

# COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

**WEEKLY UPDATE AUGUST 13 - 19, 2023**



***FALL MIXER 2023***

**SAVE THE DATE**

OCTOBER 4TH

5:30PM - 7:30PM

THOUSAND HILLS RANCH

550 THOUSAND HILLS RD.

PISMO BEACH, CA

FOOD & BEVERAGES WILL  
BE PROVIDED



**THIS WEEK  
SEE PAGE 3**

**NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**LAFCO  
STUDIES THE FUTURE OF TEMPLETON**

**LAST WEEK  
SEE PAGE 5**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH DEPT. DOCS MUST WORK 40 HOUR  
WEEK BUT CAN THEY HAVE A PRIVATE PRACTICE ON  
THE SIDE?**

**HUGE \$3.5 MILLION HOMELESS DATA SYSTEM APPROVED**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MUTE ON THEIR CLOSED  
SESSION DISCUSSION OF COUNTY'S POSITION ON  
COASTAL COMMISSION'S DUNES COURT LOSS**

**CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY**

**RISKS OF COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY ADMITTED BY 3CE**

**WHY THE BOARD LEFTISTS JAMMED THROUGH THE  
DECISION TO JOIN 3CE  
AND PERHAPS FORCED CAO HORTON'S RESIGNATION**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**DISTILLERIES, GUEST RANCHES, AND URBAN WINERIES  
ORDINANCES APPROVED & FORWARDED TO BOARD FOR ADOPTION**

**COASTAL COMMISSION**  
**APPEALS ITS DUNES RIDING PROHIBITION COURT LOSS**

**EMERGENT ISSUES**  
**SEE PAGE 20**

**EMBOLDENED LEFTIST BOS MAJORITY'S  
SHAMEFUL SCORECARD**

**POWER VACUUM: CALIFORNIA WANTS TO  
SUCK YOUR EV**

***THE STATE HAS DECIDED TO GO ALL ELECTRIC WITHOUT HAVING  
THE ABILITY TO ACTUALLY PROVIDE ENOUGH ELECTRICITY***

**COLAB IN DEPTH**  
**SEES PAGE 23**

**THE REMAKING OF AMERICA**  
***EVERY ASPECT OF AMERICAN LIFE AND CULTURE IS UNDER ASSAULT***  
**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

**THE REGRESSIVE LEFT'S COUNTER-REVOLUTION**  
***THE LEFT'S 'DEMOCRACY' MEANS THE UNCHECKED POWER OF A  
TYRANNY OF THE MAJORITY***  
**BY THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

**THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**  
**ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

**No Board of Supervisors Meeting On Tuesday, August 15, 2023 (Not Scheduled)**

**The next meeting is set for Tuesday, August 22, 2023.**

**Item A.2 - LAFCO NO. 1-S-22 | Municipal Service Review and Sphere Of Influence Study For Templeton Community Services District.** State Law requires LAFCOs to conduct periodic service reviews of the various cities, community service districts, and special districts within their respective counties. The theory is that there should be an assessment of the adequacy of the services that they provide and should they expand. There is also an assessment of their future service capacity as the population grows. The write-up states in part:

*The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg (CKH) Act directs Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCO) to regularly prepare municipal service reviews (MSRs) in conjunction with establishing and updating each local agency's sphere of influence (SOI). The legislative intent of MSRs is to proactively assess the availability, capacity, and efficiency of local governmental services prior to making SOI determinations. MSRs may also lead LAFCOs to take other actions under their authority, such as forming, consolidating, or dissolving one or more local agencies in addition to any related sphere changes. The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Work Plan revised the schedule for completion of the next MSR cycle, and an MSR for the Templeton Community Services District (TCSD) has been prepared consistent with the established timeline.*

Templeton Community Services District  
MSR & Sphere Study

11

At A Glance

Table 1: District Profile<sup>1</sup>

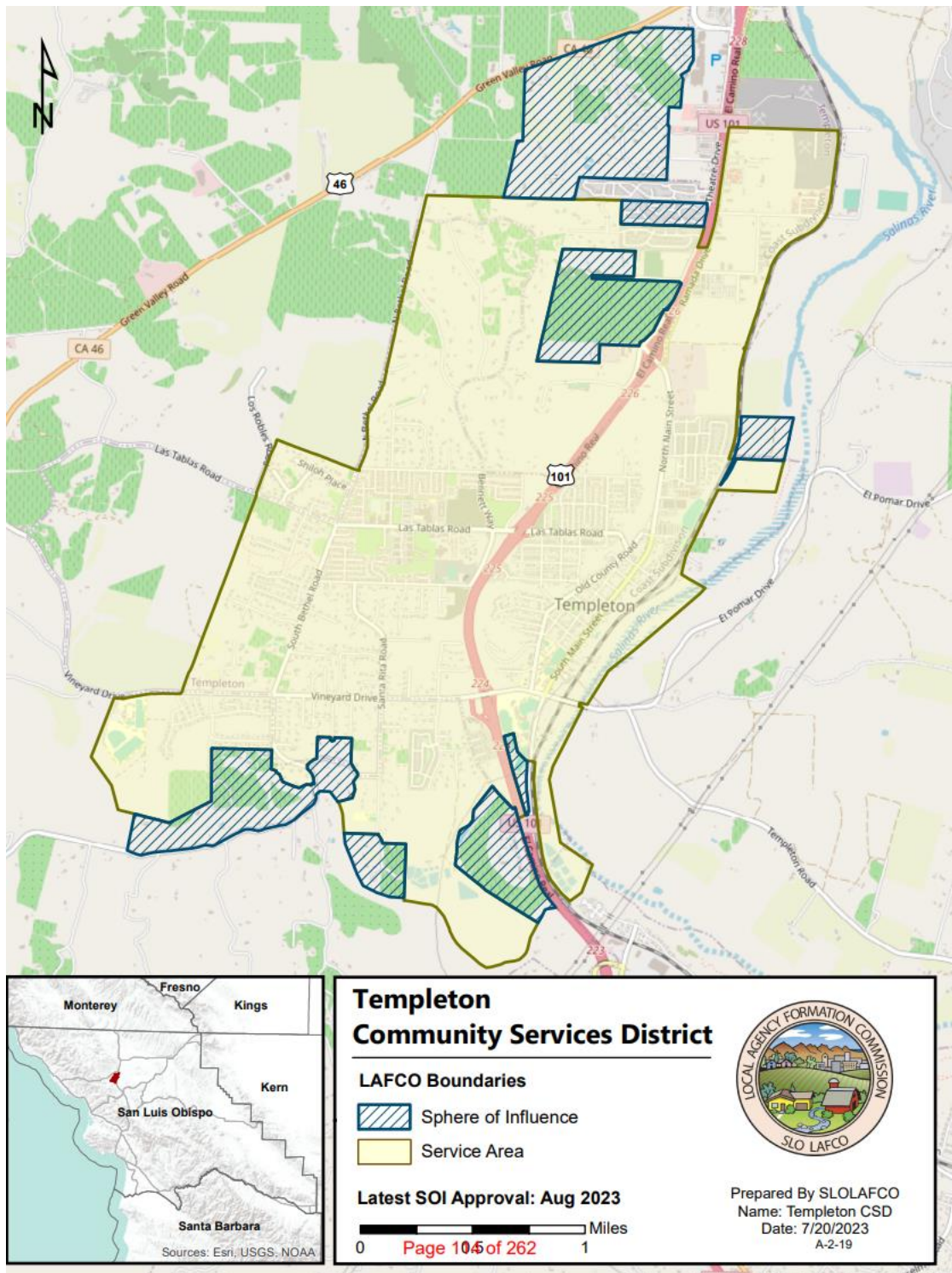
Agency Name	Templeton Community Services District
Formation	1976
Legal Authority	Government Code §61000- 61850
Office Location	420 Crocker Street, Templeton, CA 93465
Website	<a href="https://www.templetoncisd.org/">https://www.templetoncisd.org/</a>
General Manager	Jeff Briltz
Employees	21 Full-time Employees, 59 Part-time employees
Public Meetings	The Templeton Community Services District (TCSD) Board of Directors holds its regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Special meetings may be scheduled on an as-needed basis.
Board of Directors	Five members elected to four-year terms
Active Powers	Water, Wastewater, Fire Protection, Solid Waste, Parks & Recreation, Street Lighting, Cemetery
District Service Area	5.5 square miles
Population Estimate	8,386 <sup>2</sup>
Revenues	\$9,540,785 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As of submission of MSR-SOI Request for Information Questionnaire, October 2022

