

# CAPS NEWS

CALIFORNIANS FOR POPULATION STABILIZATION

Let's Save Some America For Tomorrow

Winter 2018-19 • Vol 59 • No. 2

## 40 MILLION AND STILL GROWING

Is this what we want for California?



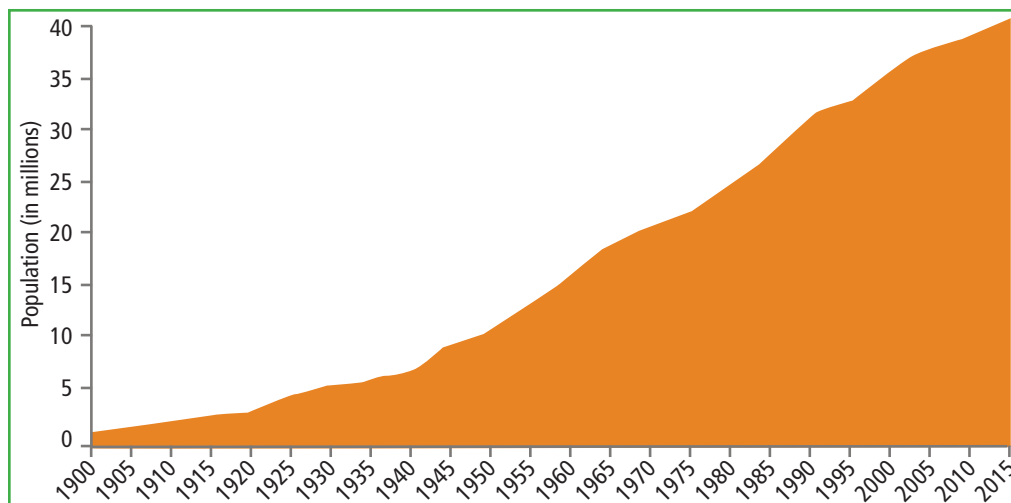
Orange County, named for its orange groves, traded its agricultural heritage for housing.

This year California's population has reached 40 million. It is not a cause for celebration.

The precise date of the milestone is unknown, and the official data are not here yet. The California Department of Finance (DOF) estimated the state's total population at 39,810,000 as of January 1, 2018, an increase of 309,000 over the previous year, so the landmark was reached in August, if the same growth rate has continued. Since the first Earth Day in 1970, California's population has doubled, an increase equivalent to adding the

entire populations of Ireland, Costa Rica, Norway and Uruguay to the state.

We may think of Europe as the crowded Old World and think of America, especially the West, as the land of wide-open spaces, yet the population density of California already exceeds that of Europe. The result is more crowding, more traffic, less open space, and less wildlife habitat. Perhaps it is time to say enough is enough, but there is no end in sight. The DOF projects the population to hit 45 million in 2034, another small country dropped onto California's fragile ecosystems.



California's population growth.

Traffic congestion causes drivers in the U.S. to waste annually more than 3 billion gallons of fuel and 7 billion hours, 42 hours per rush-hour commuter. California has three of the top five most gridlock-plagued cities—Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Jose. Commuters in Los Angeles waste 80 hours per year, two work weeks, stuck in traffic. In San Jose, it is 67 hours.

Electric and hybrid cars struggle to offset the impact of increasing population in Southern California where, after a temporary respite, air pollution is once again rising. Smog has become worse for the second straight year in Los Angeles. Ozone, the harmful gas in smog that inflames the lungs and triggers asthma attacks and other health problems, violated federal health standards 145 days in 2017 across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, the highest number in over a dozen years. Bad air days have also jumped over the last year or two in other parts of California, including the San Joaquin Valley and the San Diego area, according to state Air Resources Board monitoring data.



Rural grasslands become congested freeways.

Southern California reigns as the nation's smoggiest region and fails to meet a series of federal air quality standards going back to 1979. The seven most-polluted cities, in terms of ozone pollution, are all in California, according to the American Lung Association. More people, more cars, more smog.

