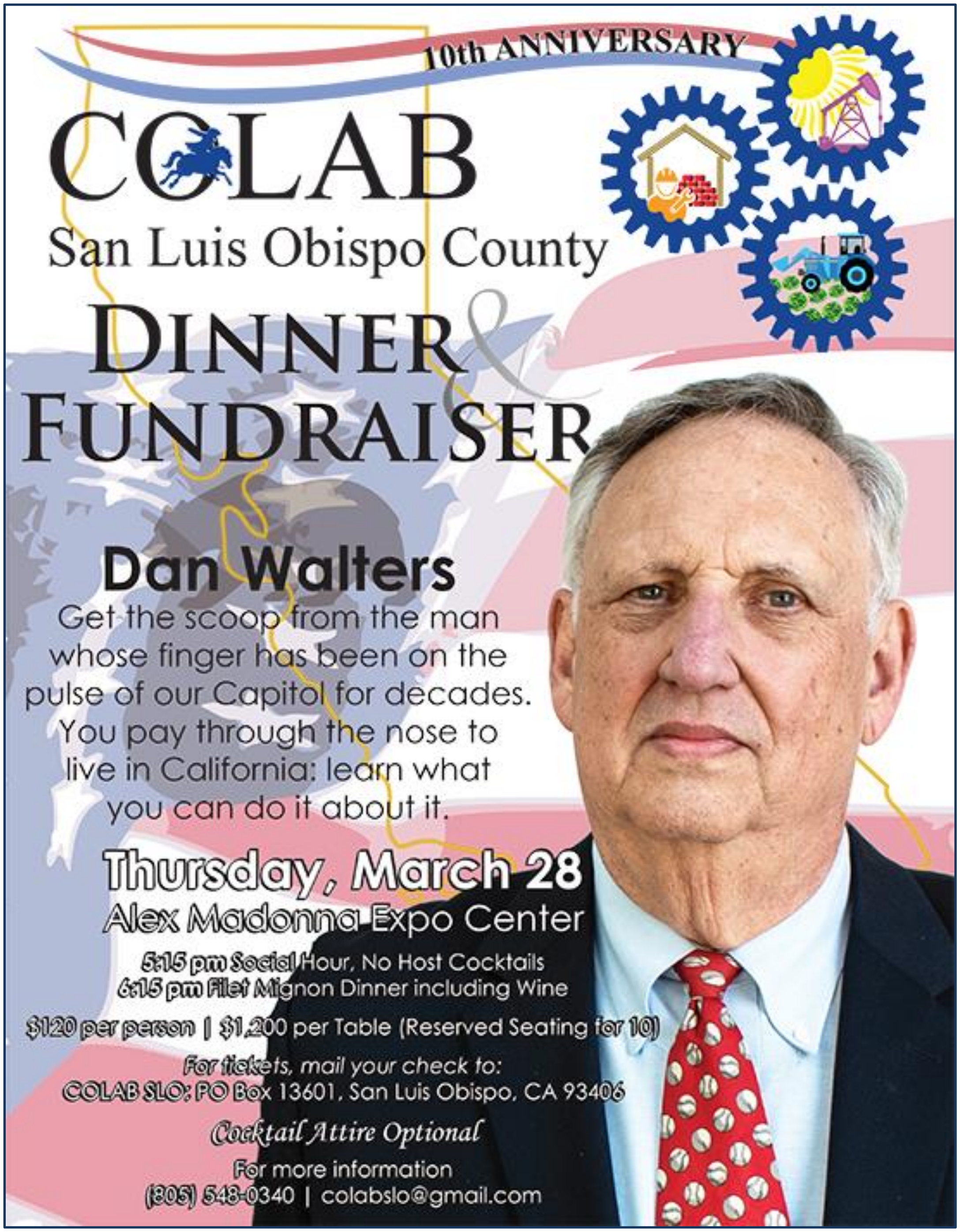
COLAB San Luis Obispo County

The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE FEBRUARY 10 - 16, 2019



THIS WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED

(NOT ENOUGH BUSINESS?)

LAST WEEK

HILL CALLS ELECTION OFFICIAL TOMMY GONG ON THE CARPET

SLOCOG

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPROVED

KABUKI THEATER/LESS HOUSING

DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN APPROVED

STACK-AND-PACK / GET OUT OF YOUR CAR – CONFIRMED

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 12

COULD CALIFORNIA PENSION SYSTEM BE UNDERWATER?

BY DAN WALTERS

SALUD CARBAJAL REPORTED AS ENDORSER OF OCASIO-CORTEZ'S NEW GREEN DEAL

BY MIKE BROWN

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 (Not Scheduled)

Tuesday February 12th is Lincoln's Birthday anniversary.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, February 14, 2019 (Cancelled)

The meeting was cancelled. Perhaps everyone has given up on any development.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, February 5, 2019 (Completed)

Non-Agenda Item: Enabling Vote Harvesting. During the Public Comment Period for Matters Not on the Agenda, Clerk Recorder Assessor (and County Election Official) Tommy Gong spoke to refute various allegations made by *SLO Tribune* columnist Tom Fulks**.** Fulk's article had accused Gong of being dilatory in implementing certain discretionary election procedures pertaining to mail-in ballots. The matter was not on the agenda for Board consideration. Nevertheless, Supervisor Hill commenced to interrogate Gong along the same lines as Fulk's article.

