



WEEKLY UPDATE FEBRUARY 20 - 26, 2022

**RUSH TO THE MARCH 24, 2022 ANNUAL COLAB
DINNER - FUNDRAISER - MADONNA EXPO, 5:00
PM, HOSTED COCKTAILS, DINNER, PAGEANTRY,
LIVE AUCTION, CELEBRATE FAMILY, HERITAGE
AND FREEDOM**



COLAB San Luis Obispo is looking for someone with an interest in regional politics and time to dedicate to our organization. This is a paid position, not volunteer, that will assist our Board and Executive Director with meetings, membership, and administrative functions. Approximately 10-15 hours per week. (Mostly) flexible scheduling. Interested? Shoot us an e-mail at colabslo@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

13th Annual



DINNER & FUNDRAISER

**Come Support the Work We Do to
Preserve Heritage, Family &
Freedom**



**THURSDAY,
MARCH 24, 2022
MADONNA EXPO CENTER**

5:00 pm Social Hour, Open Bar

6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner & Wine

Exciting Auction Too!

\$125 a person

\$1,250 a table, seating for 10

For tickets:

On-Line Reservations & Payment can be made at
www.colabslo.org/events.asp

or

Mail your check to

COLAB SLO County, PO Box 13601, SLO, CA 93406

Cocktail Attire Optional

More info at (805) 548-0340 or

colabslo@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

OTHER AGENCIES DORMANT

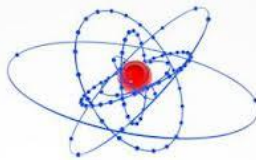
LAST WEEK

MANY POLICY ACTIONS ADOPTED

**COUNTY CHARTER PROPOSAL - MORE LOCAL CONTROL APPROVED
CONGRATULATIONS ON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
FINANCIAL INTERNAL OVERHEAD PLUMBING NEEDS DAYLIGHT**



**BOARD TO ASK GOVERNOR TO HELP KEEP
DIABLO OPEN
BUT ONLY ON A 3/2 VOTE**



LAFCO CANCELLED

COASTAL COMMISSION

**NO MORE ADUs IN CAMBRIA, CAYUCOS, OR LOS OSOS
FEW AND DECLINING VACATION RENTALS IN LOS OSOS**

PLANNING COMMISSION LITE

**ANOTHER INDOOR CANNABIS FACILITY IN NIPOMO APPROVED
PLANNING COMMISSION SEEMS TO BE EVOLVING TO INDOOR ONLY**

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH
PROPOSED 5.4% HAULER FEE INCREASE
REVENUE SHORTFALLS**

CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY

STRUCUTRAL FRACTURES EMERGE AS PREDICTED

EMERGENT ISSUES

COVID MASK MANDATE LIFTED

STILL REQUIRED IN SCHOOLS

BOS SAYS ITS MEETINGS GO LIVE ATTENDANCE IN MARCH

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 22

CALIFORNIA'S HOMELESS HOUSING SCAM

BY EWARD RING

WHY IDEOLOGY IS THE ANCIENT ENEMY OF CIVILIZATION

In such ideological dystopias, eventually even the shelves empty, the currency becomes worthless, and the nation regresses into poverty and chaos. Is that the future we await?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM

The Board of Supervisors and other regional agencies are not meeting this week. Activity picks up again in the first week of March.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, February 15, 2022 (Completed)

Item 6 - Submittal of a resolution adopting the Countywide Cost Allocation Plan for FY 2022-2023. The Cost Plan was adopted on the consent calendar by unanimous vote without any Board comment or questions. The Auditor Controller has offered to walk through it with us and does not believe there is any double dipping or slack for departments to escalate the fees based on the cost allocation plan.

We still think it would be useful for the Board to have a presentation and see some examples of how the fees of the departments are escalated based on the Plan.

For example, the Planning Department is directed to add \$1.9 million to its permitting and building examination fees, based on a \$14 million eligible carve-out of its total \$17 million budget and 103 employees. On the other hand, the Public Health Department is directed to add \$1.9 million to a \$41.7 million expenditure budget with approximately 500 employees. You would think that the Health Department would create a much higher set of overhead charges simply because of its size, which in turn would require more services of the support departments. The Health Department does separately pay \$1.4 million of its intergovernmental revenue to offset support Department costs, but even with this factor, why is its fee escalation requirement to cover support department is so low in proportion to Planning? Ditto for Behavioral Health.

Background: One of the little-known techniques of county government in California is how overhead costs are allocated among the departments. This is done through a mechanism called the “annual cost allocation plan,” which assigns overhead costs to the service departments in an effort to bring down the general fund costs of the support departments.

The write-up states in part:

The Cost Plan is an important document that allocates the costs of central servicing departments (e.g. Administrative Office, Auditor-Controller, Human Resources, Central Services, County Counsel, etc.) to the departments receiving the services. The Cost Plan also allocates building and equipment use allowance that is based on the cost of the buildings and equipment and their useful lives.

And

All costs are allocated on a basis that is directly related to the amount of service required, i.e., personnel costs are allocated by the number of employees in each department, building use-allowance is allocated by the square footage used by each department, etc. The purpose of allocating costs is to determine the amount of Countywide overhead each department should include when calculating the total cost of a particular service, program, or its entire operation.
FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS *It is estimated that the General Fund will recover \$18.8 million of indirect costs during the current fiscal year and \$19.2 million in Fiscal Year 2022-2023.*

The tables below and text (italicized) suggest some further scrutiny.

Table A 2. *The County Auditor-Controller is instructed to bill the organizations listed on Exhibit A on a quarterly basis for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.*

Please see the table on the next page:

FOR 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR

BUDGET UNIT	FUND	FUND CENTER	2022-2023
<u>Non-General Fund Departments</u>			
Roads	1200000000	245	\$ 341,981
Parks	1201500000	305	335,879
Wildlife and Grazing	1204000000	330	870
Fish and Game	1205500000	331	1,924
Emergency Medical Services	1207000000	351	1,743
Drinking Driver Programs	1204500000	375	65,885
Library	1205000000	377	596,757
Public Works	2900000000	405	1,559,255
Fleet Services	2901000000	407	147,496
Workers' Comp	2901500000	408	92,753
Liability Self-Ins	2902000000	409	133,878
Unemployment Ins	2902500000	410	330
Medical Malpractice	2903000000	411	3,501
County Dental Plan	2903500000	412	1,358
Airports	2000000000	425	267,993
Golf Course	2000500000	427	80,601
			<hr/> \$ 3,632,204
<u>General Fund Budget Units</u>			
Waste Management	1000000000	130	\$ 17,816
Child Support Services	1000000000	134	110,256
Health Department	1000000000	160	1,362,076
Behavioral Health	1000000000	166	1,891,318
Department of Social Services	1000000000	180	4,705,724
Public Works Special Services	1000000000	201	53,561
			<hr/> \$ 8,140,751
Total			<hr/> \$ 11,772,955

These numbers have not been approved by the State and are subject to change.

The overhead rates listed in Exhibit B for each department shall be utilized in the computation of fees for services provided to the general public.

