



COLAB
San Luis Obispo County

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

Weekly Update
May 4 - 11, 2026

Impractical Housing Policies Debated

Should we as a county subsidize very low-income housing? How could we do so, and who should pay?

These were key concepts at the April 21 San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meeting as the last two agenda items were heard. The discussion started out with a yawn but ended with a somewhat spirited debate that beautifully framed up the philosophical differences between opposite ends of the Board's political spectrum.

The dichotomy became apparent during discussions about the last agenda item which read: Study session to consider the Study Scope options for Housing Element Implementation Phase 2 (Implementation Action 7 to streamline housing permitting and Implementation Action 8 to expand housing opportunity areas). (Planning and Building)

As the concept was studied and discussed between the Supervisors, a distinct difference of opinion arose between Supervisors Peschong and Gibson regarding setting priorities for the different categories of housing as outlined in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).

Gibson wanted to instruct staff to put an emphasis on very low- and low-income housing as they proceeded in the development of a housing element that included incentives for new housing projects.

The most recent RHNA figures are illustrated in the following graph:

Income Category	Number of Dwelling Units			Percent Completed
	Total Need	Permitted (2019-2025)	Remaining Need	
Very Low-Income	801	7	794	1%
Low-Income	505	279	226	55%
Moderate-Income	585	301	284	51%
Above Moderate-Income	1,365	1,228	137	90%
Total	3,256	1,815	1,441	56%

Supervisor Moreno pointed out that the RHNA report indicated we need housing on all levels and suggested that putting priority on one or two categories could come at a prohibitive cost to the other categories.

Peschong picked up the point and raised the issue of people in low and very low-income housing wanting to move up to higher level housing after a few years. They need choices, and when they make the move, their low-income abode opens up. He went on to note that very low and low-income housing is still quite expensive to build and not very attractive to investors. Gibson said that concept was Reaganesque, and he didn't appear to mean it in a positive manner. He clearly wants subsidized housing and even stated that he has no interest in million-dollar homes. He seemingly rejected market influences on housing in favor of policy regulated housing.

Supervisor Ortiz-Legg mentioned a creative concept of leveraging county owned land that is within some city limits as a means to finance housing in county territory. She also wondered why modular housing wasn't emphasized for better affordability.

In the nearly three hours of discussion about housing, with the central theme being affordability, the cost of county bureaucracy went almost entirely unmentioned. The expense, delays and subjectivity involved with our county building process certainly adds to the cost of housing.

However, the only efficiency ideas put forth was a system of incentives (aka subsidies) for new housing within a distance of a certain set of existing locations such as shopping or job centers. These areas were referred to as “key service areas” and at other times as “opportunity areas”.

While specific incentives were not detailed, mentions were made of density or height waivers and commercial infill in otherwise commercially zoned areas.

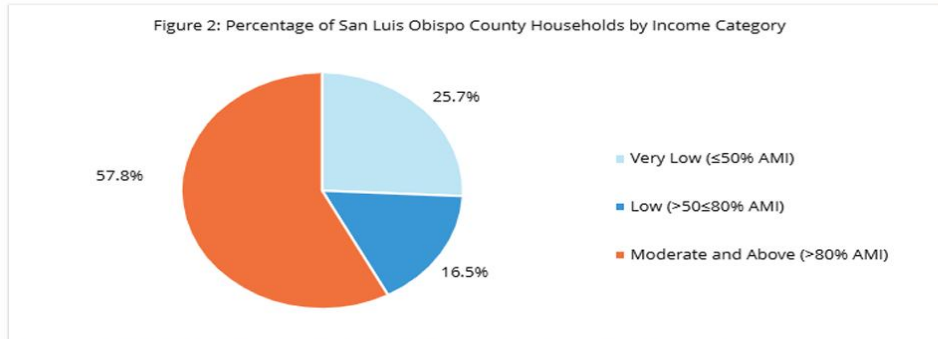
The following figures were used to illustrate the financial levels of home seekers in SLO County:

- Only 14% of households in the region can afford to purchase a median priced home
- Regional housing need of 3,256 dwelling units by 2028
 - Very low-income
 - Low-income
 - Moderate-income
 - Above moderate-income
- 58% of new dwelling units need to be affordable to households of moderate income or lower

Income Category	Definition	Example Housing Types
Very Low-Income	≤ 50% AMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed Affordable Housing: Single-Family and Multi-Family Dwellings
Low-Income	51-80% AMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed Affordable Housing: Single-Family and Multi-Family Dwellings • ADUs, Manufactured/Mobile Homes
Moderate-Income	81-120% AMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed Affordable: Single-Family and Multi-Family Dwellings • ADUs, Manufactured/Mobile Homes

Reference: Area Median Income (AMI) is \$125,600 for 4-person household

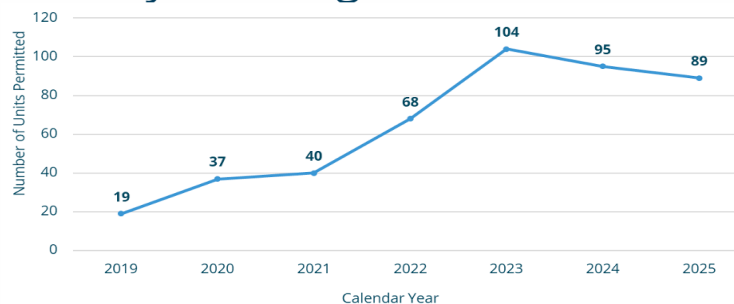
County Households by Income Category



Source: 2018-2022 5-Year Period ACS Estimates for San Luis Obispo County

The county has been counting additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) construction as progress towards very low and low-income housing but can no longer do so until a new market study is performed to better define the role of ADUs in local housing needs. The following graph illustrates ADU construction in county territory:

Accessory Dwelling Production



We have no problems with ADUs, but we note that ADUs might not be the panacea that some hope they are. How often are ADUs built as dance studios, remote offices or workshops? How often are they used for relatives, for guest houses or as vacation rentals? Isn't assuming that most ADUs are built to provide low income housing a bit naive? Plus, when an ADU is added, it usually results in higher values for the property.

So, getting a little less vague about incentives, the following suggestions were made by staff:

Part III: Regional Housing Incentive Program (RHIP)

Dual Approach

- **General Supply-side:** a long-term approach to increase housing supply across all income levels
- **Guaranteed affordable housing:** a near-term approach to increase housing supply to moderate-and-below-income levels
 - Closing the funding gap for affordable housing projects
 - Local fund needed for 750 pipeline affordable housing units (~300 in unincorporated county)

Closing the gap sounds quaint until it ain't. Nobody stepped up with details about how to close what seems like an enormous (and expensive) gap. The only details offered were these:

Local Funding Option: RHIP & Regional Housing Fund

- Development incentives in exchange for voluntarily building very low-income housing or paying in-lieu fees
- \$1 of County contribution → over \$9 of additional contributions/ tax credits
- New funding source for affordable housing projects – bridge local funding gap for non-profit builders
- Active as of December 2025

The following housing policies (called elements) have been adopted so far:

Part IV: Housing Element Implementation

- Phase 1 – near term actions completed in 2025
 - Action 01 – Encourage Multi-Family Development
 - Action 02 – Establish Regional Housing Incentive Program
 - Action 04 – Encourage Accessory Dwellings
 - Action 05 – Expand Density Bonus Program
- **Phase 2 – long term actions in progress**
 - Action 07 – Streamline Housing Permitting
 - Action 08 – Expand Housing Opportunity Areas

The next round (or phase) of policies (or elements) are being done under the catchy sobriquet “Placemaking” which could seemingly mean almost anything to anybody. Here, it means housing under conditional and somewhat unconventional policies:

Phase 2 Target Outcome – Placemaking

*Identify areas in the unincorporated county that “**make sense**” for more housing to be built while facilitating **livability** and **affordability** through a straightforward permitting process and addressing State regulations*

*Where are the most **viable locations for increased housing opportunities** that would better support current and future residents and workers, resource stability, and economic possibilities?*



**Geographical
Study Areas**

*How could the **design of housing projects reflect community** identity, history, and heritage?*



**Level of Community
Design Engagement**

*What **scale of housing projects** could be eligible for straightforward permitting?*



**Straightforward
Permitting
Pathways**

Of the next step recommendations from staff, the BoS chose a complicated mish mash of ideas that modified option two:

“Next Steps” Options for Board Direction

- Option 1: Utilize community engagement process to narrow scope and return to Board with recommendation on scope
- **Option 2: Utilize Board-directed scope “guardrails” as guidance during community engagement process and return to Board with recommendation on scope**
- Option 3: Conduct additional study session(s) to determine Board-directed scope “guardrails”

We are left with many questions including:

-If you can “streamline the permit process” for some projects, why not all?

-If you can make things more attractive for housing in “Key Service and Opportunity Areas”, why can’t you do so for all?

-When you say “close the funding gap, why not be more transparent (truthful, accurate) and call it subsidies?

-Why not be upfront about where subsidies would come from and what that would do to the cost of housing that is not subsidized?

-Why is low-cost housing so much more expensive here than other parts of the state/country? What are the specific cost drivers?

-If new forms of subsidies aren’t highly likely, why is so much effort being put into plans that need them in order to work?

-How much money are these “funding gaps” that need to be filled? Where is the value to the taxpayer that provides the funding for such subsidies?

