

CAPS NEWS

Demographic Salvation, not “Demographic Stagnation”

Alarmism over slowing population growth is nonsensical

By Ric Oberlink



(Source: Getty Images)

Recently, CNBC warned, “Researchers expect the U.S. to face underpopulation....” “Immigration not only is our history, but with the birth rate steadily declining, it is vital to our future,” opined a *Los Angeles Times* editorial.

Among those voices, Farhod Manjoo of the *New York Times* warned about “demographic stagnation,” a term he enjoyed so much that he used it three times in his opinion piece: “The world may be running low on Americans. The Census Bureau... reports that there were 331,449,281 residents in the United States, an increase of just 7.4 percent since 2010....”

Just 7.4 percent! While the percentage is (thankfully) lower, the numerical increase of 23 million is still huge because the total population of the U.S. is so large. The decadal increase exceeds the combined populations of Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. It is the numerical increase that largely determines how much more land and wildlife habitat we convert from nature to human usage.

The 23 million gain was about the same as that reported by the 1970, 1980, 1990 censuses, before population growth

soared in the following 2 decades. It is the 6th highest of the 24 censuses since 1790. In fact, the figure is about halfway between the decadal increases reported in the 1950 and 1960 censuses that reflect the Baby Boom era, 19 million and 28 million, respectively. (See graph on page 5.)

Immediately, I pondered the many dangers of underpopulation and demographic stagnation in America and across the globe. Fewer and smaller traffic jams, more open space and wildlife habitat, and less air and water pollution were some that came to mind.

The alarmism is not limited to concerns about America. Doomsday aficionados were concerned that preliminary figures from China’s census, showing lower fertility rates, might have led to a population decline. Final results suggest that population is likely to peak in the next few years. As anyone who has spent time in China can tell you, 1.4 billion people is probably more than enough. Few in China would think that population decline is a worrying concern.

If you believe the inanity that a stable population is a problem, then it follows that you will come up with a nonsensi-

cal solution like increasing immigration to the United States. With over 330 million people, America is the third most populated country after China and India. California’s population density is already one-third higher than the Old World of Europe.

In 1972, after two years of research, the bipartisan Commission on Population Growth and the American Future, established by Congress and chaired by John D. Rockefeller III, issued its report to Congress and the President:

We have concluded that, in the long run, no substantial benefits will result from further growth of the Nation’s population, rather that the gradual stabilization of our population through voluntary means would contribute significantly to the Nation’s ability to solve its problems. We have looked for, and have not found, any convincing economic argument for continued population growth.

Since then, the U.S. population has grown by about 120 million.

Population growth ≠ economic growth

Economists, especially, are notorious for singing the praises of larger populations—more people mean a larger economy. “At the end of the day, people matter. So the more people there are, the more economic activity there is,” said Wellesley College economics professor Phil Levine.

I get it. That’s why Pakistan with a GDP of \$284 billion is richer than Finland with a GDP of \$268 billion. Conversely, Finland has a per capita GDP of \$48,500 compared to \$1285 for Pakistan. I am always amazed at the number of economists who have acquired an advanced degree or two, but have never learned the meaning of *per capita*. The average bloke understands that Finland is much, much richer than Pakistan even if the average economist does not.

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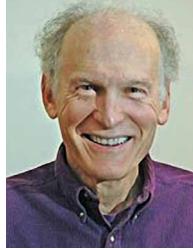
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Californians for Population Stabilization is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, public interest organization that works to formulate and advance policies and programs designed to stabilize the population of California, the U.S. and the world at levels which will preserve the environment and a good quality of life.

President's Message



In my previous President's message, I mentioned some contrasts between President-elect Joseph Biden and then-President

Donald Trump. For CAPS' overall goal of population stabilization, each of these Presidential administrations has its plus side and minus side.