Table B (On next Page)

**COUNTYWIDE OVERHEAD RATES
FOR 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR**

Fund Center	Department	Overhead	Expenditures	2022-2023 Overhead Rates
100	Board of Supervisors	476,245	1,697,918	28.05%
104	Administrative Office	389,455	3,342,928	11.65%
109	Assessor	1,103,002	9,795,938	11.26%
110	County Clerk Recorder	726,542	4,435,004	16.38%
111	County Counsel	385,263	4,687,680	8.22%
112	Personnel	694,759	7,143,240	9.73%
113	Facilities Management	573,926	8,073,470	7.11%
114	ITD	3,106,691	17,798,991	17.45%
116	Central Services	894,772	2,473,643	36.17%
117	Auditor-Controller, Treasurer, Tax Collector	1,067,135	8,106,870	13.16%
118	Talent Development	11,184	694,709	1.61%
119	Communication and Outreach	11,428	114,629	9.97%
130	Waste Management	14,669	767,133	1.91%
131	Grand Jury	59,979	84,435	71.04%
132	District Attorney	1,149,339	19,237,903	5.97%
134	Family Support	106,910	3,956,233	2.70%
135	Public Defender	145,894	7,792,282	1.87%
136	Sheriff-Coroner	4,143,291	81,650,939	5.07%
137	Animal Services	116,061	2,571,114	4.51%
138	Emergency Services	294,081	1,448,937	20.30%
139	Probation	1,141,138	23,534,359	4.85%
140	County Fire	891,751	20,204,250	4.41%
141	Agricultural Commissioner	353,443	6,463,904	5.47%
142	Planning Department	1,918,670	14,866,364	12.91%
160	Health Department	1,892,895	41,657,744	4.54%
166	Mental Health	1,117,167	79,519,736	1.40%
180	Department of Social Services	6,401,988	68,114,266	9.40%
184	LEMC	15,448	8,181,353	0.19%
186	Veterans' Services	25,710	741,365	3.47%
201	PW Special Services	67,968	3,519,578	1.93%
215	Farm Advisor	80,350	617,989	13.00%
222	Community Parks	529,320	4,397,524	12.04%
245	Roads	444,815	19,469,266	2.28%
266	Co-Wide Automation	-345,082	600	-57513.67%
290	Community Development	12,339	423,896	2.91%
305	Parks	494,674	5,443,150	9.09%
330	Wildlife and Grazing	3,133	3,022	103.67%
331	Fish and Game	1,891	30,950	6.11%
351	Emergency Medical Services	-139	308,895	-0.05%
375	Drinking Driver Programs	157,801	1,485,503	10.62%
377	Library	1,218,542	10,799,374	11.28%
405	Department of Public Works	1,501,059	20,619,086	7.28%
407	Fleet	132,768	4,574,125	2.90%
408	Workers' Comp	276,573	4,942,129	5.60%
409	Liability Insurance ISF	96,594	4,582,140	2.11%
410	Unemployment Insurance	377	57,959	0.65%
411	Med Mal Insurance	3,443	661,681	0.52%
412	Dental Insurance	117	224,359	0.05%
425	Airport	516,120	5,245,721	9.84%
427	Golf Courses	68,636	3,357,951	2.04%

These numbers have not been approved by the State and are subject to change.

1. *The Countywide Cost Allocation Plan for fiscal year 2022-2023 (on file in the Clerk's Office) is hereby approved and the overhead charges listed in Exhibit A are hereby adopted for use in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and for the preparation of the 2022-2032 budge. **Note: As of this writing, the Plan was not online. There is simply a notice that it exists.***

2. The County Auditor-Controller is instructed to bill the organizations listed on Exhibit A on a quarterly basis for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

3. The County Auditor-Controller is instructed to bill the general fund departments that are not Primarily funded by Federal and State agencies 3.5% of their appropriations excluding fixed assets and countywide overhead.

4. The overhead rates listed in Exhibit B for each department shall be utilized in the computation of fees for services provided to the general public.

5. County departments that receive cost reimbursement from Federal and State agencies shall utilize the State-Approved Cost Allocation Plan to include indirect costs in their claiming process when allowed.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2020-21 Adopted	FY 2020-21 Estimated	FY 2021-22 Requested	FY 2021-22 Recommended	Change from FY 2020-21
Licenses, Permits, and Franchises	\$6,571,543	\$6,107,604	\$6,232,911	\$6,572,073	\$530
Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties	\$125,441	\$81,408	\$91,355	\$128,480	\$3,039
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$5,515	\$36,963	\$5,515	\$5,515	\$0
Charges for Current Services	\$744,605	\$585,289	\$893,140	\$893,140	\$148,535
Other Revenues	\$587,816	\$571,282	\$496,600	\$505,960	\$(81,856)
Interfund	\$401,919	\$411,073	\$559,749	\$559,749	\$157,830
Total Revenue	\$8,436,839	\$7,793,619	\$8,279,270	\$8,664,917	\$228,078
Salary and Benefits	\$13,774,032	\$13,077,830	\$14,419,169	\$14,883,191	\$1,109,159
Services and Supplies	\$2,832,084	\$4,045,018	\$2,383,294	\$2,399,535	\$(432,549)
Gross Expenditures	\$16,606,116	\$17,122,848	\$16,802,463	\$17,282,726	\$676,610
Less Intrafund Transfers	\$0	\$(1,618)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Expenditures	\$16,606,116	\$17,121,230	\$16,802,463	\$17,282,726	\$676,610
General Fund Support	\$8,169,277	\$9,327,611	\$8,523,193	\$8,617,809	\$448,532
Source of Funds			Use of Funds		

Double Dip? Table B, when viewed in combination with the Budget and the item narrative, evinces a double dip. We use the Planning Department as an example, but the logic pertains to all the Departments and fund centers on the list.

1. Planning is directed to scale up its fees by \$1.9 million (12.9%) of \$14 million of its \$17.3 million total budget. The reason the rate is not applied to the whole \$17.3 million is:

The County Auditor-Controller is instructed to bill the general fund departments that are not primarily funded by Federal and State agencies 3.5% of their appropriations excluding fixed assets and countywide overhead.

Thus, it appears that the \$14 million represents the net, after the fixed assets and countywide overhead is subtracted out.

2. The Planning Department is a “general fund department” and is supposed to pay 3.5% of its appropriations. This would be 3.5% of \$14 million, or \$490,000. This is ostensibly used to offset its proportionate share of support departments, such as Human Resources, Auditor Controller, Purchasing, County Administration, etc.

3. Separately, it is directed to build into its fees 12.9 % (\$1.9 million) to cover the same overhead costs as the 3.5%. This would bring the aggregate rate to 16.4%.

4. However, as already noted, the Department receives \$8.6 million from the General Fund, which is largely generated by the property tax, sales tax, and transient occupancy tax. Yet the 3.5% is assessed against the entire \$14 million, which would have to include some portion of the \$8.6 million general fund contribution. This seems to be some sort of circular compounding.