We are all paying the price for the shortage of housing in San Luis Obispo County. We pay it at retail, restaurants and services because employees need higher wages to be able to afford to live anywhere near where they work. We pay for it when making medical appointments for the same reason. We pay for it in our own housing costs because supply is short and demand is high.

That said, do we see a ground swell of support for new housing in our neighborhoods?

It is entirely possible that at the pace our BoS is going to address the issue, the problem may cure itself. Our resident population is heavily made up of retired seniors. That population may be impacted by attrition long before any real solutions are implemented.

A Healthy New Direction?

Dots have never been publicly connected, but the County Health Department is going through significant changes that follow the KPMG audit of a year ago.

Perhaps there are no dots to connect. We are unaware of any public suggestions of wrongdoing other than the findings of the KOMG audit that identified insufficiencies in billing management and some poor client service performances. Two big changes are underway, nonetheless.

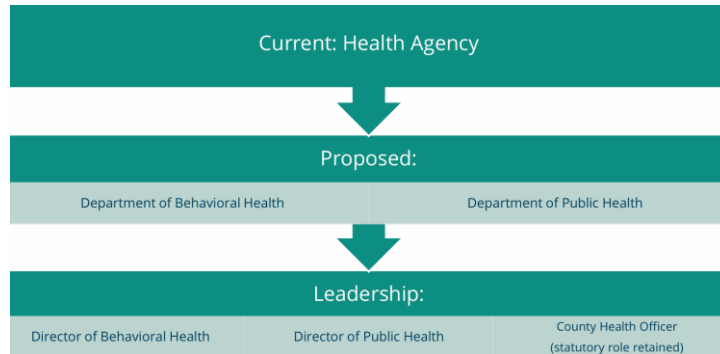
Dr. Penny Borenstein has announced that she will retire after 18 years of service as County Health Officer and Public Health Administrator, effective July 3, 2026, and the department will be split between Public Health and the new Behavioral Health.

The BoS is restructuring the functions to split out behavior health into its own department.

Item 35 on the agenda read: Introduction of ordinances to amend the County Code to restructure the Health Agency and establish the Department of Behavioral Health and the Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 2026; and create

department head positions for each new department. Hearing date is set for May 5, 2026. (Executive Office)

The following graphs illustrates the proposed changes and the steps required to implement such change:

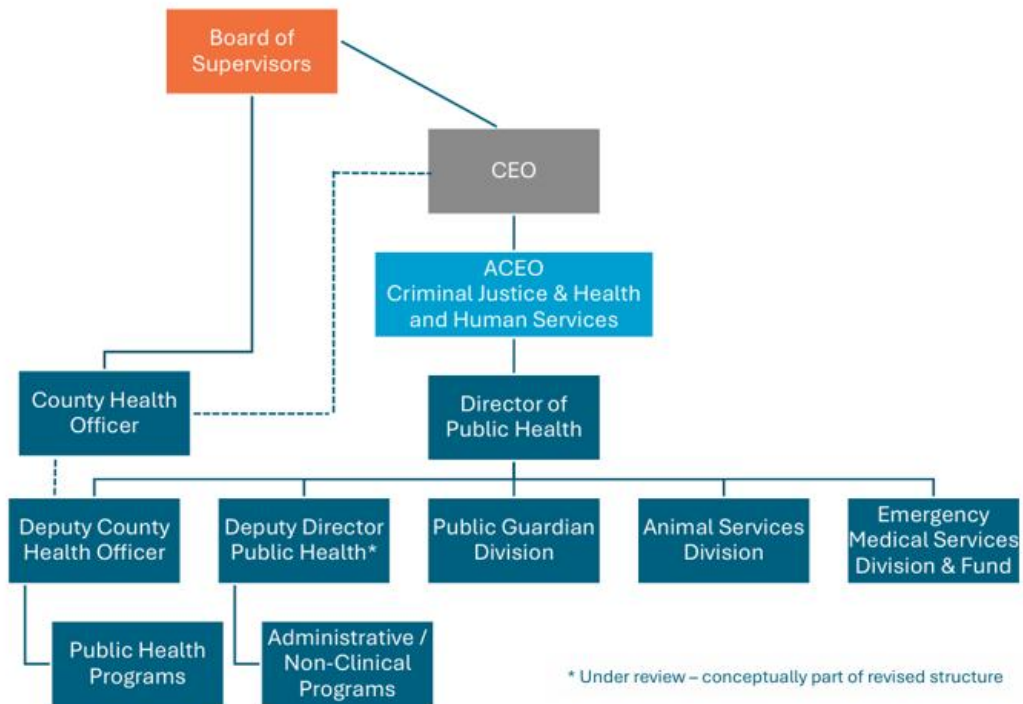


- ⊕ Eliminate Health Agency and related positions
- 🏥 Establish Department of Public Health
- 🧠 Convert Behavioral Health Division to Department
- 🏢 Update leadership titles and reporting structure
- 🐾 Reassign Animal Services and Public Guardian to Public Health
- ✓ Align all references in County Code

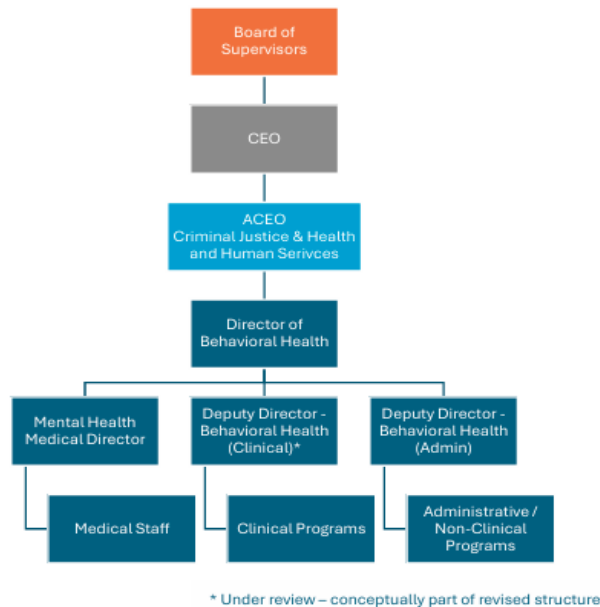
The shift to the new system is designed to occur without interruption to current services:

- ⊕ No disruption to services
- 🏥 No change to public access
- 🧠 Programs and staff continue operating as is
- 🏢 Changes are primarily structural and administrative

Here is the proposed organizational chart for the newly structured Department of Public Health:



And here is the new Department of Behavioral Health:



We trust that the changes set forth in this reorganization amount to more than just “rearranging the deck chairs”. The largest portion of our county budget is

dedicated to Health and Human Services. Finding ways to cut costs as well as providing more effective services will make a significant difference.

Cue the Trombone for one Transportation Sales Tax Measure

The effort to create a half cent sales tax measure for the November ballot has taken a dramatic turn. Earlier this year, with less than promising poll numbers, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) effort got an additional bite at the apple with the independent creation of a “citizen” signature drive to put the same measure on the same ballot.

The difference was that since the SLOCOG measure was government driven; it would require a two-thirds vote to pass. The citizen measure would only need a simple majority.

At stake are potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in state grants that become available when a county establishes such a tax resulting in the county becoming a “self-help county”. Many state grants for transportation are available only to self-help counties.

With polling numbers in the mid to high 50% range for the SLOCOG effort, a group of local business leaders formed “Better Roads for All” and chose to pursue the signature gathering campaign necessary to qualify the measure via the citizen method. Funds were raised and the signature gathering began. Just about when the campaign was closing in on the final signatures needed (12,400), it was discovered that the petitions lacked a piece of required disclosure. This oversight created a legal liability that would have invited all kinds of challenges and would have put the measure in jeopardy.

The Better Roads for All Committee did the right thing and withdrew their campaign. This still leaves the question of whether the SLOCOG measure will proceed despite less than promising poll numbers.

Whether you support the sales tax or oppose it, this was a sad outcome in several ways. First, the funding was substantial. It could have been so very useful in

support of candidates who would put transportation back on the priority list for our county, or for candidates who would go to Sacramento to change the extortion like self-help program.

It's also sad that a professional consulting firm made such an oversight. Ballot measures have become big business in the political world. Qualifying this measure would have probably cost around \$400,000 – possibly more. We don't yet know how much was actually spent, and whether refunds are in order. After qualifying, the advocacy campaign would have begun, with a significant cost as well.

Most statewide measures are costing multiples of millions of dollars. Many are craftily written to obscure the actual outcome or contain hidden aspects that are never disclosed to voters. Who can forget the gas tax measure where if one opposed the tax, they voted yes when supporters were asked to vote no?

We expect more details will emerge in the coming weeks about what happened to the citizens measure, as well as whether the SLOCOG measure will be put on the November ballot. In the meantime, our roads are deteriorating while some County Supervisors brag about continuing to commit a whole \$6 million per year to transportation projects.

Building a Better Bridge

The Cecchetti crossing was never a bridge, but it is now. Prior to being washed out from the 2023 storms, it was a culvert crossing. Fish and Wildlife regulations require that it could only be replaced with a real bridge that facilitates improved survival of the creatures that live in the creek.

The bridge story gets complicated with FEMA funding and the necessary permitting – all leading to delays and frustration for the residents living nearby. The new bridge is hopefully going to be built in 2027 or 2028.

Supervisor Jimmy Paulding, trying to do the right thing for his constituents, was able to secure \$250,000 at the last minute in the budget process for this year's budget to fund a temporary crossing. This was a last-minute request after everything else within the budget had been vetted and balanced.

