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**Inside the
September
Issue:**

CA Fertilizer Tax 2

The Green Protection Racket 4

AB 917 Charter schools to the back 6

A Costly Blunder 9

California Danger Signs 11

Roger & The Lone Wolf 13

Weiner, Spitzer and... Landecker? 14

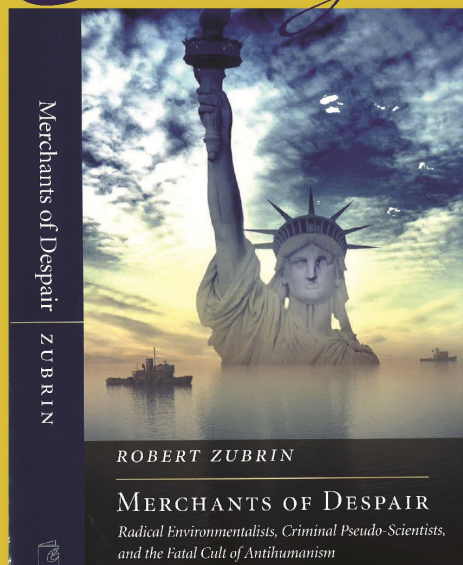
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Nitrogen fix could cancel CA fertilizer tax *By Wayne Lusvardi*

A natural bacterial colonization process could end the proposed regulation of agricultural nitrate and taxation of fertilizer in California. Energy costs to produce synthetic nitrogen fertilizers could also be eliminated. It could also eventually render unnecessary overkill stormwater regulations in Los Angeles County, as well as put a damper on the market for organic food products.

Researchers at the University of Nottingham Center for Crop Nitrogen Fixation in Britain have announced a breakthrough that could make it unnecessary to use potentially polluting and energy intensive fertilizer to grow crops. The process occurs naturally and does not involve bioengineering or genetic modification.

Nitrogen Fixation is Natural

In areas of Brazil, sugarcane has been grown continuously for more than 100 years without any fertilizer. It is well known that beans, lentils, peanuts, soybeans, alfalfa, clovers and some flowers also grow naturally by taking nitrogen from the air rather than from the ground.

Now a new potentially world-changing breakthrough may allow all crops to grow by taking nitrogen from the air rather than from synthetic fertilizer. The air both humans and plants breathe is composed of 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, and 1 percent argon, carbon dioxide and other gases.

The process discovered by leading world expert Prof. Edward Cocking of the University of Nottingham is called "nitrogen fixation." Cocking discovered that sugar cane is able to use nitrogen from the atmosphere to grow as a result of bacteria that grow on the roots of the sugar plant. All that is necessary to colonize other plants so they can absorb nitrogen from the air is to coat plant seeds with the same bacteria and sucrose.

Pending Overkill Nitrogen Regulation

California is about to launch a vast and expensive program of regulation of nitrates in agriculture. Most of the concern is over a non-existent "Blue Baby Syndrome" crisis. Assembly Bill 69 would impose a tax of 1 percent on all fertilizer. This wouldn't hurt home gardeners very much but it would hit farmers hard.

Fertilizer Rates for Selected Crops (source University of California)

Crop	Minimum Pounds Per Acre
Celery	200
Bell peppers	180
Household lawn (heavy soil)	174
Strawberries	150
Household lawn (shade)	87
Avocados	67
Oats, peaches,	50
Raisins	20

Stormwater Tax Unneeded

One of the major concerns about urban stormwater runoff is nitrates and phosphorous that drain from residential lawns, golf courses and city parks (in addition to motor oils and trash). Assembly Bill 2554 passed in 2010 and will impose heavy taxes on businesses and industries, as well as on large landowners such as school districts and cities, to reduce stormwater runoff in Los Angeles County.

A health concern is the flow of nitrates into streets, storm drains and flood channels that go to the ocean and create a nuisance to surfers and swimmers at beaches. Reducing the use of fertilizer for lawns and golf courses by the innovative "nitrogen fixation" of common lawn grasses might render such taxes unnecessary.

Bio-remediation Instead of Regulation of Perchlorate

Parallel research recently conducted at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst has found that a sulfur-utilizing bacteria could be used to bio-remediate agricultural perchlorate at a fraction of the expensive cost of current industrial treatment methods.

Perchlorate is a natural salt that is a potential blocker of essential iodine needed by infants and children for normal growth and development. Overly strict regulation of perchlorate based on unrealistic science has forced the shutdowns of water wells and the expensive treatment of drinking water by industrial methods.

N-Fix

Nottingham University has licensed nitrogen fixation methods — called N-Fix technology — to Azotic Technologies Ltd. to commercialize all crop species. Field trials are already underway. It is anticipated that N-Fix methods will be available in as short as two to three years. California would be unwise to create huge regulatory bureaucracies and programs to regulate agricultural nitrates and urban stormwater runoff. All that may soon be unnecessary.

Wayne Lusvardi is a journalist with the Pacific Research Center and writes for Cal Watchdog.com

Does La Raza Mean ACORN in Spanish?

By Andy Caldwell

In times past, most Americans respected and valued the unique history of our country as a melting pot of immigrants, most of whom arrived on our shores with little more than the clothes on their back. The plaque at the Statue of Liberty, a source of national pride, reads "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door".