5. Finally, the regular taxpayer has contributed a portion of the \$8.6 million to the General Fund portion. If that taxpayer now seeks a \$10,000 minor use permit, that person is paying both the 12.9% and 3.5%, as these are to be included when the Department gins up its fees each year. Again, the internal compounding would appear to be a double or triple dip.

6. We asked staff that worked on the Cost Allocation Plan how the departments apply the 12.9% to gin up their fees. For example, if Planning determined that the cost of a certain class of permits is \$10,000 per permit, do they build this into the base calculation or add it to the total? Staff did not know and said each department does it differently. The tracing may be included in the cost plan, but as noted above, this is not available to the Board or Public in sufficient time to be studied prior to the approval of this item on the consent calendar.

7. Presumably, the \$1.9 million of the overhead fee component reduces the amount of general fund contribution needed by Planning, which in turn frees up an equal amount to be applied in the budget for the support service departments and fund centers.

Just how is this applied on the receiving support department side? For example, the financial summary for the Human Resources Department below shows a net general fund contribution of \$4.8 million. What part of this is available due to the cost allocation plan – both cost allocation assessments and savings in general fund due to linking the rates in the fees?

Human Resources Department

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2020-21 Adopted	FY 2020-21 Estimated	FY 2021-22 Requested	FY 2021-22 Recommended	Change from FY 2020-21
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$5,204	\$0	\$5,204	\$5,204	\$0
Charges for Current Services	\$53,176	\$45,907	\$43,176	\$43,176	\$(10,000)
Other Revenues	\$5,300	\$0	\$5,300	\$5,300	\$0
Interfund	\$1,570,889	\$1,570,889	\$1,824,559	\$1,824,559	\$253,670
Total Revenue	\$1,634,569	\$1,616,796	\$1,878,239	\$1,878,239	\$243,670
Salary and Benefits	\$5,176,424	\$5,279,138	\$5,224,067	\$5,323,720	\$147,296
Services and Supplies	\$1,891,387	\$2,398,369	\$2,602,873	\$2,503,220	\$611,833
Gross Expenditures	\$7,067,811	\$7,677,507	\$7,826,940	\$7,826,940	\$759,129
Less Intrafund Transfers	\$(1,119,193)	\$(1,246,202)	\$(1,161,020)	\$(1,161,020)	\$(41,827)
Net Expenditures	\$5,948,618	\$6,431,305	\$6,665,920	\$6,665,920	\$717,302
General Fund Support	\$4,314,049	\$4,814,509	\$4,787,681	\$4,787,681	\$473,632

8. In addition to these charges and offsets, are the departments charged directly for any of the support department services? If so, how much are these charges in addition to the charges and fee offsets here?

9. The write-up states that the combined internal subsidies of the support departments raised by this procedure range from \$18 to \$20 million per fiscal year. Yet the combined total of Table A and B is far higher than these amounts. What is happening here?

It would be worthwhile for the Board to pull this off the Consent Agenda and set it for an afternoon when they have some quality time to spend. The Auditor Controller and CAO could present some plumbing charts.

Item 30 - Request to 1) provide direction to staff on proposed language for a County Charter to be submitted to the voters regarding the appointment process for County elected positions and 2) provide other direction as appropriate. The Board approved the setting of a vote on the Charter for November of 2022 on a 3/2 vote, with Gibson and Ortiz-Legg dissenting. Gibson was adamant in his opposition. He stated that counties are administrative subdivisions of the State and should stick with the general law form. He also objected that the special and regular elections would cost more. Again, he stated that the proposal was a solution in search of problem.

He said the matter was purely political. In so doing he noted that it is likely that governors in California are likely to be Democrats for the foreseeable future. Thus, he sees the Charter as an attempt to avoid Democratic governors having control of the appointments.

Background:

Promotes Local Control: Actually, it is a good idea because it would give the people of the County and its elected Board members control when a Board member vacancy occurs midterm. Currently and under General Law provisions, the Governor has the power to fill such vacancies. Given the fact that the Socialist Party, operating under camouflage as the Democratic Party, has controlled the office for decades and will probably control it forever, this is a good move. It promotes local control and fairness. So far in the last decade, Democratic governors have appointed Caryn Ray and Dawn Ortiz-Legg.

The proposed Charter also provides for the filling of vacancies in the Countywide offices of Auditor Controller, District Attorney, Assessor, Sheriff, and Clerk Recorder by election. This would forestall the sort of conflict that ensued when the Clerk Recorder position became vacant, and the Board appointed a successor. Gibson will criticize the proposal as too costly.

This is a limited Charter, which does not revise the basic structure of the County itself. The annotated draft below is self-explanatory and contains some possible alternative versions for some sections. In this regard the Board opted for the direct election versions except for cases when the remaining term of the vacated slot is less than 180 days.

CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

We, the People of the County of San Luis Obispo, with a desire for self-determination in selecting our county elected officials and to initiate the process to govern our county by charter government, do hereby adopt this charter.

ARTICLE I. POWERS OF THE COUNTY.

Section 100. The County of San Luis Obispo is a political subdivision of the State of California. It has all the powers provided by the constitution and laws of the state and this Charter. It has such other powers as necessarily implied.

ARTICLE II. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

Section 200. Governing Body. The governing body of the county is a Board of Supervisors of five (5) members elected by and from designated supervisorial districts.

Section 201. Filling of Vacancies in the Board of Supervisors. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of supervisor, the vacancy shall be filled as follows:

- A. If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is 365 days or greater, then the vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the electors of that district at a special election to be called by the Board of Supervisors not less than 56 days nor more than 70 days after the vacancy occurs, except that if the vacancy occurs within 180 days of a regularly scheduled election held throughout the supervisorial district, the election to fill the vacancy may be consolidated with that regularly scheduled election. The person receiving the highest number of votes in that election shall fill the vacancy.

[ALTERNATIVES: (1) The Board could fill the vacancy; (2) the Board could have the Governor fill the vacancy if the Board fails to appoint someone within a certain number of days; or (3) the vacancy could be filled by the individual in the previous election who had the next highest votes and if that individual fails to accept the office, then the vacancy is filled by the Board;]

- B. If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is less than 365 days, then the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by majority vote of the Board of Supervisors.

[ALTERNATIVES: (1) The vacancy could be filled through a special election. If the Board prefers this option, then it is recommended that a “bottom end” be included on the number of days remaining in office so the provision would read as follows: “If, at the time the vacancy occurs, the remaining term of office is less than 365 days *but greater than 180¹ days*, then the vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the electors of that district at a special election to be called by the Board of Supervisors...”; (2) The Board could have the Governor fill the vacancy if the Board fails to appoint someone within a certain number of

¹ [Draft Note: 180 days is typically the standard minimum number of days required to process a

days; or (3) the vacancy could be filled by the individual in the previous election who had the next highest votes and if that individual fails to accept the office, then the vacancy is filled by the Board.]

[OTHER ALTERNATIVES: (1) If the remaining term is less than 180 days, then the charter could require that the office remain vacant until the next general election; and (2) At least one county charter prohibits the Board from appointing a person who has filed nomination documents with the county elections official to qualify as a candidate for Supervisor.]