A February 8 *The Cal Coast Times* news article provides a nice recap:

SLO County Supervisor Adam Hill's mic turned off during outburst

February 8, 2019
By KAREN VELIE

San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Adam Hill lashed out at Tuesday's board meeting when he was told to end a discussion because it violated the Brown Act. Hill continued his rampage prompting Supervisor Debbie Arnold to cut off his microphone. [Cal Coast Times]

In response to a Tribune commentary that claimed the county elections office is making it harder for people to vote, penned by a political columnist who has worked for Hill, County Clerk Recorder Tommy Gong addressed allegations his office attempted to suppress voters.

In his column, Tom Fulks claims that Gong failed to implement state law, SB 450. The law requires elections officials forward ballots for other counties within eight days of the election, a change that Gong immediately implemented. SB 450 also provides county's the option of requiring all mail-in ballot elections with vote centers.

Along with 14 other counties, Gong requested the option of implementing vote centers in 2018. However, after researching the requirements which included increased costs associated with infrastructure and manning polling stations for 10 days, Gong and nine of the 14 other county election officials opted not to implement the all mail-in ballot option in 2018.

"We are already at a 75 percent rate of vote by mail voters," Gong said. "Voters can by all means request to be a permanent vote by mail voter. We have 138 polling places that we staff on election day, if you whittle that down to 20 then you have a much smaller percentage of those voters who show up on election day."

Hill then accused Gong of having already made up his mind about the mail-in only ballot option.

In response, Gong asked the board to have the issue put on a future agenda to allow him time to examine the issue and create a report.

Hill continued to rebut, and County Counsel Rita Neal signaled to Arnold to stop the discussion. Neal then informed Hill that extending the conversation could result in a Brown Act violation.

Even so, Hill continued to argue his points while Arnold asked him to take a pause.

"You are being very disrespectful," Arnold said.

“No, you are being reactionary,” Hill said.

“You are not being respectful of the process,” Arnold responded.

“This is not a Tea Party meeting, I am a colleague of yours. He started to speak, and I wanted…,” Hill said before Arnold turned off his microphone.

Later in the meeting, the board voted unanimously to ask Gong to bring a discussion of the mail-in only ballot proposal back to the board of supervisors.

Click on the link to see the video. https://youtu.be/KLuM1GifA_s

Items 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, and 21 - Position (Job) Salary Range Reclassifications and Swaps of Higher Cost Positions for Lower Cost Positions. The Board approved a recurring $309,000 in position salary upgrades on the consent calendar. The overall accumulative impact of this go round along with others that have already been approved was not included in the presentation and no members deigned to ask about them in public.

Background: One of the problems of most government pay and classification systems is the large number of job distinctions, many with fairly minute differences.

Why Is This Important? In the big picture all the changes in the various agenda items cited here add up to a new cost of $309,425 per year and growing forever. These off-budget changes appear regularly on agendas week in and week out. Over a fiscal year the accumulative impact can add up.

Even more significantly, reform of the classification and pay systems is desperately needed. These systems lead to one of the primary underlying causes of the escalating cost of government. Consider that the County, with almost 3000 employees, has about 700 separate position classifications arrayed across scores of salary bands, all with different job descriptions. In contradistinction, Apple Computer, with 132,000 full time employees, seems to have about 600 separate position classifications, not counting top management. In another example, consider the US Army system for enlisted soldiers, which may include millions of “employees,” depending on international threats. It contains 33 career military fields (CMFs), which in turn have 329 subspecialty military occupational specialties (MOSs). **Why does the County need 700 position classes and scores of pay ranges?**

.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, February 6, 2019 (Completed)

Item A-2: 2019 Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA): Distribution Methodology. The Board approved a formula which promises the State that 70 percent of new home development in the county for the next eight years will be compact housing and that no more than 30 percent will be "large lot" housing. Each city and the County Board will have to figure out how to work out the metrics within their respective land use jurisdictions.

Background. It was clear that the whole thing was a done deal form the start. The SLOCOG Board (the Board) pretended to consider a cafeteria of 9 formulas to allocate projected need for 10,810 dwelling units among the county's 7 cities and the unincorporated county (the part under the zoning authority of the County), which the State has assigned to San Luis Obispo County. The Plan period is from 2020-2028.

Since the communities are not compelled to see that the housing actually is permitted and built, the entire expensive process (in staff and consultant costs in the cities, County, and SLOCOG) is a total waste of time. Only a few communities have ever failed to adopt a housing element over the past 4 decades. The City of Huntington Beach seems to be in the cross hairs currently for refusing to comply.