A few months later, when the Department of Public Works started scoping the project, it became a \$700,000 plus project. Just as startling, it was disclosed that the temporary crossing would need to be removed during the rainy season.



Despite these revelations, Paulding came back to the Board requesting the additional funding. When that failed to get enough votes, Paulding worked with Public Works to find funding left over from a different project. Even though those funds would have been designated for other bridge repair projects that had already been approved, he was successful in getting the funds diverted to the Cecchetti temporary crossing.

Concerned about the high cost to taxpayers for a seasonal temporary crossing, Adam Verdin (running to represent the district on the BoS) worked with a local engineering firm to secure a better temporary bridge that would not need to be seasonally removed, and could be reused in future crossing needs at other sites after the permanent bridge is built.

While Paulding is taking bows for getting the temporary crossing in place, much credit is due to Verdin for the smart and creative solution that produces much greater value for taxpayers and nearby residents.

Verdin's solution is safer, doesn't cost extra taxpayer dollars to remove and reinstall each season and can be used in the future.

While we appreciate the practical aspects of Verdin's solution, we especially applaud the concept of looking for better ways to spend taxpayer funds. It's Other Peoples hard earned Money and should be spent with respect and reverence.

More Free Rider Waste of Taxpayer Funds

Yet another County Building Permit was appealed by the same folks in Los Osos that seem to appeal every permit granted. In this case, a family had purchased the lot many years ago and worked through voluminous red tape to qualify to build their dream home. The permit was granted in December of 2025 but was immediately appealed.

The BoS voted against the appeal in a 5 – 0 vote (just like most appeals from this group). No basis for any of the points of appeal was found. The appeal relied on the accusation that there were no services available to the lot, which was absurd. The services needed were obviously reviewed in the initial permit process and any casual observer of the process would know that a permit would not be granted otherwise. It appears quite obvious that the appellant was simply harassing the applicant.

Here is a summary of the appeal:

Appeal Issue Raised

- Lack of Services, Unsustainable Development, & Basin Overdraft

Staff Response

- GSWC Continue-to-Serve Letter
- Title 19 Retrofit to Build
- Consistent with Expected Development
- Not Subject to GMO

It's worth noting that each of these appeals costs the county between \$8,000 to over \$13,000. It costs the landowner thousands as well in preparation to answer the points of the appeal, and it costs them precious and expensive time.

Supervisor Moreno has attempted on several occasions to get the BoS to at least apply the same \$2,000 charge for an appeal in the coastal zone as it does to appeals in the rest of the county, but Supervisor Gibson has steadfastly refused this approach and convinced two of his colleagues of his position.

Perhaps a slightly different approach could be taken mirroring our courts system. If the appellant prevails, there is no cost, but if they lose, they are required to pay costs.

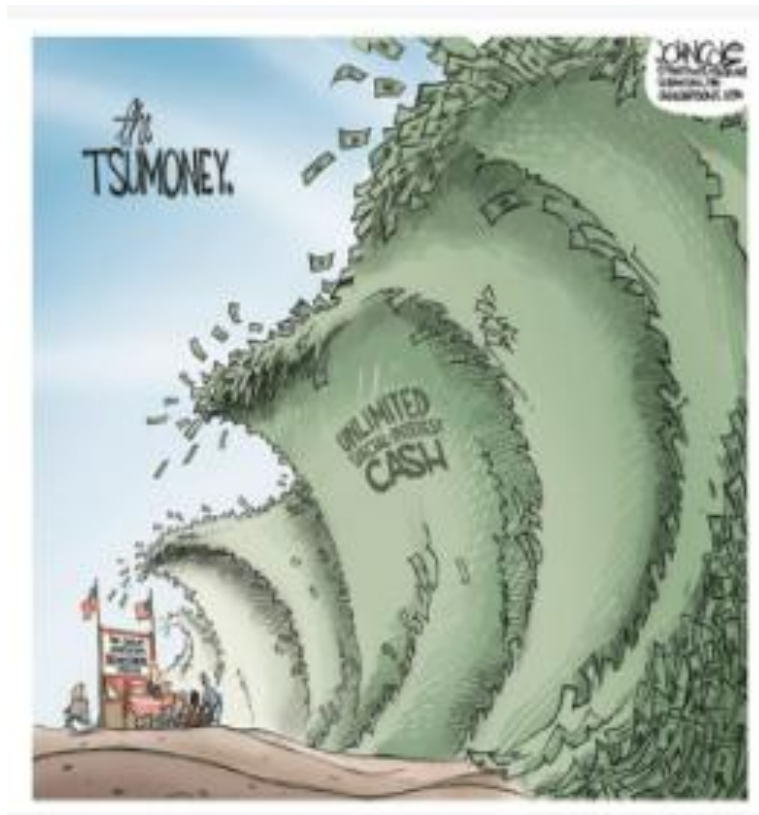
Uncovering Campaign Finance Coverups

Campaign season is shifting into high gear. With less than a month to go, and mail-in ballots already out, the pressure is on.

One tool that has become quite prevalent late in political campaigns is the independent expenditure committee (IE). This is a scheme for getting around campaign finance limits and accountability. It involves a small group of people who form a political action committee and raise funds independently from the candidates that they support.

There is a set of rules that IEs are supposed to follow, but they usually pop up late in the process and operate with little scrutiny. Theoretically, coordination - or any communication - with the candidate is forbidden. That said, it's an almost impossible rule to enforce. IEs commonly make outrageous claims with almost no accountability. They usually give themselves benevolent but vague names like "Good People for Good Government". IEs often put out negative hit pieces that either stretch the truth or outright lie. This gets the negative info out without making the benefiting candidate look bad.

When the spotlight is shone and the truth comes out (often too late), the benefiting candidate can simply shrug shoulders and claim to be completely unaware of who said what. IEs appear late and usually disappear the day after the election.



An individual donor is limited to a maximum amount that they can give directly to a candidates' campaign. However, that same donor can give a much greater or sometimes even an unlimited amount to benefit that same candidate through an IE.

Most campaign finance regulations are enforced by the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), except for federal campaigns, which are regulated by the Federal Elections Commission (FEC).

One important thing that can be done to try to keep IEs in line is to enforce the rules when they are broken. Throw the book at those who try to get away with manipulating elections under the cover of semi-anonymity. When IEs break the rules, any honest candidate will call them out and ask that they cease their unlawful support while demanding that they play by the rules or not play at all. Honest candidates have nothing to fear from full disclosure of their supporters.

People who run IEs are supposed to know and follow the rules. When they don't abide by the rules, it is usually because they hope that nobody is watching close enough to notice.

If you see mailers or other materials from an IE, look closely. Question the intent and the veracity of the claims made and ask yourself why this isn't coming directly from the candidate's own campaign. Don't hesitate to file a complaint if you believe the rules are not being followed.



FPPC

<https://www.fppc.ca.gov>



FEC

<https://www.fec.gov>

Sweet Win for Musk

SpaceX is a constant source of amazement as they achieve new feats in the world of space exploration. Possibly more impressive, though, is their victory over the California Coastal Commission.

When the Commission weighed in on operations out of Vandenberg seeking to limit SpaceX launches due to the political views of CEO Elon Musk, they showed their true colors. Musk immediately filed suit and has achieved a settlement that includes a public apology and acknowledgement from commissioners that their political views interfered with their judgement.

Congratulations Mr. Musk. Shame on the commissioners for not doing the right thing and resigning. Shame on Governor Newsom for not immediately calling for resignations. Shame on mainstream media for not putting the spotlight on this situation.

This reflects very poorly on the Coastal Commission and puts all of their rulings in doubt.

As the Commission essentially admitted, they had no jurisdiction in the matter and had no evidence to indicate launches have an impact on our coast. Their focus was to inflict economic pain on Musk because of his support for Donald Trump.



Aside from the hundreds of other important impediments that would have resulted from the Coastal Commission's biased attempt to shut down SpaceX launches, our San Luis Obispo economy would have been harmed. We have a growing connection to the space industry and rely on the associated economic benefits.

The bias expressed by some of the commissioners went far beyond simple political opinion. It was arrogance. An abuse of power. A complete disregard for the process of fair regulation and the responsibilities of the position.

How many other politically biased rulings go unchecked because the victims lack the financial resources required to litigate? What is to prevent commissioners from continuing with their political attacks?

We are pleased to see SpaceX prevail, but the settlement fell short. It should have included the dismissal of those commissioners who were complacent in this outrageous action.

Last Week

The April 7 San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors meeting covered a lot of ground addressing 41 items before lunch. Item 42, the sole after lunch business, required two and a half hours of deliberation. It was no surprise, considering the unrealistic views of the ICE protesting crowd.

The next BoS meeting is scheduled for April 21.

As a reminder, this weekly update will be on pause until May 4.

