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SB County's Multi-Million Dollar Illegal Billing Practices

By Andy Caldwell

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about the fees the County of Santa Barbara charges for services. These fees can be charged for hundreds of different things, anywhere from a marriage license and birth and death certificates to restaurant and gas station inspections, along with other such things, including development permits. The county charges tens of millions of dollars in fees every year. Governments in California use the passage of Prop. 13 to justify these fees, even though that is a feeble excuse. Property tax revenue has continued to grow over time. The real problem is the tax revenue hasn't kept pace with the salary, benefit, and pension costs of county employees, which is some \$825 million per year.

Santa Barbara County has therefore gone one step further in collecting revenues via fees. The policy, which has been in place for some time, is called 100% cost recovery. What it means is that the county charges its "customers" 100% of the employee and overhead costs associated with fee-based programs. That is, the county is passing on the total cost of the employees who work on fee-based programs including vacation, holiday pay, and sick leave on top of the regular salary, benefit, and pension costs, in addition to county overhead costs.

We have been complaining about this policy for years but recently a big gun showed up to support our complaint. The county hired a subject matter expert in fee studies to review the fees charged by just one department, which is a division of the public health department. The department is proposing yet another fee increase of \$1.1 million charged to restaurants, gas stations, tattoo parlors, auto repair shops, water wells, and the like. Total fees charged to some 5700 businesses would be \$8.1 million if the new fee increase were to be approved.

The expert and the consultant for the study, **Chad Wohlford**, has over 36 years' experience analyzing and managing government costs and operations, including 12 years of direct government management and analytical service. He has personally engaged in over 250 cost analysis studies with more than 80 different government clients (many of them for multiple projects) in at least eight states. Before founding *Wohlford Consulting*, Chad Wohlford was a state director of the cost services practice for a large international consulting corporation.

So, what did Mr. Wohlford have to say? His user fee study establishes the true cost of providing individual



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services. The most common standard for this analysis, as directed by the California Government Code, is that fees can be no greater than the "estimated reasonable cost" of providing the service for which a fee is charged. "A critical method to ensure full cost recovery rates is to establish annual billable (productive/available) hours for staff. The study *reduces* the full-time annual hours (2,080) for each position classification by *non-billable hours*, such as holiday, vacation, and sick leave, staff meetings, mandated breaks, and training."

A Reduction in the Cost of Permits Called For

Did you read that? Non-billable hours! In a nutshell, the consultant determined that the county should not be charging the public for hours the employees are not working on the permit, such as when they are on vacation, holiday, sick leave, and training, which would lead to a 25% *reduction* in fees! That is because these employees are employees of the county not the public. Thereby, a restaurant owner should not have to pay for the county employee's vacation time, or any other time when the employee is not working on the fee-based permit being charged to the owner of the business.

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Trump Admin. Launches Investigation Into CA Dept. Of Education For Parental Rights Violations

By Katy Grimes

The Trump administration is rightly seeking to ensure that children's education, not adult ideology, is the goal of our public schools

The Trump Administration Department of Education announced Thursday they are investigating the California Department of Education over the odious new law that prohibits school districts from notifying parents if their kids are "gender" transitioning while at school.

The U.S. Department of Education launched an investigation into California's Department of Education for alleged FERPA violations – the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act.

The offending California law is Assembly Bill 1955 by Assemblyman Chris Ward (D-San Diego), which prohibits schools from notifying parents if their child is "gender confused" and transitioning to the other sex while at school.

But here is the even more odious title Assemblyman Ward gave his bill: the "Support Academic Futures and Equality for Today's Youth (SAFETY) Act."

The left claims that notifying parents of such a monumental event is a "forced outing" the child, rather than what's obvious to most – if the child is already "out" at school, then this is not an actual "outing" and parents need to be notified.

Without parental notification and involvement, the opportunity for predatory abuse of the child is wide open.

Here is how the Los Angeles Times reported this:

"Trump targets California ban on 'forced outing' of students' gender identity to parents."

"Federal officials have launched an investigation of the California Department of Education for withholding from parents information about changes to their child's gender identity, setting up a showdown between the state and President Trump, with billions of dollars in federal funding potentially at stake.

The investigation, announced Thursday morning by the U.S. Department of Education, takes aim at a California law, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in July, which prohibits schools from automatically notifying families about student gender-identity changes and shields teachers from retaliation for supporting



transgender student rights. Federal officials contend the California law illegally violates the right of parents to receive school records related to their children."

So now it's "Federal officials contend the California law illegally violates the right of parents to receive school records related to their children." It's pretty obvious that California law does violate parental rights. And schools are a mandated reporter, which has conveniently gotten lost in the bedlam.

Here is what the U.S. Department of Education's announcement actually said:

"U.S. Department of Education Launches Investigation into California Department of Education for Alleged FERPA Violations."

"The U.S. Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) launched an investigation into the California Department of Education (CDE) for alleged violations of the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA gives parents the right to access their children's educational data. The California Department of Education has allegedly abdicated the responsibilities FERPA imposes due to a new California state law that prohibits school personnel from disclosing a child's 'gender identity' to that child's parent.

SPPO has reason to believe that numerous local educational agencies (LEAs) in California may be violating FERPA to socially transition children at school while hiding minors' "gender identity" from parents. Given the number of LEAs that appear to be involved, SPPO is concerned that CDE played a role, either directly or indirectly, in the widespread adoption of these practices, which appear to be required by the recently enacted California Assembly Bill 1955."

