



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF MARCH 27 - APRIL 2, 2016

THIS WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

LAST WEEK

**APCD-FACILITATED WORKSHOP ON
IMPROVED COMMUNICATION FIZZLES**
(SOME OFFICIALS ACTUALLY LEFT EARLY)

**DIABLO DESALINATION FEASIBILITY
ADVANCES TO EIR STAGE**

**GROUCHY PLANNING COMMISSION DEALS
WITH OLIVES, NOISY RECYCLING, INFILL
HOUSES & UNIMAGINATIVE STAFF**

**MARIJUANA ORD. COVERING MEDICINAL AND
RECREATIONAL USE TO BE DRAFTED**
(BOARD CAUTIOUS)

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

(SEE PAGE 7)

Millennials in the Burbs? You Won't Believe the Latest Home-Buying Trends

By Clare Trapasso

Shasta Lake Now 100%+ Capacity. Drought Over??!!

By James V. Lacey

Unaffordable California – It Doesn't Have To Be This Way

By Richard Ryder

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 (Not Scheduled)

No meeting had been scheduled, as the 29th is a fifth Tuesday. The Board does not normally meet on 5th Tuesdays.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, March 22, 2016 (Completed)

Item 17 - Update of the Diablo Canyon Desalination Project with direction to staff to proceed with project development and coordination work, and request authorization of a

corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of \$900,000 from San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Reserves. The Board unanimously authorized staff to solicit bids for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Although enthusiastic about the project, they realize that the ultimate projected costs to the retail water customers will be a major consideration in a final decision. The Sierra Club and the Surf Rider Foundation opposed the project. PG&E appeared and is supportive. Gibson was guardedly supportive and is willing to go along now but stated that the quality of the environmental protections will be an important consideration.

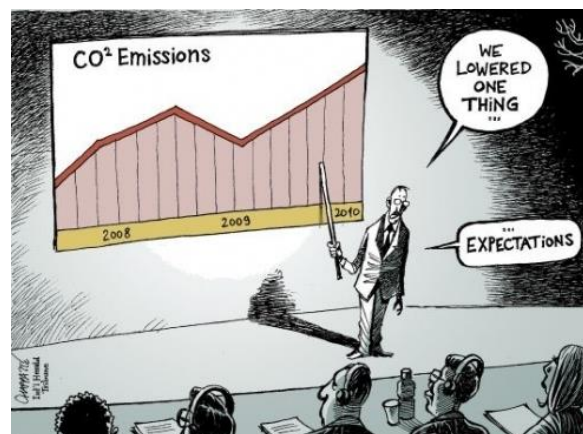
Background: The report indicates that the project is feasible from an engineering and construction standpoint. The various potential users, including the City of Pismo Beach, the City of Arroyo Grande, the City of Grover Beach, the Avila Beach Community Services District, and the Oceano Community Services District, have all indicated that they support going to the next phase of the project, which includes conducting an environmental review.

Item 18 - Request to receive and file the EnergyWise Plan (EWP) 2016 Update. The Board received an update on the so-called EnergyWise Plan. It was originally called the Climate Action Plan, but after the concept of climate change became suspect, the County changed the name to the more benign sounding EnergyWise Plan. This was a staff report on the County's progress or lack thereof in achieving its Global Warming EnergyWise Plan greenhouse gas reductions. As stated below in the write-up, the goal was set to reduce overall CO₂ emissions by 15% below the 2006 level by 2020.

The EWP 2016 Update follows the structure of the EWP itself, which identifies one overarching goal – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from community-wide and County government operations sources by a minimum of 15 percent from 2006 baseline emissions by 2020.

The bottom line is that the County is wasting a lot of public money on a largely symbolic program that is accomplishing little and means nothing in the overall scheme of CO₂ reduction. The statewide 1990 level was 492.31 million metric tonnes per year. A 15% reduction is 73.85 million metric tonnes. Overall and not counting the automobiles, which as noted above are not under the control of the County, about 9 net metric tonnes have been reduced overall.

The Board received the report and did not seem to be interested in discussing the lack of performance or the more negative strategic implications. See the article on the APCD on the next page in relation to the “go along to get along” mentality that infects contemporary legislative bodies.



