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PÁGINAS 18-20

ICE Detention Facilities: Barbaric and Negligent

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY

Local and National ICE Out Protests Grow

On Jan. 31, thousands of protesters across the United States demonstrated against the federal government's immigration detention centers, enforcement policies, ICE tactics in Minneapolis and ICE violence elsewhere. In Fresno, more than 400 community members rallied at Blackstone and Nees avenues at a protest organized by Peace Fresno. There were protests there every Saturday in February.

Fresno Resistance has organized regular Tuesday night protests at the ICE headquarters in downtown Fresno. Faith in the Valley organized a multifaith prayer vigil at the Fresno ICE facility on Feb. 4. The event was well attended, and another vigil is planned for March 4.

There were numerous student walkouts nationally and locally Feb. 9-13. The anti-ICE trend is growing, and a recent AP poll indicates that 60% of Americans now call for abolishing ICE.

The demonstrations in Fresno are diverse and continue to grow. Participants are always willing to express their views:

"I've been meaning to go to a protest," said Mila, 18, of Fresno. "I've been seeing how bad this country is getting. It keeps sinking lower and lower, with all the white nationalism and people being deported because of their skin color.

"We're seeing fascism; it's the final stage of capitalism. We need to do something as a collective.

"The politicians are disappointing us, they're not fighting fascism. We, the people, have to do it together.

"We need a general strike. They are unable to ignore our power as workers and consumers."

"I am out here to support my community and stand up for what's right," says Luna Fontes, 18, of Fresno. "I would tell Trump, 'you are killing innocent people and you will pay for it some day.'



Protesters at an interdenominational prayer vigil at Fresno ICE headquarters on Feb. 4. Photo by Peter Maiden

"We're gonna be out here protesting. We will fight for what's right and be a beacon for other people who can't be out here. A beacon of hope.

"We will fight for those who can't, the victims and survivors of ICE."

Jose Luis Corilla Sanchez of Peace Fresno says that "we need boycotts [and] strikes, and we need to educate ourselves about the issues and the problems we are facing.

"For example, this is Black History Month and we need to learn where American fascism comes from; actually, it's a foundation of American slavery and murder."

"I'm out here today because it makes me angry," intones Gene Richards, a Fresno resident.

"Every day, I wake up angry [that] the people of Minneapolis had their town invaded by a paramilitary force, and now I don't know if the Democrats can take the midterms.

Continued to page 2

Resistance in the Heartland

BY VIC BEDOIAN

Kings County is not a place most people would expect to see much resistance to the illegal and immoral policies and actions of the Trump administration. It is home to industrial agriculture, state prisons, a major military base and a prominent Indian gaming casino. Its population is ethnically diverse but leans politically and socially conservative. Yet in the midst of this valley heartland milieu, there is a vigorous and growing activism to thwart the impacts of Project 2025 and the MAGA movement.

Led by the county Democratic Party, activists have unleashed a vigorous campaign to demonstrate and to educate Kings County citizens in defying an unprecedented assault on long-cherished civil rights and social norms.

At the core of this effort are two energetic and savvy retired educators—Karla Orosco and Cathy Jorgensen. This dynamic duo is laying the groundwork, and people throughout the county are taking notice and joining in.

Hanford, a thriving rural city of about 60,000 souls, is the county seat and commercial center. Downtown has a rustic, small-town charm with legacy buildings surrounding a civic park. Residential suburbs creep into orchards and fields surrounding the city in all directions.

This is the ground that Orosco and Jorgensen, along with many other volunteers, are tilling and planting with the seeds of resistance and activism they hope will grow into electoral victories in the 2026 elections and beyond.

Much of the action is taking place on the streets of Hanford. As in other cities, the activists have a bridge brigade of folks who display signs and messages in town on walkways spanning streets and highways.

Orosco explains that it is all about visibility. "We do at least once a week, Lemoore and two bridges in Hanford. We don't like to advertise where we're going to be, so we cut down on the agitators. And we've had a lot of support in Kings County."

Orosco admits that it is a lot of work. "I have a crew of about 15. We made lighted letters with the messages. When Renée Good was killed, and when Alex Pretti was killed, we did a week of action outside Congressman [David] Valadao's office, which has a bridge a block down from him that we are often at. He hates it.

"We get a lot of people, we get honks of support and people pulling over and thanking us.

"A lot of people here are still afraid to say that they're not conservative. I think that's changing. We've had people not afraid to put signs in their yards."



The Bridge Brigade put up a statement during the International Ag Show in Hanford. Photo by Dea Jensen

In addition, Orosco says they do pop-up protests with only three days of notice to minimize potential agitators. All this activity is working. "I've acquired a list of about 700 people who want to know what's going on with activism against this administration."

She adds that local authorities have a hands-off attitude toward protesters. "We're a small community, so we know the police, we know the sheriff. I think they look at a bunch of retired teachers who are up there and don't want to give them a lot of flak."

Unsurprisingly, there has been pushback from the other side, mostly in the form of online bullying or individual comments.

One unfortunate and criminal action that has happened at some street demonstrations is called "Rolling Coal." It is a process by which owners of diesel pickups or trucks modify the emission control system so they can release plumes of thick black smoke while cruising close to those demonstrating or standing nearby. It is illegal and a Clean Air Act violation.

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MARCH 2026

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ICE

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"This country is going to hell, what a country; I'm embarrassed."

Josh Shurley of Veterans for Peace is going on a delegation to Venezuela to see the sites of the U.S. bombing attacks and meet some of the families of the people in the coastal communities murdered by U.S. missile strikes.

He said that deportations, ICE raids, the militarization of American cities and the attack on Venezuela are all connected. "It's all from the same imperial system. The system of exploitation and resource extraction.

"What we do abroad, the military dominance, the resource extraction, is ingrained in our culture. It's in our DNA, it's hard to totally escape the mindset we're conditioned to."

Youth Rising

During the week of Feb. 9–13, students from at least 15 middle and high schools in the Fresno Unified School District, along with four high schools in the Clovis Unified School District, walked out to protest against ICE raids. Major protests included walkouts from Fresno High, Sunnyside High, Bullard High, Hoover High, Washington Union High, Buchanan High and Sanger High, with hundreds of students involved throughout the week. There were also student walkouts in Kerman and Firebaugh.

The Clovis Police Department announced that it intends to charge parents who allegedly helped organize student anti-ICE walkouts at four high schools in Clovis with the misdemeanor crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, which can result in a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

In addition, the Clovis Unified School District is enforcing its truancy policy for students who participated in the walkouts. The district is using camera surveillance to identify students who left campus without proper checkout procedures, marking these absences as unexcused, as reported by the *Collegian*.

Social media posts and recorded interviews from students who participated in the walkouts included these comments:

"I feel like everyone has to support each other, because, at the end of the day, we're all the same," said Martha, a student.

Neavan Ward, a Clovis High senior, said, "I believe in standing up for everybody."

Jocelyn V., a student from Duncan High, said, "It's not just immigrants, we've even seen that U.S. citizens have been taken. If we don't take a stand, then, the power is going to stay in the wrong hands."

Sophomore student Joshua Lao said, "A bunch of my friends are here with me and we're all standing together for human rights."

A student named Gen said that "it's important for us as youth to go out and protest because it's our First Amendment right."

Prepare to Resist Detention Centers

Thirty-two people died in ICE custody in 2025, according to a report in the *Guardian*. Six people have died in ICE custody since Jan. 1 of this year, according to the American Council on Immigration.

People are dying from inadequate medical care, substandard facility conditions and, in some cases, violence or neglect. The ACLU has stated that 95% of the deaths were avoidable with adequate medical care.

Detainees have reported being beaten, slammed, stomped on and having their testicles crushed by officers, including while restrained. Reports include accounts of sexual assault and harassment by guards.

There is excessive use of solitary confinement, including for individuals protesting conditions. And, there are reports of guards using chemical agents like pepper spray on protesters who complain about the conditions in the facility.

Now, the Trump administration is seeking contractors to help it overhaul the nation's immigrant detention system in a plan that includes renovating industrial warehouses to hold more than 80,000 immigrant detainees at a time, according to a draft solicitation reviewed by the *Washington Post*.

Based on reports from early February 2026, the Department of Homeland Security and ICE are actively purchasing and scouting large industrial warehouses across the United States to convert into detention centers.



Buchanan High School students marched through Clovis on Feb. 5. Photo by Chris Schneider

Although specific, confirmed purchases in the immediate Fresno area have not been finalized in the latest reports, the agency is actively scouting locations to expand detention capacity in California and the Central Valley.

ICE is moving away from temporary, tent-based camps toward purchasing and retrofitting permanent "mega warehouse" facilities to house thousands of detainees.

The agency has already purchased large, former shipping/industrial warehouses in Arizona for \$70 million, as well as sites in Georgia, Texas and Maryland. A major focus of the expansion is in California.

U.S. senators have toured the California City Detention Facility (about 100 miles from Los Angeles), which recently became the state's largest ICE center. Local and state authorities, as well as community members, have staged protests and are exploring legal options to block these conversions in several, often smaller, communities.

While there are no confirmed reports that a specific Fresno warehouse was purchased as of our deadline, ICE has previously used locations in the Fresno area for processing and detention. Furthermore, reports indicate that ICE is actively looking to secure more capacity in the Central Valley, with advocates warning that vacant or shuttered prison facilities in the region are prime targets.

Privatized Immigration Detention Centers

ICE facilities are owned or operated by private companies holding individuals for immigration violations. These are for-profit detention facilities run by operators like CoreCivic or GEO Group, corporations with shareholders. They are considered private civil detention sites; these facilities are legally meant to be civil, rather than criminal, in nature.

These contracts highlight the business aspect and the profit-driven nature of holding immigrants. The lucrative nature of these contracts for private corporations and their shareholders increases the likelihood of broad expansion.

The two largest operators are GEO Group and CoreCivic. Nearly 90% of all people in ICE custody are held in these private facilities. These facilities are frequently criticized for poor conditions, including issues with food and medical care, yet they continue to be used by the government. Expanding these facilities to the Central Valley will be met with local resistance, from all indications.

Bob McCloskey is an activist and a Community Alliance reporter. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

Resistance

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Reports of resulting asthma attacks have come forth in Hanford. Activists want authorities to investigate.

A similar action has occurred at events across the nation. Reportedly, such drivers have been prosecuted in some states.

There is also an amusing side to the outreach, according to Jorgensen. "We've been putting up billboards directly hitting Valadao, one with the two Pinocchio noses of Valadao's and Trump's meeting together. We've got that billboard reserved and paid for through the primaries."

Jorgensen explains that the Democrats are also spreading the word at community events. "We have a booth at the farmers' market six months out of the year every Thursday night, and we volunteer at the Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen once a month."

They are also involved in leadership meetings for the soup kitchen and helping to raise funds for the \$30,000 the soup kitchen lost from cuts to government food support programs.

The outreach effort in these venues is paying off for Kings County Democrats. "We've been doing the soup kitchen for three years," says Orosco.

"They know the third Monday of the month is the Democratic Day. And it's been good for our group. We're just trying to build community."

Thanks to funding from Bay Area friends, the Kings County Democrats have an office for the first time in years. It is a hub of activism where volunteers can make posters or write postcards. Orosco says they even have a craft night where folks can decorate small rocks with anti-fascist messages.

"We have people coming in who just want to be with other people who think like them," said Orosco. "A lot of people tend to isolate themselves because they think they're the only ones in Kings County who might be progressive."

While ICE has not been targeting Kings County, likely because farmers there mostly support Trump, Orosco says they are preparing just in case.

"Our office makes little bags with whistles and signs about how to blow those whistles, and what the signals are, who to call if you see ICE and what are your rights," she says. "We're making those in English and Spanish, and we're giving them out wherever we can."

"We are also reaching out to our other towns like Corcoran, Kettleman City, Stratford and Armona. We're just trying to hit the whole county."

"We have a voter problem, so we've got to get voters to turn out. So, we're going to do registration drives. Just trying to make it a positive experience."

All this activism is taking place in a county dominated by institutions that Jorgensen describes as "really conservative" like much of the older, whiter political and religious leadership.

When they're not demonstrating, the Kings County Democrats are working toward the midterm elections. Before Proposition 50, which scrambled California's Congressional districts, all of Kings County was in CD22 represented by native-son David Valadao (R-Hanford), whose family runs a dairy farm. And the Democrats are making the case for his removal.

Valadao is vulnerable according to Orosco. "Two-thirds of his constituents rely on Medicaid for their insurance, and that is going to start to go away."

"We have people who have good insurance, but they're forced to go to LA or San Francisco to get medical care because their insurance is not working with the hospitals or clinics that are here."

"Some of our areas are losing clinics. It's really going to hurt us."

Jorgensen says that funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture farm-to-school food programs has been cut and noted that Valadao voted for all the legislation that is now causing harm to county residents.

Orosco adds that they are attracting older people who are afraid of losing their Medi-Cal and their Medicare and Social Security. "Older people are afraid. They're afraid for their grandchildren."

"It really gets to me when I see how afraid they are. They get emotional when they come to our protests and they're so thankful."

Work toward replacing Valadao with a Democrat is already underway, Jorgensen notes. "We've started canvassing already. We are getting more information making sure that we will have poll watchers and contacting the state party for attorneys."

"We'll be carrying literature not only for our Congressional candidate but also for school board candidates and trying to support down-ballot candidates. We've got a real problem here with down-ballot races."

Randy Villegas is the candidate that Jorgensen and the Kings County Democrats would like to see in Congress. Villegas is a son of immigrants born and raised locally. He earned a Ph.D. from UC Santa Cruz and is a professor of political science at College of the Sequoias.

His core belief is "that government should work for everyone, not just the powerful few." Villegas asserts that he is running a grassroots campaign and is not taking any money from corporations.

Kings County Democrats are doing everything they can throughout the county to get citizens registered and voting. They have confidence in the county's election mechanism, which has widespread ballot boxes and efficient processing.

"We are out there with signs for candidates," Orosco stresses. "We're out there offering to help people learn if they have questions on what to do with their ballots. We offer rides to people who might want to vote in person."

"We will do whatever it takes to let people know that they need to exercise their right to vote in Kings County. We don't want 15% turnout. We want, you know, 70%, and we'd love to see over 50%."

Kings and Tulare Democrats are hosting their Champions of Change dinner on March 7 at the Visalia Wyndham from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. featuring former Stockton mayor and current candidate for lieutenant governor Michael Tubbs. For tickets or more information, contact kingscountydemsevents@gmail.com.

Vic Bedoian is the Central Valley correspondent for KPFA News and a Community Alliance reporter specializing in natural history and environmental justice issues.



I was with the mailing crew for the newspaper in the office of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence on Van Ness Avenue last month when an anti-ICE protest march of students from Fresno High School came down the street. I came out to watch. I didn't see any adults, just a lot of enthusiasm on the part of the students for their cause.

I heard later they marched all the way to City Hall. The student marches spread to several

other schools in Fresno County, according to our reporter Bob McCloskey in his front-page article. Unfortunately, the Clovis Unified School District and the Clovis Police Department are pursuing a punitive response, both for students and for parents who might have participated.

In this issue, Rachel Youdelman has more of her continuing insightful coverage of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, focusing on right-wing Supervisor Garry Bredefeld and his mental gyrations about

funding for streets and transportation, as well as issues around ICE raids, including the local student protests.

Fresno broke a story last month, which we reprint here, about the Fresno Arts Council losing \$1.5 million to an embezzler. The as-yet-unnamed culprit apparently took advantage of poor bookkeeping on the part of the Council.

Our sister organization, the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, is a recipient of Fresno Arts Council funding. It has received funds already, but organizations that have not yet been paid are being left in the lurch.

Also, Tim Sheehan, of the Central Valley Journalism Collaborative, takes us on a deep dive (in Spanish) into the coming financial tsunami for local clinics and hospitals due to funding cuts coming from Washington. His interview with the public health officer of Madera County, Dr. Simon Paul, is especially helpful.

As we enter the spring season, enjoy the good air.

—Peter Maiden, interim editor



Since 1996, the *Community Alliance* has been an independent progressive voice for the Central San Joaquin Valley. The *Community Alliance* advocates for

- Racial, social, environmental and economic justice
- Equal rights for all, including immigrants, the unhoused and the LGBTQ+ community
- Access to a free quality public education for all
- Access to healthcare for all
- A living wage for all working people

Our goal is to expose racial, social, environmental, economic and political injustices. We will help to build a powerful progressive movement that will make all our communities safer, healthier, more equitable and more livable.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hurtado Should Resign

State Senator Melissa Hurtado posted on Facebook that Secretary of State Marco Rubio “focused on the issues and the importance of unity” during his remarks at the Munich Security Conference.