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Child Prodigy Laura Capps, Ambulance Chaser Bob Nelson

By Andy Caldwell



It would logically follow that Supervisor Lee has thereby become the first assistant supervisor in the history of the county. The job comes with some perks as I understand it, after I read a fluff piece in *Noozhawk* by columnist “Dr.” (heavy emphasis on the “Dr.”) **Cynder Sinclair**, which revealed that Laura Capps was a veritable political child prodigy.

The article, titled, “Laura Capps: Sups See Big Picture,” was designed to repair the damage to Capps’s reputation as she led the way to the board’s \$56,000 raise while expressing the most emphatic *faux* outrage at yours truly. Sinclair wanted to give Laura the opportunity to share her sincere empathy to her constituents – who can’t raise their own salaries – as it pertains to Laura feeling their socio-economic pain.

And who knew that it was Laura who paved the way for *both* her parents to serve in Congress? I certainly didn’t. Most of us wrongly assume that Laura became interested in politics because her parents were U.S. House Representatives. However, Laura entered politics *before* her parents did.

How so?

Laura ran for student government at Roosevelt Elementary School and won! (I am not making any of this up the “Dr.” wrote all of this in her piece.)

Laura ran because it was in her blood, practically speaking, to make things better for others just like she is doing today. We are also led to believe that Laura personally answers 30 to 40 messages per day from her constituents. Is that because she is the only person working full time in two sups’ offices? Finally, the “Dr.” and Laura want everyone to know that Laura even works during her normal two weeks off for Christmas in the event of a fire.

Well, anyhow, now I fully understand that Roy is lucky to have Laura as his mentor, superior, benefactor, helper, leader, guide, and proctologist!

Supervisor Bob Nelson “Standing Alone” Against Nothing

Meanwhile, I also find it necessary to apologize to county supervisor **Bob Nelson**, or at least correct the record. During the hearing on the obscene county supervisors’ raises, Bob Nelson strenuously objected to my objections to the raises. That is, Bob was *for* the raise before and after he voted “No” on the same.

Evidently, I owe an apology to Supervisor **Laura Capps** about my claim that she didn’t deserve a \$56,000 raise, for among other reasons, because she didn’t work full time as a second district supervisor. That is because I assumed she was the supervisor of only one district. Of course, I was not alone. Everybody assumed after she lost her campaign against **Das Williams** to become the first district supervisor, and then carpetbagged her way into a subsequent election two years later in the second district that she won, that the boundaries of her district were set. But that was before Laura announced that she would be initiating, hosting, and leading a community forum on cannabis odor in Carpinteria, which of course, is in **Roy Lee**’s first district!

It appears that Laura Capps is the first supervisor to represent two separate county supervisorial districts, which is obviously a full-time job. Hence, my apology. But where does that leave Supervisor Roy Lee? Well, because Laura and her gal pal, **Gwynn Lurie**, believe it was they themselves who won the first district election for Roy Lee, they have *defacto* permission to assume control of his district.

Roy Lee, First District Assistant Supervisor

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The Fee-fdom Known As County Government

By Andy Caldwell

The recent salary raises for county supervisors was just the tip of the iceberg; employee salaries, benefits, and pension costs continue to rise with no end in sight. As a *SBCurrent* commentator put it, county employees are *always* asking for more money claiming that “they are over-worked, under-paid, and under-appreciated.” Ironically, the county sups made this same pitch as the justification for raising their own salaries, and future pensions. Thereby, county supervisors can no longer be considered the people’s representatives. They are now simply five additional county employees who managed to complain themselves into a 48% raise worth \$56,000 per year. Many of these same politicians raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions for “the honor of serving” as a county supervisor. Then they turn around and complain “the job” doesn’t pay enough and the hours are too long?

Of great concern to the business community is that every time the county raises employee salaries, they end up taking even more money out of the pockets of the private sector by raising fees. A policy known as 100% cost recovery posits that the affected community pay for the entire cost of these programs, including overhead, even when those regulations exist to protect the public.

Hence, on March 11, there will be a hearing to raise fees again by the County’s Environmental Health Department, which administers 122 different fee categories on some 5,700 businesses that include restaurants, tattoo parlors, gas stations, auto repair shops, and farmer’s markets, among many others. This same department raised their fees in 2019 based on 100% cost-recovery. Now they are asking for even more money because the fees they charge aren’t keeping up with their raises.

The definition of a fee in the hearing report states that a “user fee” is “A fee or rate charged to an individual or group that receives a *private benefit* (emphasis is added in the county report) from services provided by the County. As part of an overall funding strategy, local government relies upon user fees to fund programs and services that provide limited or no direct benefit to the community as a whole.”

This statement is preposterous. Nonetheless, you can expect county sups will raise the fees without admitting the real reason for the fee increases, that is, be-

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cause county employees want continuous raises. For instance, consider restaurant inspections meant to ensure a safe food supply, which we all want and benefit from. These inspections are meant to ensure *public* safety; it is not for the *private* benefit of the restaurant owner.

Ironically, at this same hearing, the supervisors (thank you Supervisor Hartmann) will continue to wrestle with the problem of roadside and sidewalk food vendors who are breaking just about every rule in the book as it affects safe handling and storage of food. However, in this case, all the laws enforced on brick-and-mortar businesses and food trucks are, for all practical purposes, null and void because of two insane pieces of legislation (SB946 and 972) that allows the operators to avoid and evade prosecution. Go figure.