Item 26 - Report describing timelines for a marijuana (cannabis) ordinance and request for direction on the scope of an ordinance. The Board received a report from the staff about some options. It was clear that the Board wishes the staff to draft an ordinance that could regulate the cultivation of marijuana for both medicinal and recreational purposes.

At this point the Board or seems cautious and does not wish to rush things. They directed staff to continue surveying community opinion (especially potential growers, current growers, the agricultural community, dispensaries, and so forth). Staff was directed to bring back a specimen ordinance at which point the Board would determine what sort of environmental review would be appropriate.

Surprisingly, and although not mentioned in the write-up, the Board did touch, ever so slightly, on the sensitive issue of the downsides of legalization and expanded use. But in the end the Board determined to deal with this issue when there is a draft ordinance. No one mentioned reviewing how legalization of recreational use has impacted the State of Colorado.

Air Pollution Control District Meeting of Wednesday, March 23, 2016 (Completed)

Item A-1: Suppression of Officials who Oppose Current Regulatory Oppression. The agenda item title is fully quoted below, as it clearly betrays the biased and manipulative intent of its sponsors:

Facilitated Board Workshop on Governance and Board Procedures.

Two specialists in the field of governance and civil discourse from the **local League of Women Voters** will facilitate a special session of the Board **devoted to enhancing the governance process and identifying mechanisms to improve communication and the effectiveness of decision-making.** The anticipated outcome of this special session is the development of a mutually agreed upon set of Board **procedures and norms** to help enhance Board interactions and promote transparency; potential policies regarding ex parte communications and disclosure of representation by public speakers at Board meetings may also be discussed. It is expected that final action/approval of Board norms and other policies discussed at this meeting will occur at a future meeting of the Board. **Recommendation: Participate in the workshop and provide direction to staff, if needed, on norms and policies discussed and any further actions required related to this agenda item.**

The session seemed inconclusive. It is not clear that the 12 elected officials (5 County Supervisors and 7 city councilors/mayors) on the derivative board reached consensus about procedures and norms.¹ Apparently the staff will attempt to deduce something from their disparate comments and are to return at a future meeting with a write-up. This probably means that the staff will propose whatever it believes is appropriate. The whole thing seemed like

¹ Derivative, because the members are not directly elected to the APCD but are elected members of other bodies who are then appointed to the APCD. The public's actual control and maintenance of accountability is thereby filtered and blunted.

overkill. Just about everyone identifies the group that they represent when they appear before the APCD Board. Often citizens who don't represent an interest or organization simply report that fact.

In a return to a 1980's manipulation technique, which in turn had been borrowed from the Maoists and designed to weaken dissent, the facilitators broke the group into pairs (2-person encounter groups) and sent them off to share their "real" feelings with each other for an hour about what motivates them in their public life. They then came back to the full meeting and each reported what they had learned about their counterpart in this regard.

Forcing increased collaboration, pretending to like each other, limiting the vigor of debate, and other palliatives miss the mark and are actually designed to cripple the ability, particularly of opposition members, to effect policy change. Here it is applied to air quality regulation, which emerged in the 1960's as a part of a broader regulatory movement designed to improve conditions in urban areas. The photo to the right is from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in the 1950's. It illustrates the classic problem which air regulations were designed to reform. The comparison photos of downtown Los Angeles (below) are indicative of the progress which has been achieved – largely through the development of more efficient cars and fuels, which were mandated at the Federal level and/or developed by the private sector competitively.



The problem is that the Federal EPA, State of California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the local APCD's (the retailers of much of the Federal and State regulatory system) have expanded their regulatory reach into every conceivable minor and trivial realm possible. Dunes dust, wine fermentation on vineyards out in the middle of nowhere, farm pumps, and mom and pop bakeries are among the constantly expanding victims coming under the heel of increasingly costly and intrusively exploitive regulation.

Sometimes locally elected officials are appointed to the APCD, whose constituents wish this expansion and trivialization to stop. Proponents of the current enviro-socialist structure wish to suppress their point of view and limit the vigor of debate. The agenda item and facilitated communications workshop are a manifestation of this effort.