Section 202. Filling of Vacancies in Other Elective Offices. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in any elective county office, other than in the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors shall fill the same in the manner, and the appointee shall hold office for the time, provided by general law.

Section 203. Continuation of Office. Any person holding an office, either elective or appointive, on the effective date of this Charter shall continue in office pursuant to the provisions of this Charter.

ARTICLE III. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Section 300. General Law Governs. Except as expressly set forth in this Charter, the general law set forth in the Constitution of the State of California and the laws of the State of California shall govern the operations of the County of San Luis Obispo.

Section 301. County Ordinances Enacted by the Voters Remain in Effect. Ordinances of the County of San Luis Obispo adopted by the voters prior to the enactment of this Charter shall remain in full force and effect and may only be modified or repealed by a vote of the people.

Section 302. Severability. If any provision of this Charter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Charter, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

[END OF COUNTY CHARTER]

Refined Recommended Schedule

June 21, 2022	SUGGESTED LAST DAY San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution/ordinance placing a measure on the November 8, 2022, Consolidated General Election ballot.
June 23, 2022	BY THIS DATE the Elections Official shall send the Notice Calling for Submission of Primary/Rebuttal Arguments FOR and AGAINST the measure to be published.
July 22, 2022	PRIMARY ARGUMENTS DUE – LAST DAY for proponent(s) to change or withdraw Primary Arguments.
July 22, 2022	IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS DUE from County Counsel. FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT DUE from Auditor (if directed by B.O.S.)
July 23 - August 1, 2022	PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD - Primary Arguments, Impartial Analysis, Fiscal Impact Statement (if applicable).
August 2, 2022	REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS DUE - LAST DAY for proponent(s) to change or withdraw Rebuttal Arguments.
August 3 – 12, 2022	PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD - For Rebuttal Arguments Only.
August 29, 2022 *	ELECTION OFFICIAL'S DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF LOCAL MEASURE INFORMATION TO PRINTER: Submission of ballot/sample ballot material to printer by County Elections Official.

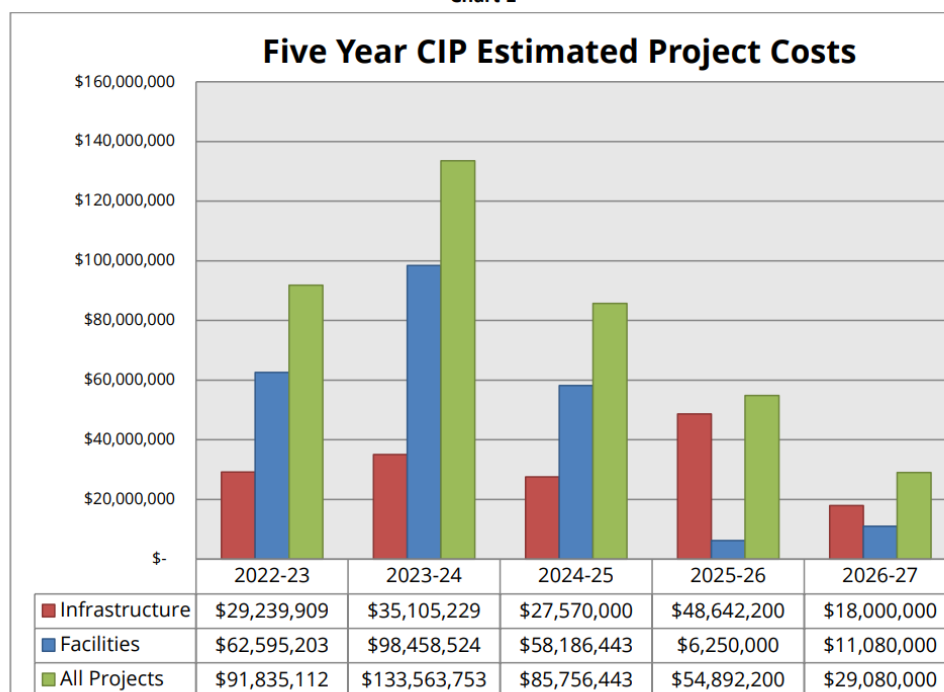
Item 33 - Submittal of the Infrastructure and Facilities Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Board approved the Plan unanimously. The first year could be revised at Budget adoption time next June, when specific financing and revenues have more specificity.

Background: The annual update and adoption of the Five-Year Plan is one of the most important policy actions of the County, as it allocates funding for infrastructure such as roads, buildings, drainage and flood facilities, bridges, and so forth. It also contains sums for larger maintenance projects.

The Board letter states in part:

The Five-Year CIP includes capital and major maintenance projects expected to cost in excess of \$100,000. In all, there are 173 projects valued at \$590 million including previous allocations, in the Five-Year CIP spread over communities and rural areas. The plan includes 48 infrastructure projects, with a total estimated value of \$250 million. Of these projects, 25 are expected to be implemented in FY 2022-23 with a total estimated cost of \$29 million. The plan includes 125 facility projects identified in the plan with a total estimated cost of \$340 million. Of these projects, 38 are expected to be implemented in FY 2022-23 at an estimated value of \$63 million.

A copy of the program is available at the link: [139992 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov/139992)



The County has upgraded the presentation and organization of the program in recent years. It is extensive and goes from higher level summaries down to detailed project sheets.

The only real criticism we have is that there should be a section that shows future investments and projects which are not included because there is no discernable future funding. Although this is obviously not part of the program, it is important for the Board and Public to understand what is not covered. For example, how much funding is needed to expand the infrastructure to facilitate the development of housing?

There is an informative Power Point available at [Five Year Facilities and Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan](#)

Both this PowerPoint and the Program book itself at [139992 \(ca.gov\)](#) are well worth a look and are emblematic of the good staff work required for putting the whole complex effort together.

Item 35 - Diablo – Current Status and Possible Future Retention:

1. The quarterly update on the PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Project permitting and Environmental Impact Report preparation.

2. A presentation by the authors of the Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) study titled, “An Assessment of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant for Zero Carbon Electricity, Desalination, and Hydrogen Production.”

The Board ultimately determined to pass a Resolution asking the Governor for help in keeping the plant open on a 3/1/ 0 vote with Gibson vigorously dissenting and Ortiz Legg abstaining, as she believes she might have a conflict of interest as she was an employee of PG&E several years ago.

This the first time the Board has lifted a finger to attempt to advocate for keeping the Plant open in the past 11 years, if not forever. PG&E is adamant that they are closing the Plant because of the various State policies which made it uneconomical. Now the process is down the road, and PG&E does not wish it to be compromised. Several anti-nuclear groups have indicated that they would sue if an attempt were made to stay the closure, on the grounds that it would violate the Diablo Closure Agreement, to which PG&E, its labor unions, and the Enviro are parties. Others raised the question of the mitigation funding, which the County has received to offset near term revenue losses due to the closure.

Gibson parroted his long-term line that the County does not have any role in retaining the plant and should instead work on promoting offshore wind energy. What would he say if the State determined to close Cal Poly, if the major hospital in the County determined to go out of business, if Union Pacific determined to close the coastal line (in any case some of it is sliding into the ocean), or if the State determined to close the Atascadero hospital?

