



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF OCTOBER 4-10, 2015



COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

FALL FORUM



USURPING DEMOCRACY STATE & REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

**Who can really do
what to whom?
What does it all
mean?**

Thursday, October 8th

5:30—7:30 PM

Holland Barn
2275 Carpenter Canyon Rd.
San Luis Obispo

(From SLO: just past the Cold Canyon Landfill entrance, on the right. From AG: just past the Cold Canyon Landfill entrance, on the left.)

Appetizers and beverages will be served.

Guest Panelists



Fred Aguiar — Former City Councilman of Chino, County Supervisor of San Bernardino, Speaker Pro Tem of the California State Assembly, and Chief of Staff for Governor Schwarzenegger.

Sam Blakeslee — Former State Assembly Member, State Senator, and founding Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology & Public Policy at Cal Poly.



Mike Brown — Retired CEO of Santa Barbara County, and former City Manager of Tucson and Berkeley. Brown also served as Chief Deputy Commissioner of Housing of the State of Connecticut and as a City of Hartford Washington staff advocate.

RSVP's appreciated by Monday, October 5th

Email: colabslo@gmail.com or call (805) 548-0340

**IT'S HERE!
THURSDAY OCTOBER 8
COLAB FALL FORUM-FREE EVENT
SEE FLYER ON PAGE ABOVE
CALL NOW (RSVP 805 548-0340)
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE IF WE ARE OUT**

**BOS TO CONSIDER 1ST STEP TO ENTER
ELECTRIC PURCHASING BUSINESS
(WOULD USE TAX EXEMPT STATUS AND STATE
PREFERENCE LAW TO UNDERCUT PG&E)**

**SAVE TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 FOR HEARINGS ON SO-
CALLED WATER CONSERVATION PLAN/PERMANENT PASO
BASIN MORATORIUM BOARD HEARING TO BE TUESDAY
OCTOBER 27, 2015 - TIME NOT CERTAIN YET**

**BOS TO SET HEARING FOR NOV. 10TH TO
CREATE LEGAL TAXING DISTRICT FOR
AB 2453 OR COUNTY IF DISTRICT VOTE FAILS**

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 (Not Scheduled)

There was no meeting scheduled as the 29th was a 5th Tuesday.

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, October 6, 2015 (Scheduled).

Item 1 - Submittal of a resolution of intent to establish Zone 19 of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District; request direction regarding noticing a public hearing on a resolution establishing Zone 19; and direction regarding noticing a public hearing on a resolution proposing adoption of the Paso Robles Basin

Parcel Tax. Hearings date set for November 10, 2015. This item authorizes publication of a series of notices for a hearing on Tuesday, November 10th for the creation of a new taxing district (to be called Zone 19), which is necessary for the operation of the proposed AB 2453 water management authority in the Paso Basin. The key part of the write up-states:

Code Section 50077 permits the Flood Control District to propose by resolution the adoption of a special tax following notice and a public hearing. Today's action is to authorize staff to notice the public hearing to be held on November 10, 2015, in accordance with all legal requirements.

Next Steps

After adoption of the attached Resolution of Intent, staff will return on November 10, 2015 for a public hearing on the proposed establishment of Zone 19. Following said hearing, a resolution to establish Zone 19 will be submitted for your Board's approval (Exhibit B to the Resolution of Intent).

Also on November 10, 2015, after the conclusion of the noticed public hearing (condition precedent 2), your Board may consider a resolution to establish the Paso Robles Basin Parcel Tax. That resolution will define the parcel tax and call for an election by the voters to approve the parcel tax and locally fund SGMA compliance activities.

If the voters approve the parcel tax and the formation of the Water District, then the Flood Control District will transfer the parcel tax revenue to the Water District for SGMA activities.⁴ If the parcel tax is approved, but the Water District is not formed, the Flood Control District will have the option to choose to become or participate in a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and utilize the approved parcel tax to fund the SGMA activities thereby saving taxpayers the expense of a second special tax election for the same purposes.