Dissenting officials and the larger public should not be bamboozled. They should not succumb to the collaborationist mantra. They should not become anesthetized. Rather they should be prepared to debate fiercely, repeatedly, and protractedly. In the days leading up to a major issue decision, the elected officials should prepare actual speeches and insist on being heard beyond the usual short comments. If their speeches criticize the regulators and the politically submissive staff members in caustic terms, so be it. They should not submit to the culture, power, and so-called expertise of permanent staffers who live off the system. Instead, question everything. Get a 2nd opinion on the big stuff. Demand real alternatives.

In the face of aggressive statist expansionism, compromise means you always lose. You give an inch, they take a yard. As Mario Savio, one of the inventors of the Berkeley Free Speech Movement in 1964 said, after extracting a compromise from the Chancellor, “We will always be one demand ahead of you.” So will the regulatory elite and their backers.

Elected officials should adopt models such as: Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, Cicero, Elizabeth I, Patrick Henry, etc. Imagine trying to facilitate Queen Elizabeth into accommodating further Spanish (the world power at the time – 17th Century) expansion into areas of British interest?

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life. – Winston Churchill.

“A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear.” – Marcus Tullius Cicero

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, March 24, 2016 (Completed)

The Commission spent a long day hearing appeals about home densities, olive processing, recycling center noise, and other matters. The Commissioners seemed to be a little grouchy about the narrowness of staff review and lack of imagination towards solutions that benefit both proponents and opponents. At one point the Commissioners literally seemed to be designing a driveway.

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

In fighting the troublesome, local day-to-day assaults on our freedom and property, it is also important to keep in mind the larger underlying ideological, political, and economic causes and forces.

SMART GROWTH REJECTED BY THE MARKET

The “smart growth” gang has been preaching the mantra of dense urban living for decades. As we have reported previously, American citizens overwhelmingly wish to ultimately live in a single family, free-standing house with a front yard, side yards, a back yard, 3-car garage, and privacy. Moreover, they don’t want to be exploited by gangs, lousy schools, bloated urban government bureaucracies, and costly city social engineering programs. Why do so many of our elected officials refuse to listen and continue to promote regulatory artificial scarcity and a policy of broken dreams? Check out the article below, which details the latest statistics:

Millennials in the Burbs? You Won’t Believe the Latest Home-Buying Trends

By Clare Trapasso

What’s a millennial pushing 30 to do? Apparently, leave the fun, the fantasy, the pace, and the possibilities of big-city living far behind and buy a home ... out in the burbs.

Just 17% of buyers under the age of 35 closed on urban residences, down from 21% a year earlier, according to a [recent National Association of Realtors® report on generational trends](#) in home buying and selling.

The report looks at housing data from July 2014 through June 2015 and income data from the end of 2014.

The luster of urban life may be fading—for some, anyway—due to skyscraper-high prices in top markets. Suburbs exerted a strong pull on buyers of all age ranges. About 51% of millennial home buyers scooped up residences in the suburbs or a subdivision compared with 58% of Generation Xers (ages 36 to 50); 51% of baby boomers ages 51 to 60; 53% of boomers ages 61 to 69; and 42% of the Silent Generation (70 and older).

“The price of [city] homes is much too high,” says **Jonathan Smoke**, chief economist of [realtor.com®](#). In contrast, “the suburbs offer millennials [and everyone else] more affordable homes.”

Millennials make up the largest share of home buyers at 35%, according to the report. That should come as no surprise, given the unprecedented size of their generation (83 million) and the life changes

that are motivations for buying a home (nearly two-thirds of millennial buyers are married, while almost half have children living with them—and are therefore probably desperate for more space).

Who's Buying What: A Generational Breakdown



Typical Buyer

Median age: 44
Median income: \$86,100
Median purchased size: 1,900 sq. ft.
Median price: \$220,000



Millennials

Median age: 30
Income: \$77,400
Size: 1,720 sq. ft.
Price: \$187,400



Generation X

Median age: 42
Income: \$104,700
Size: 2,200 sq. ft.
Price: \$263,200



Younger Baby Boomers

Median age: 56
Income: \$100,200
Size: 1,960 sq. ft.
Price: \$239,000



Older Baby Boomers

Median age: 65
Income: \$81,600
Size: 1,950 sq. ft.
Price: \$220,000



Silent Generation

Median age: 74
Income: \$67,100
Size: 1,800 sq. ft.
Price: \$209,100

Source: 2016 National Association of Realtors® Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends

realtor.com graphic

The dreaded down payment

But the most challenging obstacle for aspiring home buyers of any generation—beyond finding their own personal palaces, securing a mortgage, and wading through reams of paperwork—is cobbling together the dreaded down payment.

