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Labor Day And The Birth Of Socialism In America

By Andy Caldwell

Last week, we discussed the kissing cousins of the affordability crisis, woke Democrats and the Democratic Socialists of America. Now it is time to talk about their common grandparent: the union movement in America, which comprises some of the most economically illiterate people in America.

How so?

Because too many union leaders consistently attack and undermine the source of their own salaries and pensions.

Do you remember the "Occupy Wall Street" movement? That was created by the Service Employees International Union or SEIU. SEIU was supposedly protesting the "1%". However, these morons and the media glossed over the fact that nearly every union pension fund in America is invested in, and dependent upon, returns on investments on Wall Street! Furthermore, SEIU is now the primary sponsor of Proposition 40, the tax on the assets (billionaires are already paying taxes on their income) of billionaires and their trusts in CA. Again, you can't fix this type of stupid. Billionaires are the primary source of the taxes that pay the wages of SEIU employees working in state and local government, some 750,000 of them.

According to Professor **Jeffrey Sklansky** of the University of Illinois at Chicago, "On May 1, 1886, unions of skilled workers, organized by their crafts or trades, led a nationwide general strike for the eight-hour day. They were joined by radical socialists, militant anarchists, and many members of the Knights of Labor. More than 100,000 workers took part across the country."

Sklansky continues, "The most dramatic demonstrations happened in Chicago, which had become the second-largest city in the U.S. after years of swift growth. Nearly 40,000 striking Chicago workers shut down much of that burgeoning industrial, agricultural, and commercial hub. Three days later, a bomb thrown at a rally in Haymarket Square killed seven police officers, sparking a sweeping nationwide crackdown on labor activism."

Sklansky writes, "In 1889, socialist trade unions and workers' parties, meeting in Paris for the first congress of a new Socialist International, proclaimed May 1 an international workers' holiday. They were partly following the lead of the new American Federation of Labor, which had called for renewed

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Gov. Gavin Newsom Adds To California's Illicit Gun Control Laws

By Katy Grimes

Newsom signs 10 new gun control laws

Gun Owners of California warned in August of 20 bad gun control bills sitting on California Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk awaiting his signature or veto.

On Saturday Gov. Newsom signed 10 of those gun-control bills. They take effect January 1, 2027.

"California has been a leader in gun safety because survivors, advocates, researchers, law enforcement, legislators and communities have continued to come together to turn hard-earned lessons into action," Gov. Newsom said. "Today's laws continue that work – using data, prevention and proven tools to help keep firearms out of dangerous situations and support communities affected by violence."

Newsom claims the state's gun control measures prevent tragedy, including gun violence restraining order. But nothing could be further from the truth.

It did not save the Sacramento woman who was stalked and executed recently, even with a restraining order, by 22-year-old Rohit Rohit, an illegal alien let into the country by the Biden administration. On September 8, 2026, after months of stalking 38-year-old Shalini Thakur, including hiding an AirTag on her car, entering her apartment, deflating a tire, leaving items at her door, and violating a restraining order she obtained in May, he confronted her in a Panera Bread parking lot on Howe Avenue, chased her, shot her multiple times, and fired a close-range shot to the head as she lay on the ground. He then fled and died by suicide during a Highway 50 standoff with deputies a short time later, according to KCRA and the Sheriff's department.

According to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Homeland Security, Rohit Rohit, an Indian national, illegally crossed the border into Arizona in August 2023, was arrested by Border Patrol, and was later released. He then lived in the Sacramento area.

The newest gun control bills are:

AB 1743 — GOC explained This bill expands access to firearm tracing data for academic and policy research purposes, allowing any town, city, or county, state government agency, California community college, California State University, or the University of California to request this information from the Department of



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Justice.

GOC has never minded research; what we don't like is research with a bias and a political axe to grind. The bill expands the distribution of firearm tracing data maintained by the California Department of Justice. While presented as a transparency and research measure, A B 1743 significantly broadens access to sensitive firearm trace information and shifts the law from allowing discretionary sharing of data to a wide range of government entities. Distributing such broad dealer-level trace data creates the risk that lawful firearm retailers could be singled out or publicly criticized despite.

AB 1753 — Tightens protective-order procedures; requires surrender of ammunition as well as firearms; adds some 10-year possession bans; allows enforcement of certain out-of-state extreme-risk orders starting in 2028.

AB 1943 — Requires schools to send parents a "secure firearm storage" notice.

AB 1974 — Authorizes local law enforcement to run voluntary temporary firearm-storage programs.

AB 2047 — "California Firearm Printing Prevention Act." If ASTM publishes a standard for 3D-printer "firearm blocking technology," DOJ must issue rules; sales of non-compliant printers could later be restricted. No immediate ban. An off-ramp exists if no standard is published by July 1, 2029.

AB 2339 — Tightens reporting of certain juvenile and mental-health firearm prohibitions.

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High Gas Prices? The Diablo Is On The Dais!

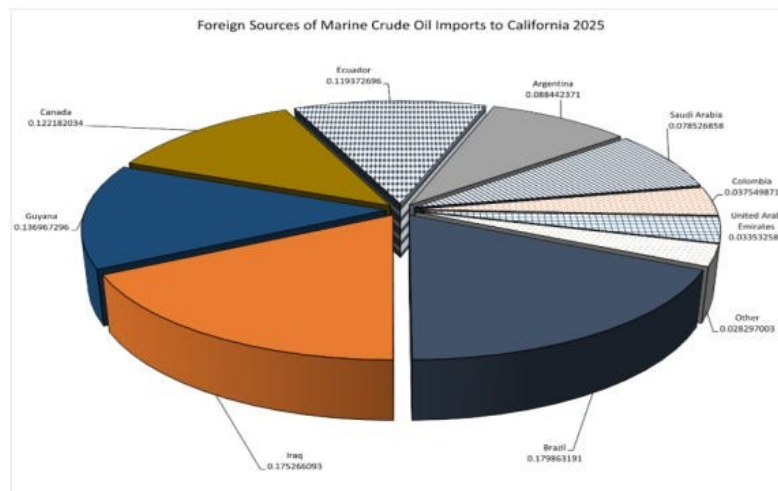
By Andy Caldwell

Santa Barbara County supervisors did their part to make fuel more expensive when they passed an ordinance to ban new onshore oil and gas drilling in the county. You can say that the supes didn't miss the elephant in the room – the foreign oil tanker – when they took this action.

