

COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16-22, 2012

SAVE THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

ATTEND OUR UPDATE/MIXER

COLAB
San Luis Obispo County

YOU'RE INVITED!

Thursday, September 20, 2012
5:30 to 7:30 pm

Next Steps & Opportunities with SLO County...
Come hear how to sieze the moment!

Updates by Mike Brown and Andy Caldwell
Guest Speaker - Andrea Seastrand

We have made our presence known in 2009, 2010,
2011, and 2012. ***We are making a difference!***

Location: **Holland Ranch Barn**
2275 Carpenter Canyon Road, San Luis Obispo, CA
From SLO: Just past the Cold Canyon Landfill entrance, on the right.
From AG: Just before the Cold Canyon Landfill entrance, on the left.

RSVP appreciated by Monday, September 17, 2012
Call (805) 548-0340 or email colabslo@gmail.com

Tasty BBQ appetizers will be prepared by BBQ
Extraordinaire Chris Darway.
Wine and beer will be served

PLEASE ATTEND THE COLAB SLO UPDATE/MIXER

Friends and members of COLAB should plan on attending the update/mixer. Celebrate progress and next steps. Enjoy wine, beer, and appetizers. Be sure to bring and/or invite your friends. Enjoy a positive and informative early evening. Please call Elaine Castillo at 805-548-0340 or email colabslo@gmail.com and let us know you are coming. We want to make sure we have plenty of beer, wine and appetizers.

IN THIS ISSUE

**SAVE THURSDAY EVENING OCTOBER 18, 2012
DYNAMITE PROGRAM
CALIFORNIA'S BIG NOVEMBER ELECTION DECISION
(SEE PAGE 10 BELOW FOR DETAILS)**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY PLASTIC BAG
BAN/PAPER BAG "TAX" STARTS OCTOBER 1, 2012
ARE THEY READY?**

**WARNING: PASO WATER BASIN OWNERS
ABOUT TO GET SKUNKED**



**PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY RIGHTS: ATTEND THE
SEPTEMBER 25, 2012 BOARD MEETING AND RESIST
COUNTY FY 2012-13 FINAL BUDGET RESULTS OK FOR
NOW BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?**

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 11, 2012 (Completed)

There were no items of significant policy impact on this agenda.

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 18, 2012 (Scheduled)

Final 2012-13 Budget Results (4th Quarter Financial Report). The Report, which sums up the financial results of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, is on the agenda. The departments lived within their budgets and many actually under-expended their budgets, thus contributing to growth of the County's general financial reserve. A significant part of the increase in reserves is \$7 million payback from the Los Osos Sewer project¹. The County had advanced funds to pay for engineering and design costs. The savings stem from departments refraining from filling some vacant positions as well as some of the labor concessions related to salaries and retirement costs that had been negotiated in response to the recession. The main part of the report is readable and presented professionally.

At first glance (and with casual reading) everything looks pretty good. One needs to review a companion item on yearend transfers to obtain a full picture. One problem is that the key revenues, such as property tax and sales tax (the heart of the safety and justice budgets), although up slightly, are products of onetime anomalies. For example, the property tax is up because the collection rate has improved, not the underlying valuations. The sales tax is up due to onetime events such as the State discovering payments it had not made to the County, as well as the limited term bump from sales tax on the materials sold to the solar projects. It should be noted that the staff report is clear and points these anomalies out. They are not hidden.

Categorical departmental revenues came in \$12.1 million under budgeted expectations. The fact that the departments maintained vacant positions and benefited from salary and benefit concessions of \$14.5 million enabled the County to balance.

More ominously, the leading indicators of future property tax performance are negative. Leading indicators such as the supplemental secured property tax (that is, interim tax revised assessments related to property sales) are down. Similarly, the property transfer tax is also slightly down. These harbingers of future property tax are not good signs.

The Report has subsections which detail the expenditures to date on the Los Osos Sewer system (and related information), status of capital projects, and the status of funds received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) - the Obama stimulus.