<sup>2</sup> US Census, 2020 Decennial Census, Templeton CSD

<sup>3</sup> Templeton Community Services District Operating Budget FY 2022-2023





## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, August 8, 2023 (Completed)

**Item 18 - Submittal of a resolution recognizing Dr. Maria Daisy Ilano, upon her retirement, after 13 years of service as the Medical Director for the Health Agency Behavioral Health Department of the County of San Luis Obispo.** SLO County's highest paid employee is retiring. She was not the CAO of the County or even a Department Head. She was the Medical Director of the Behavioral Health Department.

The resolution was approved on the consent calendar. There was no live presentation. Usually the employee is present and her colleagues come to pay tribute. This time there was none of that usual ceremony. This adds to our suspicion that staff and the Board knew this was a bad situation. Now we are wondering if there was some sort of legal settlement for her to retire without a big embarrassing public fight. Did she request the resolution as part of the settlement?

**Background:** The write-up stated in part:

*Dr. Ilano supported the early implementation of Medication Assisted Treatment that the Health Agency Behavioral Health Department is known for statewide. Dr. Ilano has been an essential member of the Behavioral Health leadership team and the Health Agency will be ever grateful for her dedication and contributions to their work and the recipients of their services.*

*Dr. Ilano must also be commended for supporting medical and clinical staff through all the challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was always available for consultation, and provided a calm, reasonable approach to ensuring both staff and clients were served in a safe manner that was also clinically effective.*

It is not known from the Board letter if she carried a regular weekly patient workload, took hospital calls, promoted departmental productivity, or was simply a quality control administrator reviewing charts and providing advice. The Doctor's salary and full compensation for 2022 are displayed in the table below:

Name	Job title	Regular pay	Overtime pay	Other pay	Total pay	Benefits	Total pay & benefits
M Daisy Ilano-Ramos	M.H. Medical Director San Luis Obispo County, 2022	\$319,072.00	\$0.00	\$92,987.00	\$412,059.00	\$133,300.00	\$545,359.00

It is not known what is included in the "other pay" category.

If the other pay is pensionable, she might have a final 3-year average salary of around \$405,000. With 30 years of service between Merced County and San Luis County at 2.5% per year, she will have pension starting at about \$303,000 per year. The County job description is displayed below:

### ***M.H. MEDICAL DIRECTOR***

#### ***Class Title***

***M.H. MEDICAL DIRECTOR***

#### ***Salary***

***\$260,041.60 - \$331,884.80 Annually***

#### ***Definition***

*Under the administrative direction of the Director of Mental Health, but with independent responsibility for professional practices, provides psychiatric diagnostic and therapeutic services and directs the implementation of medical-psychiatric functions within the Community Mental Health Services; and does other related work as required.*

### **Typical Tasks and Representative Duties**

*Coordinates and supervises psychiatrist staff and practices; schedules essential psychiatrist coverage for the mental health program; conducts psychiatric examinations, makes diagnoses and prescribes therapy; conducts individual and group therapy; consults and cooperates with other professional individuals and agencies; dictates psychiatric records and reports; does educational work in promoting mental health in the community; participates in professional development activities; provides leadership in quality assurance and review activities; provides psychiatric input to program management.*

### **Ability to:**

*Supervise professional staff; establish and maintain effective relationships with patients, other professionals in the field, interested organizations, and the general public; develop effective systems for the delivery and review of psychiatric services.*

### **Education and Experience**

*Possession of a valid California license to practice medicine. In addition, one year of administrative experience in a medical program; **AND***

***Either A:** Possession of a valid Certificate of Psychiatry, issued by the American Board of Psychology and Neurology or eligibility for examination for such certificate as evidenced by a written statement by the Secretary of that Board; **Or***

***B:** Completion of an approved residence program in psychiatry.*

The closest salary comparisons we could find in similar counties (some in much larger counties but not with metro cities) include:

### **Santa Barbara County**

<u>Ole Behrendtsen</u>	<u>Asst Dept Ldr - Psychiatrist</u> <u>Santa Barbara County, 2022</u>	\$291,578.60	\$0.00	\$2,433.60	\$294,012.20	\$116,155.71	\$410,167.91
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### **Santa Cruz County**

<u>bert L Brown Jr.</u>	<u>Psychiatrist</u> <u>Santa Cruz County, 2021</u>	\$225,707.68	\$0.00	\$100,591.80	\$326,299.48	\$22,704.23	\$46,217.14	\$395,220.85
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### **Sonoma County (highest of all Sonoma Psychiatrists reported)**

<u>Lenore Iversen</u>	<u>Staff Psychiatrist</u> <u>Sonoma County, 2022</u>	\$177,354.00	\$0.00	\$7,346.00	\$184,700.00	\$41,978.00	\$226,678.00
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## Solano County

<a href="#">Cynthia A Janes</a>	Psychiatrist (Board Cert) <a href="#">Solano County, 2022</a>	\$336,807.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$336,807.06	\$17,419.75	\$24,808.20	\$379,035.01
<a href="#">Michele F Leary</a>	Chief Medical Officer <a href="#">Solano County, 2022</a>	\$323,826.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$323,826.43	\$15,759.71	\$24,808.20	\$364,394.34

## San Mateo County

<a href="#">Katalin A Szabo</a>	Medical Director Psychiatric Specialist Hospital Inpatient - Unclassified	\$445,211.08	\$0.00	\$36,050.00	\$481,261.08	\$109,793.73	\$591,054.81
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## Placer County

<a href="#">Robert L Oldham</a>	Director Of Health & Human Services/Chief Psychiatrist <a href="#">Placer County, 2022</a>	\$301,486.00	\$0.00	\$81,074.00	\$382,560.00	\$139,548.00	\$522,108.00
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Separately, it appears that SLO County may have allowed her to conduct a private practice in Merced simultaneously with her job with San Luis County, where she also may maintain a residence separate from San Luis Obispo.

Various web searches all suggest that she may have been or is conducting a private practice in Merced. A sample is displayed below:

[« Back to Search](#)

### Daisy ILano, MD

#### Psychiatry

**Call to Schedule an Appointment:** (209) 384-1571

#### Hospital Affiliations:

Emanuel Medical Center ,

#### Education

University of the East

#### Languages Spoken

Tagalog

#### Additional Notes:

Accepting New Patients: **No** ●

Accepting New Medicare Patients: **No** ●

#### Group Associations:

JK Health Management

Services

360 E.Yosemite Avenue, Suite

100

Merced, CA

95340

**Phone:** (209) 384-1571

**Fax:** (209) 384-1144

[Map](#)



## About Maria Daisy Ilano MD

Dr. Maria Daisy Ilano, MD is a health care provider primarily located in San Luis Obispo, CA, with other offices in Merced, CA and MERCED, CA. She has 42 years of experience. Her specialties include Psychiatry. Dr. Ilano is affiliated with French Hospital Medical Center. She speaks Spanish and Tagalog.