Dumpster Diving for Higher Fees

Back to the issue of fee increases. The county will

Your Mileage May Vary On New Tax Proposal

By Steven Greenhut

California lawmakers are considering replacing the gas tax with a mileage charge — but can our Legislature be trusted to create a fair solution?

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — In a normal state run by politicians who weren't constantly trying to hose taxpayers to fund an ever-expanding list of dubious programs, it wouldn't be particularly hard to solve a minor tax inequity problem. California's roads and freeways are funded largely by the gas tax, but tax revenues are declining as more drivers purchase non-gas-powered vehicles. One out of every four new cars sold in the state is an electric vehicle — and they've largely become free riders on the road system.

"The state is exploring implementing a California Road Charge, which would replace the gas tax with a mileage-based user fee for drivers who use the roads," reported ABC 30. "Essentially, charging by the mile instead of the tank." The California Department of Transportation explains that "as cars get more fuel efficient or use other energy sources, the gas tax will no longer fund the infrastructure California needs." Needless to say, California's road infrastructure already is among the most poorly maintained and inadequate in the nation.

That California Road Charge refers to a 2017 pilot program to evaluate this alternative funding system, but that was a simulation. The state passed a 2024 pilot, under which actual drivers would pay actual fees based on their actual mileage — and would then receive a rebate for their fuel charges. It makes perfect sense to test a program before implementing it statewide. Caltrans argues — correctly, I believe — that mileage charges are more equitable for drivers.

I once heard the current road user fee or gas tax compared to paying a general fee for groceries, but then being free to go to a store and haul off as many groceries at any time as one chooses. Essentially, drivers can drive as much as they want on the roads, streets, and freeways and simply pay for that service based on whatever taxes they pay at the pump (and in their other tax bills, as some property taxes pay for local road projects).

Charging by use is a time-tested free-market principle. As drivers purchase hybrids that use little gasoline or EVs that use none of it, there's a greater disconnect between driving and costs. California does impose a \$125 fee on EVs at registration and a \$100 fee for



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plug-in hybrids, but the typical gas-dependent driver spends \$300 in gas taxes each year. With California trying to phase out the sale of new internal-combustion vehicles by 2035, this mileage fee idea was bound to emerge.

"If users' costs don't change based on how much they use the system, they have no reason not to overconsume it. Misconceptions about 'free' roads are a classic example of this and congestion, pollution and lost time are the costs paid," wrote Adrian Moore, vice president of the libertarian Reason Foundation. Furthermore, he notes that such mileage-based road fees are being implemented throughout the world and in other states. Some mileage taxes also factor in the weight of the vehicles given that heavier vehicles cause more wear and tear.

For instance, the Utah Department of Transportation allows EV drivers to "choose to continue to pay the flat fee for alternative fuel vehicles or enroll in Utah's Road Usage Charge program to pay for road usage based on the number of miles they drive, up to the amount of the set flat fee." That seems like a fairly sensible way to enable drivers who don't use gasoline to pay for the roads.

One big question around mileage taxes is the monitoring of the mileage. With most systems, drivers can use a GPS to track their mileage, which can seem a bit creepy. Or they can take a photo of their odometer. Given the degree to which everything we do is tracked anyway, this approach doesn't seem overly intrusive beyond what's become normal. California's insurance initiative, Proposition 103, has since 1988 allowed insurers to base their premiums in part on our mileage, although insurers mostly rely on self-reporting of

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Parasites Don't Exist Without A Compliant Host And That's You!

By Andy Caldwell

You probably don't know that you have been signed up – without your permission – to have your electricity delivered from an energy parasite.

Central Coast Community Energy, also known as 3CE, is the largest of these local energy parasites. They are a community choice aggregator which means they are a local government energy co-op that controls what electricity sources are used to create the electricity you receive. What this means in practical terms is that PG&E and So Cal Edison must deliver electricity that has been purchased by 3CE to their former customers using their transmission grid, hence the term parasite.

All SLO County and Santa Barbara County are now part of 3CE, except for the City of Santa Barbara (it has its own co-op) and Lompoc (which has had its own utility for decades).

The purpose of these co-ops, in part, is to get to 100% renewable energy faster than the relevant CA mandate to do the same. Moreover, 3CE is also investing in its own power generation that is not without controversy. That is, *don't call this green energy*.

For instance, you may have heard the uproar about the solar utility in the Mojave Desert that was bulldozing a significant number of Joshua trees. That was the ecological green virtue-signaling 3CE. Then there is another project that 3CE is partnering with others in New Mexico that will require the siting and construction of power lines through a pristine wilderness area in Arizona. The SunZia project will construct new power lines some 550 miles long to be able to tie that project into our grid. It is estimated to cost \$10 billion.

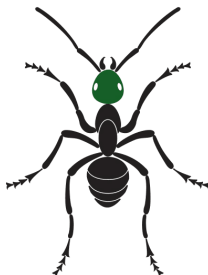
Das Williams' Payday is Secured

The arguments we heard from the enviros to exceed the already aggressive CA timeline to go all renewable had to do in part with making green energy cheaper by eliminating the profit motive of our privately owned utilities. That is, 3CE, by taking over the grid, promises to plow back into the community what would otherwise be corporate profits. Hence, 3CE induced local governments to sign up promising they would get some freebies including electric vehicles and charging infrastructure. They also promised that the electricity they purchased would be cheaper for the customer base than what is being charged by the utilities.