The Board adopted Scenario 5 per the table below:

Figure 2: Numerical Allocation Table

	RHNA Allocation								
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9
Population Weight	40%	40%	40%	25%	25%	25%	10%	10%	10%
Employment Weight	60%	60%	60%	75%	75%	75%	90%	90%	90%
Large Employer Allocation	Included	Not included	Allocated by population share	Included	Not included	Allocated by population share	Included	Not included	Allocated by population share
Jurisdiction									
Arroyo Grande	658	692	692	649	692	692	641	693	693
Atascadero	996	915	939	945	843	873	893	772	808
Grover Beach	384	400	410	349	369	382	315	339	354
Morro Bay	375	394	395	367	391	392	359	388	390
Paso Robles	1,324	1,400	1,385	1,351	1,446	1,427	1,377	1,492	1,469
Pismo Beach	405	430	421	427	458	447	449	487	473
San Luis Obispo	2,849	3,042	2,938	3,112	3,354	3,224	3,375	3,665	3,509
SLO County	3,820	3,536	3,629	3,611	3,256	3,372	3,402	2,976	3,116
Regional Totals	**10,810**	**10,810**	**10,810**	**10,810**	**10,810**	**10,810**	**10,810**	**10,810**	**10,810**

Note that there is not a huge difference in the allocation scenarios overall. The write-up does not indicate if any of the jurisdictions are short of their numbers in terms of their existing zoning capacity. In other words, and for example, the City of SLO probably has existing unbuilt permitted units plus zoning capacity for 3,256 units over the next 8 years. On the other hand the County probably doesn't have the pre-zoned capacity and is permitting only 200 to 300 homes per year. Moreover the County includes water and traffic barriers in its so-called resource management system, which will prevent actual attainment of the goal.

Smoke Screen:

The County may well be able to show the State enforcers that it has the actual zoning capacity, principally in Nipomo, Templeton, Oceano, and San Miguel, and scattered across the rural residential zones outside these village clusters. This is meaningless because it has already included in the Resource Management System (RMS) and a report prefatory to the Housing Initiative that it lacks sufficient water, sewer, traffic, park, and other infrastructure capacity to build almost anything (actually nothing). Existing antiquated lots are under attack by Hill and Gibson and the Sierra Club. It is not known whether existing antiquated lots are counted by the County for RHNA purposes.

If all the cities already have sufficient zoned-in capacity (lots), the whole effort is a sham because it does nothing to actually increase capacity. It simply checks the State required boxes.

Sugar Coating Stack-and-Pack and Mass Transit:

A more sinister aspect of the exercise is that the overall strategy is to concentrate 70% of future residential growth into urban areas, as stated in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). See items B-1 and B-2 below on the RTP, which summarize the strategy:

Consistency with 2019 Regional Housing Needs Allocation

The regional transportation plan is required to be consistent with the region's regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) plan to help meet state housing goals specified in Government Code Sections 65580 and 65581. To this point, the SCS supports and is consistent with the need to designate and maintain "… a supply of land and adequate sites suitable, feasible, and available for the development of housing sufficient to meet the locality's housing need for all income levels…" (GC Code Section 65580(f)). The planning framework of the *2035 Preferred Growth Scenario* includes a future development patter that focuses on compact housing as opposed to large-lot housing (70 percent versus 30 percent of all new housing), in order to better support and accommodate low-income and moderate-income housing to achieve the RHNA allocation as part of the plan horizon. Additionally, the development pattern of the *2035 Preferred Growth Scenario* includes balanced growth in employment across the three subregions along US 101 (North County, Central County, and South County), as opposed to focused employment growth in Central County, to better support regional jobs-housing balance in the future.

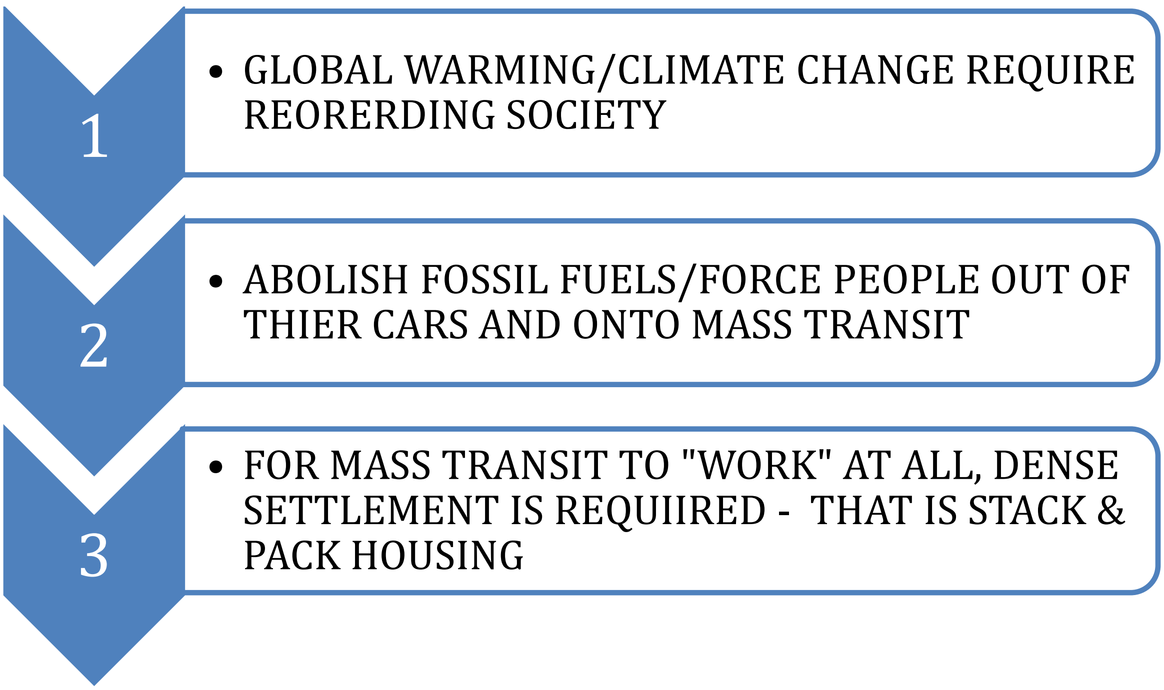
Note that 70% of future homes to be "compact housing"

