes. Don't let Newsom get away with it.

Speaking of voting. One of the things the corrupt Democratic political machine relies upon to win in California is various types of election machinations ripe for fraud. This would include so-called “ballot harvesting” which allows bundlers to drop off hundreds of ballots gathered under, at best, suspicious circumstances. The cure? The requirement to vote in person and show an ID to do so!

The proposed Voter ID ballot measure, if approved by voters, would become a state constitutional amendment that requires citizenship verification for all voter registrations and government-issued ID for casting a ballot in an election. But, before voters get a chance to approve this measure, we need your help to get it on the ballot! That means the organizers must get enough signatures to get the measure before voters. Please visit the following website to download the petition and urge your family and friends throughout the state of CA to do the same: <https://www.reformcalifornia.org/cavoterid/sign-the-petition>

The third issue that needs your immediate attention is an effort by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer’s Association to shore up Proposition 13. The passage of Prop 13 was a seminal event in our tax and spend state back in the 1970’s. Prop. 13 accomplished several things for taxpayers. First, it capped the rise of property tax from year to year. This was so essential to property owners who were losing their homes, that they owned outright, because the meteoric rise in property taxes was literally taxing them out of their homes. The second provision of Prop. 13 required a two-thirds vote to raise local taxes. Well, to make a long story short, both our politicians and our courts have been whittling away at these protections and the HJTA would like to shore up and bullet-proof Prop. 13.

This is another instance where we need your help qualify this measure for the ballot by downloading a petition, signing it, and mailing it right now, today! You can find this petition at the following website: <https://www.hjta.org/saveprop13/>

In conclusion, I recently spoke at a church about Charlie Kirk and what his life and death represented about America. In essence, Americans have two birthrights. The first as believers in God, in general, the second as Americans whose founding DNA recognized that our divine rights come from God, not government. The question before those who will not stand up for truth, justice, and the American way as Charlie Kirk did, is why have you sold or squandered your birthright?

Greenberg: Newsom's Behavior – A Need for Evaluation?

The wildfires ravaging Los Angeles in early 2025, displacing thousands and straining state resources, have spotlighted Newsom's leadership disaster

By Richie Greenberg, October 27, 2025 9

Governor Gavin Newsom's alarming behavioral transformation, especially in 2025—marked by erratic social media outbursts, grandiose self-depictions, and explosive accusations—demands medical and psychological evaluation.

It's not just me that notices how he's taken a stark shift.

His actions, a startling departure from his once-polished, policy-driven persona, align with symptoms of serious conditions like bipolar disorder, delusions of grandeur, or substance-induced psychosis, especially Adderall. The crushing weight of California's cascading crises—wildfires, rampant drug dealing, soaring fentanyl deaths, record homelessness, sky-high gas prices, and the failed high-speed rail project—has intensified scrutiny on Newsom's leadership failures, likely exacerbating underlying mental health issues. His compensatory, theatrical responses, coupled with a 250,000-follower surge on Twitter/X driven not by potential voters' admiration but by the sadistic fascination with his apparent slow-motion meltdown, further suggest a psychological issue requiring urgent professional assessment to safeguard his well-being and therefore California's stability.

Newsom's social media presence on Twitter/X has become a frantic spectacle of all-caps rants and provocative memes. Posts like "WOW!!! MY MAPS... WILL SOON PASS IN THE GREATEST LEGISLATURE" exude manic energy, characterized by exaggerated self-importance and relentless engagement. This hyperactivity, suggesting of bipolar mania, aligns with symptoms like racing thoughts and impulsivity, evident in his online barrages. Many of his followers on social media describe his posts as a "trainwreck" or "public meltdown," amplifying

his outbursts for entertainment rather than support. This dynamic suggests Newsom is spiraling under public scrutiny, masking deeper psychological distress with excessive performative confidence .