Early Warning: So-Called Water Conservation Plan/PERMANENT PASO BASIN MORATORIUM BOARD HEARING TO BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

Item 2 - Introduction of amendments to Title 8 (Health and Sanitation Ordinance), and Title 19 (Building and Construction Ordinance), in order to implement the proposed Countywide Water Conservation Program related to the requirements for the offset of new water use at a ratio of 1:1, well permits, and regulation of wasteful use of water; and introduction of an amendment to Ordinance 3274 (County Fee Schedule), in order to establish new fees associated with the implementation of the proposed water offset requirements; the proposed Countywide Water Conservation Program and associated amendments would affect water use in both new and existing development, including all

urban and rural land uses within the unincorporated areas of the county as well as agricultural operations. Hearing date set for October 27, 2015. All Districts

This item constitutes the introduction and setting of the hearing for possible Board adoption of a collection of ordinances and plan amendments, which collectively are termed the *Water Conservation Plan*. Some of the provisions are innocuous (you have to wash your car with a nozzle on the hose), some are irritating (you may not be able to fill a new or repaired swimming pool), and some constitute a major assault on both property and water rights (1:1 offset, crop controls, violation of constitutional overlie water rights, etc.). We will provide an update of the proposed provisions as the date approaches.

Significantly, and for this week, the Board “promises” not to consider the items substantively until the 27th:

The Board will consider the Commission recommendation in a two part process on October 6, 2015 and October 27, 2015, as required by law. In brief, introduction of items will occur October 6, 2015, while consideration, deliberation, and action on items will occur on October 27, 2015. The Board will not consider final action on the items until October 27, 2015. See below for additional detail.

The County has stated:

Any actions taken by the Board during the meeting on October 6, 2015 will only be procedural and will not constitute a final action. Public comment will be heard on these items.

AND:

The second part of the process will occur on October 27, 2015 during a regular meeting of the Board. The Board will hold a hearing to consider the recommendation from the Commission to adopt the CWCP. During the hearing process, County staff will provide a full presentation on the proposed CWCP, including an overview of the environmental review analysis and a detailed overview of the proposed amendments to the County General Plan, the County Code, and the County Fee Schedule. The presentation will be followed by the public comment period; then the Board will begin their deliberation. If the Board takes action to adopt the proposed amendments, the amendments will take effect 30 days after action. The full staff report and all associated items will be readily available to the public and available online at the Board’s website: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSagenda.htm>.

In any case, Tuesday October 27th will be a critical day, impacting water policy and more importantly broader underlying issues of water rights, property rights, and personal freedom.

Please save this day for the Board meeting. At this point we don't know what time the issue is scheduled. As the date approaches we will update the issues and process.

Provided below is a table that summarizes where and how the proposed amendments would be applied throughout the County.

	Water Neutral New Development (Titles 8, 19, & 22; Ag Element & COSE)		Water Waste Prevention (Titles 8; Ag Element)	
	Ag Offset	Urban/Rural Offset	Ag Component	Urban/Rural Component
Countywide*	N/A	N/A	Best Management Practices/ Eductaional Efforts	Urban/Rural Water Waste Prevention Ordinance**
Los Osos only	N/A	Existing 2:1 Offset - Plumbing Retrofits		
Nipomo Mesa only	N/A	1:1 Offset - Cash for Grass		
Paso Basin only	1:1 Offset - Ag Offset Clearance	1:1 Offset - Cash for Grass and Plumbing Retrofits		

*All programs and the provisions within are applicable to unincorporated areas of the County, not within any City

** Except in areas where an equivalent program already exists

Please see the addenda at the link below for all the gory details:

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/Proposal.html?select=5191>

Item 17 - Submittal of a resolution amending the Position Allocation List for the Human Resources Department, Fund Center 112, to add two Principal Human Resources Analysts (2.0 FTE) to manage the HR Services and Labor Relations Divisions. The CEO and Human Resources Director are requesting the addition of 2 Principal HR Analysts for a total annualized recurring new cost of \$294,000. The retirement of the long-term department deputy director, combined with increasing workloads for recruitment, labor relations, and insufficiently narrow spans of control, are cited as reasons for adding these significant managers.

