



**Weekly Update  
June 1 - 8, 2026**

**Election Wishes**

We have a wish list for election day. Naturally, the top of that list is the success of common-sense candidates. Not the goobers who confuse being aspirational with being unreasonable, nor the ones who have no regard for Other Peoples' Money while mistakenly believing that expensive government has all the answers.

Aside from that, we hope for a clean election. No election day arbitrary closures of precinct polling places due to mismanagement by the County Clerk. No confusion among staff that leads to voters losing their rights or having to struggle just to be able to cast their vote. No cheating or abuses with "ballot harvesting."



We hope that only live people cast ballots – and only once each. We hope that the vote tally matches exactly with the number of ballots cast. We hope that attentive poll watchers are afforded their legal right to observe every aspect of ballot counting.

We hope to have complete results before Thanksgiving... or Christmas. We hope that there are no “irregularities” with the voting machines.

As much as we hope to see a strong turnout, we hope that no precincts show up with almost every voter having cast their ballot for the very same candidate.

Most importantly, we hope that boxes of uncounted ballots don’t suddenly appear in the final moments of a close election.

Some in our county would accuse us of being conspiracy crazies for even mentioning such outlandish things. That’s fine. Concern about these kinds of problems is based on reality. However, that each past “irregularity” is easily dismissed by a certain quite predictable crowd is troubling. Those who deny the reality of the long list of past problems suggest there is nothing to be concerned about. But we all should be concerned when elections don’t go 100% perfectly. Anything less creates distrust, and we already have plenty of that.

Believe it. Don’t believe it. Either way, let’s hope there is nothing for either conspiracy theorists or irregularity deniers to talk about after June 2.

# Does a Half Cent Tax Measure Have Half a Chance?

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, June 3. On the agenda is the fate of the half-length sales tax measure for transportation that has been in development for some time.

Many have expressed concern that polling indicates the measure will not gain the two-thirds majority required for passage. Others believe that with enough advocacy, the measure has a chance of passage.



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SAN LUIS OBISPO | SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026**

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
KATCHO ACHADJIAN GOVERNMENT CENTER SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME:  
**9:00 A.M.**

The AGENDA is available/posted at: [www.slocog.org](http://www.slocog.org)

Below is the list of SLOCOG Board members:

**President: Carla Wixom**

**Vice President: Heather Moreno**

**Board Members:**

John Peschong (First District - SLO County)  
Bruce Gibson (Second District - SLO County)  
Dawn Ortiz-Legg (Third District - SLO County)  
Jimmy Paulding (Fourth District - SLO County)  
Heather Moreno (Fifth District - SLO County)  
Aileen Loe (Arroyo Grande)

Heather Newsom (Atascadero)  
Kassi Dee (Grover Beach)  
Carla Wixom (Morro Bay)  
Fred Strong (Paso Robles)  
Ed Waage (Pismo Beach)  
Erica A. Stewart (San Luis Obispo)  
Scott Eades (Ex-Officio, Caltrans District 5)

The SLOCOG rule to put the measure on the ballot requires eight yes votes. People counting are suggesting the votes are there to move forward.



While November seems like a long way off, it appears that the group that formed to put the citizen initiative on the ballot (but had to stop due to technical reasons) will fundraise and run an advocacy campaign. It's not yet clear whether they will continue with their committee called Better Roads for All, but their website can be found at:

<https://betterroads4allsloco.com>

Their advocacy is expected to be centered on our county becoming a “self-help” county that will qualify us for many millions of dollars in state grants. It's only a half cent – not a big burden for a really big return. That and the fact that our roads are crumbling and the current majority on our BoS don't seem to care.

It looks like the opposition will be organized by the Central Coast Taxpayers Association. They can be found at:

centralcoasttaxpayers.com  
<https://www.centralcoasttaxpayers.com>

The argument against the tax will likely focus on the cost of living, and how the current majority of the BoS don't seem to care about the condition of our roads, so

why should taxpayers be required to make up for such malfeasance? More economic burden on a county that is struggling economically.

Other impacting factors on the horizon are possible school bond measures that may be on the same ballot, the new PRAGA water fee in the Paso Water Basin, increased fees for almost every county service and increases in water bills in south county. Much of the revenue that the state uses for the above-mentioned transportation grants comes from the gas tax. There might be a few voters slightly frustrated with gas prices and unwilling to hand over any additional money to the government.

How much extra are SLO County voters willing to pay in taxes and government fees? If the measure fails in November, does that pretty much eliminate the self-help option for SLO County for a few more years?

We will report on the outcome of the June 3 meeting.

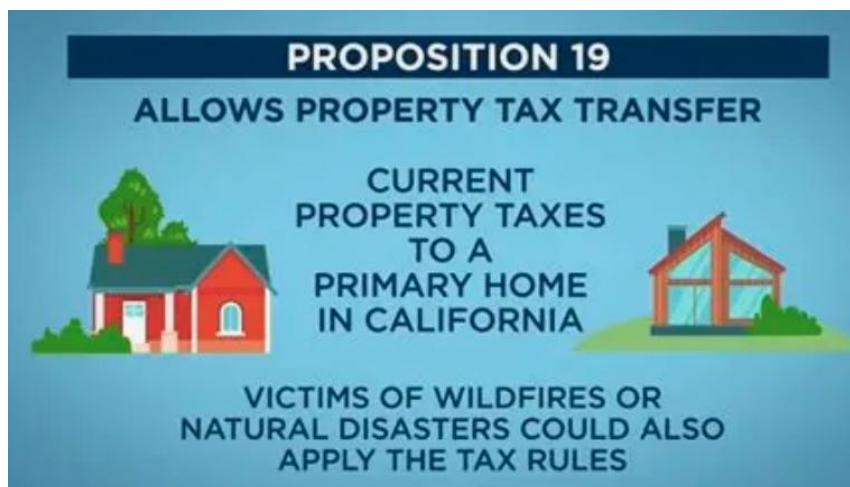
## **Keeping Family Farms in the Family**

How should we define a family farm? A few fruit trees in the yard. a homestead property with a big garden for family sustenance, occasional grazing land or a full commercial operation?

