



**COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9 - 15, 2018**

THIS WEEK

**COUNTY FY 2017-18 FINANCIAL RESULTS
(\$9.4 MILLION IN EMPLOYEE RAISES FUNDED WITH YEAR END TRANSFERS)**

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

**SPECIAL SLOCOG MEETING ON SEPT. 5, 2018
CENTRAL COAST TAXPAYERS QUESTION SLOCOG ON
OPPOSING PROP 6 GAS TAX REPEAL**

**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 11**

**THE DIVERSITY OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

**INDOCTRINATION SATURATION
BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, September 11, 2018 (Scheduled)

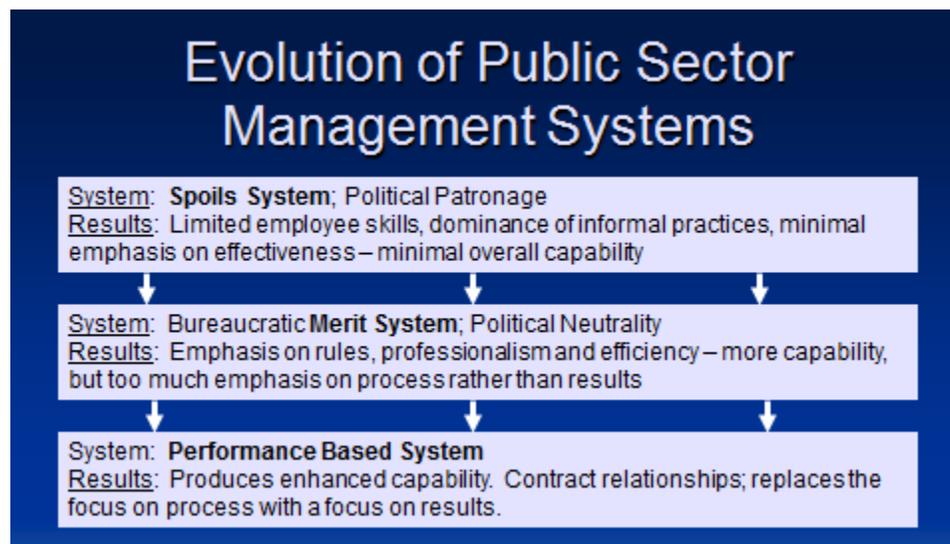
In General: This is a short agenda with only 25 items. Most involve contract approvals for previously budgeted programs or reports on various matters.

Compliments to the CAO, Budget Staff, and Departments: This year the actual performance measure goals and results are included in the Year End Financial Report as a 110-page attachment. (It's not as formidable as it sounds.) In prior years it was referenced as "See Clerk's File." Board members and those interested in County services and funding should spend a little time with this section. Hopefully it will be brought back on afternoons when the agendas are light, and gone over with each Department by Service Group. It represents a lot of work and is current and up to date. SLO County actually takes the trouble to describe what the measures mean and how they compare with other jurisdictions that bother with performance measures linked to the budget.

Staff also tends to the performance measure "garden" by developing better measures and eliminating those which are not useful. Adding rigor and consistency is also evident.

Link to the Performance Report:

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/9121/QXR0YWNobWVudCA0IC0gRlkzMjAxNy0xOCBQZXJmb3JtYW5jZSBZNWZzdXJlcyAoQWN0dWFsIFJlc3VsdHMpLnBkZg==/12/n/98769.doc>



Item 22 - Fiscal Year End 2017-18 Financial Report. The Report covers the final results of the past fiscal year. The County is in the black for the short term and is slightly benefiting from the strong economy. Key outcomes include:

After all the puts and takes, the General Fund ended up with a balance of \$1.3 million more than was forecast earlier in the year and at the time of the FY 2018-19 Budget consideration. The CAO recommends that most of this be granted to the City of SLO as a partial contribution towards the Prado Road interchange with Highway 101, per the paragraph below:

The Administrative Office has the responsibility for making recommendations to your Board Regarding the use of any additional General Fund FBA. As noted above and in the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's staff report, FBA was \$1.33 million higher than budgeted. The additional FBA is recommended to be allocated as follows:

- *\$1,282,661 to a new designation for the County's contribution to the City of San Luis Obispo's project to construct the Highway 101/Prado Road Interchange;*
- *\$50,000 appropriated to FC 112 – Human Resources to fully fund contracted labor relations expenses incurred in FY 2017-18, but due for payment in FY 2018-19.*

Why the County would help fund the City's socialist inspired death spiral is unknown. Prado does need to connect to the freeway, but should the County taxpayers be funding a project which primarily benefits the City?

As we have noted in the discussions of various quarterly reports previously (particularly the 3rd Quarter), the County does not budget fully for projected payroll and related benefit costs due to pending labor negotiations. Instead, it funds the negotiated raises with under runs, "savings," which occur in various departments. As we have also noted, it is not clear what the impact of the "savings" is on program performance. In this regard the write-up states in part:

As discussed during the third quarter report, approximately \$9.8 million (66%) of unbudgeted expenditures in FY 2017-18 was due to wage and benefit adjustments granted but not budgeted in FY 2017-18 as described in more detail below.

Prior to the beginning of FY 2017-18, on June 20, 2017, the Board approved compensation increases for San Luis Obispo County Employees' Association (SLOCEA) Bargaining Units (BU) 01-Public Service, 02-Trades, Crafts and Service Unit, 05-Supervisor Unit and 13-Clerical Unit. The FY 2016-17 3.5% wage increase, retroactive to September 1, 2016, and a 0.4% one-time non-pensionable lump sum payment (January 1, 2017-June 30, 2017), was estimated to cost the County \$4.4 million. For FY 2017-18, the 3% wage increase plus 0.5% equity adjustments were estimated to increase County costs by \$5.2 million.