My mother came through that door, as did countless other relatives of your family and mine. So did the parents of many of my friends I grew up with here on the Central Coast. They came here to better their lives, provide for their families and give their children a chance at the American Dream. They came to assimilate and integrate, to make our country their own. Ours was a once unique and proud tradition, but times have changed.

Today's immigrant community is more apt to become part of a permanent urban underclass, welfare dependent, with little hope of upward mobility. Part of the reason for this is that regulations have destroyed the blue collar manufacturing base that provided middle class job opportunities to these immigrants who otherwise lacked the education and language skills for good paying jobs. I know this first hand. Previously, I was the Industrial Relations Manager for Union Sugar, one of the oldest companies on the Central Coast. The factory and the hundreds of job opportunities it presented are gone now and regulations played a big part in its demise.

I am all for a comprehensive immigration reform package that addresses our country's need for a guest worker program, opportunities for high tech entrepreneurs, the need for border security, the elimination of the anchor baby loophole, and the ability to create provisions for the dreamers. What I don't recommend is that we give a wink and a nod to reform, while we grant another round of amnesty, like we did back in 1986. That piece of legislation did nothing but foment our current situation.

M. Stanton Evans, writing for Investors Business Daily, has revealed provisions in the Senate Immigration bill that are very disconcerting. Unlike the senators who voted for the bill, Evans actually read it! Evans indicates that the senate bill would allow people who have repeated DUI and document forging convictions to still qualify for legal status! There is also some very troubling language that would actually protect criminal from

deportation once they have applied for resident status. Finally, the bill includes hundreds of millions in slush funds that can be doled out to organizations who could, in turn, use the money for any number of politically motivated purposes. This should be no surprise. Obama's director of domestic policy, Cecilia Munoz, his lead staff member on immigration, previously worked for one of these organizations, La Raza! I thought the translation of La Raza meant the race. Perhaps a better translation is ACORN?

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The Green Protection Racket

By Andy Caldwell

Princenton Physics Professor, William Happer, in an interview with Fox News said, "The sea level has been rising since about 1800, at the end of the little ice age. Assuming that the high rate of rise continued for a century, there would be a rise of about ten inches by the year 2113. This is much less than the difference between high and low tides for most localities. I can't see how a sea level rise of less than one foot in a century makes any difference, and it certainly is no reason for busybody politicians to launch grand schemes in a variant of the old protection racket of organized crime."

It is hard for some people to grasp, that in this day and age, the words and descriptions such as corruption, greed, power brokers, political machine, and fraud can just as easily apply to the environmental movement as it can to multi-national corporations and criminal enterprises. The environmental movement has become a multi-billion dollar industry subject to the same level of temptation as it pertains to graft, dishonesty and avarice as any other entrenched special interest. Just because it wraps itself in a green mantle doesn't mean that it is altogether altruistic. Think no further than Al Gore as an example of this phenomenon.

In the 1960's, the environmental movement was comprised of little guys, outsiders with few resources, nascent political power and limited means. They were up against corporate America, entrenched bureaucracy and a mind set that did not consider environmental and ecological impacts as part of any cost benefit analysis or a compelling impetus to change. Slowly, but surely, the movement gained momentum and clout, changing attitudes and creating new laws that spawned a dramatic paradigm shift in how we live and do business. Overall, in most places, the shift led to a healthier environment and a more balanced approach to living, consuming and producing. But, as is the case with all power shifts, somewhere along the way things got out of balance in the other direction and now it is business and property owners who are being harangued and harassed by an entrenched political machine, with virtually unlimited power and resources.

Perhaps you recall the case of fraud that was committed by the staff of the County Planning and Development dept. when they faked a wetland designation on a property in an attempt to prevent a farmer from using the property? That farmer is now a County Supervisor, Peter Adam. You should ask him what it felt like to be threatened on trumped up charges. I can recite countless other examples of bureaucrats and environmental organizations who have made exaggerated and spuri-

ous claims about butterfly habitat, native grasslands, wildlife corridors and the like in order to kill projects. One of the most ridiculous claims had to do with protecting fungus on rocks that might have been impacted as a result of a relatively small construction project.

We have devoted time, energy and money to promulgate and enforce laws that serve to prevent discharges, protect natural resources, and mandated environmental values to be tantamount in the decision-making process as it affects land use, commerce and industry. But, what are we doing to ensure balance with regard to the ability of the people who provide us with food, energy, housing, infrastructure, and consumer goods to be able to keep producing?

The environmental movement has more politicians and money in their pocket, and more laws on their side than the people who feed, clothe, house and provide energy for you. We need balance restored for the good of the economy and the environment.

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Al Gore Light Denies Energy Reality

By Andy Caldwell

Katie Davis recently asked, "Is California the New Keystone"? Ms. Davis believes California is on the front lines of the climate battle and, having been trained by Al Gore, literally, as part of his Climate Reality Project, she is now officially commissioned as a "certified presenter" to inform us that another oil boom in California would be catastrophic for future life on earth.