¹ Assuming that this "loan" originally came from unrestricted fund balance, it probably should have been carried as a receivable to the general fund reserve all along.

Performance Management: The County is trying to use recurring performance measures to assist policy makers, the public and management to ensure that funds are used appropriately and efficiently. Performance measures can help make the allocation of public dollars more accurate and can help a community determine, not only whether services are being provided efficiently, but whether they are worth it in the first place. The Report provides quite a discussion of the performance measurement effort and also includes a link to the actual performance measures. San Luis Obispo County is one of the few counties in the state that has taken this tool seriously. At this point enhancements would include budgeting at the program cost center level in addition to the division level and joining the International City/County Management Association’s Comparable Performance Measure Consortium. These two enhancements could place the County in the first ranks of progressive jurisdictions using performance measure management techniques.

In addition to the issues involving the use and benefits of performance measurement, the county’s discussion of the actual results is very informative on a broader level. As the reader can see in the discussion which follows in italics, one of the reasons cited for continuing pressure on performance is the “decline in the economy.” The key section is underlined below. The discussion of the impact of the declining economy on the ability of the County to fund and provide services, as well as the need for more services, should raise questions about the Board’s current so-called “economic development strategy,” which pretty much focuses on tertiary and quaternary (except for agriculture) services as opposed to important industrial, manufacturing, and mineral producing opportunities that exist in large measure on the central coast and the region.

Performance Measures:

Out of a total of 221 measures, 21% (46) were met, 36% (79) exceeded their targets, 39% (86) did not meet their targets, and there is no data available to report on 5% (10) of the measures. The performance measure results listed on the table above were determined precisely—measures were listed as ‘met’ only if actual results matched the target exactly and measures were listed as ‘exceeded’ or ‘not met’ even if there was very slight (i.e. 0.10%) variation from the adopted target. This method of evaluation and determination allows for no variation from very specific targets and explains why only 21% of measures were —met.¶

Although the performance measure summary results are generally consistent with results from the prior year, the percentage of measures not meeting their targets is significant enough to warrant some discussion. It is important to note that there are several factors which impact County departments ‘ability to meet performance measures targets:

Decline in the Economy

As has been heavily documented, the downward trend in the economy has had a significant impact on the County’s budget and available resources. In recognizing that a tough economy has the propensity to increase the need for County services, the Board and County staff have made significant efforts to minimize service level impacts when trying to close the budget gap. Despite those efforts, some departments have reported that staff turnover and vacancies have had an impact on the ability to meet performance measure targets. In addition, the County’s hiring —chill¶ has resulted in more budgeted positions being held vacant for longer periods of time, which places more pressure on staff in filled positions to

achieve department goals and targets. Staffing reductions have had an impact on a variety of measures—from public safety response times to the ability to clean and maintain County facilities.

In addition to impacts to the County's ability to provide services, the decline in the economy has also had impacts on the demand for services. In many cases, demand for service has increased as residents are increasingly looking to the County to provide them with economic assistance and relief. This increased workload has both forced the County to find ways to operate more efficiently, and has also required a prioritization of work which has meant that non-essential duties are not being completed in as timely a manner as departments had projected they would. On the flip side, the economic decline has also decreased the demand for services in some areas such as the processing of building permits, building inspections, recreational opportunities such as golf and parks (although the number golf rounds and visitors to County parks visitation are beginning increase as the economy slowly recovers). (Our emphasis)

Use of Legitimate Stretch Targets

Use of Automation

Although the decline in the economy has had an impact on the resources available to carry out County programs and services, several departments have indicated that the use of new technologies and automation has enabled them to meet or exceed their performance measure targets. Examples include the Assessor's Office, which has utilized the Assessment Evaluation Services system to address additional workload associated with Prop 8 (decline in value) requests and complete property assessments in a timely manner; and

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the Clerk-Recorder's Office which has utilized automated signature scanning and envelope opening machines to process vote-by-mail ballots more efficiently.