Also in FY 2016-17, the Board approved a wage increase for unrepresented employees in BU 07 - Operations and Staff, BU 08 - General Management, BU 09 - Appointed Department Heads, BU 10 - Elected Department Heads, BU 11 - Confidential, and BU 16 - General Management

Law Enforcement to take effect in FY 2017-18. The County cost for the FY 2017-18 3% wage increase and 0.5% equity adjustments for these bargaining units is estimated to be \$1.9 million.

During the first quarter of FY 2017-18, the Board approved wage increases for the Probation Peace Officers' Association (BU 31 - Probation and BU 32 - Probation Supervisory Units) and Deputy County Counsel Association (BU 12). These bargaining units received wage increases of 3.5% retroactive back to July 1, 2017. The County cost for FY 2017-18 for these increases are \$385,162 and \$64,265 respectively.

During the second quarter of FY 17-18, the Board approved wage increases for the San Luis Obispo County Sheriffs Managers' Association (BU 15). This bargaining unit received wage increases of 3.5% and a 7% pension equity differential retroactive back to July 1, 2017. The County cost for FY 2017-18 for these increases are \$77,728. During the second quarter, the Board also approved increases in employee-paid pension contribution rates and County appropriation rates per applicable memoranda of understanding. Based on the negotiated pension sharing provisions between the County and employees, the County's costs for FY 2017-18 are estimated to increase by \$1,147,000 for the time period of January 2018 through June 2018.

During the third quarter of FY 2017-18, the Board approved wage increases for the Sworn Deputy Sheriffs' Association, Sworn Law Enforcement Unit (BU 27) and Sworn Law Enforcement Supervisory Unit (BU 28). These bargaining units received a 3.5% wage increase, effective the pay period including 7/1/17, and 3.0% wage increase effective the pay period including 1/1/2018. In addition, these bargaining units received \$125 per month cafeteria increase for employee + 2 or more dependents only, effective the pay period including 1/1/2018; \$30 per month uniform allowance increase, effective the pay period including 1/1/2018; \$700 new hire uniform allowance increase for employees hired on or after 12/31/2017; \$62.50 per month for possession of POST intermediate or Associate degree, and \$125 per month increase for possession of POST advanced or Bachelor degree, effective the pay period including 1/1/2018; and \$700 new hire safety equipment allowance increase for employees hired on or after 12/31/2017. The County's cost for FY 2017-18 for these increases are \$897,711.

As we asked back in May during the Board consideration of the 3rd Quarter Report:

SERVICE IMPACTS:

Finally the question arises as to why the staff ostensibly needed \$22 million over the previous budget to run the County programs, and yet if these budget increases were critical, how is it now possible to make up \$9.8 million with ostensibly no problems?

- a. What isn't running that was planned?
- b. What isn't being built?
- c. What isn't being maintained?
- d. What vital equipment isn't being purchased?

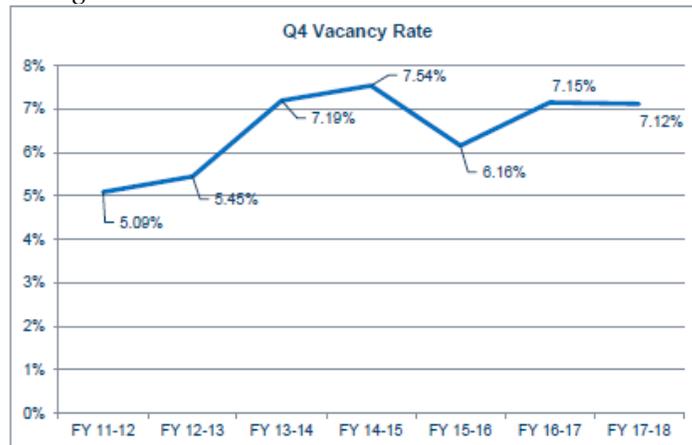
If you can run the County and your programs successfully with \$9.8 million less, can we reduce next year's proposed Budget by that amount? Or does it double down? Since \$9.8 million in recurring salary and related benefits were added in FY 2017 - 2018, but not included in the adopted budget, doesn't this mean that adopted 2018-19 budget needs \$19.6 million more just to absorb these now ongoing costs (Adopted to Proposed)? As we have pointed out repeatedly, most of this "savings" is coming from position vacancies that the County is running.

Are services being allowed to lag to pay for raises? What if lack of nursing coverage in the PHF contributed to part of the savings being used to pay the raises? What if lack of inspectors, which contributes to the inability of Code Enforcement to monitor and shut down illegal marijuana grows in California Valley, is paying for these raises?

What is the real operational impact of a 7% + vacancy rate? Reportedly the County is imposed a soft hiring freeze to help balance the FY 2018-19 proposed Budget. Would the County consider promoting oil field development to generate revenue to protect services? Does one policy hand know what the other is doing?

