



Weekly Update October 13 – 20, 2025

Gibson Overreach

Did SLO County Supervisor Bruce Gibson show his true colors at the Oct. 7 BoS meeting when he made a motion to require County Council to investigate details of a settlement in a private civil action between two litigants?

The litigants had reached an agreement satisfactory to each regarding details in the Dana Reserve housing project, and having concluded the action, both sides chose to

keep final details confidential. This is a common practice and a popular option when both sides are satisfied with the outcome.

The lawsuit did not involve the county and was not part of the permit process that the project is going through.

Gibson made the motion after noting that the project will be before the Board for final approval at the regularly scheduled BoS meeting on November 4. When challenged by Supervisor Ortiz Legg as to why he would want access to a private settlement agreement, Gibson danced around with an attempt at a “public good” explanation.

It’s not clear which public the Supervisor was referring to, but we doubt it was the residents of Nipomo who stand to benefit enormously from infrastructure improvements brought about through the Dana Reserve project. Nor do we think he was referring to the hundreds of construction workers and trades people who will be employed. How about local material suppliers? Possibly the thousands of students and faculty that will be part of the new Cuesta College south campus. Certainly not the over 1,200 individuals and families that will make the Dana Reserve their home. Perhaps he is worried about extra work for those in the County Tax Collector office who will need to process those new tax bills.

Whomever Gibson is fretting about has had seven years and numerous public hearings to air their concerns.

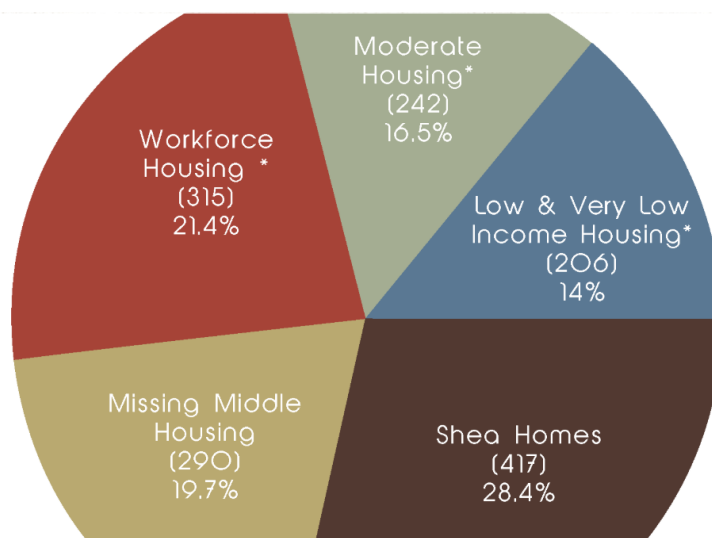
That Supervisor Gibson wants to drag the county into a private and irrelevant agreement already settled is outrageous. That he wants to compromise County Council by requiring that they weigh in is an enormously inappropriate abuse of power.

Even more startling is the inference that the details of the agreement somehow might impact whether the project is finally granted approval - or at least get his vote. This is an overreach that some might view as corruption.

The project has been in the planning process for seven years and has gone through countless major revisions before finally achieving approval of the initial 2024 Dana Reserve Specific Plan in April of last year from the County Board of Supervisors. It initially called for 1,370 homes, but as part of the above-mentioned lawsuit, brought forth by a community group, that number has been reduced to 1,242 homes, while open space has been expanded to over 60 acres. The reduction is primarily due to the elimination of 100 Additional Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the original plan. The project also includes space for neighborhood style commercial developments and for a southern campus of Cuesta College.

Supervisor Paulding was quick to second Gibson's motion and to chime in with support. Fortunately, three reasonable votes killed the motion.

The following graph illustrates the breakdown of the various categories of housing slated for the Dana Reserve. Most importantly, it illustrates the commitment the project has to lower and moderate income housing.



We are sure that Supervisors Gibson and Paulding are well aware of San Luis Obispo's Regional Housing Needs Allocation, and hope that they carefully consider the numbers illustrated above before deciding about the Dana Reserve project. While SLO County is shamefully behind in the Very Low-Income category, so are

we far behind in the Low and Moderate income categories. This project makes strong advances in each category.