Ungrateful Immigrant Advocates

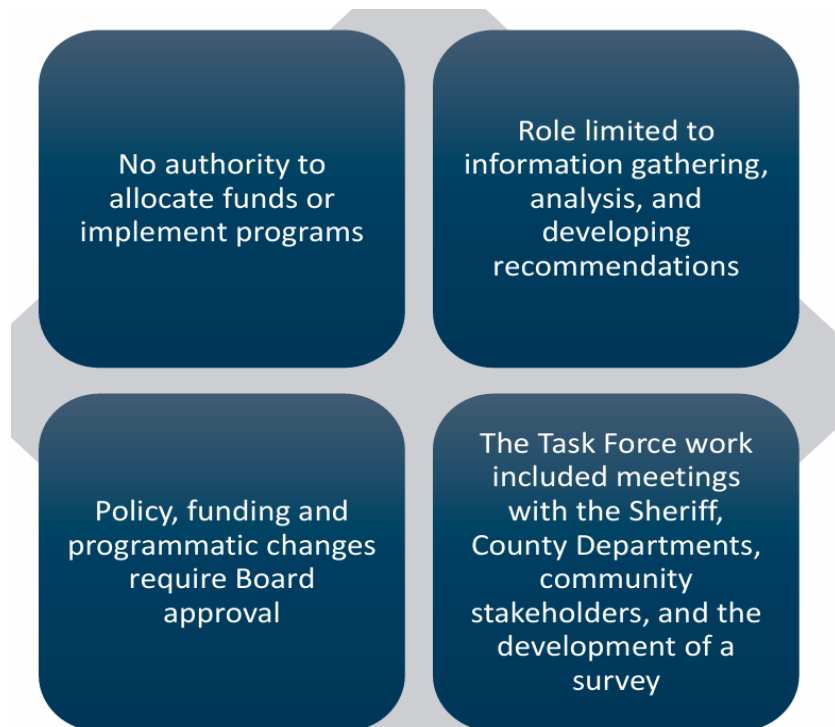
The quote by John Lydgate; “You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can’t please all of the people all of the time” is true most of the time. However, in the case of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, trying to please anybody on the issue of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) appears to be impossible. It seems that nobody is pleased with their most recent actions.

It all started with an attempt to calm advocates for the immigrant community following the January 27 marathon “truth Act” session of the San Luis Obispo

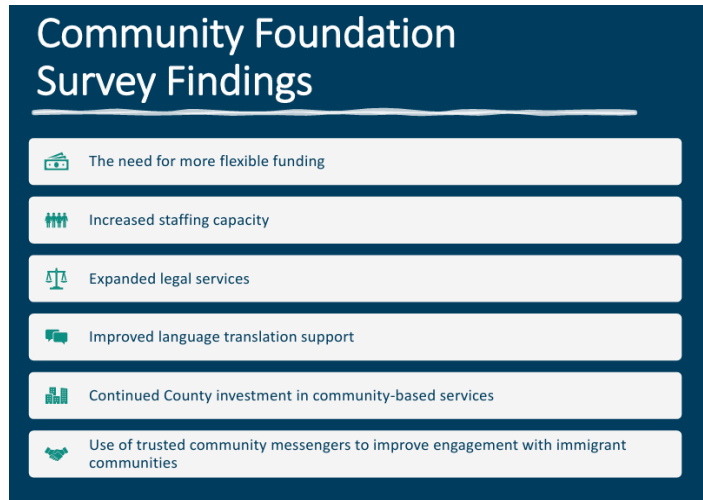
Board of Supervisors. An ad hoc committee was formed and charged with further investigation to determine possible support for families of immigrants impacted by ICE enforcement.

The committee consisted of Supervisors Dawn Ortiz-Legg and Jimmy Paulding. They were given 60 days to investigate possibilities and report back to the full Board. The April 7 Board of Supervisors meeting served as their report date.

The committee met with service providers, the Sheriff and numerous agencies that regularly interact with the migrant community as well as migrant leaders. Below is a graphic illustrating the operating parameters of the ad hoc committee:



The ad hoc committee worked with the Community Foundation to conduct a survey of service providers and key stakeholders. Here is a summary of their findings:



Here is a summary of the community stakeholder feedback:

- Need for stronger coordination among service providers
- Support for resources to address gaps in language access, legal services, housing stability, and healthcare access
- Support for a resource center or mobile hub to strengthen system alignment and coordination
- Potential partnership with the County on a program coordinator

The ad hoc committee also had direct feedback from the county departments that regularly interact with the migrant community. Here is a summary of that feedback:

No decrease in client participation or clinic utilization

No increase in unaccompanied minors due to ICE enforcement

Reported increase anxiety, fear, and absenteeism among students

Available online options for persons to apply for Medi-Cal and other benefits

Ongoing public outreach to immigrant communities

Along with the survey, the ad hoc committee worked with the Sheriff to clarify procedures for interactions with undocumented inmates and ICE. The Following is a summary of the policy that resulted:

Sheriff's Office Agreements

Post a FAQs brochure, in both English and Spanish, on their website

Provide quarterly reports on their website

Update the Jail ICE access notice form to include a recommendation to contact a family member

Development of an educational video explaining the Sheriff's Office role in the community

The Sheriff's office also shared a brochure that they just finished developing that addresses the most frequently asked questions regarding these issues:

RESOURCES

County of San Luis Obispo
Immigration Resources: Know Your Rights
Website: www.slocounty.ca.gov/home/immigrationresources

Online Resources in English & Spanish

- Printable Red Card
- Caregiver Affidavit
- Guardianship Petitions (through SLO Legal Assistance Foundation)
- Step-by-Step Family Preparedness Guide
- Guide for Talking About Immigration with Your Children

211 SLO County
Website: 211slo.org
Phone: 2-1-1

- Online Resources in English & Spanish
- Connections to legal, health, housing, and immigration services
- Call to speak with a Contact Specialist for personalized assistance
- Free & confidential, 24/7

CONTACT US

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office
1585 Kansas Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93495

Phone: (805) 781-4550
Website: slosheriff.org



We welcome you to contact your local Sheriff's Station for a additional questions or concerns. You can locate station contact information at www.slosheriff.org/contact



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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION GUIDE

Information and Resources



www.slosheriff.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does SB 54 (California Values Act) define the Sheriff's Office responsibility for immigration enforcement?

Answer: SB 54 prohibits state and local law enforcement from using their resources to investigate, interrogate, detain, or arrest people for civil immigration enforcement purposes. The law limits cooperation with federal immigration authorities to specific, legally defined circumstances. Transfers and information sharing to ICE are only authorized under the narrow exceptions provided by SB 54. They are further outlined in Government Code §7282.5.

Does the Sheriff's Office comply with detainers from ICE?

Answer: The Sheriff's Office does not comply nor recognize detainer requests to hold someone up to 48 hours after eligible release. Notifications of release dates only occur in compliance with California Values Act (SB 54). We only comply with immigration authorities in situations explicitly permitted under California Law. We do not hold or detain any individual past their scheduled release date and time for immigration purposes.

Under what circumstances does someone in jail get transferred to ICE?

Answer: Transfers and information sharing to ICE are only authorized under the narrow exceptions which include the following:

- A valid arrest warrant signed by a magistrate.
- Certain qualifying criminal convictions, such as serious or violent felonies as defined under California Penal Code §§190.7 or 190.7 A(c).
- Certain qualifying convictions that can be charged as a felony or a misdemeanor (including those are defined under Government Code §7282.5(b)(3)).

Additional requirements:

- Agencies must not detain a person past their release date/time for ICE.
- Agencies must provide the individual a copy of any ICE request and document the decision to comply or not (as required by the TRUTH Act).

What prompts ICE involvement when the Sheriff's Office responds to a call for service?

Answer: ICE is not notified during routine calls for service. Immigration status is not a consideration when deputies respond to calls or make arrests in the field. ICE involvement may only occur if:

- The person is subject to a judicial arrest warrant.
- The individual's criminal history or charges meet the qualifying exceptions under SB 54 as outlined above.

Deputies do not ask about immigration status during calls for service or traffic stops. The department's goal is to ensure public safety and uphold trust within the community.

How and where are incarcerated persons released from custody? What if ICE is in the parking lot in front of the jail?

Answer: All incarcerated persons at the county jail are released through the public lobby once they are legally eligible for release. This may occur for various reasons, including posting bail, completion of their sentence, or other lawful release conditions. The public lobby and adjacent parking lot are public areas, and as such, the Sheriff's Office does not control who may be present in those spaces. If representatives from ICE or any other agency are in these areas, they are legally permitted to be there, but their presence does not indicate or imply communication or coordination with our agency. All incarcerated persons are released in the same manner, in accordance with law and departmental policy, ensuring a consistent and lawful release process for every individual.

Does the Sheriff's Office assist ICE with immigration enforcement operations?

Answer: No. The Sheriff's Office does not participate in or assist ICE with immigration operations. Our job is to keep the community safe by responding to calls for service, engaging in community policing, and staffing the county jail. We are focused on protecting everyone in our community, not enforcing immigration laws.

The question of what the County can do to boss around ICE and the Federal Government was also explored:

County may impose reasonable restrictions in nonpublic spaces

Restrictions must apply consistently to all persons, including federal officials

May exclude non-County employees from non-public areas, exception – judicial warrant

Some counties have policies/designated signage prohibiting federal access without judicial warrant

County has authority to prevent use of County property for federal immigration operations

Existing authority already allows this without additional Board action

Several counties adopted explicit anti-commandeering policies

In all, the work product for just 60 days of interviews and surveys was substantial. While the committee had no authority to make policy or spend money, it did make the following recommendations:

- Receive and file the report on the County's authority and the Task Force's findings
- Approve the \$100,000 allocation from FC-106 to the Community Foundation SLO and authorize the CEO (or designee) to execute required documents
- Provide direction to staff on implementing available options for managing federal immigration access in County facilities

At the conclusion of the report, about 30 or 40 community members spoke during public comments. Every speaker expressed dissatisfaction with the committee's findings. Most said that the recommendations didn't go far enough. Many continued to declare Sheriff Parkinson guilty of numerous crimes. Some criticized the method of the survey and asked why it didn't ask questions directly from the migrant community. Almost everybody said the funding was inadequate.