The Baby Boom of the '50s and '60s that fueled the population growth of a half-century ago was supplanted by the Immigration Boom of the '80s and '90s that continues today. According to the Pew Research Center, "Future immigrants and

*Continued on page 4*

### NEPA LAWSUIT STATUS

In September, two of the counts in our case challenging the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for failing to apply the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) were dismissed. In a brief opinion, the judge held that the public does not have the right to challenge the NEPA procedures adopted by DHS.

CAPS believes the judge's reasoning is incorrect and intends to appeal this opinion, though this appeal cannot be filed until the judge has reached a final decision

*Continued on page 2*

### FIRE DEVASTATES CA AGAIN

Once again, fire has ravaged California. The Camp Fire was by far the most destructive in history, in both human deaths and structures destroyed.

CAPS has long pointed out that among the many downsides of a growing population is the increased fire risk as humans expand into fire-prone wild-lands. Now there has been a rare acknowledgment of the problem in the mainstream media. According to a CBS News report, *Destructive California Wildfires Magnified by Population and Shifting Climate*:

*Continued on page 4*

### CARAVAN SHOWS NEED FOR ASYLUM LAW CHANGE

A caravan of thousands of mostly Central Americans is camped at the U.S. border. If its members are allowed in and allowed to request asylum, how many more caravans will be right behind it? Clearly, this is a case of asylum shopping. Not only did the Central Americans fail to seek refuge in nearby countries such as Costa Rica and Belize, and not only did they fail to ask for asylum in Mexico, but they also refused Mexico's offer of residence and work permits. Some have demanded \$50,000

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*In Memoriam*

David Brower

CAPS News is published by  
Californians for Population Stabilization  
675 East Santa Clara St. #860  
Ventura CA 93002

Phone: 805-564-6626  
E-mail: CAPS@CAPSweb.org  
Twitter: @Crowdifornia  
Facebook.com/  
CaliforniansForPopulationStabilization  
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Californians for Population Stabilization is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, public interest organization that works to formulate and advance policies and programs designed to stabilize the population of California, the U.S. and the world at levels which will preserve the environment and a good quality of life.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I would like to touch upon two matters of great importance—the horrendous fires in northern and southern California and the status of California as a sanctuary state—and their relationship to CAPS' mission statement: "CAPS works to formulate and advance policies and programs designed to stabilize the population of California, the U.S. and the world at levels which will preserve the environment and a good quality of life for all."

Pepperdine University in Malibu was threatened by one of the recent Los Angeles area fires. This reminded me of a talk I heard a few years ago given by a Pepperdine biology professor. One of his takeaway messages was that, along with the drought, California's population growth is a contributing factor to the increased frequency of major destructive fires.

Regarding the drought, the professor showed pictures of the dramatic dying off of the chaparral ground cover that surrounds the Pepperdine campus. One member of the audience asked why the dead plant matter had not been removed since it constituted a fire hazard. The professor answered that then the campus would be in danger of major flooding and mudslides in the event of heavy rains—as has happened elsewhere in southern California from destruction of protective chaparral by fires. Numerous climate scientists agree that the California drought is due at least in part to climate change and that climate change is primarily a result of a steadily increasing world population that is generating more and more atmospheric carbon. Thus, stabilization of the population of the world has implications for fires here in California.

More directly related to the increase in major fires is California's own endless population growth. To

accommodate more Californians, development covers more and more open space. And where there are people, fires can and will be started in a variety of ways. My fellow CAPS Board member, Dick Schneider, is a key leader in efforts by East Bay residents in the San Francisco area to retain open space against pressures for development to accommodate population growth. In the L.A. area, where I live, I often read about attempts to place major developments in pristine natural regions and the efforts of concerned residents to stop these developments.

The Sierra Club (on whose National Board of Directors I served) has been telling its members, "California's wildfires are a nightmare from which the state's residents can't seem to wake." Like all politically correct, mainstream environmental organizations, the Club mentions addressing climate change as something that should be done to end this nightmare. Unfortunately, the Sierra Club and similar environmental groups are unwilling to address California's endless population growth. Thus, it is up to CAPS to tell the entire story.

