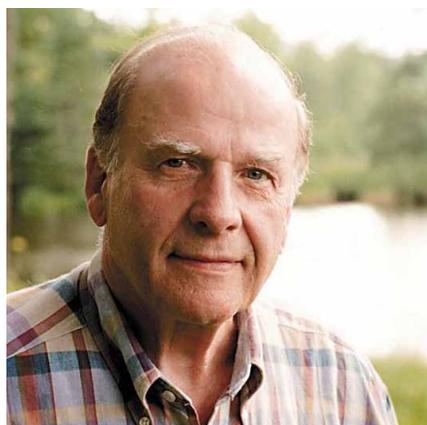


CAPS NEWS

Earth Day at 50 (1970-2020)

By Leon Kolankiewicz, CAPS Advisory Board member and Senior Writing Fellow

Population emphasis of first Earth Day not just ignored or forgotten, but betrayed



Former Wisconsin governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005), considered the Father of Earth Day.

In 2020, we celebrate the half-century anniversary of the first-ever Earth Day back in 1970. Unfortunately, as Earth Day turns 50, its early emphasis on overpopulation has not just been forgotten or ignored. Those verbs are too passive to convey the reality of the situation. It is more accurate to affirm that Earth Day's original focus on stopping environmentally-ruinous population growth nationally and globally has been betrayed.

It has been betrayed by a smug, well-heeled environmental establishment that has gotten too cozy with—or perhaps been co-opted by—not just powerful corporate interests, which crave perpetual growth in the number of American producers (to keep wages down) and consumers (to keep sales and profits up), but also with the so-called, woke social justice movement, which

repudiates national borders and even the very idea of overpopulation as racist.

It has been a trying past few decades for veteran, committed conservationists and environmentalists who have long understood that the sheer number of human beings in a given portion of the planet—whether a watershed, a state, country, continent, or the biosphere as a whole—is a potent factor in determining environmental quality, adverse impacts, and the pursuit of sustainability. Turning a blind eye to nature's realities does not banish them.

Why Earth Day? Why 1970?

That first Earth Day took place during a very different, extremely turbulent era in the modern history of the United States. Californian Richard M. Nixon (born in Orange County's Yorba Linda) sat in the Oval Office, and the global Cold War struggle between the USA and the USSR was in full swing.

Its hottest proxy war still raged in Vietnam, threatening to spill over into Laos and Cambodia. The Vietnam War had claimed the lives of tens of thousands of young American soldiers, and millions of Vietnamese civilians and combatants. As it dragged on interminably, the conflict became politically fraught, provoking America's widest political divide since the Civil War a century earlier, and spurring massive protests in Washington, D.C., and around the nation.

EARTH DAY EVENTS

Nearly all Earth Day events have been cancelled or rescheduled because of the coronavirus pandemic. The actual anniversary date is April 22, and festivities are typically held on the weekend before or after that date. If you are participating in one of the rescheduled events and would like some CAPS materials, such as additional copies of this newsletter, let us know and we will be glad to send them. There may be national or local online Earth Day events or forums. Please weigh in about the missing issue of population growth.

The emerging civil rights, women's, and environmental movements may have been triggered in part by the broader social and cultural upheaval unleashed by the reaction to Vietnam. The young questioned the old. Authority, tradition, and long-held assumptions about "progress", and the belief that "growth is good" fell under suspicion. Indeed, "Question Authority!" was one of the strident commandments of earnest young activists.

That first Earth Day was the brainchild of progressive U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-WI), who had also served as a two-term Wisconsin governor. Nelson had taken note of the widespread protests and "teach-ins" triggered by the Vietnam War, and wondered if this approach might work in awakening Americans to the threat posed by the environmental crisis. In 1963, Nelson had prevailed upon President Kennedy (mere months before his assassination in Dallas) to tour eight states giving speeches about conserving natural resources. But this was an idea still ahead of its time; the news media and the American public largely ignored the tour and its message in spite of the presidential endorsement and entourage.

By 1970, the nation's *zeitgeist* about the environment had caught up with Nelson.

Continued on page 3

Earth Day 2020

"The bigger the population gets, the more serious the problems become.... We have to address the population issue. In this country, it's phony to say 'I'm for the environment but not for limiting immigration.'"

- Sen. Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day



COVID-19, Population Growth, and Globalization

During this coronavirus scourge, CAPS wishes you good health and encourages you to take appropriate precautions. CAPS staff continues to work full time, mostly from home offices, on the paramount issue of curtailing population growth. Let us hope that we can learn some lessons today that will be useful not only during the next pandemic, but also in other crises that the future holds for us.

Continued on page 8



Board of Directors

President

Ben Zuckerman, Ph.D.