### Quick Facts

 <a href="#">ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS</a>	 <a href="#">3 ★★★★★ 24 RATINGS</a>
 <a href="#">42 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE</a>	 <a href="#">41 INSURANCES ACCEPTED</a>
 <a href="#">SPEAKS SPANISH, TAGALOG</a>	 <a href="#">TRENTON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL</a>
 <a href="#">8 COMMENTS</a>	 <a href="#">1 SPECIALTY</a>
 <a href="#">15 AREAS OF EXPERTISE</a>	 <a href="#">1 HOSPITAL AFFILIATION</a>
 <a href="#">7 LOCATIONS</a>	

Ilano was the Medical Director for SLO County Behavioral Health when Andrew Holland died in the jail and was denied admission to the County Public Health Mental Health facility (PHF), which resulted in the County paying a legal settlement of \$5 million. Andrew Holland died in 2017 after he suffered an embolism while being restrained for 46 hours at the jail, when he should have been admitted to the PHF.

**Finally:** Has the County ever investigated any of this?

The County has been conducting recruitment for a replacement. The recruitment notice is displayed below. It states that the person appointed is expected to come to work for 40 hours per week. Will they be allowed to have a private practice at other times?

## Medical Director – Behavioral Health Department

### Salary

\$260,041.60 - \$331,884.80 Annually

### Location

San Luis Obispo, CA

### Job Type

Permanent - Salary

### Remote Employment

Flexible/Hybrid

### Job Number

0223KS-000519-01

### Department

Health Agency

### Division

Behavioral Health

### Opening Date

02/27/2023

### Closing Date

8/31/2023 11:59 PM Pacific

### About the Position

The County of San Luis Obispo's Behavioral Health Department is hiring a Mental Health Medical Director.

## THE POSITION

Reporting to the Behavioral Health Director, the Medical Director plans, organizes, and manages the Department's medical services. As a member of the Division Management Team, this position plays a key role in determining the strategic direction of the Behavioral Health Department, including the type and quality of clinical services provided, service philosophy, system design, and financial planning.

Primary duties for this position also include:

Supervising full-time, part-time, and contracted psychiatric providers which includes psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, registered nurses, psychiatric technicians/licensed vocational nurses and medical assistants

- Overseeing behavioral health medical providers compliance with applicable community standards of care, State and Federal laws, and other regulatory requirements for providing services
- Directing and evaluating the psychiatric component of services across the behavioral health system to ensure clients receive quality medical and psychiatric treatment
- Acting as a key participant in ongoing clinical review of behavioral health system programs and services
- Partnering with division managers to oversee operations of all medication support services

The Medical Director is expected to work Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm, with the possibility of some after-hours phone consultation. Hybrid/remote work may be considered.

## The Ideal Candidate

*The ideal candidate for this position will bring:*

**Wonder why they had to put this one in? Also, how could one do this job by “Hybrid/remote work”? Shouldn’t higher level execs lead by example & their hands on?**

- *Experience and understanding of working in a community-based setting with youth and families; transitional aged youth, adults, and older adults; and a culturally diverse population with serious to severe mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders*
- *Knowledge of the principles of trauma-informed care and mental health recovery*
- *Experience as a leader and administrator, including managing personnel/performance issues, hiring staff, and creating organizational procedures and workflows*
- *Skill in the use of electronic health records (EHR) and ability to help support the medical staff with the proper use of EHR*
- *Collaborative work style, excellent listening skills, and ability to communicate well with staff at all levels, clients, and families*
- *Flexibility and willingness to quickly shift focus to attend to critical needs, such as consulting with staff who have a client in crisis or have an urgent need for a medication refill*
- *Passion for working with individuals with serious to severe mental illness, and a belief that they are the experts in their treatment and can recover*

- Comfort addressing difficult employee issues, using a strengths-based style, and effective leadership skills
- Bilingual English/Spanish skills are highly desired, but not required

### **Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**

**Thorough knowledge of:** current practices in behavioral health including the Recovery Model, strength-based treatment, consumer/family-oriented services, and integration of mental health and substance use disorder services and systems; principles and practices of general and preventive psychiatry; principles and practices in the diagnosis and treatment of behavioral health and substance use disorders, including evidence-based practices in the behavioral health field; psychiatric medications and their interaction with other prescription medications; general medicine and its relationship to mental illness and substance use disorders; current practices in the field of quality assurance and quality improvement.

**Considerable knowledge of:** current laws, standards, and regulations that govern the provision of behavioral health services in the public sector, especially in California; the legal environment affecting psychiatric practice; principles and practices of clinical supervision and training; program planning and development principles; and general budgeting, monitoring, and cost accountability.

**Knowledge of:** community behavioral health program goals and limitations; community organizations as related to behavioral health and medical services; modern management principles and practices; organizational dynamics, conflict resolution, and behavior and performance management; and public administration practices related to personnel management.

**Ability to:** plan, direct, coordinate, and evaluate behavioral health services; determine clinical and medical needs of community behavioral health programs; formulate, implement, and evaluate treatment methods and procedures; practice psychiatry in a community behavioral health delivery system; refer to local and regional providers of social, medical, and/or other specialized services; maintain currency in and apply knowledge of treatment modalities, medications, and laws governing psychiatric practice; establish and maintain effective working relationships with the Behavioral Health Administrator and other Health Agency leadership, the department's division managers, program managers and supervisors, and staff, other County managers, community groups, other public agencies, medical professionals, behavioral health consumer and family advocacy groups, and the general public; provide clinical leadership and consultation to department staff and the staff of contracted organizations and partnering agencies; prepare clear and comprehensive reports; assist with development and maintenance of policies and procedures, determine and evaluate levels of achievement and performance; secure cooperation and teamwork among professional and/or support staff; plan and conduct effective in-service training programs; maintain confidentiality of information; understand program objectives in relation to departmental goals and procedures; collect and analyze data to establish/identify needs and evaluate program effectiveness; develop goals and objectives; communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.

**COLAB Note:** With regard to the section above, the Department has abysmally weak performance measures in the Budget (only 4) with a budget of \$106.5 million.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

*Possession of a valid California license to practice medicine. In addition, one year of administrative experience in a medical program; AND*

*Either A: Possession of a current Board Certification in Psychiatry, issued by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or eligibility for examination for such certificate as evidenced by a written statement by the Secretary of that Board;  
OR*

*B: Completion of an Accredited Residency Program in Psychiatry*

**So much for all the blather about public service.**

**Item 36 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION, Item sub (3) Friends of Oceano Dunes, Inc. v. California Department of Parks and Recreation, et al., San Luis Obispo County Superior Court Case No. 21CV-**

**0275.** Prior to the session COLAB requested the Board to report out what actions they took as a result of the session. The issue is of broad public interest. Will the County support the Dunes riders, support the Coastal Commission, or remain neutral? When the Board returned to the dais after the session, County Counsel reported that they “took no reportable action.” Even if they decided to do nothing or stall, they should have reported in this case.

**Background:** Two weeks ago the Santa Barbara Superior Court ruled that the Coastal Commission had exceeded its authority in ordering the closure of off-road riding and free style camping on the dunes. Significantly, the Judge ruled that since the County holds a valid Coastal Commission permit for dunes riding, it is the County which could amend its permit to prohibit the riding and camping. It will be interesting to see how Gibson and Paulding handle this one. They may catch a break for a while, since the Coastal Commission is expected to appeal the decision.

**Item - 37 Request to:** 1) approve a contract with Bitfocus effective through August 8, 2028 in the amount of \$794,380 for software activation and annual licensing; 2) approve a contract with Institute for Community Alliances effective through August 8, 2028 in the amount of \$1,991,072 for software implementation and professional services; 3) approve the creation of WBS# 360038 HSIMS Project in Fund Center (FC) 266 – Countywide Automation in the amount of \$3,442,447 to implement a new Homeless Services Information Management System; 4) approve a corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of \$3,442,447 costs to FC 266 – Countywide to transfer \$1,974,644 from the County Wide Automation Reserve, and funds from FC 290 – DSS Homeless and Affordable Housing in the amount of \$1,067,803 in HHAP-3 Grant Funds and \$400,000 of CenCal support to fund the project by 4/5 vote. The Board unanimously approved the contracts with some enthusiasm. The staff was high fiving it in the hall afterwards.