“It’s often the largest financial challenge to a first-time home buyer to come up with all the funds that are necessary,” Smoke says.

More than half of millennials, 53%, who said saving up for a down payment was the most difficult part of buying the home of their dreams blamed student debt, according to the report. And almost a quarter, 23%, of them relied on family assistance to come up with the cash. “Hello, Mom...?”

But that family help might not be what it once was, says **Donna Butts**, executive director of Generations United, a Washington, DC-based group that

advocates for intergenerational policies and practices at the national level. Parents these days may be tapped out from financing their children's college tuition—as well as trying to help them pay down their student loan debt.

And these kinds of bills may lead more young people to live with their families longer as they save up for a home of their own, she says.

They also may be more than just a little leery of plunking down such a huge chunk of change after living through the Great Recession and some turbulent stock markets, says **Jason Dorsey**. He's the chief strategy officer at the Center for Generational Kinetics, a millennial research and marketing firm based in Austin, TX.

However, it's not just millennials struggling to save up that 20% down. About 44% of Generation Xers and 36% of boomers 60 and below who said that saving up for a down payment was the most difficult part of the home-buying process blamed being saddled with credit card debt, according to the report.

Another issue for those of any generation seeking to move into their own homes: how much they're paying out each month in rent—which doesn't leave too much left over to go into the trusty savings account, realtor.com's Smoke says.

Why move to the suburbs?

There also just simply aren't enough homes on the market that the average buyer can actually afford, particularly in high-priced urban centers, Smoke says.

But cheaper prices at the pump make it less expensive for drivers from the burbs to commute to work in the city.

And those communities, known for their strip malls and manicured lawns, are also

becoming, well, more *urban*. As more former urban dwellers move in, more cafes, trendy boutiques, and Whole Foods stores are going up. And the Main Streets are becoming more walkable.

Who's buying the biggest homes?

Once they get to those suburbs, Generation Xers are the most likely to want to trade up to larger residences as their families expand.

Despite Gen Xers often bringing home more bacon than they did when they were just starting out, it can be just as hard for them to come up with the pan to fry it in—or rather the down payment needed to score a larger home, says Smoke. That's because the housing market is just starting to recover, so they haven't been rewarded with the big price bumps or have the home equity that would provide them the extra cash needed for that down payment.

“They are most likely to have children, and they're increasingly starting to think about the potential of having their [elderly] parents move in with them,” he says.

Gen Xers snapped up the largest homes, at 2,200-square foot, for about \$263,200, according to the report. Meanwhile millennials typically bought 1,720-square-foot residences for \$187,400.

Boomers ages 51 to 60 scooped up 1,960-square-foot houses for \$239,000, while boomers ages 61 to 69 purchased 1,950-square-foot houses for \$220,000. Members of the Silent Generation typically bought smaller, 1,800-square-foot homes for \$209,100.

“Older boomers are trying to downsize,” Smoke says. “The homes that the Generation Xers are leaving are the homes that the older millennials are interested in in the suburbs.”

Clare Trapasso is the senior news editor of realtor.com. She previously covered finance for a Financial Times publication and wrote for the New York Daily News. This article first appeared in the March 10, 2016 Publication realtor.com.

Shasta Lake Now 100%+ Capacity. Drought Over??!!

March 14, 2016, By James V. Lacy

“It’s just pouring up here!” **explained an official of the Lake Shasta Marina to the San Jose Mercury.** Shasta Lake, the biggest reservoir in California, is at its 100% historical fill, up from 29% capacity on December 8. The current “El Niño” inspired rains soaking the Golden State are clearly in the process of starting to reverse the state’s four-year drought and in the case of Lake



Shasta, give some relief – if regulators will allow it – to Central Valley farmers and residents under tight water conservation rules around the state.