Ortiz-Legg was clearly frustrated with the reaction from the crowd. She reiterated the fact that our county government cannot tell the federal government how to do its business, and that the Sheriff is following state law as prescribed by SB 54. She suggested that those claiming to have proof of illegal activities by the Sheriff should take their case to the Attorney General.

Paulding pointed out that the people being picked up on warrants by ICE are criminals. He questioned why that was not recognized by the protesters.

Supervisor Bruce Gibson expressed his thought that \$100,000 was not enough.

Supervisors John Peschong and Heather Mareno both questioned the spending aspect of the recommendations. They pointed out that the funding seemed to be earmarked for programs that are already funded.

In the end, the BoS adopted the recommendations with Peschong and Moreno voting no.

So, for two months of work and a genuine effort to address needs, fill gaps and foster greater understanding of the process, all Paulding and Ortiz-Legg got for their best of intentions was a big razzberry from the migrant support community.

The migrant support community did themselves no service with their unreasonable demands and lack of understanding of the process. Insisting the county do things it simply has no authority to do, asking for funding beyond the means of the county budget, accusing law enforcement of crimes based on a gross misunderstanding of the law and criticizing those public officials most sympatric to their cause doesn't exactly create an atmosphere for accomplishment.

Worse, however, is that the atmosphere that these actions do create is one of unrealistic expectations and fear amongst the migrant community. Activists spend a lot of time discussing the fear created by what they describe as "kidnapping" by ICE. But when they stomp around declaring the Sheriff is breaking the law or accuse the BoS of being unsupportive (essentially accomplices) by not declaring SLO County to be an Ice-Free Zone, they add to fear, misunderstanding and distrust.

On top of that, when the Bos spends taxpayer money without careful consideration of overall needs and priorities within the community, it creates an even higher level of distrust.

In many ways, migrant supporters appear to be spending more energy fighting the existing system rather than either finding ways to comply or fostering productive changes. Reality can be a cold-hearted pain in the neck, but it usually prevails.

Mobile Home Cha Ching

If you live in a mobile home located in a mobile home park, have lower than average income and experienced storm damage to your home from the 2023 storms totaling over \$3,000, you may have just hit the jackpot.



Item 37 on the April 7 BoS agenda read: Presentation of the Manufactured Home Replacement and Elevation Program (MHRE) funded by the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) which aims to replace mobile homes / manufactured homes (MHU) damaged in the December 2022 – January 2023 storms. (Social Services)



What that translates to is this program has \$9.29 million in Other People's Money to buy 29 new homes for a select few. Here are the details:

- \$9.29 million in HUD CDBG-DR funding is available to the County through the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).
- The program is for the replacement and elevation of damaged manufactured homes located in parks impacted by the **December 2022 – January 2023 severe winter storms**, including flooding, landslides, and mudslides.
- Limited funding; complete applications reviewed in the order received.

Here are the conditions:

- Homeowner occupied a manufactured/mobile home at the time of the winter storms as their primary residence.
- Household income at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Located in a mobile home park in San Luis Obispo County
- At least \$3,000 in storm-related damage and no outstanding loans or liens

This is the process for getting a new mobile home with Other People’s Money:



This is what you get with a big chunk of \$9.28 Million of Other People’s Money:



New Home

Replaces damaged home



Full Installation

Move-In Ready



Safer Home

Elevation, if needed, for reduced flood risk



Grant Funding

No repayment required

Credit to Supervisor Gibson who questioned the fairness and logic of the program. He pointed out that some people with only \$3,000 of damage stood to get an entire new home, while others with potentially far greater damage might be completely left out. Further, he questioned the math, pointing out that \$9.29 Million divided by 29 comes to \$320,344 per unit – far more than the average cost of a new mobile home considering there is no land purchase involved.

Supervisor Moreno questioned why someone with \$3,000 in damage should get a whole new home and wondered if the program shouldn't gauge need before determining who gets the deal of the day.

We question why someone with significant storm damage from three years ago wouldn't have repaired that damage by now, or why minor damage would warrant an entire new home and who in the Federal Government felt such an out of balance approach was a good way to spend Other People's Money. It is too easy to forget that federal grant funds are really taxpayer funds and should be treated with a fiduciary approach. It's most frustrating to know that some bureaucrat in Washington DC probably gets a promotion or bonus for coming up with the concept.

The April 7 San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meeting agenda consists mostly of administrative business. Several of the agenda items involve adoption of

contracts for services. Eight items require a 4/5ths vote and a few are Health Department organizational or personnel related.

\$2 Million Whoopsie

In a colossal miscalculation, the County Regional Parks Department presented its latest accounting of revenues and expenses to the BoS on April 7, disclosing a nearly two-million-dollar shortfall.

Agenda item 38 read as follows: Request to: 1) receive a report on the Regional Parks fund financial deficit and provide direction as necessary; 2) direct staff to return to the Board with long-term operational funding and cost recovery recommendations; 3) authorize a budget adjustment up to \$2 million from General Fund Contingencies to Fund Center (FC) 305 Regional Parks to mitigate the FY 2025-26 operating deficit, by 4/5 vote. (Executive Office)

The report leads off with the divulgence that fees year to date are only at 48% of expectations in the current budget, with an expectation of reaching 77% by the end of the fiscal year. Expenses at the end of the fiscal year are expected to exceed budget. The combination of less than anticipated revenue, combined with higher-than-expected expenditures puts the program roughly \$1.9 million upside down.

	Current Status	FY 2025-26 YE Forecast	Variance from Budget
Operating Revenue:			
Charges for Current Services	48%	77%	(\$1.6M)
Operating Expense:			
Salary and Benefits	71%	102%	\$58,596
Services and Supplies	86%	107%	\$270,918
YE Net:			\$1.9M

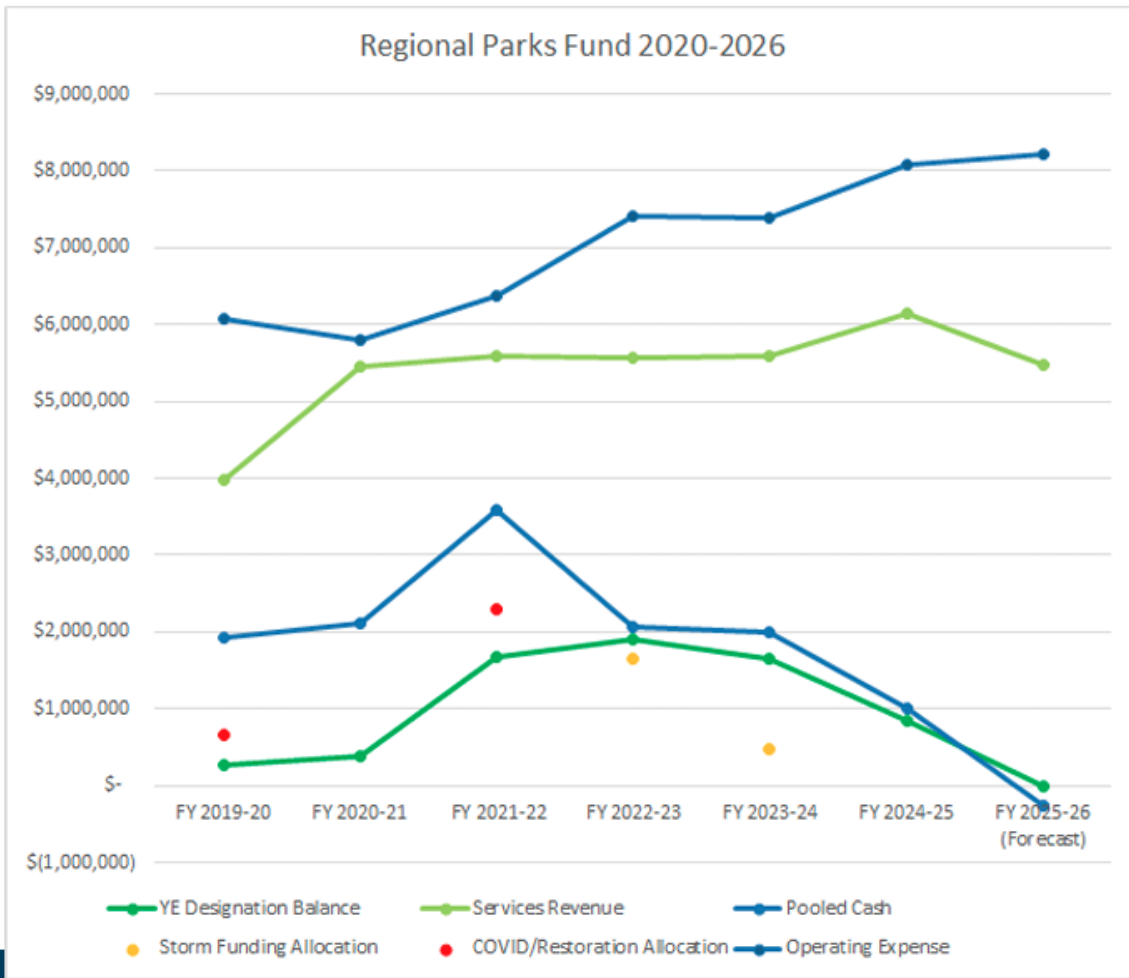
Of the many troubling aspects of the report. The amount of miscalculation is amazing. Could demand for the various revenue generating sources really have dropped off so dramatically from last year's performance? Was last year's performance even evaluated when forecasting this year's budget? Did they not anticipate real; life revenues?