**Background:** The staff had requested approval of millions to purchase and install a new Homeless Management System.

**Table 1- Summary of Estimated One-Time and Ongoing Costs**

	<b>One Time FC 266</b>	<b>Ongoing FC 180</b>
Hardware		
Software	\$ 302,360	\$ 172,340
Services	\$ 1,991,072	
County Staff	\$ 700,000	\$ 65,000
Contingency (15%)	\$ 449,015	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,442,447</b>	<b>\$237,340</b>

**Table 2 – Summary of Funding Sources**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>One Time</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
CenCal	\$ 400,000	
HHAP (Round 3)	\$ 1,067,803	
GFS (DSS Budget)		\$237,340
CW Automation	\$ 1,974,644	
<b>Funding Total</b>	<b>3,442,447</b>	<b>\$237,340</b>

1. SLO County reports that it has about 1450 homeless people at any time. This is about \$2,374 per person initially to register and track their care and progress.
2. Has staff viewed the operation of this system in other jurisdictions?
3. What do the front-line clerks in those jurisdictions say about the system when their bosses are not in the room?
4. How are the comparably sized jurisdictions that use the system doing on their homeless problems?

**Central Coast Community Energy Authority (3CE) Meeting of Wednesday, August 9, 2023 (Completed)**

**Item 4 - Receive update on recent amendment to the Energy Risk Management Policy approved by the Risk Management Committee in July 2023.** The 3CE has identified a number of risks that must be managed for it to stay in business and meet its promises to the jurisdictions over time. The report is extensive and details a number of potential problems. In summary these include:

*This Energy Risk Management Policy addresses the following key risks:*

- a) Attrition: Customer Opt-Out risk
- b) Market risk
- c) Liquidity Risk



- d) Regulatory risk*
- e) Volumetric risk*
- f) Model risk g) Operational risk*
- h) Counterparty & Generalized Credit risk*

Each one of these is huge.

Gibson and Paulding made sure that the SLO Board never received a presentation on any of these before voting to join 3CE. (See **Item 13** below for the gory details).

**Item 13 - CEO's Report, sub-item e: Resource Adequacy Rule Changes and CCA Expansion.** This item inadvertently reveals why Supervisors Paulding and Gibson were pushing the CAO so hard to join 3CE.

It is now clear why the SLO County Board majority was in such a hurry to compel the County staff to prepare the report, resolution, and ordinance to allow the County to join the 3CE Authority. It turns out that the California Public Utilities Authority (CPUC) would bar 3CE and the other community choice aggregators from adding new territory unless they can demonstrate sufficient resource adequacy (RA). RA is the amount of contracted real energy supply and backup supply available to serve customers under severe conditions, such as hot days without having drawn on some other utility's RA. 3CE has operated with an RA deficiency.

The Commission had been working on the order for several years and had issued a deadline for its adoption of June 29, 2023. 3CE was well aware of and participated in the process, as it opposed the proposed order. No doubt some members of the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors had been advised of this situation. In February, Supervisors Paulding and Gibson demanded that staff begin preparing the required documents for Board approval. Other Board members and the public were not advised of the deadline. The Board majority demanded that the issue and required documents be placed on the agenda as soon as possible.

County Administrative Officer, Wade Horton, requested more time. He pointed out that the County had not studied the prudence of joining since 2018 and that two of its three earlier studies had recommended against joining while the 3<sup>rd</sup> one was lukewarm. Both Gibson and Paulding expressed great irritation with Horton and demanded that he get on with the preparations. Gibson was particularly adamant that it would be a waste of time and money to update the earlier studies and recommendations.

Horton had the professional audacity to provide the board with 2 recommendations. The first, Scenario A, would complete the application as fast as possible. The second, Scenario B, would provide time for better analysis and evaluation and would have the Board begin considering the matter on July 11, 2023, with a final hearing on July 18.

## Timeline

The following outlines the timeline to date as well as the remaining steps, based on the Board's direction to bring the option to join 3CE by March 2023 (Scenario A). Another potential timeline is presented by Scenario B based on discussions with 3CE. Under either scenario, as long as the Board adopts the necessary ordinance and resolution to join 3CE by July 2023, that the commencement of service would occur in January 2025.

Project: 3CE CCA			
Timeline			
Step	Task	Scenario A (Board Direction)	Scenario B
1	Board Direction to Consider Joining 3CE by March 2023	January 24, 2023	January 24, 2023
2	Staff Analysis	Jan 24 - Mar 10, 2023	Jan 24 - Jun 30, 2023
3	Introduction of Hearing/Ordinance to Consider Joining 3CE	March 7, 2023	July 11, 2023
4	Hearing to Consider Joining 3CE	March 21, 2023	July 18, 2023
5	Coordination of staff from SLO County, 3CE, and PG&E to acquire required revenue and energy demand data to 3CE		
6	3CE provides 30-day notice to all member agencies		
7	3CE Board adopts amendment to JPA; 3CE Board approves Revised Implementation Plan	June 2023	September 2023
8	County gains seats on Policy and Operations Boards	Following JPA Adoption	Following JPA Adoption
9	3CE submits Implementation Plan addendum to CPUC	Following 3CE Approval	Following 3CE Approval
10	CPUC Certification	March 2024	Mar 2024
11	3CE Mailed Required Customer Notification #1	November 2024	November 2024
12	3CE Mailed Required Customer Notification #2	December 2024	December 2024
13	Service Begins	January 2025	January 2025
14	3CE Mailed Required Customer Notification #3	February 2025	February 2025
15	3CE Mailed Required Customer Notification #4	March 2025	March 2025

July 18 would have been too late as the CPUC adopted the order on June 29th and issued on July 5, 2023.

All of the subsequent dates would have been way late.

The County Board letter of March 21, 2023 stated in part:

**Item 1 - Introduction of an ordinance authorizing the implementation of a community choice aggregation program in the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County through the County organization's participation in Central Coast Community Energy's (3CE) community choice aggregation program. Hearing date set for March 21, 2023. The purpose of the agenda item is to set a public hearing and Board vote for Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

*A. Further pursue participation with 3CE. This would entail adopting the attached ordinance and resolution indicating the County's intent to join 3CE. Staff would work with 3CE as needed to complete the additional steps 5-15 listed in the table above. If the 3CE Board adopted the necessary amendments, approved the Revised Implementation Plan, and the CPUC certified, then service would begin January 2025.*

*B. Pursue further analyses. This option would pursue future analyses at the Board's discretion. So long as the analyses are completed by June 2023, service could still commence in January 2025. Alternatively, any analyses which takes longer than this would delay when service could commence. C. Take no further action. This option would formally end the County's inquiry into joining 3C*

The new Board majority on a 3/2 vote ( Arnold and Peschong dissenting) approved Scenario A.

In our opinion, Gibson and Paulding knew of the CPUC deadline and therefore rejected the CAO's request for more time to analyze the pending policy.

The 3CE's report for this week confirms the issue and gloats over San Luis Obispo County joining in time.