Vice President

Judith F. Smith

Secretary

Michael Rivera

Treasurer

Kenneth Pasternack, J.D.

Assistant Treasurer

Dick Schneider, M.S.

Staff

Executive Director

Ric Oberlink, J.D.

Chief Operating Officer

Toby Nicole White

Advisory Board

Denice Spangler Adams, M.S.

Carolyn Pesnell Amory

Herbert E. Barthels

Benny Chien, M.D.

Dave Foreman

Robert Gillespie

Victor Davis Hanson, Ph.D.

Leon Kolankiewicz, M.S.

Richard Lamm, L.L.D.

Karen Peus

Winifred W. Rhodes

Don Rosenberg

Dario Sattui

Jacob Sigg

Michael Tobias, Ph.D.

John D. Weeden

Charles Westoff, Ph.D.

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

www.CAPSweb.org

www.StopSanctuary.com

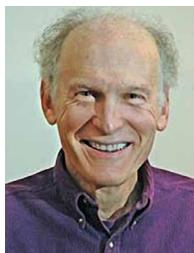
www.MandatoryEVerify.org

Art Direction

James Chott Design

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



The 50th anniversary of Earth Day is here. I begin this column with a copy of a letter I sent to the editor of Sierra (the official magazine of the Sierra Club):

"Dear Sierra: Wisconsin's Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson is regarded as the father of Earth Day. Nelson's primary environmental interests included overpopulation in the U.S. and in the world. I looked in the March issue of Sierra for a mention of overpopulation in the remarks of the six commentators on "Earth Day at 50", but found nothing. This despite the fact that the world's population has more than doubled and the U.S. population increased by more than a factor of 1.5 since 1970. I think the good Senator would have been greatly disappointed that such an important contributor to climate change and most other major environmental problems was ignored by all of the commentators."

I do not know if my letter will be published. Addressing population issues, especially the causes of U.S. population growth, seems to cause indigestion for all large, mainstream U.S. environmental organizations. If I had mentioned that immigration is the most important driver of U.S. population growth, I'm virtually certain that my letter would not be published in Sierra. Time will tell if the letter will be printed.

There is a close connection among the Sierra Club, Senator Nelson, and me. In 2002 when I ran for the national Board of Directors of the Club, Senator Nelson kindly endorsed my candidacy. This surely helped my election to the Board.

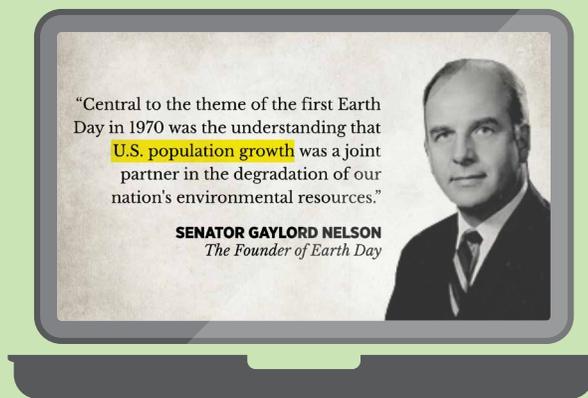
During the latter years of Senator Nelson's life, he was Counselor to the Wilderness Society, one of the large, mainstream U.S. environmental organizations I mention above. At that time, the Wilderness Society had an excellent statement about (over)population on its website. Sadly, not long after Senator Nelson died the statement was removed from the website.

Although CAPS' primary focus is on population stabilization in the U.S. and California, we also support efforts to stem global population growth. Among other benefits, this will reduce the pressure on people to migrate to the U.S. The increasing population in many parts of the world is truly frightening. In 1900, world population was about 1.6 billion, yet by 2050, India alone is projected to have a population exceeding 1.6 billion. Moreover, India's land area is only 1/3 that of the U.S.

Since so few organizations are willing to talk about endless population growth in California, the U.S. and the world, it is important that CAPS and its supporters continue to keep these matters in the public discourse.

Ben Zuckerman

Ben Zuckerman
President, CAPS



Watch CAPSweb.org and our YouTube and social media channels for our 50th anniversary Earth Day video!



Youtube.com/
Californians For Population Stabilization



Facebook.com/
CaliforniansForPopulationStabilization



Twitter.com/
@Crowdifornia

Population emphasis of first Earth Day... continued from page 1

Soft-spoken nature writer Rachel Carson had published the best-selling, chilling *Silent Spring* in 1962, warning of a pesticide-poisoned future without bird song, while several years later (1968), outspoken Stanford biologist Paul Ehrlich predicted mass starvation and worldwide pandemics in *The Population Bomb*, which outsold even Carson's book.