Voters should not be intimidated or bought off. They judge the past and current mistakes of their elected officials on this issue. They should also judge the candidates. How can the enviro-left flip off the joint MIT-Stanford Study when they are half hysterical over 3-centimeter sea level rise projections?

Gibson was here 11 years ago when the County did nothing to help PG&E with relicensing, and instead pandered to the closure advocates, tidal wave mavens, and enviro-socials. He has also vigorously supported anything which has hurt PG&E, such as community choice aggregation government takeover of electric distribution, effectively confiscating the company's facilities and services.

It is too bad that the public outrage about COVID masks, business lockdowns, and school closures is not as intense as it should be on this vital issue.

Decommission Permit Application: As noted by the title, this item contains two very important subjects. Most important is **Sub-item 2**, which includes a presentation by the authors of the independent joint MIT-Stanford study of the importance of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant.

Exercise retribution at the next election.

With respect to **Sub-item 1**, status of processing PG&E's application to decommission and demolish the plant, the staff has presented the graphic below:

EIR Process and Schedule



Independent MIT-Stanford study of retention of the plant: The Board has provided a tremendous service and has displayed great leadership by bringing this study forward in the original and having its actual authors present. We recognize that such a move is controversial and will outrage the so-called “progressive” left and its underlying enviro-socialist base. The courage to place this on the agenda is to be commended. It is the first time in the last 11 years that the Board of Supervisors or any other political leaders other than Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham have lifted a finger to look at this issue.

The Board majority exercised policy leadership to convince State and local officials to take actions to assist the plant to stay open on an economically viable basis. Other actions could include giving presentations to all 7 cities, giving presentations to all chambers of commerce (including preservation of the plant in its Legislative Program), deputizing staff to give presentations at service clubs, civic groups etc., working with PG&E to toll demolition permitting, assisting the Feds and State to see if the Feds and State can work out a preservation

solution, working with the Feds to extend the plant licenses beyond 2024 and 25 to see if a solution can be worked out.

Presenters will include:

Several of the Stanford/MIT study authors will provide an overview of the study and be available to answer questions. The presenters include:

Justin Aborn
Senior Consultant,
LudicCatalyst, LLC

Ejeong Baik, PhD
Candidate,
Department of Energy
Resources
Engineering, Stanford
University

Jacopo Buongiorno
Professor of Nuclear
Science and
Engineering, Director of
the Center for Advanced
Nuclear Energy Systems,
MIT

John E. Parsons,
Senior Lecturer, MIT Sloan
School of Management,
Associate Director of the Center
for Energy and Environmental
Policy Research, MIT

Top Line Conclusions

Electricity-10 year delay:

Delaying the retirement of Diablo Canyon to 2035 would:

- Reduce California power sector carbon emissions by more than 10% annually from 2017 levels and reduce reliance on gas
- Save a total of \$2.6 Billion in power system costs between 2025 and 2035
- Bolster system ability to mitigate brownouts as demonstrated by reliable performance during Aug 2020 brownouts

Electricity to 2045 and beyond:

If operated to 2045 and beyond, Diablo Canyon could save up to \$21 Billion in power system costs and spare 90,000 acres of land from use for energy production, while meeting coastal protection requirements.

Top Line Conclusions (II)

Desalination:

Using Diablo Canyon as a power source for desalination could substantially augment fresh water supplies to the state as a whole and to critically overdrafted basins regions such as the Central Valley and Central Coast, producing fresh water volumes equal to or substantially exceeding those of the proposed Delta Conveyance Project—but at significantly lower investment cost

Hydrogen:

A hydrogen plant connected to Diablo Canyon could produce clean hydrogen to meet growing demand for zero-carbon fuels, at a cost up to 50% less than hydrogen produced from solar and wind power, with a much smaller land footprint

Polygeneration:

Operating Diablo Canyon as a polygeneration facility—with coordinated and varying production of electricity, desalinated water, and clean hydrogen—could provide multiple services to California, including grid reliability as needed, and further increase the value of the Diablo Canyon electricity plant by nearly 50% (and more, if water prices were to substantially increase under conditions of worsening drought)

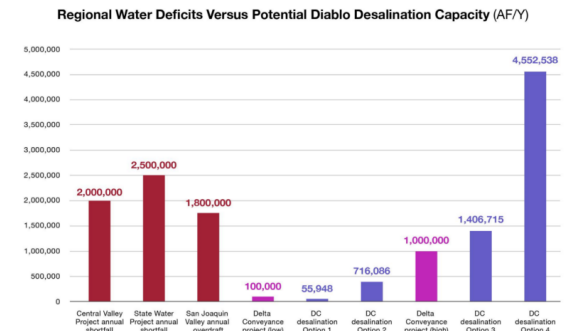
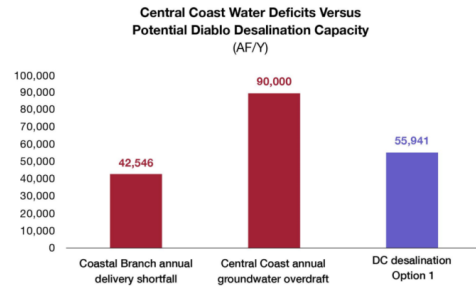
While this was not intended as a definitive study, these conclusions warrant a further consideration of extending the life of the Diablo Canyon plant beyond 2025.

Diablo Canyon Coupled to Desalination

Diablo Canyon could be a powerful driver of low cost desalination to serve urban, industrial, and agricultural users.

A plant equal in size to the currently operating Carlsbad desalination plant would have a roughly 50% lower cost of water at Diablo Canyon.

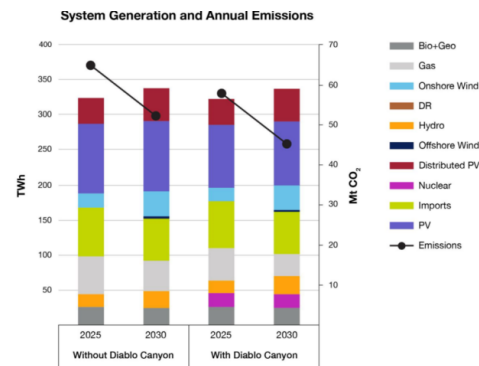
Significantly larger plants that could be constructed on the site are shown to produce water volumes in the same range as current statewide shortfalls and the proposed Delta Conveyance Project, but at significantly lower investment cost.



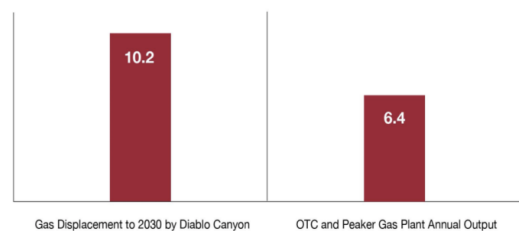
Diablo Canyon and Electricity Carbon Reductions 2025-2030

Even assuming rapid and unconstrained buildout of renewable energy, the continued operation of Diablo Canyon would significantly reduce California's use of natural gas for electricity production from 2025 to 2030 by approximately 10.2 TWh per year, more than the output of the state's older gas peaker and once through cooling units.

