

# CAPS NEWS

## Remembering Barbara Jordan

by Ric Oberlink, Executive Director



In December 1993, I participated in a roundtable of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform in Los Angeles when, during a lunch break, a perceptible buzz circulated among attendees—President Clinton

had named Barbara Jordan as Chair of the Commission. I was excited at the prospect that the appointment of this esteemed civil rights advocate, and the first African-American woman from the South elected to Congress, would draw appropriate attention to this important issue, but, as one who believes that population growth and the immigration that drives it place inordinate strains on our environment and infrastructure, I was concerned that she would fall into the maelstrom of liberal clichés offered by her base of supporters. As the environmentalist Edward Abbey said about immigration, “The conservatives love their cheap labor; the liberals love their cheap cause.”

Instead, Jordan and the Commission members undertook a thorough, comprehensive examination of American policies on legal and illegal immigration. Over five years, the Commission held 13 consultations and 15 roundtables with experts and scholars; commissioned 18 research papers; held eight public hearings across the nation; and conducted seven site visits.

The culmination was a series of forthright recommendations commensurate with the problem. Rejecting amnesty proposals, Jordan testified to Congress, “Credibility in

immigration policy can be summed up in one sentence: those who should get in, get in; those who should be kept out, are kept out; and those who should not be here will be required to leave.”

Reflecting upon the impact of immigration on America’s working poor, the Jordan Commission stated, “Immigrants with relatively low education and skills may compete for jobs and public services with the most vulnerable of Americans, particularly those who are unemployed or underemployed.” Ultimately, the Commission concluded not only that the United States must increase enforcement of its laws against illegal immigration, but also that it should reduce legal immigration by one-third.

President Clinton embraced the proposal to cut immigration. His press secretary announced that “the President indicated to Barbara Jordan today that he will support such reductions.” Clinton then confined the Commission’s report to a shelf where it continues to gather dust.

Even more astonishing, when viewed from today’s highly polarized political world, was the bipartisan agreement on the Jordan Commission. After more than five years of exhaustive study of this highly controversial policy matter, the five Democratic and four Republican appointees were unanimous in virtually all of their major policy recommendations.

Immigration policy will remain contentious for the foreseeable future, and there is always room for debate about what is the appropriate level of immigration. However, had President Clinton and Congress, and subsequent

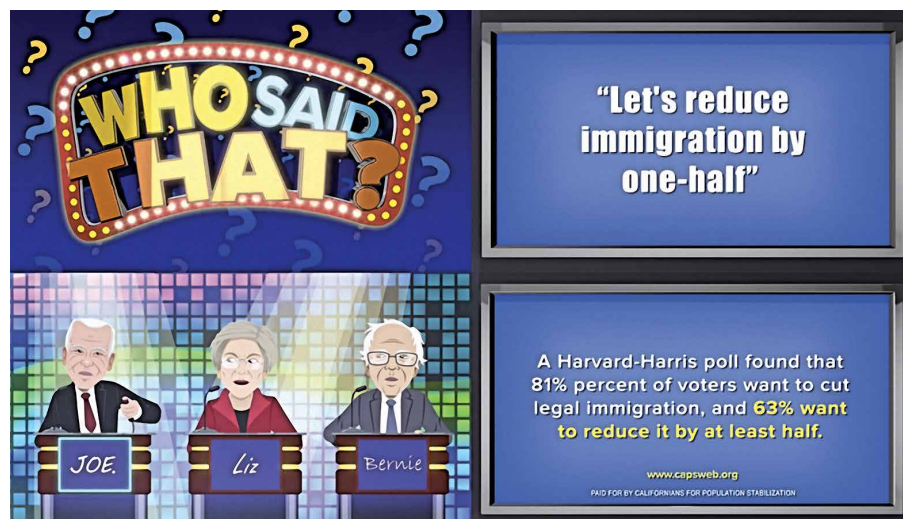


Barbara Jordan Statue by Bruce Wolfe stands in Austin, TX.

Presidents and Congresses, taken steps to implement the Commission’s recommendations, we would have resolved many of the immigration problems we now face.