Reports are that other of the state’s water resources, including the Oroville reservoir in Butte County and also Pardee in the Sierra Nevada’s, are fast filling up. Loch Lomond Reservoir in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains actually spilled over last Sunday and is at highest levels in three years.

Rain is just soaking both northern and southern California, with almost 6 inches reported overnight at Mount Diablo in the Bay Area, and the southern California commute greatly slowed as drivers slow down to adjust to wet roads.

Yet regulators keep warning that while reservoirs are at or above capacity, groundwater levels still remain low and in need of even more water to recharge. Hopefully the rain will continue till the Governor yells “uncle” and pulls any water restrictions now made redundant on our farmers and residents.

This article first appeared in the March 14, 2016 California Political Review.

Unaffordable California – It Doesn't Have To Be This Way

By Richard Rider

March 2016 Update: Here's a documented comparison of California taxes and economic climate with the rest of the states. The news is bad and getting worse. But it doesn't have to be this way! The state and local government policies that created an unaffordable California can be reversed.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX: Prior to Prop 30 passing in Nov. 2012, CA already had the 3rd worst state income tax rate in the nation. Our 9.3% tax bracket started at under \$50,000 for people filing as individuals. 10.3% started at \$1 million. Now our "millionaires' tax" rate is 13.3% – including capital gains (CA total CG rate now the 2nd highest in the world!). 10+% taxes now start at \$250K. CA now has by far the nation's highest state income tax rate. We are 34% higher than 2nd place Oregon, and a heck of a lot higher than all the rest – including 7 states with zero state income tax – and 2 more that tax only dividends and interest income. CA is so bad; we also have the 2nd highest state income tax bracket. AND the 3rd. AND the 4th!

<http://taxfoundation.org/sites/taxfoundation.org/files/docs/ff2013.pdf> Ref. Table #12
<http://tinyurl.com/CA-income-tax-graph> and
<http://tinyurl.com/CA-2nd-CG>

SALES TAX: CA has the highest state sales tax rate in the nation. 7.5% (does not include local sales taxes). Two 2015 bills sought a combined \$10 billion++ CA state and local sales tax increase (failed to pass that year).

<http://taxfoundation.org/article/state-and-local-sales-tax-rates-2011-2013>

GAS TAX: CA has the nation's 5th highest "gas pump" tax at 59.0 cents/gallon (January, 2016). But add in the unique 10-12 cent CA "cap and trade" cost per gallon, and CA is #1 (about the same as Pennsylvania). National average is 48.0 cents. Yet CA has the 6th worst highways.

<http://www.api.org/statistics/fueltaxes/> (CA has nation's 3rd highest total diesel tax) and
<http://reason.org/news/show/21st-annual-highway-report>

PROPERTY TAX: California in 2015 ranked 14th highest in per capita property taxes (including commercial) – the only major tax where we are not in the worst ten states. But the 2014 average CA single-family residence (SFR) property tax is the 8th highest state in the nation. Indeed, the median CA homeowner property tax bill is 93% higher than the average for the other 49 states.

IMPACT FEES" ON HOME

SALES: Average 2012 CA impact fee for single-family residence was \$31,100, 90% higher than next worst state. 265% higher than jurisdictions that levy such fees (many governments east of the Sierras do not). For apartments, fee averaged \$18,800, 290% above average outside state. The fee is part of the purchase price, so buyer pays an annual property tax on the fee!

<http://www.newgeography.com/content/003882-california-homes-require-real-reach>

"CAP AND TRADE" TAX: CA has now instituted the highest "cap and trade" tax in the nation – indeed, the ONLY such U.S. tax. Even proponents concede that it

will have zero impact on global warming.
<http://tinyurl.com/WSJ-CA-cap-and-trade>

SMALL BUSINESS TAX: California has a nasty anti-small business \$800 minimum corporate income tax, even if no profit is earned, and even for many nonprofits. Next highest state is Rhode Island at \$500 (only for “C” corporations). 3rd is Delaware at \$175. Most states are at zero.
<http://tinyurl.com/CA-800-tax>

California small businesses failed in 2011 at a rate 69% higher than the national average — the worst state in the nation.
http://money.cnn.com/2011/05/19/smallbusiness/small_business_state_failure_rates/index.htm (based on Dunn & Bradstreet study)

CORPORATE INCOME TAX: CA 2016 corporate income tax rate (8.84%) is the highest west of Iowa (our economic competitors) except for Alaska.
<http://www.taxfoundation.org/sites/taxfoundation.org/files/docs/CITmap.png>
Ref. Table #15 – we have the 8th highest rate in the nation.