The wildfires ravaging Los Angeles in early 2025, displacing thousands and straining state resources, have spotlighted Newsom's leadership disaster. His response—blaming federal inaction and Trump's water policies while posting AI-generated memes of himself as a heroic figure—reflects a shocking, grandiose detachment from reality. These self-aggrandizing depictions, including images of Newsom on Mount Rushmore or as a “king” on a Time magazine cover, point to delusions of grandeur, a hallmark of manic or narcissistic states. His claims of California as the “manufacturing capital of America,” despite lagging economic metrics, further suggest a distorted self-perception, compensating for the state's \$50 billion budget shortfall.

The high-speed rail project, a long-standing symbol of Newsom's vision, has become a glaring failure, adding to his psychological burden. Initiated in 2008 to connect San Francisco to Los Angeles, it has ballooned to over \$100 billion. The rail's mismanagement fuels public frustration, intensifying pressure on Newsom. California's other crises compound this strain: the state leads in homelessness, with a 6% rise in 2025 despite \$37 billion spent; fentanyl deaths surged over 7,000 in 2024 by estimates, driven by unchecked drug dealing; and gas prices, averaging \$4.57 per gallon in October 2025, remain the nation's highest. Newsom's explosive accusations—such as his June 2025 address accusing Trump of wielding a “wrecking ball” to democracy, a highly-dubious \$787 million lawsuit against Fox News, and latest demands: the U.S. Department of Justice keep election monitors out of California —suggest irritability and potential paranoia, common in manic or delusional states.

His podcast, *This Is Gavin Newsom*, hosting MAGA figures like Steve Bannon, ref

lects impaired judgment, possibly a desperate bid for relevance.

His history of alcohol struggles and 2020 comments about self-medication—“clean and sober is a mistake”—raise concerns about substance-related issues exacerbating psychiatric symptoms.

The cumulative stress of his governing amid these crises, amplified by a sadistic audience reveling in his perceived unraveling, could trigger a mental health crisis. His mental health initiatives, like expanding CARE Court, show awareness of such issues, yet his volatile, grandiose behavior mirrors those symptoms. I say an immediate evaluation is critical, to rule out bipolar disorder, narcissistic personality disorder, or substance-induced psychosis, ensuring California’s governance is not further jeopardized.

California’s Oil and Gas Policies: A ‘Clear and Present Threat to National Security’

California’s self-inflicted gas crisis is a direct threat to U.S. military force readiness on the West Coast

By Katy Grimes, October 29, 2025 12:00 pm

California needs a federal intervention. Stat.

Most California residents know that California’s self-inflicted gasoline crisis is not only increasing prices at the pump, but increasing dependency on foreign oil suppliers and shippers to supply fuels to the Golden State. But, do California residents know that this self-inflicted gas crisis is also a direct threat to U.S. military force readiness on the West Coast?

California Governor Gavin Newsom is presiding over perhaps the largest energy policy collapse of the oil industry, refinery operations and gasoline production in U.S. history, according to a momentous new report from California Assemblyman Stan Ellis, USC Professor Professor Michael Mische, and petroleum expert Michael Ariza.

California produces less than 23% of its own in-state petroleum needs and imports over 65% of its crude oil from foreign sources, yet the oil and gas industry in California account for nearly 8% of the state's GDP. As Ellis, Mische and Ariza warn, without oil and gas, the other 92% of the state's GDP would be impossible to attain.

Arizona gets nearly half of its gas from California. The vast majority of Nevada's gas – 88% – comes from California.

California, Nevada and Arizona have 40 military bases and installations – California is home to 32 of those 40 military bases, which include:

- The Pacific Fleet based in San Diego, Alameda, and Point Loma.
- United States Marines stationed at Camp Pendleton, Twenty-Nine Palms, Miramar, and Barstow.
- U.S. Coast Guard ports and stations located inland and along the state's 840-mile coastline, and from bases inland.
- U.S. Air Force bases—including Los Angeles, Edwards and Travis, and missile bases such as Vandenberg.
- The U.S. Navy Post-Graduate College located in Monterey.