*RESOURCE ADEQUACY RULE CHANGES AND CCA EXPANSION* On June 29, 2023, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted changes to the Resource Adequacy (RA) program used for grid reliability planning. Among these is a new rule that a CCA may not expand its service to new communities if it has not met all RA compliance requirements for at least two calendar years. Application of the rule will begin with RA deficiencies in September 2023. Past RA deficiencies will not affect CCA expansions. Tying CCA expansion to RA program performance is outside the CPUC's role in CCA expansion as defined in state statute, and the California Community Choice Association has filed an Application for Rehearing challenging the new rule on behalf of all California CCAs. In the meantime, 3CE staff are waiting for the CPUC to certify 3CE's Implementation Plan to expand service to the County of San Luis Obispo in January 2025. The language of the RA Decision states that the new expansion limitation will not apply to implementation plans submitted before the decision was passed. 3CE submitted the San Luis Obispo County Implementation Plan on May 15, 2023, so the new rules should not apply to it. The CPUC has a statutory deadline of August 15, 2023, to certify the Implementation Plan. Staff will be monitoring the situation and will update the Board as appropriate.

Perhaps the CPUC will be annoyed by the expedited processing and deny the application for San Luis County to join 3CE. If some SLO County Supervisors or other officials knew of the issue and did not disclose it, it is certainly an ethical breach, and more seriously fraud, which would invalidate SLO County's 3CE application in the first place. The Board minority should advise the CPUC of the failure of the 3CE and perhaps some of their colleagues to share the critical information.

The actual Rule is crystal clear that continued expansion of the CCAs without sufficient RA jeopardizes the whole state.

ALJ/DBB/SR6/mph

Date of Issuance 7/5/2023

Decision 23-06-029 June 29, 2023

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Oversee the Resource Adequacy Program, Consider Program Reforms and Refinements, and Establish Forward Resource Adequacy Procurement Obligations.

Rulemaking 21-10-002

**DECISION ADOPTING LOCAL CAPACITY OBLIGATIONS  
FOR 2024 - 2026, FLEXIBLE CAPACITY OBLIGATIONS FOR 2024, AND  
PROGRAM REFINEMENTS**

4.5. *LSE Expansion Energy Division states that in recent years, there has been a significant increase in LSE deficiencies, with seven LSEs receiving month-ahead RA deficiencies in 2021 and five LSEs receiving month-ahead RA deficiencies in 2022.*<sup>50</sup> *Energy Division notes that despite the fact that some LSEs have not procured sufficient capacity to meet their RA requirements, some LSEs have sought to expand their customer territories. Energy Division is concerned that expansion by LSEs that have not met their RA requirements **jeopardizes** reliability but also results in leaning on LSEs that have met their full RA obligations.* Further, *Energy Division adds that if an effective PRM is adopted, persistent under-procurement of RA undermines the purpose of the effective PRM, which is intended to provide additional resources to respond to unexpected events. The effective PRM is not intended to backfill for LSEs that do not meet their existing RA obligations*

*For these reasons, Energy Division proposes that “any CCA or ESP with a deficiency of greater than 2.5 percent of its system RA requirement on a month ahead RA filing during the previous two calendar years should not be able to expand and take on any new customer load for the following year.”*<sup>51</sup> *Energy Division states that, for example, a CCA that had deficiencies in 2021 or 2022 would not be eligible to submit an Implementation Plan to expand to serve new service areas in 2023 for service in 2024.*

*As to CCAs, this requirement will apply to initial or revised implementation plans submitted after the effective date of this decision. Page 137 of the order*

Given that PG&E has sufficient RA, the 3CE and their buddies want to rely on PG&E as back-up. This is a huge subsidy of the regular PG&E customers to the 3CE customers.

**Item Th. (No number) - Closed Session. Commission will appeal of its latest legal loss to the Friends of the Dunes.** The Commission voted to appeal the Superior Court’s decision in favor of the Dunes riders.

**Background:** Three weeks ago the Santa Barbara Superior Court ruled that the Commission exceeded its authority in ordering the closure of off-road riding and free style camping on the dunes. It is likely that the Commission will appeal.

- **Friends of Oceano Dunes, Inc., et al. v. California Department of Parks and Recreation, et al. (21CV-0275), Govt. Code § 11126(e)(2)(A)**
- **Friends of Oceano Dunes, Inc. v. CCC, et al. (Case No. 21CV-0214), Govt. Code § 11126(e)(2)(A)**

**Coastal Commission appeals ruling over vehicles on Oceano Dunes**  
August 11, 2023



By KAREN VELIE/Cal Coast News

*The California Coastal Commission on Wednesday appealed a trial court ruling that the commission overstepped its authority when it voted to phase out off-road vehicle usage at the Oceano Dunes by 2025. The commission opposition to San Luis Obispo Superior Court Judge Tana Coates' decision will head to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.*

*In March 2021, the Coastal Commission voted unanimously to phase out off-road vehicle usage at the Oceano Dunes over three years and to close the Pier Avenue entrance by July 1, 2022. At the time, commissioners argued vehicle usage at the dunes harms the environment and does not comply with the California Coastal Act. The commissioners cited environmental justice as a justification for closing the park to vehicles.*

*Friends of Oceano Dunes, a nonprofit that represents approximately 28,000 supporters of off-road recreation, filed a suit arguing the commission overstepped its legislative authority and violated due process. The judge agreed and ordered the commission to vacate its order regarding vehicle use at the dunes at its next meeting.*

*"The court finds that in permanently prohibiting all off-highway vehicles in the Oceano Dunes State Recreational Area, the Coastal Commission acted 'without, or in excess of its jurisdiction,'" Coates wrote in her ruling. "The court also finds the Coastal Commission violated CEQA by deciding to close the Pier Avenue entrance to the Oceano Dunes State Recreational Area without evaluating how it would impact vehicle miles traveled."*

*Shortly before the start of the commission board meeting on Wednesday, Friends served the commission with a demand to vacate its decision.*

*However, a handful of SLO County residents asked the commission to appeal Judge Coates' decision noting protection of wildlife, asserting driving on the dunes causes health issues and arguing for the protection of cultural rights. The commission then voted in closed session to appeal Judge Coates' decision.*

*Driving on the dunes will continue while the appeal is heard, though it is likely to delay a January hearing regarding awarding attorney's fees and court costs to Friends.*

**Item Th.12.b - Denial of a permit for Construction of a new single-story, 1,910 square-foot single-family residence with an attached 573 square-foot two-car garage on a mostly vacant lot at 1153 11th Street in the northern portion of the unincorporated Los Osos community**



**of San Luis Obispo County.** The Commission determined that there is a substantial issue and took jurisdiction of the matter. They decided that the County must finish its revision of the Los Osos plan update prior to its agreeing with the County's approval. This means that the Commission will conduct a hearing and probably approve the appeal denying the permit and requiring the applicant to wait until the County Plan is approved by the Commission. There is no guarantee that the Commission will approve the County plan.

Several interesting aspects of the situation were revealed during the discussion. One is that former Arroyo Grande City Council Member Eric Howell, who was also a Coastal Commissioner, is representing the applicant. The other is that Commission Chair Brownsey seemed to base her attitude toward the project on whether the applicant was planning to live in the house or offer it for sale. This is outrageous and none of the Commission's business.

**Background:** The County approved the permit application for the new home. The Commission staff is recommending that the Commission seize control of the process and ultimately override the County and deny the application. The lot already has water service and sewer and prior to 12 years ago contained a single-family home, which was demolished.



#### **Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, August 10, 2023 (Completed)**

**The agenda contained a number of small projects which are important to the applicants but are not broadly policy sensitive.** The one exception was **Item 4**, the long-awaited Distilleries, Guest Ranch and Small Urban Wineries Ordinances.