San Luis Obispo County Assessor Tom Bordonaro Jr. wrestles with these questions as he seeks to protect the ag community in dealing with inheritance issues created under Proposition 19.

Like most ballot measures, the proposition that passed in 2020 has a good side and a bad side. The good side is that it gives seniors and victims of natural disaster portability of their Proposition 13 baseline property tax if they buy a different home anywhere in California. The bad side is that it limits the family exemption when a family farm is inherited triggering a reassessment and often forcing a sale due to the increased tax burden.

When Proposition 19 was debated, the minor part that impacts inheritance was left out of the discussion. One of the biggest advocates was the California Association of Realtors who enthusiastically supported the tax portability aspect. Few were even aware of the unintended consequences that we are now facing.



Bordonaro’s concern is that the limited exemption that remains could be eliminated or deeply restricted for some due to the vague definition of what constitutes a “family farm.” Currently, the family farm exemption is usually applied to agricultural operations that are clearly understood to be covered. However, people are beginning to abuse the family farm rule by claiming that an inner-city home with a few fruit trees or a berry patch is a “farm”.



Assessors throughout California are finding themselves without clear guidelines defining what qualifies. Bordonaro is working within the State Assessors Association, along with local ag leaders, to come up with a workable definition before it becomes a problem. In his words, “We would rather be helping craft the solution ahead of the issue than be behind and scrambling to respond.”



SLO County Assessor Tom Bordonaro, Jr.

Bordonaro believes the solution would be to put a reasonable definition of a family farm into statute that could then be used by assessors, and he wants the ag community to assist in developing the language for such a statute. As a former member of the State Assembly, he has very little confidence in the legislature creating a reasonable definition on their own. He is even more uneasy about the possibility of litigation, where a judge would end up defining what is a family farm.

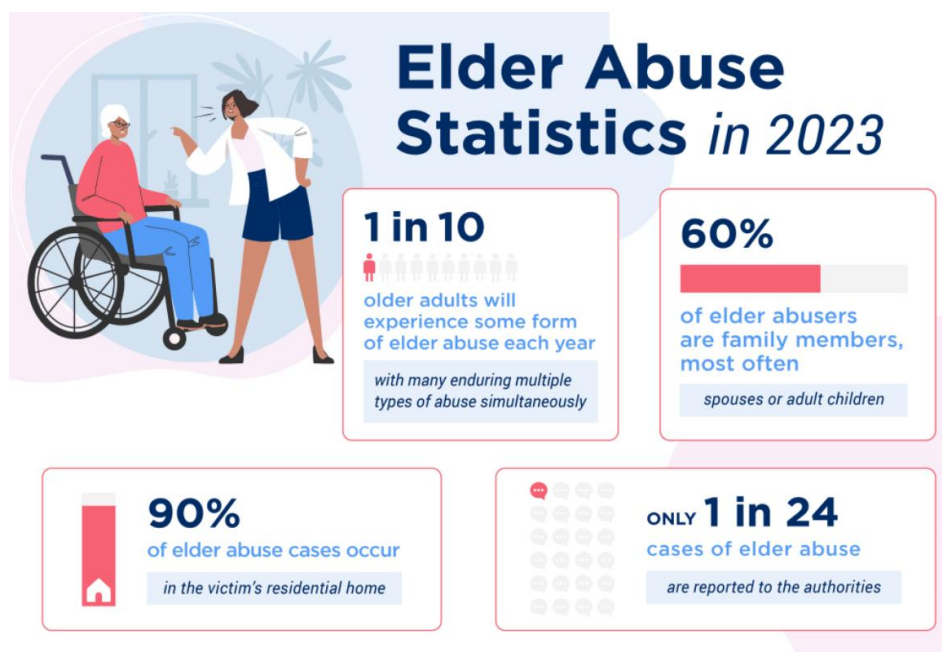
## **DA Request**

San Luis Obispo County District Attorney Dan Dow is seeking grassroots help with outreach to the County Board of Supervisors regarding support for five positions within his office.



Have an opinion about people who commit fraud?

As we covered last week, Dow is facing a dramatic workload increase from several sources including the prosecution of crimes restored by Prop 36, the ever-growing challenge of time-consuming digital evidence handling and the exploding number of elder abuse and fraud cases.



Elder abuse statistics are growing annually.

The Prop. 36 issue is especially confounding. Voters approved the measure in 2024 to restore some criminal penalties that were essentially eliminated under Prop 47 in 2014.

Specifically, Prop 36 allows felony charges for possessing certain drugs and for thefts under \$950—both formally chargeable only as misdemeanors (thanks to Prop 47) with two prior drug or two prior theft convictions, as applicable and it increases sentences for other specified drug and theft crimes.

Our Governor, perhaps distracted by fantasizing about his future, has refused to provide any funding to implement Prop 36, despite the fact that it passed by about 70% of the vote.

Now, our own DA is having trouble getting the funding needed to prosecute local cases. What is the use of making public safety our top priority if it is impossible for the justice system to hold criminals accountable?



District Attorney Dan Dow

Dow asks that people contact their own Supervisor or the entire Board by email, phone calls or even better, in person at the June 2 Board of Supervisors meeting.