Rubio’s message was anything but “unity.”

Rubio said that the West “opened our doors to an unprecedented wave of mass migration that threatens the cohesion of our societies, the continuity of our culture and the future of our people.” Rubio and Hurtado are both beneficiaries of this “mass migration,” but the irony of that seems lost on them.

Rubio attacked the rules-based global order, international institutions and what he termed “a climate cult.” Why would Hurtado be promoting anyone opposed to improving the Central Valley’s environment?

Heather Cox Richardson noted that in ignoring the “threat of autocratic Russia against Europe, Rubio pushed Europe to abandon the values of democracy in favor of imperialism.”

If Hurtado supports this radical MAGA-inspired agenda, she has no business representing Central Valley residents.

Resign now!

Saul Ross
Selma

OPINION & ANALYSIS

What’s Wrong with Fresno!?

BY ALINE REED

By asking this question some might think this is to be a bash piece against Fresno. In truth, it is quite the opposite.

This is not a feel-good piece either. I ask the question because I truly believe: When you know better, you do better.

When my parents, Milton and Corine Reed, moved into a boarding house on Anna Street in 1948, they were part of the last leg of the Great Migration of Blacks from Texas, looking for a better life in California.

My father served in the U.S. Navy, Pacific Theater, in World War II. They were then redlined into Edison Heights and built a home that was completed in 1950.

I share my family history because early Fresno was founded by Southerners, and people from the South always want to know who your people are.

Look at the past and question your future. Southwest Fresno where slaughterhouses were plentiful and putrid smells polluted the air and that still has a life expectancy 20 years less than residents living in northeast and northwest Fresno.

When former police chief and current Mayor Jerry Dyer can ask Fresnoans to comply with ICE agents, there is something seriously wrong with Fresno.

When the current Police Chief Mindy Casto and Fresno Unified School District Superintendent Misty Her asked students to squash their First Amendment rights and not protest ICE activities, something is seriously wrong with Fresno.

While Southwest Fresno is being actively gentrified while having zero pharmacies, zero banks, zero movie theaters, we must state—there is something seriously wrong with Fresno.

Where is the political will to change this scenario? Amnesia occurs when talking about the chokehold developers have on Fresno, or, how if not for Black people, Fresno would not have district-specific City Council seats. No more citywide voting for southwest Fresno (thank you Reich brothers).

I have all the hope in the world that Fresno can turn this around. If true equality and diversity cannot work here, it won’t work anywhere.

Seriously. Our white brothers and sisters have to abandon their comfort zones and acknowledge their white privilege. If Black, Brown and Asian people can live it, surely you can admit it exists.

I was lucky to spend part of my formative years in San Francisco. My school was uber diverse. Love your neighbor enough to be a good and decent ally. For those of you who already are, I am not addressing you. But, those of you who put on and take off your liberal progressive beliefs like a coat, yeah, I’m talking to you.

I want to get to the point where when someone asks, “What is wrong with Fresno?” I can honestly answer, “nothing.”

Aline Reed was born in Fresno and raised in both Fresno and San Francisco. She graduated from Fresno State in 1981. She is former chairperson for the Fresno Freedom School where she is still a volunteer, a member of the Social Justice Book Club and an activist for all things concerning southwest Fresno.



Photo by Peter Maiden

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Mothers Helping Mothers of the Central Valley

BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES

In December 1990, record freezing temperatures destroyed most of the citrus crop in the Central Valley. More than 30,000 farmworkers had no work, and their more than 100,000 family members had no income. Even before the freeze, poverty, unemployment and hunger were serious problems in the area.

Community organizer M. Gloria Hernandez, on her own initiative, realized that when times are hard, rent, food and utilities come first and the last in line for scarce resources are women and girls. She put together a project to gather and donate

personal hygiene products. That is how Mothers Helping Mothers began.

Over the years, there have been droughts, *migra* attacks and just regular hard times. Mothers will always sacrifice to provide for their families.

Many people have helped with the project, which has expanded to include not only donations for children and men but also information about rights and the *mochila colectiva* to help people put together a list of documents to pack in case of a disaster, detention or deportation so that people can find each other after the nightmare.

Most recent donation bags have included whistles, a Sin Odio Sin Miedo/No Hate/No Fear door hanger with Rapid Response Network (559-206-0151), Valley Watch Network and Know Your Rights info, along with personal and feminine hygiene products.

Spread on tarps and tables at distributions are donated items, mostly clothing, which are completely free. The clothing donations date back to when Mrs. Anderson, a teacher in a north Fresno school, began donating lost and found items abandoned at the end



Resource and information sharing with more than 100 families in Mendota. Photo by Parra Serrano

Mothers Helping Mothers

Assisting Mothers Helping Mothers provides a practical hands-on opportunity to do something to help. Donations, contributions and volunteers are all welcome.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Irene at 559-942-0708.

Donations can be dropped off at 1435 Fresno St., Suite 13, Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Immigration Assistance Office).

Send donations to 6083 N. Figarden Dr., Unit #827, Fresno, CA 93722.

Checks should be made out to “Trabajadores de la Raza San Joaquín.” Their Zelle account is chicanoyouthcentersjv@gmail.com.

of the school year, and Hernandez loaded up her pickup truck to take the clothes to labor camps and to people working in the fields.

When Anderson accompanied Hernandez to a labor camp in Kerman and saw a little boy playing with a donated pink barbie-car without batteries, she was moved to tears and shared that her parents had been sharecroppers, and she felt for the hardships of the children of farmworkers.

Irene Parra Serrano from the Chicano Youth Center (with her sister Irma Serrano until her tragic untimely passing) has been the other main organizer through the years.

There was a period when Mothers Helping Mothers even went to Tijuana to the refugee shelters. There were donations

to unemployed oil workers in Coalinga. But the project has always been true to its roots, contributing time and material aid to people who work hard and live in usually neglected rural communities.

The most recent distributions have been in Parlier and Mendota. The Mendota event had 105 households participate, representing more than 500 people.

“This is what we do,” says Hernandez. “When not on the protest lines, we give back to our *gente*.”

Leni Villagomez Reeves is a local physician and activist. Check out her news and views about Cuba on Facebook (facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/).

Road Rage: Driving County Policy Off a Cliff

BY RACHEL YUDELMAN

Nuts and Bolts

What nuts-and-bolts tasks has the Fresno County Board of Supervisors managed to accomplish within the past month? Routine administrative actions include staffing the Office of Housing and Homelessness, strengthening code enforcement, issuing proclamations, and approving licenses and zoning changes.

But policy matters such as the stalled Measure C, an important transportation tax measure due to appear on November’s ballot, are driven by the ideological fervor of Board Chair Garry Bredefeld (District 2), backed up by his fellow MAGA Republican colleagues, Supervisors Buddy Mendes (District 4) and Nathan Magsig (District 5).

Measure C Boondoggle

Measure C is a half-cent transportation tax voters first approved in 1986. It will expire in 2027, so it must appear on the November 2026 ballot for renewal by voters.

A county steering committee, including a majority of county mayors, approved a new allocation plan last year that gave 65% to road repair and 25% to public transit. Bredefeld, who insisted on nothing less than 85% for road repair, is obdurately hostile to public transit and led the charge to derail the measure, going so far as to declare more than once, “I’ll make sure this fails!”

At the Jan. 27 meeting, Bredefeld took the floor during the Reports and Comments period to make fresh new accusations against the Measure C Steering Committee, the Transportation for All coalition and the Fresno Council of Governments (COG).

He asserted that the money spent on managing the negotiations (about \$925,000) was “wasted” by them, that they “planned all along” to subvert the process.

He threatened litigation and prosecution, requesting that County Counsel Doug Sloan “investigate” the possibility that COG violated election law (note: Sloan is also the COG’s attorney, so there is a conflict of interest that has yet to be addressed). Sloan said he could have a report ready by mid-March.

Bredefeld’s threats to have his colleagues prosecuted left a chill in the air and evinced his thorough unwillingness to engage in rational negotiation.

Bredefeld made these threats just as Moving Forward Together, a coalition of mayors, city councils, former members of the Measure C Steering Committee and others from Fresno, Clovis and the west side filed notice at the Registrar of Voters’ office to start the signature-gathering process necessary for their Measure C citizens’ initiative to appear on the November ballot.

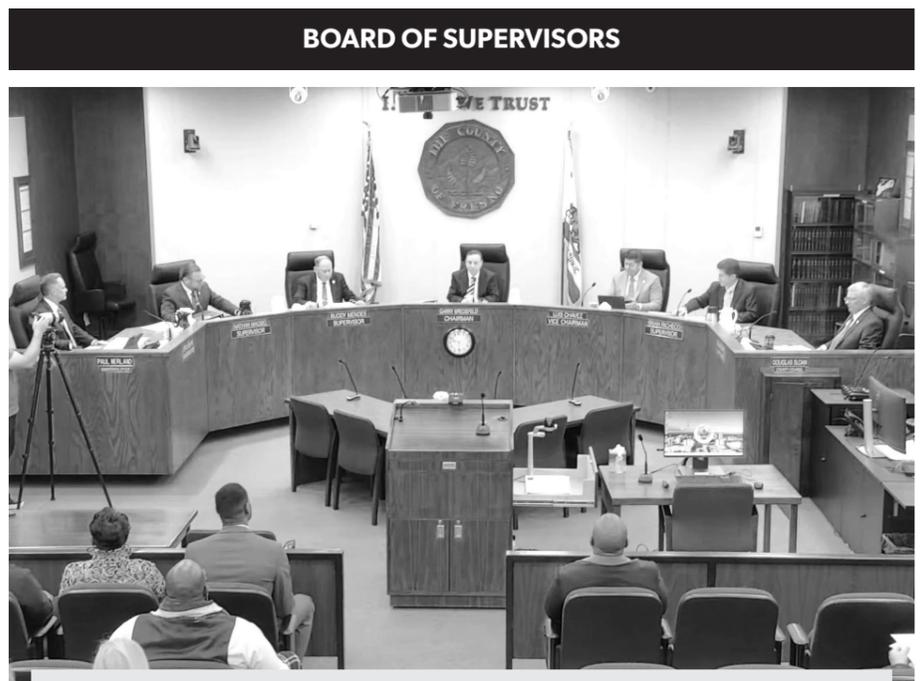
Then Bredefeld announced that he plans to propose his own competing ballot measure for a “general county-wide sales tax” that could be used for “actually” repairing roads.

As many have warned, two competing tax measures on the same ballot means both will likely fail.

Since his election a year ago, Bredefeld has been steering the MAGA-inflected policy outcomes of this board, though Supervisors Luis Chavez (District 3) and Brian Pacheco (District 1) sometimes cast dissenting votes.

Based on observation of his public speech, regarding Measure C, Bredefeld appears to be motivated by ideological hostility toward public transit and related areas, such as traffic-related air pollution and climate change, which he regards as “left-wing lunacy.” He wants no money allocated for anything other than routine road repair, and he is willing to let the public suffer the devastating consequences of the loss of tax revenue if he doesn’t prevail.

Bredefeld’s use of intimidation, his insistence on non-negotiable terms and his rigid black-and-white worldview reduces complex social issues to punitive absolutes. He responds to opposition with legal threats, making the prospect of prosecution and litigation an instrument of coercion rather than a legitimate means of dispute resolution.



The Fresno County Board of Supervisors in session on Feb. 10. Screenshot from livestream

“Criminal Illegal Aliens”—Board Affirms MAGA Policy

At the Jan. 27 meeting, Bredefeld demanded an addition to the County’s federal legislative platform: “Support ICE efforts to remove criminal illegal aliens from our community.”

On Jan. 13, Bredefeld had held a press conference, joined by Supervisors Magsig and Mendes, in addition to two MAGA Republicans from the Clovis City Council, only one week after the ICE murder of Renée Good in Minneapolis.

The presser’s purpose was to condemn violent attacks—not on civilians such as Good—but, preposterously, on ICE agents, perpetrated per Bredefeld by “radicals and extremists who vilify federal law enforcement.”

Shunning reality, he said, “I don’t buy the premise that they’re sweeping up innocent people.”

He urged unflinching obedience to ICE, promoted disinformation about its objectives and tactics, and disingenuously claimed that he “fully supports peaceful demonstrations,” adding that “everyone knows” that ICE is “under attack.” More about his rhetorical dishonesty below.

Debate about adding the issue to the platform centered on Bredefeld’s use of language, with Chavez repeatedly seeking clarification that it refer only to convicted criminals and raising concerns about compliance with California SB 54, which limits local police participation in federal immigration enforcement.

Sheriff John Zanon, who was present, assented and said plainly that cooperation with ICE must follow state law.

County counsel and other supervisors suggested adding phrasing such as “consistent with state law,” but Bredefeld resisted mulishly, arguing that it was “just” a statement that “everyone” could agree with.

Pacheco urged a compromise and prudently cautioned against entering a national political debate, while Magsig proposed broader wording referencing federal laws rather than ICE specifically.

Public commenters criticized the term “illegal aliens” as dehumanizing and questioned the absence of mention of due process.

Continued to page 14

Fresnans for a People's Budget

BY MARS SANTOS

Who gets to decide what safety looks like in the city of Fresno and how taxpayer dollars are used to build that? A new advocacy group, Fresnans for a People's Budget (FPB), formed to bring awareness to these simple, yet powerful questions. As the next budget cycle approaches, that conversation is growing louder as the FPB amplifies its message.

According to its Instagram, the "FPB aims to reallocate and reinvest in community care and reduce police spending and fund resources the community needs to thrive & prosper." Nearly a year in, the group has focused on base building, community engagement, awareness and education, creating spaces where residents can understand the City's budget and engage in discussion.

The idea to found the group occurred when nearly a dozen Fresnans brought their concerns to the Fresno City Council on April 10, 2025, over a consent agenda item to "Approve the renewal of the Fresno Police Department Annual Military Equipment Use Report as originally required by Assembly Bill 481, codified under Government Codes 7070-7075."

AB 481, a state law passed in 2021, was created to increase local government transparency, accountability and community control over militarization in local law enforcement.

Community members argued that the City Council failed to ensure statutory prerequisites that were satisfied before renewal, specifically, Government Code §7072(b), which states that "within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing an annual military equipment report, the law enforcement agency shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the public may discuss and ask questions regarding the annual military equipment report."

Commenters asserted that the law requires a separate, well-publicized community meeting designed for dialogue and that a standard City Council meeting does not allow for that opportunity.

"Renewing [the] AB 481 [requirement] on consent, without the required review and without the mandated community meeting, would mean approving military equipment out of compliance with state law," said one commenter who introduced herself as Ariana.

Despite the public's rebuttal and request to postpone the consent item to a future date, the City Council approved renewal anyway, and the motion passed unanimously.

Fueled by feelings of disappointment and that their concerns were dismissed by the City Council, several attendees decided to meet and discuss next steps. Born of frustration, conversation and the desire to make Fresno a better place for all people, the FPB was conceived.

"A handful of us quickly realized that the City Council was not interested in what we had to say, so we wanted to get more folks together to really understand how militarized [the] Fresno PD is and how much of our taxpayer dollars are fueling that," said Elvia Olea, outreach co-lead for the FPB.

The early meetings involved residents sitting together, learning together and asking critical questions. How much of the City's budget goes to policing? Who decides? Where does that money come from? Who benefits? Who doesn't?

"When we think of decision-making in City Council it doesn't feel like residents are engaged or considered," noted Olea. "Our biggest priority has been educating constituents on facts on the budget so they have a say on budgeting decisions."

As members dug into the numbers, they discovered that the Fresno Police Department receives roughly half of the City's General Fund. For many people, this was the first time they had seen that figure laid out clearly. The budget, once abstract and inaccessible, suddenly felt personal.

"There's so much that we don't have the privilege to learn about or know about as regular residents," Olea explained. "And so this past year, we have been really pushing transparency and education."

The FPB has hosted monthly meetings, participated in podcasts and interviews,



Members of Fresnans for a People's Budget at the Children's Movement residents' summit on Nov. 15, 2025. Photo by Mars Santos

tabled at community events, and organized forums designed not just to inform but to invite imagination.

Short-term goals include increasing engagement in the upcoming budget cycle and creating more opportunities for residents to envision alternatives to heavy police investment through art shows, tabling events and community education.

"We don't have all the answers," Olea said. "We don't want to promote as if we hold all the answers. It's really important for residents to be part of that envisioning and designing of a new Fresno."

That "North Star," as she describes it, centers on a holistic approach to public safety, one that prioritizes community care and shifts away from carceral systems. Long-term goals include expanding direct services for unhoused residents, youth investment and opportunity, mental health access, food accessibility, childcare support, economic development and infrastructure improvements in neighborhoods long impacted by redlining and neglect.

"The solution shouldn't be more policing," says Olea. "The solutions should be basic care."