Table 1: Unincorporated County's Regional Housing Needs Allocation Progress

Income Category and example occupations	Number of Dwelling Units			Percent Completed
	Total Need	Permitted (2019- 2024)	Remaining Need	
Very Low-Income (e.g., barista, farmworker, childcare employee)	801	7	794	1%
Low-Income (e.g., family social worker, community health advocate, roofer)	505	226	279	45%
Moderate-Income (e.g., occupational health worker, construction cost estimator, electrician)	585	246	339	42%
Above Moderate-Income	1,365	1,132	233	83%
Total	3,256	1,611	1,645	49%

We hope that this attempted abuse doesn't signal a handwringing consternated Gibson yammering on about the need for housing in SLO County, but concluding (gosh darn it) that he just couldn't support this project for some inane reason. The same goes for Paulding.

Housing is stated as one of the BoS' highest priorities. Will we see them live up to that commitment or will we see hypocrisy at the cost of the people needing homes?

Counting On Good Data

Supervisor Ortiz Legg made a motion at the conclusion of the Oct. 7 BoS meeting requesting a contract with an accounting service specializing in energy provider evaluations to assemble financial data regarding Diablo Canyon's role in the economy of San Luis Obispo County.

Her point is a good one; if we are to make the case that the power plant is a critical component in our local economy, we need sound data. Supervisor Peschong agreed and seconded the motion.

Ortiz Legg's motion included a cap of \$15,000 for the service. County Council will draw up the proposal and it will appear again before the BoS in the coming weeks for final approval.

A Somber Moment For A Horrific Event

Special thanks to District Attorney Dan Dow for recognizing the two-year anniversary of the invasion of Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023, the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, along with the 1,195 lives lost that horrible day. It was kind of Dow to acknowledge the impact that the attack has had on Jewish people around the globe and to offer a moment of silence for those still held hostage by Hamas.

With the heavily biased media and the rising popularity of antisemitism by the left, it's easy to forget that Hamas invaded Israel, murdered people because of their faith, took and tortured an estimated 250 hostages - and continued to reject peace agreements for two years. We hope that the current peace treaty is successful and that the remaining hostages are returned to their families and loved ones.

Buddy, Can You Spare a Half Cent?

A half-cent sales tax increase measure for transportation will almost certainly be on the SLO County ballot in November of 2026. The measure, under the banner "Local Roads First" will be put forth by SLOCOG, our county wide Council of Governments.

Specific priorities and ballot language have not yet been finalized. Whether or not you support such a tax, it would be helpful if you took the SLOCOG online survey

which helps to establish community priorities for how funds would be spent should the measure pass. The survey is simple and takes about a minute. It can be found here <https://localroadsfirst.com>.

The six choices on the survey are: Local Streets and Roads; Safe Routes to Schools; Transit; Local Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements; Regional Trails and Highway Projects. You get to assign your level of interest in each category.



SLOCOG is also presenting a Zoom meeting on Oct. 15 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM where details will be discussed, feedback measured, and questions answered. It can be found at: bit.ly/slo-localroads Meeting ID: 828 5613 8033 or by visiting the website at localroads.com.

The priorities put forth in the measure will probably be a major factor in whether it passes. Fans of bicycle paths and mass transit are quite vocal, so even if you plan to vote no, it's worthwhile to have your priorities known.

There Is A New CEO In Town

Our new County Chief Executive Officer should look familiar. Matthew Pontes, who has served as the County Chief Administrative Officer since April of 2024, has been made CEO due to a change enacted by the BoS at the Oct. 7 meeting. The new title comes with greater responsibility and accountability. Minor reorganizations are taking place with the goal of streamlining the leadership, reporting and communications processes.

In his 18 months as CAO, Pontes has been effective in bringing about a much more accountable budgeting process and led the “rebalancing and resiliency” effort to balance a budget challenged by less revenue than income.

During discussion of the topic, it was brought up that the current Supervisors have never had a strategic planning session or study group. Each of the Supervisors agreed that such an effort would be a good idea, so we can expect something like that in the future.



San Luis Obispo County CEO Matthew Pontes

According to his bio, Mr. Pontes earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and Natural Resources from Cal Poly, where he specialized in wildfire and sustainable land management practices. He has county administrative experience in Shasta and Santa Barbara Counties as well as service in Kern County.

Four of the Supervisors were enthusiastic about the change, but Supervisor Gibson made a very long and convoluted comment about how he thought the Board should hold off until a strategic plan was established.