Yet, even with this significant military presence, the new report warns that because of decades of outright regulatory hostility and punitive actions against the oil and gas industry by California Governors Jerry Brown and Gavin Newsom, and Democrat politicians and bureaucrats, “California's energy policies, political sentiments, and regulatory environment have become a direct threat to U.S. military force readiness on the West Coast.”

Their conclusion is that there must be federal intervention.

The report exposes how California Governor Gavin Newsom's energy policies are sabotaging domestic refining capacity and leaving U.S. military bases in the West vulnerable to foreign adversaries like Russia and China.

“CALIFORNIA ENERGY & FUEL POLICIES: A CLEAR AND PRESENT THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND FORCE READINESS?” was

prepared by three powerhouse experts: Assemblyman Stan Ellis (R-Bakersfield), a quantum physics expert with 50-years of oil and gas experience in drilling engineering and chemical processing, Professor Michael Mische from the

University of Southern California, and Michael Ariza, a petroleum professional and U.S. Navy veteran. They explain:

California has the most severe restrictions regulating the oil, refining, and fuels industries in the world. California's energy policies and regulations have not only resulted in the highest gasoline prices in the nation, and the highest taxes and fees in the nation, but have led to the closure of two major refineries which now threaten essential pipelines that provide crude oil and fuel supplies to California's surviving refineries, civilian markets, and military installations, as well as those in Arizona and Nevada.

Assemblyman Ellis said in an interview with the Globe that California military bases could end up running out of jet and aviation fuels should a military conflict unfold.

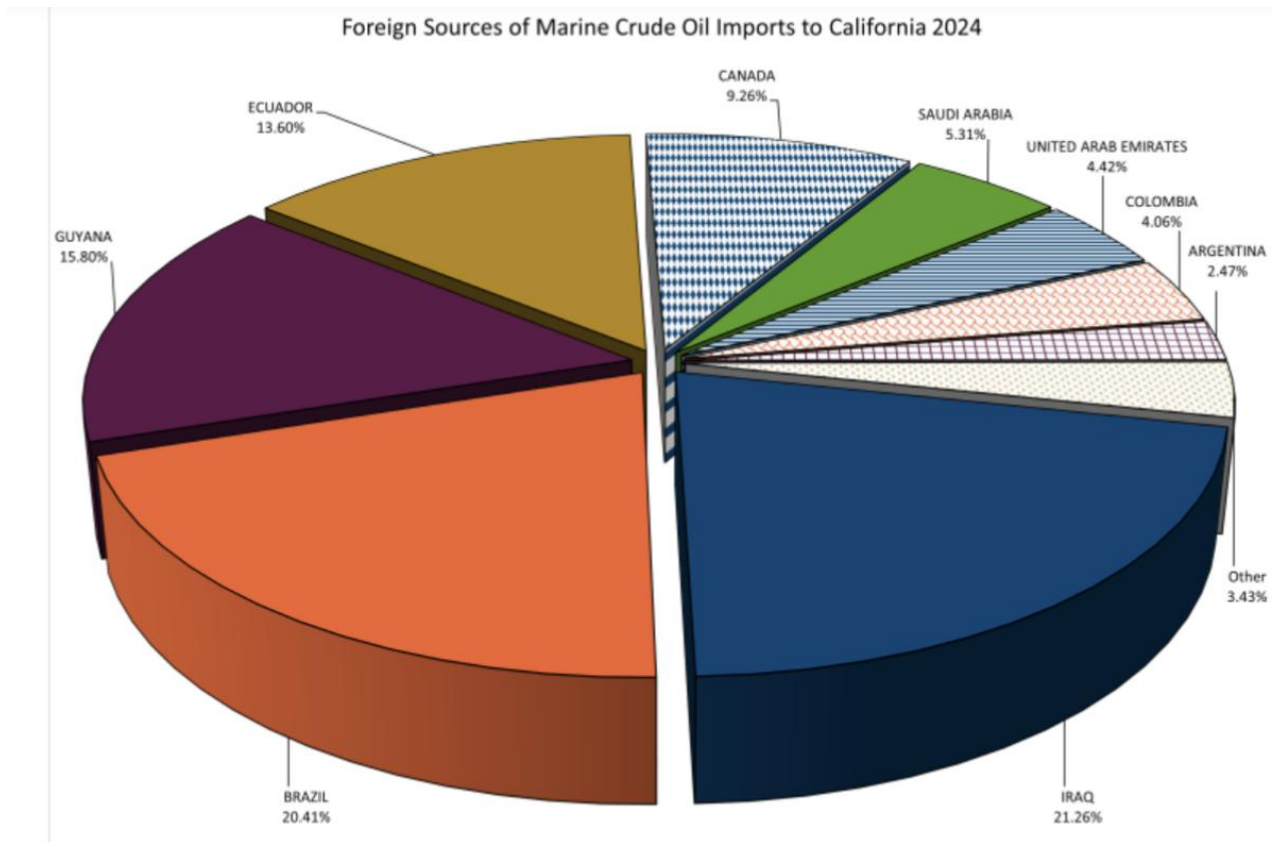
Why? Because of Governor Newsom's political policies resulting in shockingly detrimental and lethal regulations of the oil and gas industry.