The Biden administration has far superior policies that may result in reduced fertility levels – both in the USA and abroad. But its policies on immigration, the dominant cause of population growth in California and the U.S., go in the wrong direction. They undo many good Trump administration immigration reforms and, concerning the magnitude of illegal and legal immigration, appear to be more harmful than the policies of the Obama administration. I am not an expert on the history of immigration policy, but it seems that the Biden administration is on a path to be the worst ever on immigration-driven U.S. population growth – with potentially disastrous consequences for American workers and the environment.

John Wooden, the beloved and famous coach of UCLA's super successful basketball teams of the 1960s and 1970s, was known for his clever sayings. One of these is relevant to the current Democratic Party and immigration policy: "When everybody thinks alike, nobody thinks." Around the turn of the 21st century, there were many leading liberal Democratic members of Congress who supported reduced levels of immigration; these included Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson (the founder of Earth Day), African-American Texas Congressman Barbara Jordan, and my own long-term California Congressman

Anthony Beilenson. Now, essentially all Democrats in Congress vote to support immigration bills that will increase the rate of U.S. population growth.

A disturbing example of Biden administration immigration policies is the COVID-19 relief checks. According to a March report from the Center of Immigration Studies, an estimated 2.6 million illegal immigrants have a Social Security Number (SSN). Based on their incomes and the number of dependents, close to 80 percent will likely receive checks, at a total cost of \$4.4 billion. Of the 2.6 million, the Social Security Administration has previously estimated that 700,000 illegal immigrants are using stolen identities and SSNs. These people have thus broken at least two U.S. laws – entering the U.S. illegally plus stealing identities and SSNs – but, sadly, they are being rewarded with free money. The billions of dollars should instead be used to help poor persons who are here legally. One obvious group would be the homeless; their numbers in Los Angeles (where I live) are constantly growing while their living conditions seem to be getting worse. Veterans are another group of persons who should receive the assistance that is instead going to those who have broken U.S. laws.

When I was young, the possibility of a nuclear war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was often on people's minds. Today, perhaps because this "cold war" ended in 1990, concern for the nuclear threat has dropped into the background. But it is a serious and growing danger, with ramifications related to the enforcement of immigration law, both at the border and internally. I plan to discuss this issue in more detail in the next newsletter. 🐻

Ben Zuckerman

Ben Zuckerman
President, CAPS



AZ follows CAPS' lead and sues DHS for NEPA violations



As regular readers of this newsletter may know, CAPS and other plaintiffs filed suit in 2016 against the Department of Homeland Security for its failure to consider the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act's (NEPA) requirements in its immigration actions. NEPA obligates "any agency considering an action that will affect the environment to analyze and publicize those effects."

In April, Arizona also filed suit against DHS for its failure to address the environmental impact of its procedures and actions on immigration. Its complaint contains similar language to that of CAPS' complaint and argues:

NEPA expressly states that one of its purposes is to "achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities." As the drafters of NEPA recognized, population growth has significant environmental impacts.

According to state Attorney General Mark Brnovich, by "allowing more and more people to come into this country," the policies are "having a devastating impact on our environment." As part of the complaint, Arizona seeks to void the rescission of the "Remain in Mexico" policy by the Biden administration. That policy previously required

asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border to wait in Mexico while their asylum claims were adjudicated.

Having a state sue DHS under NEPA is an important addition since federal courts often find that a state has legal standing to bring a suit, but a person or organization does not.