EMPLOYEE VACANCY RATE:

The County employee vacancy rate at the end of the fourth quarter was 7.12%. This equates to 200.00 vacant positions. The hiring chill which went into effect on March 15, 2018 contributed to the vacancy rate increase from 6.64% during the 3rd quarter. The hiring chill is in effect until further notice and serves three purposes: (1) it preserves existing services already being provided to county residents, (2) saves money in the current fiscal year to ensure that funding is available for the future and (3) minimizes the impact difficult financial times will have on current employees. Certain difficult to hire positions, such as Sheriff Deputies, Psychiatrists, and nurses are exempt from the hiring chill.



a. What is the potential funding gap already built into the recently adopted FY 2018-19 Budget?

b. Which Positions are subject to the hiring chill? Interestingly, only 2 departments mentioned that the hiring chill impacted performance statistics. In these cases only 1 or 2 performance measures were reported as being negatively impacted.

c. Does this mean that the County has too many positions in the first place? In other words, if most of the performance measures are achieving or exceeding the policy standard with an average running vacancy rate of 200 on any given day, why would the County need as much, let alone more, staff?

Performance Measure Outcomes	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
Met	14.60%	16.10%
Exceeded	38.94%	43.22%
Not Met	40.71%	36.02%
Data Unavailable	5.75%	4.66%

STAFFING HISTORY



LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 (Not Scheduled)

There was no Board meeting on Tuesday, September 4th, 2018, the day after Labor Day.

Special San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, September 5, 2018 (Added to Schedule and Completed)

In General: Most of the agenda items dealt with various adjustments and approvals of transportation funding items required by Federal and State entities.

Proposition 6: SB-1 Repeal. Central Coast Taxpayer’s Association President Andrea Seastrand reminded the SLOCOG Board that they should not be endorsing rejection of State Proposition 6 – the repeal of the State fuel and licensing fee increases contained in SB-1. She noted that the County Board of Supervisors never agendized the item to take a position, yet 2 of its members voted at SLOCOG to place the agency on the record as opposing the Proposition. All the city members voted to reject the rescinding of the gas tax. It is not known if the respective city councils agendized that matter and voted on their cities’ position.

Ron De Carli’s Retirement. Also, retiring long-term SLOCOG employee and current Executive Director Ron De Carli was recognized for his 30 plus years of dedicated public service characterized by vision, practicality, ability to explain and navigate complex funding and regulatory matters, and his calm steadiness.

Item C-3: 2019 Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). This item, which was on the consent calendar, consisted of the introduction and schedule for the preparation of the next state required RHNA. The RHNA is essentially a projection of how much housing will be required over the next 4 years (soon to be an 8-year cycle) and an explanation of how the County and the 7 cities will meet that need. This will be an important subcomponent of combined and individual jurisdictions’ overall strategy to address an expected need of about 13,800 housing units over the next 25 years.

As we saw several weeks ago, some officials attempted to divert the County’s overall strategic housing effort into the RHNA process. This would be a mistake, as the RHNA process is not as comprehensive and strategic. Nevertheless the SLOCOG staff provided a nice summary of the upcoming process, which is repeated below:

SUMMARY

Development of the 2019 RHNA has been initiated. Staff continues to work with California’s Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and has initiated work with the 2019 RHNA Working Group to aid development of the 6th cycle RHNA. The simplified RHNA process: HCD allocates a minimum number of housing units expected to be built to SLOCOG; SLOCOG develops and adopts a RHNA Plan and methodology to distribute the housing units

between the eight jurisdictions; and each jurisdiction updates its Housing Element to accommodate the units.

Development of the 2019 RHNA has been initiated with contact with state and local agencies. The 6th RHNA Cycle is set as a ten-year projection to align the region's schedule with the RTP update in 2027, and thereafter an eight year RHNA cycle will be followed. Staff is working with HCD to finalize the region's total housing allocation. The initial draft number was nearly 14,500 units; recent information adjusted the figure to 13,095. Staff and the 2019 RHNA Working Group identified several factors for HCD's further consideration that may result in a lower final allocation. After HCD finalizes the allocation, SLOCOG develops a methodology to distribute the total units among the eight jurisdictions.

The 2019 RHNA Working Group: A team comprised of staff from all member jurisdictions (typically the Community Development Director or local planners), SLOCOG, Cal Poly, and the Local Agency Formation Commission met on August 8, 2018 with staff from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review the necessary steps in developing a RHNA. The Working Group will develop, review, and recommend a distribution methodology (expected at the December 5, 2018 Board meeting). The Working Group will also aid in the development of the RHNA plan (draft expected in April 2019), offering opportunities and constraints information, and consider principles for developing housing policy.

Local Housing Element Updates: After the RHNA Plan with distribution methodology is adopted, the local jurisdictions must update each local housing element by December 2020. All California cities and counties are required by Government Code (Sections 65580-65590) to adopt housing elements as part of their general plans, and submit draft and adopted elements to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review with compliance with State law. HCD is required to review housing elements and report its written findings. Agencies that do not have a housing element that is In Compliance at the time of assignment of the new RHNA allocation must accommodate both the current and prior allocation in their update.

Current Housing Elements are valid through December 2020. Units permitted by December 31, 2018 are counted in the 5th RHNA Cycle; units permitted after will be counted in the 6th cycle.

RTP/SCS Connection: The Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) must identify areas within the region sufficient to house all the population of the region, including all economic segments of the population, over the course of the planning period of the RTP, taking into account net migration into the region, population growth, household formation, and employment growth. The 2019 RTP Stakeholder Group will have the opportunity to review the 2019 RHNA distribution methodology (November 2018).

RHNA Timeline

Oct. 2018: HCD finalizes allocation

Fall 2018: Distribution Methodology developed.