Primary Contributing Factor	FY 2025-2026 YE Forecast Impact	Variance from Budget
Daily Passes Revenue	(\$519,700)	(52%)
Group Use Fee Revenue	(\$337,751)	(92%)
Camping Fee Revenue	(\$250,000)	(6%)
Administrative Services	(\$176,147)	(44%)
Other Services Revenue Accounts	(\$329,494)	(38%)
Total Operating Revenue	(\$1.6 million)	(23%)
Professional Services (Maintenance)	\$256,493	(37%)
Total	\$1.9 million	

Another deeply troubling aspect of this calamity is that it took a two million deficit before the Board heard anything about it. Obviously too late, in an attempt to reduce the hemorrhaging, the following steps have been taken:

Action	FY 2025-26 YE Forecast Impact
Fee Increases (Camping, Boating, Day Use, Admin Fees)	\$225,000
Vendor Contract Savings	(\$45,000)
Holding Staff Vacancies	(\$109,182)
Reduced Routine Maintenance	(\$102,587)
Campground Service Reduction	(\$24,000)
Total Impact	\$505,769

The following graph illustrates financial performance over the last six years:



The recommended action from the Department is listed here followed by the plan to rectify the budgeting performance:

FY 2025-26 Action:

Approve up to \$2 million in General Fund Contingencies

Structural Issue:

1. KPMG review (financial and operational)
2. Return with long-term operational funding and cost recovery recommendation

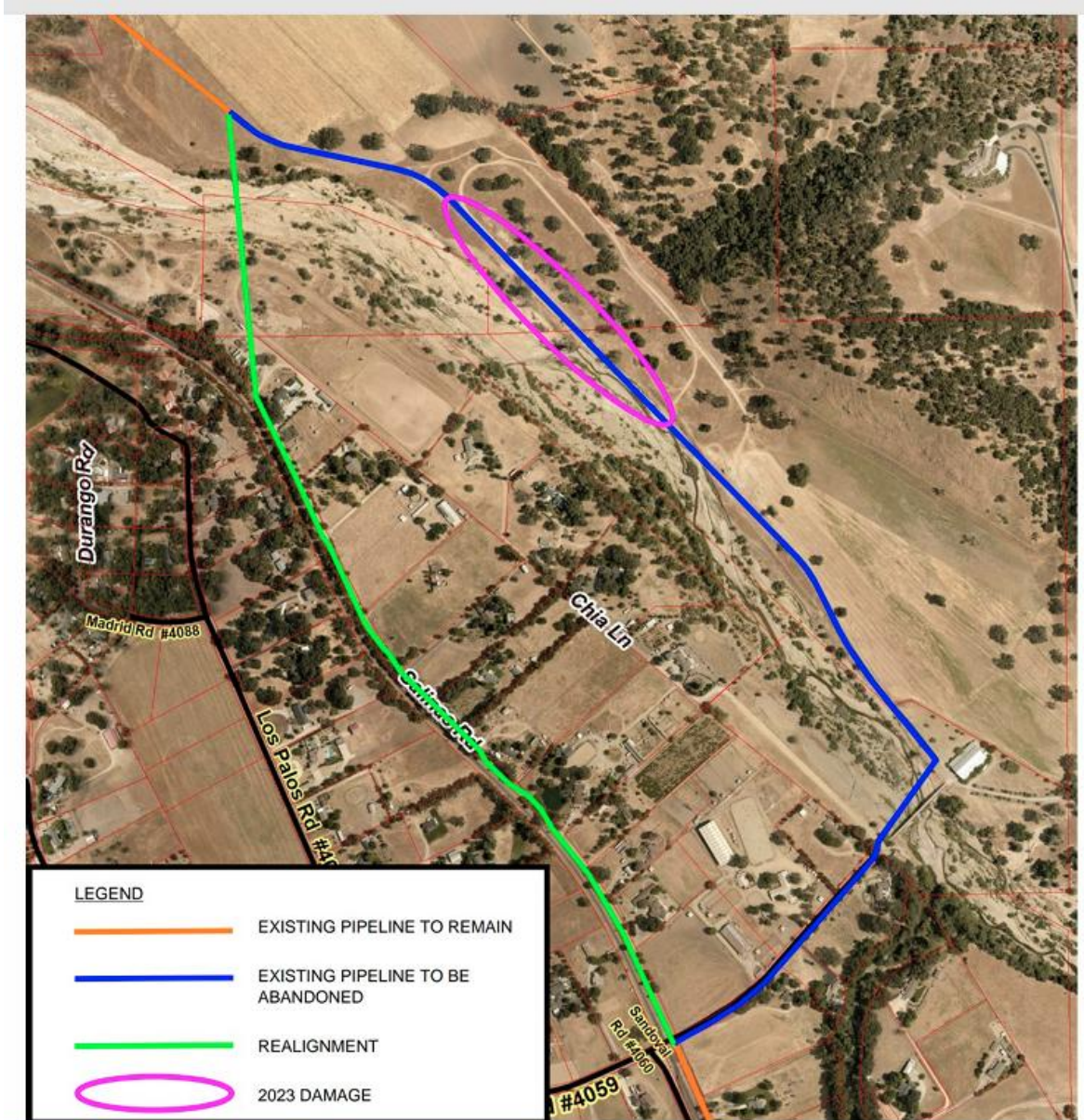
The “adjustment” was approved with promises that they will do a better job of assessment. We used to wonder how our county budget got to one billion dollars, but revelations such as this make it very clear. We hope that a KPMG audit will uncover details that will result in a much more accurate and accountable process.

Eminent Domain vs Property Rights

Item 40 on the agenda presented a challenging property rights issue. It read: Hearing to consider adoption of a resolution of necessity for the acquisition of real property interests required for the Nacimiento Water Project Pipeline Unit G Repair Project, Atascadero, by 4/5 vote. (Public Works)

The situation calls for a careful look at eminent domain. It is about the Department of Public Works determining that it needs to run a pipeline through a horse ranch property. It appears to be a very special ranch, and it seems that the owners have rejected an offer from the county for purchase.

Here is an aerial photo of the property:



Public Works make their case for eminent domain as follows:

Realignment of the pipeline is necessary and in the public interest:

- Nacimiento Water Project water is a key source of the City of San Luis Obispo's drinking water
- Ensure the long-term reliability of this critical water supply and restore essential water service to San Luis Obispo County communities.
- Reduces the likelihood that this water service is interrupted in the event of future storms, floods, or other emergency situations

Public Works requested the following:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Open and conduct a hearing on the adoption of the Resolution of Necessity
2. Adopt a Resolution of Necessity authorizing the chairperson to execute all necessary documents
3. Authorize Director of Public Works to complete the actions necessary to close the transaction

We know nothing about the family that owns the property but imagine the possibility that it is a treasured place that holds many great memories. It certainly is not easy to find similar properties and values must be at a premium.

Supervisor Moreno expressed concern over the use of Eminent Domain and requested that the process be continued until May 5 to allow more negotiation time in an effort to find an equitable solution acceptable to both parties.

We appreciate Moreno's common sense approach and hope that a reasonable solution can be reached.

This weekly update will be on pause for the weeks of April 20 and 27 but will resume for the May 4 edition.

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**A Miracle in Medical Economics Called
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Coastal Commission Caves: Apologizes to Elon Musk in SpaceX Bias Settlement

The Commission acknowledged that certain commissioners made 'improper' statements reflecting political bias during a 2024 hearing

By Megan Barth, May 1, 2026

In a significant victory for free speech and regulatory accountability, the California Coastal Commission has issued a formal apology to **Elon Musk** and SpaceX as part of a settlement resolving a **federal lawsuit** accusing the agency of retaliating against the company due to Musk's political views.

The settlement, details of which emerged this week after earlier court filings, includes the Commission acknowledging that certain commissioners made "improper" statements reflecting political bias during a 2024 hearing. As part of the agreement, the Commission will not require SpaceX to obtain additional coastal development permits for its launch program at Vandenberg Space Force Base, and the case has been dismissed.

The dispute traces back to October 2024, when the Coastal Commission voted 6-4 to deny SpaceX and the U.S. Space Force's request to increase rocket launches from Vandenberg. While the official rationale centered on permitting technicalities, public comments from commissioners revealed their political biases.

Commissioner Gretchen Newsom (no relation to Governor Gavin Newsom) criticized Musk for "hopping about the country, spewing and tweeting political falsehoods and attacking FEMA," while claiming his Starlink efforts prioritized "profit maximization" over employees and the environment. Chairwoman Caryl Hart added that Musk had "aggressively injected himself into the presidential race," framing the decision as inherently political.

Musk swiftly responded, vowing to sue and stating: "What I post on this platform has nothing to do with a 'coastal commission' in California!" He highlighted the Commission's narrow mandate to protect the coastline, not police political speech. This settlement fits a broader pattern of **California Coastal Commission controversies** documented by the Globe.

The agency, composed of political appointees with sweeping authority over coastal development, has long been accused of heavy-handed tactics that prioritize ideology over law, property rights, and practical governance.