Any politician or pundit commenting on immigration policy should review, as a starting point, the prodigious work done by the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, the most extensive examination ever taken of American immigration policy. Barbara Jordan told Congress, “It is both a right and a responsibility of a democratic society to manage immigration so that it serves the national interest.” The “national interest.” Now there is a subject on which today’s politicians could use a refresher course. 🐻

## Ad Premieres During November Debate on Prime Time Network



Ad board from our Nov 2019 ad campaign, “Who Said That?”

As you know, CAPS isn’t one to shy away from producing edgy, *in-your-face* advertising campaigns. You may recall our “San Francisco Travel Company” video from 2017, in which CAPS asked illegal visitors to “come for the celebrities and crumbling infrastructure, stay for the overcrowding and lack of immigration enforcement.”

This time around we launched a national prime time TV ad parodying the nostalgic game show “Who Said That?” with a funny and modern animated spin. The game show host asks recognizable contestants to guess who said “Let’s reduce immigration by one-half?” Spoiler alert: **The American People**, that’s who!!

At the heart of this satirical campaign is the very real Harvard-Harris poll that found 81% of voters want to cut legal immigration and 63% would like to see it cut by at least half.

Please visit CAPSweb.org or our YouTube channel, *Crowdifornia*, to watch the full ad and “stay tuned” for more episodes! 🐻

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### In Memoriam

David Brower

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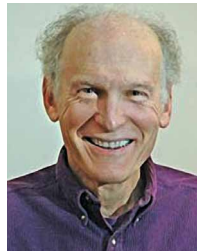
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Californians for Population Stabilization is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, public interest organization that works to formulate and advance policies and programs designed to stabilize the population of California, the U.S. and the world at levels which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

# President's Message



Back in the (long ago) days when I was young, members of the two major political parties had common grounds for discussion and entertained some overlapping viewpoints on a wide variety of issues. Sadly, this is no longer true. This chasm between the two parties is evident in most matters that relate to population stabilization in the USA and abroad.

I recently received a mailing entitled "Congressional Report Card 2019" from the organization Population Connection. The Report Card analyzed five recent bills related to family planning that were voted on by members of the House of Representatives. Even though each of these bills had very little, if anything, to do with the always hot-button issue of abortion, the votes were essentially totally along party lines. Of the 438 House members, only 4 Democrats and 2 Republicans ever broke ranks with the "proper" party-line vote; all other 432 members **always** voted the party line on all 5 bills! (As an aside, because the Democrats now control the House, all 5 votes went their way.)

On matters related to immigration, some Republicans do vote like Democrats. Unfortunately, among the Democratic leadership and those who are running for President, there is strict adherence to the party line: favor immigrants, both legal and illegal, even at the expense of poor Americans, homeless persons, and veterans. No longer do the remarks and voting record of any Democrat approximate those of former leaders in the Senate such as Gaylord Nelson (founder of Earth Day) and in the House such as Barbara Jordan and Anthony Beilenson. These and other former Democratic politicians understood that sensible limits to immigration are essential in order to protect the environment and the poor.

In addition to the Congressional Report Card, recently I've received a number of mailings that consider the relationship between