BUSINESS TAX CLIMATE: California’s 2015 “business tax climate” ranks 3rd worst in the nation – behind New York and anchor-clanker New Jersey. In addition, CA has a lock on the worst rank in the Small Business Tax Index – a whopping 8.3% worse than 2nd worst state.
<http://taxfoundation.org/article/2015-state-business-tax-climate-index>
<http://www.sbecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BTI2014Final.pdf>

LEGAL ENVIRONMENT: The American Tort Reform Foundation in 2015 again ranks CA the “worst state judicial hellhole” in U.S. – the most anti-business. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranks CA a bit better – “only” the 4th worst state in 2015 (unfortunately, sliding from 7th worst in 2008).
<http://www.judicialhellholes.org/2015->

[2016/california/
http://www.instituteforlegalreform.com/states/california/](http://www.instituteforlegalreform.com/states/california/)

FINES AND FEES: CA driving tickets are incredibly high. Red-light camera ticket \$490. Next highest state is \$250. Most are around \$100.

CA needlessly licenses more occupations than any state – 177. Second worst state is Connecticut at 155. The average for the states is 92.
<http://cssrc.us/publications.aspx?id=7707>

CA has the 3rd highest state workers compensation rates, up from 5th in 2010. CA has a 3.4% rate increase scheduled for 2013.
http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/dir/wc_cost/files/report_summary.pdf
<http://tinyurl.com/2013-CA-rate-increase>

OVERALL TAXES: Tax Foundation study ranks CA as the 4th worst taxed state. But if counting ONLY in-state and local taxes, we are arguably the 2nd highest.
<http://taxfoundation.org/article/annual-state-local-tax-burden-ranking-2010-new-york-citizens-pay-most-alaska-least>

UNEMPLOYMENT: CA has the 5th worst state unemployment rate (August, 2013) – 8.9%. National unemployment rate 7.3%. National unemployment rate not including CA is 7.1%, making the CA unemployment rate 25.7% higher than the average of the other 49 states (one of the better performances we’ve managed in several years).
<http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm>

Using the 2nd quarter 2013 U-6 measure of unemployment (includes involuntary part-time workers), CA is the 2nd worst at 18.3% vs. national 14.3%. National U-6 not including CA is 13.8%, making CA’s U-6 33.0% higher than the avg. of the other 49

states.

<http://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>

EDUCATION: CA public school teachers the 4th highest paid in the nation. CA students rank 48th in math achievement, 49th in reading.

http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2011/calfacts/calfacts_010511.aspx, page 36

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fr/sa/cefavgsalarys.asp>

California, a destitute state, still gives away community college education at fire sale prices. Our CC tuition is the lowest in the nation. How low? Nationwide, the average community college tuition is more than double our California CC's.

<http://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/state-tuition-and-fees-state-and-sector-2012-13-and-5-year-percentage-change>

This ridiculously low tuition devalues education to students – often resulting in a 25+% drop rate for class completion. In addition, up to 2/3 of California CC students pay no net tuition at all!

<http://tinyurl.com/ygqz9ls>

WELFARE AND POVERTY: 1 in 5 in Los Angeles County receiving public aid.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-welfare22-2009feb22,0,4377048.story>

California's real poverty rate (the new census bureau standard) is by far the worst in the nation at 23.5%. We are 55.7% higher than the average for the other 49 states. The CA poverty rate is 19% higher than 2nd place Florida.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/14/california-poverty_n_2132920.html

California has 12% of the nation's population, but 33% of the country's TANF ("Temporary" Assistance for Needy Families) welfare recipients – more than the next 7 states combined. Unlike other states,

this "temporary" assistance becomes much more permanent in CA.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/jul/28/welfare-capital-of-the-us/?print&page=all>

California ranks 48th worst for credit card debt and 49th worst for percentage of home ownership.