**Item 4 - Hearing to consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo to approve amendments to the Land Use Ordinance, Title 22 of the County Code, (LRP2023-00010) to allow for four ordinance amendments including the Distilleries Ordinance, Guest Ranch Ordinance, Small Urban Wineries Ordinance, and Insertion of Arroyo Grande Fringe Area Map. The requested amendments include: 1) amendments of Title 22 to Table 2-2, Allowable Land Uses and Permit Requirements, Section 22.30, Standards for Specific Land Uses, Section 22.94, Section 22.18, Parking, and Section 22.80, Definitions. Also to be considered is the determination that this project is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.** The Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the



8. County CAO directed to bring forward application and contract for the County to join 3CE energy. When he asks for more time for analysis, he is forced out.
9. County joins 3CE in rush job before State regulations requiring sufficient power resources adopted.
10. “Interim” CAO contract extended to 1 year. No sign of an open recruitment for a permanent appointment.
11. The APCD and SLOCOG have received a \$300,000 grant to jointly develop a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction credit market. Developers who build close to public transit, design car-unfriendly features, and otherwise conform to the doctrine will receive monetary credits that could be purchased by developers who don’t conform.
12. Interim CAO announces major management initiative but Board minority left completely in the dark.
13. Left majority accepts SLOCOG push to justify half-cent sales tax increase for vote in 2024.
14. Board majority refused to oppose ACA-1, which would weaken Proposition 13. ACA-1 is another attack on Proposition 13!! It would allow local governments to increase taxes (e.g. parcel taxes, sales/use taxes, Melloe-Roos taxes) with a 55% vote of the electorate instead of the two-thirds vote currently required under the California Constitution. The tax proceeds are earmarked for public infrastructure or affordable housing, as defined in the measure.

## **Item 2 - Senate Bill 233 Wants To Suck Your Electric Car.**

**Read the article below about this incredible scheme from State Senator and former Berkeley Councilwoman Nancy Skinner.**

### **Power Vacuum: California Wants to Suck Your EV**

*The state has decided to go all electric without having the ability to actually provide enough electricity*

By [Thomas Buckley](#), August 12, 2023

A literal power vacuum – that’s what California Senate Bill 233 proposes. And what is to be sucked? Your electric car.

Authored by Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), the bill – which has passed the Senate and is now wending its way through the Assembly – states that all new electric vehicles to be sold in California after 2030 be “bi-directional” (and, no, that has nothing to do with Sacramento’s LGBTQIA+ obsession.)

Because the state has decided to essentially go all electric without having the ability to actually provide enough electricity, the climate warriors have gotten a bit creative and now see the millions of EVs in the state as tiny batteries to make up for their incompetence.

Currently, not every EV can send power back to the grid (think of home solar panels that ship excess power to their local utility.) The bill – almost certain to pass because it's stupid and this is California – would change that.

The bill, however, is only the first step in the process of being able to drain your EV as the actual technology to get the electricity back onto the grid, well, does not actually exist. As with so many other Golden State climate-related projects, it is based on being able to do it someday...probably...maybe.

While this approach allows solons and nabobs to tout their green-a-fides, set even more absurd future goals by assuming things will work eventually, increase state spending to fund such projects, and create an excuse to not actually do anything practical – like build natural gas generators – to shore up the state's extremely wobbly grid, it does nothing to address California's self-imposed "energy insecurity"

The idea becomes even more absurd when one considers that shortly after announcing all new vehicles sold in the state by 2035 must be electric, the state asked the public to not charge their EVs after work because the grid couldn't handle it. In theory, this bill raises the specter of electricity being drained out of your "full" Tesla to power your neighbor's "empty" Volt. Furthermore, the concept is extremely dangerous. Imagine an emergency situation in which you have to leave your home immediately but you cannot because the state drained your car. The implications for fire evacuations, earthquake response, etc. are terrifying. Oh, and it's not terribly clear if you would get paid for your power and/or if you would have to buy it back.

Beyond the impracticalities, the very concept does shine a light, as it were, on how easily the electrical power supply can be controlled. And – if the grid is your only power option (no gas cars, no gas stoves, no propane, etc. ) – how easily the public can be controlled through it. From "The Psychology of Electricity:"

*Now, a person can go to a gas station, put solar panels on their roof, buy propane at the hardware store, use natural gas in their home, even cut down trees to burn for heat. In other words, there are options other than electricity; there are literally millions of ways to not need to use electricity.*

*But imagine a literally all-electric world – you are reduced, confined, required to get the energy you need to live from one source, one centrally (by necessity) controlled source that everything you own runs on, one centrally controlled source that can cut the power to your specific home anytime it wants.*

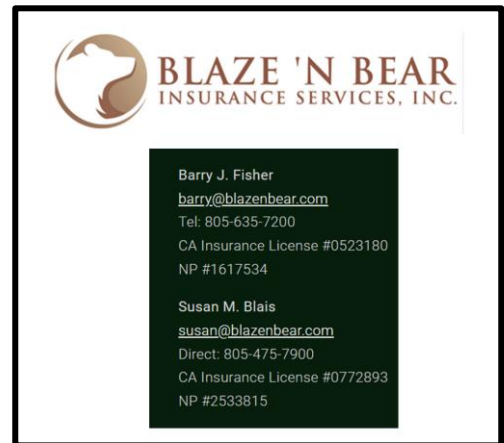
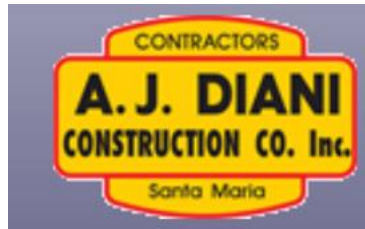
*Conceivably – see China/social credit systems/central bank digital currency/"you'll own nothing and be happy" and smart city concepts – that reasons for the power being cut will move beyond just being bill-related but conduct-related.*

*The power of energy as a social control lever is nearly limitless.*

And that's another reason why this idea really sucks.

*Thomas Buckley is the former Mayor of Lake Elsinore and a former newspaper reporter. He operates a small communications and planning consultancy and can be reached directly at [planbuckley@gmail.com](mailto:planbuckley@gmail.com). Read more of his work at his Substack 'The Point.' This article first appeared in the California Globe of August 12, 2023.*

## Sponsors



**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**

**THE REMAKING OF AMERICA**  
***EVERY ASPECT OF AMERICAN LIFE AND CULTURE IS***  
***UNDER ASSAULT***  
**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

We are in the midst of one of the most radical revolutions in American history. It is as far-reaching and dangerous as the turbulent years of the 1850s and 1860s or the 1930s. Every aspect of American life and culture is under assault, including the very processes by which we govern ourselves, and the manner in which we live.



The Revolution began under the Obama administration that sought to divide Americans into oppressed and oppressors, and then substitute race for class victimization. It was empowered by the bicoastal wealth accrued from globalization, and honed during the COVID lockdown, quarantine-fed economic downturn, and the George Floyd riots and their aftermath. The Revolution was boosted by fanatic opposition to the presidency of Donald Trump. And the result is an America that is unrecognizable from what it was a mere decade ago.

Here are 10 upheavals that the Left has successfully wrought.

**Free expression.** In large swatches of American society—particularly the corporation, the media, the government, the public schools, and the university—it is suddenly dangerous to speak freely. At a DEI workshop, politely object that “whiteness” does not account for all the challenges of “marginalized peoples,” and you will become either ostracized, reprimanded, or perhaps fired.

Suggest to a class that man-made climate change and the state remedies for it, are still under debate—and your career and livelihood are endangered. In 2020, state that Covid lockdowns would do more eventual damage than the virus—and your career was through. Express doubt that there are more than two biological sexes, and if an athlete or high school principal you will be shunned or rendered professionally inert.

The government, in league with social media, censors the news. “Liberal” universities often first require McCarthy-era type “diversity” statements for one to be hired. Commissars review syllabi to spot incorrect or improper speech or insufficient DEI zeal.

The Left now seeks to modify the First Amendment, and its empowerment of “hate speech,” defined as most anything impeding the progressive project. The state and the universities properly issue word lists of approved vocabularies.