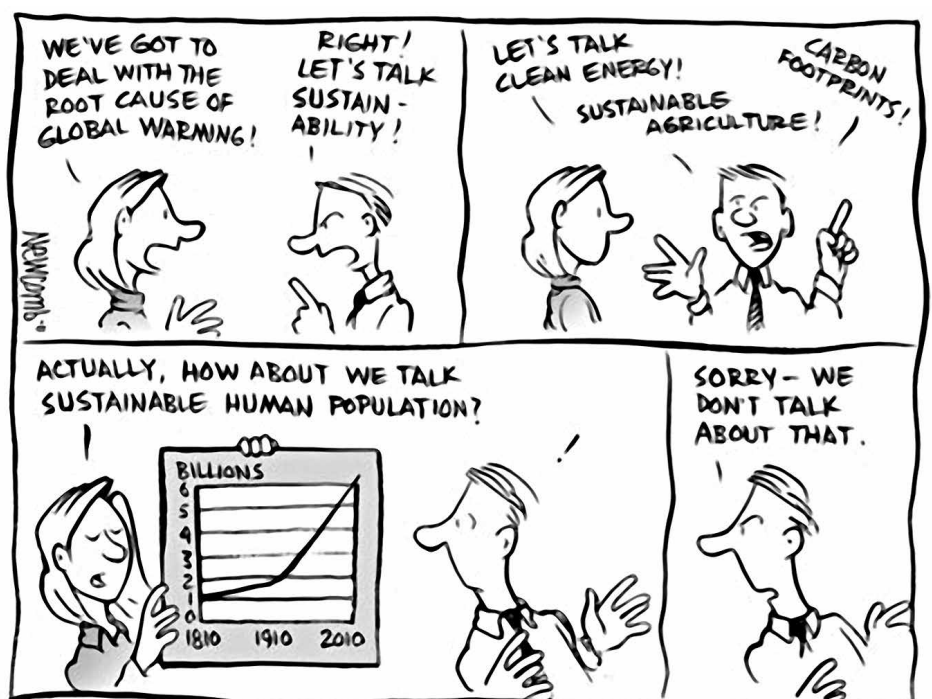
population and climate change. In a previous President's Message, I touched upon the synergistic relationship between climate change, California's population growth, and the massive fires the state has been suffering — this was before the most recent suite of fires in Fall 2019. An October 2019 opinion piece in *Newsweek* (written by a teacher of sustainable development at NYU's Center for Global Affairs) focuses on the relationship between population growth and climate change, but also mentions a myriad of other problems that are exacerbated by overpopulation. When referring to population size the author says "We need to start a new conversation, given what we now know about climate change. It won't be easy, but we have to...."

Those of us who have tried to help educate the public about the overpopulation/quality of life connection here in California, know how far from "easy" this is and how hard it is to "start a new conversation." Most media, including, for example, my hometown paper the L.A. Times, are pretty hopeless when it comes to educating people about connections — they simply won't publish opinion pieces that draw the dots between overimmigration and concerns regarding environment/quality of life, including the underlying causes of California's massive fires, the traffic congestion that all urban Californians love to complain about, and various other issues.

As the 20th century American journalist, A. J. Liebling, wrote, "Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one." We can only hope that dealing with climate change will force political leaders and the media to address population size. CAPS would welcome bright ideas from supporters on how to publicize the connections between California's endless population growth and themes that relate to quality of life.

*Ben Zuckerman*

Ben Zuckerman  
President, CAPS



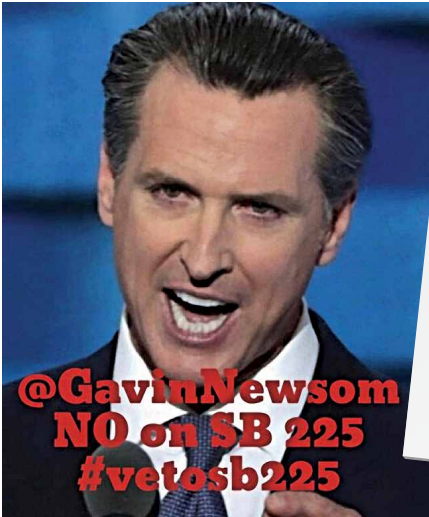
By Stephen Emmett, The Guardian, December 4, 2015