For Olea, the work is also deeply personal. As a mother who takes her child to the park and walks Fresno's sidewalks, she sees the stakes every day.

"What is the Fresno that I want my son to grow up in?" she asked. "What are the things that I want him to have access to? What ensures that he has upward mobility, that he has resources?"

Moving to Fresno as a transplant, she felt the visible presence of policing and the uneven distribution of resources. Joining the FPB for her was about stepping into responsibility as an organizer, resident and mother.

"There's no perfect system. Sometimes voices are overlooked," she said. "We really try to be intentional about the ways in which we engage residents. It isn't just us pushing an agenda."

"We want folks to be part of this conversation for the greater good, for the future of Fresno."

Mars Santos (they/she) is an educator, writer and community organizer based in Fresno County. Contact them at ironicsaintmars@pm.me.

Take Action!

Fresnans for a People's Budget holds public meetings monthly. To learn more, follow their Instagram [@fresnans_for_a_peoples_budget](https://www.instagram.com/fresnans_for_a_peoples_budget).

Memorial Bike Ride for Alex Pretti

BY BEN MAIDEN

Alex Pretti, the ICU nurse killed on Jan. 24 by federal immigration officers in Minneapolis, loved mountain bike riding. More than 200 memorial rides took place to honor him across the United States on Jan. 31, including one in Mariposa, attended by these riders (left to right): Jamie Ardel, Andrew Yinger, Dave Ardel, Mike Cleary, Ari Brouillette, Ben Maiden and Patrick Pike.

Ben Maiden is a bike mechanic living in Fresno.

Photo courtesy of Patrick Pike



HAIKU

BY HOMER GEE GREENE JR.

Spring Haiku 2026

Meditation in
Bonsai Garden in Spring Bloom
Reflections on Life
.....

Wakanda Warrior 2025

Admiral Hosley
Fall Wakandian Warrior
A Man of Honor
.....

Who Is the True American

Patriotic Hero 2025-2026
Charlie Kirk Is Not
Summer-Winter Now Hero
Alex Pretti Is

Maduro's Autocracy Has Ended 2026

All About the Oil
Winter's War on Maduro
Democracy's End
.....

Only in Fresno

Winter Rain Stopped
View of Snow Capped Mountains
Only in Fresno
.....

On the Streets of Minneapolis 2026

Winter's Two Martyrs
Streets of Minneapolis
Bruce Springsteen's Lyrics

Homer Gee Greene Jr. is a freelance writer and a ninth-generation practitioner of Seven Star Praying Mantis Wu Shu (kung fu).

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More Rogue Festival

Fresno's internationally famous Rogue Festival continues through March 7. Shows occur at several venues throughout the Tower District.

Each show has a different fee, ranging from \$10 to \$15—depending on the artist. All ticket sales go directly to the artists. The Rogue festival strongly believes in empowering artists and wants its performers to make money.

A sampling of shows is included below. For a complete schedule, visit fresnoroguefestival.org.

Shanties and Stories with Strangely
March 6, 7 p.m.–7:55 p.m., Hart's Haven, 950 N. Van Ness Ave.

Fuzzy Fan Favorite Strangely returns with new songs and tales from several years spent mucking about in boats. Strangely comes from a youth as a sea-dwelling beardo with an undeniable skill for crowd work and a penchant for balancing things on the face.

Now an international professor of niche nerd-doms who plays accordion in ever more impressive ways, Strangely is renowned for leading performances that walk the line between sing-along and barely contained riot. Hailed as a "charismatic and slightly deranged" (outinperth) "tour de force" (fringereview), Strangely's performances are always a "meeting with the unusual" (KingsRiverLife).

Fugue
March 7, 12:30 p.m.–1:20 p.m., Vista Theater, 1296 N. Wishon Ave.
A woman attempts to share her life story without artifice when a soundtrack intrudes,

creating on-the-spot musical detours and fantasies, script revisions and a reappraisal of her identity. Written and performed by Kate McKnight featuring original music by McKnight and Jonathan Napoles.

Spilled Dictators by Andrew Rosdail
March 7, 2:30 p.m.–3:25 p.m., Grove at Veni's, 1118 N. Fulton Ave.

In an unspecified totalitarian country, a man is interrogated because he's not sad enough about the dictator's death in this political satire.

Playwright Andrew Rosdail wrote his original draft of the play in 2012 after the death of Kim Jong Il, when there were reports of mourners being punished for insufficient grief at his funeral. He revised the script in 2017, a few months after the first inauguration of our current president.

Directed by Renée Newlove. A talkback follows each performance.



The muse for this year's Rogue Festival is titled MayDay, a painting by local henna artist and oil painter Petra Wolf Walker of her daughter, Rhonwyn. Artwork courtesy of the Rogue Festival

Noses to the Grindstone

BY MICHAEL D. EVANS

"I don't want to live in a California run by Republicans," says Amy Wilkinson, a delegate to the California Democratic Party state convention from Kings County. "The one thing keeping me sane right now is that we're strongly Democratic."

Democrats throughout the state convened in San Francisco Feb. 20–22 for their endorsement convention. State Party Chair Rusty Hicks announced "Together we win!" as the theme for the convention.

Central Valley Democrats came away from the convention both energized and frustrated.

Energized by collaborations and strategizing, the focus on taking back Congress in November and unity in opposing the madness in Washington, D.C., particularly the abuses of ICE.

Frustrated because no candidate was endorsed in the major races for governor, lieutenant governor, insurance commissioner and treasurer and, specific to the Central Valley, the impact of party rules that might well have prevented the endorsement of a community-supported candidate in Congressional District 22 (CD22).

To win an endorsing caucus and be placed on the consent agenda for the party's endorsement, a candidate must receive 60% of the votes cast by the delegates in the geography applicable to a particular office. Some candidates had previously been placed on the consent agenda by having received 70% of the votes in the pre-endorsing caucuses that took place in January.

Central Valley delegates expressed frustration with the process in the CD22 endorsing caucus. Randy Villegas, an associate professor of political science at College of the Sequoias, won 55% of the vote in the pre-endorsing caucus, whereas that flipped to 56% for his opponent, Assembly Member Jasmeet Bains, in the endorsing caucus. How did that happen?

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D–Hollister), "in his infinite wisdom, put a punch of his special delegates into CD22 and told them how to vote, and that doesn't reflect our values," noted Cathy Jorgensen, chair of the Kings County Democratic Central Committee.

Her counterpart in Tulare County, Joshua Evans, has "a real problem with the state party's view that individuals like Robert Rivas and the Senate Pro Tem and other executive officers get to appoint delegates" to put their thumb on the scale for candidates that "might be 'safe' or 'establishment leaning' when the community has galvanized" behind a different candidate.

"Apparently you can game that system," says Wilkinson, who feels that the Bains campaign "took advantage of that and basically ruined it so we can't get an endorsement for a candidate that would be a really good fit for our district."

"I'm disappointed in the party because of some of the top-down things that are still happening," adds Jorgensen. "That doesn't reflect our beliefs, and I think it's wrong."

Wilkinson goes even further, "That smacks of Republicanism." She wants to see the party "take steps to make sure that kind of chicanery and shenanigans doesn't happen in our party."

"We should be better than that." Jorgensen concluded that she was "glad that the candidate the speaker was pushing did not get endorsed because of the tricks that he pulled."

Congressional District 22		
	Villegas	Bains
Pre-Endorsing Caucus	55%	45%
Endorsing Caucus	43.7%	56.3%
No endorsement in CD22		

A recurring theme among delegates throughout the convention was the possibility of Republicans being the top two candidates for governor following the primary because of so many good candidates splitting the Democratic vote.

Many delegates fear the Democratic candidates "will divide the vote so much in the primary that we won't even have a Democrat to vote for in the general election," laments Marsha Conant, a delegate from Fresno County.

Hicks, the party chair, however, feels that the "field will naturally narrow as we move closer to the primary."

"California Democrats are prepared to do what is required."

STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

"We're ready, willing and able to ensure that a strong Democrat is headed to the general election and in position to win in November."

Endorsing Caucus Results for Governor	
Eric Swalwell	24.0%
Betty T. Yee	17.3%
Xavier Becerra	14.1%
Tom Steyer	13.3%
Katie Porter	9.3%
Tony Thurmond	8.0%
Antonio Villaraigosa	4.6%
Ian Calderon	0.1%
No Endorsement/No Preference	8.5%
No endorsement for Governor	

Coming out of the convention, Wilkinson says that the attendees are "really energized for the election. Our job now is to go back to our communities and get everyone else excited."

"I think we all know we have to put our noses to the grindstone now and work really hard," says Myra Coble, a delegate from Fresno County, "because, as cliché as it sounds, this is one of the most important elections of our lifetime."

Michael D. Evans is a political activist, editor and writer. Contact him at evansm@usa.net.

California Democratic Party Primary Election Endorsements for the Central Valley

U.S. Congress		State Senate		State Assembly	
CD5	Mike Masuda	SD12	—	AD27	Brian Pacheco
CD13	Adam Gray	SD14	Esmeralda Soria	AD31	Annalisa Perea
CD18	Zoe Lofgren	SD16	Melissa Hurtado	AD32	—
CD20	—			AD33	—
CD21	Jim Costa			AD35	Andrae Gonzales
CD22	—				

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IT'S WOMXN'S HISTORY MONTH

International WOMEN'S Day is March 8th!

To find more information on Fresno's Womxn's march, visit www.internationalwomensday.com

You can also follow @centralvalleywomensmarch on Instagram for local updates and event details.

WOMXN'S DAY BOOK CLUB GUEST AUTHOR

The Fresno Branch Book Club will celebrate International Women's Day by hosting historian and author Angelica Shirley Carpenter, who will discuss her book, *Arm in Arm, The Grimké Sisters' Fight for Abolition and Women's Rights*, copyright 2025.

The book tells the "remarkable true story" of the sisters who became "pioneer advocates" for civil liberties in the early 1800s. Born into a family of enslavers in the South, Sarah Grimké and Angelina Grimké Weld were some of the first women to speak out about abolition and women's rights.

Angelica is Curator Emerita for the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature at California State University, Fresno.

The Book Club will meet at its usual time and place, Monday, March 9, 10:00 a.m. at Carmel Village Assisted Living in the Club Room.

HER STORY SPEAKER: DR. MI'JAN THO-BIAZ

Honoring Black History, Anthropology Day, and Women's Herstory month, cultural worker & documentarian, Dr. Mi'Jan Tho-Biaz, will be speaking on Octavia Butler's idea of "home".

@ Fresno State Univ on March 5th 6:00-7:15 pm

THE INTENSIFIED U.S. BLOCKAGE ON CUBA

Cuba will survive by resisting, resisting, and resisting.

The US blockade of Cuba began over 60 years ago. The recent intensification is just the most recent in a series of attacks. These try to block any source of income for Cuba, including attacks on tourism, Cuba's international medical program, trade, and financial transactions. The US has used its enormous economic political and military power to pressure businesses and other governments into not trading with Cuba, and even into not having Cuban health workers. The current attack is to cut off Cuba, which produces less than 50% of the fuel needed, from all sources of imported fuel, by threats and by violence - piracy in international waters.

Cuba is not and has never been a threat to US security. But Cuba established that a small formerly colonized and neo-colonized country could establish its own priorities, control its own resources and use them for the benefit of its own people and defy the empire's efforts to invade and blockade it into submission.

Defending the Cuban Revolution is the defense of the rights of all nations, the small as well as the powerful. It is the statement that social, economic and racial justice are real goals and not just words. A better world is possible, a world beyond global imperial racial capitalism, not as an abstract concept but as lived reality.

What you can do to help:

•Sign-on to public Call to Conscience, (Let Cuba Live campaign): <https://www.letcubalive.info>

•Nuestras Americas Flotilla to Cuba: <https://www.codepink.org/flotilla2cuba>

•Medical aid: Global Health Partners current campaign: sutures

•Donations can be made online at <https://ghpartners.org/sutures> or checks payable to Global Health Partners, with the memo Sutures, at 39 Broadway, Suite 1540, New York, NY 10006

•Legislative action- Urgently tell your Representative to support H.R. 7521, the United States-Cuba Trade Act, and your Senators to support S. 136, the companion bill.

FIND US ON SOCIALS!

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Email: fresnoWILPF@pm.me

WILPF-US Membership Renewal

***WILPF-US membership is \$40/year.

WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of \$20. ***

Send dues to WILPF Fresno to P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Questions and information updates to

Nancy Hatcher nhatcher46@gmail.com

or Kyla Mitchell kyla.noelle@gmail.com

Women in Black Protest

Wednesday, March 4 11AM-1PM

2500 Tulare St

For more info contact Sue:

skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777

WILPF Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 12 @6:30PM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence

1584 N Van Ness Ave

For Zoom link email: lenireeves@gmail.com

Open to all! please join us.

Stir It Up on KFCF

Wednesday, March 25 @3:00PM

Tune in to 88.1FM as Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community

Call for Donations

There are many local orgs currently requesting donations for distribution within our communities. Bring all of your donations to us, and we'll split it up between orgs depending on their needs.

DM @FresnoWILPF on Instagram for more info.

Donation requests from WILPF:

- empty containers (i.e. yogurt containers, tupper wares, spaghetti sauce jars)
- clean warm clothing for mxn, womxn, and children-warm outerwear (i.e. gloves, scarves, hats)
- personal hygiene for mxn & womxn (i.e. 3-in-1 body wash, menstrual products, deodorant, razors, toothpaste and brushes)

World Water Day Event is Sunday March 22

San Joaquin River Parkway's Summer Ranch
14439 Friant Rd @2PM

Please join us to take a walk along the river and learn about ways to protect our local waterways and discuss the dangers of proposed gravel mining. This year's theme is water and gender.

Bring a lunch to enjoy!

For more information, contact Kyla at (559) 346-8253

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Embezzlement Allegations at the Fresno Arts Council

BY OMAR S. RASHAD

(Editor's note: This story was originally published by FresnoLand, a nonprofit news organization.)

During an urgently scheduled Feb. 6 noon meeting between the Fresno Arts Council and Fresno City Manager Georgeanne White, Lilia González Chávez, executive director of the Arts Council, told White herself that at least \$1.5 million had been embezzled by a now-former Fresno Arts Council employee.

All of the missing \$1.5 million were Measure P funds, Chávez told White during that Feb. 6 meeting.

"It's really disappointing, you know?" White told FresnoLand in an interview. "There's probably not a day or two that go by that I say something like, 'You can't make this up.'"

White said she learned in that Feb. 6 meeting that Chávez had, at that point, only made a report to the FBI about \$1.5 million of embezzled funds and hadn't received a response yet.

"I said you need to report this, and she (Chávez) said that she had contacted the FBI, but had not heard back," White told FresnoLand. "I said we need to contact Fresno PD—I think they can move faster."

That's when White got a detective from the Fresno Police Department's financial crimes unit on the phone, who took a full police report from Chávez later that afternoon in-person, White told FresnoLand.

At a Feb. 9 community meeting—just one business day after the Fresno Police Department opened its investigation—White spoke with certainty to a room of aggrieved Fresno artists and Measure P grant recipients when she said the embezzled funds from the Arts Council were all public dollars.

White's confidence was based on what Chávez reported to her the previous week, before also reporting it to the Fresno Police Department, which is jointly investigating the matter alongside the FBI.

In an interview with FresnoLand, White explained a timeline of events that began with the Fresno Arts Council missing a key Sept. 30 reporting deadline to the City.

Despite failing to file required financial reports, the Arts Council still requested funds for the third round of Measure P grants in October 2025, which are supposed to be distributed until the fall of 2026. City officials never turned those funds over to the organization—a total of \$6.6 million.

"I can't speak to their motivation for requesting the funding," White said of the Arts Council. "All I can speak to is telling the staff we're not giving them the funding until they have accounted for and provided the documentation to confirm that the previous funding was spent consistent with the agreement."

Chávez picked up a phone call from FresnoLand, but she said she is not able to answer any questions from local news media. After reporting the missing \$1.5 million to the Fresno Police Department, Chávez sent out a news release to local media that said the Arts Council was "the victim of unauthorized financial transactions."

FresnoLand reviewed the last decade of the Fresno Arts Council's most recent tax filings, which were filed for fiscal years 2014 through 2023. The most money in a single year that the Fresno Arts Council handled in that decade was \$2.48 million.

In November 2023, the Fresno Arts Council received \$9.7 million in Measure P tax revenue from the City of Fresno—nearly 10 times the nonprofit's average annual revenue of \$1 million over the prior decade.

That multimillion dollar installment of Measure P funds was for the first round of grants for local arts organizations. In October 2024, the Fresno Arts Council received another \$5.7 million in Measure P funds, this time for the second round of Measure P grants for arts organizations.