In 1969, an offshore oilrig ruptured and coated picturesque Santa Barbara, California and helpless sea birds with crude oil. That same year, the badly polluted Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio, caught fire, burning a bridge. Americans were aghast at what we had wrought. Our much vaunted progress and sheer numbers were ravaging "America the Beautiful," transmogrifying it into a wasteland of stumps where there had been forests, oil slicks where there had been seashores, and junkyards where there had been meadows. On January 1, 1970, President Nixon signed into law the landmark National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), dubbed the "Magna Carta" of America's environmental conservation statutes.



The remains of a brown pelican that perished in the Santa Barbara oil spill.

Senator Nelson began raising the funds to launch the first Earth Day in 1969, following the example of the Vietnam War teach-ins. Nelson wrote letters to all 50 state governors and to scores of mayors asking them to issue Earth Day proclamations. He sent an Earth Day article to all college newspapers explaining the event and one to *Scholastic Magazine*, which was distributed to most high schools and grade schools. He selected a young, bright, energetic fellow Wisconsin native named Denis Hayes, then a Harvard undergraduate, to organize and coordinate the multi-faceted, nationwide "happening".

On Wednesday, April 22, 1970, an estimated twenty million people—one out of ten Americans—joined educational activities and community events around the country, demonstrating their concern for the environment. Across the nation, ten thousand grade schools and high schools, two thousand colleges and universities, and one thousand communities participated in Earth Day activities. New York City Mayor John Lindsay closed Fifth Avenue in Manhattan to automobile traffic and 100,000 people attended an ecology fair in Central Park. Even Congress recessed for the day, so that House and Senate members could attend community events and give speeches about caring for Mother Earth. *American Heritage Magazine* described it "one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy."



Overpopulation a Central Theme of the First Earth Day

Half a century ago, cartoonist Walt Kelly's popular character Pogo took Admiral Perry's famous 1813 remark that "We have met the enemy and they are ours," and tweaked it to: "We have met the enemy and he is us." In identifying humans as "the enemy," Pogo did not specify whether he believed the problem was with our *sheer numbers*, our *irresponsible behavior*, or both.

Pogo wasn't alone in perceiving a plethora of people as problematic. In the era of the First Earth Day, U.S. population growth was widely and publicly connected to environmental problems. America's population had exploded from just four million in 1790 to more than 200 million by 1970, doubling more than five times in the process, and growing exponentially (at an annual rate of about two percent). In 1970, many Americans were concerned that in the previous two decades, because of the "baby boom," more than 50 million people had been added to the U.S. population. They could see, feel, and smell the effects of overpopulation: atrocious smog, traffic congestion, urban sprawl flattening forests and paving farmlands, rivers and lakes choked with fetid algal blooms and dead fish, and vanishing wildlife.

In environmental "teach-ins" and workshops across America, young people discussed the imperative of stopping U.S. population

growth in order to save the environment and Mother Earth from the scourge of too many people. Folk singer Pete Seeger entreated Americans of childbearing age to "stop at two". The mission of the nation's best-known population group, Zero Population Growth (ZPG)—founded in 1968—was to halt population growth. It was compelled by concern to avoid the catastrophe of an ever-larger human population on the biosphere; ZPG was not just a population group but explicitly an environmental one as well. A number of the America's most prominent environmental and conservation groups had or were considering support for "population control" in their environmental prescriptions for the country.

As preeminent conservationist Stewart Udall (Secretary of the Interior during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations) recounted in his classic book, *The Quiet Crisis*: "Dave Brower (the legendary executive director of the Sierra Club and later member of the CAPS Advisory Board) expressed the consensus of the environmental movement on the subject in 1966 when he said, 'We feel you don't have a conservation policy unless you have a population policy.'"

All of a sudden, everybody was talking about overpopulation, whether they agreed with the idea that humans were overbreeding and overcoming the Earth or whether they were defending their desire to have five kids rather than the "socially responsible" two.

Continued on page 4



The emerging consensus among leaders of the burgeoning environmental movement was paralleled and strengthened by widespread agreement among influential researchers and scholars in the natural sciences throughout the 1960s and 1970s that population was a serious issue. Examples include University of Georgia's Eugene P. Odum, author of the widely-used 1971 textbook *Fundamentals of Ecology*; Conservation Foundation's Raymond Dasmann, author of the 1965 best-seller *The Destruction of California*; UC Berkeley's Daniel B. Luten, author of the 1986 book *Progress Against Growth*, as well as the "population coach" of the Sierra Club's David Brower; and UC Santa Barbara's Garrett Hardin, author of the hardhitting 1968 essay—"The Tragedy of the Commons"—in the distinguished journal *Science*.