However, in addition to being a parasite, this energy generation and delivery model is also a house of cards. As large as PG&E and So Cal Edison are, they can't rely upon themselves to keep the lights on in CA. No, they are part of a multi-state co-op that moves power between a dozen states or so for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is that California is generating too much solar power during the midday (at the expense of power sources that generate power 24/7), and thereby, CA doesn't have enough power to keep the lights on during the evening hours without spending billions more on explosive battery energy storage systems.

Hence, CA finds itself either giving away – or selling – excess solar, or worse, simply unplugging the solar power because the grid can't handle the mid-day surge. And yet, they keep building more. Of course, that means the move away from the 24/7 capabilities of dams, natural gas, coal, and nuclear is nothing but a multi-billion-dollar fool's errand.

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One Health: The New Godless Quasi-Religion That Ranks Humans Below Nature

By Janet Levy

A new, Godless, quasi-religion—One Health—is being thrust upon the world. Its apostles say it will save humanity, or rather, life itself. Allied with Marxism in its denigration of the “exploitive nature of capitalism” as is demonstrated in the green movement, it debases humankind by equating us with, even putting us below, all other life forms. Its principal church is the World Health Organization (WHO), so President Donald Trump’s threat to withdraw from the WHO—or gain American control over it—must be seen in the light of this globalist agenda.

The WHO has been promoting One Health—the mutualism of humans, animals, plants, and other aspects of the natural environment—and aims to implement it through a proposed pandemic treaty and amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR).

Once signed, the treaty and IHR amendments will be legally binding on the WHO’s 194 member nations. These nations will surrender their sovereignty over healthcare decisions and give the WHO unbundled power to accelerate the approval process for drugs and vaccines and end prohibitions against gain-of-function research. The treaty and IHR amendments will centralize power in the hands of the WHO, world leaders, NGOs, Big Pharma, and the globalist elite. Their pretext? Managing health emergencies, which they alone will have the power to declare.

Not only will these steps enslave humans and rob them of individual rights using the fear of pandemics or similar emergencies, but they also amount to a tectonic paradigm shift, a movement away from a human-centered worldview to one that puts nature and the ecosystem above everything else.

Man will no longer be the pinnacle of God’s creation, existing in nature and using his capacity for understanding and innovation to thrive, aspire to the best in science and the arts, and pursue meaning and beauty. By promoting moral equivalence between man and nature in all its forms, the new quasi-religion diminishes the meaning of human life and punishes humankind for cultivating the environment for his benefit.

The logic is specious, and skeptics may easily unravel the motives behind it. After all, it is

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humans—albeit an elite few—who thought up One Health in the first place and insist that everyone (except the One Health creators) must submit to it. In the end, it’s about gaining power and control. By playing up the ultimate fear—the end of the world—and exploiting ordinary people’s zealous desire to make immense sacrifices to forestall doomsday, the globalist elite deviously aim to get what they want: profits for Big Pharma and other corporate entities they control. This is why One Health must be seen for what it is—a dangerous quasi-religion.

The big idea behind One Health—mutualism between humans and nature—is centuries old. However, it gained recent currency in 2004 at a symposium hosted by Rockefeller University. Representatives of the

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The Meritless ACLU Lawsuit To Stop Trump From Sending Illegal Aliens To Gitmo

By Cully Stimson

Earlier this week, the Trump administration brought about 40 illegal aliens it had taken to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a detention facility in Louisiana.

The reason behind the surprise move is unclear, but it likely has something to do with the lawsuit filed by the ACLU and others contesting the move to send aliens to Guantanamo in the first place.

We should know more about the case once a federal judge in Washington hears arguments from both sides in the coming days.

Some of the ACLU's arguments lack merit, and even worse, one directly contradicts the position the ACLU took previously in a different Guantanamo case.

Some of the ACLU's arguments are just untrue.

For example, an ACLU press release calls the detention facilities at Guantanamo "a remote, abusive prison" and a "site of grave human rights abuses" that have taken place "for decades." That may make good copy, especially for some on the outer fringes of the radical Left, but the exact opposite is true.

The island is a two-hour flight from Washington, D.C., making it no more remote than any other Caribbean island. The United States has operated a naval base there since 1903. President Bill Clinton housed thousands of Haitian migrants there in the 1990s. After 9/11, President George W. Bush sent al-Qaeda terrorists to Gitmo.

The conditions of detention at Gitmo comply with domestic and international legal standards and have done so for at least the past two decades.

Don't believe me?

Both the Bush and the Obama administrations separately concluded that the conditions of detention for al-Qaeda terrorists comply with Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions (the gold standard). Nothing has changed since then.

In spring 2006, as deputy assistant secretary of defense for detainee affairs, I took three European delegations to Guantanamo so they could see the conditions for themselves. After touring Gitmo, Alan Grignard, the deputy head of the Brussels federal police anti-terrorism unit, told the press it was a "model



prison," where detainees were "better treated than in Belgian prisons."

The ACLU knows this.

Even The Washington Post, no fan of the terrorist detention policies or practices of the Bush administration after 9/11, editorialized on June 22, 2006:

"... Guantanamo now is, by far, the most comfortable and legally accountable detention facility maintained by the United States for foreign prisoners. ... Guantanamo's detainees have recreation facilities and good medical care, their continued detention is reviewed once a year by military boards, and prisoners are assigned advocates to help argue cases."

So much for the ACLU's hollow scaremongering about the conditions of detention.

But that isn't the only problem with the ACLU's arguments.

Buried in the group's complaint lies another interesting tidbit: "the government's transfers to Guantanamo thus far have focused on Venezuelan nationals with final orders."