Congratulations to CEO Pontes.

A Bridge Too Expensive

The Cecchetti Bridge, south of Arroyo Grande, washed out in the winter storms of 2023 and has yet to be replaced. The bridge serves a large agriculture community as well as a local school and residents.

Traffic has been diverted to the Harris Bridge, causing problems for agricultural equipment and large trucks as well as traffic back ups and accidents due to a poorly engineered intersection and the small size of the bridge.

Because the new bridge currently being planned, will not be in place until 2027, a movement has begun to install a temporary bridge led by Supervisor Paulding. He was able to put \$250,000 into the current budget for such a project.

However, when county planners evaluated the cost of the temporary bridge, they found it to be over \$800,000. The other problem that became apparent with the planning process was that a temporary bridge might only be able to be used for about eight of the 24 months between now and when the new bridge starts construction. A temporary bridge would need to be removed during the heavy rain season as well as when construction on the permanent bridge gets underway.



What is left of the Cecchetti Bridge as it is today.

As funding for the temporary bridge would be an unbudgeted expenditure a 4/5ths vote was required. Supervisors Moreno and Peschong were not comfortable with such a large expenditure for such a short service life, so voted against it.

Supervisor Gibson referred to the extra \$800,000 expenditure as “chump change”.

It is not clear if county planning staff considered other options, but it would be nice to know whether other options exist and whether they have been evaluated. Supervisor Paulding vows to keep pushing for the temporary interim bridge.

Prop 50 – Keep Up The Fight

Election Day, November 4, for Prop 50 is approaching fast. Ballots have been mailed, and voters are beginning to return them. Should you encounter voters leaning towards supporting Prop 50, here are a few questions you might ask:

- **With the state broke and cutting services, is it wise to spend a quarter of a billion dollars on this special election?**
- **If it's wrong for Texas to gerrymander, how can it be good that we do it too?**
- **Can legislators be trusted to draw their own lines like they have done with Prop 50 and if so, should we bother with the Redistricting Commission in the future?**
- **Newsom brags that he is getting even with President Trump with Prop 50. How far is too far – how much is too much in this feud?**
- **What part of democracy are we saving when we change the rules and custom draw districts specifically designed to highly favor only one political party?**



For yard signs and opportunities to help fight Prop 50, contact your local GOP office:

Atascadero

[7357 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422](#)

[\(805\) 541-4010](#)

Arroyo Grande

1312 E Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420-2422

[\(805\) 668-2064](#)

Last Week

Fall Forum Was Great

Thank you to everyone who attended the COLAB Fall Forum on October 2 at the Pioneer Museum in Paso Robles. COLAB is a 501 C6 organization and part of our mission is to offer educational services. The event was an outreach to present expert opinions on a critical topic that we all struggle to understand.

Our speakers did an excellent job of outlining the challenges facing California energy production and gave a realistic glimpse at what could be in our future as our state leaders struggle with keeping the lights on while at the same time pushing a shift to unreliable, and in many cases, yet unbuilt energy sources.

Author Edward Ring provided a stark description of the costs involved with green energy sources and the unlikely chance that our state could become energy independent with just those sources.

Eric Daniels, Senior External Affairs and Public Policy Representative for PG&E provided many important insights about the process going forward for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant as well as the many factors that drive costs for consumers. Surprise – regulation and red tape is expensive!

Ben Oakly, Manager of State and Coastal Issues for the Western Petroleum Association shared details that mainstream media ignores regarding the cost and availability of fossil fuels. Again, we were all shocked to learn details of the government's role in driving up prices and scarcity.



Photo by Brooke Borchard

COLAB Board Member Ben Higgins did a masterful job of moderating the panel and threw out a few spicy questions that elicited informative responses.

Many elected officials and pre-elected officials (candidates) attended and had great opportunities to greet old friends while making new ones. The food, catered from Carla's Kitchen in Morro Bay, was nothing short of excellent. Nobody left hungry! And a fixture at COLAB events, bartender Jim Killion, kept the beverages flowing.



Photo by Brooke Borchard

Again, thanks to those who attended. If you missed it, we hope that you will make our next event which will be announced later in the Fall.