A tangential issue is who will end up replacing the retired deputy director? Apparently the Department hired former 4th District Supervisor Caren Ray's Legislative Aide Elizabeth Ruth into the department as an Administrative Services Officer. From everything we know, this individual possesses extraordinary professional qualifications and motivation. She has extensive pilot training and management experience at United Airlines and as a US Air Force Captain/pilot. This notwithstanding, the decision to hire a former political appointment (from a

Supervisor's office in the County) into the most sensitive County department (in terms of the need for fairness and independence) raises questions. Personnel agencies, as guardians of the civil service system, investigators of complaints, adjudicators of grievances, conductors of labor negotiations, and other matters, should be entirely free from even the most remote association with the jurisdiction's politics. Given her outstanding background and skills it would be hard to deny Ms. Ruth's appointment if she were to apply for the vacant Deputy Director slot and score well in whatever competitive process is used to fill the position. A tipoff will be if the recruitment is open competition, or if instead, it is restricted to within the County organization or even the Human Resources Department. As of this writing the job is not posted on the County's job website.

Once one has bitten the partisan political apple, there is always concern that his or her ultimate values, political loyalty, and passion for expediency will transcend the principles of independent apolitical public administration. What if Ray decides to run again?

Wonder if the current HR Director and even the CEO can perceive, however faintly, a larger chessboard obscured in the mists of the future?

Item 19 - Request to authorize the Use of Alternative Publication Procedures for the Countywide Water Conservation Program, including amendments to the Agriculture Element of the General Plan, the Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan, Title 8, Title 19, and Title 22 of the County Code, and the County Fee Schedule. The staff is revisiting the issue of the noticing/advertising for the October 27, 2015 hearing on the so-called Water Conservation Plan outlined in item 2 above. Based on prior Board discussion, the staff is proposing 2 quarter-page display ads which very generally summarize the issues. These would cost \$2,500 per ad. Publishing the text of the actual ordinances and plan amendments would reportedly cost \$32,000 per ad. Since the issue is so important, why not compromise and take out some full-page display adds that will really grab people's attention?

After all, the entire County is spending at least \$350,000 to promote the AB 2453 water district formation. On top of this, it has assigned a full-time Public Works Manager to go out and sell the district. Why all of a sudden is frugality so important when it comes to alerting the public to the restrictions, costs, and problems inherent in the so-called Water Conservation Program?

Item 28 - Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Community choice aggregation (CCA), also known as community choice energy, is a provision of California law that allows cities, counties, or joint powers agencies to purchase electricity and other necessary electrical services on behalf of the customers in their territories. CCAs differ from municipal utility districts in that the investor-owned utility (IOU), in this case Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), continues to own the electricity distribution infrastructure and to provide electricity transmission, distribution, supply mixes and rate structures.

This is an item of major policy which contains a number of questions:

1. Should the County participate in a study led by Santa Barbara County to examine the feasibility of the County becoming involved in the purchase and distribution of electricity as part of a local government joint powers authority? The County of Ventura and City of Santa Barbara are reported to have already signed up.

Or as alternatives:

2. Should the County join a separate similar study led by the City of San Luis Obispo?

3. Could the two efforts be combined and the County participate?

4. Should the County take a wait-and-see attitude to determine how the two functioning CCA programs in the state (Marin and Sonoma) work out over time?

5. An Alternative which is not included In the Staff Report: Shouldn't the Board of Supervisors explore alternatives with PG&E prior to considering a program which allows the counties and cities to favor competitors of PG&E. After all, PG&E is the County's largest single property tax payer. It is the county's largest private sector employer. The Diablo Power Plant and related activities generate \$950 million in direct, indirect, and imputed economic activity in SLO County and northern Santa Barbara County. Proponents of forming a CCA disparage PG&E as an obsolete and monopolistic means of producing and distributing electricity. They assert that a CCA authority could provide more green energy at less cost than PG&E.

6. What city or county would deliberately undertake a policy subversive of its largest private sector export base company? What if SLO County, Santa Barbara County, and their component cities set up a consortium to buy automobile insurance on a large scale at deep discounts and then resell it to their residents? The big insurance companies are regulated monopolies.