As California has been shutting down the oil industry in our state, the only thing that has been accomplished is making us more dependent on foreign oil. That is, we didn't eradicate our use of oil, only the local source of the same. And the countries from which we are now getting our oil are considered "gross polluters," because they lack the pollution control measures we have in CA. So, the action by the board will increase the world's ghg's and genuine pollution, a fine example of virtue signaling, I might add.

The volume of imports we are discussing? California now imports 289 million barrels of oil every year. Ignorance of this dramatic shift to foreign sources, including the Middle East, is not bliss for consumers, especially when it comes to gasoline prices, as our pain at the pump is a result of these types of policy choices in our

Foreign Sources of Crude Oil Imports to California 2025



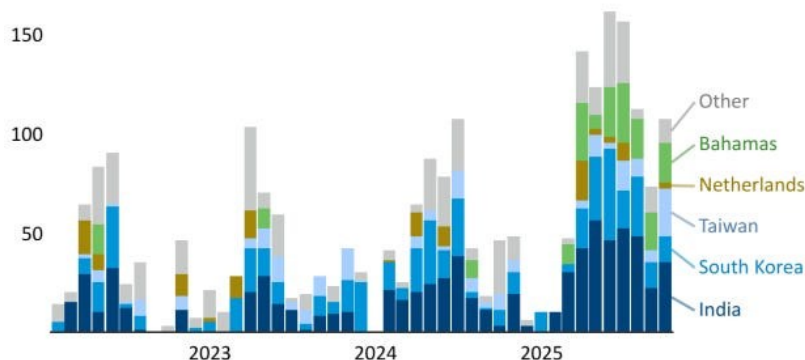
Not only that, but now we are also importing gasoline, 126 million barrels of refined gasoline, much of which comes from half-way around the world, including Asia, India, South Korea, and Taiwan, which account for two-thirds of California's gasoline imports.

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California's gasoline imports have increased ahead of refinery closures

California gasoline imports by country of origin (thousand barrels per day)

200



Note: Chart created December 4, 2025

Source: U.S. EIA



Gov. Gavin Newsom Bans U.S. Soldiers From Entering California

By Daniel Greenfield

Does a new civil war begin in California?

Gov. Gavin Newsom, currently polling 4th in the 2028 Dem presidential primary behind AOC, took another victory lap claiming that he protected California from 'election interference' especially from the federal government, by signing a bunch of illegal laws banning examination of ballots.

Three of these are especially problematic.

AB 282 (Pellerin) – Makes it a felony 1) to seize or cause or assist in the seizure of ballots, election records, or certified voting technology before election results are certified by the elections official and 2) for any person with authority to direct another person subject to their supervision or authority to seize ballots, election records, or certified voting technology before election results are certified.

AB 1664 (Jackson) – Requires a local agency, political subdivision, or elections official to provide notice to the Secretary of State and the California Attorney General immediately, but no later than one calendar day, after becoming aware of any warrant, subpoena, or active law enforcement investigation pertaining to the search, seizure, or retention of any election records or certified voting technology.

SB 1418 (Cervantes) – Makes it a crime to take election materials or voting technology from the custody of election officials and expands the types of materials required for preservation if an election contest or criminal proceeding is ongoing.

These are all, based on the public statements from Newsom, AG Rob Bonta and other top officials, intended to block federal election oversight.

"Donald Trump won't stop until he can exert dictatorial control over your free vote and disenfranchise millions of people this November. California will stop him at every opportunity. We have no bigger task than fighting to protect the right to vote from interference and meddling – the future of democracy is on the line. These bills today build upon the wall California has built to safeguard our electoral process."

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Governor Gavin Newsom

California previously got away with blocking cooperation with federal law enforcement on immigration, including by threatening local law enforcement with penalties for cooperating with federal law enforcement. This secessionist stuff is now being boosted by also blocking cooperation with federal election oversight.

Now, personally, I think that federal election oversight is controversial, but this precedent was created through civil rights act enforcement and Dems were quite enthusiastic when it was happening in southern states, not in southern California. Too bad, the precedent is there, and it can be used.

Passing state laws to block federal investigations is creeping rather close to a Fort Sumter

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The Intersectionality Of Solar, Oil, And Housing

By Andy Caldwell

If you had to pick one issue in California that best represents the affordability crisis, it would have to be the cost of housing. Housing everywhere is, of course, affected by the law of supply and demand, but in CA, this “law” is completely distorted by government regulations, red tape, and other priorities.

Take the following situation, for example: Santa Barbara County officials will allow 16,000 acres of farm and ranch lands to be converted to solar farms and battery energy systems while helping to sabotage the efforts of several cities to expand their boundaries to meet state mandates for housing. These mandates require virtually every county in the state to add tens of thousands of new homes in the aggregate, and that is just for starters.