In other words, the Trump administration has sent to Guantanamo only a few illegal aliens who have lost yearslong appeals contesting their removal from the U.S. and who have been ordered deported by an immigration judge.

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State Assembly Slams The Door On Dissenters

By Jon Coupal

The attitude of Democrats in the Legislature seems to be that, if it's bad news, we don't want to hear it. And if it's really bad news, we'll try to suppress it.

What else can explain the effort to limit the participation of Republicans in the Legislative process who dare to ask such dangerous questions, such as "Where is all the taxpayer money going?"

Last Friday, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas made several changes to the makeup of more than a dozen policy and budget committees. What was unusual about the move is that the Legislature had yet to hear a single bill in committee, a normal prerequisite before making wholesale changes to who serves on those committees.

Republican leadership rightfully characterized the Speaker's power play as "retaliation" for being increasingly outspoken over Democrats' far left policies and failure to account for billions of dollars in spending. Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher, R-Chico, wrote on X, "They don't like us calling them out."

In response to criticism over the controversial move, the best the Democrat majority could cough up was a typical mealy mouthed response from the Speaker's spokesman to the Sacramento Bee: "The Speaker routinely addresses committee needs throughout the year, and his goal is always to ensure members are in optimal roles to collaborate effectively and deliver for Californians."

Two of the targets of the "Rivas Rage," were Assemblyman Carl DeMaio, R-San Diego, removed from the Assembly Budget Committee, and Assemblyman Bill Essayli, R-Corona, thrown off the Assembly's Elec-

tions Committee.

DeMaio founded Reform California, which seeks several changes in California law to make the state more responsive and accountable. He has allied with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association on several occasions, including helping with the signature gathering effort to qualify the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act. Although TPA qualified for the November election, it was stripped from the ballot by the California Supreme Court, leading the Wall Street Journal to publish an editorial headlined, "Democracy Dies in California."

For Essayli, being thrown off a committee is not a new experience as his proclivity to ask tough questions in committee previously got him tossed from the Judiciary Committee.

It should be noted that none of the Republicans who were removed from committees or demoted engaged in any behavior designed to be disruptive of the legislative process. Democrats in Congress such as Al Green, D-Texas, should take note. (Green was just censured by the House of Representatives for repeatedly heckling President Donald Trump during his address to a joint session of Congress.)

The only "sin" of the Republicans who have been removed from their committees is that the party has stepped up its ability to communicate effectively, whether as individual members or as a caucus. Committee hearings that in earlier years were inaccessible to the public are now all broadcast and recorded thanks to Proposition 34 (2016). DeMaio in particular has been reported to have his YouTube postings of the committee hearings receive hundreds of thou-

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Howard Jarvis
Taxpayers Association
— established in 1978 —

The Meritless ACLU Lawsuit To Stop Trump From Sending Illegal Aliens To Gitmo *Cont.*

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Isn't that exactly what should happen? Once a person is ordered removed and has lost his or her appeals, he or she should be removed and returned to their home country.

In the U.S., two categories of aliens have final orders of removal: those who are in immigration detention and those who are not.

The three Venezuelan nationals transferred to Guantanamo were all in an immigration detention facility in the United States prior to their transfer. Each had a final order of removal and was removed by the government.

Contrast those three with the more than 1 million other illegal aliens in the United States who have lost their appeals and have final orders of removal, but who are not detained. Those million are out in the community on their own. While they've been instructed to depart the country, most don't leave voluntarily.

Illegal aliens are represented by counsel even after losing all their appeals and receiving a final order of removal. That means that these aliens could try to delay their removal by instructing their attorneys to file a "motion to reopen" the case.

That's exactly what the ACLU's complaint is: a plea to reopen the cases of three illegal aliens who have been ordered out of the country.

But this requires the ACLU to argue that transferring aliens to Guantanamo is tantamount to deporting them.

And that's exactly what the ACLU has argued. In one press release, Arthur Spitzer, ACLU senior counsel and signatory of the complaint and petition for writ of

habeas corpus, stated that "nothing in U.S. law authorizes [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] to detain people in foreign countries," directly implying that Guantanamo is a foreign country.

A staff attorney with the International Refugee Assistance Project decried the Guantanamo transfers as a "lawless project to take people from U.S. soil and detain them at this notorious offshore prison."

Yet when the ACLU filed an amicus brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2006 in *Boumediene v. Bush* (a lawsuit against the George W. Bush administration for denying terrorist detainees at Guantanamo the right to file a writ of habeas corpus), it claimed that Guantanamo was not "a sovereign foreign nation." Rather, it said, Guantanamo was a "U.S. Naval Base" over which the U.S. had "plenary and exclusive jurisdiction."

The court agreed, stating that the United States retained "de facto sovereignty" over Guantanamo.

If the U.S. retains sovereignty over Guantanamo, then legally, moving illegal aliens from Texas to Guantanamo is no different than moving them from Texas to Arizona.

Apparently, the ACLU doesn't mind talking out of both sides of its mouth and making conflicting claims. Nor does it have a problem with making a false assertion that defies Supreme Court precedent.

The ACLU hopes that the public and the courts will be fooled by its meritless claims. Whether that will be the case remains to be seen.

Charles 'Cully' Stimson, Deputy Director, Meese Center, Manager, National Security Law Program, Senior Legal Fellow, Senior Advisor to the President, The Heritage Foundation

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State Assembly Slams The Door On Dissenters *Cont.*

(Continued from page 10)

sands of views. Not only that, but Republican leaders are increasingly appearing on YouTube and podcasts.