Items B-1 & B-2: Draft 2019 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Public Release. The Board unanimously gave conceptual approval to the RTP and authorized the startup of the related Environmental Review process prefatory to final adoption next fall.

Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS): One of the most potent policy components of the RTP is the Sustainable Communities Strategy, which is required by State law. The problem is that the approval of the RTP, as well as the receipt of the revenues, is dependent on compliance with the rules. As the write-up states with regard to the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) portion:

Chapter 13: Sustainable Communities Strategy supports the state's climate action goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through coordinated transportation and land use planning. The Sustainable Communities Strategy helps guide planning through analysis and recommendations for residential growth, employment centers, and transportation investments throughout the region. The preferred growth pattern to accommodate the new 44,000 people, 18,000 jobs, and 18,000 homes uses a distribution that improves the jobs-housing imbalance and tops 70% of new homes as 'compact' style (includes single-family homes with a lot size up to 6,000 sq.).

The overall globalist enviro/socialist doctrine included in the SCS is displayed in the diagram below.



When the question about whether or not citizens wanted to live in compact homes and neighborhoods arose, the SLOCOG Executive Director Peter Rogers was quick to offer purported data that such developments were very popular and selling well. He even cited a survey which, he said, demonstrated that the respondents supported future development and housing which is more dense and compact. He then put up aerials showing several subdivisions in Templeton and Nipomo which he said are selling well.

Of course, County and city zoning and incentives promote this version and do everything possible to make it impossible to obtain permits for standard larger lot subdivisions. In this case the government social engineering becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

We drilled down into some of the new subdivisions extolled by Mr. Rogers to see what's really happening on the ground. A Templeton subdivision cited by Rogers provides a good example.

The aerial

The plan

The Typical House

The kids won't be running around in the yard or even have a swing set at this one. The house is 1738 Sq. Ft. on a 5038 Sq. Ft. lot and is for sale for $580,045.

Of course the ultimate stack-and-pack is 4 and 5 stories on transit routes.

Background: The RTP is one of the most important policy documents generated in San Luis Obispo

County. It sets the overall transportation polices and long-range funding plans for all the cities and the unincorporated county. It incorporates the housing policies described in item 2-A above. As the Board letter stated:

The RTP is a mandated long-range transportation plan that must be updated every four years in compliance with state and federal law. The 2019 RTP serves as a guide to invest $3 billion over the next 25 years. This item was continuously agendized for the SLOCOG advisory committees, the 2019 RTP Stakeholder Group, and the SLOCOG Board to allow early input on various components of the plan as it proceeds toward its scheduled adoption in June 2019.

Funding Shortfall: Even with the retention of the SB-1 Gas Tax, the report indicates that there is a $2.8 million funding gap. Specifically:

The Funding Gap: The 2019 RTP identifies a funding gap of $2.8+ billion over and above the Reasonably-Expected $3.0 billion revenues.

This includes:

- *Highway Improvements: a $1.5 billion gap persists over the projected $812 million in revenues;*

- *Non-Highway Improvements: A $700+ million gap exists over the projected revenues of $140 million;*

- *Local Road maintenance: A $320 million gap exists to achieve all pavement condition targets, over the expected $1 billion projected to maintain current pavement condition levels;*

- *Transit, and Maximizing System Efficiency: no figures were included to identify the additional funding required for an optimal system;*

- *Active Transportation: A $300+ million gap exists over the projected revenues of $188 million.*

SLOCOG will be back in 2020 with yet another sales tax increase ballot measure to attempt to cover a portion of the revenue shortfall.

Why You Should Care: To receive approval from the State, and in particular the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the RTP must abide by all the current State rules and must promise stack-and-pack housing, barriers to suburban and rural residential living, anti-private car incentives, and anti-fossil fuel doctrine. City Council members and County Supervisors go along with the program due to their desperation for revenue because their current sources are almost completely consumed by salaries, pension costs, social security contributions, health insurance premiums, workers comp costs, and dense overhead expense.