7. What about their own operations? Would any of these jurisdictions have the guts to set up a public safety authority and then go out to bid for police, fire, and probation services? What if Arizona's private sector Rural Metro Corporation said, "Oh yeah, we can increase your response times, reduce time in service, reduce sick leave, reduce recidivism, eliminate defined benefit pensions, and produce a more efficient and responsive system for 30% less than your current aggregate cost? This is of course is political blasphemy.

In part this is an ethical question. PG&E electricity already comes from around 30% renewables. If the ideologues didn't prohibit hydro and nuclear from being counted as non-CO₂ renewables, over half of PG&E's energy would be counted as coming from renewable sources.

Implicit in a decision to participate in the study is the possibility that a future Board of Supervisors would determine to join in the operation of a CCA at some point. Such a possibility, and aside for a number of practical questions which are illustrated below in this discussion, raises deeper and more seminal questions about the role of the County:

1. Should the County expand its functions to become a purchaser of electric on behalf of its citizens?
2. Should the County expand its functions to become an investor in and creator of local electric generating facilities, utilizing some portion of the “fees” that are allowed to be raked off of CCA program?
3. Should the County support the creation of and become a member of a new regional government entity which would operate the CCA program? The attitude and behavior of the APCD, as regional government, are indicative of the sorts of problems that can occur. Think of it. A leftist Councilman from a small city of several thousand will have as much voting power as a County Supervisor who represents 55,000. And this vote will not be about when you can ride your ATV in the dunes but will be about the reliability and cost of your electricity.

BEFORE GETTING SUCKERED INTO A RIGGED STUDY UNDER THE CONTROL OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY’S SOUTH COAST LEFTIST POLITICAL MACHINE, THE SLO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SHOULD GET INDEPENDENT ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

1. The new authority will have to borrow substantial funding (millions) to establish its PUC required reserves prior to receiving PUC approval to start operations. If the authority lost money and could not meet its debt obligations for the loan or loans, what is to protect the member agencies’ (including the County’s) general funds from having to pay off the creditors?
2. Similarly, the new government authority will have to sign multi-decade contracts with electricity generators in order to attempt to achieve the price stability and savings necessary for the authority to be competitive with PG&E, let alone be able to be lower cost. These contracts are promises to pay. What if something goes wrong, such as a drop in natural gas prices and PG&E rates become much more competitive and customers switch out of the authority and back to PG&E? Who will then pay off the contracts - at least tens of millions of dollars? Won’t the general funds of the member counties and cities be the payers of last resort?
3. What level of commitment, both in terms of financial and staff contribution and action of the elected bodies, is necessary from the participating jurisdictions for each phase of the project, i.e. a full feasibility study and implementation plan, start-up, and ongoing operations?
4. Environmental performance: It is asserted that the CCA could achieve more energy efficiency than PG&E, but this is uncertain. The amount of greenhouse gas savings is predicated on the belief that the new authority would be able to use a greater share of renewable energy than PG&E. Ultimately, the implementation of a state or federal cap-and-trade system may impact whether the additional renewable energy reduces overall greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Rate parity: Maintaining relative rate parity with a higher share of renewable energy will be challenging. Natural gas prices have fallen sharply from historic highs, reducing the cost of non-renewable energy. In the long run, factors such as renewable technology costs, expiration of federal renewable tax credits, natural gas prices, and greenhouse gas compliance costs will influence the ability to maintain rate parity. While these factors cannot be predicted with great confidence, the authority would benefit from a significant financial advantage to the extent that it invests in its own generation resources, particularly if and when renewable tax credits for private developers expire. Before launching an authority, the participating jurisdictions should explore a variety of supply portfolios using different cost assumptions for the above factors to determine the likelihood of maintaining rate parity while offering a larger share of renewable energy.

6. However, if the new authority must construct facilities as noted in item 4 above (in order to achieve its green energy goals) what loan guarantees will investors require of the member cities and counties before lending the much larger sums of money needed for the authority to construct its own generation facilities. It is unknown whether this would be necessary or how much money the cities and counties would need to guarantee.