Dec. 2018: Board reviews methodology, adopts or continues to Feb. 2019

Apr. 2019: Board reviews draft RHNA Plan

TBD 2019: Final 2019 RHNA Plan adopted

Dec. 2020: Housing Element updates due

WHAT IS REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is an assessment process performed periodically as part of Housing Element and General Plan updates at the local level. The RHNA quantifies the need for housing by income group within each jurisdiction during a specific planning period. The current planning period is December 2020 to December 2028.

The RHNA is used in land use planning, to prioritize local resource allocation and to help decide how to address existing and future housing needs. The RHNA allows communities to anticipate growth, so that collectively the region can grow in ways that enhance quality of life, improve access to jobs, promote transportation mobility, and address social equity and fair share housing needs. State legislation and the RHNA process are intended to address housing needs for projected state population and household growth, to create a better balance of jobs and housing in communities, and to ensure the availability of decent affordable housing for all income groups.

SLOCOG's Role

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) develops an overall total number of housing units for the region. SLOCOG distributes the total number of housing units to each jurisdiction based on distribution methodology. SLOCOG's region encompasses all of San Luis Obispo County and its seven cities (Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo). SLOCOG takes the lead in overseeing the assessment by identifying measures to gauge housing demand and comparing those numbers against socioeconomic factors throughout the region.

How is RHNA implemented?

The State's Housing Element law requires local governments to make plans to adequately address their share of existing and projected population growth, taking into consideration affordability of available and future housing. Recognizing that the most critical decisions regarding housing development occur at the local level through a city's General Plan, the Housing Element law seeks to adequately address housing needs and demands. HCD enforces State Housing Element Law by requiring certified Housing Elements as part of every city's

General Plan.

**SLOCOG FAST FACTS
ON THE REGION'S HOUSING**

Total population (2018):
280,101

Total housing units (2018):
121,661

Total households (2018):
107,256

Housing vacancy rate
(2018): 11.8%

Persons per household
(2018): 2.46

On-campus student
housing (beds, 2018
estimate): 8,675

Median household income
(2016 estimate): \$64,014

Median home price (2018
Q1 estimate): \$558,000
(NAHB/Wells Fargo HOI)

Percent owner-occupied
(2018 estimate): 59.0%

Percent renter-occupied
(2018 estimate): 41.0%

Who pays for RHNA?

COGs are no longer eligible for state reimbursement for RHNA costs; therefore RHNA is paid for by SLOCOG through local funds.

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



THE DIVERSITY OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

I live on a farm beside a rural avenue in central California, the fifth generation to reside in the same house. And after years of thefts, home break-ins, and dangerous encounters, I have concluded that it is no longer safe to live where I was born. I stay for a while longer because I am sixty-five years old and either too old to move or too worried about selling the final family parcel of what was homesteaded in the 1870s.

[Rural Fresno County](#) used to be one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the United States. I grew up with first-, second-, and third-generation farmers—agrarians of Armenian, German, Greek, Mexican, Japanese, Portuguese, Punjabi, and Scandinavian descent.

Race and ethnicity were richly diverse; yet assimilation was the collective shared goal—made easier because immigration was almost entirely a legal and measured enterprise. No one much carried for the superficial appearance of his neighbors. My own Swedish-American family has intermarried with those of Mexican heritage. My neighbor's grandchildren are part white, Japanese, and Mexican. The creed growing up was that tribal affiliation was incidental, not essential, to character.

Family farming was never an easy enterprise. But an us/them mentality prevailed that united diverse farmers against both human and nature's challenges. Yet most of those rural families now have all moved away or passed on. Their farms are leased to corporate enterprises and their homes rented to mostly immigrants from Mexico—many of them undocumented. Globalized agribusiness and unchecked illegal immigration, in different ways, combined to change central California and has made living in rural areas no longer safe.

Almost every old farmstead in my vicinity is no longer just a home for a single farm family. They are often now surrounded by trailers and lean-tos, in turn sub-rented out to dozens of others—violations of zoning laws and building codes of the sort that would earn me a stiff fine, but which are of little interest to local authorities. Of three neighboring farmsteads down the road, one is now a storage area for dozens of used porta potties and wrecked cars. Another is an illegal dumping ground. The third has been raided on various occasions by authorities in order to stop drug dealing, gang activity, and prostitution.

Our rural environs are often home to hard-working immigrants, but also to various Mexican gangs, drug dealers, and parolees. I hesitate to offer too many details because in the past I have incurred the anger of dangerous neighbors who got wind of filtered down stories of their criminality. It is enough said that sirens, SWAT teams, and [ICE raids](#) are not uncommon.

A month ago a gang member shot up a neighbor's house. He was arrested, released, and rearrested in a single night after trying twice to break into the home. The armed homeowner stopped his entry. I know of no nearby resident who is not armed. I cannot remember anything remotely similar occurring before 1980. In the 1970s we had no keys to our doors, and houses were permanently unlocked.

Some of those with criminal records and gang affiliations were born in the United States. Perhaps America often does not seem as much a promised land to the second generation as it did to their parents, who arrived destitute from impoverished Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Central America. Arriving from one of the poorest regions in the world to one of the wealthiest and most culturally different—without the competitive requisites of English, legality, and a high-school diploma—in an era when the salad bowl is preferable to the melting pot, can easily result in the frequent chaos described below.

I object most to the environmental damage in our rural areas. By that I mean the tossing of household waste or even toxic chemicals onto farmland. Staged cock- and dog-fighting is also not uncommon. I have found a few carcasses ripped to shreds, some with ropes around the dead dogs' neck.