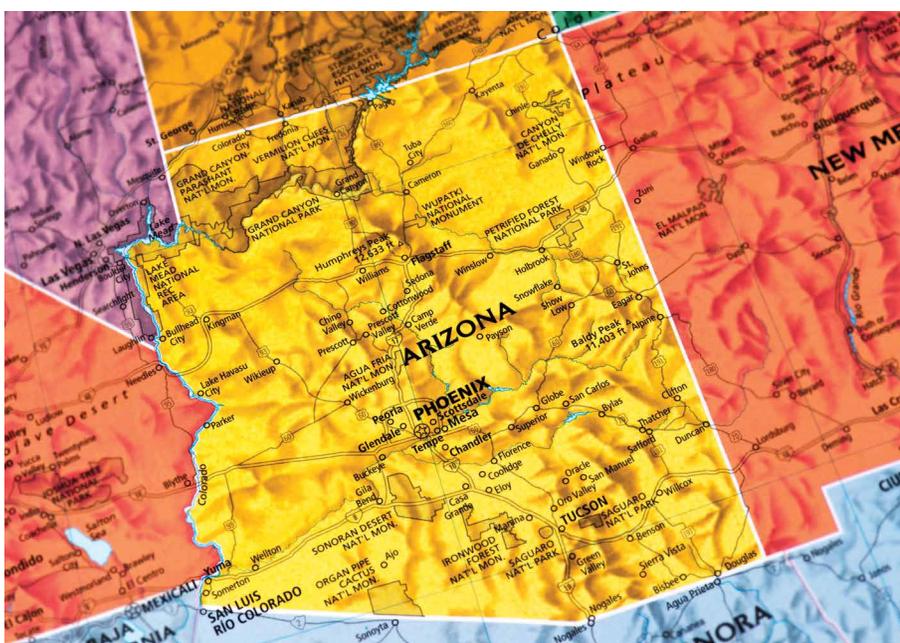
CAPS' suit update

In May, CAPS' attorney, Julie Axelrod, argued (remotely) before the Ninth Circuit in an appeal from adverse rulings by the district court. She addressed the finer points of immigration programs created without NEPA analysis, the resultant population growth, and the incentives for more illegal immigration.

"The appeal covers important issues in both NEPA and Administrative Procedures Act case law, and we plan to take this case as far as it can go," stated Axelrod.

No matter the outcome, CAPS remains confident in our assertions that high levels of immigration and unchecked illegal immigration lead to devastating environmental consequences, and we will continue to present this narrative to lawmakers, educators, and the public.

Learn more by visiting us at capsweb.org and type "NEPA" into the Search bar. You will also be able to read the complaint and see the exhibits involved in this complex case. 🐘*



Biden's Border Blunders—How many more deaths?



13 illegal immigrants died in the deadly collision near Holtville, CA. (Source: The New York Times)



(Source: CNN)

Biden was warned about policy changes

Demographer Joseph Chamie, a former director of the United Nations Population Division, warned last year that “the migration surge is coming... with the incoming government’s proposed changes to immigration policies...” U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials alerted the incoming administration that removing Trump-era restrictions would lead to a surge of unaccompanied minors along the border.

At least the U.S. is no longer separating children from their parents. Actually, it is, but in a different, more dangerous, and sometimes permanent way. Some illegal entrants are being returned currently, but that doesn’t include unaccompanied children, so parents in Mexico and Central America pay traffickers to take their children on the treacherous journey to America. The parents realize, correctly, that a child in the U.S. will be their ticket for entry.

Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei, blaming the border crisis on Biden, said, “The message changed to: ‘We’re going to reunite families, we’re going to reunite children. The very next day, the coyotes were here organizing groups of children to take them to the United States.’”

Of course, some children will not survive the journey and will not see their parents again.

Biden’s blunders seem to be driven by ideology. The important political consideration is to be anti-Trump— “Damn the torpedoes (and border deaths), full steam ahead.”

The deadly consequences of Biden’s immigration policies were as foreseeable as they are tragic.

A version of this op-ed by Executive Director Ric Oberlink was published by the “Houston Chronicle.” 🇺🇸

How many ways are there for illegal migrants to die crossing or trying to cross our border? The list keeps growing, encouraged by policies and messaging from the Biden administration.

Three people were killed, and dozens hospitalized, after a smuggling boat overturned and broke apart off the San Diego coast. The Border Patrol said there has been a 92 per cent increase in maritime apprehensions of smugglers in 2020 as compared with the previous year.

In March, 13 people died when an SUV, filled with 25 illegal immigrants and their smugglers, pulled out in front of an oncoming semi. Another SUV carrying 19 people, driven from Mexico through the same hole cut in a border fence, caught fire after entering the U.S., but no one died.