One significant contributor to California's population growth is illegal immigration. CAPS is opposed to sanctuary cities and states. Not only do these encourage more illegal immigration (and thus population growth), but they make a mockery of the rule of law. Oregonians for Immigration Reform (OFIR) ran a Ballot Measure in the November election that would have ended the status of Oregon as a sanctuary state. The measure lost, due in no small part to the fact that OFIR was outspent by 20 to 1 by its opponents! It seems that many groups benefit in some way from illegal immigration and want it to continue. This does not portend well for ending the status of California as a sanctuary state or for reducing California's rapid population growth.

*Ben Zuckerman*

Ben Zuckerman  
President, CAPS



California's Woosley Fire ravages Malibu.

## CAPS NEPA LAWSUIT UPDATE *(Continued from page 1)*

on the rest of the counts. CAPS continues to litigate three of the counts, which challenge DHS' general determination that many of its actions (including those related to immigration) "categorically" have no significant impact on the environment, and its finding that its response to the border crisis in 2014 had no significant

impact. CAPS anticipates that all briefing on these counts will be submitted to the court by May 2019.



*Stay tuned for more information as this landmark lawsuit unfolds.*



# CAPS Call to Action - Stop Sanctuary Campaign

**SANCTUARY SHOULD NEVER BE  
GIVEN TO CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIENS**

**#StopSanctuary**

In October, 2018 CAPS produced a multi-faceted "Stop Sanctuary" campaign that included launching an interactive website, [www.StopSanctuary.com](http://www.StopSanctuary.com); filming and releasing a TV commercial on location in Washington, D.C., featuring CAPS spokesperson and founder of Fight Sanctuary State, Don Rosenberg; and implementing a social media component to prolong the exposure and impact of the message that together California and the nation must "Stop Sanctuary." Our campaign, which saturated Southern California and the Central Valley, as well as honed in on the greater D.C. metropolis, highlighted that implementing sanctuary policy at any level is a deadly mistake.

As evidenced by the death of Don's son, Drew, who was killed by an illegal immigrant who disobeyed traffic laws and attempted to flee the scene, sanctuary cities and states are dangerous, lawless policies that release criminals back into our communities when, by law, they can and should be deported. CAPS continuously places ourselves on the frontlines to combat the misconceptions and false narratives that drive support for sanctuary in California and the U.S.

**Our combined TV and Radio reach was almost 2 million viewers. Our digital/social media reach exceeded 325k. Key successes of this strategic campaign include:**

- **TV Audience Reach: 1.3 million**
- **Radio Audience Reach: 500k**
- **Total Online Viewership via Facebook (Californians for Population Stabilization) and YouTube (Crowdifornia): 326,292**
- **Two Press Releases on the Campaign (posted on the Press section of [www.CAPSweb.org](http://www.CAPSweb.org)) had national exposure**
- **CAPS Executive Director, Ric Oberlink, appeared on a half dozen radio shows from San Francisco to Virginia discussing sanctuary policy, the caravan, and related topics on mass immigration and illegal immigration (to receive an email with links to these interviews, please call CAPS or email [publicaffairs@CAPSweb.org](mailto:publicaffairs@CAPSweb.org))**
- **Use of #StopSanctuary on Twitter is fast becoming a hashtag attributed to CAPS**
- **Successful execution of CAPS first Facebook fundraiser test with dollar amount surpassed within 48 hours**
- **New member acquisition as a direct result of combined efforts**
- **Over 2500 members signed our petition to Stop Sanctuary**



**DON ROSENBERG**  
LOS ANGELES, CA

CAPS spokesperson, Don Rosenberg, speaks about his son, Drew, who was killed in sanctuary city San Francisco by someone who entered the U.S. illegally.



CAPS ad asks to cuff criminals, not cops.

As we continue to educate our supporters, new members and the public at large on the various inconsistencies in California's sanctuary law (SB 54)—a law that handcuffs law enforcement, preventing local authorities from working with ICE to keep our citizens and children safe from illegal criminal aliens—we need your help now more than ever.

*Please consider a donation to CAPS and become an integral part of the Stop Sanctuary movement.*

A 2010 study by Amnesty International suggests that as many as 60 percent of women and girls making the trip from Central American countries experience sexual violence, via CAPS' blog at [www.CAPSweb.org](http://www.CAPSweb.org).