The problem with fulfilling these mandates in Santa Barbara County, which has no shortage of land available for housing, has to do with government impediments to the same. Decades ago, the County of Santa Barbara drew a line around the boundary of every city in the county and zoned everything outside those limits “agriculture.” It made no difference if these “ag” lands have no water, poor soils, steep gradients, and the like. Moreover, not only are these ag-zoned lands pretty much off limits to housing, farmers also must go through arduous permitting processes to build facilities to process their ag products, including coolers, greenhouses, and wineries. The county treats “ag-zoned” properties as defacto open space, *thereby limiting development of any kind* on these properties.

LAFCO Adding Insult to Injury

What’s worse is that while county supervisors can re-zone ag properties that are in the unincorporated areas of the county to allow for the construction of housing, industrial, and retail, the cities have no such authority. Cities must go through an organization known as LAFCO, the Local Agency Formation Commission, to annex the “ag” lands surrounding their city to convert the same to urban type uses. The LAFCO board is comprised of a couple of county supervisors, city reps, and public members.

The insult to injury? The hypocrites on the Board of Supervisors conveniently rezone ag properties in the county to urban uses as they see fit by way of their

own authority, while the county supervisors who sit on the LAFCO board do everything within their power to block annexations by the cities that would allow them to expand their urban footprint.

This is extremely problematic by virtue of a law known as RHNA, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation, which requires all jurisdictions to facilitate housing growth in their communities to facilitate population growth. If your city is surrounded by ag, you either must annex land or rely on infill projects.

Your only two choices are to go up or out!

Below are the current RHNA cycle numbers, (24,856 units total) thru 2031 for our region:

6th-Cycle RHNA Allocation by Income Level (Adopted 2021)
Total Determination = 24, 856

Jurisdiction	RHNA Allocation	Allocation by Income Level			
		Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate
Carpinteria	901	286	132	135	348
Santa Barbara	8,001	2,147	1,381	1,441	3,032
Goleta	1,837	682	324	370	461
Uninc. (South Coast)	4,142	809	957	1,051	1,325
Lompoc	2,248	166	262	311	1,509
Uninc. (Lompoc Valley)	521	209	72	54	186
Santa Maria	5,418	1,032	536	731	3,119
Guadalupe	431	3	24	77	327
Uninc. (Santa Maria Valley)	721	262	118	118	223
Solvang	191	55	39	22	75
Buellton	165	55	37	30	43
Uninc. (Santa Ynez Valley)	280	93	53	57	77
County Total	24,856	5,799	3,935	4,397	10,725
Total Unincorporated	5,664	1,373	1,200	1,280	1,811

Doing the Math for Land Conversions

For example, the City of Santa Maria, which is surrounded by actual farm fields, has done its best to avoid conversion of the same. But the RHNA process is currently requiring the city to build another 5,400 units (to accommodate some 15,000 people) by 2031. Beyond 2031, the city expects it will have to build another 15,000 units to accommodate another 34,000 people by 2050.

Santa Maria is proposing to annex up to one thousand acres to accommodate this growth. But LAFCO is insisting that this growth be absorbed by way of infill projects via converting empty spaces within the

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We're Ignoring The Cause Of Homelessness, And How To Solve It

By Michele Steeb

While we cannot expect every homeless person to become a homeowner, or that every journey will look the same, all people deserve a system that treats them as if they were created to flourish.

Owning a home, or at least having one, has long been considered an essential part of the American dream.

But what if Americans judged success not by whether people had housing, but by whether they discovered – or rediscovered – who they were created to become?

Imagine the hundreds of thousands of people who could be strengthening cities like New York, Seattle and Los Angeles had local leaders invested in systems designed to restore lives and cultivate human flourishing, rather than embracing the federal government's Housing First approach adopted in 2013.

Housing First made housing placement the primary intervention and measure of success, while removing expectations for treatment, sobriety, employment or progress toward self-sufficiency. In doing so, it too often treated the symptom of homelessness – lack of housing – while leaving the deeper human crises that frequently accompany and perpetuate it unaddressed.

Consider Julianna's story. In 2017, she entered the program for homeless women and children that I ran for 13 years, a program that saw beyond addiction to the woman she was created to become.

She arrived addicted to methamphetamine, trapped in violent relationships, physically abused and on the verge of permanently losing custody of her two young sons. She had lost her career, her confidence and nearly everything that had once defined her.

Today, she is a single mother raising those same two boys, four promotions into a career with the same employer that we introduced her to in 2019, and is now the proud owner of her first home.

Treating the root causes of homelessness

Julianna didn't just need housing. She needed recovery – and a program that expected her to flourish.

As a young adult, she had excelled in school and quickly built a promising career in the fitness industry. Then someone handed her methamphetamine.



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Within a remarkably short period of time, addiction stole nearly everything.

Her promising career disappeared. Violent relationships became normal to her. She endured repeated physical abuse.

One son was born into chaos. Her second entered the world with drugs in his system. Child protective services workers took both boys away from her.

Thankfully, her mother and sister stepped in to care for her sons, while pleading with Julianna to get help.

By then, addiction had buried her hope, but not her potential.

In our clean and sober Sacramento-based program, the fog of addiction began to lift. With clarity came

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Addressing The County's Housing Credibility Gap

By Andy Caldwell

I asked the County Board of Supervisors a simple question. Why would you rezone 16,000 acres of ag land for solar panels, when CA has an excess of the same, but you won't rezone the same amount of land for housing, considering the dearth of the same? The only answer I got was a grimace from Supervisor **Laura Capps**.

While the left, including Democratic socialists, want to blame the high price of everything on capitalism, the fact is, they don't know much of anything about the law of supply and demand, and neither will they admit that some things are in short supply on purpose.

Thirty-five years ago, I came across a quote that motivated me to pursue a career as a watchdog in Santa Barbara County. The quote is especially relevant because it came from a county planning and development director whose job it was to *stall* development in the county!