Sustainable Communities Strategies *- This Element includes only one chapter.*

Chapter 13: Sustainable Communities Strategy supports the state's climate action goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through coordinated transportation and land use planning. The Sustainable Communities Strategy helps guide planning through analysis and recommendations for residential growth, employment centers, and transportation investments throughout the region. The preferred growth pattern to accommodate the new 44,000 people, 18,000 jobs, and 18,000 homes uses a distribution that improves the jobs-housing imbalance and tops 70% of new homes as 'compact' style (includes single-family homes with a lot size up to 6,000 sq.).

COLAB IN DEPTH

IN FIGHTING THE TROUBLESOME, LOCAL DAY-TO-DAY ASSAULTS ON OUR FREEDOM AND PROPERTY, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE LARGER UNDERLYING IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC CAUSES AND FORCES

DAN WALTERS IS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT COLAB'S MARCH 28TH DINNER FUNDRAISER

COULD CALIFORNIA PENSION SYSTEM BE UNDERWATER?

BY DAN WALTERS

Rolling up big paper profits on stocks and other capital investments during 2017 and most of 2018 was very easy, and the California Public Employees Retirement System, the nation's largest pension trust fund, took full advantage of the opportunity.

Its strong earnings, particularly in 2017, narrowed a yawning gap between its assets and future liabilities for pension payments to state and local government workers.

But it was short-lived and CalPERS has not only regressed but could actually be underwater because of a new way of calculating its liabilities.

A little history to begin:

CalPERS was, by its own calculations, 100 percent funded during the 1990s and into the first decade of the 21st century – so healthy, in fact, that state and local officials felt free to sharply increase pension benefits retroactively.

However, pension funds took immense hits during the Great Recession – CalPERS alone lost $100 billion – and most have not fully recovered.

In fact, between 2007 and 2016, before the 2017-18 stock market surge, CalPERS' total liabilities increased by a startling 76 percent, from $248 billion to $436 billion, while its assets increased by just 19 percent, from $251 billion to $298 billion, sharply increasing the fund's unfunded liabilities.

The earnings surge, plus big increases in mandatory "contributions" from state and local governments, did raise CalPERS' official funded level slightly to 70 percent, but that was still a long way from 100 percent – and now it's declining again.

Very quietly, CalPERS officials told its governing board last month that the trust fund actually lost 3.9 percent during 2018, apparently due to the sharp stock market decline late in the year, pushing its funded level back down to about 67 percent.

Having just two-thirds of the assets needed to cover pension promises should be a wakeup call to the state's politicians, but under pressure from powerful public employees unions, most prefer to ignore it.

Jerry Brown sponsored a very modest pension reform early in his second governorship, with the goal of closing the funding gap a bit, but even that step drew opposition from unions whose lawsuits that are now pending before the state Supreme Court.

Furthermore, the official assumption that CalPERS is even two-thirds funded may be wildly optimistic.

With very little media notice, the Federal Reserve System late last year doubled its calculation of state and local governments' unfunded pension liabilities to $4.1 trillion, using a new methodology that was devised by the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The new method, called "projected benefit obligation," aligns pension assets and liabilities with new governmental accounting standards and how the federal government values its own employee pension program.

Using that methodology, CalPERS' current unfunded liabilities, officially $179 billion, could be more like $360 billion, completely overwhelming the fund's current assets and making it, on paper at least, hopelessly insolvent.

David Crane*, a Stanford University lecturer and head of Govern for California, says that while serving on the California State Teachers Retirement System board as an appointee of former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, he attempted to persuade CalSTRS to adopt the methodology now used by the BEA and the Federal Reserve to provide a more realistic picture. However, his suggestion merely fueled successful efforts by defenders of the pension status quo to scuttle his state Senate confirmation in 2006.

The Federal Reserve's accounting change vindicates Crane, but also implies that California's public pension crisis, as serious as it appears from official data, is likely much worse and therefore much more difficult to resolve.

*David Crane is a donor to CALmatters.

This article first appeared in Calmatters on February 3, 2019. Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 57 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. He began his professional career in 1960, at age 16, at the Humboldt Times in Eureka, while still attending high school, and turned down a National Merit scholarship to continue working as a journalist. At one point in his career, at age 22, he was the nation's youngest daily newspaper editor. The Hanford Sentinel was the first of three newspaper editor positions before joining the Sacramento Union's Capitol bureau in 1975, just as Jerry Brown began his governorship. Walters later became the Union's Capitol bureau chief, and in 1981 began writing the state's only daily newspaper column devoted to California political, economic and social events. In 1984, he and the column moved to The Sacramento Bee. He has written more than 9,000 columns about California and its politics and his column has appeared in many other California newspapers. Walters has written about California and its politics for a number of other publications, including The Wall Street Journal and the Christian Science Monitor. In 1986, his book, "The New California: Facing the 21st Century," was published in its first edition. He is also the founding editor of the "California Political Almanac," the co-author *of a book on lobbying entitled "The Third House: Lobbyists, Money and Power in Sacramento," and contributed chapters to two other books, "Remaking California" and "The New Political Geography of California. He also has been a frequent guest on national television news shows, commenting on California politics.*

The only **difference between** the company's **projected benefit obligation** (PBO) and its **accumulated benefit obligation** (ABO) is the value used for the employee's compensation. While the calculation of the ABO uses the employee's current compensation, the PBO uses the employee's **projected** compensation at retirement.