A Roster of elected official contacts is included at the end of this newsletter.

## What's Up with the San Miguel Project?

Item 30 on the June 2 Bos agenda reads: Continued hearing from May 05, 2026 to consider an appeal (APPL2026-00004) by Scott Raven of the Planning Commission's approval of a request by Rivers Edge Development for a Phased Tentative Tract Map (Tract 3207) and Conditional Use Permit (N-SUB2022-00047) to subdivide a 43.26 gross acre parcel into a Cluster Subdivision/Planned Unit Development consisting of 181 residential parcels of varying sizes, configurations, and housing types, approximately 3.8 acres of commercial development, 3 utility parcels, and approximately 12 acres of park and open space for a total of 190 parcels along with various onsite and offsite improvements. The project includes a request for 1 concession under California Density Bonus Law (California Government Code Sections 65915) in exchange for including moderate-income affordable housing. The proposed project is located on the bluff overlooking the Salinas River at 3000 Indian Valley Road near the intersection of N River and Cross Canyon Roads in the community of San Miguel and is consistent with the San Miguel Community Plan. The site is located within the Salinas River Sub-Area of the North County Planning Area. (Planning and Building).

As we covered a couple weeks ago, this appeal was heard by the BoS and essentially denied. However, Supervisor Gibson expressed concern about whether some of the details were documented correctly and requested that the final decision on the appeal be held over to allow those details to be correctly addressed.



The San Miguel Housing Project Proposal Location

We have heard a great deal of concern from activists on the Paso Water Basin issue that this project is not in compliance with restrictions currently in place within the basin. Doubts about timing involving applicable wastewater plant improvements continue. Activists are frustrated that the rules seem to have been bent to accommodate the project. They also believe that the 181 units proposed do not accurately reflect the potential for far more homes through the use of additional dwelling units, thus skewing water needs.

It remains to be seen whether Gibson's concerns lead to further questions. Stay tuned for details as they emerge.

## **Preparing for Budget Hearings**

The schedule for the June 8 – 10 budget hearings was published as item 8 on the June 2 BoS consent agenda. Included with the 37-page report is a list of supplemental budget adjustments. Those adjustments include \$4,885,623 in new anticipated revenue and \$5,067,039 in newly listed expenses for a net increase of \$181,416 to the proposed one billion, two-hundred-million-dollar budget. Also listed in the report are 16 pages of the FY 2026-27 Supplemental Budget Document Summary Request Form that aligns various department employee categories. These will be reviewed in detail at the June 8 – 10 budget hearing.



It should be noted by anyone looking forward to three action packed days of thrilling accounting explanations regarding line items and miscellaneous minutia

during the budget hearing that last year the BoS was able to review all the details it needed in one day. We do not know what to expect for this year's hearing, but days two and three might not be necessary. Plan accordingly.

## **Wah Wah Wah – Poor Abused Criminals**

Item 9 on the June 2 BoS consent agenda is the Annual Military Equipment Report for each type of military equipment that is available to the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office.

The report is a product of Assembly Bill (AB) 481 signed into law in 2021 which establishes protocols for law enforcement agencies regarding the funding, acquisition, use, and reporting of specified law enforcement equipment items, and mandates that law enforcement agencies obtain approval of their governing bodies, by ordinance of military equipment use and related policies.

The result of the law is that the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Department adopted their own internal Policy 707 which complies with the full disclosure of the acquisition and use of "military equipment" by the department.

"Military equipment" can include armored vehicles, night vision goggles, protective vests and clothing, drones and other tools useful in protecting public safety. Each of these items has actually been used locally and are credited in saving lives.



The annual report to the BoS typically brings out a parade of whining, hand wringing, pearl clutching complainers concerned more about keeping criminals comfortable than protecting law enforcement and the public. They go on and on about how unnecessary it is that law enforcement has the tools needed to deal with the likes of armed criminals out to kill and injure innocent people.

Sheriff Ian Parkinson does an excellent job of accountability and maintaining patience amongst the wild unfounded accusations from the criminal sympathizers and ICE haters.

## **\$1.1 Million to Keep the Lights On!**

It's no surprise that the Paso Robles Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) has implemented their "keep the lights on fee." They had a fast-approaching deadline where they either had to establish revenue or disband.

What most people don't know is that "customers" can appeal their fee assessment, but the appeal must be filed by June 8. Below is the notice for filing an appeal:



## **FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 GROUNDWATER FEE APPEAL FORM**

For the Proposed Paso Robles Subbasin Groundwater Fee Program

**Instructions:** If you have an appeal to the Water Year 2025 consumed groundwater use calculations, please complete the below form and attach supporting documentation, if applicable. Please submit a completed form and any supporting materials by email to [info@PasoRoblesAGA.org](mailto:info@PasoRoblesAGA.org) or by mail to PO Box 82, Paso Robles, CA 93447, by **June 8, 2026**.

PRADA continues to frustrate. It remains to be seen whether a legal challenge will be forthcoming, but property owners could be in for an unpleasant surprise when they get their property tax bill.

## Last Week

### Make a Difference

There is still time to make a difference for candidates that you support in the June 2 election. Volunteers are needed to help get the vote out, walk precincts, or assist in organizing the activities for the final push. Even just a few hours of your time will be appreciated. If you have a friend who would like to volunteer with you, that would be great. If you don't, no problem. There are lots of friendly people who will welcome your help. This is a fun way to be involved in your community.



Our local races have a history of very close finishes. There is good reason to expect close races again in this one. A few hours of your time could help with the last few votes that get your candidate over the top.