**CAPS  
FACT**



## Media beginning to see population connection?



The Camp Fire was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history to date.

"California's population has nearly doubled since the 1970s, from around 20 million to nearly 40 million today. As a result, people are encroaching on once sparsely populated areas more vulnerable to fires. Across the country the number of homes on the wildland-urban interface has increased dramatically. A recent study in the Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences illustrates the encroachment issue: 'Within the perimeter of recent wildfires (1990-2015), there were 286,000 houses in 2010, compared with 177,000 in 1990.' High populations mean a higher propensity for fires to be started in those forested areas. This is the direct human element."

Six of the ten most destructive fires in California's history have occurred in the past decade. Last year saw the most destructive fire on record... until this year. Last year's Thomas Fire was the largest recorded California wildfire...until this year's Ranch Fire in Mendocino County. More people mean more people living in combustible areas. Since 1990, 60% of new homes in California, Oregon and Washington have been built on the wildland-urban boundary. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors has approved or is considering for approval nine large developments that would add 40,000 new residents in chaparral and grasslands naturally prone to fire, according to the Center for Biological Diversity. The nine proposed developments—including four recently approved—would be built in areas dominated by sage scrub, chaparral and grasslands. As the Camp Fire burned in the forests of the Sierra foothills, 500 miles to the south, the Woolsey Fire raged through parts of Ventura and Los Angeles counties.



The Kern County Tehachapi Wildland Fire Crew 11 rests after working exhaustive 24-hour shifts during last year's Thomas Fire.



Massive smoke plumes over Pacific Coast Highway 1, Ca.

Our last newsletter focused on the dangers and destruction in susceptible habitats such as chaparral and coastal sage scrub, and the same factors apply to our forestlands:

*"Unfortunately for Californians, the immediate future is likely to see more of the same, only more so, driven by two potent, underlying trends:*

*1) California's continuing, immigration-driven population growth and related sprawl into the countryside and*

*2) a drying, warming climate. Neither of these persistent, forceful trends shows any sign of tapering off. In the coming decades, wildfires are likely to grow even more massive, destructive and deadly.... To really address the root causes of the wildfire predicament would require Californians to face up to the perils of both overpopulation and anthropogenic climate change."*

To read "Fire, Fury and Flood" in our Spring newsletter, please visit [www.CAPSweb.org](http://www.CAPSweb.org).

their descendants...are projected to account for 88 percent of the U.S. population increase," between now and 2065.

While the iconic image of the California Dream may linger in the American imagination, domestic migration has resulted in a net outflow of Americans from the state for the past two decades. Were it not for foreign immigration, California would have a stable population.

The 1972 President's Commission on Population Growth and the American Future found that "gradual stabilization of our population would contribute significantly to the Nation's ability to solve its problems." A majority of the Commission urged freezing immigration at the level of 400,000. Instead, Congress gradually increased immigration to its recent average of over one million annually.

Inevitably, more space consumed by human activity means less space for the other critters with whom we share the biosphere. California has some of the most varied wildlife habitat on earth, boasting more endemic species than any other state, but rapid population growth imperils this extraordinary biodiversity. The state has lost 99 percent of its native grasslands, 80 percent of its coastal wetlands and 95 percent of its coastal redwoods. At least 73 plants and animals are already extinct in California. Over 150 animals and 280 plants are listed as endangered, threatened or rare.



Habitats become urban dumping grounds.

In spite of the angst expressed by the political left over proposed immigration reductions in the Goodlatte immigration bill that lost a 231–193 vote in the House this summer, those reductions are largely in line with the recommendations of the 1996 U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. That bipartisan group with a 5 – 4 Democratic majority—chaired by African-American Congresswoman Barbara Jordan—recommended stopping chain migration, enforcing laws against illegal immigration, and reducing legal immigration by one-third. President Clinton embraced the proposal to cut immigration. His press secretary announced, "The President indicated to Barbara Jordan today that he will support such reductions."