Pioneer Museum – A Hidden Gem

The pioneer museum in Paso Robles is a true local gem. It was an excellent venue for our Fall Forum. Guests enjoyed the many displays of San Luis Obispo County

history, ranging from a realistic blacksmith shop to a 1940s doctor's office. They have an outstanding collection of buggies from as far back as the 1800s, along with a great display of antique cars and one of the best collections of antique tractors in the country.

The museum always plays a special role in the community, but October 11 is a very special day for the museum and for the city of Paso Robles. That is Pioneer Day, which features a parade and many active displays at the museum.

Anyone looking for a fun and interesting destination should put the Pioneer Museum on at the top of their list. If you are looking for a great venue, the museum provides a really nice atmosphere and is especially user friendly with fine staff and very reasonable rates. From family gatherings to company get togethers, the Pioneer Museum is a great choice.

Decommissioning Still Underway

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning Committee held a public "meeting" on September 24 in the supervisors' chambers in San Luis Obispo. The word meeting is presented in quotes, because it seemed to be more like a recitation of chanting, handwringing '70s anti-nuke hippies than a data driven, scientific approach to assessing the current status and the future of the power plant.

The committee's work is important – especially if our state legislature chooses not to renew the operating permit beyond the existing five-year extension. However, whether their role extends to amplifying the subjective opinions of college professors is debatable.

The meeting featured live video presentations from two speakers. The first was David Erne from the California Energy commission, followed by a professor from Stanford University, Mark Jacobson, who tried to make a case for nuclear being dirty, obsolete and too expensive. Many of the facts that he cited seemed highly suspect.

Erne gave a rosy picture of the future of green renewable energy in California, insinuating that in five years we will have plenty of solar and wind generating capacity and simply won't need Diablo. He was quite optimistic about the future of offshore wind but made no mention of the costs and time involved with such ventures. Nor did he say anything about the resistance from people living in coastal communities who are uncomfortable with offshore wind projects coming to their community. The concerns about safety with battery storage got overlooked as well.

Public speakers mostly expressed concern for the usual "what ifs" – earthquakes, tsunamis and other assorted causes for potential radiation leaks along with worry for nuclear waste. Nobody expressed concern about the potential for an unusually dark cold winter, for the short lifespan of wind-generating equipment, for the impact of green energy generators on wildlife habitats or about the enormous growth in energy needs just beginning from AI companies. Cost apparently was never considered.

Of special note was a letter submitted by Supervisor Ortiz Legg pointing out the critical role Diablo plays not only for much needed reliable, affordable and clean energy for our power grid, but also a critical component of our San Luis Obispo County economy. She highlighted the jobs (the county's biggest private employer) and the substantial tax contributor to the county and local governments.

Overall, the meeting didn't seem to have a goal or purpose for moving forward. We expect that a Coastal Commission hearing will likely take place before the end of the year and the legislature is expected to take up a platform early next year that could finally produce an indication about the future of this enormously valuable asset.

We hope that the future of Diablo is decided by rational and open-minded policy makers. Your voice can be a big help in pushing the process in that direction. As hearing details are announced, we will provide you with contact information for those serving on the committee conducting the hearing. Please plan to reach out and let policy makers know how important Diablo is to you.

