

**COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17-23, 2013**

**SAVE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2013  
SLO BOARD WILL CONSIDER PASO WATER VESTING  
LANGUAGE**

**Happy Thanksgiving Week!**

**NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING ON TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

**SANTA BARBARA BOARD BURDENS ENERGY PROJECT  
APCD DIRECTOR REVIEW INCONCLUSIVE**

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 (Not Scheduled)**

The Board did not meet last week because Tuesday followed the Veteran's Day Holiday. The Board does not usually meet on a Tuesday following a Monday holiday.

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 (Not Scheduled)**

The Board will not meet on November 19, 2013 because some members will be attending the California State Association of Counties Annual Conference (CSAC) in San Jose.

**Conference "Benefits"**. The conference features sessions on issues of importance to county supervisors such as implementation of the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) and engaging the public in budgeting. It also contains orchestrated tedious committee meetings on current policy developments and intergovernmental problems such as State/county finances, transportation, human services, etc. There are special self-improvement classes designed to help the supervisors perform their duties more effectively. Our favorite for this year:

***INTER PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS***

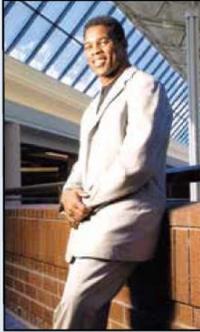
*The key to interpersonal effectiveness – and improving your interaction with others – is better understanding yourself. Effective elected officials and senior executives have discovered the more they understand their reactions to others, know how to capitalize on their personal strengths, are able to exude an air of confidence, and have the ability to adopt their behavior to meet the needs of others – the more effective they become in achieving results with others. Learn how in this lively and insightful class.*

To inspire the gathered supervisors, CSAC will have former football star Herschel Walker pump them up about mental health.

**Tuesday Kick-Off  
General Session**  
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm  
San Jose Ballroom  
San Jose Marriott

Featured Speaker:  
**Herschel Walker**  
Former NFL Star and Mental  
Health Awareness Advocate

Herschel Walker is known for his feats on the gridiron at the college and pro levels. But while his on-field successes are well documented, what few knew is that Herschel lived with dissociative identity disorder. In 2008, he released his memoir, titled *Breaking Free*. In *Breaking Free*, he shares the inspiring story of his life and diagnosis with this disorder -- from the joys and hardships of childhood, to his explosive impact on college football, to his remarkable professional career.



A mental health awareness advocate, Herschel shows how this disorder played an integral role in his accomplishments and how he has learned to live with it today. His compelling account testifies to the strength of the human spirit and its ability to overcome any challenge.

The Conference’s Wednesday program features an evening dance event called “Bop Til You Drop.” No doubt this will help promote better communication and fellowship among the gathered supervisors, appointed officials, lobbyists, and guests. On the other hand, the specter of a group of largely 50 plus years old senior government officials bopping has its grim aspects. They should be careful. Pension deficits have savaged the City of San Jose’s services. They might have to wait a while for the paramedics.

The conference would appear to ignore the real issues plaguing California and its 58 counties including:

- The massive state and local combined debt, which is well above \$ 1 billion.
- The huge unfunded State/local infrastructure maintenance deficit.
- The State’s pervasive anti-business tax and regulatory structure.
- The State’s increasing poverty.
- The growing unfunded public pension liability.
- Inability to cogently deal with water production and distribution problems.
- State induced escalating energy costs.

Oh well, Bop Til You Drop.

**Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Wednesday, November 13, 2013 County Building (Completed)**

**Morro Bay Power Plant Closure.** The Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO), who is the administrative head of the agency, noted that Dynegy (the owner of the power plant) announced that it was petitioning the California Independent Systems Operator (the ISO) to close the plant. Upon being questioned, he indicated that the plant contributes about \$250,000 in annual permit fees to APCD' annual budget. He indicated that such a loss would not be a problem "for several years." This is strange since the current operating revenues of the APCD are \$4 million. The loss of the quarter million dollars is about 6% in what is already a tight budget that is already using \$750,000 in fund balance to break even

**Closed Session.** The full Board went into Executive Session to consider the performance evaluation of the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) Larry Allen. It is not known how the review went. After the closed session ended, the Board's attorney reported that the evaluation took place but gave no information on any outcomes. A simmering issue is whether the APCO is policy neutral. Allen would appear to be pro regulation, pro fee, and to have embraced the whole climate change/sustainable communities doctrine. For example, the SLO APCD is one of only 3 APCDs in the State that have adopted greenhouse gas thresholds. These are requirements for mitigation or exaction fee payments when a proposed project is projected to reach an annual greenhouse gas generation level of 10,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>E per year. It appears that he is supported by the APCD Board members of the same view and especially Supervisors Bruce Gibson and Adam Hill, as well as Mayor Marx.

Others may feel that the APCO is less sympathetic to their policy positions and that he gets a bit passive aggressive when questioned.

Allen is ethically and legally bound to carry out the adopted policies of his board but should be able to recommend policy alternatives up until the point one is selected. Moreover, his professional obligation is to generate alternatives (whether he likes them or not) and present the pluses and minuses. In a larger context, the most important obligation of all public officials in a democratic republic (especially executives and electeds) is to protect citizens from government intrusion and abuse. A healthy skepticism about the benefit of regulatory programs and extension of operations into new realms of activity is essential to the survival of freedom and liberty. These values must trump the trendology of the day – even if it seems to have compelling utilitarian value.

**Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Meeting of November 12, 2013  
(Completed)**

**Item D-7: Consideration of the Appeal by the Environmental Defense Center, Sierra Club, Get Oil Out, Santa Barbara County Action Network, And Santa Ynez Valley Alliance of the Approval by the Planning Commission of the Application of Santa Maria Energy to Drill New Oil Wells in an Existing Oil Field.**

**Note: This project has economic, financial and social impact benefits for San Luis Obispo County.**

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors upheld the appeal of the Environmental Defense Center, et al, by a vote of 3/2. If Santa Maria Energy determines to move forward with the project, it will be forced to buy millions of dollars in carbon credits over the years as an “offset” to its generation of greenhouse gases. Left majority Supervisors Salud Carbajal, Janet Wolf, and Doreen Farr voted to impose the onerous requirement, which far exceeds current state requirements. The County staff recommended that the appeal be denied and prepared extensive documentation, which the three Board members ignored. As one observer noted, in the future, the staff should not waste its time on analysis but simply call up Nathan Alley (one of the EDC’s staff lawyers) and ask what they want.

Readers may recall that Carbajal, Wolf, and Farr signed the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Resilient Communities pledge back in June in violation of the Brown Act. During the deliberations leading up to last Tuesday’s vote, all three cited global warming and related doctrine in support of their votes.

Afterwards, one very knowledgeable disgusted community leader opined:

“ICLEI LIVES! The ICLEI three swore an oath to serve the County and the laws of the County and State, and now they serve another entity: ICLEI. Is that a conflict of interest? Is it an impeachable offense? They don’t even obey the state environmental laws!”

**The Appeal:** On its face the appeal is simple but onerous:

*(1) Revise the EIR, and set the threshold of significance for GHG emissions at zero or 10,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year); (2) revise the Project's mitigation measures accordingly; and (3) revise Condition 10 of the Conditions of Approval to require maximum feasible mitigation of the Project's GHG emissions.*

**Monday November 18, 2013, Andy Caldwell Radio Show**

Tune into AM 1440 KUHL at 4PM when Andy Caldwell and Mike Brown will be discussing the Santa Barbara County Santa Maria Energy travesty. You can also follow it on your computer at <http://www.am1440.com/home/> Call in at 805 928-1440

**IMPORTANT WATER BOARD HEARING ON  
DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> IN SLO  
(BUT YOU MUST FILE IN WRITING BY NOV 22, 2013 OR  
YOU CAN'T SPEAK)**

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