Ignoring and denying the problems linked to immigration-driven population growth offers no solutions. While California struggled during the recent three-year drought, that event was but a blip in the historical record. Research into tree rings reveals that California experienced megadroughts from A.D. 850 to 1090 and 1140 to 1320. In fact, the past century has

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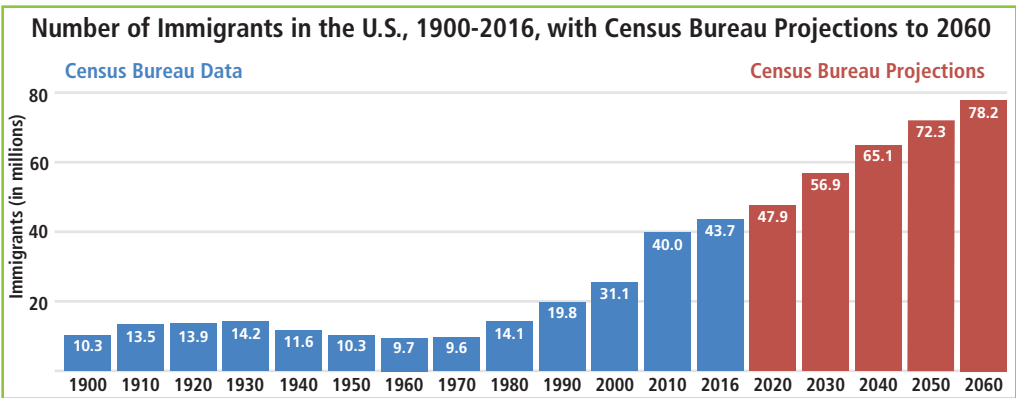


LEGAL IMMIGRATION DRIVES U.S. POPULATION GROWTH

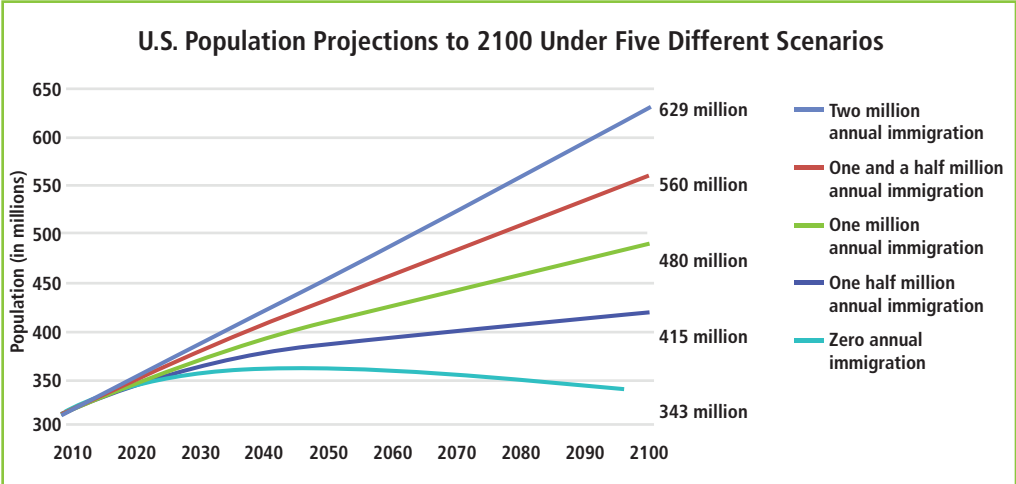
While illegal immigration is a tremendous problem—for starters, it is illegal, it enables entry of dangerous people who have not been vetted, and it is unfair to those who have played by the rules and are waiting for legal permission—it is important to remember that legal immigration is a much larger component of population growth. While there are 11 to 12 million illegal immigrants in the country, the total immigrant population is 46 million, the highest it has ever been.

Often overlooked is the connection between illegal and legal immigration. When we grant amnesty to illegal aliens, they sponsor their relatives for legal immigration, driving up numbers of legal immigrants. If those relatives are unable to receive visas because of a backlog, they may then decide to immigrate illegally, creating demands for another amnesty—the proverbial vicious cycle. Chain migration is responsible for two-thirds of legal immigration.