Two weeks later, eight illegal migrants in a pickup in Texas were killed when the smuggler who was driving veered into oncoming traffic and smashed into another truck. By this time, the media had lost interest and the story of eight deaths did not survive the 24-hour news cycle.

A six-month old baby was tossed from a raft into the Rio Grande by human traffickers but rescued by Border Patrol officers. In another crossing attempt, a nine-year old girl was not so lucky and drowned.

Smugglers have dropped toddlers over a 14-foot border wall and abandoned children in the desert, but, again, they

were rescued by the heroes from the Border Patrol, an agency that the woke left wants to abolish. According to the ACLU, “The number of Border Patrol agents should immediately be reduced by 50 percent.”

As horrendous as these events are, most of Biden’s border casualties will occur on the other side of the border, out of sight of American voters, and unrecorded by American media. An immigration activist admitted, “It’s one of the most dangerous trips in the world... cartels and local criminal groups ... see migrants as commodities, so they’re victims of assault, extortion, sexual assault, kidnapping, and murder.”

The border surge caused by these immigration policies should not have been, and was not, a surprise. When you tell would-be migrants that our immigration laws will not be enforced, they will ignore the laws. When you invite people to cross our border, they will come. Biden and his allies were repeatedly warned of the consequences of his proposals.



(Source: Stuart Cahill/MediaNews Group/Boston Herald)

Berth Control: Car Seats as Contraception



Analysts attribute the changing role of women, especially the increased number of women with careers, as the primary factor, but better access to contraception and concerns about the environment also played roles.

The study, “Car seats as contraception,”

require children to ride in safety seats until they turn eight.

The study correlated census data with changes in state laws on safety seats. It found that tightening those laws was accompanied by a drop of 0.73 percentage points in the number of women giving birth to a third child while the first two were young enough to need safety seats, not much, but a significant portion of the 9.36% of women in the sample who did become third-time mothers.

Most cars can comfortably accommodate only two safety seats. It seems that the back seats of American cars, once renowned as places where children were conceived, may now be acting as contraceptives. 🐾*

Two professors of finance at the MIT and Boston College think that America’s increasingly protective child car-seat laws have contributed to a decrease in fertility rates, which fell from 2.12 in the early 1970s to 1.73 by 2018.

examined the effect that car-seat policies may have had on birth rates between 1973 and 2017. Initially, only wee tots under three had to be secured in child-safety seats, but states’ governments gradually increased the requirements. Today, most states

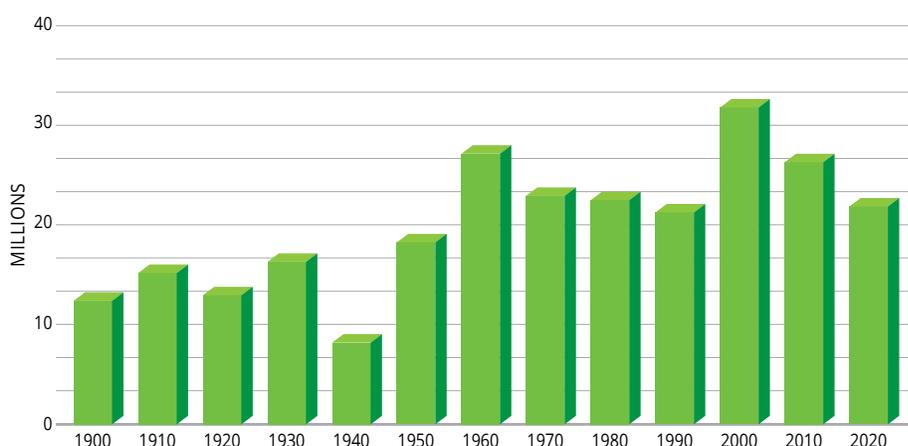
Demographic Salvation,.... *(continued from page 1)*

Taiwan, for instance, has achieved population stabilization—after several years of very slight increases in population, it probably had a slight decrease in 2020. Last year, when nearly all national economies were shrinking, Taiwan had one of the globe’s few growing economies, and *the* fastest among industrialized nations. Its GDP increased by over 3% and is expected to expand almost 5% in 2021, its fastest pace in seven years. Its economy grew not because of, nor in spite of, its achievement of population stabilization, but for factors that had nothing to do with population.