Here is the quote: "The cost of preserving the high quality of life in Santa Barbara County includes limiting opportunities for others, it limits economic mobility, but that is a legitimate political choice." That statement, of course, is not capitalistic in nature, it is entirely elitist.

Building Homes for County Employees

Years later, when the county suggested that affordable housing be built in the Santa Ynez Valley, I was also told by a valley resident that "The Santa Ynez Valley is for those who can afford it and we want to keep it that way." That was the buzzsaw that planners ran into when the county tried to zone the valley for its "fair share" of affordable housing.

I can honestly understand the sentiment to a point. People who live on the South Coast or in the SY Valley believe they live in paradise and they want to make sure nobody and nothing is going to spoil it.

However, **Laura Capps'** phony solution to the housing crisis, to prove she has bleeding-heart *bonafides*, is to build housing on county land for government workers. That is, take care of the "county family," a term that refers to county staff. What about the rest of the community, us serfs, what are we supposed to do?

As I mentioned last week, the county is sabotaging the efforts of several cities to expand their boundaries to meet state mandates for housing. They do this in two ways. First, by helping to block approval of city



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limits expansions via the Local Agency Formation Commission, LAFCO, and second, by removing the financial wherewithal for cities to annex by way of a concept known as revenue neutrality.

Revenue Neutrality

Revenue neutrality is a somewhat optional condition the county can impose on cities, by way of negotiations, who take land out of the county jurisdiction. Supposedly, it will make the county whole for lost property tax, sales tax, and bed tax revenues because of the jurisdictional boundary adjustment. Goleta is a prime example of a community that got assaulted by the county when it went through the process of becoming a city.

However, the concept is entirely bogus when a city is annexing undeveloped land because the county isn't going to lose much of anything in, or by, the process. Nevertheless, even if the land in question is undeveloped, the county insists on gaining future "lost" revenues. That is happening right now as it affects the Richard's Ranch development in the Santa Maria Valley.

None of this negates the fact that what we need is more land dedicated to housing, lest we all end up living in an urban jungle by the sea!

A Six-Point Plan That Could Work

The best solution – based upon my lived experience having lived on the Central Coast for 58 years – is to do what San Luis Obispo does. Nobody can claim SLO resembles the San Fernando Valley or Orange County in any way, shape, or form. Allow low density development and clustered development throughout the county and by way of city annexations, on non-

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'Total Demise'? New York Times Stews Over Missed Climate Goal Causing 'Fight For Survival'

By Joseph 'Joey' Vazquez

The New York Times is once again drumming up a familiar bit of climate agitprop: Everybody run for your lives!

Times global climate correspondent Chico Harlan lamented the globe missing the goal to limit "global warming" to 1.5 degrees Celsius set in the notorious Paris Climate Agreement in 2015. The headline packed a punch:

As the Fight for a Key Climate Goal Falters,
Some Begin a Fight for Survival

As global temperature increase shoots past 1.5 degrees Celsius, the vulnerable countries that fought for that Paris Agreement target face a brutal new reality.

Harlan began with the typical leftist climate panic:

The most ambitious part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, only came about because of a campaign by some of the world's poorest and most defenseless countries.

Caribbean participants tacked up posters saying "1.5 to stay alive," and the prime minister of Tuvalu said any temperature rise beyond that mark would "spell the total demise" of his and other low-lying island nations. In the final stage of negotiations, some were chanting, "1.5."

....Amid scant progress from global powers to cut pollution from fossil fuels, vulnerable countries will now spend decades, or perhaps centuries, confronting the very climate scenario they'd once said would be untenable.

So what does Harlan have to say about the fact that developing countries reportedly "contributed 95% of global emissions increases over the last decade," as the Climate Leadership Council estimated in a June 2024 report? Well, nothing really, which is pretty telling given that a 95 percent figure is not exactly an anomaly. But Harlan used his Global North (bourgeoisie) vs. Global South (proletariat) angle to fling mud at the United States in particular:

The United States, the world's largest historical emitter, has also withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, as well as from funds meant to

help developing countries deal with climate change.

"World's largest historical emitter," eh? That's quite the mouthful to avoid saying anything about how communist China is the undisputed top dog in the pollution game. As *Forbes* noted in a June 24 item, "China is undeniably the primary driver of the rapid rise in global annual emissions this century, a critical nuance for climate discussions." Apparently that "nuance" was lost on Harlan, who conveniently didn't mention the word "China" once in his piece.

The overarching problem, which Harlan clearly pretended didn't exist, is that this conjecture about maintaining the Paris goal was all moot to begin with. Then -Secretary of State under President Barack Obama John Kerry conceded in 2015 during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) that "If all the industrial nations went down to zero emissions – remember what I just said, all the industrial nations went down to zero emissions – it wouldn't be enough." Seems pretty significant.

But that's not all. Hoover Institution Visiting Fellow Bjorn Lomborg also contextualized in a 2021 interview on Fox Business's *Kudlow* that "If everyone did everything they promised at Paris, the net impact would be to reduce temperatures by the end of the century by an immeasurable 0.05 degrees Fahrenheit." That's a practically negligible net effect, especially in the face of the \$2.5 trillion conservative estimate the U.S. was projected to lose in gross domestic product by the year 2035. In laymen's terms, the benefits did not justify the cost.

"Everybody sort of congregates around Paris as if this was the solution to climate change," Lomborg insisted. In fact, as Lomborg noted, "the U.N. organizers of the Paris Climate Agreement themselves point out that this will do less than one percent of what politicians actually are promising." In October 2021, President Joe Biden was pushing for a ridiculous \$555 billion in tax dollars to be set aside in new spending to fight climate change, and that's when consumer inflation was in the middle of skyrocketing at a 5.4 percent clip.

But hey! As long as the narrative can be finagled to dunk on the U.S., anything goes, right Harlan?