The Census Bureau projects that the United States population will increase to 417 million by 2060, but this assumes “that fertility rates will continue to decline and that there will be a modest decline in the overall rate of net international migration.” In fact, recent immigration levels have been extraordinarily high, 1.18 million in 2016 and 1.12 million in 2017. If these rates continue, population growth will substantially exceed “the one million annual immigration” projection in the chart at right, which is similar to the Census projection.




In 2023, the immigrant share in population will hit its highest level (14.8%) in U.S. History, and continue to rise.  
Source: Decennial census for 1900 to 2000, American Survey for 2010 and 2016, Census Bureau Projections for 2020 to 2060.



Source: [immigrationeis.org](http://immigrationeis.org).

CARAVAN THREAT SHOWS NEED FOR CHANGING ASYLUM LAW *(Continued from page 1)*




Californians for Population Stabilization

created a poll.

Published November 5 at 2:59 PM

Like Page


How should the Trump Administration respond to the migrant caravan heading towards our border?



93%

Do Not Grant Asylum

6.8K Votes



7%

Let Them In

12,623 Engagements

CAPS caravan poll on Facebook reached over 70,000, garnering 1.8k comments.

from the U.S. to return from Tijuana to their home countries.

By a 2-1 ruling, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against President Trump’s emergency

executive order barring asylum for immigrants who enter the country illegally. Asylum law must be changed so that it protects those who need it and not reward those who abuse it.

Let us assume that the tales of fleeing violence are true—hardly a given since coyotes and immigration lawyers coach would-be asylees on what magic words to use when requesting asylum. Admittedly, violence is horrific in many parts of Central America as it is in much of the world. I hope no one is suggesting that the U.S. must admit everyone who lives in Niger, Venezuela, Somalia, of Columbia and Yemen to name just a few beset nations.

As Attorney General Sessions has noted, and ruled, political asylum exists to provide refuge for one facing persecution for membership in a particular group, not for those fleeing generalized violence. The murder rates in St. Louis, Baltimore, New Orleans and Detroit are higher than that of Guatemala. Are Americans fleeing violent crime entitled to asylum in other countries?



Honduran migrants climb the gate of Guatemala-Mexico international border bridge. Photo: Pedro Pardo / AFP via Getty Images.

There is no obligation under international law for a country to offer asylum to those who have passed through a country of safe passage. Asylum shopping, passing through one or several

Continued on page 6

40 MILLION AND STILL  
GROWING *(Continued from page 4)*

been among the wettest of the last 7,000 years. As California historian Kevin Starr stated, "Mother Nature didn't intend for 40 million people to live here."

Many environmental groups have retreated into nests of political correctness, no longer willing to address population growth, globally or locally. It was not always so. The iconic David Brower, the preeminent environmentalist of the last 100 years and a member of CAPS Board of Advisors, warned us, "Overpopulation is perhaps the biggest problem facing us, and immigration is part of that problem. It has to be addressed."

CARAVAN THREAT SHOWS NEED FOR CHANGING  
ASYLUM LAW *(Continued from page 5)*

countries before claiming asylum, is a common abuse. The European Court of Justice ruled that Austria and Slovenia could return asylum seekers from Middle Eastern countries to Croatia, through which they had passed.

Under current law, those who make it onto U.S. soil and ask for asylum will be granted a hearing. Many will never show up and will disappear

into the system to remain in the U.S. Democrats and Republicans should come together to pass legislation against asylum shopping. Those who pass through one or more safe countries on their way to the U.S. should not be allowed to press claims for asylum here. They should be returned to the last safe country through which they passed.

DID YOU  
KNOW?

You can find all of the content produced by CAPS writers at **CAPSweb.org**. Opinion releases are located under the "Press" section on the navigation bar at the top of the homepage.



675 East Santa Clara St. #860  
Ventura CA 93002  
Phone: 805-564-6626  
Toll free: 1 (800) 786-4726  
www.CAPSweb.org

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For more information please visit us at: [www.StopSanctuary.com](http://www.StopSanctuary.com)



*"Population is the single most important environmental issue. Without the work of groups like CAPS, we will not be able to reverse our course of global environmental destruction."*

—David Brower,  
First executive director,  
Sierra Club  
Founder,  
Earth Island Institute