3CE - 41% Success Rate So Far

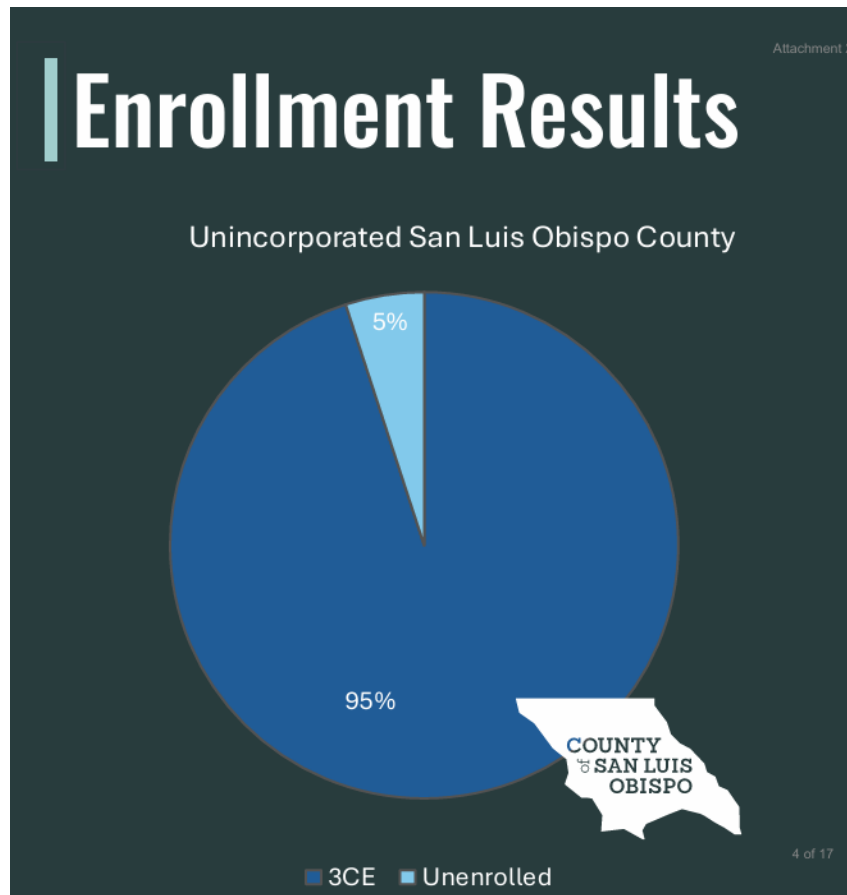
3CE is a lot like car salesmen. They get the power from somewhere else and sell it to you. They don't actually generate power, nor do they own or operate any power transmission facilities. They like to portray themselves as offering lower cost energy that comes from renewable sources.

3CE presented an update of their performance to the BoS at the September 23 meeting. The report seemed underwhelming.

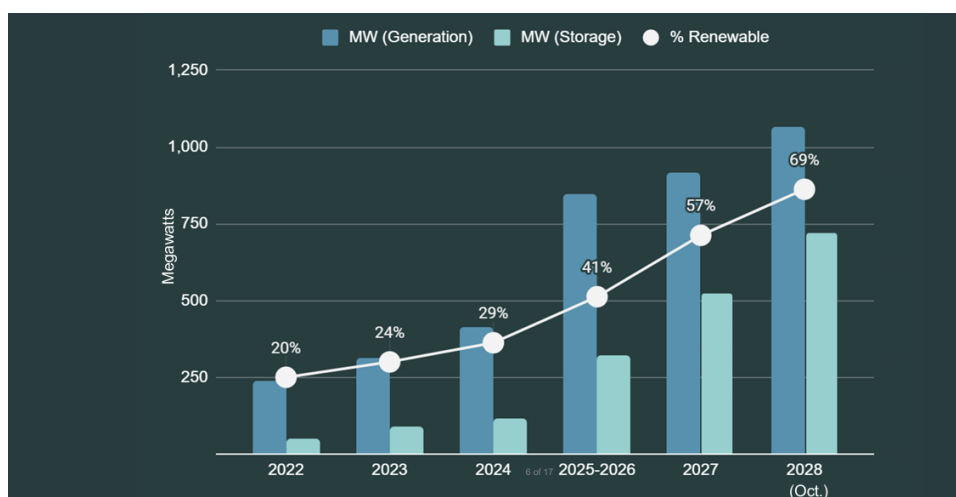
The sales pitch may be appealing to some, but for most it really doesn't matter. If you weren't paying close attention, you were signed up automatically. Extra steps were required for many SLO County residents if they did not want to be a customer.

Below is a graph illustrating the number of customers enrolled in their five-county territory. Keep in mind, very few customers actually enrolled. They were required to opt out if they didn't want the service, but that option required reading and understanding the fine print of their automatic "enrollment".





Now, after having made utopian promises of renewable energy for all, we see that currently 3CE is delivering just 41 per cent the electricity it sells as renewable but offers an optimistic prediction of getting to 69% in another two years.



3CE is proud of its 94% enrollment rate despite so few actually signing up. But a 41% success rate in delivering what it promises is pretty underwhelming. It must be nice to have a business where your customers are automatically obligated to use your services, and where true performance doesn't seem to matter as much as the forecasts. We will be watching the reports to see if 3CE delivers on its promises and whether it is a real value to ratepayers, or perhaps just an unnecessary pseudo-governmental agency sending out bills every month.