The U.S. Population, Too

Belief in the responsibility of each country to stop its own population growth first and foremost was not confined to the United States. In 1972, Great Britain's leading environmental magazine, *The Ecologist*, published the radical "Blueprint for Survival," a manifesto signed by 34 preeminent biologists, ecologists, doctors, and economists. On population, the Blueprint stated: "First, governments must acknowledge the problem and declare their commitment to ending population growth; this commitment should also include an end to immigration."

Two months after that first Earth Day, the First National Congress on Optimum Population and Environment convened in Chicago. Religious groups—especially the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church—urged the federal government to adopt policies that would lead to a stabilized U.S. population for moral and ethical reasons.

Even President Richard M. Nixon had delivered a "Special Message to the Congress on Problems of Population Growth", in which he stated, in part:

"What of our natural resources and the quality of our environment? Pure air and water are fundamental to life itself. Parks, recreational facilities, and an attractive countryside are essential to our emotional well-being. Plant and animal and mineral resources are also vital. A growing population will increase the demand for such resources. But in many cases their supply will not be increased and may even be endangered. The ecological system upon which we now depend may seriously deteriorate if our efforts to conserve and enhance the environment do not match the growth of the population."

Title I of NEPA, the "Declaration of National Environmental Policy" began: "The Congress, recognizing the profound impact of man's activity on the interrelations of all components of the environment, particularly the profound influences of population growth...." President Nixon and Congress jointly appointed members to a bipartisan Commission on

Population Growth and the American Future, chaired by John D. Rockefeller III. (Former CAPS board member Marilyn DeYoung was a member of the Rockefeller Commission.) The commission's 1972 report, *Population and the American Future*, concluded that it would be difficult to reach our national environmental goals unless the U.S. began halting its population growth. Rockefeller wrote that "gradual stabilization of our population through voluntary means would contribute significantly to the nation's ability to solve its problems."

Population-oriented environmentalists envisioned making the transition to U.S. stabilization within a generation or two, by the time the college activists of that period had kids or grandkids of their own in college. The Sierra Club in 1969 urged "the people of the United States to abandon population growth as a pattern and goal; to commit themselves to limit the total population of the United States in order to achieve a balance between population and resources; and to achieve a stable population no later than the year 1990." It was an ambitious goal that would not come close to realization; in fact, the U.S. population has added more than 80 million people since 1990.

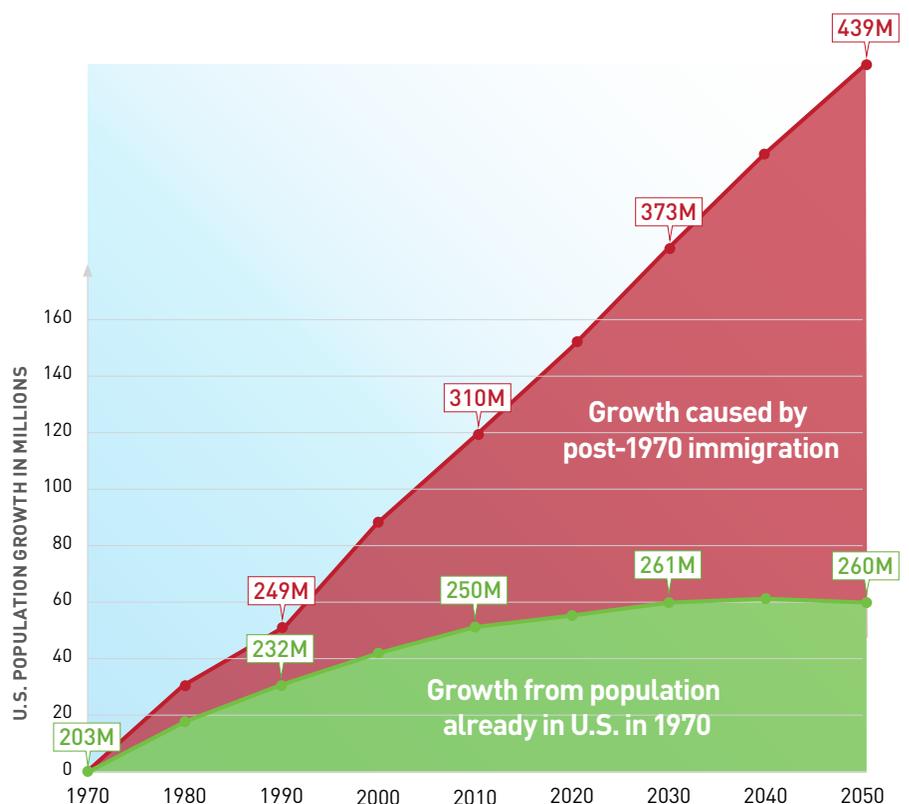
In 1970, a large coalition of environmental groups endorsed a resolution stating that "population growth is directly involved in the pollution and degradation of our environment—air, water, and land—and intensifies physical, psychological, social, political and economic problems to the extent that the well-being of individuals, the stability of society and our very survival are threatened." The same groups committed themselves

to "find, encourage and implement at the earliest possible time" the policies and attitudes that would bring about the stabilization of the U.S. population.