Contacts for the top campaigns are listed below. Reach out to your favorite one and make a difference.

verdiforsupervisor.com  
<https://verdiforsupervisor.com>

jimmypaulding.org  
<https://jimmypaulding.org>

woodyforsupervisor.com  
<https://www.woodyforsupervisor.com>

jimdantona.com  
<https://jimdantona.com>

The two political parties are also in need of volunteers. They can be found here:

rpsloc.org  
<https://www.rpsloc.org>

slocdp.org  
<https://www.slocdp.org>

## **Rotten Fish**

One of the biggest scandals currently stinking in San Luis Obispo County is the ongoing litigation involving Lopez Dam and the county's management of the lake

water. It's a complicated issue with no apparent reasonable solutions coming forth in the near future. However, expensive litigation is ongoing, and the potential liability is growing.

As scandals go (we have had plenty) this one has been quietly flying under the radar since it was filed in 2024 but is costing our county dearly. It dates back to the 1990s when complaints were initially filed with The State Water Resources Control Board, forcing the County to draft up a plan to restore the habitat, but the plan was deemed inadequate by federal agencies.

As described by the City of Arroyo Grande: In December 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California issued a preliminary injunction ordering the County to immediately increase water release levels by about 45%, placing the reservoir's long-term supply in jeopardy and circumventing years of collaborative local work to achieve compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

In January 2025, the County appealed the injunction order. In December 2025, a decision was issued by the Ninth Circuit Court in favor of the County, lifting the water release order and returning releases from Lopez Lake to the Interim Downstream Release Schedule.

Of the discussions currently underway, building a fish ladder that would facilitate steelhead migration to the headwaters of the creek has been suggested by environmentalists. Some estimate the costs could reach \$100 million for such a project. Other remedial measures proposed involve releasing a great deal of water that is currently used for drinking water and agricultural irrigation.

Supervisor Peschong raised the issue of the ongoing litigation at the May 19 BoS meeting after the third quarter financial report was presented by county staff. In supporting a motion to receive and file the report, Peschong said that he did so under protest over the ongoing costs of the litigation which was included in the report under item 26. He apologized to the ratepayers who are shouldering much of the cost and pointed out that costs have reached over \$4 million. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg agreed as did Supervisor Paulding who suggested the complainants were operating in bad faith and mentioned that Congressman Carbajal was attempting to assist in finding a resolution. He also pointed out that the BoS was unanimous in its opposition to the lawsuit.

The suit is brought by local environmental groups alleging that county management of the Lopez Dam is harming the habitat of steelhead trout that live in Arroyo Grande Creek. Steelheads were listed as an endangered species in 1997. Endangered species and are afforded special protection. The suit demands that as much as 45% of lake water be released to enhance the steelhead habitat.



Steelhead differ from Rainbow trout only because they can thrive in saltwater or freshwater.

Releasing the requested volume would severely impact drinking water for approximately 50,000 south county residents in Zone 3 which is made up of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, Avila CSD, the Oceano CSD and agricultural stakeholders. According to the Arroyo Grande city website, it receives 61% of its drinking water supply from Lopez Lake. Modeling shows that if the injunction had been in place during the 2020–2023 drought, the reservoir would have hit “dead pool,” leaving the city without its primary water source for more than a year.

Such a release will cause harm to the California Red-Legged Frogs and Tidewater Goby, which are both also on the endangered list and reside in the creek. It will be up to the courts to determine which endangered species deserves more protection, and which might lose out if large-scale water releases take place.



A Red-Legged Frog



A Tidewater Goby

The ecological group litigants are Loas Padres ForestWatch, San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper, the California Coastkeeper Alliance and the Ecological Rights Foundation.



UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

SAN LUIS OBISPO  
COASTKEEPER; LOS PADRES  
FORESTWATCH; CALIFORNIA  
COASTKEEPER ALLIANCE;  
ECOLOGICAL RIGHTS  
FOUNDATION,

*Plaintiffs - Appellees,*

v.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO,

*Defendant - Appellant.*

No. 24-7807

D.C. No.  
2:24-cv-06854-  
SPG-AS

OPINION

Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Central District of California  
Sherilyn Peace Garnett, District Judge, Presiding

Argued and Submitted August 12, 2025  
Pasadena, California

Filed December 3, 2025

Before: Jacqueline H. Nguyen, Danielle J. Forrest, and  
Lawrence VanDyke, Circuit Judges.

So, what makes this a scandal? The county is in a pickle. If it releases the water demanded by the plaintiffs, it creates drinking water availability concerns and it puts two other species at risk. The plaintiffs are fully aware of this dilemma and are leveraging the issue. They stand to gain a sizable financial reward should they prevail. What would prevent the same groups, or a different but similar batch, from filing suit on behalf of the red-legged frog or the tidewater goby if the water release harmed them as expected?

According to ForestWatch’s website, “If the court ultimately affirms that the County is violating the Endangered Species Act, federal law requires that prevailing plaintiffs recover their attorneys’ fees and costs. Plaintiffs are pursuing this case on a contingency basis, meaning our attorneys are only compensated if they prevail. Recovering those costs makes this type of public interest enforcement possible. Unfortunately, those costs continue to increase as the County prolongs the case rather than resolving the underlying issues. The County is likely to pass these expenses on to Zone 3 ratepayers.”

Presumably, any settlement agreement would include remuneration for the plaintiffs’ legal fees.

The plaintiffs stand to gain, the steelhead may or may not have improved habitat, two other endangered species could be harmed, a wildly expensive fish ladder could be forcefully financed by taxpayers and rate payers and Lopez Lake levels might drop to levels that put drinking water at risk. Ratepayers for that water will see steep increases in their water bills.