While alternative media have become more important in exposing legislative malfeasance, there has also been increasing scrutiny of the majority party by mainstream media. Even the reliably progressive Sacramento Bee was highly critical of the Speaker's move. In response to the non-response from Rivas' spokesman, the Bee said, "That doesn't say anything. It represents Rivas as one of those Sacramento politicians who skirts accountability by hiding behind obsequious handlers peddling smarmy non-statements. His actions are undemocratic and unacceptable." Ouch.

The sad part of Rivas' actions is that he is denying his own party the opportunity to hear and respond to different perspectives on how to solve California's countless problems as well as the expertise held by several Republican members. Instead of engaging with Republicans, they slam the door, which reinforces California's standing as a decidedly anti-democratic state.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

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One Health: The New Godless Quasi-Religion That Ranks Humans Below Nature *Cont.*

(Continued from page 8)

WHO, the U.N., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and several international agencies and NGOs attended.

The meeting produced the Manhattan Principles, which recommended a broader, “unitive” understanding of health and disease that acknowledged the interconnectivity of humans, flora, fauna, and the environment. The principles also recommended an “interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral” approach to “disease prevention, surveillance, monitoring, control and mitigation, as well as environmental conservation more broadly.”

How this could play out is seen in a June 2023 lawsuit brought by the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP) against the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs. It sought the removal of the zoo’s five aging elephants, which the NhRP says were “unlawfully confined” and suffering from “stress, physical disabilities, and brain damage.” This might seem ridiculous, and the Colorado Supreme Court did rule in favor of the zoo, but in a world bound by One Health, the felling of a tree may amount to murder, and that of a forest may amount to a massacre.

In 2010, the One Health Quadripartite—comprising the WHO, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP)—was established to address risks inherent in the human-animal-ecosystem interface. This group has developed the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) to manage pandemics, climate change, healthcare, welfare, etc.

Thus, the dialectic of One Health is aligned with the U.N.’s Sustainability Development Goals. Together, the two programs work towards ending national sovereignty, personal freedom, the right to property, and the sanctity of the individual. Of course, there is a “collaborative relationship of organisms,” as One Health and the green movement maintain. But they take it further to extremes to insist that humans must “evolve” to alter their supremacist behavior, free themselves of the selfish idea of individualism, and begin to understand the “co-benefits, risks, trade-offs, and opportunities” available to “advance equitable and ho-



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listic solutions.”

Since then, this ideology has been integrated into the missions of the WHO, the elitist World Economic Forum (WEF), the U.N., the CDC, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the military. It has also been introduced in K-12 education and our universities, where it has gained thousands of proselytes.

A recent video titled *A Radical Guide to Reality*, produced by the Whole World View Project (WWVP) and promoted by the U.N., openly advocates mass hypnosis for wide acceptance of the elitist ideas on ordinary people surrendering control. Purporting to explore “the nature of reality and our interconnectedness,” it negates the idea that humans have “mind and consciousness.” Instead, it proclaims that the whole world is “mind and consciousness”—whatever that means! The implication: Surrender your individualism to the world-mind, that is, to the elite who dictate what reality really is.

Bruce Davidson, a humanities professor at Hokusei Gakuen University in Japan and a Brownstone Institute author, says One Health goes beyond health and environment policies and is an attempt to develop a

(Continued on page 16)



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Parasites Don't Exist Without A Compliant Host And That's You! *Cont.*

(Continued from page 7)

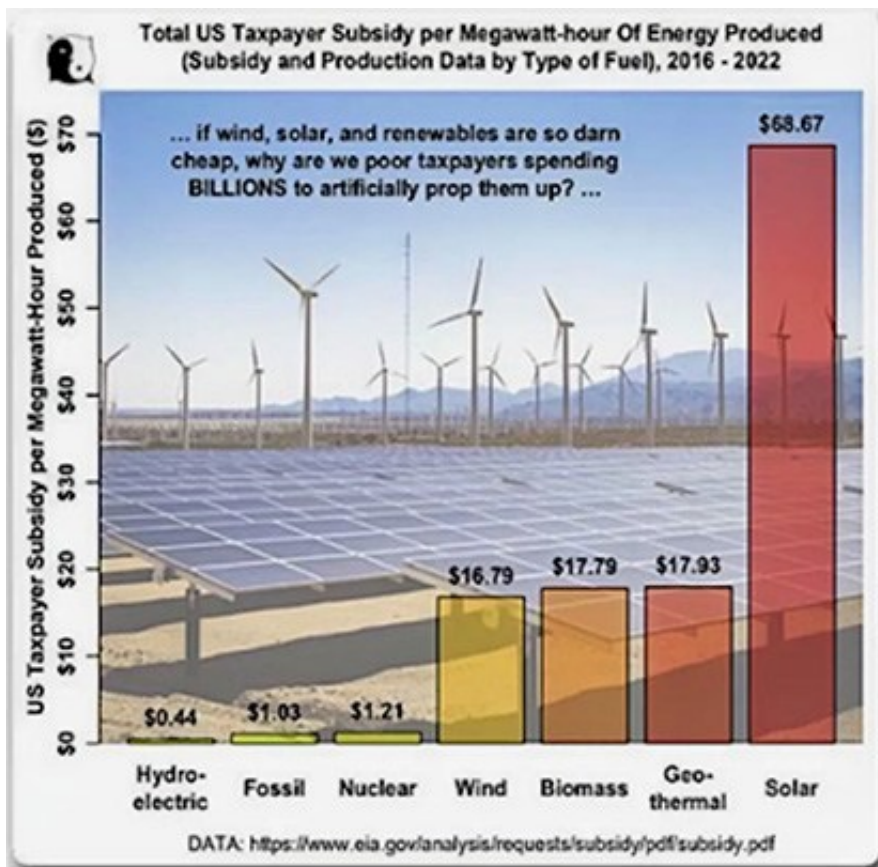
On a side note, former Santa Barbara County Supervisor **Das Williams** – who advocated for all this while in office – after having lost his reelection bid, landed safely in a pile of cash as he is now Senior Advisor of Policy and Legislative Affairs for Central Coast Community Energy, also known as 3CE, at an annual salary of \$270,000.