Despite the fact that more than a third of departmental performance measures weren't met in FY 2011-12, it should be noted that generally, performance measure results indicate that the County's performance results are still higher than the results in comparable counties and either meet or exceed industry standards.

Strange Homeless Resolution. This is a strange little item submitted by Board Chairman Patterson without any explanatory write up reciting some of the past actions of the County with respect to trying to remediate homelessness. The item states that various non-profit and public bodies will continue to work on trying to solve the problem. Obviously, counties have a large role in trying to ameliorate the suffering of the homeless as well as trying to develop ways to prevent the continuation of homelessness. In addition to a large array of governmental and non-profit social service, medical and behavioral remediation programs, counties are in an excellent position to help develop and promote affordable housing, especially for single individuals and very destitute families. More importantly, counties are in a position to promote a vibrant and growing economy, particularly for people in the lower echelons of the economy who don't possess high-end analytical and quantitative skills that are required in most of the industries included within the County's economic strategy. Would the County support a growing oil and gas industry, which provides extensive high paying jobs for folks with a high school diploma?

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 25, 2012 (Scheduled)

Draft Ordinance Restricting Development in the Paso Robles Water Basin: The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider the Planning Commission's recommended draft ordinance on September 25, 2012. We do not know the exact time of the hearing yet. We should be able to report it after Tuesday, September 18, 2012.

- The proposed ordinance severely restricts the ability of property owners in the Basin to develop their properties unless they are in an incorporated City or unincorporated town served by a water system.
- Existing lots of record may apply for development but there are many onerous requirements and exactions.
- Restrictions undermine property values, ability to sell, and ability to obtain financing.
- Allows the Planning director to force to you surrender property rights in exchange for a permit.

Many more outrageous provisions are quoted below:

2. General plan amendments. General Plan amendment applications that would result in a net increase in the amount of water used for non-agricultural purposes shall not be approved until a Level of Severity I is certified for the Basin by the Board of Supervisors after adoption of a Resource Capacity study.

3. Land divisions. Divisions of land shall not be approved until a Level of Severity I is certified for the Basin by the Board of Supervisors after adoption of a Resource Capacity Study. Exceptions to this provision may be approved by the review authority only when the proposed land division is:

a. For a public use or facility (e.g. fire station), or

b. Required for conservation purposes and found to be consistent with The Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan.

4. Outdoor water use, discretionary permits. New development requiring discretionary land use permits is subject to the following requirements:

a. Residential uses shall have no more than 25% percent of the area of irrigated, ornamental landscaping planted with turf.

b. All landscaped areas shall be irrigated with automatic irrigation systems, including irrigation controllers and moisture sensors.

c. All landscape plantings shall be low-water using.

d. Non-irrigated, drought resistant landscaping is encouraged in lieu of irrigated landscaping. The portion of a parcel that is not used for structural development, landscaping or driveways is encouraged to be left in a native state.

e. Rainwater capture or other alternative water systems are encouraged in compliance with Titles 8 and 19 of the County Code, as applicable.

f. In cases where these standards conflict with other provisions of this Titles that are more stringent, the more stringent provisions shall apply.

5. *Offset requirements for discretionary permits. New development requiring discretionary land use permits shall offset the resulting net new water demand as follows:*

a. Land use permit applications shall include existing water use data, if it is available, that is sufficient to calculate net existing water demand on the proposed project site. The land use application shall include descriptions of all proposed uses on the site in a level of detail adequate to calculate the proposed project's net new water demand. In any case, determinations of net new water demand, net existing water demand and net increase shall be the responsibility of the Planning Director or designee.

b. The net new water demand shall be offset at a ratio of 2:1 through participation in water conservation programs listed in subsection c below. Any net existing water demand shall be taken into account in the calculation of required offsets of net new water demand.

c. Programs to offset water used for non-agricultural purposes may include but are not limited to the following, but in any case, shall conserve only water used or potentially used for non-agricultural purposes:

(1) Retiring the development potential of lots in the Paso Robles Groundwater basin through an agreement with the County or qualified land trust.