The old ACLU or Sen. Church Committee would now probably be deemed rightwing. The methodologies of Joseph McCarthy and J. Edgar Hoover are the preferred models, once they were rebooted to the right cause.

**The Weaponization of Justice.** Administrations and their efforts to stock the justice department with supporters come and go. But in the last decade the Left has viewed the Department of Justice as a political extension of the party—whose unchecked power must properly be directed to hurt enemies and help friends. No wonder Eric Holder described himself as Obama’s “wingman” and became the first Attorney General to be held in contempt for ignoring a congressional subpoena.

Never in U.S. history have the Department of Justice and sympathetic state and local prosecutors indicted a leading opposition candidate and likely nominee of one of the two major parties, and at the beginning of a presidential campaign. Donald Trump is currently charged with nearly 100 felonies by at least two prosecutors. He likely eventually will be hit with more than- 500 indictments, from four prosecutors, every one of the latter with a long record of either leftwing associations or Democratic service.

The mass murderer Charles Manson faced less legal exposure. No one believes Trump would have been indicted on such counts—most of them involving allegations from years past—were he not running for President.

One count that Donald Trump is not charged with is bribery, or taking money while in office, a crime cited as impeachable in the Constitution and germane to the accusations that Joe Biden and his family raked in millions from foreign governments due to the improper use of his prior Vice Presidency. For what reason did Joe Biden lie that he never discussed his son's business? Why did Hunter complain to his daughter that Joe demanded half of his own grifting income? Why would a Vice President serially call disreputable American grifters and foreign corrupt oligarchs? Can Joe's lifestyle ever be reconciled with his reported income?

Given such asymmetry in the application of the laws, conservative or even apolitical Americans are apprehensive that any political prominence will draw the attention of government in effort to either indict or bankrupt them with legal expenses.

The last four FBI Directors have either admitted they lied under oath, or preposterously under oath claimed ignorance or amnesia about events directly under their control. Or they simply stonewalled subpoenas and testimonies about alleged FBI crimes.[]

The former CIA Director admitted to lying twice under oath. The FBI hired social media corporations to suppress election-cycle news deemed unhelpful to the Left. The agency, along with Democratic operatives, helped hatch the election-cycle conspiracy of the 2015-2016 Russian-Collusion hoax, and the 2020 Russian disinformation laptop hoax. The FBI played a central role in many of the 2024 indictments. In other words, the FBI along with the DOJ, has sought to warp three presidential elections in a row.

On the prompt of a Joe Biden campaign official (and now Secretary of State) and a former interim CIA director, 50 former intelligence officials lied to the electorate that an authentic but incriminating Biden computer was a likely Russian plant—a fact known to be lie but not disclosed as such by the FBI.

**The Attack on the Supreme Court.** Once the Court achieved a more or less predictable conservative majority, the Left sought to diminish it in a variety of ways. It has called for packing the Court with leftist jurists to create a new 15-justice bench. Leftist law professors in the Ivy League, in neo-Confederate nullification and insurrectionary style, call for the nation to ignore Court rulings on abortion and affirmative action.

The Senate minority leader led a throng to the doors of the court, threatening justices by name: “You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions.”

Protestors now mob the homes of individual justices hoping to intimidate them and alter their upcoming opinions—confident that the Department of Justice will exempt them from any legal consequences of such felonious behavior.

The media routinely accuses conservative justices of improper or illegal behavior, without worry about the emptiness of the charges. A traditionalist justice now accepts that a controversial ruling

can result in media charges that he is corrupt, in shrieking protestors mobbing his home, in a mob assembling at the doors of the Court, in disruptions during Court hearings, in politicians issuing threats to his person, in congressional calls to alter the century-and-a-half make-up of the Court, and in Ivy League law professors urging the country to ignore majority decisions.

In sum, a conservative jurist must be careful where and when he goes out in public.

**The Media-Democratic Fusion.** If one were to listen during the last few years to NBC, ABC, CBS, NPR, PBS, MSNBC, or CNN, or read the New York Times, The Washington Post, The Chicago Tribune, or the Los Angeles Times, then one would have believed the following:

A) Donald Trump worked with the Russians to throw and win the 2016 election. As part of that skullduggery, frolicking amid prostitutes he urinated on a Moscow hotel bed to spite Barack Obama. B) He was mentally incapacitated as president and should have been removed under the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment. C) In 2020, his campaign once more worked with the Russians to create an exact replica of Hunter Biden's laptop, replete with dozens of lurid fake photos and hundreds of cleverly doctored emails to smear the Biden family and aid his own reelection effort. D) Trump as chief conspirator preplanned a violent and armed insurrection that sought to storm and permanently occupy the government, violently hijacking the balloting and seizing the presidency—resulting in the murder of a Capitol police officer and the subsequent deaths of other traumatized officers.

E) For the last eight years, none of Trump's political opponents have ever destroyed subpoenaed evidence, conspired to hire foreign nationals to compile false and lurid files on him to subvert his political campaigns, or used their political offices to help solicit foreign money for family lobbyists. F) Trump is the first major candidate and politician who allegedly overvalued his real assets to obtain a loan that he repaid; the first to have concluded non-disclosure agreements with potential embarrassing liaisons; the first ex-president to remove sensitive files to his personal residence; and the first to phone a state official to whine about the integrity of the vote count. **G)** He is the first losing presidential candidate or major politician to question an election result or to seek redress through government agencies to rectify the purported corruption of the balloting.

In sum, for the first time in American history, nearly all the major communication and journalistic networks have been fused with a political party. They believe the new role of the media is to advance a shared progressive cause, oppose and even defame common opponents, and feed their audiences things that are not, and cannot possibly be, true.

**The Destruction of Common Law.** By defunding the police in major cities, and by showering leftwing district attorney candidates with millions of dollars in campaign funding, the Left systematically eroded the law as we know it in our major cities.

As a result, downtowns are after-dark, no-go zones, as once great metropolises resemble veritable combat theaters. Cities are becoming depopulated as consumers and businesses no longer find it safe to conduct commerce. Criminals and homeless now routinely break the law with impunity. Public violence, defecation, urination, fornication, and injection do not even rate as misdemeanors.

The Left has redefined violent crime to such an extent that shoplifting is no longer actionable. Flash mobs that take over streets and swarm to loot stores are rarely if ever arrested. Security officers who apprehend thieves or intervene to stop violence are more likely to be prosecuted than criminals themselves. There is no longer any immigration law; it has been utterly destroyed by Joe Biden. Seven-million illegal entrants flood into the U.S. and, along with the Mexican government, make demands on their hosts to accommodate their illegality.

In sum, in blue states and at the federal level, leftwing prosecutors and justices decide to enforce or ignore statutes, pile up or reduce indictments, increase or decrease punishments not on what the law entails, or evidence directs, but on the race, class, or ideology of the perpetrator, usually in connection with the particular status of his victims. If asymmetry in race, class, or ideology is suggested, then the law must modulate in redistributive fashion to contextualize the crime and criminal as a victim rather than a victimizer. The result is the veritable destruction of law and order as we once knew it.

**The Erosion of the Military.** Rarely has the American people polled so little confidence in the U.S. military. It perceives the Pentagon mission largely one to greenlight social change through the rapidity of the chain of command, not necessarily to maintain deterrence, much less to win all its wars.[]

The Left has ensured that our armed forces are underfunded, short on munitions and weapons, and military officers are used to promote progressive social agendas. Officers expect to be promoted or stalled on the basis of their views on race and gender.

Those who traditionally died at twice their numbers in the general population in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan are ostracized and in near record numbers leaving, while their friends and relatives are no longer enlisting in the military.

Former Pentagon four-star officers violated the Code of Uniform Military Justice in attacking a sitting president with the harshest invective, invoking comparisons to Hitler and Mussolini, again predictably from a leftwing point of view.