In doing so, Diablo Canyon would also reduce California carbon emissions by an average of 7 Mt CO₂ a year from 2025-2030, corresponding to an 11% reduction in CO₂ from the electricity sector relative to 2017 levels, for a cumulative total of 35 Mt CO₂ to 2030.



Annual Gas Displacement by Diablo Canyon to 2030 Versus Older CA Gas Plant Output (TWH/Year)

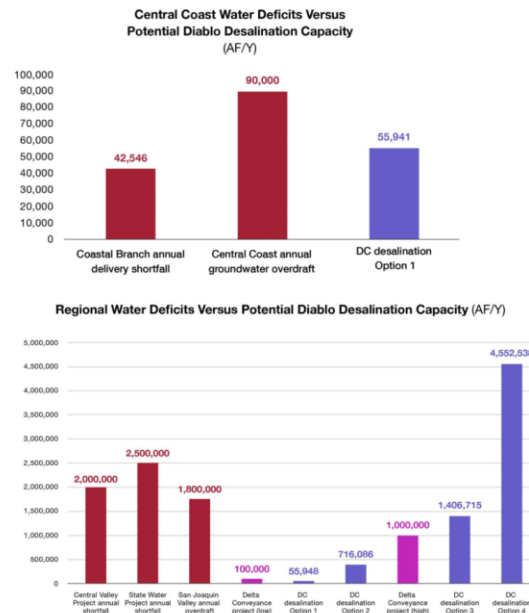


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See the full PowerPoint at <https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/140077>

SLO Local Agency Formation Commission (SLOLAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, February 17, 2022 (Cancelled)

The meeting had been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2022.

Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, February 9, 2022 (Completed) and Special Board Meeting of Tuesday, February 15 2022 (Completed)

There were two meetings in the near term, as noted below

Regular Board IWMA Meeting of Wednesday, February 9, 2022 (Completed)

The Board discussed multiple financial items including an impending revenue short fall, a fee increase of 5.4% on the haulers (which would get passed through to the customers), and new costs attendant to the State's wet garbage recycling mandate.

Special Board IWMA Meeting of Tuesday, February 15, 2022 (Completed)

Item 5 - Employment: Recommendation: Pursuant to Government Code § 54957(b)(1) – Public Employment – Executive Director. The item was discussed in executive session. After a 45 minute meeting, their counsel reported that they took no reportable action. It is possible that they discussed the process for recruiting and selecting a future permanent Executive Director. Paavo Ogren currently serves as the Interim Executive Director.

**Central Coast Community Energy Authority Meeting of Wednesday, February, 16 2022
(Completed)**

Item 10 - Approve Amendments to the Community Advisory Council Bylaws (Action Item).

The Structure is cracking:

The governing structure of the Central Coast Community Energy Authority (3CE) is composed of a Policy Board made up of mayors, council members, and county supervisors of the member cities and counties, and an Operations Board composed of city managers and county administrative officers from the member counties. The large jurisdictions (population wise) each get their own representative, and the smaller units share a representative.

At the outset we pointed out that the members of these 2 bodies are already very busy governing their own jurisdictions. Many also serve on their respective counties' APCDs, COGs, LAFCOs, and other joint powers authorities. We pointed out that they will not have much time to study and prepare for 3CE meetings, where the agendas contain very complex issues related to the purchase and distribution of electrical energy, regulatory matters, financial strategies, rate setting, maximizing green energy, and distribution of "profits" to member jurisdictions and industry groups for green energy patronage projects. The latter include electric school buses, electric vehicle recharging stations, converting municipal buildings to green energy, helping cities ban natural gas appliances, and funding green energy social equity projects.

We warned the elected officials and community that such a structure would lead to staff domination of policy making. This in turn could mean that the promised benefit of community control would be weakened or not occur at all. It has been pretty clear from observing the 3CE Board meetings that this is exactly what happened. Many of the Policy Board members (although many appear to be smart and sophisticated) are overwhelmed. The questions they ask frequently signal that they have not absorbed the agenda material and/or have difficulty following the dialog. It took them 3 years to begin to understand that their customers really don't receive special green electricity. They get the same energy as everyone else on the PG&E system.

Last year this revelation came to them when the staff proposed that the Authority buy Diablo Power Plant nuclear renewable energy certificates (RECs), as they were on sale at a discount and could count as green energy credits toward the Authority's goal of providing totally green energy. The nuclear RECS are a surrogate for carbon free energy. The Board revolted and rejected the idea, forcing the staff to obtain some alternative energy certificates from other sources and driving up costs. This in turn, combined with higher natural gas prices and the drought, lowered the amount of hydro available.

In turn, the rates had to be raised, resulting in the pricing for 3CE's residential customers to be about equal to PG&E's rate for its base mixed green program, and higher than PG&E's rates for its 100 % green program. The Board struggled through the rate increases and barely got it done.

In the latest kerfuffle, the 3CE's highly touted Community Advisory Committee (the CAC), has revolted, as staff brought forward a proposal to limit its recommendatory powers to matters which the staff and/or the Policy Board have okayed for exploration. Apparently, the staff is being overwhelmed by the CAC, as it is largely populated by the Sierra Club, the Community Environmental Council, and other enviro-socialist types. Relatedly, former SLO City Mayor Heidi Harmon, in her new role as professional environmental agitator, is one of the forces behind some CAC members.

The staff can't get its regular work done. The policy Board is divided on the matter and is actually tied on several votes. Meanwhile, it was clear from the facial expressions, comments, and body language that some of the Board members are exasperated by staff control.

This in turn resulted in the idea that the whole structure should be junked, and a new Authority legal arrangement be adopted, in which the Board members would be directly elected by the people and serve full time without the distractions of being a mayor, city council member, or county supervisor.

As we noted two weeks ago, the Authority staff is off attempting to buy ocean front property in Pacific Grove for its headquarters. This certainly does evince a self-absorbed and out of touch bunch. Salinas is apparently too full of trailer trucks, Ag laborers, and chillers for the taste the effete staffers.

Meanwhile, everyone's electric rates are moving ever upward, the green energy is a paper scam, and our nuclear power plant is being shut down.

Elected officials in most of the agencies we monitor do not appear to be exercising their powers and responsibilities to control and question staff.

Board member question: "Ms. Jones, if we approve the festival, we need to know what time the sun will set for safety purposes."

Typical staffer answer: "Well, it's a moving target, due to the declination of the earth changing a little every 24 hours. Clouds could also impact the issue, and we don't control when the streetlights come on because those are controlled by the Lighting District. The phase of the moon could also impact the situation, as the true full moon does not occur until after sunset, but leading up to that there are some bright moons."

At this point the elected official, who asked the question, gives up and says, "thank you."

Supervising public employee engineering, health, public safety, legal, and similar expert bureaucracies can be difficult. Given all the civil service, union, anti-harassment, and woke protections, no one will dare say:

“I beg your pardon Ms. Jones, but perhaps I didn’t make myself clear. What time is darkness during the days of the festival?”