# New California Law Allows Illegal Aliens to Serve on Boards and Commissions

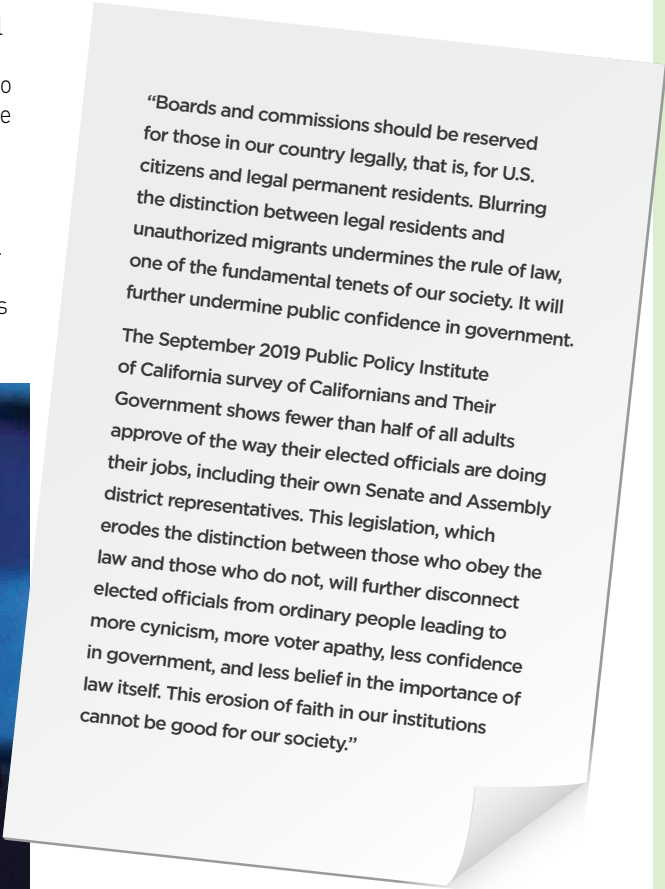
Can California politicians take the state any further into the abyss? The legislature passed, and Gov. Newsom signed SB 225 to authorize all *residents*, including illegal aliens, to serve on California’s local and state boards and commissions. Those who have broken into this country, those whose very presence here is illegal, will now be able make rules for law-abiding citizens and legal immigrants.

How bad is this bill? So bad that even Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed it when it came before him. However, some Sacramento politicians just hate the idea of American citizenship.



CAPS graphic in opposition to SB 225.

As one CAPS activist put it in his letter to Gov. Newsom:



## Errata: Oops, Sorry, Leon...



Many of you received a recent CAPS Issues piece, “The ‘Archdruid’ Still Stands with CAPS In Memoriam – David Brower,” a wonderful article about this environmental icon and CAPS Advisory Board member penned by Senior Writing Fellow Leon Kolankiewicz. Alas, somewhere in the process, an extra letter was tagged onto Leon’s surname. We are sorry and truly embarrassed.

The same Issues article refers on page 5 to the 1995 Immigration and Nationality Act. There was such a bill, but this reference is to the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act.

The article may be viewed at [capsweb.org](http://capsweb.org).



### Use our Action Alerts

This is a good opportunity for us to remind you to sign up for our Action Alert system by visiting our website. You’ll receive occasional emails about breaking developments on legislation in Washington and Sacramento. Then you can click through to send a pre-written response to your elected officials, in just a few clicks. Please amplify our message by forwarding our alert to people you think might share our views, and don’t forget to also share to social media using the post and hashtags we provide. We are better together!

## CAPS in the Capital



Toby White, COO, with Tom Homan, former acting director of ICE and Fox News contributor.

CAPS regularly travels to Washington, D.C., as we seek to amplify our message on the national stage. Executive Director Ric Oberlink and COO Toby White recently met with the top strategists in the immigration movement to discuss tactics and strategies for implementing mandatory E-Verify, ending dangerous sanctuary jurisdictions, and highlighting the nexus between overpopulation and overimmigration and their impact on our environment (read our NEPA lawsuit update, direct from Washington DC, in this issue).

We also utilized this opportunity to share ideas with our team of digital and print

media experts with whom we work tirelessly throughout the year to increase education on our key issues.

Highlights of trips to DC have included on-location production of our anti-sanctuary city ad, “Deadly Mistake,” featuring Don Rosenberg; a conference hosted by Fiscal Note, a government relationship management firm that runs Voter Voice, the broadcasting platform CAPS utilizes to send email alerts to our supporters; and serendipitous meetings with spokespeople such as Tom Homan, Ann Coulter, and various members of Congress. 🐻\*



# George Sessions and Dave Foreman: Deep Ecologists and CAPS Advisors

By Leon Kolankiewicz  
CAPS Senior Writing Fellow

The modern environmental movement has evolved and diversified considerably ever since it burst onto the national and international scenes about half a century ago in the crucible of the tumultuous late sixties. It now has a number of divergent branches. One of them is so-called deep ecology, a term coined back in 1972 by the Norwegian mountaineer and philosopher Arne Naess (1912-2009).