Just days ago, the **California Supreme Court** unanimously reined in the Commission's overreach in a major property rights victory—another blow to its expansive powers.

Critics argue the Commission has operated with insufficient accountability for decades, often inserting itself into matters beyond its core environmental mission. The SpaceX case stands out because it directly implicated national security and free speech, drawing federal scrutiny and high-profile attention.

Under the settlement, SpaceX can proceed with expanded operations at Vandenberg without the disputed permitting hurdles from the state agency. The Commission's apology represents a rare admission of improper conduct by a California regulatory body. The outcome reinforces his long-standing critique of California's bureaucratic environment.

Musk, who has increasingly relocated operations and investments away from California due to state Democrats' **policies and regulations**, has not publicly commented on the settlement as of this writing.



Megan Barth

Megan Barth is the Executive Editor of The California Globe and former, founding editor of the Nevada Globe. Specializing in investigative reporting, her work has appeared in national and local news. The highlights of her career include interviewing President Donald Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and FBI Director Kash Patel. When she isn't editing, writing, or talking, you can find her hiking and relaxing in Northern Nevada.

US Supreme Court Issues Huge Ruling On Voting Rights Act; Et Tu California?

What about California's racial gerrymander with Supreme Court declaring Louisiana congressional map an 'unconstitutional racial gerrymander?'

By Katy Grimes, April 29, 2026

The United States Supreme Court just ruled Wednesday that drawing Congressional districts based on race under the Voting Rights Act is unconstitutional, 6-3.

The Reader's Digest condensed version: Democrats can no longer rig maps based on race.

“Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 U. S. C. §10301 et seq., was designed to enforce the Constitution—not collide with it. Unfortunately, lower courts have sometimes applied this Court's §2 precedents in a way that forces States to engage in the very race-based discrimination that the Constitution forbids,” Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the majority opinion, joined by Justices Kavanaugh, Thomas, Roberts, Barrett and Gorsuch.

Justices Kagan, Sotomayor, and Jackson dissented.

While the Court did not strike down Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act entirely, it specified that drawing districts solely based on race is unconstitutional.

Without racial gerrymandering in the southern states, Republicans could gain at least a dozen seats.

“The Court dealt a blow to a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, siding with Louisiana Republicans and President Donald Trump's administration by blocking an electoral map that created a second majority-Black congressional district,” the Daily Caller reported.

Louisiana v. Callais was centered on whether Louisiana's 2024 congressional map, which had added a second majority-Black district, amounted to an unconstitutional racial gerrymander.

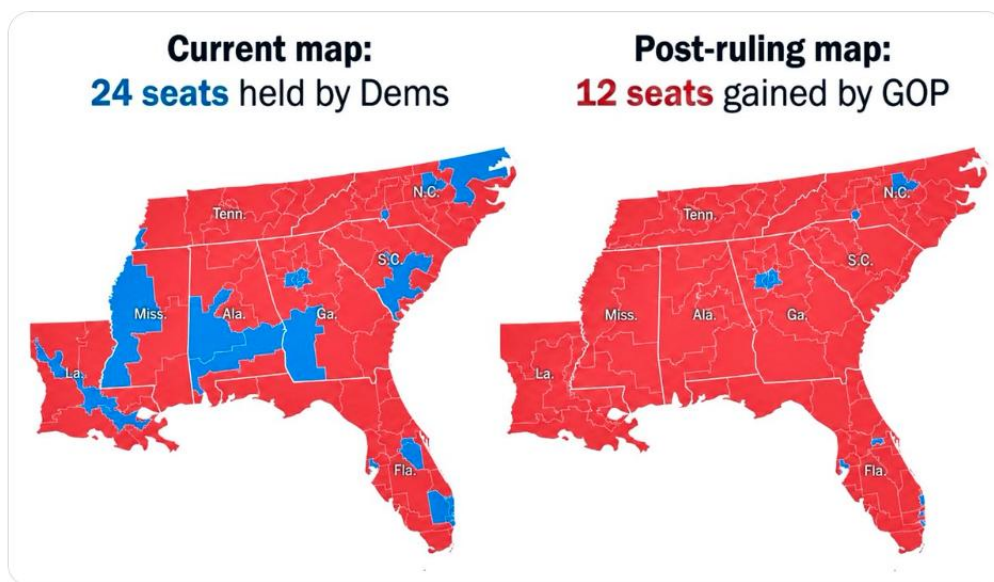
“Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 U. S. C. §10301 et seq., was designed to enforce the Constitution—not collide with it.

Louisiana must not only redraw its congressional map, this decision could lead to racially drawn districts in all states being thrown out.

What does this mean for California’s mid-decade racial redistricting scheme?

Louisiana v. Callais was a test of race-based redistricting under the Constitution. This SCOTUS ruling against Louisiana could undermine and/or invite challenges to California’s redistricting efforts given that they involve racial considerations. What will this mean to Gov. Newsom’s intentional creation of majority-minority districts or race-predominant maps? Perhaps this decision could tie California’s redistricting to broader lawsuits alleging violations of the 15th Amendment and Voting Rights Act in California.

In an **effort to influence** the 2026 midterm elections, California Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta announced their intentions to blow up California’s independent redistricting commission, effectively tampering with the state’s electoral maps mid-decade... because TRUMP.



In August, California’s legislative Democrats kicked the voter approved independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission to the curb for the next few elections, when they introduced their package of three bills, SB 280, AB 604,

and ACA 8, to redraw California’s congressional districts mid-decade, described in detail by California Globe contributor Chris Micheli [here](#), the Globe reported.

The maps were drawn by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), “which is not even a registered lobbyist,” Assemblyman Carl DeMaio noted. “How much money was paid to Paul Mitchell, who boasted that he had a team of eight people” working with him. Mitchell is drawing the new districts for the governor, the Globe reported.

In January, Attorney Mark Meuser filed an emergency application with the U.S. Supreme Court to temporarily block California’s redistricting scheme while his state appeal played out. He explained:

The Constitution is clear: states may not sort voters into districts based on race. Yet the record in this case contains unusually direct evidence that race was used in drawing multiple districts. The mapmaker who drew the map publicly stated that districts were designed to “bolster” Latino voting strength and to hit specific racial targets. Legislators echoed those goals, and internal materials presented race as a factor in drawing lines.

Our Emergency Application explains why that approach cannot be squared with decades of Supreme Court precedent. Constitutional violations do not become lawful simply because they are put to a popular vote. We also explain why California cannot satisfy strict scrutiny even if race was used. The State made no showing that these race-based districts were required by the Voting Rights Act. In fact, the evidence shows that minority-preferred candidates routinely win in California and that no racial bloc voting exists that would justify sorting voters by race. Timing is critical. Candidate filing for the 2026 elections begins on February 9th. Once candidates and voters are forced to operate under unconstitutional districts, the harm cannot be undone. That is why we are seeking narrow, temporary relief now, to preserve the status quo while the appeal proceeds.



Katy Grimes

Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, the co-author of *California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?* and a contributor to "Taxifornia 2016."

A California native and Navy mom, Katy lives in Sacramento, CA.

A Miracle in Medical Economics Called Capitalism

When the government interferes with the business of doctors and patients, both suffer the consequences

By Patrick Wagner, MD, April 29

Our present California Medi-Cal healthcare system is a hopeless, sick, and non-caring mess, and is on a precipitous economic and moral decline. Believe me, I worked my way through it, survived it, rejected it, and am here to help you understand exactly how to heal it. It is time to build a hopeful, caring, and economically sound medical system, better and more caring and efficient when you get sick than ever before, and friendly and motivating such that you will get in for comprehensive routine checkups. It is best to head off diseases, including bankruptcy, discrimination, and many preventable and curable bread and butter diseases, treat them promptly to live as healthily as possible. My prognosis for adhering to some simple, “super” common-sense business steps to be outlined in this paper is the development of a high “quality of life” and vibrant medical system; the envy of the world. But to obtain miracles, we need a Truthful guide.

As you know, many people don’t want to hear anything *about* or *from* God nowadays, yet we exist *because of* and *for* God. We have manufactured an inaccurate phrase that does not appear in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution (although often quoted) called...” separation of church and state”. The Pilgrims came to America in 1620 to establish OUR OWN church, free from the persecution (and discrimination) of the Church of England.

On all our paper and coin currency, it says... “In God We Trust.” This is a paradox that requires explanation. Mine is threefold. First, we are a Nation Under God, and we clearly do not separate church and state (government), or we should not, because if we do, we will become UNETHICAL. Second, U.S. banknotes are the honest to goodness means of exchange between doctors and patients. There is nothing counterfeit about USA money, or there shouldn’t be. And third, the First Amendment was NOT written to protect people and their laws from religious values, but to protect those values from government tyranny. Of major importance, the establishment clause in this amendment prohibits the government from creating

an official state church, favoring one religion over another, or favoring religion over non-religion. The government must maintain a position of neutrality in these matters. Church and medicine are one. They are both about saving lives.

Communist medicine (and communist medical economics), codified in 2010 by the passage of a federal law called the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or PPACA (also known as Medi-Cal or Medicaid or Obamacare or Newsomcare, or Medicare, or government run healthcare), is NOT protective of patients, OR affordable. And if Medicare or Medi-Cal is your sole source of payment, please don't panic and give up on me yet. There is a very powerful solution to that problem.

Do you ever get the feeling that doctors and nurses don't really like patients much nowadays, or for that matter, doctors and nurses aren't liked much by patients? There is no solid commitment or trust either way. It would be interesting to get your take about this lack of pleasantness and why things are the way they are.