The tantamount question this Al Gore acolyte refuses to ask is whether we should produce the oil we need domestically or import it from the Middle East? This question is central to any discussion about oil, climate change, and the necessity for America to become oil independent because we will need even more oil for a long time to come! By all accounts, we will be 80% dependent upon fossil fuels for several more decades. Our energy supply may someday be supplemented by renewable energy sources, but, given today's technological limitations, renewables are no substitute for hydro, nuclear and fossil fuels.

Davis uses the fear of fracking, a technique that is not being used on the Central Coast, to demonize an industry that produces products we rely on every day. Fossil fuels power our homes, stoves, hot water heaters and cars, not to mention the transportation and industrial sectors of our economy. Additionally, energy independence is a national security issue. Oil also offers high paying jobs, taxes, and royalties, things we often take for granted. For instance, California's university system was built by oil money. So was our county courthouse.

The other problem with Davis' narrative is that it ignores the fact that we are only one small part of this

planet. If anybody is on the front lines with regard to emitting excess carbon, it is China, not California! China is building coal fired power plants on a weekly basis! By 2030, China is slated to produce the equivalent of today's entire *global* output of CO2! On some days, 25% of the air pollution in Los Angeles is emanating from China! Any discussion that does not take into account the global impacts of rapid industrialization in countries like China, India and Pakistan is simply tilting at quixotic windmills that produce nothing but hot air!

In the meantime, the US has already reduced their CO2 emissions by 20% over the last few years thanks to the market driven switch from coal to natural gas, which was due in large part to more drilling! This 20% reduction is more than anybody anticipated could be achieved so quickly and it also saved consumers and the business sectors lots of money! Compare these savings with the heavy subsidies and losses required to keep renewables afloat in our otherwise free market economy.

California consumes more energy than it produces. Importing our energy when we could be producing our own is not pragmatic and the fact is, renewables present their own set of problems, including taking up inordinate amounts of land and sky while impacting plants and killing animals, including bald eagles, an endangered species.

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AB 917 would send charter schools to the back of the class

By Katy Grimes

The popularity and success of California's 900 charter schools aren't making everyone happy. Union leaders have tried to organize the non-union schools, but unsuccessfully. The bill would put farm workers under the state's Mandatory Mediation and Conciliation law. Under that law, the California Agriculture Labor Relations Board could impose wages, terms and conditions of employment on the farm workers and the company itself. The terms of an agreement would be decided by a single arbitrator/mediator, who meets with the employer and the union separately, and drafts the contract. Workers never would get to vote on the contract (as they do with collective-bargaining agreements).

New tactic: Hamper the charters' spread. AB 917, which just passed both houses of the Legislature, might accomplish that. If it becomes law, it also could be the first volley in a move to severely limit the reform.

Currently, according to the California Department of Education, "A charter school is usually created or organized by a group of teachers, parents and community leaders or a community-based organization, and it is usually sponsored by an existing local public school board or county board of education." Half of the teachers must approve the charter.

AB 917 would add a new requirement: one half of all employees in a school — including non-teachers — would be needed to convert a public school to a charter school. These "classified employees" include janitors, accountants, computer technicians, bus drivers, cooks, etc.. That would make it much more difficult to petition for a new charter school. Although such employees are critical to a school's function, they have no say in the heart of any school, curriculum and teaching.

Union backing

The Service Employees International Union is one of the sponsors of AB 917. It's also supported by the California Federation of Teachers and the California School Employees Association.

"Assembly Bill 917 would enable classified employees like you to be a part of the decision making process when a community considers converting a traditional public school into a charter school or starting a new charter school from the ground up," the SEIU said on its website. "We are deeply committed to the education of our students and know how critical good nutrition, clean classrooms, secure campuses, safe bus rides, and other services are to student learning. Yet, we're left out of decisions that impact the future of our

schools."

Strangely, AB 917 now is supported by the California Charter Schools Association, which wrote, "CCSA supports this bill, which gives greater flexibility to charter school petitioners when seeking signatures. It also allows more opportunity to bring a broader group of stakeholders into support of the charter school and as a part of the school community."

But the obvious problem for charters is that it will be a lot harder to get signatures from 50 percent of all employees than from just 50 percent of teachers. Moreover, teachers often have spearheaded charters because they seek a school environment free of academic red tape. Such concerns aren't likely to matter as much, or be as immediate, to a bus driver or accountant.

A decade ago the CCSA was much more a maverick organization. In recent years it has cozied up to the state's political establishment, even backing last year's Proposition 30 tax increase.

Critics claim charter schools are unregulated and include some poor performers. But as Lance Izumi, Senior Senior Director in Education Studies for the Pacific Research Institute, has consistently countered, critics always overlook the ability of charter schools to use their freedom in order to transform themselves if they are not performing well.

Charters contrast with today's education system — the behemoth education bureaucracy cannot and will not make changes to improve what ails it.

If AB 917 is passed, it could hamper the exemplary work charters have performed for poor and minority students. "The Amethod Public Schools, culture and procedures are rooted in traditional values such as discipline, respect, responsibility, work ethic, and community service," the Oakland Academy High School website reports. "Our mission is to teach inner city students to be different and stand out from their neighborhood peers, many of whom are locked in dismal underperforming schools and subsequently bleak futures."