More Paso Water Basin Worries?

Items three and six of the October 7 BoS agenda present a troubling issue. They are proposals to appoint trustees to North County water districts in lieu of election. It seems that only one candidate has filed for each seat, so instead of conducting an election, the BoS will make the appointments.

It's great that taxpayers don't need to pay for uncontested elections, but it's really sad that more people aren't stepping up to serve. This is especially true when we think about all the headaches and financial turmoil caused by the JPA fiasco.

Sustainability of the Paso Water Basin will be a hot topic for years to come. As we have stated previously, trust in the leadership is key to reaching a reasonable plan that is acceptable to landowners big and small.

Due to be appointed to the Shandon Warer District are: Marshall Miller, COO of the West Bay Company; Ray Shady, Managing Director of Sunny Slope and Steve Sinton, Landowner. Their hometowns are not listed in the appointment,

For the Estrella – El Pomar – Creston Water District, the scheduled appointees are; Hillary Graves, Creston; Lee David Nesbitt, Paso Robles and Eric Pooler, Napa. Their vocations are not listed in the appointment.

We wish these new Directors well, thank them for stepping up and hope that they keep the local interests of the Paso Water Basin as their highest responsibility.

Housing Summit On The Horizon... Again

We understand that another Housing Summit is in the works. We applaud those that are trying to put a spotlight on the challenges that make home building in SLO County so difficult but sheeesh! When will the true obstacles of long delays (very long), expensive fees (very expensive) and subjective inspections be fixed?

When will municipalities choose to address the homebuilding challenges in their communities by becoming user friendly. Fine tuning “housing elements” doesn’t help with the daunting work it takes just to get a project shovel ready.

Prop 50 Less Than A Month Away

Please take a little time to stop in to the GOP office in Arroyo Grande or Atascadero and do what you can to help defeat Gavin Newsom’s quarter of a billion dollar taxpayer funded political revenge scheme against President Trump.

There are lots of ways to help. The offices are at:

Atascadero

[7357 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422](#) · 3.0 mi

[\(805\) 541-4010](#)

Arroyo Grande

1312 E Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420-2422

[\(805\) 668-2064](#)



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California's Move to End Home Equity
Theft Loophole**

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Prop 50 Cheating? California Redistricting Special Election Ballots Expose the 'NO' Votes

Voters should not have to perform origami to protect their right to a secret ballot

By Katy Grimes, October 10, 2025

California voters are receiving their single-issue ballots for the Nov. 4 Special Election, Governor Gavin Newsom's dubious mid-decade redistricting scheme, with the sole purpose of gerrymandering Republicans right out of their Congressional districts.

However, the mail-in ballots have a serious flaw: for those who vote NO, when the ballot is reinserted back in the mail-in envelope as instructed, the voter's "NO" fill-in bubble shows through a hole in the signature block.

I conducted my own test with my ballot, and it's true. Several friends have also done this, and reported back: once the ballot is inserted and sealed, if someone takes the ballot, or a handful of ballots and "stacks them" on the left side (kind of like you would do with playing cards), the ballot inside shifts to the left of the envelope.

"The bubble is located directly inside the signature block. What is the one thing that an election official has to look at before the ballot envelope is opened? Verification of the signature. And the bubble is located DIRECTLY NEXT to the signature. This should invalidate the entire election," a friend emailed.

Globe contributor Richie Greenberg also conducted his own test and posted it to X: PROP 50 CHEATING? On the CA State ballot measure's page to fill in and return by mail, the circle to indicate a vote of "NO" lines up with the hole to the outside of the envelope, so anyone can see you voted NO without opening the envelope. Suspicious? WATCH:

Greenberg shows when you put your completed ballot with the "NO" vote, it is visible from the outside of the envelope.

Greenberg told the Globe that lawsuits need to be filed to invalidate mailed-in-ballots from those counties.

California gubernatorial candidate Steve Hilton today called for the immediate suspension of the November 4 Proposition 50 special election after reports surfaced that voters' marked choices are visible through official return envelopes in multiple counties, a shocking breach of ballot secrecy, potentially affecting millions of Californians, that Hilton called "another example of the corruption and incompetence rigging California's elections."

"This is not a small mistake. It is an election integrity crisis," Hilton said. "When anyone can literally see through the envelope and tell how someone voted, that is not democracy. That is rigging the system in plain sight."