Picking up tossed junk in my orchard is a routine experience. The perpetrators often leave plastic bags of their bulk mail (with incriminating addresses!) among soiled diapers and wet garbage. Local authorities have enough to do without hunting down dumpers to cite them for their antigreen habits.

Every once in a while amateur and illegal collectors, who freelance for immigrant households that do not pay for “supposedly” mandated county garbage pick-ups, will come in at night with panel trucks and trailers. They dump literally tons of garbage such as mattresses, sofas, TVs, appliances, tires, junk mail, and car seats on alleyways and in vineyards.

Not long ago someone jettisoned in our vineyard hundreds of used florescent light bulbs, about 100 paint cans, and fifty-gallon drums of used oil and chemicals. Needles and drug paraphernalia are not uncommon. I've seen about five stripped-down cars abandoned on our property after being stolen. Last summer a huge semi-truck was left on our alleyway, picked cleaned down to the chassis.

I used to ride a bicycle in our environs. I quit for a variety of reasons.

If one is bit by unlicensed and unvaccinated roaming dogs— and there are many out here— and if their masters do not speak English or do not have legal status, then a nightmare follows of trying to get authorities to find the dogs and impound them before the owners or the dogs disappear. It is up to the bitten whether the decision to play the odds and not get painful, and sometimes dangerous, rabies shots is prudent or suicidal. As a doctor put it to me when I was bitten: “Rabid dogs are almost unheard of in the United States, but I have no idea of what is true of Mexico. Your call.”

Less dramatically, I got tired of watching local canteen trucks drive out on our rural roads, pull their drainage plugs, and dump cooking waste or toss leftovers on the road.

Sometimes there is more comedy than melodrama out in rural Fresno County. About two months I noticed that a number of my roadside cypress trees seemed ailing. I tried gopher bait, given what I thought were strange burrows near the trunks.

Then one evening I heard voices near the trees. Two immigrants, neither speaking English, were digging with hand-held hoes for what they said were *hongos*. They produced a large clear plastic bag that instead seemed full, of all things, harvested truffles—which I had never seen or heard of in the area.

I couldn't figure out whether the forest humus ground up from fallen Sierra trees I had purchased, or the roots of the cypresses themselves, had spawned truffles— or whether they were even truffles or perhaps some sort of strange looking subterranean tree growths or mushrooms. In broken Spanish, I politely asked that they not periodically dig up my tree cypress-tree roots but could sell their already collected *hongos* in their bags at the local swap meet as they said they had intended. We left amicably enough.

On lots of occasions, drivers (almost always on Sunday afternoons) have veered off the road, torn out vines or trees, left their wrecked vehicles, and run away. Authorities belatedly arrive and explain there is no valid registration, insurance, or known licensed driver to be found—but that the damage in the thousands of dollars cannot be mitigated by selling the abandoned car, which must be impounded.

Identity theft is a problem. The IRS has reported over one million cases of likely illegal immigrants using [false or multiple identities](#). Once I went online and discovered my checking account was suddenly in arrears by several thousand dollars. When I pulled up the cancelled checks, I saw perfect replicas of my own, with the proper bank and router numbers in the lower left corner of the checks—but at top with the name and address of a different person and with the reverse of the check stamped with his ID at a local Spanish-language market. The bank said I could call police investigators or simply file a claim that it would quickly cover. And it did. I have not written a local check to any person or business since.

Hot pursuit by local authorities that blast into private driveways is scary. On one occasion the sheriffs and police lost their fleeing target (who later turned out to be a felon with arrest warrants) and gave up the chase. An hour later in the dead of night I heard the accomplice near our patio. He had apparently jumped out the passenger door of the car and hid under our pecan tree. I held him at gunpoint until the flummoxed authorities returned.

When my daughter was thirteen, she and I were broadsided in our pickup by a driver who ran a stop sign. I called the local police. We were bruised but not hurt; the truck dented but drivable. She waited behind the pickup as I chased the driver who had fled on foot from his overturned car. I caught him just when the police arrived.

Rural Central California is sort of ground zero for illegal immigration and its auxiliary effects. From experience, I can attest that the vast majority of illegal aliens are fine people, hard-working, and whose first and second offenses of entering and residing illegally in the United States were not followed by third and fourth acts of criminality.

Certainly after twenty-one years of teaching Latin, Greek, and humanities to immigrants at CSU Fresno, both legal and illegal, I believed that the melting pot can still work and most Hispanic arrivals integrate, assimilate, and intermarry with increasingly frequency despite the often-shrill protestations of campus identity politics advocates.

But the numbers of illegal immigrants have become so large—[ranging from an estimated 11–20 million now residing in the United States](#)—that both pessimism and optimism are now warranted. If only ten percent have criminal records or inordinately break laws, then the good news is that many millions more are likely working and crime free. The bad news is that somewhere between one and two million have entered our country illegally and repaid that generosity with criminality or ID theft or fraud.

Our local town has erected a sort of clannish statue of the Aztec goddess [Coatlicue](#), the mother snake goddess to whom thousands were sacrificed, with the ill-fitting caption *Viva La Raza* (literally, “long live the race”). But I think most of our town’s overwhelming Mexican-American and Mexican population are about as indifferent to it as my Swedish ancestors’ children in the nearby town of Kingsburg are oblivious to various Swedish totems (although none of them are emblazoned with *Viva ett ras!*).