The environmentalists' emphasis on population attracted ample news media coverage. U.S. population problems were featured regularly in magazine cover stories, on the front pages of newspapers, on the nightly TV news, and even on network entertainment such as the popular *Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*. *Population Bomb* author Paul Ehrlich appeared on the *Tonight Show* almost 20 times to speak about overpopulation and environmental problems. For the first time in American history, we were addressing population growth not as an uncontrollable, intrinsic force of nature like a hurricane or an avalanche, but as a social phenomenon that could and should be managed for society's and the environment's benefit.

It was a promising time for realism on population: accepting that growth in human numbers could not and should not continue forever. Our nation was maturing and starting to recognize that it was better to rationally stop and reverse that growth instead of allowing nature to intervene and reverse it randomly and cruelly through an increase in the death rate—via disease, war, starvation, collapse—as would happen for any other species that had wantonly overpopulated its habitat and overshot its carrying capacity.

But that was then and this is now. Already, by the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in 2010, the hopeful vision had long since vanished, replaced by the imposing red tide of a population growing seemingly with no end in sight (see figure).



The first Earth Day (1970) envisioned a U.S. population that peaked by the mid-21st century, halting the growth in and then reversing population pressures on the environment. By the 40th Earth Day in 2010, the hopeful 1970 Earth Day population vision (green) had been replaced by a much more pessimistic reality (red) of rapid U.S. population growth with no end in sight, an ever-increasing curve or tide with dire environmental implications.

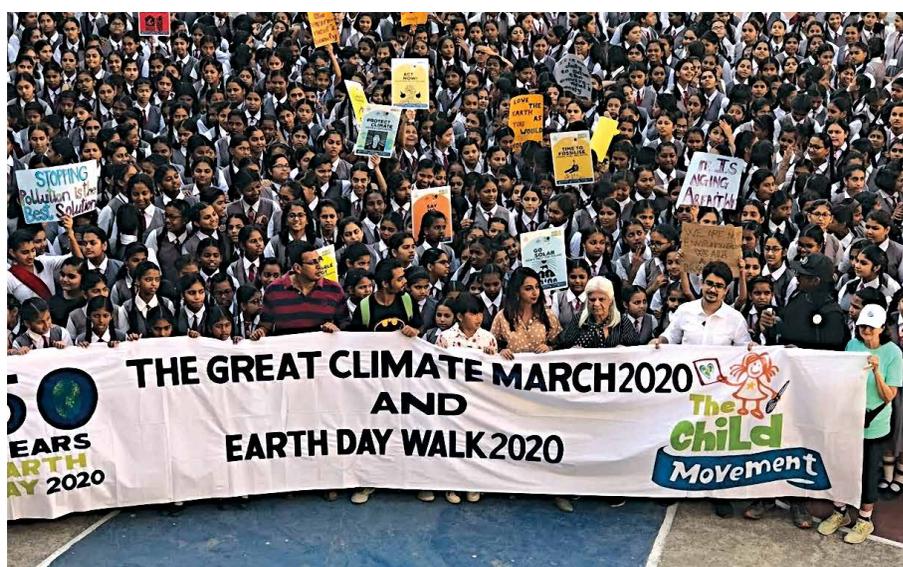
Earth Day in the Age of Intersectionality and Corporate Power: Opposing Overpopulation Is Not Only Abandoned, But Attacked

“Historians need to explain how an environmental issue as fundamental as U.S. population growth could have moved from center-stage within the American environmental movement to virtual obscurity in just twenty years. For the American environment itself, the ever-growing demographic pressures ignored by the environmental establishment showed no signs of abating on their own as the nation prepared to enter the twenty-first century.”