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2013/02/more-dismal-california-economic-rankings.html>

GOVERNMENT

INSOLVENCY: California now has the 2nd lowest bond rating of any state – Basket case Illinois recently beat us out for the lowest spot. We didn't improve our rating – Illinois just got worse.

<http://www.calwhine.com/great-news-california-no-longer-has-worst-credit-rating/1554/>

California prison guards highest paid in the nation.

http://www.caltax.org/caltaxletter/2008/101708_fraud1.htm

HOUSING COSTS: Of 100 U.S. real estate markets, CA contains by far the least affordable middle class housing market (San Francisco). PLUS the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th. San Diego is #5 (w/homes avg. 1,056 sq. ft.)

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2013/10/the-us-least-affordable-housing-market>

TRANSPORTATION COSTS: CA has 2nd highest annual cost for owning a car – \$3,966. \$765 higher than the national average.

<http://tinyurl.com/lmxnucs>

WATER & ELECTRICITY

COSTS: California residential electricity costs an average of 39.6% more per kWh than the national average. CA commercial rates are 58.3% higher. For industrial use, CA electricity is 71.8% higher than the national average (June, 2013). NOTE: SDG&E is even higher than the CA

average! http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.cfm?t=epmt_5_06
[a](#)

A 2011 survey of home water bills for the 20 largest U.S. cities found that for 200 gallons a day usage, San Diego was the highest cost. At 400 gal/day, San Diego was third highest.

<http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/allstats590.jpg>

BUSINESS FLIGHT: In 2012, our supply of California businesses shrunk 5.2%. In ONE year. NOTE: That's a NET figure – 5.2% fewer businesses in CA in 2012 than were here in 2011. Indeed, in 2012, CA lost businesses at a 67.7% higher rate than the 2nd worst state!

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2013/07/in-2012-ca-lost-businesses-at-677.html>

736 top U.S. CEO's surveyed rank California "the worst state in which to do business" for the 9th straight year (May, 2013).

<http://chiefexecutive.net/best-worst-states-for-business-2013>

From 2007 through 2010, 10,763 industrial facilities were built or expanded across the country — but only 176 of those were in CA. So with roughly 12% of the nation's

population, CA got 1.6% of the built or expanded industrial facilities.

<http://podcasts.odiogo.com/city-journal/podcasts-xml.php> (California Manufacturers and Technology Association podcast)

OUT-MIGRATION: California is now ranked as the 2nd worst state to retire in. Only basket-case Illinois is worse. We "beat" NY, RI and NJ.

<http://www.topretirements.com/blog/great-towns/our-worst-states-to-retire-list.html/>

Consider California's net domestic migration (migration between states). From 2000 through 2009, California lost a NET 1.5 million people. Net departures slowed in 2008 only because people couldn't sell their homes. But more people still leave each year – in 2011 we lost about 100,000 net people to domestic out-migration. Again, note that this is NET loss.