White told FresnoLand that it's her understanding the Arts Council paid out all of the first round of Measure P grants. She also told FresnoLand that Chávez sent further information to the City, showing that about \$1.5 million of second round Measure P grants have not been disbursed yet.

"I don't know if that \$1,597,434—is it a coincidence that it's close to the \$1.5 million that was allegedly taken?" White told FresnoLand. "All I have is a spreadsheet provided by the Arts Council. I don't have an independent review and that has got to happen."

White said the Fresno Police Department and the FBI jointly investigating the missing money should be able to answer that question.

If it did come out of the second round of Measure P funds, it could mean the reported embezzling of \$1.5 million would have allegedly taken place after October 2024.

A Three-Month Late "Data Dump" with Insufficient Information

Back in September, a coalition of local artists and advocates lambasted the Fresno Arts Council and a private city subcommittee—both working together to create recommendations for Measure P grant awards. They questioned whether that subcommittee should be meeting in private.

Almost simultaneously, City officials were dealing with their own lack of transparency from the Arts Council as well.

After the Arts Council failed to meet a Sept. 30 reporting deadline and was not given round three Measure P funding—which was supposed to be allocated to local arts organizations this fall—Chávez gave City officials a report on Nov. 13.

"It was completely insufficient," White told FresnoLand. "It didn't contain any of the detailed financial reporting information that was due."

White said City staff sent a Nov. 21 letter to Chávez requesting the proper financial reporting.



Lilia González Chávez, executive director of the Fresno Arts Council, at right, holds up a symbolic check representing payments to a multitude of Fresno arts projects at an event on Sept. 5, 2024. Photo by Peter Maiden

It wasn't until Jan. 9, White said, when the Arts Council finally handed over more information to City officials.

But as she said at the Feb. 9 community meeting, it was "a data dump." White clarified to FresnoLand that City staff received that information in January, not the beginning of December.

White also clarified that it took three weeks for City staff to go through what the Arts Council turned over to the City in January.

"They're required to submit copies of bank statements, check ledgers and not all of that was provided," White said. "They provided a list of payments, but it didn't say who the payments were made to."

On Jan. 30, City staff sent a new letter to the Arts Council requesting sufficient information. White told FresnoLand that on Feb. 1 Chávez sent an e-mail to City staff asking for a copy of what her own staff had sent over on Jan. 9.

While the City of Fresno's Feb. 10 press release said a Fresno Arts Council board member contacted the City about the missing money, White told FresnoLand that Chávez had already reached out earlier that same day to set up a meeting with her as soon as possible.

White and Chávez met on Feb. 6—where Chávez, for the first time, reported to the City that \$1.5 million in Measure P funds were missing, before White connected her with the Fresno Police Department to make a formal report.

"I don't know how much information they knew, and when," White said. "All I know is what they told me. Whether or not that's accurate, I don't know. They said that they had uncovered this, and they were embarrassed about it."

"I don't know yet about community outreach"

Fresno's highest-ranking City officials emerged from a rare special closed session on Feb. 10 with a written public statement that included a sharp criticism of the Fresno Arts Council.

"The Mayor and members of the City Council are appalled by the lack of safeguards put in place by the Fresno Arts Council, which ultimately allowed this embezzlement to occur," City officials said in the statement.

The statement made clear that the City will take over administering Measure P grant money. White said the specifics of how that works aren't fully hashed out yet.

However, one thing is certain to White: She said the City needs to take control of administering Measure P funds for arts organizations.

"I don't feel like I can trust another agency to move forward right now," White told FresnoLand. "I'm very comfortable knowing what internal controls that we have in place with the City, not that we're perfect, but we have done a lot of work in the finance department over the last three years, updating all of our policies and procedures and internal controls."

She also said she understands community frustrations about transparency and said the City will ensure the third round of Measure P's grantmaking process will be transparent.

FresnoLand asked her what role community engagement and feedback will play in how the City of Fresno administers Measure P funds. White said she doesn't have specifics on that just yet.

"I don't know yet about community outreach," White told FresnoLand, "but I do know that the City is very well-versed and used to complying with the Brown Act, and posting meeting agendas and having minutes."

The City of Fresno is actually in the middle of an active lawsuit that alleges City leaders violated California's Brown Act with its budget process for five consecutive years.

The lawsuit, filed by the ACLU of Northern California and the First Amendment Coalition, was triggered by an August 2023 FresnoLand investigation into the City of Fresno's budget process.

Omar S. Rashad is an investigative reporter and an assistant editor at FresnoLand.

If you are a Measure P recipient that has yet to receive the entirety of your Measure P grant, you can contact the City of Fresno directly at 559-621-2999 or e-mail ExpandedArts@fresno.gov along with the Measure P grant agreement you entered into with the Fresno Arts Council and any related documentation.

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This Backdoor Legislative Tool Could Unravel Public Lands How the Congressional Review Act is being used to erase protections for America's shared lands and waters

By Lindsey Botts

February 6, 2026

Excerpted from *Sierra Magazine*, February, 2026

Lawmakers in Congress are deploying an obscure legislative tool to upend America's most beloved wild spaces. In the last few months, Republicans have overturned land-management plans in Alaska, North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. Conservation groups fear they'll target national monuments and wilderness areas next.

On January 15, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued an opinion asserting that the management plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument could be revoked. These plans, called resource management plans (RMP), are like road maps for how the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the monument, sets its priorities, said Kristen Brengel, the senior vice president of government affairs at the National Parks Conservation Association.

At issue is whether they count as "rules" under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), a legal statute that allows lawmakers to overturn a regulation within 60 legislative days of an administration submitting it to Congress. Conservation groups expect that legislators will put forward a bill to roll back the monument's plan within days. That bill, called a resolution of disapproval, would then start the 60-day clock.

The GAO memo was prompted by Utah Republican Representative Celeste Maloy, who last year asked the agency if the monument's RMP could be considered a rule under the CRA.

This case is unprecedented—never has a monument's plan been undone using the CRA, and never has Congress rescinded a mineral withdrawal using the statute. "If these measures pass, said Rachel Kondor, a staff attorney with The Wilderness Society, it will have the potential to severely undermine public land management." This is bigger than what we've seen before," Kondor said. "It's kind of an unchecked way for Congress to go after plans that take decades sometimes to revise or to create."

Conservation vs. resource extraction

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument covers almost 2 million acres in southern Utah and is famous for being the last mapped place in the lower 48 states. It's home to over 20,000 archaeological sites, and researchers have discovered nearly two dozen new dinosaur species within its borders. Between 2001 and 2015, one analysis found that jobs in the two counties surrounding the monument grew by 24 percent and personal income grew by nearly a third.

Steve Bloch, the legal director for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, said going after a national monument using the CRA is a dangerous escalation in the attempt to weaken public lands. Lawmakers have recently taken the unprecedented step of using the CRA to allow mining and oil and gas exploration in protected areas of Alaska, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. Bloch explained that those plans govern multiple-use lands where managers have a mandate to mix development and conservation.

"Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is different," Bloch told *Sierra Magazine*. "The fact that it's a national monument means that it's managed to a much higher standard. It's managed to safeguard and protect the irreplaceable cultural, paleontological, biological resources that are in that monument."

In 2021, President Biden restored the monument's previous boundary after the first Trump administration attempted to shrink the protected area by nearly half. If the current RMP is revoked, management would revert to the one put forward by the Trump administration, which reduced protections. However, because the monument was established by a president, the current boundary would remain the same, creating a sort of legal gray area for much of the land within its borders, Bloch said.

"I think the biggest risk is the confusion on the ground.... We're all very worried that this is the tip of the iceberg," Bloch said. I think everybody—from the Bureau of Land Management to local government to permittees to the visiting public—won't know how to behave inside of the monument.... When you're in a place that's as fragile as the Grand Staircase, that confusion results in on-the-ground impact...."

Lindsey Botts is the digital editor at *Sierra magazine*. You can follow him on Bluesky @lkbotts.bsky.social.



A hiker at Jacob Hamblin Arch in Coyote Gulch, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. | Photo by Wildnerdpix/iStock



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Musical History in a Song

BY PETER MAIDEN

Fresno resident Jim Bedoian, the brother of *Community Alliance* reporter Vic Bedoian, has a collection of 6,000–8,000 78 rpm records. The 78s are discs with one song on each side, each side holding a song lasting a maximum of three and a half minutes. The Golden Age of 78s was from 1925 to 1948.

Jim, who is 94 years old, got into listening to 78s as a kid, living on a farm near Sanger.

"Time goes very slowly out in the country when you're a young boy," he said, "and the only thing I would do is listen to phonograph records."

"I instantly fell in love with the music of the 20s and 30s."

By the time he was in high school, he heard one could purchase 78s at the Salvation Army store for a nickel apiece, and they had tables full of records. A collection was born.

Jim moved to Los Angeles for college and stayed on. Vic had something to say about going to and from LA with Jim, "If you were to drive up with him, or drive down 99, he would stop at every little town along the way and go to the Salvation Army, or some other secondhand store. It would take hours!"

Jim said, "I would get attracted to a particular artist and start collecting their records or their songs. I got to know more of the vaudevillians and people of that ilk. And the more I listened to it, the more I seemed to be attracted to it. [That was the] discovery for me."

"Because these were old records that I was getting, they would've been junk for most people. Record collectors like myself have been able to save some of these wonderful artists."

In the 1970s, Jim turned his hobby into a business. He began to issue LPs featuring artists he favored, anthologies of a musical style or music from certain historical periods. He produced more than 50 LPs. In the 1990s, he moved into CDs. Finally, he made music available on iTunes, where he lists nearly 6,500 songs.

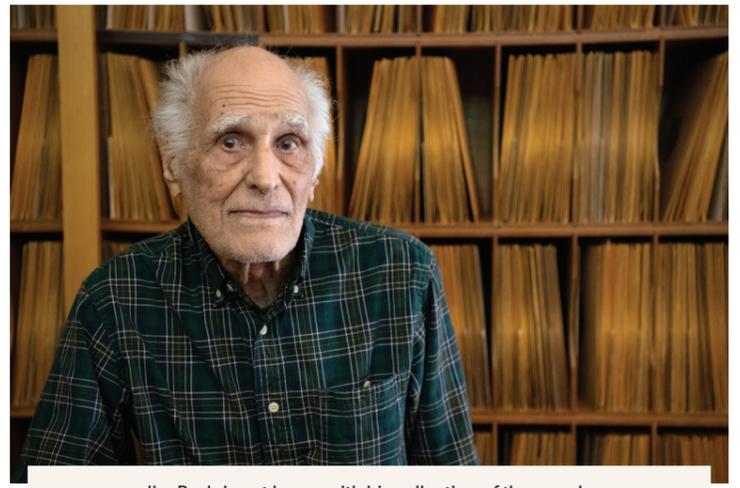
His productions featured top quality artwork and liner notes. An example is *Hawaiian Memories*:

Vintage Recordings 1928–1941. The CD cover by Greg Parks is of a Hawaiian woman with flowers in her hair, holding a guitar, while behind her is a smoking volcano, the sea and palm trees at sunset. Sound restoration was done by Audio Mechanics and Echo Productions.

Ian Whitcomb wrote on the CD insert: "There emerged a hit called 'On the Beach at Waikiki,' an infectious snatch of melody and close harmony...proudly published by Honolulu's own Bergstrom Music Company. Tin Pan Alley watched in fascination... [This] 'golden hula' was aimed at the *haoles*, and contained a degree of sauciness, summed up in the slogan 'Honi kua wiki-wiki,' meaning 'Kiss me quick!'"

"Within a year 'On the Beach at Waikiki' had become a national best-selling song sheet while Hawaiian ensembles were on the vaudeville circuit spreading their good word all over America. They were especially influential in southern states where country lads took the slide guitar into their hearts so deeply that the steel eventually became associated as much with Nashville as with Honolulu."

The version of "On the Beach at Waikiki" in Jim's collection is a recording from 1934 by the Moana



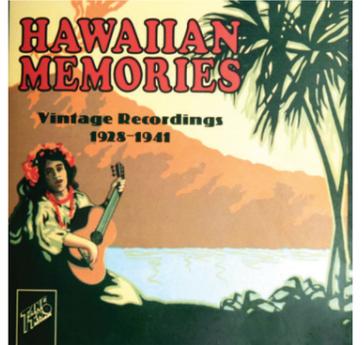
Jim Bedoian at home with his collection of thousands of 78 rpm recordings. Photo by Peter Maiden

Serenaders. The listener, filled in by Whitcomb's notes, can relate to what is really musical history in a song. The 78 records were, at one time, after all, the best way of hearing music.

Looking back, "I was doing it not for the money," said Jim, "but for the enjoyment of doing it." (He also noted, "I did make good money for a time.")

"Trying to keep this music going for whoever still enjoyed listening to it, that was my goal, and I succeeded at that."

Peter Maiden is interim editor of the *Community Alliance* newspaper.



The cover of a CD called *Hawaiian Memories*, one of the many compilations Jim Bedoian produced.

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Tribal Nations Fight for Water Rights

BY VIC BEDOIAN

Recently, the State Water Resources Control Board held comprehensive hearings on the update of the Bay Delta Plan that governs how much water flows from the state's rivers through the largest estuary on the Pacific coast. The ecological health of the San Francisco Bay Delta estuary has been at risk from inadequate freshwater flows and climate change.

The state's draft plan was criticized by Delta farmers, the fishing industry, environmental advocates and dozens of individuals. Scientists warned it will lead to ecological collapse of the estuary.

The hearings also exposed friction between tribal nations living in the Bay Delta watershed and the state government's water planning and policies. Representatives from several tribal nations roundly criticized the plan that is on the table. They say they were not consulted early enough and that their sovereignty as nations was not considered.

At the crux of the plan are a set of voluntary agreements dubbed Healthy Rivers and Landscapes that depend on a promise by water districts and contractors to provide more water from the state's rivers, along with habitat improvement for salmon spawning and rearing.

But Delta advocates say that plan will not provide sufficient water to benefit the estuary, which is plagued by toxic algae blooms and fish species on the brink of extinction.

Tribal nations of the Bay Delta watershed have had a deep and abiding link with the estuary for time beyond memory. That ancient link to the landscape, its waterways and a thousand wild species living there is still strong among the tribal people that live there now. Their ancestors managed the landscape for millennia.

In modern times, tribal sovereignty and collaboration have been shunted aside by mainstream society and its agencies. That friction surfaced in recent hearings of the State Water Resources Board over the Bay Delta Plan. Tribal nations indicated they still feel largely left out of the process and their status as co-equal governments ignored.

Vincent Pena is the tech manager for the Wilton Rancheria of the Sacramento Valley. He expressed the power of those ancient ties to the land.

"Wilton Rancheria maintains deep ancestral cultural and subsistence ties to the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta.

"The tribe's interests in the delta are not abstract, historic or symbolic only. They are ongoing living responsibilities grounded in cultural practice, subsistence activity, stewardship obligations and intergenerational continuity."

Northern California's Hoopa Tribe in the Klamath River watershed has been impacted by the state's water planning, but their concerns have been ignored according to Regina Chichizola, executive director of Save California's Salmon.

She asserted that tribal beneficial uses should be more than simply words on a page. "Tribal beneficial uses should not just be established but protected. It's just an exercise on paper.

"If you don't actually protect them, there should be mitigation measures with enforceable outcomes. And truthfully, any voluntary agreements that do not meet instream flow objectives and protect beneficial uses should be rejected."

Pena observed that the draft Bay Delta plan did not provide meaningful early and ongoing government-to-government consultation that directly affects tribal interests.

"The revised draft plan and its associated environmental analysis fail to reasonably protect tribal beneficial uses and other protected beneficial uses, rely impermissibly on unenforceable and discretionary implementation mechanisms and do not adequately analyze or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, public trust resources or tribal sovereignty interests."

Chichizola reminded State Water Board members that the 2018 version of the Bay Delta Plan allowed for 75% of the water flowing from rivers in the Delta watershed to stream into the estuary. Governor Gavin Newsom's administration has worked to change the water flow parameters to align with the priorities of the state's agricultural industry.

The Bay Delta Plan update currently on the table calls for a maximum unimpaired flow from rivers of 55% and as low as 35%, or even less depending on climate conditions.

It was a lost opportunity, Chichizola indicated, stating that adoption of the 2018 plan would have prevented excessive water exports to Central Valley farms that have had devastating impacts on salmon and other species.

"In the time [that] salmon runs have gone down 65% to 95% depending on species, almond acreage has gone up and water use has gone up. And that is the direct consequence of the stalling that the voluntary agreements has caused."