7. Local Green Jobs: “Local” would mean jobs created in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. How many permanent local jobs have been created by San Luis Obispo’s aggressive solar energy targets and project approvals? It is unknown how many more jobs the new authority would create compared to retaining service with PG&E.

8. Relatedly, the billions of dollars’ worth of energy-generating facilities at the large solar plants in the eastern county are exempt from the property tax. As a government authority, new plants, solar farms, and other facilities owned by the authority would be exempt from the property tax. How would this compare with a private sector stockholder-owned utility system? Does the expansion over time and displacement of private sector facilities set up a financial death spiral, particularly for public safety and schools? Santa Barbara County continuously complains about the tax-exempt status of the Chumash Casino, hotel, and potential future projects. Yet here they are proposing to lead this effort, which must ultimately displace future potential taxable development.

8. What is the main goal for promoting a CCA in SLO County: financial reasons, greenhouse gas emission reductions, or the increase of local renewable projects, and what is the evidence that it will accomplish any of these?

a. If answer is for local renewables, how many megawatts of renewable projects will actually be developed in SLO County as a result of a CCA program – not counting rooftop solar, which is happening without a CCA?

b. Also, if the answer is for local renewables, what specifically will a CCA do to assure that more local renewable projects than we are already seeing in the area are started, given that the Central Coast already has 2 massive solar projects in the Carrizo Plains and another large project in the proposal stage for the Parkfield area, all of which provide clean, green energy for PG&E.

c. If the answer is greenhouse gas emission reductions, what is the benefit since PG&E's energy portfolio already stands at 59% greenhouse gas emissions free with a plan in place to increase that to 70% by 2020. How can any CCA do better than that without raising costs?

10. Are CCAs regulated on the price they can charge by any agency? Is there no PUC oversight?

11. There have been references made that a CCA will create competition. How is there any competition when customers are automatically enrolled into the system even though they may have no desire to do so? Shouldn't the process be an opt-in rather than a forced-in system?

12. How much of the power would be in short-term contracts vs. long-term contracts? How would the CCA avoid financial risk to our community if short-term prices increased?

13. What is the plan to ensure that there are no financial implications if the CCA is unable to adequately forecast the energy load needs for the area?

Integrity of the Study: If there is to be a study it should be done by an absolutely impeccable apolitical national level expert electric utility consulting firm selected by a rigorous open competition request for proposals. There should be expert municipal debt, finance, and legal sub-consultants selected similarly to analyze the potential debt and budget impacts on the member cities and counties. What is Santa Barbara County's plan in this regard? The SLO County Board letter lists some goals of the study but it is general. It omits the key points listed above.

Marin County: Much has been said about the Marin County CCA program, which has now been operating for 5 years. The Board should get answers to the questions below:

1. How many of the renewables in Marin County's CCA are actually from California renewable projects rather than just renewable energy credits that have been purchased from other utilities situated out of state?

2. When looking at the greenhouse gas and pricing comparisons between PG&E and the Marin Clean Energy CCA, the "Light Green" option (which provides for 53% of a customer's energy from renewables), there doesn't seem to be much of a difference in emissions savings – 393 pounds of emissions for PG&E energy vs. 389 pounds of emissions for Marin Clean Energy. Why all the effort for such an inconsequential benefit? We would create a whole new government entity to save \$ 2.11/month on the average residential bill?

Residential Cost Comparison

508 kWh E-1/Res-1	PG&E 22%	MCE Light Green 50%	MCE Deep Green 100%	MCE Local Solar 100%
Delivery	\$45.47	\$45.47	\$45.47	\$45.47
Generation	\$48.16	\$40.13	\$45.21	\$72.14
PG&E Fees	-	\$5.93	\$5.93	\$5.93
Total Cost	\$87.71	\$85.60	\$90.68	\$117.61

- Delivery rates stay the same
- Generation rates vary by service option
- PG&E adds exit fees on CCA customer bills
- Even with exit fees, total cost for Light Green is less than PGE