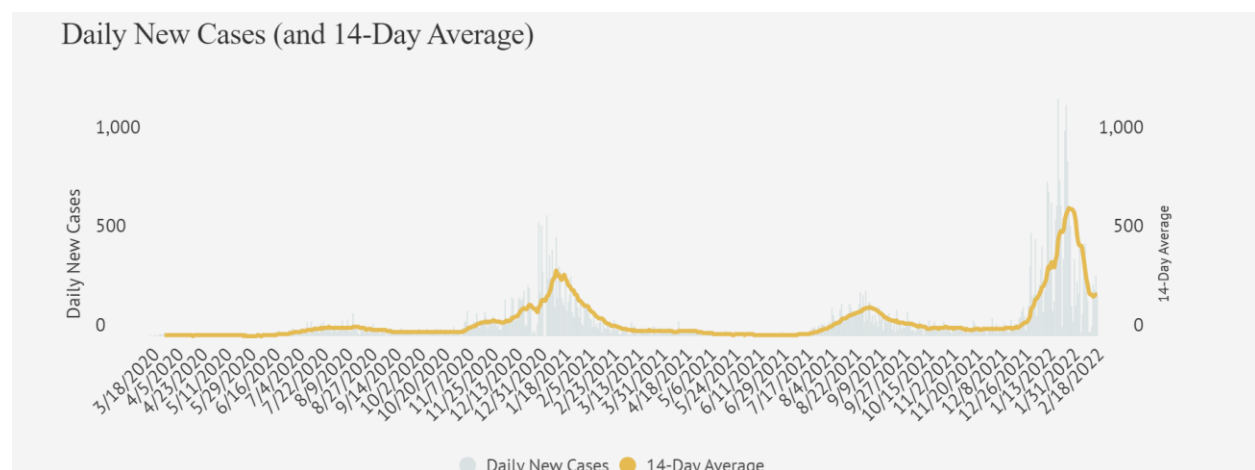
At this point, the cognizant department head or the CAO may interject with, “We will get back to you.”

Meanwhile, the Board has lost the thread of the safety issue after dark and doesn’t take it into consideration in setting the time limits.

Imagine this staff domination on steroids ruling the discussion of the complexities of delivering electric power in a woke world at 3CE.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID: The downward trend continued for the 3rd week but then seems to have paused. The indoor masking requirement was lifted on February 16, 2022, for those who have been vaccinated.



24 (4 ICU) * SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

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

CALIFORNIA’S HOMELESS HOUSING SCAM BY EWARD RING



Progressive politicians have created the homeless crisis. Their policies have made housing unaffordable, driven away decent job opportunities, and encouraged vagrancy and drug addiction. Their solution – to build taxpayer subsidized housing, provided free and with no conditions to any homeless person – is a special interest scam, guaranteed to never solve the problem. Nowhere in America is the problem worse than in Los Angeles, California.

Over the past week two local elected officials in Los Angeles have made public statements on the homeless crisis that grips the region. They represent two completely different perspectives on how to resolve the crisis.

The first comes in the form of a [thank you letter](#) from retiring Los Angeles city council member Mike Bonin, sent to those of his constituents who wish him well in whatever he does next. With respect to his legacy, Bonin writes:

“By providing housing and services, we are changing lives and providing a pathway out of homelessness. Since the launch of the Venice Beach Encampments to Homes initiative, 76 people have been permanently housed.” *Seventy six* people. Remember that number.

Bonin’s philosophy is consistent with what remains the prevailing progressive doctrine regarding homelessness, known as “Housing First.” It is [defined on the US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) website as “an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements.”

This approach has made Bonin infamous even among the mostly progressive residents of Venice Beach, where an [estimated 2,000 homeless](#) have taken over this tiny beachfront suburb of Los

Angeles. Only a small fraction of them have been given “supportive housing” or temporary shelter, and only a small fraction held accountable for using and selling hard drugs, public intoxication, theft, vandalism, or worse.

The other public official who has recently weighed in on these challenges facing Los Angeles is their county sheriff, the outspoken Alex Villanueva. In an [interview with California Insider](#), Villanueva describes how progressive policies have combined to “defund, defame and defang” his department.

In a must-watch video, Villanueva claims that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is the only major local government in the U.S. that has not begun to pull back from the defund the police movement. He claims the worst impact of defunding is the hiring freeze, which has prevented the department’s veterans from mentoring new hires before they retire. But it is the county’s response to the homeless crisis that draws Villanueva’s most withering remarks.

“The problem with city government and county government is that they [woke ideologues] occupy every seat at the table,” according to Villanueva. “That’s why every single plan the city has, or the county has, with regard to homelessness is destined to fail. No other opinion gets in.”

“They think that if we build enough supportive housing we will end homelessness in Los Angeles. But the more you build, the more people will come. Right now we have 25 percent of the nation’s homeless in Los Angeles County. What’s going to prevent more homeless people from coming to Los Angeles if they see someone living in a \$500,000 condo with a beach view? They’ll say, ‘hey, I want one too.’ We cannot create the magnet that brings other people here.”

California’s Subsidized Housing – The Boondoggle Archipelago

Villanueva is not exaggerating, and this problem has been known for some time. In a 2019 report by the California Policy Center entitled “[The Boondoggle Archipelago](#),” several representative examples of staggering costs for “supportive housing” were revealed. San Francisco’s Proposition A funding housing at an estimated cost of \$500,000 per unit. Alameda County’s Measure A1 funds for housing costing \$736,000 per unit. San Jose’s Measure A funds for housing coming in at between \$406,000 and \$706,000 per unit. Los Angeles’s plan to repurpose an existing structure on the Veterans Affairs campus in West Los Angeles to create supportive housing at a cost of \$926,000 per unit. Also in Los Angeles, \$1.2 billion in bonds to construct supportive housing at an estimated cost of \$550,000 per unit.

And back in Venice Beach, Mike Bonin’s backyard, the plan to create 140 new apartment units on a city owned property that is currently the only significant beach parking available to the public. Dubbed “[The Monster on the Median](#)” by outraged residents, the estimated total project cost comes up to at least \$1.1 million *per unit*.

These costs are not coming down. But for the 2021-22 fiscal year Los Angeles County has [budgeted \\$527 million](#) to address homelessness. Also for the 2021-22 fiscal year, the City of Los Angeles has [allocated \\$1.0 billion](#), nearly 10 percent of all spending, “for the homeless crisis.” Add to that the spending on homeless by many other cities in Los Angeles County, plus direct state and federal spending, plus the ongoing disbursements from bonds approved for homeless housing. Will it work?

The most recent homeless count for Los Angeles County was in 2020, with the 2021 count cancelled because of COVID and, for that same reason, the 2022 count postponed at this time. But in 2020 there were an [estimated 66,000 homeless](#) in Los Angeles County. It is unlikely that housing has kept up with the influx, since, as Sheriff Villanueva accurately proclaims, Los Angeles is a national magnet for homeless migration. At \$500,000 per unit, *it would cost \$33 billion to house every homeless person in Los Angeles*, assuming no more arrived. That doesn’t include the swollen bureaucracy and perpetual costs to manage homeless housing, nor any spending to actually treat them and get them on a path to independence.