Because the whole issue is one big litigation nightmare, the county is restricted about what it can say.

The scandal is that we have a governance system that facilitates such financial circumstances. The scandal is that the county needs to legally defend its actions. The scandal is that ratepayers are being penalized. The scandal is that the enviro plaintiffs are exploiting the impossible situation of trying to balance wildlife needs with human needs. The scandal is that the only solution that protects the county and zone 3 customers is in the hands of judges who are not biologists, who are not hydro engineers and who aren't even San Luis Obispo County residents.

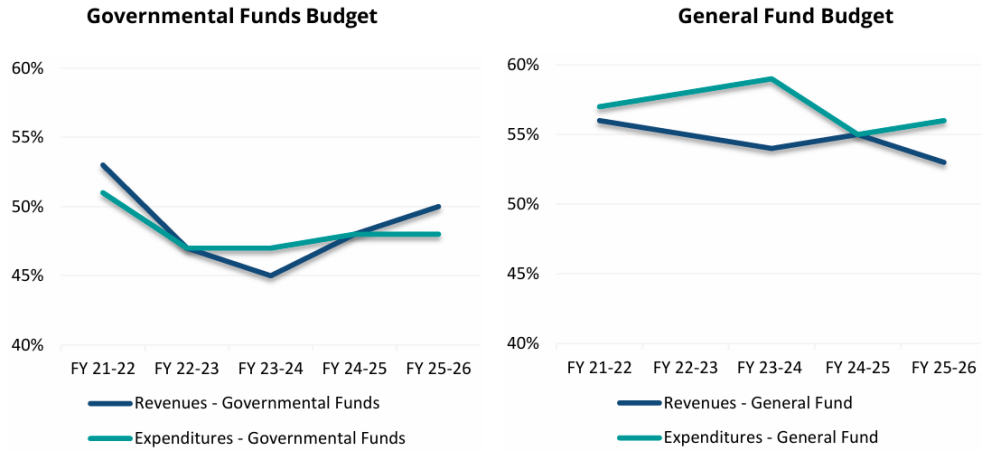
The enviro groups are doing what enviro groups do. It's impossible to put blame on the county and their efforts to balance water needs with complying with the Endangered Species Act. But it is truly tragic to see the obscene amounts of Other Peoples' Money getting thrown around with such little regard.

## **Third Quarter Finance Report**

The third quarter county financial report was delivered by staff at the May 19 meeting. Fortunately, the report indicated that overall, our county finances are currently on track.

County finances ebb and flow based on tax revenues and the timing of state funding for grants and programs. The following graphs illustrate the trajectory of the county's revenues and expenditures through the current fiscal year:

**Revenues, Expenditures as % of Total Budget at the End of the Third quarter**



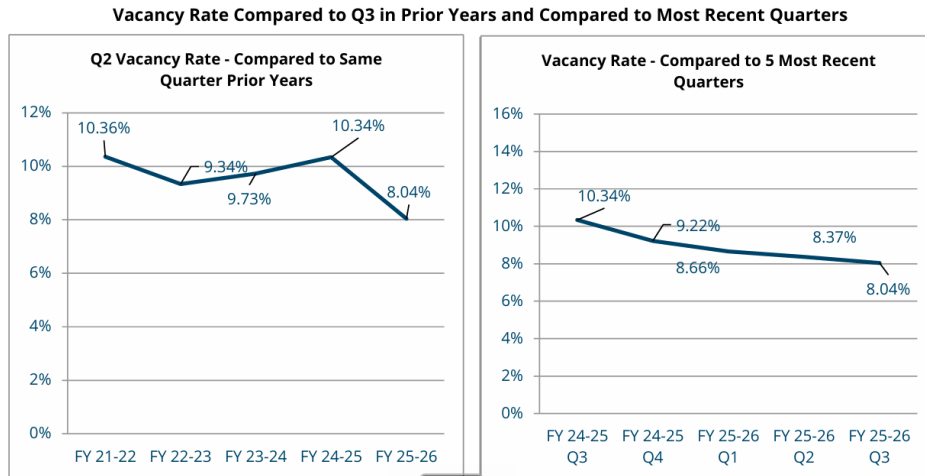
One of the biggest expenses for the county is the payroll. Managing the workforce keeps expenses in control and maintains a focus on the mission. Below is a graph illustrating what the county has done with Full Time Employee (FTE) positions through the current fiscal year:

**SUMMARY OF POSITION ALLOCATION CHANGES**

<b>FY 2025-26</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Quarter Start	2,814.25	2,818.25	2,816.00	
FTE Additions	101.00	29.00	10.00*	
FTE Deletions	97.00	31.25	1.00	
Quarter End	2,818.25	2,816.00	2,825.00	
<b>Net Change</b>	4.00	-2.25	9.00	
<b>% Change</b>	0.14%	-0.08%	0.32%	

\*This number includes the Program Manager I/II for FC 142 – Planning and Building, approved by the Board on 11/04/2025, effective 01/01/2026, and noted as a change approved for the fund center on the Second Quarter Report.

Employee vacancy rates have positive and negative aspects. There is no payroll for vacant positions, but the vacancy can reduce department performance and/or drive up other costs such as overtime or temporary employee costs. Below is a graph following vacancy rates:



Overall, the report was a good precursor to the proposed 2026/27 budget draft that was introduced immediately following the review.

## **A Flaw in the 2026/27 Budget**

Because one of the highest budget priorities stated by the Board of Supervisors is Public Safety, and since the District Attorney’s office is a key component of protecting the public, it was most disappointing that District Attorney Dan Dow needed to point out to the BoS that he has been requesting five positions that were left out of the budget process.