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Commercial Cost Comparison

1,405 kWh A-1/Com-1	PG&E 22%*	MCE Light Green 50%	MCE Deep Green 100%	MCE Local Solar 100%
Delivery	\$136.50	\$136.50	\$136.50	\$136.50
Generation	\$139.67	\$111.00	\$125.05	\$199.51
PG&E Fees	-	\$14.51	\$14.51	\$14.51
Total Cost	\$276.17	\$262.01	\$276.06	\$350.58

- Delivery rates stay the same
- Generation rates vary by service option.
- PG&E adds exit fees on CCA customer bills
- Even with exit fees, total cost for Light Green is less than PGE
- Comparison reflects rates as of December 2014.

*Most recently reported by PG&E.

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Charts courtesy of a Marin Clean Energy PowerPoint presentation.

3. If Marin Clean Energy's "Deep Green" option promises to provide electricity to customers while emitting 0 pounds of emissions, why are only 1.4% of the Marin Clean Energy customers opting for that choice? Could it be that it is exorbitantly expensive?
4. It looks as though Marin Clean Energy set up its call center outside of the county. How many local jobs would a CCA create in SLO County?
5. Marin Clean Energy has contracted with Shell Energy as its energy procurement agent. If we were to do the same here in SLO County, what would that accomplish for our community other than reshuffling the deck to a non-California-based company?
6. Article by the Marin County Treasurer Tax-Collector:

Marin Voice: Marin green power packs fiscal risk

By Michael Smith

Posted: 02/21/10, 12:01 AM PST | Updated: on 02/21/2010

At the Feb. 4 Marin Energy Authority meeting, Marin County Supervisor Charles McGlashan, MEA's chairman, publicly stated that I had not carefully read materials relating to MEA.

For the record, I did read MEA's documents, the grand jury's report, interacted with professionals in the municipal investment field and have concluded that MEA's plan to enter the energy business poses a financial risk for Marin County ratepayers and taxpayers.

As your elected county treasurer, I have no agenda, political or for personal gain. My primary responsibility is as an independent fiduciary to protect the fiscal and financial health of this county.

During my tenure, I have seen both exemplary and ill-conceived proposals, but in my opinion, none as concerning as MEA's intent to enter the energy business.

Many residents may be unaware of MEA, but continues with its plan known as Marin Clean Energy.

The plan consists of a majority of Marin cities and towns in conjunction with the county forming a joint powers agreement to replace PG&E as the provider of electricity within our utility bills excepting those cities/towns that have opted out.

MCE will automatically put businesses, households and government agencies in their program, unless they "opt out"; and if they opt out later, it's with a termination fee.

If the program is as good as some believe, you would think ratepayers would have been given the option to "opt in" instead.

To launch MCE, the county has already spent over \$850,000 and recently approved an additional \$950,000 loan guarantee. **Going forward, MEA projects substantial start-up costs and a long-term debt issuance of \$375 million, an amount larger than any other in the county's history with no public vote of approval.**

I do not understand the rationale to compete with a regulated public utility in the midst of the most serious financial shortfall confronting the county.

This year, Marin County faces a \$20 million budget shortfall; county supervisors will likely be forced to cut critical public services, including in-home support for the elderly and public safety.

Over the next five years, the county's annual budget shortfall is projected to climb to \$50 million.

The county's focus should be with public works, public welfare and public safety.

MEA supporters, including MEA directors from member cities, minimize the risks associated with their plan.

If that is the case, why hadn't a single Marin town or city provided financial support?

Proponents argue that customer revenue will provide sufficient assurances to lenders; seeking a guarantee of repayment should MEA default on its loans or fail altogether.

In the end, the assurance may likely be the county's general fund; leaving Marin County taxpayers a financial debacle that will dwarf the current budget outlook.

Taking such risks might be understandable if the environmental benefits for Marin were less doubtful.

While there may be some short term benefits initially, it is the future years that matter.
(continued on the next page)

Instead, MEA should be working with PG&E, assisting homeowners and businesses in becoming energy independent and providing jobs for those in the energy retrofit business instead of sending dollars out of the county to initially buy energy from Shell.