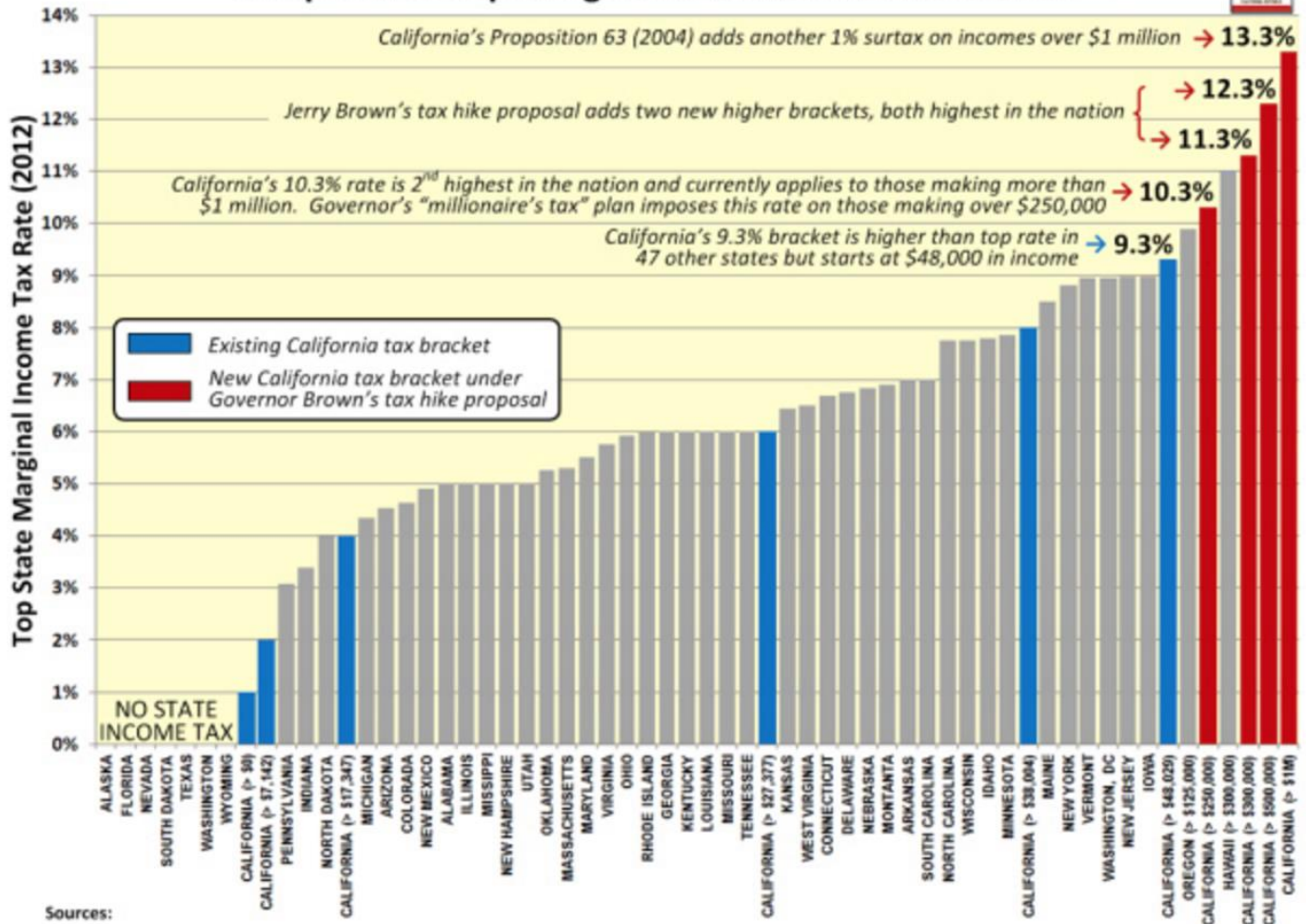
<http://www.newgeography.com/content/002585-new-census-data-reaffirms-dominance-south>

<http://tinyurl.com/2011-CA-migration>

They are primarily the young, the educated, the productive, the ambitious, the wealthy – and retirees seeking to make their nest-eggs provide more bang for the buck.

Richard Rider is the chairman of San Diego Tax Fighters, a grassroots pro-taxpayer group. Rider successfully sued the county of San Diego (Rider vs. County of San Diego) to force a rollback of an illegal 1/2-cent jails sales tax, a precedent that saved California taxpayers over 14 billion dollars, including \$3.5 billion for San Diego taxpayers. He has written ballot arguments against dozens of county and state tax increase initiatives and in 2009 was named the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association's "California Tax Fighter of the Year." Rider updates this compilation of statistics on California every month. This article first appeared in the California Policy Center Prosperity Forum of March 16, 2016.

California Governor Jerry Brown's Tax Hike and California Tax Rates Compared to Top Marginal Tax Rates in Other States



Sources:

Tax Foundation: State Individual Income Tax Rates (2000-2012), using top marginal tax rate for each state, 2012 data
www.taxfoundation.org/taxdata/show/228.html
www.taxfoundation.org/files/state_individualincome_rates-2000-2012-20120216.xls

The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012 (Version 3): As filed with the California Secretary of State
http://sg.ca.gov/cms_attachments/initiatives/pdfs/1057_12-0009_governors_initiative_v3.pdf

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