Prior bills vetoed

This isn't the first controversial dance over charter schools. The California Federation of Teachers union sponsored AB 401 last year, which would have imposed a cap of 1,450 charters through 2017. However, Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed the bill.

(Continued on page 16)

UCSB Chancellor Yang: Please, No More Bull!

By Andy Caldwell

A few weeks, ago the News Press uncovered a very embarrassing scandal involving a University employee named Scott Bull. Mr. Bull, an Environmental Programs Advisor, was the subject of a whistleblower report conducted by university investigators implicating the university's Coastal Fund, Congresswoman Lois Capps, County Supervisors Salud Carbajal and Doreen Farr, plus the Environmental Defense Center, Surfriders and Goleta Valley Beautiful. The main allegation? Conflict of Interest with respect to Bull using his job at UCSB to further his other job at Goleta Valley Beautiful. The UCSB investigation's finding? The university found the allegations to be substantiated. The result? Scott Bull resigned and the university turned the report over to District Attorney Dudley. The rest of the story? Well, that is where we run into a lot more bull!

The university appears way to eager to drop these matters because Mr. Bull is no longer employed. They want the scandal to be over and the case to be closed as far as they are concerned. We don't have much confidence that the District Attorney is all that eager to pursue these matters either because apparently DA Joyce Dudley simply forwarded the results of the investigation to the Fair Political Practices

Commission. The problem here is that it appears that neither the university nor the DA is interested in finding out for themselves just how many other people are implicated in matters of wrongdoing in this community. Why is that?

The report indicates that Mr. Bull was using his university resources to work on behalf of Surfriders, the EDC and the campaigns of Carbajal, Farr and Capps. I honed in on just one particular aspect of this case, that is a reference in the investigation to an email that Scott Bull received and forwarded having to do with recruiting campaign workers for Supervisor Carbajal, Farr, and Congresswoman Capps, all apparent violations of University policies. I subsequently filed a California Public Records Act request with the university asking for the email record referenced in the report and was dismayed by the response I received.

Responding in her capacity as the Public Records Coordinator at UCSB, in a letter copied to University Chancellor Yang, Ms. Mari Tyrrel-Simpson had the temerity to inform me that "the privacy interest of these individuals outweighs the public's interest in obtaining the information because these two people were not the target of the investigation nor are they accused of wrongdoing. Disclosing the identity of these individuals does not add anything further to the public's understanding of the situation". UCSB thereby redacted the names on the email!

These people have a right to privacy? Knowing who was on the email thread won't further the public's understanding of the situation? Really? How convenient! The university's own report indicates that there was improper use of university resources to raise funds, do work and recruit workers on behalf of Surfriders, the Environmental Defense Center, Capps, Farr and Carbajal and simply because Bull chose to resign, there is nothing more to investigate? And the public should just butt out?

Perhaps, part of the problem here is that the University administration really doesn't see anything wrong with university employees working on political campaigns while at work using university resources? Actually, that admission wouldn't be much of a surprise! The Bull email indicates that a lot of campaign work was being done by campus democrats and "we" need to diversify that. Who is the "we" in this email? The university doesn't want the public to know the answer to this basic question. What is UCSB hiding and who are they protecting?

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Fighting Native Americans Over Land Continues Unabated

By Andy Caldwell

The board of supervisors, on a split vote, recommended the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians submit an application to obtain land use permits to build houses on their Camp 4 property. The problem is that the Tribe wasn't asking for permission to process a land use application. For the record, the Tribe had invited the county to a government to government dialogue to include discussions about the proposed annexation of the property to their reservation. This request for dialogue was submitted more than two years ago! The intention was to negotiate a type of revenue neutrality agreement akin to that which preceded Goleta's incorporation. But, instead of a dialogue, the Tribe's request was summarily dismissed.

This was not the first time the board of supervisors balked at recognizing the Tribe as a government entity even though the federal and state governments recognize the Tribe as such. No other government entities, such as UCSB or Vandenberg Air Force Base, or any city for that matter, go through the county process for development projects because they themselves are distinct government entities. The insult to injury? While the board declined the invitation to meet, they kept asking questions about the Tribe's intentions all the while decrying the lack of communication! Go figure.

Why would the Chumash volunteer to bypass and abandon the federal process of annexation in order to give the county permitting authority over the property in question? The permit process, to which Supervisors Farr, Wolf and Adam recommend the Tribe submit, is known as the county's black hole of environmental review. To put this into context, consider other applicants who went through the county process as outlined.

Do you remember what it took to build the Baccara? What about the Miramar? Its future is still in doubt, having run into so many delays that previous owners abandoned the project mid-stream. Naples has been in process for over twenty years and even though it already successfully cycled through the California Supreme Court, nobody can say for certain if anything will ever be built there. Even the non-controversial Ronald McDonald camp for kids with cancer didn't make it out of the process alive.

There is no denying the county's permit path is fraught with uncertainty and laden with millions of dollars in costs, years of delay, endless appeals, and litigation. It represents a graveyard of dreams, ambition, and vision. Houses, hotels, and wineries are now routinely



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challenged. No wonder the Tribe is not interested in the county land use process.