"California has no inbound pipelines supplying crude oil, gasoline, or aviation fuels, which amplifies U.S. national security vulnerabilities. Astonishingly, over 95% of California's inbound crude and gasoline supplies are delivered by maritime tankers, the majority of which are not U.S.-flagged vessels, including tanker ships owned by Russia's SCF Group and China's Cosco Shipping Energy Transportation," Ellis told the Globe.

India is providing crude oil and gas supplies to California, and Russia and China are delivering it.

How is that for U.S. Security?

The California Energy Commission breaks down the foreign sources of crude oil to California:



Country	Thousands of Barrels	Percentage
IRAQ	68,406	21.26%
BRAZIL	65,675	20.41%
GUYANA	50,840	15.80%
ECUADOR	43,766	13.60%
CANADA	29,796	9.26%

SAUDI ARABIA	17,081	5.31%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	14,226	4.42%
COLOMBIA	13,076	4.06%
ARGENTINA	7,934	2.47%
Other	11,031	3.43%
Total	321,831	100.00%

California was once a leading producer and exporter of oil and crude oil products in the world. Much of California’s 20th-century economy was predicated on oil and gasoline production, which, in turn, provided the fuel to support its population growth, agricultural production, the defense industry, and later, the tech industries, the report says.

Today, California is far from self-sufficient with respect to its energy needs. “The state produces less than 23% of its own in-state petroleum needs, and imports over 65% of its crude oil from non-U.S. foreign sources, the largest of which was Iraq over the recent years.”

AAA reports that the national average price for a gallon of gas is \$3.04, but California’s average price per gallon is \$4.58 to \$5.86 per gallon.

Mike Ariza told the Globe that within the last three years, three California bay area refineries with a total crude oil processing capacity of 322,200 barrels per day have been shut down, and some have been converted to renewable diesel fuel with no materially significant production of gasoline or jet fuel. The gasoline production loss from these refineries equals approximately 7.54 million gallons per day, a loss of nearly 20% of combined state production.

Jet fuel production from Marathon Martinez and ConocoPhillips Rodeo totaled approximately 1.3 million gallons per day (Flying J Bakersfield does not produce jet

fuel). This equates to a loss of approximately 17% of in-state, daily jet fuel production

- Phillips 66 in Los Angeles has formally terminated operations effective October 17, 2025.
- Valero's refinery in Benicia has announced the cancellation of all of their crude oil contracts in anticipation of its permanent shut down by April of 2026.

Combined, these two refineries produced 8.5 million gallons per day or 22% of the state's gasoline supply. They also produce 1.2 to 1.4 million gallons of jet fuel per day. "Their loss is consequential," Ariza said.