Manjoo takes it a step further. He not only ignores the environmental degradation of unending population growth; he not only buys into the baseless claims that population growth underlies economic growth; but he also offers the unsupported assertion that more people are necessary to have “more new ideas for pushing humanity forward” because “without enough people, the font of new ideas dries up.”

With almost 8 billion people, our planet is probably not short of creative geniuses... or serial killers... or despotic tyrants. We need not only a plethora of smart people but also conditions that nurture talent and allow it to blossom. Those conditions are less likely to occur when a growing population places a strain on resources. Where is one more likely to find innovation and entrepreneurship—in rapidly growing countries like Burkina Faso and South Sudan or countries with stable populations such as Korea and Denmark?

U.S. Population Increase by Decade



According to UN projections, the world’s population is expected to increase to 9.7 billion in 2050 and peak around the end of the century at a level of nearly 11 billion. The U.S. population, according to Census Bureau medium immigration level projections will increase to 404 million by 2060.

For some extremists, that is not enough. Manjoo has called for open borders, as has the Wall Street Journal in past editorials. The National Immigration Forum advocates increasing legal immigration by 370,000 annually (above recent levels of about one million per year) to “prevent the U.S. from falling into demographic deficit and socioeconomic decline.”

The inevitable result of more humans and more consumption by humans is less space for other critters. A landmark report from the World Wildlife Federation shows that nearly 60 percent of wildlife on our planet have been wiped out since the first Earth Day in 1970. The Living Planet Index tracked the decline in

populations of more than 4,000 species of mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles between 1970 and 2014. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists over 700 animal species as endangered or threatened.

A half century ago, The Commission on Population Growth recognized the environmental consequences of an ever-growing human population in America:

From an environmental and resource point of view, there are no advantages from further growth of population.... Indeed, we would be considerably better off... if there were a prompt reduction in our population growth rate. This is especially true with regard to problems of water, agricultural land, and outdoor recreation.

Demographic stagnation? Demographic deficit? No, demographic salvation perhaps. A slowing of population growth—here and abroad—is welcome and long overdue. Let us mourn some of the species and wildness we have lost while we savor the hope that we may save much of the biodiversity that remains. 🐾*

Earth Day founder Senator Gaylord Nelson on population growth, immigration, and McCarthyist smear tactics of charging “racism”

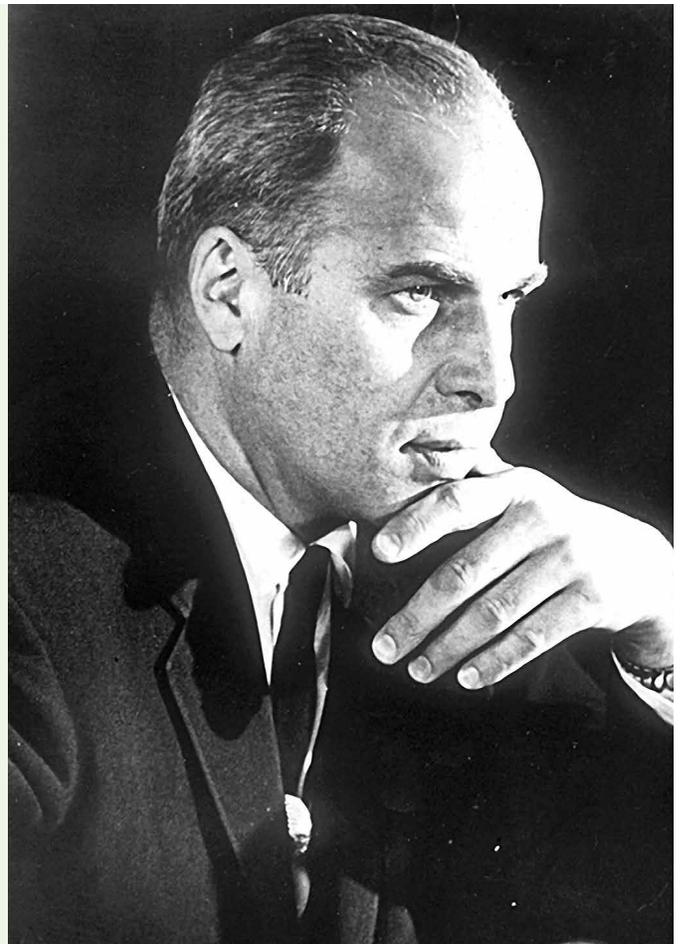
“Stabilizing our population will be key to determining our success or failure.... We have a problem here at home.... yet we won't stabilize our population as long as immigrants to the United States continue to add 1.3 million people to the population each year – 300,000 of them entering the country illegally.... Until we address this growing influx of immigrants, ... the population will continue to grow indefinitely despite the nation's success at achieving a replacement level birthrate.