In a nutshell, deep ecology promotes the intrinsic value of all living things, irrespective of their instrumental utility as natural resources that exist primarily to satisfy human needs and cravings. Deep ecology embraces a holistic understanding of nature, ecosystems, and the biosphere or “ecosphere” as a whole, and it believes that growing numbers of humans and the unrestrained economic expansion of industrial civilization pose an existential threat not just to wilderness, nature, and other creatures, but to human beings ourselves.

Another name for deep ecology is ecocentrism, the philosophy that the ecosphere – not man – is central in importance; in contrast, the belief that man is at the center of everything is called anthropocentrism.

Unlike some branches of the environmental movement, deep ecology widely acknowledges that human population size and growth rates are key drivers of environmental degradation.

Over the years, two leading deep ecologists have served on the CAPS Advisory Board: George Sessions and Dave Foreman. Sessions, who died in 2016 at the age of 77, was a long-time professor of philosophy at Sierra College in Rocklin, California, as well as an experienced Yosemite climber, pioneering ecological thinker, author and editor.

George Sessions (1938-2016) was a professor and department chair at Sierra for nearly half a century. As Harold Glasser, professor of environmental and sustainability studies at Western Michigan University, noted in a tribute to George at *The Trumpeter*: “Next to Arne Naess, George was arguably the most significant figure in the deep ecology movement. He was certainly at the center of its emergence in North America.”

In 1984, Naess and Sessions collaborated to develop the “Deep Ecology Platform” – the guiding principles of this emerging movement (see sidebar).

In 1995, Sessions published his groundbreaking, edited collection *Deep Ecology for the 21st Century*. In 2001, with Bill Devall, Sessions co-authored *Deep Ecology: Living As If Nature Mattered*. This “subversive” work investigated the psychological, philosophical, and sociological roots of the environmental movement, exploring whether an enlarged human consciousness that embraces the Earth is possible.

In a remembrance posted at Rewilding Earth, Casey Walker, founder and editor of the literary and environmental journal *Wild Duck Review*, wrote of discovering George Sessions through an essay he’d written, which:

“...argued that human-centered views of nature were blind to the nature of wild nature. It was smart, articulate. And had an edge



Deep ecologists George Sessions (left) and Arne Naess

*of clarity that nailed my dissatisfaction with mainstream environmentalism; and, even more subtly, with environmental literature.”*

Alas, I never got to meet George in person, or to explore the Sierra Nevada wilds with him. But we did have one enjoyable phone conversation in 1998 in which we lamented the growing tendency of avant-garde post-modernists cocooned from reality in their ivory towers to regard nature as a mere figment of the human imagination, just another social construct. The movie *Titanic* was making a big splash at the time, and I remember joking with George that if the iceberg had been just another social construct, it would never have sunk that massive, “unsinkable” vessel on its maiden voyage. The RMS *Titanic* collided with hard, cold, implacable reality, not an abstraction.

Thank you, George, for your life’s work and for lending your name and reputation to CAPS for all those years.



CAPS Advisory Board member Dave Foreman

Dave Foreman is also a pioneering ecological thinker, author and essayist, as well as a consummate conservation activist, a former lobbyist for the Wilderness Society, co-founder of Earth First!, co-founder of The Wildlands Project, and co-founder of the Rewilding Institute, now called Rewilding Earth. Dave has been a CAPS Advisory Board member since 2014.

Dave is a prolific writer and for many years was a popular, engaging environmental speaker on college campuses and other venues. He once told me that he thought he would have made a great evangelical preacher: I’ve seen speeches of his in California and New Mexico and they are powerful, stirring, and entertaining to boot. At times, even electrifying. He is a born motivational speaker.

Dave doesn’t just advocate for wilderness in the most anti-wilderness of settings – in auditoriums standing in front of large audiences – but he has been a devoted wilderness aficionado and explorer for over half a century. In more recent years, bedeviled by a persistent back injury, he became a devout and skilled bird watcher, enjoying the species that visit his lush backyard in the high desert, piñon-juniper habitat on the edge of Albuquerque and the Sandia Mountain Wilderness of central New Mexico.