Joseph 'Joey' Vazquez is the Associate Editor at MRC Business

Reflections On 9/11 After 25 Years

By Cully Stimson

Twenty-five years later, the images remain seared into our national memory: A brilliant September sky blackened by smoke; office papers drifting through the canyons of lower Manhattan; strangers running toward danger while thousands fled from it; and, by evening, an America stunned, grieving, and suddenly united.

Sept. 11, 2001, was not merely a date on the calendar or a chapter in a history book. It was a wound to the American soul—and a summons to remember what citizenship, sacrifice, and love of country truly require of us.

Like many Americans, I have spent considerable time reflecting on that day and on the quarter-century that has followed. My perspective is a deeply personal one. On 9/11, I was a vice president of a public company headquartered in New York City, working from its Washington, D.C., office. When the first hijacked aircraft struck the World Trade Center, our company lost 358 colleagues and consultants, 358 families, 358 unfinished stories. They were not statistics. They were friends, mentors, coworkers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives.

Months later, I was recalled to active duty as an officer in the United States Navy. In time, President George W. Bush appointed me Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Detainee Affairs. Among my responsibilities, I took part in the 2006 operation that transferred high-value detainees from CIA custody to Guantanamo Bay, including alleged co-conspirators in the 9/11 attacks. In a way I could never have imagined that September morning, the circle closed: from mourning colleagues murdered in New York to helping ensure that those accused of plotting the attacks

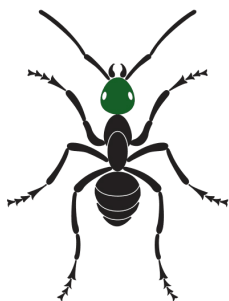
faced the machinery of American justice.

In the days after the attacks, my company—like so many families, businesses, firehouses, police precincts, military units, churches, and communities touched by that evil—worked without pause to communicate, comfort, and care for those left behind. In the weeks, months, and years that followed, people and institutions found their own ways to honor the dead. Some built memorials. Some endowed scholarships. Some raised children who would know the names and stories of relatives they never had the chance to meet. Others put on the uniform and carried America's colors into distant and dangerous places.

Over these 25 years, I have remained close to former colleagues who endured that terrible day. I completed 30 years of Navy service in 2022, but I have also stayed connected to shipmates—many of whom deployed again and again in the long wars that followed 9/11. Their service, and the sacrifices borne quietly by their families, remind us that the cost of that morning did not end when the smoke cleared.

This week, I returned to New York to share a meal with former colleagues who lived through the horror and carried its burdens forward. We remembered those who never came home, and we spoke about what their lives—and the years since their deaths—have taught us. To honor the fallen is not simply to lower a flag, recite their names, or pause for a moment of silence, indispensable as those acts are. It is to ask whether we remain worthy of their memory; whether we still cherish the freedoms they enjoyed, defend the nation they called home, teach the next generation what happened, and summon again the courage, unity, and patriotism that illuminated one of

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Reflections On 9/11 After 25 Years *Cont.*

(Continued from page 9)

America's darkest days. These are the lessons we learned. These are the lessons we must carry forward.

We remember the dead as they deserved to be remembered: not as abstractions, not as statistics, but as fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, friends and colleagues, Americans and neighbors—men and women whose lives were taken from us in an act of barbarism and whose memory now imposes upon the living a sacred duty.

We remember that day and those lost in a solemn manner, without being theatrical, patriotic without being political, religious without being sectarian, and elegant without ostentation. We don't sugarcoat what happened that day or who was responsible. We know what happened, and we know who did it. Our loved ones and colleagues were real people whose desks were filled, whose calendars were full, whose families expected them home, and whose colleagues still carry them in memory.

This week, and on 9/11 itself, we remember, participate, and are drawn toward events that appeal to the better angels of our national character. We look to those who invoke God's grace and the consolations of faith. We surrender to music, to a grief that words alone cannot carry. We know that the United States is not merely a place on a map, but an inheritance—bought at great price, defended by brave souls, and entrusted to us for safekeeping.

We remember the first responders of New York City—the firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, Port Authority officers, and ordinary citizens who ran toward the fire, smoke, steel, and death when every natural instinct told others to flee.

On 9/11, the courage of New York's first responders illuminated the darkest morning in modern American history. They did not ask who needed saving before they climbed the stairs. They did not calculate the odds before they entered the towers. They went because duty called, because strangers were in peril, and because that is what civilization asks of brave

men and women in the hour of trial.

Those who died that day in those towers were themselves exemplars of quiet courage. They were not soldiers on a battlefield. They were professionals at work, engaged in the ordinary pursuits of free people in a free economy: building businesses, serving clients, mentoring younger colleagues, raising families,

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Howard Jarvis
Taxpayers Association
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Reflections On 9/11 After 25 Years *Cont.*

(Continued from page 10)

planning futures. But history sometimes summons ordinary citizens into extraordinary consequences. Their deaths were an assault on America's civic peace, and their memory is now inseparable from the national story of endurance after 9/11.

Those of us who worked for companies in the World Trade Center at the time remember the days and weeks that followed not as a blur, but as a sequence of wounds. We wept. We consoled. We attended funerals. We helped those whose burdens were heavier than our own. We tried, somehow, to move forward—first by the minute, then by the hour, then by the day. Grief yielded, slowly and imperfectly, to resolve. Memory became obligation. In time, those companies did what the best institutions in America have always done: They absorbed sorrow, protected the living, honored the dead, and turned tragedy into forward determination.

In an age when too many public rituals collapse into slogans, performance, or self-congratulation, we yearn for something rarer and nobler. Let the names speak. Let prayer speak. Let music speak. Let grief speak. And, above all, let love of country speak—not loudly, not boastfully, but with the quiet confidence of a people who know that evil may wound America, but it cannot define her.