With the upcoming loss of Valero, California could lose 30 to 35% of its jet fuel production. Ariza said the loss of gas and jet fuel cannot be made up from other parts of the country because California does not have incoming pipelines and there are no liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers that comply with the Jones Act, which limits the transportation of LNG within the U.S.

Worse, says USC Professor Michael Mische, is that California's lawmakers have no plan to address the inevitable crisis. "What will you replace the jet and aviation fuel with?" Mische asked. No one in the governor's office or state Legislature is looking at it. And frankly, as the Globe has observed, they are not capable of addressing this.

In September 2024, Governor Newsom called for a special legislative session after accusing California's oil refineries of "price gouging." The governor claimed that "Gas price spikes on consumers are profit spikes for oil companies, and they're overwhelmingly caused by refiners not backfilling supplies when they go down for maintenance."

Almost immediately, the Petroleum & Gasoline Supply Committee passed Governor Newsom's ABX2-1, a Venezuela-like state proposal to impose new mandates for oil storage requirements on oil refineries in California to outlaw "Big Oil profit spikes."

We asked at the time, "Why is gas more than \$5 gallon in California and not across the entire country if 'Big Oil' is so greedy?"

Also at the time, California State Director John Kabatek of the National Federation of Independent Business warned, "California is on the verge of an energy crisis with the push for electrification by 2035. The regulation requirements in ABX2-1 will artificially create a fuel shortage crisis due to limiting the distribution of fuel."

“This will unavoidably increase the demand, causing prices to increase,” Kabateck warned.

Professor Mische notes that importing oil from foreign sources adds 13 to 17 cents to the already high cost of gas in California.

According to the California Energy Commission, California has the highest refinery operational costs anywhere in the U.S., and when combined with California’s hostile regulatory environment and enforcement practices of refiners and producers, are some of the harshest in the world. “As a result, refineries are leaving, the in-state oil production infrastructure has atrophied, and supply is overly reliant on non-U.S. sources and shippers,” Mische said.

“California is now facing a pending gasoline and aviation fuels crisis of potentially epic levels,” Ellis, Mische and Ariza report. “In all planning scenarios, California will be increasingly dependent on non-U.S. foreign sources for gasoline. Rather than investing in its state’s resources and employment, California’s policies necessitate paying petrostates, such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia, over \$60 million a day for crude oil imports.”

Professor Mische stated that in addition to buying crude oil, the Golden State will now be paying for non-U.S. foreign gasoline, some of which may be made from Iranian and Russian oil, as is India’s oil. Thus, “as a direct result of its political and regulatory policies, California will be knowingly financing and, perhaps to some extent, aiding and abetting America’s potentially most menacing adversaries.”

“U.S. military and military base operations planners routinely plan and run scenarios for fuel supplies and logistics. In fact, it is not uncommon for military planners to identify multiple alternatives for fuel sources and transportation. However, California’s policies have made the planning more complex by introducing regulatory variables which favor non-U.S. foreign sources of oil and fuels, as well as forcing reliance on non-U.S. foreign shippers. Such misguided policies and political dogma work to place the U.S. military in an unnecessarily precarious and vulnerable position. Any unscheduled refinery downtime, any pipeline outage, any supply chain interruptions, or the loss of in-bound fuels supply could compromise and potentially cripple our military readiness is unacceptable,” said Mische.

Assemblyman Ellis, Professor Mische and petroleum expert Ariza say, “In our opinion, Governor Newsom, California regulatory agencies and the Legislature,

through an apparent lack of both appreciation and understanding of our nation's security have created an unprecedented situation which puts the nation at risk. Given the gravity of the situation, and the apparent inability of California political leadership to realistically and effectively address both the consumer and national security implications of their actions, it is time for the Secretaries of DOD, DHS, and DOE to intervene and pursue immediate action."

For the sake of national security, they implore President Trump to intervene and "take swift and decisive action by invoking the Defense Production Act as a possible means of protecting California's vital oil production, refineries, and fuels production capabilities which are essential to the security of the United States."

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