– Roy Beck and Leon Kolankiewicz, 2000, “The Environmental Movement’s Retreat from Advocating U.S. Population Stabilization (1970-1998): A First Draft of History,” *Journal of Policy History*

At the time of the 30th Earth Day in 2000, environmental journalist and NumbersUSA founder Roy Beck and I co-authored a scholarly paper published in the *Journal of Policy History*. We put forth a number of plausible explanations for why the American environmental movement turned its back on the population issue:

- The U.S. fertility rate dropped below replacement level (2.1) for the first time in history, undercutting the urgency of the population cause for many people, because overpopulation seemed well on the way to solving itself via fewer births;
- Abortion and contraceptive politics created an organized and persistent opposition, and the population issue was invariably ensnared in this acrimonious national struggle, although it need not have been, since the U.S. reached replacement-level fertility even before the controversial *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision in 1973;
- Women’s issues supplanted population as the priority concern of population groups, as reflected in the proceedings and outcome of the U.N.’s conference on population and development in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, where women’s “reproductive health” was the dominant emphasis and concerns about the environmental and other impacts of population growth all but banished;
- A widening schism between the conservationist and “New Left” roots of the environmental movement, as a result



The major focus of Earth Day 2020 is climate change, but it ignores the population growth that is much of the problem.

of which overt concern about overpopulation became taboo, since many of the New Left and Greens—precursors of today’s “social justice warriors (SJWs)” –believed overpopulation was a non-issue seized upon by reactionary forces opposed to social justice;

- Mass immigration—now protected by political correctness—became the chief cause of U.S. population growth.

Roy and I then adduced a wealth of evidence and examples as to why we believed the last factor—immigration—was the most important of those we had listed.

From the late 1980s into the 2000s, the environmental establishment—large, well-funded, well-connected environmental and conservation groups such as the Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Wilderness Society—came under sustained assault from nascent SJWs for being too white and too bourgeois. Environmental organizations were alleged to be infected with exclusionary white middle class values that improperly prioritized “luxuries” like wilderness and wildlife preservation over the environmental justice concerns (e.g., toxic waste dumps, mines and mills, incinerators, polluting factories and ports) of marginalized groups such as inner-city African and Hispanic Americans or rural American Indians. In New Mexico, a prominent, left-wing Hispanic organization issued a public condemnation of the 10 largest national environmental groups operating in the state—accusing them of discrimination

towards Latinos and other oppressed people of color—and demanding that they cease operations in the “Land of Enchantment”.

In this socially toxic milieu, it was hard for traditional, largely white environmental groups—eager to appear unprejudiced, color-blind, and occupying the moral high ground—to defend immigration restriction (of mostly non-white immigrants from Latin America, Asia, and Africa) on the basis of scientific and environmental principle. One group after another quietly (or not so quietly in the case of the Sierra Club, whose grassroots membership forced the issue into the open) distanced itself from the population issue. In a developed country and immigrant magnet like the U.S., addressing population growth invariably implicated immigration as well, because most growth was linked to mass immigration, which at current levels would preclude ever stabilizing California’s or America’s population.

The last gasp of the population old guard took place in 2004, when a slate of three pro-U.S. population stabilization candidates ran for the Sierra Club Board of Directors. At that time, three population stabilization supporters already on the board—UCLA astronomer Ben Zuckerman (now CAPS president), Wisconsin Secretary of State Doug La Follette, and Sea Shepherd Conservation Society founder Paul Watson—already constituted a stabilization block. The 2004 candidates—former Colorado governor Richard Lamm, former Congressional Black Caucus Foundation executive director Frank Morris, and Cornell University ecology professor David Pimentel—were subjected to a vicious campaign of calumny and defamation by the Sierra Club establishment and outside SJW forces like the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

Ironically and outrageously, these scurrilous attacks accused anti-immigration “hate groups” of trying to “take over” the Sierra Club board in what was what was slammed erroneously as “the greening of hate.” In fact, what pro-stabilization activists were attempting was to *return* the Sierra Club—and the environmental movement more broadly—to its earlier, longstanding



Continued on page 6



“Overpopulation is perhaps the biggest problem facing us and immigration is part of the problem. It has to be addressed.”

– David Brower, first executive director of Sierra Club, founder of Friends of the Earth, member of CAPS Advisory Board

sanity on population generally, and on immigration (as the major component of U.S. population growth) in particular.

Dick Lamm, a former three-term Democratic governor of Colorado, and thus no stranger to rough-and-tumble electoral politics, said it was the dirtiest campaign he had ever seen—all in an NGO that prides itself as ethical, progressive, and tolerant. Because of these relentless attacks and big lies, which even included a letter sent to all Sierra Club members by the NRDC’s Robert Kennedy, Jr., the stabilization slate was defeated soundly. And with their loss, any hope population activists had of reclaiming the environmental movement anytime soon was lost as well.

That same year, reporter Kenneth Weiss revealed in the *Los Angeles Times* that Newport Beach multi-millionaire David Gelbaum admitted he had dangled a \$100+ million donation before mesmerized Sierra Club officials, and warned them that if the Club ever came out against immigration, it would not get a single dollar from him. This anonymous donation, which did come through, had been a rumored but tightly guarded secret for several years. Weiss’ revelation demonstrated that the corrupt Sierra Club leadership had, in effect, sold its soul.