(2) Retrofitting plumbing fixtures in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

(3) Purchasing supplemental water for a water supplier that uses groundwater from the main Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

(4) Participating in an approved water conservation program in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin that results in water savings.

(5) Reducing water demand in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin through other means approved by the Planning Director.

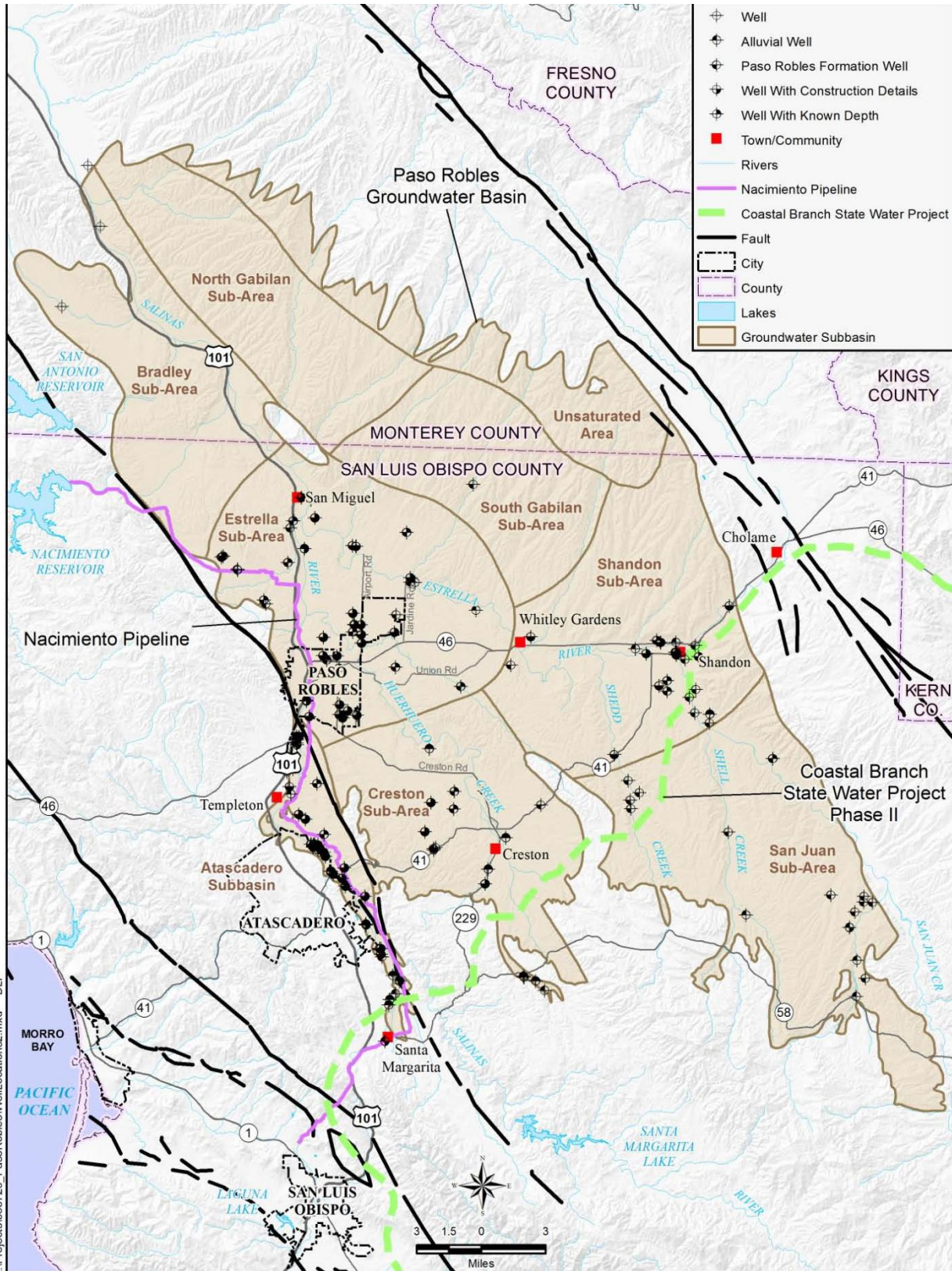
(6) Water from the Nacimiento or State Water Projects shall not be used for development in the rural area.