SALUD CARBAJAL REPORTED AS ENDORSER OF THE NEW GREEN DEAL

BY MIKE BROWN

New York's Enviro-Socialist Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's New Green Deal (NGD) is not just a momentary figment of her national celebrity ego. It is a blatant betrayal of our country and civilization. National, State, and local organizations are organizing it to pressure Congress, State, and local government officials. National leaders including Bernie Sanders, Kamala Harris, Cori Booker, Elizabeth Warren, and Kirsten Gillibrand have expressed support or outright endorsement.

Locally the radical environmental group **350.org** has launched a campaign to pressure officials to endorse the revolutionary program for the government to take over the economy and put disfavored industries such as nuclear, fossil fuels, cattle ranching, and air transport out of business.

Cortez should not be written off as a fringe lunatic. She has fully imbibed the enviro-socialist doctrine of the Agenda 30 (formerly Agenda 21) globalists and is supported by many of her colleagues, including, as it turns out, our own Congressman, Salud Carbajal.

Remember that an obscure Russian dissident named Vladimir Lenin wrote a political pamphlet in 1902 entitled "What Is To Be Done," which he characterized as a skeleton plan.

In What Is to Be Done?, Lenin argues that the working class will not spontaneously become political simply by fighting economic battles with employers over wages, working hours and the like. To convert the working class to Marxism, Lenin insists that Marxists should form a political party, or "vanguard", of dedicated revolutionaries to spread Marxist political ideas among the workers. The pamphlet precipitated in part the split of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (RSDLP) between Lenin's Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks. [1]

No one thought it would amount to much, but rather that his party would be marginalized and disappear.

According to the February 9, 2019 Santa Barbara News Press: *About a dozen people gathered Friday Afternoon outside Rep. Salud Carbajal's Santa Barbara office to thank him for co-sponsoring the Green New Deal resolution that was unveiled Thursday.*

Carbajal's staff described the document as "a nonbinding resolution rather than a proposed law." According to the News Press, Tess Whittlesey, Mr. Carbajal's spokeswoman said, "Mr. Carbajal doesn't view the deal as something that needs to be sold to constituents."

Ominously and in a true example of Orwellian double speak, Williams is quoted further saying: *We're going to be transitioning one way or another… It could be done in a just way or it could be done in an unjust way and the Green New Deal is a blueprint for doing it the just way.*

Given that the supposed "just way" would abolish free markets, would seize private property, would force people to live in dense government super blocks, and would tax incomes and private assets up to 100%, what would be the components of the "unjust way"?

[1] Wikipedia on February 9, 2019.

Are the Enviro-Socialists the Jacobins of our time?

Eventually the Board of Supervisors and the 7 city councils will be pressured. It is nothing less than a revolutionary reorganization of society on a purely socialist model, which, if made operational, will be unavoidably totalitarian. As we see pieces of policy come forward at the State and local levels, consider how they are derivatives of the principles and overall doctrine included in the New Green Deal (NGD) reproduced fully below.

The following should be read carefully. It is a clarion call for the destruction of private property, capitalism, and freedom:

THE NEW GREEN DEAL

Overview

 We will begin work immediately on Green New Deal bills to put the nuts and bolts on the plan described in this resolution (important to say so someone else can't claim this mantle).

 This is a massive transformation of our society with clear goals and a timeline.

o The Green New Deal resolution is a 10-year plan to mobilize every aspect of American society at a scale not seen since World War 2 to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and create economic prosperity for all. It will:

 Move America to 100% clean and renewable energy

 Create millions of family supporting-wage, union jobs

 Ensure a just transition for all communities and workers to ensure economic security for people and communities that have historically relied on fossil fuel industries

 Ensure justice and equity for frontline communities by prioritizing investment, training, climate and community resiliency, economic and environmental benefits in these communities.

 Build on FDR's second bill of rights by guaranteeing:

 A job with a family-sustaining wage, family and medical leave, vacations, and retirement security

 High-quality education, including higher education and trade schools

 Clean air and water and access to nature

 Healthy food

 High-quality health care

 Safe, affordable, adequate housing

 Economic environment free of monopolies

 Economic security for all who are unable or unwilling to work

 There is no time to waste.

o IPCC Report said global emissions must be cut by 40-60% by 2030. US is 20% of total emissions. We must get to 0 by 2030 and lead the world in a global Green New Deal.