"Voters should not have to perform origami to protect their right to a secret ballot," Hilton said. "This is a multi-million-dollar state-run election, and they could not even design an envelope that keeps your vote private. If they cannot run a fair,

secure election on one simple question, how can Californians trust anything coming out of Sacramento?”

Hilton said the Prop 50 special election must be suspended immediately and restarted only after a full, transparent review of ballot printing, vendor oversight, and security procedures in every county. He also called on Attorney General Rob Bonta and Secretary of State Shirley Weber to open an investigation into how ballots were approved and mailed despite clear visibility issues.

“This goes to the heart of faith in our elections,” Hilton said. “Californians deserve elections that are fair, secret, and secure, not run-through operations where your vote can literally be seen by anyone handling the mail.”

Ringside: Is Biodiesel Sustainable?

Diesels do the heavy work of civilization

By Edward Ring, October 9, 2025

For the most part, California’s farmers grow food, not fuel. But the fuel required to operate farm equipment is diesel fuel, increasingly refined from food grown on America’s great plains.

Digging into this reveals a rabbit hole of such depth and complexity that I’ll skip to the conclusion before evaluating just a few critical details. The California Energy Commission, in collaboration with the California Air Resources Board, needs to produce and publicize a report, at least once per year, that offers by percentages a concise breakdown of what raw materials are going into the state’s diesel fuel supply. That information is surely available, but it is not easy to find. It needs to be clear, easy to understand, preferably displayed on a simple table that is included in a widely promoted press release. Energy policy should not drift into the carbon neutral nirvana of biofuel without eyes wide open.

According to the California Energy Commission, during the 12 months through the end of September 2025, 3.35 billion gallons of diesel fuel were produced in California, and 48 percent of those gallons were “renewable diesel.” We can also infer, based on data from the Public Policy Research Institute and compilations based on USDA reports on fuel requirements per

acre in the American Southwest, that not quite 10 percent of all diesel fuel produced in California is used by farmers. That's a rough estimate. The actual percentage is probably greater than 10 percent.

Before going further, consider the indispensability of diesel technology. Skeptics are invited to watch the YouTube video "[Can We Ever Ditch Big Diesels?](#)," which offers a reality check for anyone who thinks we can ditch them any time soon. Diesels do the heavy work of civilization. Big, durable, powerful machines, unique in their simplicity, longevity, energy density, and low maintenance.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Energy, renewable [diesel is defined](#) as "made from fats and oils, such as soybean or canola oil." Again, it would be helpful to know how much of California's renewable diesel comes from animal fats, and where those animal fats are sourced, and to what degree such a procurement chain could scale if America adopted California's renewable fuel standards. But for the moment, let's focus on soybeans as a raw material for diesel fuel. According to multiple sources – [Penn State](#), [Purdue](#), [University of Idaho](#), and the [University of Arkansas](#) – the best biodiesel yield to expect from soybeans is 75 gallons per acre. So let's suppose just 20 percent of California's 3.35 billion gallons per year of diesel fuel used soybean oil. That would equate to a 8.9 million acres planted in soy crops, nearly 14,000 square miles. Before getting carried away, it's relevant to acknowledge that over [85 million acres](#) of soybeans are harvested each year in the United States, and these farmers, along with their corn ethanol brethren (another 87 million acres), are delighted to collect biofuel subsidies and ship increasing percentages of their harvests to California refineries. But these production numbers, impressive though they are, cannot even come close to fulfilling demand if the whole nation adopted biodiesel. And isn't that the point?

California's ambitious reformulation mandates for diesel fuel and gasoline are not enacted, after all, with the intention of our state being the only place where carbon neutral transportation fuel becomes the standard. But 20 percent of America's total [diesel fuel production](#) is over 9 billion gallons per year, which would require 192,000 square miles of soybeans. And even if that prodigious expansion of soybean production were to happen, where will the other 80 percent of California and the nation's renewable diesel fuel come from? Canola oil? Animal fat? How much canola? How many animals?