It pays to be green, I guess.

In Conclusion

3CE adding even more solar and wind is a solution in search of a problem. That is, consider the fact that 3CE rates are now almost identical to PG&E, as **Mike Brown** of COLAB SLO reports, with one key exception, and that is cost of subsidies.

Check out this chart that demonstrates the losses of 3CE along with subsidies that accompany the mandates that are forcing wind and solar upon us:



If you are one of the customers of 3CE, you can opt-out by calling 1-877-455-2223 and giving them your account information. For City of Santa Barbara residents, the phone number to opt out is (805) 897-1979.

These community choice aggregators, along with the umbrella push for all things “renewable,” have caused CA energy prices to skyrocket because the eco-activists running CA don’t understand the difference between what works and what sounds good.

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3CE, with a \$580 million operating budget, lost \$36 million in FY 2023-24. The large reserves that it accumulated in its early years of operation cushioned the loss. Nevertheless, the staff is recommending a rate increase for April 1, 2025

One Health: The New Godless Quasi-Religion That Ranks Humans Below Nature *Cont.*

(Continued from page 13)

“worldwide mass-mind.” This is particularly dangerous because, as he observes, “individualistic thinking” was demonstrated to be generally superior during the Covid-19 pandemic. Skeptics who questioned the narrative pushed by the elite and the governments they controlled and resisted the mandates were the ones with a greater chance of survival.

Another astute figure who saw the pandemic panic for what it was—a “pretext for clamping down with totalitarian controls” and “not being about public health”—was Robert Kennedy, Jr., whom President Trump chose to head the HHS. He says the intelligence community and the military were intimately involved in Operation Warp Speed (OWS), the public-private partnership set up to fight and control COVID-19 and develop tests and vaccines.

Real authority was not with officials from public health agencies such as NIH, CDC, and the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA). The initiative was led by the National Security Council (NSC) and the Pentagon. Kennedy contends that from the beginning, OWS was a military project that paid Pfizer and Moderna to promote COVID-19 shots and lend their imprimatur to the operation, providing camouflage and making massive profits.

Imagine that on a global scale and over a larger time frame, and you have the makings of an Orwellian dystopia built on fear, surveillance, surrender of individual rights, and ultimately, surrender of choice and free will, while the more equal elite and their apparatchiks revel in power and profit. All this will have been

achieved by making people pious believers in a goal larger than themselves—saving the Earth—for which they would willingly sacrifice all their privileges as humans like the martyrs of long ago.

If such a dystopia is to be prevented and America’s Judeo-Christian spiritual foundation—of humankind being created in God’s image as the steward of the earth and its resources—is to be preserved, the underhanded dialectic of One Health must be countered. One way to do that might be for America to withdraw from the WHO and the U.N.

Janet Ellen Levy, Writer, Public Speaker, and staunch Advocate for the preservation of Constitutional freedoms

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Your Mileage May Vary On New Tax Proposal *Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

driving data.

The mileage-tax conundrum centers on trust. Californians have little reason to trust that any mileage charge won't be imposed on top of the existing gas tax. "California's greedy politicians have already imposed the highest GAS TAX and CAR TAX in the nation on drivers, and now they want to impose a new MILEAGE TAX to charge us PER MILE we drive to get more of our money!" said Republican Assembly member Carl DeMaio of San Diego on the Reform California website.

That might be political rhetoric, but Californians have reason to fear the mileage tax could become another tax on driving — especially given the state's embrace of urbanist policies that try to coerce us to use transit systems. California gets a poor bang for the buck for its current road spending. It often promises to improve infrastructure when it raises road taxes, but then uses a large share of the revenue on environmental projects, bike lanes, and road diets, which increase congestion to discourage car use.

So the state has a legitimate need to ensure the sustainability of road funding as an increasing number of drivers buy EVs, but it's unlikely that Californians can trust lawmakers to create a fair and revenue-neutral solution.

Steven Greenhut, Resident Senior Fellow and Western Region Director, State Affairs, R Street Institute, a member of the Southern California News Group editorial board and the director of the Pacific Research Institute's 'Free Cities Center'

The Fee-fdom Known As County Government *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

charge a gas station a fee for having a hazardous substance (gasoline) on the premises and charge them a fee based on the size of the gas tank. It is ludicrous to assert the fee is for the *private* benefit of the gas station owner as the owner already knows how much gasoline he can store in his tanks. Yet, year after year, the owner pays an ever-increasing fee to redundantly report the same information to this county department simply because the employees and their managers want to be paid more.

What really bothers the business community is that their use, storage, and disposal of so-called hazardous materials is dwarfed by the public's use of the same. That is, if this department could logistically figure out how to inspect your garage and dumpster dive into your garbage can to look for various violations pertaining to hazardous chemicals and empty containers of the same (paint, oil, gasoline etc.), and charge you for it every year, they would do so in a heartbeat.