Brian Wallace has Nisenan and Washoe heritage and was chair of the Washoe Tribe east of Lake Tahoe. Wallace suggested that to achieve equity in collaborating with the state, tribal nations must have decision authority, resource parity, data sovereignty and informed consent. And he underscored the importance of Tribal Ecological Knowledge in managing watersheds.

"You know, for 15,000 years, the indigenous peoples that are represented in these hearings have governed these waters since before history was history. Salmon filled these rivers, watersheds sustained massive populations without crisis.

"And now, for the last 150 years, as we've been able to witness, the state has managed these waters. The result has been species collapse, perpetual drought and escalating conflict that creates all this emotion that you're feeling in these hearings."

The Yurok nation is another reservation impacted by state water policy and the Bay Delta plan. Frankie Meyers has been a tribal consultant. His emotions boiled up as he discussed the longstanding dismissal of indigenous knowledge by state officials in water policy and planning.

"How incredibly frustrating it is for me to be sitting in another room in front of you all again, listening to our strong, powerful tribal leaders tell the same story to you all over, and over, and over again.

"And yet here we are moving toward an agreement and a proposal that perpetuates systemic racism, that perpetuates unjust treatment of tribal nations and erasure of this history as a state.

"We're talking about tribal nations. These are not citizens, they're not individuals, they're not stakeholders. They are tribal nations."

State Water Board members acknowledged historical wrongs and how they have carried into modern times. They indicated a willingness to engage more deeply with tribal nations in crafting water policy in the future.

Vic Bedoian is the Central Valley correspondent for KPFA News and a Community Alliance reporter specializing in natural history and environmental justice issues.



National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) is a multi-partisan, multi-racial, prochoice grassroots organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in the political process and creating a true women's political power base to achieve equality for all women. Dinner meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm social and dinner at 6:00 pm. For location, please check our website: nwpcfresno.org.

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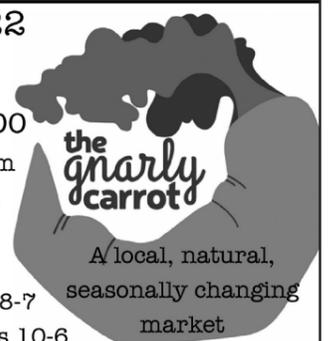
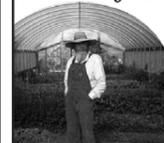
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Road Rage

Continued from page 4

Despite disputes over wording—including an unsuccessful attempt to substitute “illegal” with “undocumented,” the exchange highlighted the tension between judicious governing and ideological signaling, even in a document that has no bearing on binding legislation.

Both Chavez and Pacheco voted against adding this point to the County’s federal legislative platform.

Bredefeld’s Outrage at Student Walkouts
During the Feb. 10 Reports and Comments period, Bredefeld seized the moment to ascend his soapbox and read from a prepared statement that was syntactically clumsy but inflammatory.

Now his ideological crusade was to denounce recent Fresno and Clovis high school student walkouts protesting ICE.

Bredefeld’s remarks warrant close examination because they illustrate revealing rhetorical patterns. He began by falsely depicting himself as reasonable: “Students have a right to express their views, which I fully support”—that’s a fairness cue he’s used before, designed to make the rest of his speech seem reasonable.

Rather than reasonableness, however, Bredefeld seethed with outrage that students opposed the mass deportations of what he termed “criminal illegal aliens”—the phrase he loves to repeat, significant because its linguistic strategy, known as “lexical stacking” (multiple negatively charged labels grouped together) maximizes the sensation of threat and triggers fear in the listener.

“Students had signs with profanity!” complained he who swears freely and often at public board meetings. Invoking moral panic, Bredefeld was aghast that loud music was played at the protests.

“Taxpayer-funded” buses were used to transport students to and from demonstration sites, Bredefeld asserted, a phrase meant to activate the listener’s identity as moral, responsible taxpaying citizens who should feel betrayed. Reportedly, however, most students took public buses or walked.

Impugning the leadership of the Fresno Unified School District, Bredefeld said that it was “well known” that the school district had “failed students for decades.” Now they permitted a walkout “with no penalties.”

First, by asserting that what he was about to say was “well known,” he presumed consensus before anything was said, thus foreclosing debate. And by blaming the school district, Bredefeld turned participation in a civic protest into a symptom of institutional collapse.

School officials, Bredefeld said, did not “merely tolerate but actively encouraged the walkouts”—not necessarily inappropriate—then he asked rhetorically, with no trace of irony, if students were being taught about “both sides.”

Were students being taught about the “crimes of the criminal illegal aliens that the federal government is trying to deport”? They are all “rapists, murderers, committed sex crimes against children, are engaged in drug and sex trafficking” [sic], sputtered Bredefeld, repeating well-worn disinformation from Trump, himself a convicted felon and sex abuser.

No mention was made of the ICE abandonment of due process; hence, there are no judicial decisions to confirm that ICE detainees have been convicted of crimes of any type. Yet Bredefeld fumed that students are “being indoctrinated to hate law enforcement, hate this great country and not respect the rule of law.”

His fear-regulated rant characterized the student walkouts as evidence of longstanding institutional failure, suggesting that schools do not prioritize academic proficiency but rather permit what he described as “indoctrination and manipulation” in the form of civic protest.

In his recounting, the students themselves are like phantoms. Never bothering to engage the motivations of the students, the argument shifts attention from students’ concerns to public order, evaluation of educational performance and stoking fears about immigrants, thereby linking a local school event to broader national anxieties.

Bredefeld’s lack of curiosity about why students protested diminishes his credibility when he pleads for looking into “both sides” of a conflict. And he seems unaware that student protest has long been constitutionally protected, most notably



Date: JANUARY 12, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Danny Gai
Dgai@fresnocountyca.gov
(559) 600-2001

SUPERVISOR BREDEFELD & ELECTED OFFICIALS IN FRESNO COUNTY TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE CALLING ON LOCAL LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE NATION TO CONDEMN ATTACKS ON ICE AND TO STAND WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

FRESNO COUNTY, CA—Fresno County Supervisor Garry Bredefeld and local elected leaders will hold a press conference on Tuesday, January 13 to publicly and unequivocally condemn escalating attacks on ICE agents and law enforcement officers. Additionally, we are calling on all local leaders throughout the nation to stand firmly with those tasked with protecting public safety.

Supervisor Bredefeld will be joined by local officials to send a clear message: violence, intimidation, and obstruction of federal and local law enforcement will not be tolerated.

“We are watching the results of years of reckless political rhetoric that paints law enforcement as the enemy. That lie ends here. Attacks on ICE agents and law enforcement officers are attacks on the rule of law itself and silence in the face of these attacks is complicity,” said Bredefeld.

The press conference will denounce violent political rhetoric and highlight the dangerous consequences of elected officials who vilify law enforcement, excuse criminal behavior and encourage lawlessness in the name of radical politics.

Who: Supervisor Garry Bredefeld, Supervisor Nathan Magsig, Supervisor Buddy Mendes, Clovis City Councilmember Diane Pearce, and Clovis City Councilmember Drew Bessinger. A staff member from Assemblyman David Tangip’s office will also be in attendance and provide a statement.

What: Press Conference Regarding Attacks on ICE Agents & Calling for Local Officials to Stand with Law Enforcement

When: Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 10am

Where: Fresno County Hall of Records, 2281 Tulare Street, 3rd Floor, Media Room

Press release issued by Fresno County Supervisor Garry Bredefeld on Jan. 12.

in *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969), which affirmed that students do not “shed their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gate.”

What is more, California law permits limited absences specifically “for the purpose of a middle-school or high-school pupil engaging in a civic or political event, provided that the pupil notifies the school ahead of the absence.” But Bredefeld appeared to be ignorant of this fact as well.

“Logging Prevents Pollution”

To round out the zeal for ideological hooks to grab onto, at the Feb. 10 meeting, Magsig raised the issue of allowing lumber mills in ag zones, which he said would “reduce pollution.” In the past, he has said that “trees cause air pollution”—now, it’s “mills will prevent pollution.” Lately, Magsig has

tacked on the bit about “reducing pollution” to his dogmatic advocacy for logging.

“There Will Be Fraud”

Mendes, peevishly alluding to the recent Measure P embezzlement scandal, accused “the same people” who wrote the Measure P ordinance of writing the initiative for the new Measure C transit measure, so he had little doubt that there will be a “huge amount of fraud” with the transportation tax—proof, apparently, that for some supervisors, political fervor or just plain petulance is policy and that certainty requires no evidence.

Rachel Youdelman is a former photography editor and lives in Clovis. She attended UC Berkeley, CalArts and Harvard University. Contact her at rachel27@berkeley.edu.

Standing Up for Environmental Justice

BY ANGEL GARCIA

Nearly a decade after community members first took a stand against the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for its handling of the cancer-causing fumigant 1,3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D), the fight has returned to the courts.

On Feb. 2, Central Coast residents Rocio Ortiz and Ana Barrera—together with Californians for Pesticide Reform and the Pesticide Action and Agroecology Network—filed a lawsuit challenging the DPR’s latest regulations on 1,3-D (nearly a decade after community members sued the DPR for its handling of 1,3-D).

The new lawsuit alleges that the “DPR’s newly adopted rules violate key requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) by failing to provide clarity and consistency. Additionally, the regulations in question allow public exposure to dangerous levels of pesticide emissions—levels known to harm human health—in direct violation of the California Food and Agricultural Code.”

This legal action comes almost a decade after the landmark 2017 case *Vasquez et al. v. Department of Pesticide Regulation*. The lawsuit is in response to the DPR issuing two conflicting regulations.

The first regulation, which took effect in 2024, was designed to safeguard people living near pesticide applications—referred to as residential bystanders. It set a regulatory target air level at a lenient 0.56 parts per billion (ppb) per day over a 70-year lifetime.

On Jan. 1, 2026, another rule came into effect for those who work near these applications—occupational bystanders—setting a stricter threshold of 0.21 ppb averaged over a standard workweek across four decades.

Each regulation applies different target air concentration levels to essentially the same population: people who live and work in close proximity to fields where 1,3-D is applied. This patchwork approach has created confusion and uncertainty among the very communities these rules are meant to protect.

What State Cancer Experts Say

In 2022, the state’s expert cancer risk assessment branch—the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)—set a No Significant Risk Level (NSRL) for lifetime cancer risk from 1,3-D at just 0.04 ppb, a threshold far more protective than any previous standard set by the DPR.

Yet, despite accepting the OEHHA’s NSRL on paper, the DPR’s occupational bystander regulation allows much higher exposures by assuming that farmworkers encounter this chemical only during traditional work hours—40 hours a week over a span of 40 years. This



Lourdes Medina speaks at a press conference for Californians for Pesticide Reform in Fresno. Photo by Chris Schneider

assumption ignores the reality that many farmworkers also live near agricultural fields and are exposed to harmful emissions around the clock.

The new lawsuit highlights that such regulations fail to protect public health because they overlook exposure outside working hours.

Moreover, the DPR’s rule assumes that all farmwork happens from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.—when emissions are at their lowest point. In truth, most farmworkers begin their day before sunrise when emissions can be significantly higher.

Even more troubling is that one regulation permits residential bystanders—including children and families—to be exposed to levels acknowledged elsewhere as cancer-causing for workers.

The heart of the lawsuit lies not only in the DPR’s failure to adequately protect public health but also in its violation of the consistency requirement set forth by the Administrative Procedures Act.

The current contradictory regulations lack the legally required clarity, especially as they do not include any provisions to warn workers about nearby 1,3-D use. That omission leaves farmworkers vulnerable and uninformed about potential dangers lurking in their workplaces.

Continued to page 16

FRESNO ARTS & CULTURE

MARCH 2026 CALENDAR

Weekly

Fort Washington Farmers Market (Sundays) 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Fort Washington Shopping Center. Local products.

Sunday Jams (Sundays) 4 p.m.–7 p.m. California Catering. Live music.

Acoustic Honkey Tonk Jam (Mondays) 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Santa Fe Basque. Hosted by E.Z. Marc.

River Park Farmers Market (Tuesdays) 5 p.m.–9 p.m. River Park. California certified-fresh market.

Open Mic Night (Tuesdays) 7:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Strummer's. Open mic 7:30 p.m., karaoke 9:30 p.m. Free

Open Mic Night (Tuesdays) 7 p.m. Locked In Sports Bar. Signups 6 p.m., performances 7 p.m.

Vineyard Farmers Market (Wednesdays) 2 p.m.–5 p.m. 100 W. Shaw Ave. Valuing the land that produces our bounty.

Kenny Hall's Friends (Wednesdays) 5 p.m.–7 p.m. Santa Fe Basque. Old-time music song circle.

Pass the Aux (Wednesdays) 8:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Strummer's. Open-format DJ night.

Arte, Pero Later (Thursdays) 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Arte Américas. From live music to bilingual book club.

Karaoke Night (Thursdays) 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Club One Casino. Free

Vineyard Farmers Market (Saturdays) 7 a.m.–noon. 100 W. Shaw Ave. Valuing the land that produces our bounty.

01 Mary Poppins (~March 22) Roger Rocka's. This family favorite is "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." \$45+

Diana Gabriel Exhibition (~March 26) Fresno City College Art Space Gallery. Drawing on traditional textiles and techniques from her grandmother's home in Colombia.

Gender Euphoria Exhibition (~March 28) Queer Collective. Organized by Trans-E-Motion in collaboration with the Fresno Inclusive Foundation.

Cyrano de Bergerac (~April 19) 2nd Space Theatre. The homely Cyrano feels honor-bound to help a handsome dolt woo the woman Cyrano also loves. \$29.49

Graphic Art of Roi Partridge (~June 28) Fresno Art Museum. Etchings from a master printmaker.

Jeffrey Long: American Landscapes (~June 28) Fresno Art Museum. Modernist design, tribal and Asian art.

Requiem: The Remains of the Day (~June 28) Fresno Art Museum. Photographs by Ruth Morgan.

Fresno Writers Live at Rogue Festival 2 p.m.–3 p.m. Veni Vidi Vici. Storytelling and spoken-word show. \$10

03 Big Bands in Concert 7:30 p.m.–10:30 p.m. Fresno State Concert Hall. Organized by the School of Music. \$15+

04 Emery 6 p.m.–11 p.m. Fulton 55. Post hardcore band. \$30

Pet Sounds Live 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. The music of the Beach Boys. \$33+

05 ArtHop Gallery on Fulton 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Downtown Fresno/Tower District. Exhibitions, gallery shows and performances. Free

Fresno Writers Live at Rogue Festival 8:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. Veni Vidi Vici. Storytelling and spoken-word show. \$10

06 2026 Oscar-Nominated Short Films (~March 7) 5:30 p.m. Old Administration Building. Presented by Fresno Filmworks.

The Papas & Mamas 7 p.m. Tower Theatre. The ultimate Mamas & Papas tribute. \$41+

Femme Goth Darkwave Show 8 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Fulton 55. Dark Chisme, Hallows, Casa de Brujas, Evangile and DJ Demonica. \$20+

07 Bilingual Story Time 10 a.m. Arte Américas. Free

Siamese 6 p.m.–11 p.m. Fulton 55. Danish alternative rock/metal band. \$22+

Tim Allen 7:30 p.m.–10 p.m. Warnors Theatre. America's favorite dad is back. \$62+

Brincos Dieras 8 p.m. Saroyan Theatre. El Desmadre Continúa Tour 2026. \$110+

Fresno Writers Live at Rogue Festival 8 p.m.–9 p.m. Veni Vidi Vici. Storytelling and spoken-word show. \$10

08 Irish & Breton Session 1 p.m.–3 p.m. La Boulangerie. Open session of Irish and Breton tunes. Free

High School Folklorico Showoffs 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Royce Hall. Featuring 11 local high school folklorico programs.

Philip Lorenz International Keyboard Concerts 7 p.m.–9:30 p.m. Fresno State Concert Hall. Alexander Malofeev. \$40

10 Silent Book Club 6:30 p.m. Dulce UpFront. Bring a book, your reading list and a friend.

Electric Elton 7:30 p.m. Tower Theatre. A tribute to Elton John. \$49

Peso Pluma 8 p.m. Save Mart Center. The Dinastia Tour and friends. \$102+

12 Ally Nicholas 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Strummer's. The Nevermind Tour. \$24

Fey 7:30 p.m.–10 p.m. Warnors Theatre. 30th Anniversary Hits Tour. \$40+

13 Marco Strous (UK) 8 p.m.–2 a.m. Fulton 55. Modern tech house. \$23+

Heated Rivalry DJ Night 8 p.m. Strummer's. \$36

Fade (~March 21) Dennis & Cheryl Woods Theatre. A play about class and race within the Latinx community. \$20

14 Old Time Fiddlers & Music Jam 2 p.m.–4 p.m. Santa Fe Basque. Free

Clue Live on Stage 7:30 p.m. Saroyan Theatre. Murder, blackmail and mayhem are on the menu. \$37+

Pink Floyd's The Wall 7:30 p.m. Tower Theatre. Re-created by the Black Jacket Symphony. \$43+

15 Clue Live on Stage 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Saroyan Theatre. \$37+

Spring Choral Concert 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Fresno State Concert Hall. \$15

Sunday Night Blues Jam 6 p.m.–9 p.m. Club One Casino. Featuring the Richie Blue Band. Free

17 Artificial Language 5 p.m.–9 p.m. Strummer's. With Four Stroke Baron, Cyborg Octopus and Snooze. \$24

Jazz at the Library 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m. Woodward Park Regional Library. Live jazz performance.