Sept. 11 was a day of murder and ash, of falling steel and broken families. But it was also a day on which America saw, again, the meaning of courage: in first responders climbing upward into danger; in office

workers helping one another down darkened stairwells; in families who endured the unendurable.

We chose not to forget, not to cheapen memory, and not to allow time to dilute duty.

Twenty-five years later, the obligation remains. We remember our colleagues because their lives mattered. We remember our shipmates because their sacrifice made our country stronger. We honor New York's first responders because courage matters. We cherish America because freedom matters. Remembrance is not a passive act. It is the ultimate act of patriotism.

Charles "Cully" Stimson is Acting Director, Institute for Constitutional Government, Manager, National Security Law Program, and Senior Legal Fellow, The Heritage Foundation

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Addressing The County's Housing Credibility Gap *Cont.*

prime ag lands. This allows ranchers to stay in business because low density development can easily coincide with cattle operations.

The same holds for allowing such things as vineyard estates. Or the dreaded "McMansions" on the Gaviota Coast. I, for one, would rather see some beautiful homes pop up here and there rather than thousands of acres of grotesque solar farms. Finally, bring back the ag cluster development ordinance, which was strangled in its crib by county supervisors. This policy would have allowed, for instance, a 3,000-acre ranch to build 30 homes (one home per 100 acres) on 2-acre plots, thereby leaving the bulk of the land in its natural state.

By maintaining rigid zoning and procedural barriers, Santa Barbara County undermines the entire county's ability to meet state housing goals, worsens the affordability crisis, and signals that renewable energy expansion is a higher priority than expanding the housing supply. Without a recalibration of land-use policy, the county risks deepening both its housing shortage and its credibility gap.

Here is What County Supervisors Should Be Doing:

- 1) Conduct a comprehensive review of agricultural land designations to identify parcels unsuitable for farming and rezone them for mixed-use or residential development.
- 2) Reform the LAFCO process to allow cities to annex land more efficiently when meeting state housing mandates, with clear timelines and reduced bureaucratic hurdles while making every attempt to avoid prime ag lands.
- 3) Establish policies that weigh renewable energy expansion against housing needs, ensuring that large-scale energy projects do not displace opportunities for residential growth.
- 4) Offer tax breaks, density bonuses, or expedited permitting for developers who build housing on marginal agricultural land or other underused parcels.
- 5) Develop a countywide plan that aligns renewable energy targets with housing production requirements, avoiding zero-sum trade-offs between environmental and housing priorities.



- 6) Forego the temptation to be greedy when it comes to negotiating revenue neutrality agreements for the good of the entire county, especially vacant land.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

We're Ignoring The Cause Of Homelessness, And How To Solve It *Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

honesty. With honesty came healing.

Julianna confronted years of trauma, learned to recognize abuse instead of accepting it, rebuilt her confidence, strengthened her parenting, developed workplace and financial skills, and one decision at a time, rediscovered the woman she was created to become.

She returned to work in the fitness industry and, with stable employment, regained custody of her sons. In 2019, ready for her next challenge, we helped place her in a position with UC Davis Health.

She never looked back.

Today, she serves on the alumni board of the program that helped transform her life.

And in one of the nation's most expensive housing markets, she recently achieved something many life-long Californians never do: She became a first-time homeowner.

Transformation doesn't begin with housing, or end with home ownership

Think about what that really means.

A woman once consumed by addiction. A victim of domestic violence. A mother who nearly lost her children forever.

Today she is raising those same boys, building a career, paying taxes, mentoring other women, strengthening her community and owning a home.

That is what human flourishing looks like, and it raises a question America can no longer afford to ignore: Why isn't this the type of outcome our homeless system is designed to produce?

Julianna's transformation didn't begin with housing. It began when someone believed her life was still worth restoring.

To end homelessness, we must focus on restoring lives

It's the lesson the federal government, the largest funder of homelessness programs, is finally beginning to embrace.

While we cannot expect every person to become a homeowner, nor that every journey will look like Julianna's, all people deserve a system that treats



them as if they were created to flourish.

Imagine America with thousands more Juliannas. Thousands more parents reunited with their children. Thousands more people overcoming addiction and mental illness. Thousands more individuals discovering meaningful work, rebuilding healthy relationships and achieving self-sufficiency.

Thousands more employees strengthening businesses. Thousands more taxpayers instead of lifelong dependents. Thousands more neighbors restoring their communities.

Public spaces would be reclaimed. Health care, emergency response and criminal justice systems would face less strain. Taxpayer dollars would produce restored lives instead of perpetuating dependency.

Every person has immeasurable value. Every person was created for a purpose. Our treatment strategy should be built around helping people discover – or rediscover – that truth.

If we know how to inspire thousands more stories like Julianna's, why would any leader accept a system that aims for anything less?

Julianna is living proof that restored lives, not simply housed lives, must become the standard by which we evaluate our systems and hold our elected leaders accountable.

Michele Steeb is the founder of Free Up Foundation and author of "Answers Behind the RED DOOR: Battling the Homeless Epidemic," based on her 13 years as the CEO of Northern California's largest program for homeless women and children. She is a visiting fellow with the Discovery Institute's Fix Homelessness Initiative.

The Intersectionality Of Solar, Oil, And Housing *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

current city boundaries. However, the brain trust at LAFCO is failing to recognize that to accommodate a 50% increase in population over the next two and a half decades, the city would need 250 acres of parks for the new population growth, along with 10 new elementary schools (10 acres each), four new junior high schools (20 acres each), and two-to-three new high schools (40 to 60 acres each). Thus, these public serving "amenities" could take up over 600 acres, and that is without the tens of thousands of new homes driven by state mandates.