The policy of 100% cost recovery means the county sups have no incentive to keep a lid on fee increases and neither do the employees of the department, as these fees are money in their pockets.

And they call this public service?



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Child Prodigy Laura Capps, Ambulance Chaser Bob Nelson Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

What do I mean by that?

From the dais, Nelson stated that he and I share some of the same constituents, and because I had poisoned “the well” (read: “the public trough”), he *couldn't* vote for the raise. Hence, he voted “No,” not because voting *for* the raise would have been the wrong thing to do. Not at all; he voted “No” because of public pressure, which he clearly resented as much as he apparently resents me.

Nevertheless, my umbrage on this issue is not aimed at Nelson; after all, he did vote “No.” My concerns have to do with an ad run by the Santa Barbara Republican Party praising Bob Nelson for “Standing Alone (?) for Taxpayers as he stood for fiscal responsibility by rejecting this reckless spending.”

I didn't hear Bob utter one word about “reckless spending” as it pertains to the raise.

Because it didn't happen.

Furthermore, Supervisor Nelson has apparently no qualms about accepting the raise despite the reckless spending it represents.

And, speaking of protecting taxpayers, how is it that Supervisor Nelson also voted “No” on settling the lawsuit with AMR after the county's failed attempt to steal the ambulance contract? After all, the board majority realized that having spent \$11.1 million on this boondoggle was bad enough, and that spending even more money on a court case everyone knew they would lose would make it even worse, but not Bob.

Bob Nelson usually votes in a manner consistent with conservative fiscal values, but when he doesn't, the public deserves to know.

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Andy Caldwell Thanks You!



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Trump Admin. Launches Investigation Into CA Dept. Of Education For Parental Rights Violations *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

AB 1955 Assembly Floor Analysis says:

“Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop resources and strategies to support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ+) students and their families; prohibits an employee or contractor from being required to disclose any information related to a student’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to any other person without the student’s consent; prohibits public schools from enacting or enforcing any policy requiring an employee or contractor to disclose any information related to a student’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, without the student’s consent; and requires that any such policy be invalid.

Laws across the country state that a parent must meet a child’s basic needs and parent in a way that serves the child’s best interests. Parents also have a financial duty to raise and support their children, as well as their children’s basic needs of food, clothing, housing, medical care, and education. This usually continues until each child reaches the age of 18.

Hearing the bill created havoc in the Assembly in June. During floor debate, Assemblyman Bill Essayli (R-Riverside) spoke about how morally and legally wrong it is to cut parents out of the discussions over a gender confused child. He also brought up his bill from last year which would have addressed this, but Assembly Speaker pro Tempore Jim Wood interrupted him, and when Essayli challenged the interruption, and noted that he is always interrupted by Speaker Wood when he speaks on the Assembly Floor, Wood cut his mic off.

Essayli said the Democrat leadership was like “the Chinese Communist Party.”

Democrats knew that this bill is not just morally wrong, they knew it is legally wrong as well, and that it violates existing laws. But Governor Gavin Newsom signed it into law the following month.

“The California law violates two key principles of good education policy,” said Lance Izumi, Senior Director of the Center for Education at the Pacific Research Institute. “First, parents have the primary and ultimate say in how their children are educated and the California law blocks this right of parents. Second, for parents to exercise optimal control and decision-making over their children’s education, government must be transparent about what is going on at public schools so parents can be fully informed in order to make the best decisions possible regarding the learning and well-being of their children. The Trump administration is rightly seeking to vindicate the fundamental rights of parents and to ensure that children’s education, not adult ideology, is the goal of our public schools.”

“Teachers and school counselors should not be in the business of advising minors entrusted to their care on consequential decisions about their sexual identity and mental health. That responsibility and privilege lies with a parent or trusted loved one,” said Secretary of Education Linda McMahon. “It is not only immoral but also potentially in contradiction with federal law for California schools to hide crucial information about a student’s wellbeing from parents and guardians. The agency launched today’s investigation to vigorously protect parents’ rights and ensure that students do not fall victim to a radical transgender ideology that often leads to family alienation and irreversible medical interventions.”

The Globe will closely follow this investigation.

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

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SB County's Multi-Million Dollar Illegal Billing Practices

(Continued from page 2)

The consultant also highlighted something else that has been ignored by the county and many other jurisdictions having to do with private vs public benefits. A marriage license, for instance, is a private benefit; the public has no interest in the same. Hence, the newlyweds should pay for the full reasonable cost of the license. However, restaurants are inspected to protect public health, and it is the duty of the county to protect public health. Hence, the full reasonable cost of the inspections should be adjusted accordingly along this public/private benefit scale, in addition to the reduction for the non-billable hours and not charged to the restaurant owner only.

COLAB has requested an independent audit of all fee-based revenue programs because it is clear the county is charging members of the public and the business community several million dollars per year more than is reasonable in excess charges.

Please contact your county supervisor and *politely* ask them to do the right thing and pay for their own employer costs and their mandated duty to protect public health and safety from their general tax revenue rather than passing on all these costs to their "customers."

You may contact the supervisors as follows:

Supervisor **Roy Lee** at: roylee@countyofsb.org

Supervisor **Laura Capps** at: lcapps@countyofsb.org

Supervisor **Joan Hartmann** at: jhartmann@countyofsb.org

Supervisor **Bob Nelson** at: Bob.Nelson@countyofsb.org

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