d. Any required offset of net new water demand shall be completed at the time of final inspection or issuance of a certificate of occupancy unless an alternative completion time (which may be more or less time) is approved by the review authority. In any case, the review authority must find the offsets to be verifiable, permanent and enforceable.

e. Agricultural Processing uses (as defined in the Land Use Ordinance), including outdoor and other appurtenant water use, shall be exempt from the preceding offset requirements for discretionary permits. Instead, agricultural processing uses shall be subject to project-specific land use and/or water conservation mitigation measures required by the review authority based on environmental review.

6. Resource Management System Biennial Summary Report. Included with the biennial summary report shall be a review of this subsection, including whether amendment or repeal of this subsection is warranted based on the certified level of severity (LOS) for the Basin changing from a LOS III to a LOS I. Any amendment or repeal of this subsection shall be processed consistent with Section 22.70.040.

SECTION 2: Section 22.100.020 of the Land Use Ordinance, Title 22 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, is hereby amended as follows: 22.100.020 - Area wide Standards - Land Divisions A. Land Divisions. The County shall refer all land divisions proposed within the Los Padres planning area to the U.S. Forest Service for review.



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Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan	 GEI Consultants <small>Geoscientists - Environmental - Planning</small>	MONITORING WELL LOCATIONS FEBRUARY 2011 FIGURE 3-1
City of Paso Robles San Luis Obispo County, California		

San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Meeting of Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 1:30 PM – County Building (Completed)

Plastic Bag Ban/Paper Bag “Tax” Starts October 1, 2012. Mysteriously, we thought the Bag Ban debut was not even mentioned on the agenda. It turned out that there was a small reference to it in the District Director’s verbal report. There was no written report on preparations. We have seen no publicity, warnings, or instructions for assistance to low income people in the media or in stores. The general public will be totally shocked when they are suddenly hit with the checker asking them to buy reusable bags and/or pay 10 cents for each paper bag. There is no report on the status of the lawsuit challenging the ordinance. You would think that prior to implementation of such a controversial and far reaching social engineering ordinance, the IWMA Board members would have required that the staff prepare an operations plan and would have required that the plan be presented in advance for Board and public review (and perhaps amendment). This is yet another derivative regional government that fails to exercise control over its staff and programs. After the Director made his verbal report, the Authority Board members had the same reaction as COLAB!!

Supervisor Patterson: “Consumers are concerned that they are not hearing about it; they have not seen anything at the markets; I think we need to get after it ...”
The staff reported that ads are set to run during the last two weeks of September.

Mayor O’Malley reported that he received a lot of calls from people who wanted to see an article. It was also reported that although the ordinance was supposed to be limited to large stores, a number of convenience stores and mom and pop stores have been told they are subject to the ordinance.

The IWMA staff reported that 332 stores are covered and that they have visited each store multiple times. They also report that 18,000 reusable bags will be given out by agencies serving the poor.



Mr. Eco strokes his bag
Note all the products in plastic containers on the shelves

SAVE THURSDAY EVENING OCTOBER 18, 2012

Meet Me Half-way Annual Meeting

California's Big Decision 2012! Join Us!

COLAB

Santa Barbara County & San Luis Obispo County

Meet Me Half-way Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Santa Maria Fair Park

937 S.Thornburg Street, Santa Maria, CA

Guest Speakers

Steven F. Hayward

Internationally known Conservative
Columnist and Author



Jon Coupal

President, Howard Jarvis
Taxpayers Association



Hosted Beer and Wine will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m.

DINNER & AUCTION - 6:15 p.m.

\$50 per person/\$500 for a table of ten

Purchase Tickets by Mail:

COLAB PO Box 7523 Santa Maria CA 93456

Purchase Tickets Online:

<http://www.colabsbc.org/events.aspx>