The tragedy of illegal immigration is that it did not have to be this way. Legal, measured, meritocratic, and diverse immigration leads to rapid assimilation and Americanization and enriches the country culturally and economically

Its antithesis—illegal, mass, non-meritocratic, and non-diverse immigration—hinders the melting pot. It fuels tribalism, while incurring vast costs in social services to ensure some sort of parity for those from impoverished southern Mexico and Central America. The wages of our citizen working poor and their access to needed social services are not helped by thousands of new arrivals without legality and English.

Yet illegal immigration in such numbers certainly empowers a host of special interests. So it continues. Employers prefer cheap labor and often worry little about the social consequences of their workers once they age, have families, or become ill or injured.

Ethnic activists seem energized when their constituents assimilate slowly and require collective representation.

The Democratic Party has learned that the blueing of California, Colorado, Nevada, and New Mexico is a paradigm of how to flip Arizona and Texas.

The Mexican government counts on billions in annual remittances from mostly illegal immigrants in the United States who serve as a safety valve for Mexico City to defer needed social and economic change. (In the first eleven months of 2017 Mexicans living abroad [sent home \\$26.1 billion](#), most of it from north of the border.) The expatriate community in the United States seems to grow fonder of Mexico the farther it is distant.

A final note. Most who write of the positives of open borders and the supposed nativism and xenophobia of those who worry about illegal immigration choose not to experience firsthand the concrete consequences of their own advocacies. By that I mean that despite virtue-signaling, their children rarely attend impacted public schools. They do not socialize or live next to illegal immigrants. And to the degree that they interact with the undocumented, it is mostly as employers to landscapers, housekeepers, nannies, servers, and cooks who magically disappear after work.

In contrast, many of those who are worried most about illegal immigration are often now second- and third-generation Mexican Americans whose schools, neighborhoods, and social services are increasingly in crisis due to the sheer number of those who have arrived without legality, a high school diploma, and English but in sore need of government help.

Much of what we read about illegal immigration seems to have little to do with the reality of those most directly influenced by it.

This article first appeared on the Stanford Hoover site of August 23, 2018 and was widely disseminated in other media. A number of COLAB Weekly Update subscribers commended it to us. Victor Davis Hanson is a Senior Fellow of the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, bestselling author, and Professor of Classics. He has appeared at various COLAB events locally. This article was first posted on September 4, 2018 by the Hoover Institution's Eureka. Dr. Hanson is remarkable for his clear, readable, and scholarly production (Sometimes 4 or more articles per week).

INDOCTRINATION SATURATION

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

The all-seeing social-justice eye penetrates every aspect of our lives: sports, movies, public monuments, social media, funerals . . .

A definition of totalitarianism might be the saturation of every facet of daily life by political agendas and social-justice messaging.

At the present rate, America will soon resemble the dystopias of novels such as *1984* and *Brave New World* in which all aspects of life are warped by an all-encompassing ideology of coerced sameness. Or rather, the prevailing orthodoxy in America is the omnipresent attempt of an elite — exempt from the consequences of its own ideology thanks to its supposed superior virtue and intelligence — to mandate an equality of result.

We expect their 24/7 political messaging on cable-channel news networks, talk radio, or print and online media. And we concede that long ago an NPR, CNN, MSNBC, or *New York Times* ceased being journalistic entities as much as obsequious megaphones of the progressive itinerary.

But increasingly we cannot escape anywhere the lidless gaze of our progressive lords, all-seeing, all-knowing from high up in their dark towers.

The Peter Strzok–Lisa Page texts, along with the careers of former FBI director James Comey and his deputy Andrew McCabe, reveal a politicized and in some sense rotten FBI hierarchy, beholden far more to its own exalted sense of a progressive self than merely to investigating crimes against the people.

Lois Lerner was a clumsy reflection of how the IRS long ago became weaponized in service to auditing deplorables. Former CIA director John Brennan and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper used their supposedly nonpartisan positions to further political agendas. That each in his own way is clownish does not mitigate their rank efforts to graft intelligence agencies onto political causes.

The same deterioration is true of many in the Department of Justice, who, along with the FBI, misled FISA-court justices, as if that were the only, or perhaps the easiest, way to obtain politically driven surveillance on U.S. citizens. Americans now are woke to the reality that straying too much into the forbidden zone guarantees that their communications can be monitored on the pretense that they're colluding with some nefarious power. Yet if foreigners are the menace, why did our proverbial best and brightest traffic with a paid foreign spy at election time to sabotage a political campaign, and then trump even the improper use of electronic surveillance with the insertion of paid informants?

Google, Facebook, and Twitter are facing accusations of censoring social-media accounts and massaging Internet searches according to their progressive political agendas. The masters of the universe have given us the stereotype of 20- and 30-something social-warrior geeks, fiddling with their algorithms to virtue-signal their left-wing fides to a global audience.

YouTube restricted more than 50 Prager University videos — often because either a human or computerized auditor did not approve of the videos' presentation of America's historical role as

beneficent. Tie-dyed T-shirts, flip-flops, and faded jeans do not mask the reality that some \$3 trillion in global capitalization is pledged to ensure that the nations' computers, pads, and smartphones will not be polluted by traditionalist thinking.

First-time congressional candidate Elizabeth Heng, a conservative from central California, found her video ad blocked on Facebook and Twitter. Apparently, her description of the Cambodian holocaust that her parents fled was too graphic or politically incorrect, or both. But then again, in California, everything is politicized, from plastic straws to single-user restrooms, in an Orwellian effort to distract us from the fact that we do not have enough water, usable roads, or workable public schools to remain a civilized state.