What is lost on many is the fact that the Chumash don't need the county's support to annex land via the federal process. Nonetheless, trying to be inclusive and conciliatory, the Tribe offered the opportunity for dialogue and were rebuffed. In vain, Supervisors Carbajal and Lavagnino urged the board to not look a gift horse in the mouth and to think about the message they were sending to Washington, D.C., a message that could not be clearer. The county is not interested in acknowledging the Tribe as a bonafide government. Further, some residents have demonstrated the will to fight any and all things pertaining to the Tribe, including the request to annex a six-acre parcel submitted over ten years ago. The most extreme won't even acknowledge the Tribe exists!

This experience gives credence as to why the BIA and the fee to trust process exists in the first place. In essence, we have been fighting Native Americans over what was their land for 400 years. The will to negotiate and compromise simply does not exist in some communities and among certain politicians

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County's Colossal and Costly Blunder

By Andy Caldwell

The outcome of the recent hearing whereby the board of supervisors on a 3-2 vote declined to entertain a government to government dialogue with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians might go down as one of the most costliest blunders of all time.

The Tribe had been asking for a dialogue for over two years primarily having to do with their application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to annex 1400 acres to their reservation. While they were waiting for a response, the Chumash held a public meeting to discuss their plans to build houses on the property and gave the community an opportunity to give input. By the time the board finally agreed to have a hearing last week to discuss entering into a dialogue, the Chumash had already submitted the annexation application. Yet, the Tribe was still willing to discuss financial arrangements with the county in order to mollify the county's fears associated with the loss of tax revenue should the land become part of the reservation. Unfortunately, only Supervisors Lavagnino and Carbajal recognized the value of the opportunity squandered by their fellow board members.

Instead of accepting the olive branch and negotiating the best deal she could on behalf of the residents of the valley, Supervisor Doreen Farr instead showed the Tribe the way to the elevator! She suggested they take their plans for the housing projects downstairs to the Planning department and attempt to navigate the county's labyrinth planning process and conform to the Santa Ynez Valley Plan. Supervisor Wolf piped in, emphasizing just how important following community plans is in her estimation. Could it be that neither of these two supervisors have actually read the SY Community Plan?

The Santa Ynez Community Plan states the following: Policy LUG-SYV-6: The county shall oppose the loss of jurisdictional authority over land within the Plan where the intended use is inconsistent with the goals, policies and development standards of the plan or in the absence of a satisfactory legally enforceable agreement. The plan goes on to say the following: Action LUG-SYV-6.1: The County shall pursue legally enforceable government to government agreements with entities seeking to obtain jurisdiction over land within the plan area to encourage compatibility with the surrounding area and mitigate environmental and financial impacts to the county.

Oops! Per the requirements of the community plan, the Tribe requested the government to government

dialogue and they were rebuffed. The Tribe also offered to mitigate the financial impacts to the county and the county refused to negotiate. Now what? The Tribe did what they were required to do in accordance with the plan and the Board is on record as disregarding the provisions of the same.

I am no lawyer, but I can imagine the county may have just given up future claims should the annexation be approved by the BIA. After all, the official comment period on the annexation application has already commenced. The board's vote could be construed as an official decision to forego government to government dialogue.

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A Different Kind of Union Label

By Andy Caldwell

If you are still not convinced that organized labor has the democratic legislature in their pocket, just read Senate Bill 556 (Corbett). On the surface, this bill requires contract employees to wear a distinct uniform, patch or other identifier to ensure there is no confusion between contract employees and employees directly hired by employers. The legislature is trying to pass this off as an altruistic safety measure, it is anything but.

This law is sponsored by unions worried about the growth in the number of contract employees replacing regular employees in both the public and private sector. This trend is a result of contractor labor being less expensive and presenting less risk than the routine employment relationship between an employer and the hired help. Contract labor limits liability. Contract labor also allows employers to adjust to the ebbs and flows of production and service levels in the economy without all the risks associated with hiring and firing employees. In essence, hiring and firing employees can be very expensive. It is much easier to initiate and terminate contractual relationships.

Strict laws ensure employers are not allowed to circumvent employment law by pretending the help is a contractor when in reality the person is an actual employee under direct control of the employer. A contractor in most cases gets higher wages than an employee, but they are on their own with respect to certain benefits, including vacation, sick leave and pensions. Most importantly, if they screw up, they alone are liable for their failure except in the case of gross negligence. These laws are sufficient to prevent abuse but obviously, the unions supporting SB 556 want to do more to preserve the few union jobs left in the state that are threatened by contractors on payroll.

Ultimately, unions are suffering the consequences of their own success. Their hard work and sacrifice has led to workplace protections which now accrue to the entire workforce, including many unrepresented employees. I believe we owe a debt of gratitude for the wages, benefits, and working conditions won by union members in the course of the last century. However, as is the case in many instances, those who were the powerless have now become the powerful.