On the Horizon Concert 7 p.m. Lyles Theater. Featuring the Fresno Pacific University Concert Choir, the San Joaquin Valley Community Band and the Kings River Brass Band.

18 Why Not Wednesday? 5 p.m.–9 p.m. Fulton St. (Mono to Fresno). Vendors, food trucks, artists and live music.

Art Grooves Got Jokes 7 p.m.–9 p.m. River Park Art Groove. 7 p.m. open mic, 7:30 p.m. comedian talent contest.

Russ Taff & Steve Taylor 7:30 p.m. Tower Theatre. The [Almost] Farewell Tour. \$49+

19 ArtHop 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Fresno Metro Area. Exhibitions, gallery shows and performances. Free

Lifeguard 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Strummer's. With Sunday Mourners and Local Behaviour. \$27

Chris Duarte Group 7:30 p.m. Tower Theatre Lounge. Texas blues-rock. \$21+

Durand Jones & the Indications 8 p.m. Tioga-Sequoia Beer Garden. Contemporary R&B and soul. \$49+

20 Nunslaughter 6:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Fulton 55. With Sadistic Intent, Evil Army and Insineratehymn. \$42+

Inner Ear Beat Down Slams 7 p.m.–9 p.m. River Park Art Groove. 7 p.m. open mic, 7:30 p.m. slam.

Codiciado 8 p.m. Save Mart Center. Así Es La Vida Tour. \$46+

21 Volunteer Day 8:30 a.m.–noon. Shinzen Friendship Garden. Contribute to the care of this beautiful space.

Bilingual Story Time 10 a.m. Arte Américas. Free

Seasons of Stories Book Club 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Shinzen Friendship Garden. Literature inspired by Japanese culture. Free

Fresyes Fest 1 p.m. Fulton Street in Downtown Fresno. Celebration of local food, beer, music and vendors. Free

Shen Yun (~March 22) 2 p.m. Saroyan Theatre. Reviving the beauty of traditional Chinese culture. \$105+

Jazz Jam Session 4 p.m.–7 p.m. Vibe Lounge. Rick Heller's Trio Expression. Free

Y&T 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. Innovator of the hard rock sound. \$42+

2000s Rave: Party Like It's 2003 9 p.m. Strummer's. Limewire classics remixed for the dance floor. \$21

22 Kyle Smith 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Fulton 55. Backwoods Tour with Fayuca and Amp Melo. \$42+

25 Slowcrush 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Strummer's. With She's Green and Spite House. \$31

26 City Jazz Festival (~March 27) 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Fresno City College Theatre. Student jazz performances, clinics and workshops. Free

Fresno Philharmonic 5:30 p.m. The Barn. Annual Farm to Fiddle Dinner Party. \$200

27 The Buddy Holly Story (~May 25) Roger Rocka's. Featuring the 1950s hits of Buddy Holly & the Crickets, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper. \$45+

28 Muay Thai Workshop 11 a.m.–noon & 1 p.m.–2 p.m. Metalmark Climbing + Fitness. With Rob Syrisack. Ages 12+ only.

FreeBig Mucci 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Star Palace. King of line dance songs. \$26.38+

Pretty Tied Up 7:30 p.m. Fulton 55. A tribute to Guns n' Roses. \$25+

Submit arts-related events to calendar@fresnoalliance.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication, or you can post anytime online at fresnoalliance.com (select Calendar).



The San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance is funded in part by the City of Fresno Measure P Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Fund administered by the Fresno Arts Council.

VENUES

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660	Dennis & Cheryl Woods Theatre • 5241 N. Maple Ave. • 559-278-4240	Fresno State Concert Hall • 2380 E. Keats Ave. • 559-278-2654	Metalmark Climbing + Fitness • 4042 N. Cedar Ave. • 559-229-7900	Royce Hall • Fresno High School • 1839 N. Echo Ave.	Star Palace Ballroom • Warnors Theatre • 559-264-2848	Veni Vidi Vici • 1116 Fulton St. • venividivici.fresno.com/
Arte Américas • 1630 Van Ness Ave. • arteamericas.org	Dulce UpFront • 2026 N. Van Ness Blvd. • 559-202-3099	Fulton 55 • 875 Divisadero St. • fulton55.com	Old Administration Building • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221	Santa Fe Basque Restaurant • 3110 N. Maroa Ave. • 559-226-7499	Strummer's Bar & Grill • 833 E. Fern Ave. • strummersclub.com	Vibe Lounge • 724 E. Olive Ave. • vibelounge.com/
ArtHop Venues • fresnoartscouncil.org/programs/arthop	Fort Washington Shopping Center • 447 Fort Washington Rd. • 559-490-3600	La Boulangerie • 730 W. Shaw Ave. • 559-222-0555	Queer Collective • 3034 Tulare St. • queer-collective.org	Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100	The Barn at San Joaquin River Parkway • 11605 Old Friant Rd. • 559-248-8480	Vista Theater • 1298 N. Wishon Ave. • 559-222-7464
California Catering • 1603 E St. • 559-222-4202	Fresno Art Museum • 2233 N. First St. • fresnoartmuseum.org	Locked In Sports Bar • 3045 W. Bullard Ave. • 559-369-7684	River Park's Art Groove Event Center • 80 E. Via Del Oro • 559-840-8886	Save Mart Center • 2650 E. Shaw Ave. • savemartcenter.com	Tioga-Sequoia Beer Garden • 745 Fulton St. • tiogasequoia.com	Warnors Theatre • 1400 Fulton St. • warnorscenter.org
Club One Casino • 3950 N. Cedar Ave. • clubonecasino.com	Fresno City College Theatre • 1101 E. University Ave. • 559-442-8221	Lyles Theater • Warkentine Center • Fresno Pacific University	Roger Rocka's Dinner Theatre • 1226 N. Wishon Ave. • 559-266-9494	Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848	Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • fresnotowertheatre.com	Woodward Park Regional Library • 944 E. Perrin Ave. • 559-600-3135

Note: All locations are in the city of Fresno unless otherwise noted.

Justice

Continued from page 14

This marks the fourth time that community members and advocates have gone to court over the DPR's handling of 1,3-D. The current lawsuit seeks to "invalidate both inconsistent regulations and compel [the] DPR to adopt one clear, consistent, and health-protective rule that finally brings California into compliance with its own laws."

What is 1,3-D?

1,3-D is a highly toxic soil fumigant primarily utilized to control nematodes and other soil-dwelling pests. It is applied either by direct injection into the soil or through specialized drip tubes. Once introduced into the ground, it volatilizes into a gas—a property that allows it to spread beyond the initially treated fields and potentially affect surrounding areas.

Due to its hazardous nature, the DPR has classified 1,3-D as a toxic air contaminant and officially recognizes it as a human

carcinogen. Scientific studies have linked exposure to 1,3-D to increased risk of cancer and other serious health effects. This risk is particularly concerning for people living, working or attending school near fields where this fumigant is used.

Communities most impacted by exposure to 1,3-D are often rural, low-income areas with predominantly Latino populations.

Legal Timeline

In 2017, farmworkers and community members filed *Vasquez et al. v. Department of Pesticide Regulation*, arguing that the DPR had failed to adequately regulate 1,3-D. The plaintiffs contended that the DPR's use of an "underground regulation" bypassed required public processes and transparency.

In 2018, the trial court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, finding that the DPR had indeed violated state law by adopting regulations without public input. When the DPR, joined by manufacturer Dow, appealed this decision in 2021, the appellate court affirmed the lower court's ruling: The DPR's regulatory actions regarding 1,3-D were unlawful.

In 2022, the OEHHA established an NSRL for 1,3-D at just 0.04 ppb. However, in response to ongoing litigation and court orders requiring compliance with proper procedures and risk assessments for both residential and occupational bystanders, the DPR developed new regulations—though not without controversy.

In early 2023, the DPR released a regulation for residential bystanders using a target air level set at 0.56 ppb—14 times higher than the OEHHA's recommended NSRL—prompting renewed legal challenges from plaintiffs who argued this did not satisfy previous court directives.

The courts again intervened later that year and ordered the DPR to create an additional regulation specifically

addressing occupational exposure risks. This process was mandated to be conducted collaboratively with the OEHHA.

Today, two separate regulations are in effect: one for residential bystanders at a threshold of 0.56 ppb and another for occupational bystanders at a lower threshold of 0.21 ppb during work hours. These conflicting standards have led community members and advocacy organizations to file yet another lawsuit against the DPR in pursuit of consistent protection measures under both the Administrative Procedure Act and the California Food and Agricultural Code.

Angel Garcia is co-director of Californians for Pesticide Reform.

CAPS 559

In the past year, a cohort of groups has coalesced to champion pesticide reform efforts in the greater Fresno area. From these collaborative meetings emerged CAPS 559, a newly formed coalition united by the goal of advocating for safer communities in the Central Valley. To participate or learn more about CAPS, contact cristina@pesticidereform.org.

Heroes and Stories: Building a Better System

BY STEVEN ROESCH

The system is rigged.

It's a sentiment that's been bandied about a lot in recent years. But what exactly is this system? How did it emerge, and can something be done to reform it?

Robert Reich—former U.S. secretary of labor and professor of public policy emeritus at UC Berkeley—spells out things for a lay audience in his 2020 book *The System: Who Rigged It, How We Fix It*.

Early on, he counsels his readers to throw away generally accepted impressions about how things now work in the United States. For one thing, we should stop thinking of politics as bouts between the Democrats and the Republicans.

Instead, it's important to see the political realm as a struggle for power between a tiny group that dominates the current system and the rest of us—individuals with barely any power or none whatsoever.

It's also wrong to think that pursuing more growth and more efficiency is always good. What actually matters, Reich contends, is "who benefits from more growth and efficiency."

Something else that needs to go: the belief that corporations excel when they outdo their rivals. Nowadays, more than anything else, their success comes from acquiring and extending monopoly control.

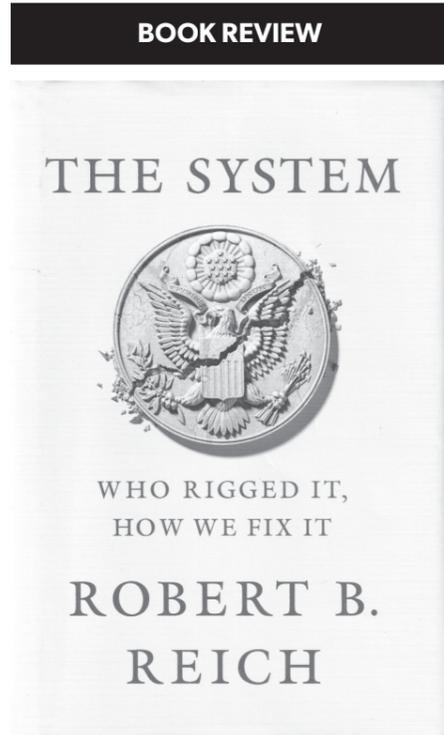
According to Reich's historical recap, our current system of concentrated economic and political power had its origins in the 1980s.

A hundred years ago, the landscape of political influence was significantly different. The combined power of labor unions, farm cooperatives, retail companies and smaller banks reined in the power of large companies to some extent. By doing so, such groups boosted the political clout of America's middle and working class, allowing them to benefit from gains in the overall economy.

For Reich, a tipping point happened during the Reagan era—a paradigm shift in the way corporations came to view themselves and the way they should manage their affairs.

The tactics of corporate raiders like Carl Icahn and Michael Milken inspired this new perspective.

Such takeover artists zeroed in on firms that could bring shareholders superior returns, primarily by ignoring all of the other stakeholders. They boosted profits by



reducing workers' pay, eliminating jobs and moving facilities.

They also worked hard to knock down unions' size and influence. Private equity and hedge fund managers supported this aggressive stance, as did heads of mutual funds, insurance funds and pension funds.

The sharp decline of union power helped to establish a lopsided economic system that greatly favored business interests.

Another key change that brought this new system into being: moves to deregulate the financial sector.

For example, eliminating the Glass-Steagall Act in 1999 gave banks the green light to use risky financial instruments.

Banks could now increase their profits, but such instruments also cost taxpayers billions when some financial arrangements went south. When Lincoln Savings and Loan collapsed in 1989, for example, taxpayers forked out about \$2 billion.

Prominent members of both parties had a role in these deregulatory moves.

Alan Greenspan, a Republican, sought on several occasions to loosen restrictions on the banks' operations.

Democrat Charles Schumer contended that removing the Glass-Steagall Act would secure "the future of America's dominance as the financial center of the world," and members of the Clinton administration suppressed efforts to monitor and regulate large swatches of the derivative market.

As the number of unionized workers plummeted, so did their political strength.

Although Democrats controlled both houses of Congress as well as the White House in 2009, unions couldn't win a fight to unionize worksites when a majority of employees wanted this to happen.

Unions also lost ground in many states. During the 2010s, anti-union right-to-work laws appeared in Indiana, Michigan,

Wisconsin, West Virginia and Kentucky. Although these had all traditionally been union strongholds, Democrats did little to head off this legislation.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 20.1% of U.S. workers were unionized in 1983. That figure slipped to 11.3% in 2013 and dropped even further to 9.9% in 2024.

The U.S. economy grew 48% between 1999 and 2018. However, as a result of this paradigm shift, the income of average households didn't register any growth at all in that period, and the bottom half of the country wound up with less wealth than it had previously.

Meanwhile, the top 1% raked in double the wealth that it had before the financial crisis of 2007, and the top 0.1% amassed triple the wealth.

Reich argues that the growth of corporate influence has negatively impacted the nation's economy and well-being. It's curbed workers' pay, exacerbated inequality and choked innovation.

What can be done about this system?

Reich contends that reforms can only succeed "if the vast majority, whose incomes have stagnated and whose wealth has failed to increase, join together to demand fundamental change."

Six years have passed since *The System* appeared in print, and—given the unconstitutional initiatives and unethical conduct in the current administration—the need for the sort of mass reform movement that he envisioned is even more urgent.

David Brooks addressed this need in the November 2025 issue of *The Atlantic*.

Brooks takes heart in the success stories in such nations as Poland, South Korea and Nepal, where citizen movements were able to overcome oppressive regimes.

While commending the recent "No Kings" demonstrations and the actions of Indivisible groups, Brooks argues that a

larger, more inclusive movement needs to form.

It would have to be "a cross-class movement, one that joined members of the educated class with members of the working class, shrinking the social chasms that gave rise to populism in the first place."

How could such a coalition be successful?

First, it needs to share stories rather than mere slogans or policy proposals—stories that can persuade others to join its ranks.

As an example of such a "mini-drama," Brooks points to the current administration's plan to burn 500 tons of food aid in July 2025 rather than pass it out to people in need. Such narratives, if used regularly and spread effectively, could amplify the calls for change.

Second, social movements need to have heroes—such as Rosa Parks, whose act of civil disobedience had a galvanizing impact.

Third, they must also have adversaries. During the Revolutionary War that was King George III; today, a mass reform movement must also select key villains and keep the public apprised about their malfeasance.

Finally, and most crucially, actions need to be taken, public displays that can fan the flames of the movement. These could include walkouts, marches and mass petitions.

Brooks concedes that, just as in other countries in recent decades, such a struggle would be a long and arduous one.

The alternative to such a movement, though, isn't a pretty one. As Reich writes in *The System*, "Unlike income or wealth, power is a zero-sum game. The more of it there is at the top, the less there is anywhere else."

Steven Roesch is a retired German and English teacher who taught in the Fresno Unified School District for 30 years. Contact him at stevenroesch12@comcast.net.

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Peace & Social Justice Calendar March 2026

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

Weekly

Visalia Bridge Brigade (Sundays) 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Mooney Blvd./Highway 198 overpass, Visalia. For more info, contact resist@withvisalia.org.

“ICE Out” Protest (Sundays) Noon–4 p.m. Caldwell Ave. and Mooney Blvd., Visalia. For more info, contact resist@withvisalia.org.

KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro (Tuesdays; Spanish) 7 p.m.–8 p.m. News, commentaries and music with a Latino touch hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Kings County Bridge Brigade (Fridays) 7:15 a.m.–8:15 a.m. 19th Ave./Highway 198 interchange, Hanford/Lemoore. For more info, contact karlacialbear@gmail.com.

Fresno Bridge Brigade (Fridays) Noon–2 p.m. Shaw Ave./Highway 41, Fresno. For more info, contact pattycapp@gmail.com.

“ICE Out” Protest (Saturdays) 3 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Blackstone and Nees avenues, Fresno. For more info, contact danyaseen@comcast.net.

03 **Protest Congressman Vince Fong** Noon–2 p.m. Corner of Herndon and Clovis avenues, Clovis. For more info, contact pattycapp@gmail.com.

National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC) 5:30 p.m. Speaker: Joanne Lai, CEO and founder of Spiral & Bloom Embodiment Sanctuary. Topic: Coming Home to Yourself: Embodiment, Trauma Healing & Authentic Leadership. Los Amigos Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno. For more info, contact joanne@pbyoga.com.

City of Fresno Civic Academy 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Learn about city government, engaging with your City Council representative, city departments and functions, and the difference your participation can make in the city. For more info, contact 559-508-6421.

Defend Democracy Tour 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Visalia. Hosted by ACLU NorCal. For more info, including the venue, contact events@aclunc.org or visit aclunorcal.org/tour.

04 **Multifaith Prayer Vigil** 10 a.m.–11 a.m. Ice Processing Center, 2440 Tulare St., Fresno. The vigil, organized by Faith in the Valley, is held in response to recent immigrant detentions in the Fresno area, aiming to support affected families, advocate for the removal of ICE from local communities and serve as a “moral act and a refusal to look away.” For more info, contact roman@faithinthevalley.org.

Raza Against War/Women in Black 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Federal Courthouse, 2500 Tulare St., Fresno. For more info, contact comworkeradvocate@gmail.com.

California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) 1 p.m. Via Zoom. Regional meeting. Link: us06web.zoom.us/j/2284684729.

KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up! 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Community Alliance radio show. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Mixer with the LGBTQ+ and Ally Committee 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Sequoia Brewing, 777 E. Olive Ave., Fresno. Fresno Chamber of Commerce affinity group to strengthen inclusion, visibility and community connection in the business community. For more info, contact info@fresnochamber.com.

Defend Democracy Tour 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Fresno. Hosted by ACLU NorCal. For more info, including the venue, contact events@aclunc.org or visit aclunorcal.org/tour.

05 **Soup for My Family Gathering** 3 p.m.–8 p.m. LGBT EOC Sanctuary, 1252 Fulton St., Fresno. Potluck and community meet-up for nourishment of mind, body and soul.

Fresno County Board of Supervisors District 1 Candidate Forum 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Fresno City College West Campus.

Defend Democracy Tour 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Merced. Hosted by ACLU NorCal. For more info, including the venue, contact events@aclunc.org or visit aclunorcal.org/tour.

Tulare Democratic Club 7 p.m. For more info, contact tularedemocraticclub1@gmail.com.

06 **CineCulture: Sima’s Song** 5:30 p.m. Peters Education Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussants (in person): Roya Sadat (director) and Aziz Dildar (actor/writer). Afghanistan in 1972 is a cauldron of opposing political forces. Suraya becomes head of the dominant Communist Party’s women’s organization, whereas her friend Sima is skeptical of all politics and, as a talented musician, is dedicated to her traditional art. The film is a testament to the courage and loyalty of Afghan women in the face of constant adversity. For more info, contact mhusain@mail.fresnostate.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

Central Valley Justice Coalition 6 p.m.–9 p.m. Buena Vista Event Center, 14860 CA-41, Madera. Putt & Pour: an annual fundraiser supporting work in educating and defending against human trafficking. For more info, contact info@justiceco.org.

07 **Reedley Peace Center Protest/Visibility Event** 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Corner of Buttonwillow and Manning avenues, Reedley.

Bring your signs with whatever is on your mind this week. For more info, contact reedleypeacecenter.com.

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley 9 a.m.–11 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-435-4043 or claval@comcast.net.

Womxn’s Rally 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Location TBD. Rally and learn with Rad Rag on International Womxn’s Day. Speakers, poets, entertainment, tabling and food. For more info, contact info@radragfresno.com.

Kings & Tulare Democrats 2026 Dinner 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Wyndham, 9000 W. Airport Dr., Visalia. Fundraiser for the Kings and Tulare Democratic county committees. For more info, contact kingscountydemevents@gmail.com.

Fresno International Women’s Day Celebration 6 p.m.–10 p.m. Moto Delicatessen, 1916 N. Echo Ave., Fresno. Live performance by Alyssa Witrado, poetry reading by Aideded Medina and Marisol Baca, wine and food, and art exhibit.

08 **PFLAG Fresno** 2 p.m. Fireside Room, Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 E. Barstow Ave., Fresno. Supporting, educating and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families. For more info, contact pflagfresno@gmail.com.

09 **Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)** 5 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St., Fresno. For more info, contact swgamble@aol.com.

Tulare County Stonewall Democrats 6 p.m. Me-n-Ed’s Pizza, 1331 W. Henderson Ave., Porterville. For more info, contact tctstonewalldems@gmail.com.

10 **Kings County Democratic Central Committee** 6 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 621-A N. Irwin St., Hanford. For more info, contact 559-858-0852.

Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC) 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact bapacfresno@gmail.com.

Porterville Democratic Club 6 p.m. Pizza Factory, 879 W. Henderson Ave., Porterville. For more info, contact contactportervilledems@yahoo.com.

Fresno Stonewall Democrats 6:30 p.m. Los Amigos Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno. For more info, contact info@fresnostonewalldemocrats.org.

11 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show hosted by Josh Shurley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

12 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Valley Rising** 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Central Valley Partnership radio show. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Multiracial Organizing and the Ongoing Fight for Equity in America: Past, Present & Future 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Room 251, OAB, Fresno City College. Workshop by Professor Karla Kirk. For more info, contact empower@myunionworks.com.

Womxn’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) 7 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. Online/in person. For more info, contact taca_03@ymail.com.

13 **CineCulture: Trifole** 5:30 p.m. Peters Education Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussant: Dr. Andrea Polegato. Set against the earthly beauty of Piedmont’s autumn woods and the delirium of Alba’s centuries-old truffle fair, this film is a fantastical and profound adventure about family, tradition and finding one’s place in the world. For more info, contact mhusain@mail.fresnostate.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

14 **Fresno County Democratic Women’s Club Fundraising Luncheon** 11:30 a.m. Manhattan Steakhouse & Bar, 1731 W. Bullard Ave., Fresno. Theme: Give Me My Flowers. Honoring past club presidents. For more info, contact claval@comcast.net.

Central Valley Progressive PAC 3:30 p.m.–5 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact simonecranstonrhodesfta@outlook.com.

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter Awards Banquet 5 p.m. Big Red Church, 2132 Van Ness Ave., Fresno. Keynote speaker: Robert Groos, adventurer, award-winning photographer and storyteller. Topic: “How Watching Birds Saved My Sanity but Drove Me Crazy.” Bring a potluck item ready to serve with serving utensil. Free event, but consider a donation to help defray costs. For more info, contact ecuagir45@yahoo.com.

15 **César Chávez March** Staging begins at 8:30 a.m., step-off at 10:30 a.m. Starting at the Farber Educational Center, 720 S. 10th St., and ending at the Fresno Fairgrounds.

César Chávez Celebration 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Fresno Fairgrounds, Junior Exhibits Building, 1121 S. Chance Ave., Fresno. Sponsored by El Concilio de Fresno and the Southeast Fresno Community Development Association.

16 **Free Food Distribution** 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Hinton Community Center, 2385 S. Fairview Ave., Fresno. Hosted by the Hinton Center Board and the Fresno Food Bank. For more info, contact 559-287-1308.

17 **Protest Congressman Vince Fong** Noon–2 p.m. Corner of Herndon and Clovis avenues, Clovis. For more info, contact pattycapp@gmail.com.

Central Valley Partnership 5:30 p.m. OAB 214, Fresno City College. For more info, contact admin@centralvalleypartnership.org.

City of Fresno Civic Academy 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. See March 3 listing. For more info, contact 559-508-6421.

Kings County Jimmy Carter Club 6 p.m. Lemoore. For more info, contact kcjimycarterclub@gmail.com.

18 **San Joaquin Valley Town Hall** 10:30 a.m. Saroyan Theatre, 700 M St., Fresno. Ken Jennings, *Jeopardy!* host and all-time winning champion. \$60/person. For more info, visit valleytownhall.com/.

Raza Against War/Women in Black 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Federal Courthouse, 2500 Tulare St., Fresno. For more info, contact comworkeradvocate@gmail.com.

KFCF 88.1 FM: Speaking Truth to Empire 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club 6:30 p.m. Round Table Pizza, 3710 W. Shields Ave., Fresno. For more info, contact sjvdemclub@gmail.com.

19 **Clovis Democratic Club** 6 p.m. Seven Bar & Grill, 25 Shaw Ave., Clovis. For more info, contact clovisdemocraticclub@gmail.com.

Tulare County Democratic Central Committee 7 p.m. In Tulare and via Zoom. For more info, contact tcdccsecretary@gmail.com.

20 **KFCF 88.1 FM: It’s a Queer Thing** 5 p.m.–6 p.m. Covering local and national LGBTQ+ issues and events. Hosted by Chris Jarvis and Kaylia Metcalfe Armstrong. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

CineCulture: The Waiting Room 5:30 p.m. Peters Education Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussant: Karen Sperling (director). In the first feature film delivered by an all-woman crew (1970s), the audience journeys through an experiential, experimental equal exploration of a young woman examining her desires, fears and expectations about love, partnership and marriage as she waits for an all-important call from a man. For more info, contact mhusain@mail.fresnostate.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

21 **Reedley Peace Center Protest/Visibility Event** 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Corner of Buttonwillow and Manning avenues, Reedley. Bring your signs with whatever is on your mind this week. For more info, contact reedleypeacecenter.com.

Central Valley Leadership Round Table 10 a.m. Mercy Springs Church, 1248 Santa Barbara Dr., Los Banos. For more info, contact gamayer20@gmail.com.

23 **Fresno County Democratic Women’s Club** 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St., Fresno. Also via Zoom. Hybrid meeting to vote on the Endorsement Committee’s recommendations. No lunch and no charge. For more info, contact claval@comcast.net.

24 **City of Fresno Civic Academy** 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. See March 3 listing. For more info, contact 559-508-6421.

25 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. WILPF radio show hosted by Jean Hays. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Visalia Democratic Club 5:30 p.m. Amigos Restaurant, 5113 W. Walnut Ave., Visalia. For more info, contact colijafeliz@gmail.com.

Central Valley Indivisible 6 p.m.–8 p.m. The Big Red Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. Meet like-minded people and take action. For more info, contact pattycapp@gmail.com.

John Robert Lewis Democratic Club 7 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact ibedam@gmail.com.

26 **Peace Fresno** 6:30 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. Monthly meeting to plan antiwar strategies. For more info, contact president@peacefresno.org.

27 **CineCulture** 5:30 p.m. Peters Education Center Auditorium, Fresno State. TBD. For more info, contact mhusain@mail.fresnostate.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

28 **No Kings 3.0 Kings County** 9:30 a.m.–11 a.m. Lacey and 12th avenues, Hanford. Also on the 12th Street overpass. Coordinated day of action against President Trump’s authoritarianism, immigration crackdowns and expansion of executive power. For more info, contact karlacialbear@gmail.com.

No Kings Reedley 9:30 a.m.–11 a.m. Corner of Reed and Manning avenues, Reedley. Make this a joyful day of resistance. For more info, contact reedleypeacecenter.com.

No Kings Three 10 a.m.–noon. Blackstone Ave. between Alluvial and Needs avenues, Fresno. For more info, contact pattycapp@gmail.com.

Transgender Day of Visibility 10 a.m. Queer Collective, 3034 Tulare St., Fresno. Sponsored by Trans-E-Motion. For more info, contact 559-918-3986.

31 **City of Fresno Civic Academy** 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. See March 3 listing. For more info, contact 559-508-6421.

Submit upcoming community activities to calendar@fresnoalliance.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication, or you can post anytime online at fresnoalliance.com (select Calendar).

“Creo firmemente que los hospitales cerrarán como resultado de estos cambios y reducciones a Medicaid”, añadió Mertz. “Lo que tengo clarísimo es que Kaweah Health, u otras organizaciones y proveedores que atienden a un gran número de pacientes de Medicaid como nosotros, no pueden absorber ninguna reducción adicional en los pagos para los pacientes de bajos ingresos que realmente nos necesitan”, declaró Mertz. “Francamente, el Congreso no puede arreglar ni equilibrar el presupuesto federal a costa de estos pacientes de bajos ingresos que realmente dependen de nuestra presencia”. Kaweah Health, el segundo hospital más grande de la región de cinco condados, fue uno de los tres hospitales del centro del Valle de San Joaquín que se beneficiaron de una subvención sin intereses del Programa de Préstamos para Hospitales en Dificultades del estado, aprobado por legisladores en Sacramento y firmado por el gobernador Gavin Newsom en 2023 tras la quiebra y el cierre del Hospital Comunitario de Madera. El programa puso fondos a disposición de los hospitales que enfrentaban el riesgo de cierre. Newsom Health recibió más de \$20.7 millones, mientras que el Distrito de Salud John C. Fremont del Condado de Mariposa recibió más de \$9.3 millones. El Hospital Comunitario de Madera recibió la mayor asignación individual del programa de \$300 millones para impulsar su reapertura en 2025, tras permanecer cerrado más de dos años. De los 13 hospitales de cuidados intensivos de la región, ocho reportaron cero beneficios en 2023, lo que significa que perdieron dinero.

¿Cuáles son los cambios federales y estatales?
California es uno de los únicos siete estados de EE. UU., además del Distrito de Columbia, que ofrece cobertura médica pública con fondos estatales en lugar de federales a algunos o todos los adultos de bajos ingresos, independientemente de su estatus migratorio, y uno de los 14 estados, además del Distrito de Columbia, que brindan cobertura médica a niños, independientemente de su estatus migratorio, según KFF, una organización independiente de políticas e información sanitaria. Sin embargo, dicha cobertura está siendo atacada, ya que el Congreso y la administración Trump buscan recortar el gasto de Medicaid y limitar o eliminar los beneficios públicos para los inmigrantes indocumentados. Los cambios de la H.R. 1 al programa federal de Medicaid incluyen: Una norma que exige que los estados impongan un requisito de trabajo o servicio de al menos 80 horas al mes para que las personas de 19 a 64 años sean elegibles para Medicaid. Los padres de niños menores de 13 años y las personas con problemas de salud exentos del requisito de trabajo. Un requisito para que los estados reevalúen la elegibilidad de Medicaid cada seis meses para las personas cubiertas por la expansión de Medicaid. Anteriormente, la renovación de la elegibilidad se realizaba una vez al año. Un límite a la cobertura retroactiva de Medicaid a los costos que ocurren uno o dos meses antes de la solicitud de cobertura de una persona. La ley actual incluye cobertura retroactiva que se remonta a tres meses. Prohíbe el pago de fondos de Medicaid a organizaciones sin fines de lucro que brindan principalmente servicios de planificación familiar o reproductivos, incluyendo abortos, y que recibieron \$800.000 o más en pagos de Medicaid en 2023. Una restricción a la elegibilidad de Medicaid para algunos inmigrantes legales que eran elegibles bajo la ley anterior. Entre quienes ya no son elegibles se incluyen refugiados, personas a quienes se les ha concedido asilo y cónyuges e hijos maltratados. La ley actual ya prohíbe a los inmigrantes indocumentados la elegibilidad para el acceso a Medicaid. Mientras California lidia con sus propios problemas fiscales, el presupuesto estatal 2025-26, aprobado en junio de 2025, adoptó medidas adicionales para limitar los gastos de Medi-Cal para inmigrantes indocumentados, incluyendo: Congelar las nuevas inscripciones a la cobertura completa de Medi-Cal para inmigrantes indocumentados mayores de 19 años, a partir de enero de 2026. Se proyecta que esta medida generará casi \$78 millones en ahorros para el fondo general del estado en 2025-26 y hasta \$3.3 mil millones para 2028-29. Eliminar los beneficios dentales completos para los inscritos indocumentados de 19 a 54 años a partir de julio de 2026. La cobertura dental de emergencia y de alcance restringido seguirá estando disponible para estos pacientes. Se estima que este cambio ahorrará al fondo general del estado \$308 millones en 2026-27 y \$336 millones anuales en los años siguientes. Cobrar una prima mensual de \$30 por la cobertura de Medi-Cal para los inscritos indocumentados de 19 a 54 años, a partir de julio de 2027. El ahorro estimado para el fondo general es de \$695.7 millones en 2027-28 y \$675 millones anuales en los años posteriores.