As noted in a lengthy 2019 study published by the California Policy Center entitled “[The Homeless Industrial Complex](#),” and as expressed more recently in a provocative and compelling book, “[San Fransicko](#),” by the writer and activist Michael Shellenberger, homelessness is not just a housing issue, to be solved by more housing. It is primarily a mental illness, drug addiction, and crime issue. At the very least, some of the billions in taxpayer sourced funds that are mandated to be spent on “housing first” need to be redirected, with equal amounts spent immediately on treatment, and for some, incarceration. In many cases, involuntary treatment, i.e., incarceration, is the *only* way to rescue people from addiction.

Mike Bonin, along with countless other intransigent progressives, refuse to accept this reality. But ideological idiocy alone does not explain why common sense reforms aren’t sweeping away these failed policies.

The homelessness and crime afflicting California’s cities, especially Los Angeles, has not been solved because there is an identity of interests between public bureaucrats, powerful nonprofits, and politically connected housing developers, who prefer that policies remain unchanged. The billions pour in, and as the problem only gets worse, additional billions pour in, enabling a Homeless Industrial Complex that thrives on failure.

Members of law enforcement in Los Angeles County, from the elected sheriff to the officers on the streets to the unions that represent them, and to their immense credit, have recognized that progressive ideology – as epitomized by retiring local politician Mike Bonin – has created the problem and is only making the problem worse. It is up to the remaining players that influence policy in Los Angeles and elsewhere to come to the same conclusion, despite whatever detriment a new approach might inflict on their budgets and their prerogatives.

Eventually, we may hope common sense will prevail. Deregulate home construction. Stop harassing private employers and let them create jobs. Stop decriminalizing crime. Build inexpensive and safe shelters on inexpensive real estate. Reject entirely the absurd position that drug addiction is a legitimate “life style.” Get addicts off the streets and get them sober.

As it is, Los Angeles is more than just a progressive failure. It beckons to every troubled individual in America who stands at the crossroads between recovering their dignity with hard work and self-discipline, and succumbing to drugs and dissolution. It is a blazing, nihilistic beacon, telling these souls they can give up, come to California, live on the beach, and disintegrate.

Edward Ring is a contributing editor and senior fellow for the California Policy Center. This article first appeared in California Policy Center of February 14, 2022.

WHY IDEOLOGY IS THE ANCIENT ENEMY OF CIVILIZATION

In such ideological dystopias, eventually even the shelves empty, the currency becomes worthless, and the nation regresses into poverty and chaos. Is that the future we await?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

What ultimately destroyed the evil empires of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia were bankrupt dogmas. Crackpot ideology destroyed free expression. It ruined meritocracy and ensured unequal application of the laws—and so paved the way for far worse.

The Nazi idea of a superior Aryan race adjudicated everything from physics to tank design. Soviet commissars did the same, subordinating rational thought to communist agendas.

Zealots in both systems infiltrated the universities and schools to institutionalize indoctrination.

Wokeism, while not yet as lethal, is similar. Racial wokeism posits that the race and gender of the vice president and the next Supreme Court justice subordinate all other considerations.

But will the current vice president and next Supreme Court justice commensurately select their own future surgeons, or their upcoming airline pilots, on the same predetermined race and sex criteria?

What—other than ideology—explains why rejecting nominations of African American judge Janice Rogers Brown in 2003 and 2005 was not racist and sexist, but blocking Joe Biden’s upcoming nomination of a preselected African American female would be?

Why were most Antifa and Black Lives Matter criminals who looted, destroyed, and assaulted during the 120 days of summer 2020 not charged, much less tried? Why, in contrast, were the January 6 rioters or the current Canadian truckers treated disproportionately harshly by the media?

Had the same rioters on January 6 been waving pride flags and BLM banners, would some of them have been sitting for a year in solitary confinement and still uncharged?

Had the criminal protestors and looters of summer 2020 been wearing red MAGA hats, would they also have mostly gotten off without charges?

What would have happened had conservative demonstrators cut out a police-free “MAGA Zone” in Seattle rather than the exempted Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone? Would police have similarly left it alone, and the media similarly romanticized such illegality?

One of the reasons the COVID-19 lockdown and mask policies lost public confidence was their utter corruption by ideology.

When thousands in June 2020 brazenly defied quarantines—and yet were excused by over 1,000 healthcare professionals claiming that woke agendas justified violating quarantine laws—then millions of Americans concluded government policy was as much about identity politics as saving lives.

Which politicians in 2020 trashed the vaccine programs and declared they would likely not get inoculations—if they were endorsed by then-President Trump?

If Trump is demonized as a destroyer of election legitimacy, what then are we to say of the beatified Stacey Abrams? She lost the Georgia gubernatorial race by more than 50,000 votes. Yet for years, she has maintained the voting was rigged and the elected governor is illegitimate.

In 2000, who challenged for weeks the vote count, despite numerous public and private audits confirming George W. Bush’s popular vote victory in Florida?

Who in 2004-2005—for only the second time in history—challenged in Congress the Electoral College vote? In whose party were the 31 House members and one senator who forced a congressional vote in a failed effort to overturn the election?

Who in 2016 ran ads for weeks after the election, beseeching the chosen electors to violate their constitutional duties, ignore their state vote tallies, and instead vote for Hillary Clinton?

And who in 2016 claimed her victorious opponent was elected president illegitimately? Who bragged she was joining the “resistance” to undermine his presidency? Who advised Joe Biden in 2020 not to accept the election result if he lost?

If conservative zealots were ransacking American stores, carjacking innocents in the major cities, and spiking murder rates to historical highs, would the Biden Administration be

mobilizing law enforcement to ensure arrests, prosecutions, and incarceration? Would current city and county prosecutors continue to turn a blind eye?

If anti-communist Cubans by the millions were illegally crashing the southern border, would they be welcomed in as are those from Mexico and Central Americans?

If, by 2024, a Republican president enjoys a Republican Congress, what would be the reaction to conservatives who advocated ending the filibuster? Ensuring a national voting law requiring IDs at all the polls? Voting to increase the Supreme Court to 15 justices to guarantee at least six new nominations for the Republican-controlled presidency and Congress?

When ideology in places like Castroite Cuba, the old Soviet Union, and Venezuela warped the application of the law, destroyed the role of merit in assessing qualifications, silenced speech, and unequally applied the law, then society unwound.

In such ideological dystopias, eventually even the shelves empty, the currency becomes worthless, and the nation regresses into poverty and chaos. Is that the future we await?

Scarier still, ideology ensures that such chaos is heralded as success. Critics are demonized and hounded. And the obsequious state media assures the public that things are going just great.

Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won, The Case for Trump and the newly released The Dying Citizen. This article first appeared in the American Greatness of February 14, 2022.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**AUTHOR & NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COMMENTATOR BEN SHAPIRO
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MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

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

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Name: _____

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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: _____