Even more distressing was Supervisor Gibson’s response as Dow reported that much of the work that would be done by those five employees is required by statute. Gibson feigned offence at the report and called it posturing. He then accusingly asked Dow if he would sue the county if he didn’t get the positions included in the budget. Dow calmly replied that by putting the county on notice about possible risks for failing to provide the personnel to carry out mandated services, he was simply doing his job.



District Attorney Dan Dow seeks sufficient funding to protect the public.

One of the positions requested by Dow is a prosecutor specializing in crimes against senior citizens. This includes both elder abuse and fraud – both serious problems in our community.

The actual positions sought by Dow are listed here:

District Attorney Dan Dow  
Advocates for Necessary  
Funding for the  
FY 2026-2027 Budget

- Elder Abuse Prosecutor
- Restored Deputy DA
- Restored Admin Assistant
- Restored Victim Advocate
- Paralegal

May 23, 2026  
slocounty.ca.gov/da

The seal of the District Attorney for San Luis Obispo County, California. It features a circular design with a central emblem depicting a building, surrounded by the text "DISTRICT ATTORNEY" and "COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO".

Supervisor Peschong urged county staff to look for resolution. County CEO Matt Pontes replied that they were already exploring opioid settlement funds that might fill the gap.

COLAB's remarks to the BoS about the budget complimented staff and the Board for the thoroughness and transparency but requested resolution for the DA issue. We also pointed out that the budget priorities do not mention transportation or road funds. We further noted that a transportation dedicated sales tax measure may be on the November ballot, and many are frustrated that the county is shifting responsibility by asking taxpayers to pay extra for a basic need.

More details about the \$1billion, two hundred million 2026/27 proposed budget draft can be found in last week's Weekly Update. The BoS will have a hearing on June 8 – 10 to go through details of the budget.

## **PRAGA Groundwater Fees in the Works**

The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) will meet on May 27 for their regular monthly board meeting. Sometimes they hold their meetings in the Paso Robles Council Chambers, and other times in the Norris Room at Centennial Park. Curiously, their website does not list the meeting details. They usually take place at 4:00 pm.

Meeting agendas are posted to their website at least 72 hours in advance of each meeting, and minutes are posted after approved. The website is found at:

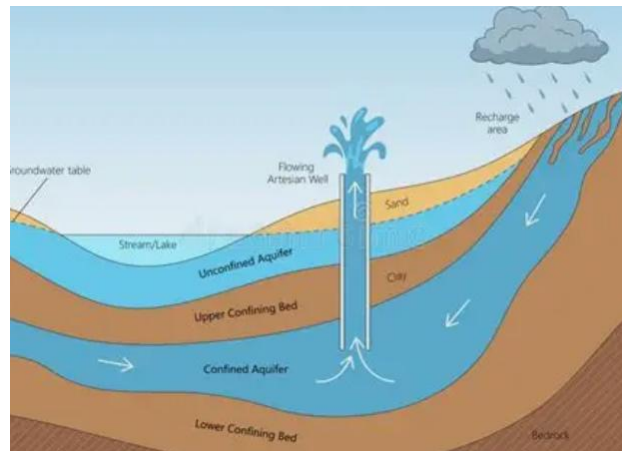
pasoroblesaga.org  
<https://www.pasoroblesaga.org>

The big thing on the agenda is the establishment of a rate structure for their Prop. 26 water fees.



## Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

The fees are there to raise the annual \$1.1 million needed to “keep the lights on”. None of the Other Peoples Money raised in this new fee structure is designated to projects that will actually contribute to groundwater sustainability. Rather, it covers the administrative costs of existing and paying consultants.



The politics of groundwater is far more complicated than nature.

We would hope that with \$1.1 million of Other Peoples Money, PRAGA could come up with data. That could clarify the status of the basin. Is it still in overdraft? If so, by how much. What would it take to recharge enough to get out of overdraft?

Below is their description of their proposed rate structure:

The Fee Program rate is calculated by dividing the revenue requirement by the total effective consumed groundwater. Applying the revenue requirement and groundwater consumption data established in this Report, the FY 2026-27 rate is calculated to be \$22.90 per AF per year, as shown below.

**Figure 5 – Rate Calculation**

$$\frac{\$1,095,446}{47,845 \text{ AF}} = \$22.90 \text{ per AF}$$

There is much speculation about whether the fee will be challenged in court. Among the details that don't sit well with some is the plan to base charges on past years' water consumption. Below is Praga's description of the process of implementation:

**Water Code § 10730 Fee Implementation Procedures**

- Provide notice of public meeting along with Fee Study (20 days prior to meeting).
- Hold public meeting; provide overview of the Rate and Fee Study Report and data supporting the fee structure and amount.
- Fees may be imposed by ordinance or resolution.

Anyone interested in sharing their opinion about the cost of “keeping the lights on” should check the PRAGA website for meeting details.

**Emergent Trends**  
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**Gavin's New Grift: Newsom Announces He is Awarding \$80 Million in Funding to 343 Nonprofits and Faith-Based Orgs**

**Sacramento Democrats Push Bill to Gut Prop 36, Advance 'Criminals-First Agenda'**

**COLAB in Depth**  
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**The Latest Attack On the White House Shows Just How Disturbed Some Individuals Are**

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byron-grant@c21home.com

www.byron-grant.com



# 2026 Annual Fundraising Dinner Sponsors



# Gavin's New Grift: Newsom Announces He is Awarding \$80 Million in Funding to 343 Nonprofits and Faith-Based Orgs

*Nonprofits are the perfect place government funding and grants go to hide*

By Katy Grimes, May 29, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom announced Thursday he is awarding \$80 million in funding to 343 nonprofit and faith-based organizations throughout California following the San Diego mosque shooting.