In the decade and a half since, the environmental establishment has only gone from bad to worse on the interconnected population and immigration issues. Now, rather than just ignoring the environmental effects of immigration-driven U.S. population growth, influential groups like the Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity actually agitate on behalf of migrant rights and opposition to a border barrier. In effect, although they may deny it publicly, they now support open borders, no limits to immigration at all—and the U.S. population growth without end this implies.

Unsurprisingly, the fashionable focus of Earth Day at 50 is climate change. A glance at the Earth Day 2020 webpage finds it addressed to “global citizens,” and mentions not only climate but plastic pollution, biodiversity, women’s empowerment, animal agriculture, and environmental education, among other

topical issues, but not a word on the need to address the population growth that exacerbates all environmental problems. Earth Day campaigners are mum on the population elephant in the room, and this shows they are not serious about the environmental sustainability they claim to support.

Whatever their divergent economic philosophies, business interests and contemporary SJWs make common cause in promoting unending U.S. population growth. Business interests seek ever larger numbers of docile workers and eager consumers while leftists seek more oppressed minorities cum wealth redistributionists or revolutionaries. *The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)* has famously called for open borders, as did almost all Democratic presidential candidates in the recent 2020 primaries.

While libertarian *WSJ* editorialists are believers in *laissez faire* capitalism, and SJWs are believers in intersectionality (the neo-Marxist belief that people of certain races, genders, sexual orientations, classes, genders, and religions are victimized by multiple sources of oppression), when it comes to mass immigration, these diametrically opposed extremes are united in supporting large numbers of immigrants to America, not just for today or tomorrow, but forever. Radical and unworkable social philosophies like intersectionality and critical race theory are no longer confined to elite and cosseted college

campuses like UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, and the Ivy League schools. They have now infected corporate boardrooms and human resources departments.

IT and social media behemoths such as Google, Apple, Facebook, Twitter, and Microsoft, clustered in California and the West Coast, appear to be particularly in thrall to intersectionality. Some of them have collaborated with the far-left SPLC in persecuting what the SPLC designates as “hate groups,” including most of those that advocate for limits on immigration and enforcement of immigration laws, such as CAPS.

The indifference or overt hostility of the environmental establishment and 50th Earth Day organizers to the population cause marks a fundamental betrayal of the original vision of the event and its founders. Before he passed away in 2005, Gaylord Nelson expressed deep disillusionment with the environmental movement that he helped to launch. He remained outspoken about the need for reducing population growth and reducing immigration throughout his life. During the era of the first Earth Day, the emerging environmental movement and America as a whole had contemplated a brighter, more promising, more sustainable population destiny: one of stabilization rather than one of perpetual growth. It seemed we were on the verge of making this conscious and conscientious choice, one reflecting a national maturity and desire for permanence, rather than hedonism and profligacy.

Yet even as this leaner, greener vision beckoned, other powerful pro-population-growth forces and factors in society asserted and reasserted themselves with a vengeance, and the vision flickered and then faded from view like a mirage. Gradually but relentlessly, rising immigration rates triggered by the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, in conjunction with America’s congenital, uncritical obsession with perpetual growth as a national mission—our growth fetish or Growthism; worshipping at the altar of Growth; “In Growth We



Author Leon Kolankiewicz and 2004 Sierra Club board candidate Frank Morris and at EarthX in Dallas, Texas, 2019.



Earthday Everyday!

Trust”—overpowered the inchoate “small is beautiful” ethos before it had a chance to fully form and take root. The opportunity was abandoned, the vision lost.

Because of this failure, the environmental prognosis is gloomy. A grim environmental

future awaits us and posterity—one of ever more severe impacts—in spite of all the happy talk and magical thinking prompted by Earth Day 50. (In any case, and rather ironically, celebrations and gatherings are likely to be cancelled or muted by efforts to combat

the 2020 worldwide coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic, itself largely a result of population density, globalization, and unprecedented physical mobility on the part of millions.) Dark days and decades lie ahead...and still darker centuries to follow. 🐻*

Happy 50th Birthday to You, Too, NEPA

CAPS files comments with CEQ on its failure to consider population growth

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the premier U.S. environmental law, written by Senator Henry M. “Scoop” Jackson (1912-1983) and signed into law 50 years ago by President Richard Nixon. Coined the *Magna Carta* of environmental law, NEPA declared a U.S. national policy of “encouraging productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment.”

