

# Republican Perspective

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## RICHIFORNIA

*“Americans are so enamored of equality that they would rather be equal in slavery than unequal in freedom.” Alexis de Tocqueville*

Progressives have laid out their battle plan to rid California of lower income seniors living on fixed incomes. As usual it comes with all the bells and whistles of utopia.

Here's how the plan develops. Governor Jerry Brown has pledged to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, aka 80 x 50. Our U.S. Senators Feinstein and Boxer as well as President Obama, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders all have supported 80 x 50. Why should we care as many of us will no longer be mortal? But should you subscribe to insuring the income diversity of senior citizens in California, you may take an interest.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the world per capita average for carbon-dioxide emissions is 4.51 tons a year. Californians emit about twice as much at 9.42 tons a year. An 80% reduction means the average Californian (not Tom Steyer or Hollywood stars) would be emitting 1.88 tons a year by 2050. Per the IEA, this is slightly more than a North Korean resident is emitting!

You would think that Democrat politicians want lower income senior citizen voters, but in reality they will be pricing them out of the State? California's residential electricity rates have already skyrocketed from 11th most expensive in the country to the fifth most expensive today. Our gasoline prices are \$0.50/gallon higher on average than the rest of the nation. Extreme environmentalists are on record that California gas prices are too low and need to be similar to Europe. Let's not forget that the State's personal income tax is also one of the tops in the country. In addition, Progressives continue their campaign towards elimination of Proposition 13 in order to achieve higher property taxes.

The plan to rid the State of lower income seniors is brilliant. Most citizens will happily go along with the ever increasing regulations and unachievable energy mandates because they have been told they are saving the planet for the children. These Democratic politicians, without the benefit of earning science degrees, firmly believe they can achieve utopia through political power. The sun and wind are free and renewable - they can harness this energy and rid the State of fossil fuels. There will be minor costs or impacts to the citizens because they wish it!

To meet current emissions requirements, California power companies have been selling their stakes in fossil fuel plants. But selling your interest in a coal plant located in either Arizona or New Mexico means that the power produced goes elsewhere. The

plant is still running but California's environmental elites feel good since they are not on the receiving end. This low-cost power is partially being replaced by high-cost solar and wind with no change in the overall emissions. The only change for Californians is higher energy costs.

How about all the thousands of green jobs renewables will create. This is just more of Progressive hot air. Construction of any power plant requires craftworkers. These are temporary jobs that end with plant completion. Ivanpah, the huge solar plant near Las Vegas, produced 86 permanent jobs. This for a facility that occupies 5.3 square miles while impacting desert tortoises (a species threatened with extinction), local flora, fauna, views and avian life. But who cares because it is considered progressively "green"!

Did you know that in 2014 this solar gem, according to the California Energy Commission, burned enough natural gas to emit more than 46,000 tons of carbon dioxide. This is nearly twice the pollution threshold at which power plants and factories in California are required to meet while participating in the state's cap-and-trade program to reduce carbon emissions. The plant needs natural gas to produce enough heat for its boilers when the sun can't make it happen. And that's exactly what happened in 2014 when the amount of sun was 9% below predictions. Imagine that the amount of sun did not meet left-wing predictions!

David Lamfrom, desert project manager of the National Parks Conservation Association, said information about the amount of natural gas used at Ivanpah shows that the plant is essentially a hybrid operation that requires both fossil fuel and sunshine to make electricity. He said he doubts the project would have gone forward if it had been billed a hybrid plant.

But will the cost of solar and wind be lower to the consumer by 2050? It certainly should be but California's Progressives always find a way to tax energy and so will be the case with solar and wind. The future for low-income seniors will be one of higher taxes (fees), higher energy costs, higher rents all coupled with a plethora of subsidies (rebates). You can be sure Progressives will still not understand why low income seniors are retiring elsewhere.