There are a couple of major problems the supervisors glossed over when they opened up 16,000 acres of land, including lands on the Gaviota coast, to solar and battery development. The first thing they ignored was fire! The very real possibility of wildland fires burning up the solar and battery farms or battery fires burning up the wildlands.

Land-Hungry Solar Systems Push Out Oil and Gas

Second, the county envisions that building these electricity generation and storage units will enhance our local grid stability when our power gets shut off by our utilities. However, they are ignoring the fact that the one wind turbine plant in the county, near the city of Lompoc, generates power used by Marin County, as they have purchased the power from the project. The one large solar farm in Cuyama generates power for Kern County, not Santa Barbara County. In other

words, we may end up sacrificing our coastline and our ag lands for the benefit of other jurisdictions, and all we get out of it would be the impacts and associated risks.

Finally, at the same time the supes are going all-in on solar and battery, they are also trying to ban new oil drilling and eliminate existing oil production. As you probably know, one of the biggest costs to housing is the price of land. This is why cities that are doing infill projects are starting to build three- and four-story buildings on a routine basis in some parts of the county, which we have never seen before.

Regardless, solar fields take up much more land that will no longer be available for housing and farming, while oil and gas facilities have such a smaller physical footprint and easily coexist with agriculture. Oil turbines produce far more electricity per acre than solar PV. For example, a 100 MW diesel plant on 12 acres yields 8.3 MW per acre, while a 100 MW solar farm on 700 acres yields 0.14 MW per acre. You would have to cover pretty much every acre of ag land in CA to try and replace our oil industry while simultaneously eliminating the same amount of land for future housing.

Too bad nobody on the Board of Supervisors or LAFCO sees the big picture.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

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COLAB can now raise funds from other foundations, as well as, individuals who don't own their own business! That means that everyone who contributes to the COLAB Foundation can write off their contributions.

The COLAB Foundation is a public charity formed to procure funding for the Santa Barbara County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB) and other select non-profit entities to advance education and science, combat community deterioration and lessen the burden of government.

Of course, the donations to the COLAB Foundation can only be used to educate the public about the work that COLAB and others are doing in our community, but we have been educating people all along!

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<http://www.colabsbc.org/COLAB-foundation-form.php>

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Gov. Gavin Newsom Bans U.S. Soldiers From Entering California *Cont.*

(Continued from page 4)

moment, but Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Dem supermajority decided to bypass creeping towards Fort Sumter and went right to racing towards it because this fourth bill takes the treason cake.

Governor Newsom signs bill to protect California's sovereignty and guard against unauthorized military deployments

LOS ANGELES – Strengthening control over out-of-state military forces on California soil, Governor Gavin Newsom today signed a bill that would prohibit other state militaries from entering California without the Governor's explicit permission.

At a time when the Trump administration is increasingly treating states as targets rather than partners, Senate Bill 1354 by Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera) makes clear that California will not surrender its constitutional role, its values, or the rights of the nearly 40 million people who call this state home.

This new law gives the Governor — as commander in chief of California's militia — a defined role in determining when out-of-state military forces may enter California for state missions.

The new law prohibits military personnel from another state, territory, or the District of Columbia from entering California to perform military duty or law-enforcement functions without the permission of the Governor. The bill preserves an exception for forces lawfully called into active federal service under Title 10 and acting under the authority of the President or Secretary of Defense.

While this law does not apply to federal active-duty personnel operating under federal Title 10 authority, with the Governor's signature of this bill, it closes a legal loophole where other states could have deployed their military under Title 32 — even at the President's suggestion

It's not a legal loophole. Governors grant permission

to National Guard deployments. And insisting that any use of the National Guard has to be under Title 10 unless it's directly authorized by Newsom is either senseless or a slippery slope towards an Insurrection Act confrontation.

Passing laws like this seems utterly senseless unless a state is preparing to resist federal authority using military force.

At some point when a state has passed a whole raft of laws trying to block federal law enforcement, federal election and now federal military deployment, we have to consider it to be in a Fort Sumter scenario and actively trying to secede from the United States of America.

And respond accordingly.

Daniel Greenfield, CEO at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, investigative journalist at FrontPage-Mag.com and author of "Domestic Enemies: The



<https://www.colabsbc.org/join-colab.php>

High Gas Prices? The Diablo Is On The Dais! *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

From the American Petroleum Institute:

So, instead of reducing greenhouse gases, we increased them by having all these ships bringing oil to our state. However, here a distinction needs to be made. One of the biggest lies involving the climate change jihad is that CO2 emissions constitute "pollution." The opposite is true. CO2 emissions green the planet. Without these "emissions" the planet would die. You would think the greenies wouldn't lie about something as obvious as that. Yet, what comes out of the smokestack of a tanker bringing oil and gas to CA is real air pollution. Hence, this action by the board of supes will serve to negatively affect air quality.

Another huge omission from this discussion about banning oil and gas production is that nearly half of every barrel of oil isn't used to produce fuel. It is used to make asphalt, tires, plastic, and thousands of other products, including the natural gas used to heat your home and cook your food. Even if we did manage to switch entirely to so-called renewable energy sources, we would still need oil and gas derivatives and byproducts to provide society with these valuable products we can't live without. The lefties never want to discuss this point.

Finally, at this hearing, there was a moment when the obvious was pointed out to the oblivious. Supervisor **Joan Hartmann** was on a rant claiming that every fire in our region, along with the related deadly Montecito debris flow, was a result of climate change, which she blamed on the oil industry. When a fellow supervisor pointed out that many of the fires in our region were started by storm-driven events involving *electrical* lines, she didn't miss a beat despite that "mic drop" moment. And after she finished, Supervisor **Laura Capps** continued the diatribe as oblivious as ever.