Language is especially enlisted to disguise bothersome reality. During the Obama administration, no one would ever have known from “overseas contingency operations,” “man-caused disasters,” “workplace disasters,” and “holy struggles” that radical Islamic terrorists were seeking to kill Westerners from San Bernardino to Paris. As in the case of ~~illegal aliens, undocumented aliens, illegal immigrants, undocumented immigrants, immigrants~~ migrants, the progressive rationale is that anyone killed or harmed by a terrorist or migrant is usually a nobody and so an acceptable casualty in the greater war against incorrect speech and attitude.

When our public colleges now find that an increasing number of newly admitted students cannot do college-level work when they begin their courses, administrators drop the old idea of catch-up “remedial” classes or compensatory “remediation” courses. The new language conveys that students are now suddenly qualified, or at least it virtue-signals the university's effort to be suitably sensitive to the fact that in California nearly half of those entering the CSU system cannot read or compute at what previously had been thought to be a college level.

Our very names and identities have become politicized. Desperate to highlight their progressive purity (or to enhance careers), politicians sometimes reinvent their nomenclatures and ancestries to suggest solidarity with those deemed racially, ethnically, or economically oppressed. Who now is who or what?

Senator Elizabeth Warren claimed falsely — albeit not quite in the clumsy fashion of left-wing political activist and professor Ward Churchill — that she was part Native American. Socialist New York state senate candidate Julia Salazar recently and falsely rebranded herself as a virtual foreign-born immigrant. Was their intent to pose as poorer, more victimized Americans without actually having to become poorer or more victimized?

White-male aspirant for a Texas Senate seat Patrick Francis O'Rourke has used the Latino nickname “Beto,” probably on the assumption that “Beto O'Rourke” might ensure a little more street cred among Texas's Latino voters. I suppose “Pat O'Lopez” would be too shameless? But then again, California Senate candidate Kevin de León has added both a “de” and an accent to remind voters that he is not just an Anglicized Kevin Leon who could be mistaken for a third-generation Portuguese American.

Americans have long accepted that Hollywood movies no longer seek just to entertain or inform, but to indoctrinate audiences by pushing progressive agendas. That commandment also demands

that America be portrayed negatively — or better yet simply written out of history. Take the new film *First Man*, about the first moon landing. Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong became famous when he emerged from *The Eagle*, the two-man lunar module, and planted an American flag on the moon's surface. Yet that iconic act disappears from the movie version. (At least Ryan Gosling, who plays Armstrong, does not walk out of the space capsule to string up a U.N. banner.)

Gosling claimed that the moon landing should not be seen as an *American* effort. Instead, he advised, it should be “widely regarded as a human achievement” — as if any nation's efforts or the work of the United Nations in 1969 could have pulled off such an astounding and dangerous enterprise. I suppose we are to believe that Gosling's Canada might just as well have built a Saturn V rocket.

Comic-book sales are static, purportedly because tired readers now find their make-believe heroes sermonizing, preachy, and predictable rather than one-dimensionally heroic. Social justice has entered the world of fantasy — and extends to science-fiction novels as well. Will *1984* have to be either banned or subjected to race/class/gender Bowdlerization?

Sports offers no relief. It is now no more a refuge from political indoctrination than is Hollywood. Yet it is about as difficult to find a jock who can pontificate about politics as it is to encounter a Ph.D. or politico who can pass or pitch.

The National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and sports channels are now politicalized in a variety of ways, from not standing up or saluting the flag during the National Anthem to pushing social-justice issues as part of televised sports analysis. What a strange sight to see tough sportsmen of our Roman-style gladiatorial arenas become delicate souls who wilt on seeing a dreaded hand across the heart during the playing of the National Anthem.

Even when we die, we do not escape politicization. At a recent eight-hour, televised funeral service for singer Aretha Franklin, politicians such as Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton went well beyond their homages into political harangues. Pericles or Lincoln they were not.

Activist professor Michael Eric Dyson laced his supposed eulogy with an adolescent rant against Donald Trump: “Your lugubrious leach, your dopey doppelgänger of deceit and deviance” — and all that alliterative gibberish that apparently follows from a Ph.D.

Politics likewise absorbed Senator John McCain's funeral the next day. Sarah Palin — his persistently loyal 2008 running mate, who has never uttered an unkind word about him — was not invited. Apparently, her presence would now be seen as too politically incorrect; it might have polluted the observance with a deplorable odor or reminded us that she was once considered useful in appealing to the clinger/irredeemable/“crazies” vote.

Meghan McCain, Barack Obama, and former president George W. Bush all did their best to praise the deceased, but in passing could not resist deprecating the current president. We have forgotten that the ancillary to *de mortuis nihil nisi bonum dicendum est* (about the dead nothing but good should be said) is “in speaking of the dead, nothing but good should be said about the

still living.” It is certainly not an admirable trait to deplore incivility by gratuitously attacking a sitting president at a funeral — especially when neither the presidential encomiasts, nor the object of their encomia, had always been particularly civil and polite to each another in the past.

Even the long-ago dead are fair game. Dark Age iconoclasm has returned to us with a fury. Any statue at any time might be toppled — if it is deemed to represent an idea or belief from the distant past now considered racist, sexist, or somehow illiberal. Representations of Columbus, the Founding Fathers, and Confederate soldiers have all been defaced, knocked down, or removed. The images of mass murderers on the left are exempt, on the theory that good ends always allow a few excessive means. So are the images and names of robber barons and old bad white guys, whose venerable eponymous institutions offer valuable brands that can be monetized. At least so far, we are not rebranding Stanford and Yale with indigenous names.