MEA should not proceed to create a redundant energy business at added costs and financial risks. They have no expertise to buy, own and operate commercial power/facilities.

PG&E is justified in seeking to protect its ratepayer base. It has and needs to continue to build upon its serious efforts to "green" its electricity portfolio.

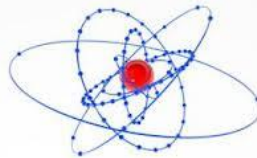
The grand jury, which consists of 19 individuals without political agendas, has recommended abandoning MCE. I urge each ratepayer to visit its report at www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/GJ/main/cvgrjr/2009gj/clean_energy.pdf

At this time, MCE is moving forward.

We as residents have not had the opportunity to vote, we as ratepayers will be in MCE unless we decide to opt out.

Michael Smith of Sausalito is Marin County treasurer-tax collector.

This article was first published in the Marin News



Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, October 8, 2015

This meeting has been cancelled.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, October 7, 2015 (Scheduled) – Note: This meeting starts at 8:30 AM - not 9:00 like all the others)

Item D-3: Letter of Opposition to Proposed Assembly Constitutional Amendment 4 (ACA 4). During the Council's August meeting, the Central Coast Taxpayers Association requested that the Council send a letter to the County's legislative delegation and other key officials opposing ACA 4. ACA 4, if approved by a majority of the Legislature, would place a measure on the ballot reducing the required voter threshold from 2/3rds to 55% for certain transportation measures. It is yet another attack on proposition 13. During its August meeting the Council Board directed staff to research the matter and return with an analysis.

The staff is attempting to avoid a real vote and debate by reporting that the bill died:

ACA 4 was placed on the Legislature's Suspense File on August 19th and was not considered in the recently concluded legislative session. The bill "died" and will not be resubmitted according to the author's staff.

Nice try, but we would appreciate seeing where each of the members of the SLOCOG stand on measures to weaken Proposition 13. The fact the regular session of the Legislature has adjourned has nothing to do the principle involved. Accordingly, the SLOCOG Board should not be allowed to take a duck.

In fact ACA 4 is a loaded gun and remains an active bill and can be taken up anytime between now and August 31, 2016 in either the Regular or the Special session. It would be a simple matter for any legislator to simply cut the language out of ACA 4 and introduce it as a special session constitutional amendment.

We deserve to know what our elected officials think, especially since some of them are running for re-election.

The proposed letter is displayed on the next page:



Attachment A

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
ARROYO GRANDE | ATASCADERO | GROVER BEACH
MORRO BAY | PISMO BEACH | PISMO BEACH
SAN LUIS OBISPO | SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

October 7, 2015

Honorable Assemblymember Jim Frazier, Chair - Assembly Transportation and Infrastructure
Development Committee

P.O. Box 942849, Room 3091,
Sacramento, CA 94249-0011

RE: SLOCOG Opposition to Assembly Constitutional Amendment 4 (ACA 4)

Dear Assemblymember Frazier:

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is aware that the originally proposed Assembly Constitutional Amendment 4 (ACA 4) lowering the voter threshold requirements to approve local transportation funding initiatives "died" at the close of the recently concluded legislative session and is not being re-introduced. We remain opposed in principle to the proposition as put forth.

This measure's provisions that allow the imposition, extension, or increase of a sales and use tax imposed by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for specific local transportation projects with the approval of 55% of its voters voting on the proposition would very likely allow more local measures imposing or extending sales taxes in order to fund locally prioritized transportation infrastructure projects.

Lowering the threshold seems unwarranted as some areas of California have the highest sales tax in the nation. The state needs to prioritize its spending and leave Proposition 13 intact regarding the 2/3 threshold for transportation related items. In addition, the state should fully fund local street and road needs in their budget without local contributions.

Respectfully,

Debbie Arnold
President
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

Cc:

The Honorable Katcho Achadjian, California Assemblyman, 35th District
The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senator District 17
The Honorable Kevin de León, California State Senator District 24
Honorable Toni G. Atkins, California Assembly Member, 78th District