 Americans love a challenge. This is our moonshot.

o When JFK said we'd go to the by the end of the decade, people said impossible.

o If Eisenhower wanted to build the interstate highway system today, people would ask how we'd pay for it.

o When FDR called on America to build 185,000 planes to fight World War 2, every business leader, CEO, and general laughed at him. At the time, the U.S. had produced 3,000 planes in the last year. By the end of the war, we produced 300,000 planes. That's what we are capable of if we have real leadership

 This is massive investment in our economy and society, not expenditure.

o We invested 40-50% of GDP into our economy during World War 2 and created the greatest middle class the US has seen.

o The interstate highway system has returned more than $6 in economic productivity for every $1 it cost of This is massively expanding existing and building new industries at a rapid pace – growing our economy

* *The Green New Deal has momentum.*

o 92 percent of Democrats and 64 percent of Republicans support the Green New Deal

o Nearly every major Democratic Presidential contender say they back the Green New deal including: Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, Kamala Harris, Jeff Merkeley, Julian Castro, Kirsten Gillibrand, Bernie Sanders, Tulsi Gabbard, and Jay Inslee.

o 45 House Reps and 330+ groups backed the original resolution for a select committee

o Over 300 local and state politicians have called for a federal Green New Deal

o New Resolution has 20 co-sponsors, about 30 groups (numbers will change by Thursday).

FAQ

Why 100% clean and renewable and not just 100% renewable? Are you saying we won't transition off fossil fuels?

Yes, we are calling for a full transition off fossil fuels and zero greenhouse gases.

Anyone who has read the resolution sees that we spell this out through a plan that calls for eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from every sector of the economy.

Simply banning fossil fuels immediately won't build the new economy to replace it – this is the plan to build that new economy and spells out how to do it technically. We do this through a huge mobilization to create the renewable energy economy as fast as possible. We set a goal to get to net-zero, rather than zero emissions, in 10 years because we aren't sure that we'll be able to fully get rid of farting cows and airplanes that fast, but we think we can ramp up renewable manufacturing and power production, retrofit every building in America, build the smart grid, overhaul transportation and agriculture, plant lots of trees and restore our ecosystem to get to net-zero.

Is nuclear a part of this?

A Green New Deal is a massive investment in renewable energy production and would not include creating new nuclear plants. It's unclear if we will be able to decommission every nuclear plant within 10 years, but the plan is to transition off of nuclear and all fossil fuels as soon as possible. No one has put the full 10-year plan together yet, and if it is possible to get to fully 100% renewable in 10 years, we will do that.

Does this include a carbon tax?

The Green New Deal is a massive investment in the production of renewable energy industries and infrastructure. We cannot simply tax gas and expect workers to figure out another way to get to work unless we've first created a better, more affordable option. So we're not ruling a carbon tax out, but a carbon tax would be a tiny part of a Green New Deal in the face of the gigantic expansion of our productive economy and would have to be preceded by first creating the solutions necessary so that workers and working class *communities are not affected. While a carbon tax may be a part of the Green New Deal, it misses the point and would be off the table unless we create the clean, affordable options first.*

Does this include cap and trade?

The Green New Deal is about creating the renewable energy economy through a massive investment in our society and economy. Cap and trade assumes the existing market will solve this problem for us, and that's simply not true. While cap and trade may be a tiny part of the larger Green New Deal plan to mobilize our economy, any cap and trade legislation will pale in comparison to the size of the mobilization and must recognize that existing legislation can incentivize companies to create toxic hotspots in frontline communities, so anything here must ensure that frontline communities are prioritized.

Does a GND ban all new fossil fuel infrastructure or nuclear power plants?

The Green New Deal makes new fossil fuel infrastructure or nuclear plants unnecessary. This is a massive mobilization of all our resources into renewable energies. It would simply not make sense to build new fossil fuel infrastructure because we will be creating a plan to reorient our entire economy to work off renewable energy. Simply banning fossil fuels and nuclear plants immediately won't build the new economy to replace it – this is the plan to build that new economy and spells out how to do it technically.

Are you for CCUS?

We believe the right way to capture carbon is to plant trees and restore our natural ecosystems. CCUS technology to date has not proven effective.

How will you pay for it?

The same way we paid for the New Deal, the 2008 bank bailout and extended quantitative easing programs. The same way we paid for World War II and all our current wars. The Federal Reserve can extend credit to power these projects and investments and new public banks can be created to extend credit. There is also space for the government to take an equity stake in projects to get a return on investment. At the end of the day, this is an investment in our economy that should grow our wealth as a nation, so the question isn't how will we pay for it, but what will we do with our new shared prosperity.

Why do we need a sweeping Green New Deal investment program? Why can't we just rely on regulations and taxes and the private sector to invest alone such as a carbon tax or a ban on fossil fuels?

- *The level of investment required is massive. Even if every billionaire and company came together and were willing to pour all the resources at their disposal into this investment, the aggregate value of the investments they could make would not be sufficient.*

- *The speed of investment required will be massive. Even if all the billionaires and companies could make the investments required, they would not be able to pull together a coordinated response in the narrow window of time required to jump-start major new projects and major new economic sectors. Also, private companies are wary of making massive investments in unproven research and technologies; the government, however, has the time horizon to be able to patiently make investments in new tech and R&D, without* *necessarily having a commercial outcome or application in mind at the time the investment is made. Major examples of government investments in "new" tech that subsequently spurred a boom in the private section include DARPA projects, the creation of the internet - and, perhaps most recently, the government's investment in Tesla.*

 Simply put, we don't need to just stop doing some things we are doing (like using fossil fuels for energy needs); we also need to start doing new things (like overhauling whole industries or retrofitting all buildings to be energy efficient). Starting to do new things requires some upfront investment. In the same way that a company that is trying to change how it does business may need to make big upfront capital investments today in order to reap future benefits (for e.g., building a new factory to increase production or buying new hardware and software to totally modernize its IT system), a country that is trying to change how its economy works will need to make big investments today to jump-start and develop new projects and sectors to power the new economy.