The public expects the Joint Chiefs to be both appointed on ideological considerations, and from time to time even to free-lance to contact enemy counterparts should they feel a conservative president is dangerous to world peace.

There is no longer any social stigma or legal jeopardy for retired officers in working as defense contractor lobbyists or board members, after revolving from or soon back to the Pentagon.

**Sexes.** The heterosexual male and female, marriage, and the nuclear family are all to be suspect. There are three sexes or perhaps still more. English language pronouns are inadequate to reflect sexual diversity.

So adherence to such ossified languages is career endangering. An epidemic of childlessness, singlehood, and collapsing fertility rates are either of no national importance or illustrate the preferred non-nuclear family model. Powerful hormonal drug regimens and permanent radical sex-change surgery should be the choices of minors alone who know best when they choose to transition to another sex. Graphic sex manuals and drag queen shows with simulated sex acts can

perhaps acculturate preteens to the dangers of growing up in an oppressive “normative” binary society.

Sex, but not race, is constructed, and thus a matter not of biology but of individual choice.

**Race, Not Class.** Racial inequality and lack of parity are due to “whiteness.” Racial quotas, segregated dorms, graduations, workshops, and safe spaces are exempt from civil rights statutes given they are necessary to achieve equity. Integration and assimilation are the opiates of the masses. Apartheid and segregation are misunderstood modalities, and thus, if enlightened, sometimes necessary corrective measures.

Reparations are to supersede ineffective affirmative action. Wokeness liberates us to see how race explains everything in America, past and present. At universities and in popular culture “proportional representation” of various ethnicities and races is no longer sufficient remedy.

Instead reparatory hiring and admissions are required to atone for prior generations of discrimination. It is taboo to suggest that cultural conditions not just race accounts for inequality. Everything from meritocracy to promptness to physical fitness is racist in nature, requiring DEI experts to expose and inform about the systemic nature of American racism.

**Debt is a Construct.** Modern monetary theory proved that annual deficits and national debt are just a state accounting challenge. So printing more money is an act that properly diminishes the value of existing capital improperly hoarded by parasitic profiteers. Spreading the ensuing cash wealth to the more deserving and victimized is long overdue social justice.

At any time, the national “debt” can be deconstructed by renouncing usurious bond obligations, appropriating private retirement accounts, or further inflating the currency—if governments are committed enough to social justice.

**Universities.** It is now heresy that universities should be places of disinterested inquiry and inductive investigation. They can properly instead become a valuable tool in ridding society of racist and sexist forces, platitudes about free speech and equality under the law, and the tyranny of private property, capitalist profiteering, and white, male heterosexual Christian oppression.

So the role of a university is to create a brief safe space in which graduates can leave with proper training about the terrible history of the United States and the ways in which it must be dismantled and then be rebuilt by the properly trained experts from the ground up. Counterrevolutionaries or deluded liberals and their quaint adherence to a racist and archaic Bill of Rights have no place on these islands of progressive resistance.

None of the above was true at the millennium; all are now—with more still to come.

*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 recently released The Dying Citizen. American Greatness, August 7, 2023*

# **THE REGRESSIVE LEFT'S COUNTER-REVOLUTION**

## ***THE LEFT'S 'DEMOCRACY' MEANS THE UNCHECKED POWER OF A TYRANNY OF THE MAJORITY***

### **BY THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

Previously, I made a brief survey of American students' ominous decline in history and civics; the education establishment's risible attempt to escape any blame; and the Left's elation that its efforts to indoctrinate young minds increases as students' knowledge in these subjects decreases. As quoted at the time:

*The state-subsidized NPR bears the bad news to America's parents and citizens: "[The 2022] history scores are the lowest recorded since the assessment began in 1994, and the new data mark the first-ever drop in civics . . . continuing a downward trend that began in 2014. Only 14% of students reached at or above 'proficient' mark in history, and in civics only 22% of students met the same benchmark."*

In sad truth, too, while this decline is hastening, it is not new. For Republican populist politicians who want to strengthen our free republic, the problem is not merely academic but practical: how can a center-right candidate court the votes of an electorate steadily losing its knowledge of history and civics?

The GOP's Leftist opposition courts voters by advocating what they term "our democracy," wherein their covert and inverted messaging is that self-government is selfish and dangerous, and those who support it are fascists. Due to this deluded definition, the Left contends it is championing "our democracy," even as they destroy it to advance their autocracy.

From the United States of America's birth and its foundational documents, our free republic is a revolutionary exercise in self-government. As such, citizens consent to delegate their sovereign power to the government to do only those things they and/or others cannot do for themselves. They are endeavoring to control their own destiny to the greatest extent feasible. They do not want to be governed any more than is necessary to protect their God-given, constitutionally recognized and protected rights, because they know an intrusive government will infringe upon their ability to make their own decisions in forging and pursuing their happiness.

In the Left's ideology, their "democracy" means the unchecked power of a tyranny of the majority that will delegate their sovereignty (likely in perpetuity) to empower an elite of "experts" to control the citizenry, including themselves. Rights will be determined not by God

but by this clique of elitists, who will trammel unfettered upon said rights as the mood moves the administrative state Leviathan.

This is the antithesis of America's revolutionary experiment in self-government and, in fact, democracy – unless one is deluded enough to believe in “democracies” like the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In a true democracy, the people remain sovereign not unelected bureaucrats. Yet, this is the basis of the Left's administrative state: the rule of an elite who will map out and control the general populace's pursuit of happiness and, indeed, all aspects of their lives.

Consequently, when elected officials abide and/or abet the rule of this elite and its ideology, the Left perversely deems it “democracy.” The Left's rhetorical trick is as simple as it is insidious: it focuses on the process by which the sovereign citizens cede their rights not the result of it. To the Left, their “democracy” celebrates the means by which you subjugate yourself to the state; devolve from a sovereign citizen to a serf; and terminate America's revolutionary experiment in self-government. Liberty must be sacrificed on the altar of the Left's collective; and, yes, equality will follow, for dissent will not be suffered by the high priests of the Leftist elite.

The Left's goal is the return of a hierarchical, feudalistic control of the populace without external restraints upon the elite governing them – namely, a 21<sup>st</sup> Century twist on the divine right of kings the American Revolution inverted when it booted out King George III and vested our fledgling nation's sovereign power in the people. Today, however, we are in danger of the people ceding their sovereignty for the siren song of an illusory “safety,” and being governed by an imperial presidency and his or her unaccountable, baronial administrative elite. For those still tempted to cede their self-determination to the state in return for a Leftist autocracy's illusory safety, a friendly reminder: in an autocracy, be it Left or Right, the only safety is in doing what you are told.

Sure, the public will likely be allowed to continue voting, but it will be only on those issues the state deems permissible for public discussion (but not for dissent), largely because the outcome has been predetermined. It will be like how the former Soviet Union risibly claimed it was “democratic”: “Of course you can vote...for your choice of communists.”

The Left's duplicitous agenda to cajole and coerce the people into surrendering their sovereignty into the prehensile hands of a ruling elite is regressive, running counter to the expansion of human liberty, agency, and dignity; and it is a radical, dangerous, and autocratic counter-revolution to America's revolutionary experiment in self-government.

Tragically, as the citizenry's eroding knowledge of their country's history and political system, the regressive Left will continue its remorse march to autocracy. For the Left, ignorance is a blissful boon for counter-revolution.

*An American Greatness contributor, the Hon. Thaddeus G. McCotter (M.C., Ret.) represented Michigan's 11th Congressional district from 2003-2012, and served as Chair of the Republican House Policy Committee. Not a lobbyist, he is a frequent public speaker and moderator for public policy seminars; and a Monday co-host of the “John Batchelor Radio Show,” among sundry media appearances. This article first appeared in the American Greatness of August 12, 2023.*



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