My answer is yes, I am aware of the angst, and I believe we are all insanely privileged and pathologically entitled by Governor Gavin Newsom and his cleverly disguised raw discrimination, the "chief of the discriminator staff." We Californians do the bidding of our administrator of Medi-Cal, the tyrannical and ultra persuasive, hypnotizing "power-grabber" called Governor Newsom. Now change the phrase power-grabber to "money-grabber," lots of money. Finally, change money-grabber to "healing grabber," lots of healing. Stolen money means stolen healing.

And with this strong sense of entitlement, we end up acting like enablers, or henchmen or partners in crime, for this sick man. This behavior is a defense mechanism which protects our anemic pride in these troubled times, where under his spell, we all feel like rejected, denied, incompetent, and worthless victims of prejudice, needy of his help. Newsom is a very cunning swindler.

Thus, we erroneously engage in hostile, retaliatory, and cruel behavior, soured and bitter against each other. We instinctively rationalize and perceive ourselves as superior and worthy of special privileges in Newsom's kingdom. It is flat out envy, plain and simple. We are puppets and he is the abusive, cunning puppeteer. We are mad at each other when we should be mad at him!

We are trapped in an evil, bureaucratic mess. When the government interferes with the business of doctors and patients, both suffer the consequences. The doctor suffers a financial and an ego hit, and the patient suffers a "competency of doctor" and bitter anger hit. Both stop liking and trusting each other and want nothing to do with each other, and the cycle of resentment begins. We are sick and dying at a

fast rate because of Newsom's kill power. Could this be contributed to the population deficit we are experiencing in California?

This Newsom trance affects all small businesses in California. Any transaction in any trade is the same, be you a hairdresser, a carpenter, or a doctor. The results? An increasingly incompetent, penniless, and unmotivated producer provides a high cost (Newsom is expensive) and low-quality, cut cost product or service which is then presented to the increasingly dissatisfied patient or customer or client. In the medical trade, the doctor slaves along for the bureaucracy without initiative, and the patients receive substandard and very dangerous treatment, making them slaves to the bureaucracy as well! We all serve Newsom and cowardly stand by and watch the misery index continue to expand. The take home is that real money and payment in full for services or products rendered IS the root cause of affordable, satisfying and safe medical treatment, the kind that makes consumers want to repeat business with their suppliers of healing.

Wouldn't you agree with me that Governor Newsom and his Medi-Cal healthcare insurance is a huge parasite, sucking the lifeblood and livelihoods of doctors and patients out of them? Wouldn't you agree that Governor Newsom is sucking the economy dry, and stealing all the resources and jobs that fund the producers who no longer desire to work and make wonderful products and services for you and me? Our economy gets weaker every day, and there are fewer good doctors to take care of us. So, what are we doing about it? We are doing a lot behind the scenes. FIRST, we have sicced the "Fraud Czar," vice-president Vance and the stellar administration of President Trump onto Governor Newsom and his Medi-Cal fraud. We are becoming good, blood sucking healing parasites, like Newsom, ticks on a bad dog (fraud), sucking the illegitimate funds out of Newsom's pockets, back to where they belong, a tit-for-tat retaliation. After all, parasitology is a well-known discipline of medicine and doctors are supposed to be able to diagnose and treat patients who have been parasitized and paralyzed, and transfuse that lifeblood back into our fragile and anemic Spirits.

Where did all the money go? We are now exposing shocking solid evidence demonstrating his crimes. And once we suck Newsom dry, the parasite will die. Of great interest, our amazing Republican gubernatorial candidates for Newsom's spot, both Steve Hilton and Sheriff Chad Bianco, are hot on the trail of this fraud money as well. It is promised that HUGE money will be exposed with these efforts. Fairness is the goal, and you and I will be amazed by the findings. Just think, our money (or at least some of it), the money for fair trade healing will be ours again! And the parasite will be dead. We will handily take off with a spirit of LIFE, hard work, earning, and capitalizing healing power.

SECOND, we are so, so full of the trance of Governor Newsom, we are blind to capitalism. There is no question that this jolting back into reality is working and will transform our thinking back into the realm of meritocracy, competition, and hard work for the benefit of our American brothers and sisters. The beauty of the small, private business model called capitalism will soon emerge and overflow. What is capitalism? It is freedom of private business to organize and operate for profit in a competitive system without interference by government beyond that regulation necessary to protect the public interest and to keep the national economy in balance. And national economy transfers to state, county, city, and finally family economics.

Think of what this means. There are over 100,000 licensed physicians in California alone. If each one had his or her own small business, think of all the new businesses! Private practice means that you and your doctor would be a one-on-one team. There is no middleman. And if you are worried about negligence and fairness and immorality, don't be. Compare this small business model with the mega-Medi-Cal Newsom system above. My practice was solid and ethical until Newsom and his predecessors stepped in! And, to do small business, you don't need an MBA. You don't even need a bachelor's degree in business. The truth is that you don't need much more than a mom watching her kids sell lemonade on the street corner and putting the money in a savings account. We would be well served if our medical educators were to add a very simple business 101 for doctors. If you are ethical, that's all you need, besides an adding machine and an honest and true-blue secretary. Freedom from taxation, regulation, pain, suffering, and literal genocide are the benefits.

THIRD, we have been let down by medical academia. Medical education is bureaucracy, the same as liberal arts education bureaucracy. Good, solid, ethical medical and surgical training has been infected by DEI. Affirmative action and DEI are the same, and it is the poisonous gruel of Medi-Cal and Newsom's trance over the innocent, naïve, young, precious students of California precincts aspiring to be physicians and the envious egghead medical educators remaining at the prestigious universities around the country. Why wouldn't we "privatize" medical education, instruct ALL physicians in business 101 for doctors, and then teach it for our next generation of doctors? That would be common sense and vibrant capitalism. Since Medi-Cal became prevalent, Californians have developed a rather complacent, laid-back, lazy, unconcerned attitude as Newsom's Medi-Cal slumber took effect. There are a lot of state workers and teachers in California, an easy group to infect with DEI poison. Then come the unions, and there goes our economy and our doctors and our lives and our safety and our hope.

To obtain the miracle of capitalism in medical economics, we doctors and patients must MASTER the miracle of “trust and ethics” in each other alone. Since my exit from Medi-Cal and moving on to an alternate industry in free market capitalism (which is tragically threatened as are all vocations in California now), I have started to listen to THE VOICE for private physicians which has been speaking to America for 83 years, since 1943! It’s called the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), and it is my GO-TO PLACE for common sense and ethical solutions to the burden of Medi-Cal. I trust AAPS, but the bias of Medi-Cal and government run healthcare in general has hacked AAPS. Just look at the Wikipedia definition of AAPS. Look at how the purveyors of Medi-Cal, including the evil sycophantic media, slander the honest to God Truth about capitalism in medicine! Shameful.

We talk about the U.S. Constitution and its correlation with free enterprise or capitalism in conservative circles. Some people take out their Pocket Constitution when they want to make a point about fiscal responsibility, or limited government, or capitalism. The AAPS also has a Pocket Constitution, a very easy to read short book called “Common Sense Medicine” by author Jeff Danby. In it, he condenses several of those simple steps to achieve the Miracle of Capitalism in Medical Economics. I am adding a few more. All these steps start with the letter C. Here’s the list:

1. Create a price determination between the doctor and patient and none other.
2. Cash payment for medical services, via a tax-exempt medical savings account for everyone in the family, no limit on how much goes in.
3. Catastrophic medical insurance with low premiums and very high claims payout, no deductible.
4. Cut Medi-Cal and replace it with Capitalism-Cal.
5. Eliminate Regulatory Capture in medical economics by the formation of many capitalist small medical businesses, thus eliminating monopolies, which prioritize industry interests over the public good, and control, capture, and cool down the cruel Medi-Cal tyranny for the benefit of all concerned.
6. Develop a Uniform Code of Medical Justice as we have a Uniform Code of Military Justice. Soldiers kill enemy people, physicians kill diseases. Both are warriors. Congress created a single set of criminal laws for military crimes back in 1950. The judges, attorneys, and jury are all soldiers, and a military court-martial is conducted by these military experts as a tribunal. Hippocrates created a set of criminal laws for medical crimes

back in 450 BC. The judges, attorneys, and jury SHOULD ALL BE Oath sworn board certified physicians and surgeons, a tribunal conducted by those who have BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, AND NONE OTHER.

7. Christ-guided economics. It is said that money, and the correct way to use it, is just about the most frequently discussed topic in the Holy Bible. GOD IS the miracle in medical economics called capitalism, which brings up a well-known promise and command of God Himself, written about 3,000 years ago. *2 Chronicles 7:14 If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*



Patrick Wagner, MD

Patrick Wagner is a retired Sacramento general surgeon working to help establish the best free enterprise medical and surgical system in the history of California. Wagner attended University of Nevada, Reno medical school, did his residency at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

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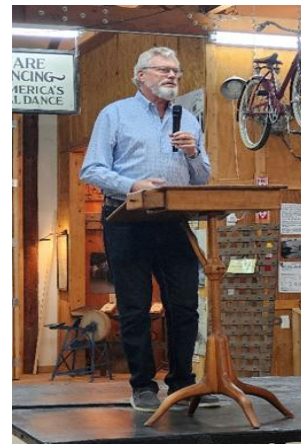
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