Never has an issue with such major consequences for this country been so ignored.... We are faced with the most important challenge of our time – the challenge of sustainability – and we refuse to confront it.

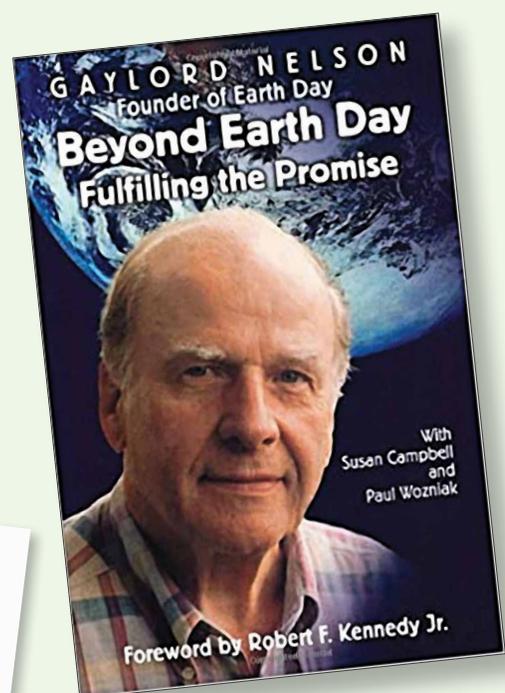
The reason for this silence is simple.... While federal actions have increased the immigration rate dramatically, ... any suggestion that the rate be decreased to some previously acceptable level is met with charges of “nativism,” “racism,” and the like. Unfortunately, such opposition has silenced much-needed discussion of the issue – recalling the smear tactics of the late Senator Joseph McCarthy. The first time around it was “soft on communism.” This time the charge is “racism.” Demagogic rhetoric of this sort has succeeded in silencing the environmental and academic communities and has tainted any discussion of population and immigration issues as “politically incorrect....” It is nothing short of astonishing to see the great American free press, with its raft of syndicated columnists, frightened into silence by political correctness.

The issue is not racism, nativism, or any other “ism,” however. The real issue: numbers of people and the implications for freedom of choice and sustainability as our numbers continue to grow.”

From Nelson's 2002 autobiography, Beyond Earth Day: Fulfilling the Promise. 🐻*



Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis. (Source: Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame)



Left: Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis. March 9, 1950. (Source: AP Photo/Herbert K. White)

Above: "Beyond Earth Day, Fulfilling the Promise" book cover. (Source: Amazon)



CAPS Earth Day “Pop” Quiz

Earth Day Quiz: How Much Do You Actually Know About The Earth?

Most people don't get question 8 or 10.