 Merely incentivizing the private sector doesn't work - e.g. the tax incentives and subsidies given to wind and solar projects have been a valuable spur to growth in the US renewables industry but, even with such investment promotion subsidies, the present level of such projects is simply inadequate to transition to a fully greenhouse gas neutral economy as quickly as needed.

 Once again, we're not saying that there isn't a role for private sector investments; we're just saying that the level of investment required will need every actor to pitch in and that the government is best placed to be the prime driver.

Resolution Summary

 Created in consultation with multiple groups from environmental community, environmental justice community, and labor community

 5 goals in 10 years:

o Net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers

o Create millions of high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all

o Invest in infrastructure and industry to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century

o Clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment for all

o Promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of frontline and vulnerable communities

 National mobilization our economy through 14 infrastructure and industrial projects. Every project strives to remove greenhouse gas emissions and pollution from every sector of our economy:

o Build infrastructure to create resiliency against climate change-related disasters *o Repair and upgrade U.S. infrastructure. ASCE estimates this is $4.6 trillion at minimum.*

o Meet 100% of power demand through clean and renewable energy sources

o Build energy-efficient, distributed smart grids and ensure affordable access to electricity

o Upgrade or replace every building in US for state-of-the-art energy efficiency

o Massively expand clean manufacturing (like solar panel factories, wind turbine factories, battery and storage manufacturing, energy efficient manufacturing components) and remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing

o Work with farmers and ranchers to create a sustainable, pollution and greenhouse gas free, food system that ensures universal access to healthy food and expands independent family farming

o Totally overhaul transportation by massively expanding electric vehicle manufacturing, build charging stations everywhere, build out high speed rail at a scale where air travel stops becoming necessary, create affordable public transit available to all, with goal to replace every combustion-engine vehicle

o Mitigate long-term health effects of climate change and pollution

o Remove greenhouse gases from our atmosphere and pollution through afforestation, preservation, and other methods of restoring our natural ecosystems

o Restore all our damaged and threatened ecosystems

o Clean up all the existing hazardous waste sites and abandoned sites

o Identify new emission sources and create solutions to eliminate those emissions

o Make the US the leader in addressing climate change and share our technology, expertise and products with the rest of the world to bring about a global Green New Deal

 Social and economic justice and security through 15 requirements:

o Massive federal investments and assistance to organizations and businesses participating in the green new deal and ensuring the public gets a return on that investment

o Ensure the environmental and social costs of emissions are taken into account

o Provide job training and education to all

o Invest in R&D of new clean and renewable energy technologies

o Doing direct investments in frontline and deindustrialized communities that would otherwise be hurt by the transition to prioritize economic benefits there *o Use democratic and participatory processes led by frontline and vulnerable communities to implement GND projects locally*

o Ensure that all GND jobs are union jobs that pay prevailing wages and hire local

o Guarantee a job with family-sustaining wages

o Protect right of all workers to unionize and organize

o Strengthen and enforce labor, workplace health and safety, antidiscrimination, and wage and hour standards

o Enact and enforce trade rules to stop the transfer of jobs and pollution overseas and grow domestic manufacturing

o Ensure public lands, waters, and oceans are protected and eminent domain is not abused

o Obtain free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples

o Ensure an economic environment free of monopolies and unfair competition

o Provide high-quality health care, housing, economic security, and clean air, clean water, healthy food, and nature to all

The link below will give you an idea of 350.org doctrine and its ability to finance sophisticated propaganda. Their poisonous ideas are now being seriously considered for national policy.

https://youtu.be/m95K7LClIC4

The Enviro–Socialist Flag

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE SEE FOLLOWING PAGES

SUPPORT COLAB!
PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM ON THE LAST PAGE BELOW

MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS

VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM

DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM

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

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

NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: $100 – $249 ❑ $ _______ **Voting Member: $250 - $5,000 ❑ $ _______**

Sustaining Member: $5,000 +❑ $ _______
(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)

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

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: ______________________________

Company: ______________________________

Address: ______________________________

City: ______________________ State: ____________ Zip: __________

Phone: ______________ Fax: ______________ Email: ____________________

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio ❑ Internet ❑ Public Hearing ❑ Friend ❑

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

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

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

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

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Discover ❑ Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: ____________________ Signature: ____________________

Card Number: ____________________ Exp Date: ___/___ Billing Zip Code: ______ CVV: ____

TODAY'S DATE: ____________________

(Revised 2/2017)