NEPA required an Environmental Impact Statement for major federal projects and established the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to oversee federal agency actions and programs that affect the environment. As you may know, CAPS is one of nine plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed in 2016 against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for its failure to assess the environmental impacts of the population growth caused by its actions on immigration.

Recently, the CEQ took public comments as it considered updating its regulations for the NEPA review process. CAPS commented, per our attorney’s submittal:

failure is the blind spot of federal agencies to the environmental impacts of the mass movement and settlement of people from around the world to this nation.... Congress explicitly expressed concern regarding the impact of human population growth on the quality of the “human environment,” which is broadly defined in the current CEQ regulations “to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people within that environment....”

If you would like to read the comment in its entirety, please call the CAPS office and we will email you the link or send you a printed copy.

As 2020 marks 50 years of an ever-evolving environmental movement, including the birth of NEPA and Earth Day, let us also honor that legacy by taking action to prevent the overimmigration and overpopulation that degrade our environment and quality of life. 🐻*



The CEQ should not update the implementing regulations for NEPA without incorporating the most consequential agency failure in the implementation of the Act. This

Extremists at both ends of political spectrum see women as baby machines



Sometimes left wing nuts and right wing nuts end up in the same place. Some despotic leaders, usually men, have dangerous ideas that are bad for women and bad for the planet.

Leftwing Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro said, "Every woman should have six children for the good of the country." At a

nationally televised event, Maduro instructed women to "give birth, give birth," never mind that the country is facing an economic crisis that has resulted in severe food and medicine shortages. According to the UN, one-third of Venezuelans are struggling to put enough food on the table to meet minimum nutrition requirements, and 13% of Venezuelan children are malnourished.

A couple of hemispheres away in Hungary, rightwing Prime Minister Viktor Orbán thinks he can pay women to breed. Generous loans for couples who promise to procreate imminently and lifetime income tax exemption for having four or more children

are part of the plan. Giant banners about "family-friendly Hungary" greet arrivals at the Budapest airport.

Various loans offer money in advance, based on a promise to have children in the future. The government will loan \$30,000 dollars to a young married couple, and each time a child is born, payments are postponed. If a couple has three children within the requisite timeframe, the loan is written off. If not, it must be repaid.

Fortunately, such schemes have met with little success elsewhere. Women have their own ideas about what is good for them, what is good for their families, and what is good for their lives. 🐾*



675 East Santa Clara Street #860
Ventura CA 93002

Phone: 805-564-6626
www.StopSanctuary.com
www.CAPSweb.org

Address service requested

NONPROFIT.ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
LOS ANGELES, CA
PERMIT NO. 3344



COVID-19, Population Growth, and Globalization continued from page 1



The merits of a globalized world aside, decades of unrestricted trade policies, commerce, and expanding travel networks have created an interconnected web of multinational companies, free trade zones, and shipping routes. We are witnessing the difficulties of overcoming the virus in a world far different from previous pandemics.

Population growth and globalization have created incredible challenges to containing COVID-19. When the Spanish Flu, an H1N1 virus, swept the globe and killed up to 50 million people in 1918, there were 1.8 billion people on the planet. A century later, the global population has quadrupled to 8 billion, urban areas are larger and denser than ever, and evidence, such as this *Scientific American* excerpt, indicates a strong con-

nection between the risk of pandemic and population density:

"There's a strong correlation between the risk of pandemic and human population density. We've done the math and we've proved it," said Dr. Peter Daszak, a disease ecologist and the president of Eco Health Alliance, who examined the link in a 2008 study published in the journal Nature.... Looking at contemporary outbreaks since the mid-20th century, Daszak and colleagues found that the rate of emergent diseases caused by pathogens new to humans has increased significantly with time, even when controlling for progress in diagnosis techniques and surveillance....

Certainly, one would hope that politicians who have embraced open borders would back away from that insanity, but do not count on it. The unscrupulous open borders lobby is even using the epidemic as an excuse to reduce restrictions on immigration, even as millions of Americans lose their jobs.

This pandemic is a major tragedy under any calculus, but it is especially frightening because it is new. Many phenomena create large-scale illness and deaths, but we give them a grudging acceptance because they are familiar. At the time of this writing, experts warn that the coronavirus could cause up to 200,000 deaths in this country. Yet, air pollution causes 200,000 deaths each year in the U.S. according to MIT's Laboratory for Aviation and the Environment—53,000 from emissions from road transportation alone, the most significant contributor. This is one of many health hazards exacerbated by overpopulation, but it receives scant attention.

Population activists have long warned that a growing population and increased population density would increase the likelihood and severity of a pandemic. This is not an "I told you so" moment, but, instead a learning moment, an opportunity to reflect and build a better future. 🐾*