Unions have gained a lot of authority and rights via the implementation of laws such as SB 556 that exert a form of political control over our economy. The downside is their penchant for winning so many considerations and concessions has made the unions in particular, and the state in general, less able to compete in the

market place. These trends also explain why the strongest unions remaining in California represent public sector workers. With the exception posed by contract employees, public union members are shielded from competition. SB 556 is designed to address the threat contractors present to union employees.

SB 556 really isn't about uniforms or patches. The real goal is to increase liability associated with hiring contractors. A win-win for unions and their attorneys.

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Genuine California Danger Signs

by Andy Caldwell

Our State legislature is trying to save us from the dangers associated with contractors! SB 556 will require all independent contractors to wear a sign warning the public that they are not a directly employee of the company they work for. This is such a great idea, why not expand the scope of the bill? Why require contractors alone to wear a "danger sign"? There are many other people in our society that pose a genuine risk to our well-being. If it is okay to make contractors wear a sign, how about requiring all the other people who represent an incontrovertible threat to public health and safety, to do the same? In this state of ours, governed by obvious lunatics, wouldn't you rather see the following signs worn by the appropriate people?:

I represent a form of corporate welfare. You know me as the green energy sector. I am making big bucks but my company is about to go bankrupt. I did not invest a dime in this company having relied on nothing but grants and loans from you the taxpayers. Thanks!

I am a public sector union member. I condemn Wall Street and the 1% but in reality my pension is dependent upon exorbitant Wall Street returns and only members of the 1% have a rich pension like mine, but don't tell anybody, it is a secret.

I am a criminal recently released from prison years before my sentence was up. Governor Jerry Brown wants to blame the federal government for my early release but we all know the truth. He did nothing to increase the capacity of the prisons in California when he had the chance and don't expect him to do anything now.

I am a perpetual welfare case and so is the rest of my family. I get subsidized: housing, child care, food, job

training, and health care. If you add up the value of these benefits, I have a higher standard of living than I would if I worked in a minimum wage job, which is why I will never voluntarily quit receiving welfare.

I am a gang banger. I am not just some neighborhood kid up to no good. I am the equivalent of a local franchise owner of a nationwide crime syndicate. I sell drugs, deal in stolen property, and engage in systematic campaigns of terror, mayhem, and murder to make a living. Your streets are not safe as long as I am free to roam, but you already know that, don't you?

I am homeless because I refuse to stop taking drugs and abusing alcohol, and I am not particularly motivated to sober up and get a job because I don't want to and you can't make me. Unlike some who are homeless because of misfortune or disease, being homeless is actually my lifestyle choice. Give me money, sympathy, shelter, and care!

I am a child molester. Been in and out of prison all my life. Is that your child?

I am a mentally ill ticking time bomb walking your streets. My family desperately pleads with law enforcement to take me off the street because they know I am going to commit some random act of violence, but there is nothing they or anybody else can do. How pathetic is that?

I am a job killer in the State Legislature, a democrat of course. I sponsored this bill.

I am a job creator and taxpayer getting nothing in return except for being blamed for not paying more taxes. I am moving to Texas and guess what? I won't have to wear this sign anymore!

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Central Coast Town Hall

PLF Regional Briefing on AB 32 Lawsuit

Tuesday, September 10

Radisson Hotel, 3455 Airpark Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m \$20 for box lunch

RSVP to Maribel Ochoa of United Ag at (800) 223-4590 or e-mail:

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Concrete Plans to Battle Climate Change *By Andy Caldwell*

Governor Jerry Brown can't have it both ways with respect to planning to enhance our state water supply. He can't be warning of a dramatic shift in weather patterns in the State and still plan for the future as if there will be no change to these same historic weather patterns! If weather patterns are shifting, then new plans should take into account the anticipated changes. It only makes sense.

Wayne Lusvardi, writing for CalWatchdog, informs us the Central Coast could be central to any future plans to alleviate the historic dilemma to supply semi-arid Southern California with the water it needs. Instead of spending billions banking water in the North and bringing it South via the State water pipeline, Lusvardi points to a suggestion that we increase the reservoirs here on the Central Coast, including Lake Cachuma, and reverse flow the State water pipeline! It is an interesting concept that merits consideration.

Lusvardi cites a 2012 Climate change study entitled, "When It Rains It Pours" by the Environment California's Research Policy which suggests we should build water storage facilities here rather than in the Sacramento Delta. The study takes into account rain data documenting the increasing number of big storms that hit the Central Coast as compared to the decreasing number of storms in Northern California. The study suggests we should plan to take advantage of these storm events and capture as much water as possible in order to share it with our thirsty neighbors.

This discussion brings up several points that should capture the attention of community leaders throughout the Central Coast. The Santa Barbara metro area relies upon Lake Cachuma and State water for 92% of its needs. The call to build additional reservoir capacity to share with the rest of the state notwithstanding, wouldn't it make sense to build more capacity for our own uses?

We actually did expand the storage capacity of Lake Cachuma a few years ago, however, we expanded it for fish not people! We installed flash boards to raise the holding capacity but we dedicated the extra water to aid steelhead trout in their migration to the ocean. Of course, everybody knows that this was a multi-million dollar exercise in futility. That is because we only let out enough water to strand the fish further downstream of an otherwise dry river bed! Santa Barbara would have to suffer a water moratorium were we

(Continued on page 15)



PACIFIC JUSTICE
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Petition to Overturn School Bathroom Bill Now Available

Sacramento, CA—A petition to place the recently enacted California School Bathroom Bill, AB 1266, up to the people for vote is now available for download online. A link to the referendum petition can be found on Pacific Justice Institute's special website, GenderInsanity.com.