Something that appears to be selectively applied as California gallops towards carbon neutrality are the restrictions on [so-called "leakage."](#) This refers to the prohibition, explicitly stated in California's Global Warming Solutions Act and the scoping plans pursuant to it, on

"exporting" CO2 emissions to other states and nations in order to reduce California's in-state emissions. But that is clearly something that is ignored when California imports 77 percent of its crude oil from nations with little to no regulations governing emissions, or, for that matter, labor standards. We might also ask what we ignore in nations that send us their tallow, their palm oil, and every other supposedly carbon neutral feedstock for our renewable diesel and reformulated gasoline.

It is shortsighted to assume that producing an abundant, cost-effective, sustainable carbon neutral diesel fuel is an impossible technological hurdle. But today, "carbon neutral" fuel is not a feasible replacement for petroleum-based fuel for at least two reasons. First, because we are still mostly ignoring the impact it has on the environment where it is produced, and second, because there is no possible way production of biofuel crops and animal fats can be increased enough to replace petroleum-based fuel in the foreseeable future. And while we should not dismiss the possibility that the next generation of EVs will capture increasing market share for personal vehicles, the engines that do the heavy work of civilization are going to remain diesel powered for a very, very long time.

California's Move to End Home Equity Theft Loophole

When government seizes property for unpaid taxes it cannot pocket more than what is owed

By California Globe, October 4, 2025

On Wednesday, October 1, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 418 by Assemblywoman Lori D. Wilson (D-Suisun City), closing a loophole that allowed California localities to seize and transfer homes to the government or nonprofits without compensating former owners for their hard-earned equity.

"For too long, California allowed local governments to strip homeowners of their life savings," said Jim Manley, director of state policy at Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF). "With the signing of AB 418, that injustice ends."

AB 418 marks one more victory in PLF's decade-long fight to end home equity theft in all 50 states. For decades, state laws failed to protect property owners against the worst kind of government overreach: stealing from people who are already struggling. Local governments, including in California, seized entire homes from people who fell behind on property tax debts—without refunding any surplus equity to the former owners.

In 2023 PLF won a unanimous Supreme Court victory in Tyler v. Hennepin County (brought on behalf of 94-year-old Minneapolis woman Geraldine Tyler), which established that when government seizes property for unpaid taxes it cannot pocket more than what is owed. In the two years since that victory, PLF's state policy team has worked with state legislators around the country to fix laws and loopholes that still allow home equity theft—including in California.

Manley called AB 418 "a victory not just for California property owners, but for property rights everywhere." One more loophole allowing home equity theft is now closed—bringing PLF closer to its goal of ending the unconstitutional practice in every state. As Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the Tyler decision, "The taxpayer must render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, but no more."

Home equity theft is also coming back to the Supreme Court: Friday the justices granted the case of Pung v. Isabella County, Michigan.

###

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MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS



VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HUGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER

KEEP HANDY * CONTACT YOUR ELECTEDS

**ON ISSUES OF CONCERN!
THEY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Elected Officials Representing San Luis Obispo County

**Governor Gavin Newsom
916-445-2841 Sacramento
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/>**

**Senator Alex Padilla
202-224-3553 DC\
<https://www.padilla.senate.gov/contact/>**

**Senator Adam Schiff
202-224-3841 DC
<https://www.schiff.senate.gov/contact/>**

**Representative Salud Carbal
202-225-3601 DC
805-546-6348 District
carbajal.house.gov/contact**

**Representative Jimmy Panetta
202-225-2861 DC
831-424-2229 District
panetta.house.gov/contact**

State Senator John Laird
916-651-4017 Sacramento
805-549-3784 District
senator.laird@senate.ca.gov

State Assembly Member Dawn Addis
916-319-2030 Sacramento
805-549-3001 District
assemblymember.addis@assembly.ca.gov

SLO County Supervisor Bruce Gibson
805-781-4338 District
bgibson@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor Heather Moreno
805-781-4339 District
hmoreno@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg
805-781-5450 District
dortizlegg@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor Jimmy Paulding
805-781-4337 District
district4@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor John Peschong
805-781-4491 District
jpeschong@co.slo.ca.us

JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE TO COLAB ON THE NEXT PAGE
Join COLAB or contribute by control clicking at: [COLAB San Luis Obispo County \(colabslo.org\)](http://COLAB San Luis Obispo County (colabslo.org)) or use the form below:

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio ☐ Internet ☐ Public Hearing ☐ Friend ☐

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

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

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

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.

Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership ☐

PAYMENT METHOD:

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

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

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

TODAY'S DATE: _____