This new politicized borg ferrets out every aspect of our lives. Nothing is safe, nothing sacred. Dead or alive, the relentless social-justice messaging continues. Like some sort of time machine, we go back in time to alter history as if a few corrections and adjustments will change and thus improve the entire present.

Progressive politics seeks to connect and energize us as millions of shared malignant cells inside a metastasizing tumor — or to destroy us in the attempt.

Victor Davis Hanson is a Senior Fellow of the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, bestselling author and Professor of Classics. He has appeared at various COLAB events locally. This article was first posted on September 4, 2018 on the Hoover Institution’s Eureka page.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE SEE FOLLOWING PAGES



THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW

AM 1440
KUHL • the information station

AM 1290
Santa Barbara News-Press Radio

Listen to Andy Live Monday Thru Friday 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM



Early warning NEW AG IRRIGATION REGS

Greetings Interested Parties:

This is a heads-up email that our September 20-21, 2018 Central Coast Water Board meeting in Watsonville will be devoted almost entirely to discussion about the development of the next Agricultural Order, also known as Ag Order 4.0. We are arranging for stakeholder panel presentations and discussions from growers, agricultural advocates, environmental advocates,

and other stakeholders. We will also have significant time devoted at the meeting to oral comment, where all stakeholders will have an opportunity to speak directly to our board about Ag Order 4.0. We anticipate a workshop format where ideas and concerns are freely expressed.

We will provide more details as they develop, but for now, please mark your calendars and consider attending. The board meeting will begin on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the address listed below. We anticipate that the discussion will continue on Friday, September 21, 2018, but we will provide confirmation and more details in August.

September 20-21, 2018, beginning 9:00 a.m.
Watsonville City Council Chambers
275 Main Street - 4th Floor (new bldg)
Watsonville, CA 95076

Also, we are currently in the planning stages of adding a supplemental Water Board meeting to our current board meeting schedule. At this supplemental meeting, we plan on sharing with the board a range of Ag Order 4.0 requirement options; note that these are only requirement options and NOT a draft of Ag Order 4.0, and the board will NOT be voting on Ag Order requirements at this supplemental meeting. We believe this supplemental board meeting will be scheduled for the first part of November, perhaps November 8-9, 2018. We will provide more details in the near future.

Chris Rose
Central Coast Water Board
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

STOP The Oil & Gas **SHUTDOWN** In San Luis Obispo County

Join Community Leaders, Small Businesses and Working Families in Opposing the Oil and Gas Shutdown Initiative



A Complete Shutdown of Oil and Gas Production

Safe and productive onshore oil and gas operations have been an important part of San Luis Obispo County's economy for decades. This initiative includes drastic provisions that would lead to the shutdown of all operations in the County.

The Loss of More Than 200 Jobs and Millions of Dollars to our County's Economy

If the oil and gas shutdown initiative passes, over 230 mainly blue-collar workers and their families who are reliant on the

oil and gas industry will be threatened with losing their jobs. The impact of this job loss would ripple throughout our county. In addition to the loss of jobs, San Luis Obispo County would also lose an industry that is responsible for \$64 million in economic output. Considering the pending closure of Diablo Canyon – and the looming economic strain that it will put on our county – we cannot afford the loss of another major employer.

Loss of Revenues for Local Schools, First Responders and Public Programs

The annual taxes and fees paid by the oil and gas industry provide over \$1 million to our County's General Fund. Our public safety departments, public schools and county programs benefit from these resources. A shutdown would force the county to make even more cuts to these vital services – forcing cuts in firefighting services, taking police officers off of our streets, opportunity away from our students and assistance from those who need it most.

More Oil and Gas will be Imported from Foreign Countries and Threaten Our Environment

While our country is making the transition to a greater reliance on renewable energy, it is important that we maintain our energy independence in the interim. Shutting down local oil production in California does not result in less consumption -- rather it means replacing local oil and jobs with foreign oil to meet our energy needs. As long as we need oil and natural gas to drive our cars, heat our homes and make electricity, it's better to produce it responsibly here in California where we have the strictest global environmental regulations in the world.

Hurts Those Who Can Least Afford It

California's gas prices are already among the highest in the country. Without local production in San Luis Obispo and other counties to meet our energy needs, gas prices and energy costs could rise, placing the heaviest burden on disadvantaged communities and working-class families.

Paid for by Stop the Oil and Gas Shutdown, a Coalition of Concerned San Luis Obispo Taxpayers, and Energy Companies that Create Jobs for Our Local Economy, Committee Major Funding from California Resources Corporation

**SUPPORT COLAB!
PLEASE COMPLETE THE
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MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS



VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB MIXER



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM

See the presentation at the link: <https://youtu.be/eEdP4cvf-zA>



**AUTHOR & NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COMMENTATOR BEN SHAPIRO
APPEARED AT A COLAB ANNUAL DINNER**

Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business
 San Luis Obispo County
 "Your Property – Your Taxes – Our Future"
 PO Box 13601 – San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 / Phone: 805.548-0340
 Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 – \$249 \$ _____ Voting Member: \$250 - \$5,000 \$ _____

Sustaining Member: \$5,000 + \$ _____

(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)

General members will receive all COLAB updates and newsletters. Voting privileges are limited to Voting Members and Sustainable Members with one vote per membership.

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio Internet Public Hearing Friend

COLAB Member(s) / Sponsor(s): _____

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.
 I would like to contribute \$ _____ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.
 Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.
 Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check Visa MasterCard Discover Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: ____/____ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____