START

In April, CAPS designed a quick and interesting online quiz to provide important information about environmental issues. What have we learned since the first Earth Day in 1970? What have we forgotten? We call it our “Pop” Quiz and it has engaged thousands of quiz takers and viewers. It is a diverse mashup of topics that cover domestic and international population levels, depletion of wildlife, greenhouse gas emissions, immigration levels, and contraceptive methods. We continue to utilize it along with our other engagement tools. From our press release on Earth Day:

PRESS RELEASE



“Since that first Earth Day, global population has increased by 4 billion and the U.S. population by 130 million. The result has been a tremendous loss of open space, pristine wilderness, and biodiversity. Habitat loss due to human activity is by far the biggest threat to endangered species.

“Unfortunately, large environmental groups have become too politically correct to address this fundamental issue. They are silent while the environment is being destroyed.

“As David Brower, the preeminent environmentalist of the last half of the 20th century and a member of the CAPS Board of Advisors, stated, ‘You don’t have a conservation policy unless you have a population policy.’”

To take the Pop Quiz, visit capsweb.org/take-caps-earth-day-quiz/. For hard copies of our press releases or other information, please contact the CAPS office at 805-564-6626. 🐘★



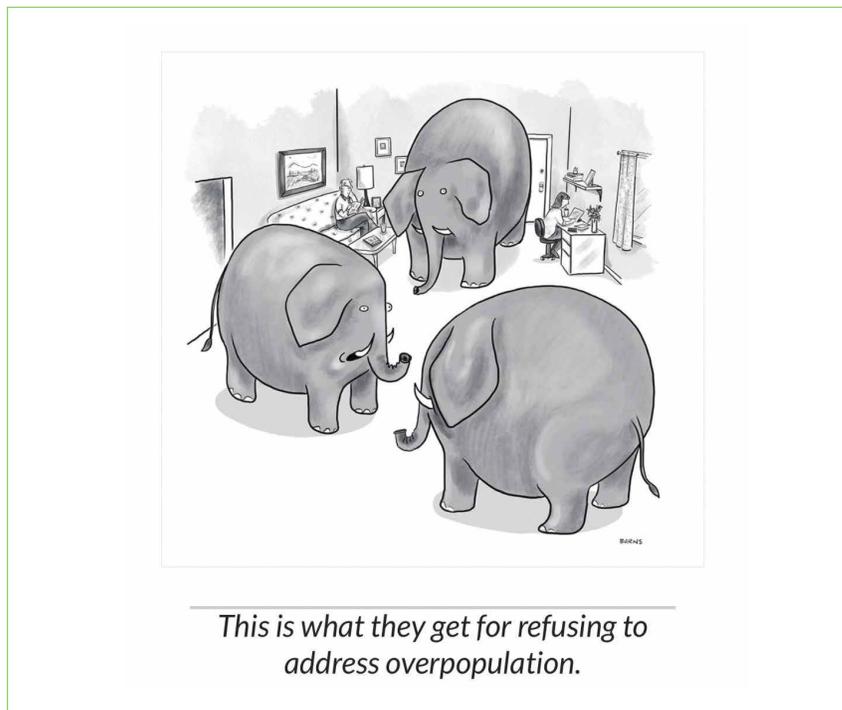
Calling all friends of CAPS!

Recently, a supporter asked his friends to celebrate his birthday on Facebook by making donations to CAPS. Did you know that you can dedicate a fundraiser on Facebook? Anyone Facebook user is a few clicks away from asking friends or the public to celebrate a birthday, Earth Day, or any day by creating a fundraiser where other users can make a donation of any amount to CAPS. Facebook pays the processing fees, so 100% of your donation goes to CAPS. You also have security options, for example, you can control the audience that sees your gesture (friends vs. the public). You can also set a goal amount and your fundraiser will tell a little about CAPS and what we do. The fundraiser lasts about two weeks and allows you to share it and remind folks about your goal.

Please keep in mind that only Facebook users can create fundraisers and only Facebook users can donate. If you aren't on Facebook, consider checking out our page, along with over 620-thousand others! We dedicate our "FB" page to current events tied to our mission, along with click-throughs to our blogs and legislative action opportunities. We hope to see you on social media!



Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CaliforniansForPopulationStabilization/



Caption by Toby White



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