In order for the referendum to be successful, supporters will need to acquire roughly 500,000 signed petitions from citizens across the state by early November. If successful, the Bathroom Bill will then be placed on hold before it goes up for vote in the next State general election in November of 2014.

Brad Dacus, President of Pacific Justice Institute (PJI), said, "The passage of this bill is nothing less than irresponsible behavior by State lawmakers. To jeopardize the safety and privacy of young children all for the fear of offending the forceful LGBT lobby is disturbing." He continued, "We're happy that parents and citizens now have the recourse to challenge this law and make sure *all* students are protected."

In addition to signing the referendum petition, PJI also encourages parents to download from PJI.org the [Notice of Reasonable Expectation of Privacy](http://PJI.org/NoticeofReasonableExpectationofPrivacy) to give to their public school administrators. This notice helps protect students from not just privacy concerns that the Bathroom Bill and similar school policies bring, but also issues from the Common Core standards.

Sign the Petition Against The School Bathroom Bill

Go to www.genderinsanity.com

Roger and the Lone Wolf

By Andy Caldwell

Supervisor Janet Wolf can expect a strong challenge if Goleta Mayor Roger Aceves runs for the 2nd District seat. Roger is a moderate with valuable real world experience and an independent thinker who can bring a fresh perspective to county government. Janet Wolf, on the other hand, regularly takes extreme positions, oftentimes leaving her as the lone vote against her fellow board members. Further, Wolf is considered extremely recalcitrant in her willingness to compass the reality of the county's fiscal crisis.

When 2nd District voters gauge these two candidates, they would do well to consider them in terms of two distinct functions. First off, the 2nd district supervisor represents Goleta, the City of Santa Barbara and Hope Ranch. Practically speaking, however, everybody in this county has five supervisors, as all five vote on every matter that comes before the Board. What this means is that voters should pay attention to the working relationship that a candidate has with their fellow board members as this can be an accurate gauge of their capacity for success. Voters accordingly should recall the time Wolf lamented the fact she was forced to work with children, a reference to her fellow board members!

Supervisor Wolf has two glaring problems with respect to her serving as the board's representative of Goleta. The first is her insistence to allow Goleta Beach to wash into the ocean as a result of her capitulating to the Environmental Defense Center's extreme managed retreat strategy. Her second shortcoming has to do with the fact that she has done absolutely nothing to alleviate the City's financial

suffering arising from its punitive revenue neutrality agreement with the county.

With regard to how her votes affect the City of Santa Barbara, residents should ask, does crime matter? If so, voters should consider the time Wolf voted to give the Planning Department more money than it asked for while leaving the District Attorney's office high and dry. Additionally, Wolf has been the most strident person on the board, over the years, fighting against the North County Jail, which when constructed, would allow more Santa Barbara criminals to serve out their full term in the South County jail once this facility is relieved of overcrowding.

Regarding her representation of Hope Ranch, perhaps you recall that Wolf alone was willing to capitulate to the Coastal Commission staff when they tried to hijack our coastal plan? This would have severely restricted the Hope Ranch lifestyle.

Wolf didn't make any friends in the north county during her tenure thus far. She was the most strident opponent to building a recreational facility for the kids in Cuyama, the poorest children in the county, who are otherwise more than an hour away from such amenities. It was Wolf alone who, while seeking to avoid a penalty from the US Fish and Wildlife Service having to do with county staff being charged with killing a tiger salamander, opted to get out of the fine by throwing our farmers under the bus. Luckily, this was another 4-1 vote.

Run, Roger, Run!

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Weiner, Spitzer and...Landecker?

By Andy Caldwell

Politicians behaving badly is nothing new. What is new is the expectation that voters will forgive and forget misdeeds that led to resignations and reelect these individuals despite their past indiscretions. New York has Anthony Weiner and Eliot Spitzer. Santa Barbara has David Landecker. He once resigned in disgrace and is now running again for City Council.

Some people will think it is unfair to characterize Landecker with the likes of Weiner and Spitzer, in view of the fact that Landecker's misdeed and subsequent resignation happened so long ago. Should we not allow a person to redeem himself? I would agree were it not for the fact that Landecker served as the executive director of the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) for the last five years. There are some similarities between switching a price tag in a hardware store and his work at the EDC that reveal an apparent flaw in this man's values and vision.

Have you ever considered why a relatively successful businessman, lawyer and city council member would help himself to a discount in the first place? Just how did he justify that artificially and subjectively devaluing an item by switching price tags in a hardware store was the right thing to do? He was not tempted because he was poor or desperate. He could afford the item and he also had the means and opportunity to shop elsewhere for a better deal if he felt the price was too high. But, instead, he took it upon himself to affix the price he was willing to pay to the disadvantage of the store owner.

