

COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF AUGUST 13 -21, 2011

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SUPERVISORIAL REDISTRICTING: SOME MYSTERY ADJUSTMENTS

WATER BOARD ALERT: SEPT. 1 2011- TIME TO RALLY YET AGAIN

SAVE WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2011: MEET ME HALFWAY DINNER

Board of Supervisors

Board Meeting of August 9, 2011 (Completed)

There were no items of significant policy concern on the August 9, 2011 Board of Supervisors Agenda.

Agriculture Commissioner's Annual Crop Report for 2010. Included on the Board's agenda for information was the 2010 Crop Report. This is an interesting report which covers gross sales for various categories of agriculture (row crops, wine grapes, cattle, etc.). The County's gross output grew to \$712 million, a 14% increase over 2009. The content of the Annual Crop Report is largely mandated by the State. The report is limited to gross sales data for specific crops. Supervisor Mecham has pointed out on several occasions that there needs to be an analysis of the broader economic benefit of Agriculture in terms of the direct multiplier impacts. These include the purchases of farm equipment, irrigation equipment, fertilizer, insecticides, trucking services, packing services, laboratory and analysis services, chilling, veterinarian services, marketing, and technology services. In turn, those people who earn a living both in direct agriculture and in these important support services buy groceries, housing, clothing, automobiles, and so forth. This is the important big picture. Staff has been directed to conduct a broader analysis and report back to the Board.

Connecting the dots in this larger picture will be important in gauging the negative impact on the economy and standard of living caused by the accumulative actions of regulatory bodies such as the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWCB) and the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District on the economy and standard of living.

Board Meeting of August 16, 2011 (Scheduled)

Supervisorial District Redistricting. It appears that this will be the Board meeting where an actual redistricting map will be chosen. If this occurs, the selected version is scheduled to be introduced as an ordinance of August 23, 2011, and a hearing will be set for September 6,

2011. As readers may recall from previous weekly updates, after each decennial census, counties are required to reconfigure the five districts to account for population changes and to adjust the configuration of the districts to be as equal in population as possible. There are five maps under consideration known as Option B, Option B-1, Option B-3, Option C, and Option C-1. Although all of these maps should be found on the County's web page at: www.slocounty.ca.gov/Redistricting_2011Redistricting_Maps.htm, B-3 has not posted as of this writing. Much of the discussion over the past month has focused on keeping all of Templeton (sometimes defined as the service district boundary, sometimes as the school district boundary, and sometimes both) in the same supervisorial district.

Mystery Adjustments: More subtly, some seemingly minor changes are proposed in Option B which include a salient extending Bruce Gibson's 2nd District toward the edge of Templeton and some ostensibly minimal adjustments to both the 2nd district and Jim Patterson's 5th District in San Luis Obispo. Although no one can articulate the mechanics clearly, we speculate that these adjustments are designed to benefit preservation of the current left leaning Board majority.

Background. For redistricting purposes, the County population is 262,192, which is an increase of 24,424 since 2000. The official population is 269,637, which contains 7,445 California Men's Colony inmates and Atascadero State Hospital inmates. Each district would need to contain 52,438 to have equal population. Currently the 1st has 57,998; the 2nd has 50,272; the 3rd, 48,204; the 4th, 55, 386; and the 5th, 50,332. The primary requirement under the State Statute and the Federal Voting Rights Act is to have each district as equal in population as possible. Secondary considerations include topography, geography, contiguity, integrity, compactness, and preserving communities of interest (cities, unincorporated towns, school districts, ethnic groups, etc.).

In the event the Board fails to meet the statutory deadline of November 1, 2011, a Redistricting Commission consisting of the County Assessor, County Superintendent of Schools, and the District Attorney draw up the boundaries.

OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Next Planning Commission Meeting, August 25, 2011. In addition to continued mastication of the Shandon Plan, the more strict vacation rental requirements will be on the agenda.

Next Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Meeting, September 28, 2011.

ALERT

CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND
HEARING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 AT 8:15 AM
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

This could be the culminating and final hearing. The staff report is critical of the Agricultural Alternative Proposal: “Staff evaluated the new information and concluded that, like the December 3, 2010 Proposal, some of the Agricultural Industry representatives’ proposed recommendations, particularly with respect to third-party groups, are not consistent with Water Code section 13269 that applies to waivers of waste discharge requirements or were incomplete and unclear, so (they) could not be evaluated...” This statement, in combination with recent negative op-ed newspaper pieces by Control Board Director Roger Briggs which advocated for strong regulation of agricultural discharge water, suggests that attendance at this hearing is extremely important.

SAVE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011

MEET ME HALF-WAY ANNUAL MEETING

Join us Wednesday, October 5th, 2011

Santa Maria Fair Park, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria CA

Enjoy a great dinner by Testa Catering and our Guest Speakers

Victor Davis Hanson and Diane Dimond

No host cocktails will be served at 5:30 PM; Dinner – Auction 6:15 PM
\$50 per person/\$500 for a table of ten

PURCHASE TICKETS BY MAIL:

COLAB, PO Box 7523, Santa Maria, CA 93456

OR ON LINE: <http://www.colabsbc.org>

Thank you,

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB of San Luis Obispo
County and COLAB of Santa Barbara County