Tribus de California

Dejé permitía que el 75% del agua que fluye de los ríos de la cuenca del Delta desembocara en el estuario. La administración del gobernador Gavin Newsom ha trabajado para cambiar los parámetros de agua para alinearlos con las prioridades de la industria agrícola del estado. La actualización del Plan del Delta de la Bahía, actualmente en debate, exige un caudal máximo sin afectar a los ríos del 55% y un mínimo del 35%, o incluso menos, dependiendo de las condiciones climáticas. Chichicola señaló que fue una oportunidad perdida, afirmando que la adopción del plan de 2018 habría evitado las exportaciones excesivas de agua a las granjas del Valle Central, que han tenido efectos devastadores en el salmón y otras especies. “Durante este tiempo, las migraciones de salmón han disminuido entre un 65% y un 95%, dependiendo de la especie, la superficie cultivada de almendras ha aumentado y el uso de agua ha aumentado. Y esa es la consecuencia directa del estancamiento que han causado los Acuerdos Voluntarios”. Brian Wallace tiene ascendencia Nisena y fue presidente de la tribu Washoe, al este del lago Tahoe. Wallace sugirió que, para lograr la equidad en la colaboración con el estado, las naciones tribales deben tener autoridad para tomar decisiones, paridad de recursos, soberanía de datos y consentimiento informado. Y subrayó la importancia del conocimiento ecológico tribal en la gestión de las cuencas hidrográficas.

“Durante 15.000 años, los pueblos indígenas representados en estas audiencias han gobernado estas aguas desde tiempos inmemoriales. El salmón llenó estos ríos, las cuencas hidrográficas mantuvieron poblaciones masivas sin crisis. Y ahora, durante los últimos 150 años, como hemos podido presenciar, el estado ha gestionado estas aguas. El resultado ha sido el colapso de especies, sequías perpetuas y una escalada de conflictos que genera toda esta emoción que se siente en estas audiencias”. El pueblo Yurok es otra tribu afectada por la política hídrica estatal y el plan Bay Delta. Frankie Meyers ha sido consultor tribal. Sus emociones se intensificaron al hablar sobre el prolongado desprecio del conocimiento indígena por parte de los funcionarios estatales en la política y planificación hídrica. “Qué frustrante es para mí estar sentado en otra sala frente a todos ustedes, escuchando a nuestros fuertes y poderosos líderes tribales contarles la misma historia una y otra vez. Y, sin embargo, aquí estamos, avanzando hacia un acuerdo y una propuesta que perpetúa la eliminación de su historia como estado. Estamos hablando de tribus. Estas no son ciudadanos, no son individuos, no son partes interesadas. Son tribus”. Los miembros de la Junta Estatal del Agua reconocieron los errores históricos y cómo se han transmitido a la época moderna. Indicaron su disposición a colaborar más profundamente con las naciones tribales en la elaboración de políticas hídricas en el futuro. *****
Vic Bedoian es corresponsal en el Valle Central de KPFA News y reportero del periódico Alianza Comunitaria especializado en historia natural y justicia ambiental.

“Puede que no reciban la rehabilitación que necesitan después, pero sí recibirán la atención aguda que necesitan”. “Las personas podrán recibir atención en [clínicas y salas de urgencias]”, añadió. “Creo que eso también conducirá a muchos callejones sin salida, que son las personas con problemas más complejos. Se realizará la evaluación inicial, pero se necesitará atención especializada y atención más compleja, y ahí es donde todo se desmoronará”. Paul informó que la inscripción a Medi-Cal en el condado de Madera se redujo de aproximadamente 75.000 el año pasado a aproximadamente 70.000. “Creo que una vez que la gente sabe que un programa va a cambiar, ya empieza a pensar: ‘Bueno, probablemente no calificque’, y ya estamos viendo una disminución en la inscripción”, dijo. *****
Tim Sheehan es becario del Health Care Reporting (Reporte Sobre Atención Médica) de la organización sin fines de lucro Central Valley Journalism Collaborative. La beca cuenta con el apoyo de una subvención del Instituto para los Medios y la Confianza Pública de Fresno State. Contacte con Sheehan en tim@cvjournalism.org.

Eliminar el “sistema de pago prospectivo” que cubre la atención financiada únicamente por el estado para inmigrantes indocumentados a partir de julio de 2026, y en su lugar, cambiar a un sistema en el que los proveedores de atención reciben reembolsos por gastos del fondo general y \$1,100 millones cada año en los años posteriores. Implementar un programa para obtener reembolsos en medicamentos de farmacia para el estado destinados a inmigrantes indocumentados, lo que resultará en un ahorro para el fondo general de aproximadamente \$370 millones en 2025-26 y \$600 millones a partir de 2026-27. Se estima que los ahorros adicionales derivados de los reembolsos mínimos para medicamentos contra el VIH/SIDA y el cáncer ascenderán a 75 millones de dólares en 2025-26 y a 150 millones de dólares en los años siguientes. Un análisis de Central Valley Journalism Collaborative sobre las inscripciones a Medi-Cal hasta septiembre de 2025 muestra que, de aproximadamente 590.000 adultos elegibles en la región de cuatro condados, más de 67.000 cumplían los requisitos para recibir los beneficios de Medi-Cal gracias a la expansión de beneficios de California a los residentes indocumentados, quienes corren el mayor riesgo de quedarse sin seguro médico. “Quiénes están en riesgo con los cambios?” La incertidumbre parece ser la principal preocupación no solo de los hospitales, sino también de numerosas clínicas de salud en el centro del Valle de San Joaquín, mientras evalúan las implicaciones de los cambios para sus resultados financieros, así como para los cientos de miles de personas que dependen de Medicaid/Medi-Cal para su cobertura médica o que carecen de seguro médico. “Mientras las personas estén perdiendo su cobertura, estamos tratando de evaluar con exactitud el impacto, ya que no lo sabemos con certeza”, declaró Justin Freas, presidente y director ejecutivo de United Health Centers del Valle de San Joaquín, con sede en Fresno. United Health Centers es el segundo mayor operador de clínicas de Centros de Salud Calificados Federalmente en la región de cinco condados, con más de 853.000 visitas de pacientes en 2023 en 34 clínicas en los condados de Fresno, Kings y Tulare. “Es una situación muy grave donde tendríamos más pacientes sin seguro”, afirmó Freas. “Realmente solo hay dos lugares a los que pueden acudir las personas sin seguro: los Centros de Salud Calificados Federalmente y las salas de emergencia de los hospitales. ... Por lo tanto, la responsabilidad de atender sus servicios de atención primaria recaerá sobre los Centros de Salud Calificados Federalmente en ese entorno”. “Lo que va a suceder es que muchas personas que ahora mismo califican [para Medi-Cal] dejarán de calificar pronto, y seguiremos atendiendo a esas”, añadió Freas. “Simplemente no vamos a obtener muchos ingresos para atenderlas, pero seguiremos brindando servicios”. El Dr. Simon Paul, funcionario de salud pública del condado de Madera, coincidió. “Ya sean personas indocumentadas o documentadas, si no tienen seguro médico, pueden acudir a un FQHC o a una sala de emergencias, y ahí es donde recibirán atención”, dijo.

“Ya sean personas indocumentadas o documentadas, si no tienen seguro médico, pueden acudir a un FQHC o a una sala de emergencias, y ahí es donde recibirán atención”, dijo. Pero la preocupación de Paul es que las personas sin seguro no solo generarán problemas financieros para las salas de emergencia de los hospitales y las clínicas de salud, sino que también podrían posponer las visitas al médico que no pueden costear por afecciones relativamente raras que podrían agravarse. Añadió que será similar para las personas que perdieron el fácil acceso a la sala de emergencias de un hospital cuando cerró el Hospital Comunitario de Madera. “Creo que los mayores impactos fueron en personas con problemas como insuficiencia cardíaca o diabetes mal controladas, que habrían acudido a urgencias, pero ahora han recibido atención tardía, y esas personas van a acabar más enfermas dentro de dos o tres años”. La atención especializada también es probable que esté en riesgo para quienes no tienen seguro médico o tienen un seguro insuficiente. “Cuando las personas pierden Medi-Cal, si sufren un accidente terrible, aún podrán acudir a urgencias y recibir el tratamiento que necesitan”, dijo Paul. “Puede que no reciban la rehabilitación que necesitan después, pero sí recibirán la atención aguda que necesitan”. “Las personas podrán recibir atención en [clínicas y salas de urgencias]”, añadió. “Creo que eso también conducirá a muchos callejones sin salida, que son las personas con problemas más complejos. Se realizará la evaluación inicial, pero se necesitará atención especializada y atención más compleja, y ahí es donde todo se desmoronará”. Paul informó que la inscripción a Medi-Cal en el condado de Madera se redujo de aproximadamente 75.000 el año pasado a aproximadamente 70.000. “Creo que una vez que la gente sabe que un programa va a cambiar, ya empieza a pensar: ‘Bueno, probablemente no calificque’, y ya estamos viendo una disminución en la inscripción”, dijo. *****
Tim Sheehan es becario del Health Care Reporting (Reporte Sobre Atención Médica) de la organización sin fines de lucro Central Valley Journalism Collaborative. La beca cuenta con el apoyo de una subvención del Instituto para los Medios y la Confianza Pública de Fresno State. Contacte con Sheehan en tim@cvjournalism.org.

LLAMAZA COMUNITARIA LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

Tribus de California Luchan por los Derechos del Agua

POR VIC BEDOIAN

Recientemente, la Junta Estatal de Control de Recursos Hídricos celebró audiencias exhaustivas sobre la actualización del Plan del Delta de la Bahía, que regula la cantidad de agua que fluye desde los ríos del estado a través del estuario más grande de la costa del Pacífico. La salud ecológica del estuario del Delta de la Bahía de San Francisco se ha visto amenazada por los flujos inadecuados de agua dulce y el cambio climático.

El borrador del plan estatal fue criticado por agricultores del Delta, la industria pesquera, defensores del medio ambiente y decenas de personas. Los científicos advirtieron que provocará el colapso ecológico del estuario.

Las audiencias también expusieron las fricciones entre los nativoamericanos que viven en la cuenca del Delta de la Bahía y la planificación y las políticas hídricas del gobierno estatal. Representantes de varias tribus criticaron rotundamente el plan que está sobre la mesa. Afirman que no se les consultó con la suficiente antelación y que no se tuvo en cuenta su soberanía como tribus (o naciones). El eje central del plan es un conjunto de Acuerdos Voluntarios denominados Ríos y Paisajes Saludables, que dependen de la promesa de los distritos hídricos y los contratistas de proporcionar más agua de los ríos del estado, junto con la mejora del hábitat para el desove y la cría del salmón. Sin embargo, los defensores del Delta afirman que el plan no proporcionará suficiente agua para beneficiar al estuario, que está plagado de floraciones de algas tóxicas y especies de peces al borde de la extinción.



Calleen Sisk es la líder espiritual y jefa tribal de la tribu Winnemem Wintu del norte de California. Defiende la restauración del salmón en California, cuencas hidrográficas sanas y sin represas, y el derecho humano al agua. Foto cortesía de Save California Salmon

Las tribus de la cuenca del Delta de la Bahía han tenido un vínculo profundo y duradero con el estuario desde tiempos inmemoriales. Ese antiguo vínculo con el paisaje, sus vías fluviales y las mil especies silvestres que lo habitan aún es fuerte entre los pueblos nativoamericanos que viven allí actualmente. Sus antepasados han cuidado la tierra durante milenios. En la actualidad, la soberanía y la colaboración tribal han sido relegadas a un segundo plano por la sociedad en general y sus agencias.

Esta fricción salió a la luz en las recientes audiencias de la Junta Estatal de Recursos Hídricos sobre el Plan del Delta de la Bahía. Las tribus indicaron que todavía se sienten ampliamente excluidas del proceso y que su condición de gobiernos con igualdad de derechos es ignorada. Vincent Peña, gerente técnico de la Rancharía Wilton del Valle de Sacramento, expresó la fuerza de esos antiguos vínculos con la tierra. "La Rancharía Wilton mantiene profundos vínculos culturales y de subsistencia ancestrales con el Delta del San Joaquín de Sacramento. Los intereses de la tribu en el delta no son solo abstractos, históricos o simbólicos. Son responsabilidades vitales continuas basadas en prácticas culturales, actividades de subsistencia, obligaciones de administración y continuidad intergeneracional".

La tribu Hoopa del norte de California, en la cuenca del río Klamath, se ha visto afectada por la planificación hídrica del estado, pero sus preocupaciones han sido ignoradas, según Regina Chichizola, directora ejecutiva de Save California's Salmon. "Los usos beneficiosos deberian ser más que simples palabras escritas. Si no se protegen realmente, de las tribus no solo deben establecerse, sino también protegerse. Así está escrito. Si no se protegen realmente, deben existir medidas de mitigación con resultados palpables. Y, a decir verdad, cualquier acuerdo voluntario que no cumpla con los objetivos de caudal y proteja los usos beneficiosos debe ser rechazado".

Delta no preveía una consulta gubernamental significativa, temprana y continua, que afecte directamente los



El Programa de Préstamos para Hospitales en Dificultades de California proporcionó \$57 millones para ayudar al Hospital Comunitario de Madera a reabrir en marzo de 2025 después de que el hospital se declarara en quiebra y cerró a principios de 2023. Los hospitales y clínicas de todo el Valle de San Joaquín esperan una nueva crisis financiera debido a los recortes presupuestarios federales y estatales. Photo de Tim Sheehan/Central Valley Journalism Collaborative

mortalidad infantil, la escasez de proveedores médicos en comparación con el resto de

California y un número significativo de residentes indocumentados. Para Mark Mertz, director ejecutivo del Centro Médico Kaweah Health en Visalia, la Resolución 1 de la Cámara de Representantes—la "Ley de un Proyecto de Ley Grande y Hermoso"—, respaldada por el presidente Trump y promulgada en julio de 2025, representa cambios radicales en la elegibilidad, la inscripción y los pagos a Medicaid/Medi-Cal para hospitales y clínicas, y por lo tanto, es el problema más importante o urgente para Kaweah Health.

Al analizar el impacto total de la implementación del proyecto de ley en los próximos años, representa una reducción de ingresos de decenas de millones de dólares para nosotros", declaró Mertz en la sesión del 5 de febrero.

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Confianza Pública de Fresno State, que financia la Beca de Reportajes sobre Atención

Médica del Central Valley Journalism Collaborative). "Un encuestado señaló que se acerca un tsunami", declaró Finocchio en un seminario web en línea el 5 de febrero, en el que se analizaron las conclusiones del informe de mercado de salud en el Valle. Esas preocupaciones giran en torno a los recortes de alrededor de un billón de dólares para 2035 al programa federal de seguro público Medicaid para residentes de bajos ingresos y los esfuerzos de California para limitar a los adultos indocumentados sólo a una cobertura de "alcance restringido" bajo Medi-Cal, la encarnación estatal de Medicaid. Estas reducciones se ven agravadas por la dependencia de casi dos tercios de los residentes del Valle de Medicaid/Medi-Cal o Medicare (el seguro médico federal para personas mayores), así como por el peor estado de salud general de la región, la mayor

POR TIM SHEEHAN/CENTRAL VALLEY JOURNALISM COLLABORATIVE

Frete a un Tsunami Financiero que Amenaza el Acceso a la Atención Médica

Los líderes del sector salud en la zona central del Valle de San Joaquín temen que los recortes federales a Medicaid y las reducciones estatales a los beneficios de Medi-Cal representen un tsunami de cambios que ponen en peligro la estabilidad financiera de hospitales y clínicas, y amenazan el acceso de los residentes a la atención médica en la región.

Un reciente informe de mercado del Valle de San Joaquín, publicado por la California Health Care Foundation (Fundación de Atención Médica de California), reveló que entre los funcionarios de hospitales, clínicas de salud y líderes de salud pública, existía una sensación de ansiedad generalizada tras los cambios que limitan drásticamente la elegibilidad para

los beneficios de salud estatales y federales de los residentes indocumentados. Len Finocchio, director regional de Vegian Health Insights, quien entrevistó a más de dos docenas de líderes de salud en los condados de Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa y Tulare, afirmó que "todos los entrevistados consideraron que habría un aumento en el número de personas sin seguro médico y reducciones tanto en los beneficios médicos como en los pagos a los proveedores de seguros" a hospitales y clínicas. Finocchio fue el autor del

informe para la Fundación de California Health Care Foundation. (Nota: La California Health Care Foundation colabora con el Instituto de Medios y