This proclivity to create a business transaction on his own terms to the detriment of the store owner is indicative of how the EDC operates, functions and interfaces with the local community and property owners. I can

give you countless examples of how the EDC tries to make up its own rules and convince decision makers to accept their misdeeds. In those instances when the EDC prevails, the public loses! For an example, look no further than Goleta Beach.

Under the leadership of Landecker, the EDC was the power broker behind the scenes which dictated the terms that now serve to threaten the very existence of this beach. The EDC lobbied Supervisor Wolf and the Coastal Commission hard and heavy to abandon boulders that have proven to be effective in protecting the beach. There is no law against using boulders to shore things up! But, instead of boulders, the EDC maintains the way to protect the beach is by letting a significant portion of it wash into the ocean! Does that make any sense at all? Adopting this strategy known as managed retreat in the name of saving the beach is perpetrating a fraud!

Another current example of Landecker and the EDC employing bait and switch techniques has to do with the Santa Maria Energy Project. The Air Pollution Control District, the Planning and Development Dept., in addition to other government jurisdictions, believe new projects can go forward if they mitigate the carbon emissions of their project within a range of 15-30% and the project was processed based upon these reasonable standards. But then the EDC came in at the last minute demanding 100% mitigation!

What the EDC does is not against the law, but it serves to distort the law by changing the rules of the game in a manner that is neither fair or reasonable. I can see how Landecker landed at the helm of the EDC, but for the same reason he was a good fit there, I don't believe he should be reelected.

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Andy Caldwell is The Voice of Reason for the California Central Coast

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The Death of Modesty

By Andy Caldwell

The original context of providing “reasonable accommodation” had to do with the consideration of people with special needs so that they could enjoy the things the rest of us take for granted. The effort to accommodate included things like Braille language in elevators, and wheel chair ramps at intersections. Even though the cost to government and the business sector was incredibly high compared to the number of people who actually benefited from the law, not too many people complained because it seemed like the compassionate and right thing to do. This goal of accommodation has now reached its limit. It is past the boundaries of what is reasonable.

I can’t recall ever seeing a piece of legislation that made less sense and so violated the principles of common decency as AB1266 by Assemblyman Tom Amiano. This bill, signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown, portends to accommodate people according to their perceived gender identity but it does so at the expense of the rest of the community. It invades and tramples on the innocence and privacy of our children.

There is no denying the fact that our society today is made up of heterosexuals, homosexuals, bisexuals, and the transgendered. We already have laws preventing discrimination and affording accommodation to the same. However, there is now another category called the “questioning”. This is a group of people who are not ready to make a decision to become transgendered by sex reassignment surgery. Some have made the decision to keep the gender identity they were born

with and simply cross dress or who knows what! Nevertheless, if these individuals claim they relate to their perceived gender in contrast to their birth gender, they now have the right to go into a bathroom, shower, and locker room of their choice. Further, they can join the sports team of their choice regardless of their actual gender.

Anybody who is a parent is aghast to think of the real world consequences that will occur as a result of this idiotic legislation. The havoc and heartache. The outrage arising from the moral turpitude. What is a father and mother to think of their prepubescent or post-pubescent daughter being exposed to an intact male? How many mothers will allow their daughters to be on a sports team if it means changing and showering with boys? Other than suing on the basis of the right to privacy afforded by the California State Constitution, it will be difficult to defend our children lest we ourselves be charged with gender bias, discrimination, or perhaps even a hate crime.

Some children will no longer be able to use school facilities and compete on sports teams because their privacy, conscience and principles will be violated as a result of this intrusive assault on modesty and decency. The goal of accommodation in this case results in alienation and exclusion of others and will surely give rise to various forms of sexual abuse and violence. This legislation will cause more problems than it solves.

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Concrete Plans to Battle Climate Change Cont.

(Continued from page 12)

to release enough water into the Santa Ynez River to realize the goal of restoring trout runs.

In reality, the fish in the river only stand a chance to make it to the ocean in the event of a big storm. Coincidentally, this report should lead our elected officials to the same conclusion. Only capturing the water from big storms can help our perpetual threat of drought conditions.

The next time you hear politicians and activists clamoring for us to prepare for climate change, challenge them to come up with something concrete in addressing our dilemma, such as plans for a concrete dam!

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AB 917 would send charter schools to the back of the class

Cont.

(Continued from page 6)

In the veto message Brown said:

"Charter schools are a small but important part of the California public school system. They vary by size, mission, governing structure and educational philosophy. Their purpose is to allow parents, teachers and other interested citizens to form public schools outside the more detailed regulatory framework of the regular school system.

"They are profoundly difficult to establish and even more difficult to maintain and grow in excellence. Having started two myself, I know whereof I speak.

"Notwithstanding the important contributions classified staff make to the operation of a school, this bill would unnecessarily complicate an already difficult charter school petition process.

"I believe the existing law is tough enough."

However, Brown sent a loud message in one of his first acts as governor when he fired seven members of the state board of education who were charter supporters and school reformers.

Yet as mayor of Oakland, Brown also was a major supporter of charters, in particular in the poor areas of the city. As AB 917 now rests on his desk for his signature or veto, the future of charters in California now depends on him.

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