How interesting. California has a \$30 billion budget deficit (that we know of) and the governor is spending another \$80 million on 343 nonprofit and faith-based organizations that have yet to be named and announced.

So, why is the governor dropping another \$80 million on non-governmental organizations (NGO's) who have no accountability to the taxpayers and no way to follow the money?

“Hate and violence have no place in California. By investing in critical security upgrades, we are leading the nation in protecting places of worship and high-risk communities, strengthening preparedness, and ensuring every Californian can gather safely and without fear,” says Newsom.

He's using “Hate and violence” the same way he does “climate change.” It's code for spending without accountability. I wonder what the Legislative Analyst and State Auditor think about this plan? Because I can't find who the 343 nonprofits and faith-based groups being awarded the taxpayer funding are, I even asked Grok to find out and this is what I got:

“To obtain the full list: Contact Cal OES directly (via the CSNSGP inbox or their grants management team) or submit a California Public Records Act request.”

This smells like another Newsom nonprofit scam like Diapergate... or First Partner Jennifer Newsom's multiple "educational" nonprofits taking taxpayer funding to produce porn for California public schools—and income for herself.

"Why is the Newsom administration doing its business through nonprofits?" I asked on X in response to yet another nonprofit Newsom and his First Partner are promoting and enriching with taxpayer funding – and this one not only gives away free diapers, they manufacture their own. (*More about Diapergate here*)

I bring this up again because nothing came of this revelation. The California news media thought it was cute and moved on. Meanwhile **Baby2Baby**, the \$77 million non-profit is getting another \$20 million of California taxpayers money to give away "free" diapers to all new mothers in California. If the governor was sincere about wanting to provide free diapers to women who need the financial assistance, he could eliminate a lot of bureaucracy and provide coupons to the mothers, we **noted** several times. Yet, no comment from Gov. Newsom.

Newsom's new announcement has a link to the "competitively chosen grantees," but it just takes me to the CalOES Grants page. And the **CalOES 2026 grants link** takes me to the Fiscal Year 2025 California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (CSNSGP) Allocations.

His announcement breaks down the latest round of funding:

- **\$80 million** has been awarded to strengthen security at **343 nonprofit organizations** statewide.
- **228 faith-based organizations** are among the recipients.
- **\$76 million** will go directly to nonprofits for security improvements.
- **\$4 million** will support program administration and technical assistance.

Well, that's helpful. Not.

This smells like a potential kickback scam. Or another 90 hospices in one LA building kind of arrangement. Or a daycare scam. Or a "migrant services" scam. Or a homeless NGO scam.

Under Newsom, California has directed billions of dollars towards groups for "migrant services" and homelessness, including large sums to Catholic Charities, Jewish Family Services, and others.

And now he's going to give them more?

What can't be ignored is the ideological alignment: Many taxpayer funded nonprofits and NGOs advocate policies supported by Newsom, including providing illegal immigration support services, promoting DEI and "equity" initiatives, fighting climate change, solving homelessness, and dishing out free diapers. Newsom is effectively subsidizing the Democrats' political infrastructure by "importing" migrants and creating dependency.

In February, Gov. Newsom announced \$35 million in "funding to increase mutual aid, and support local partners that connect families with needed services and other recent awards to provide legal representation to Californians facing deportation." He calls it "state investment and philanthropic collaboration." Some call it fraud. Why is the governor subsidizing "philanthropic" organizations? They have endowments and funders.

Effectively, Newsom is taking taxpayer money and giving it to ideologically-aligned groups, nonprofits, NGO's, mosques, synagogues and churches— instead of hiring law enforcement officers, fixing California's third-world highways and roads, and rebuilding the Palisades and wildfire areas.

We are willing to bet that if/when we get the list of the 343 nonprofit and faith-based organizations, most, if not all, will have some relationship with Gov. Newsom, the California Democrat Party, local and state Democrats, and former Democrat politicians.

Nonprofits also employ lobbyists/advocates that apparently taxpayers are helping to employ as well.

As the Globe has explained many times, nonprofits aren't subject to the same California Public Record Act requests, FOIAs and sunshine rules as government agencies are. In fact, non-profits are the perfect place government grants go to hide.



**Katy Grimes** Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, the co-author of *California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?* and a contributor to "Taxifornia 2016."

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## Sacramento Democrats Push Bill to Gut Prop 36, Advance 'Criminals-First Agenda'

*Assembly Democrats have passed AB 2108, undermining Prop 36 which overwhelmingly passed in every one of California's 58 counties*

By Megan Barth, May 28, 2026

Just months after voters approved Proposition 36 to restore felony penalties for repeat theft and drug crimes, Democrats in the Assembly passed AB 2108, a bill authored by Assemblymember LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-La Mesa) that creates a pretrial diversion program for retail theft, shoplifting, forgery, and vandalism.

Prop 36 passed with strong support in **every one of California's 58 counties** in November 2024. The ballot measure restored felony penalties for repeat offenders **after a decade** of disaster and rising crime **under Prop 47**. Fed-up voters demanded accountability for **smash-and-grab thefts, organized retail crime, and open drug dealing**,  
But a supermajority of Californians don't matter to the Democrat supermajority in Sacramento.

AB 2108, approved by a party-line vote on Wednesday night, allows prosecutors and probation departments to steer offenders, **including repeat criminals**, into diversion programs. Criminals could avoid jail by completing conditions like restitution or community service, after which charges could be dismissed.

Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes warned: "AB 2108 would create a diversion program allowing people who commit property crimes, including repeat offenders, to avoid jail time. This directly undermines Proposition 36 and the clear vote by Californians to increase accountability for theft and retail crime."

Assemblymember David Tangipa (R-Fresno) called the bill “a direct slap in the face to the supermajority of Californians who just want safe streets and real accountability.” He noted that Democrats are moving to weaken Prop 36 before it has even been properly funded.

California GOP lawmakers slammed the bill as the latest example of the Democrat supermajority’s soft-on-crime, “criminal-first” agenda.

Governor Newsom’s budget proposals have repeatedly included **zero dedicated funding** for the jail beds, drug treatment, and mental health programs Prop 36 requires. *California Globe* reporting has exposed how Democrats rejected Republican amendments for hundreds of millions in new resources, leaving counties on the hook while they continue pouring billions into illegal immigrant healthcare and other progressive priorities and nonprofits.

The bill heads to the Senate next. The supermajority of Californians who backed Prop 36 to restore public safety are now left wondering whether their mandate will survive Sacramento Democrats’ preference to undermine the will of the voters and the rule of law.



### **Megan Barth**

Megan Barth is the Executive Editor of The California Globe and former, founding editor of the Nevada Globe. Specializing in investigative reporting, her work has appeared in national and local news. The highlights of her career include interviewing President Donald Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and FBI Director Kash Patel. When she isn’t editing, writing, or talking, you can find her hiking and relaxing in Northern Nevada.

## **The Latest Attack On the White House Shows Just How Disturbed Some Individuals Are**

*We need to pay better attention to cases such as his*

By Michael Letts, May 27, 2026

It's one thing to have personal feelings against President Donald Trump. It's another to think that, actively in your head, you believe you have the motivation to try and *hurt* him, let alone a member of his family or his Trump administration.

And yet, we've heard about such disturbed individuals who try and charge forward with their mission, without logic entering in their heads within the least.

The latest individual to attempt this is 21-year old Nasire Best. On Saturday evening, he managed to bring a firearm to a White House security checkpoint. He opened fire and injured an innocent individual, but Secret Service were able to shoot and kill him before he could hurt anyone else. (From what I understand, the individual is recovering from their wounds.)

Best has a very disturbed history. He not only had run-ins with police in the past, but also the Secret Service themselves. He had obstructed a White House entry lane back in June 2025, and, at the time, even told agents that he believed he was Jesus Christ.

But even after being assigned a mental evaluation, he felt the need to try and come back to the White House to hunt down the man who has made a number of significant changes to thing country after everything previous President Joe Biden has done for it.

What's scary here is how many people believe they're "the ones" that can make the change in terms of leadership to the United States by trying to go after Trump.

We've seen it countless times before, including a scary assassination attempt back in July 2024, which came so close that it led to an entire reshuffling of the Secret Service as we know it (and rightfully so, considering their ineptitude of director Kimberly Cheatle at the time); and the recent White House Correspondents Dinner back in late April, in which a suspect attempted to charge in with a firearm. There are two big takeaways when it comes to what happened over the weekend.

Number one, many people still remain unhinged when it comes to Trump's behavior. They believe that he is to blame for "so many things wrong with this country" (their words, not mine), and that the only answer is to "remove him from the equation." They just aren't happy about Kamala Harris losing to a clearly better

candidate, or maybe they just don't believe his removal of illegal immigrant criminals from the United States is "the answer" (though statistics clearly show that it is).

The second – and perhaps more clear thing here – is the complete turnaround for the Secret Service. After Pennsylvania a couple of years ago, they have stepped up tremendously, working alongside law enforcement to keep Trump and his administration safe from harm. It's a far cry from the close call we had not long ago, and it earmarks the changes being made for the better under Trump's leadership.

That said, Best's cowardly effort should be a warning sign. We need to pay better attention to cases such as his. We need to watch out for troubled history, or how many times someone goes through a mental evaluation, or even something as simple as criminal records. Because you never know. We're seeing so many people that take action for all the wrong reasons, and, as a result, innocent people usually pay the price. Or even law enforcement officials.

I am glad that no true harm was done from this incident, outside of the shooter himself. But I hope that we learn from it and continue to make safety a top priority in this country. And not just for Trump, but for the hard-working Americans who are doing so much to make this a better place. They deserve solace and peace of mind, and it's so hard when mentally disturbed individuals disrupt their peace for the sake of their own – however twisted it may be.

As for the Secret Service, keep up the tremendous work. You're truly making a difference.



### **Michael Letts**

Michael Letts is the Founder, President, and CEO of InVest USA, a national grassroots non-profit organization that is helping hundreds of communities provide thousands of bulletproof vests for their police forces through educational, public relations, sponsorship, and fundraising programs.

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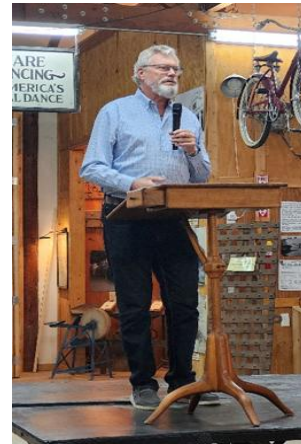
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**Elected Officials Representing San Luis Obispo County**

**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**

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**Representative Salud Carbal  
202-225-3601 DC**

**805-546-6348 District**

[carbajal.house.gov/contact](http://carbajal.house.gov/contact)

**Representative Jimmy Panetta**

**202-225-2861 DC**

**831-424-2229 District**

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**State Senator John Laird**

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*(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.

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Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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