Relatedly, it is completely hypocritical that county supervisors are suing a utility for damages associated with the fire that set up Montecito for the debris flow, while publicly blaming the oil industry. Now,

please consider their blatant failures pertaining to these two industries. The supes have done absolutely nothing to help the utilities clear cut around their power lines which is standard practice in other states, and which would alleviate many fire dangers. Moreover, these same supervisors have continually raised legal objections in court about the continued operations of pipeline operations having to do with Sable, claiming the pipeline is unsafe, all the while making every effort to block repairs, upgrades, and replacements of the pipeline.

That is not public service; that is diabolical intransigence.

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Gov. Gavin Newsom Adds To California's Illicit Gun Control Laws *Cont.*

(Continued from page 2)

AB 2378 — Creates an Office of Community Violence Intervention for the CalVIP grant program.

AB 2636 — Directs juvenile courts to consider a loaded-firearm carry charge when deciding deferred entry of judgment.

SB 948 — Adds a required 4-hour course with live-fire training to the Firearm Safety Certificate process starting January 1, 2029. People moving into California with guns get a longer reporting window (180 days) and, starting 2028, must certify they have an FSC or an exemption. CCW holders and recent CCW-course completers are exempt from the new course.

SB 1220 — Adds a 10-year firearm ban for convictions (on or after Jan. 1, 2027) involving altering/removing a serial number or possessing/transferring a firearm altered that way

Gov. Newsom's office claims California is "No. 1 nationally for gun-law strength." But as the Globe reported in August, while National FBI data for 2025 show broad crime declines under the Trump administration, California's Homicide numbers are still higher than other states, even with that "gun law strength": California fell from 1,666 to 1,374 (↓17.5%). National murder offenses declined 18.1%.

Absolute rates remain higher in California than the national average, and especially violent crime and property crime. In 2024, California's violent crime rate was roughly 30–35% above the U.S. average.

As AWR Hawkins reported at Breitbart, "His [Newsom] office did not mention FBI figures highlighted by Breitbart News, which show that while California is No. 1 in gun control it was also No. 1 in 'active shooter instances' in both 2021 and 2023."

Remember these previous headlines from the Globe about California's illicit guns control laws:

Federal Judge Blocks California Law Requiring Background Checks to Buy Ammo

Federal Judge Overturns California's 32-year Ban on Assault Weapons

Judge Blocks Major Part of California Gun Control Bill

Judge Strikes Down California's Ban on Semiautomatic Weapons

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Another Illegal California Gun Control Law Struck Down: The state must pay the NRA nearly \$500K in attorney fees

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

Labor Day And The Birth Of Socialism In America *Cont.*

(Continued from page 1)

strikes on the anniversary of the 1886 action.”

Even though we celebrate Labor Day in America in September, forever and a day, unions across America also continue to celebrate May Day because they are tied to a socialist type of political ideology root and branch.

The left is selling socialism to young people as the cure to the affordability crisis as they blame the crisis on capitalism. But little do they know that labor unions in America have been incubating socialist-type policies that, by increasing the size and scope of government, have hindered the ability of capitalism to thrive and help make things affordable. For more details, read “Atlas Shrugged”!

Of course, the truth is socialism *doesn't* make things more affordable, and it certainly doesn't magically make things free. To solve the affordability crisis we need less government, not more. Yet, nearly half of all union members in America are employed by the public sector and their future is intertwined with more government that they exploit to their own inurement. See. Transparent California for the gory details!

When **Jerry Brown** was governor the first time in the 1970s, his mantra was “less is more.”

What did that mean? By way of erecting barriers to development of all kinds, including all the things Gen

X, Y, and Z are complaining about today, government policies have stifled the creation of affordable housing and everything else a community needs to support the same, namely, roads, highways, freeways, water, and sewers. Jerry's policies began a trend that ended in much less investment in infrastructure but more investment in growing government by way of allowing government employees to unionize.

Meanwhile, our roads, bridges, dams, and schools are literally falling apart while public sector pay, benefits, and pension obligations, consume a significant and growing portion of government budgets. In Santa Barbara County, more than half the budget (over \$800 million) goes to employee pay and benefits while our own maintenance deficit of roads, parks, and buildings, has soared to over \$500 million.

To continue to pay inflated salaries and benefits to government employees, we have turned to debt financing for most infrastructure needs. Our state and local governments, including cities, counties, and schools have borrowed hundreds of billions of dollars in bond indebtedness, all of which must be paid back with interest. And now, our federal debt has hit \$40 trillion. These government borrowing trends drive inflation, but again, young people have never been taught basic economics, so they blame capitalism.

The Hoover Institution reports that during the 1960s, four spending categories—health care, pensions, welfare, and interest on debt—took up about 34 percent of the CA budget. Today, the budget share of

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Labor Day And The Birth Of Socialism In America *Cont.*

(Continued from page 19)

those four categories has nearly doubled to about 66 percent, leaving only a small piece of the pie for other budget areas, such as infrastructure. In the 1960s, California spent 20% of every dollar on infrastructure. Now, we spend less than 3%.

Of course, if there is a limit to what voters are willing to borrow, perhaps we can get them to steal. That is, Prop. 40 proposes to tax the accumulated assets of billionaires and trusts. We used to call that "asset seizure." Regardless, it is plain to see that SEIU is selfish, greedy, and stupid for jeopardizing the tax revenue that billionaires pay in income taxes, as they are moving out of the state, leaving the rest of the upper and middle class holding the bag forever and a day for government largesse.

In conclusion, while the costs to employ "public servants" has exploded, look at the American Society of Civil Engineers' report card on the associated decline having to do with California's infrastructure. It reads like the report card of our public-school children. Here is a snapshot:

See this report here:

<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/california/>

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB



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