Dave has authored or co-authored a number of eco-activist books, among them *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*, *Rewilding North America*, and *Man Swarm: How Overpopulation is Killing the Wild World* (with Laura Carroll). Foreman and Carroll do not mince words. The back cover of *Man Swarm* states boldly: **OVERPOPULATION IS REAL. We have come on like a swarm of locusts.**

I wrote a review of *Man Swarm* in 2015 for CAPS, in which I noted:

*“More than any other single prominent environmentalist/ conservationist in recent decades, with the possible exception of the late Senator Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day, Dave Foreman has had the guts to tell it like it is on immigration. And he demonstrates abundantly that he is not “anti-immigrant” but anti-mass immigration. This is a huge distinction that our unscrupulous critics never fail to miss, because the former connotes bigotry and the latter principle and they will never credit us with any principle.”*

It takes brains, heart, and soul to comprehend that *Homo sapiens*, for all our vaunted attributes and achievements, is neither the center of the universe nor of the Earth, and it takes audacity to deliver that message to our fellow human beings, many of whom take offense at such sacrilege.

Deep ecologists George Sessions and Dave Foreman joined their fellow diehard conservationist David Brower in serving on the CAPS Advisory Board. These three thus further demonstrated the courage of their convictions – by standing with an organization whose unflinching mission explicitly promotes population stabilization at a level that preserves both the environment and a high quality of life for all Californians, Americans... and Earthlings. 🐘★



# Human Population Up, Bird Population Down

Birds are a wonderful example of our country's rich biodiversity. A recent estimate put the total number of bird species at nearly 20,000 worldwide. In North America alone, there are approximately 1000 species of birds, ranging from the California Condor with a wingspan of up to 3.5 meters to the Calliope Hummingbird, which has a wingspan of 11 centimeters and weighs 2 to 3 grams.

Sadly, like other animal species, birds have experienced the brunt of human population growth across the planet and especially in North America.

A recent study published in Science paints a bleak picture for the future of birds in North America. In the study, scientists and conservationists analyzed nearly five decades of population data of 529 species of birds on the continent. The results point to a catastrophic decline in the population of birds in America.

NBC News reported on the study:

*Since 1970, the continental U.S. and Canada have lost more than 1 in 4 birds. The total bird population in the two countries has fallen by almost 3 billion, with grassland birds such as western meadowlarks and American sparrows and shorebirds such as green herons taking the biggest hits.*

That is huge—a 25% reduction in the continental U.S. and Canada's bird population in just the last 50 years. Beyond the declining bird populations, this seismic ecological shift should warn Americans about how rapid human population growth and urban development are affecting our environment. In the same time period (1970-present) that the U.S. and Canada experienced a loss of 1 in 4 birds in North America, the human population of the United States swelled by nearly 40 percent, from 203 million people in 1970, to nearly 330 million people in 2019.

The report also provided some explanations as to why, specifically, bird populations in North America are in such rapid decline. As NBC News explained in their analysis of the report, it is the result of human activities:



*The researchers said humans are driving the decline through the clearing of land and widespread pesticide use and by allowing domestic cats to roam outdoors.*

*Habitat loss seems to be the biggest issue. By clearing forests and grasslands to erect buildings, roads and farms, humans have encroached on the ecosystems in which birds thrive. And the use of neonicotinoid insecticides has fueled the decline both by poisoning birds and by eradicating insects, depriving birds of a key food. Cats are estimated to kill more than 1 billion birds in the U.S. each year.*

*"I think of it as death by a thousand cuts," (report author) Marra said. "If we fix the habitat problem, we would have a rebound, but there's multiple interacting threats out there that are now driving these declines."*

CAPS advocates for immigration and environmental policies that promote environmental sustainability and preserve fragile ecosystems in California and the United States.

The questions we must ask ourselves are: What will 50 more years of unsustainable human population growth in the U.S. do to our already vulnerable ecosystems? What will the population of thousands of species of bird, bear, fish, and many other animals in North America look like with 400 or 500 million people in the U.S. in the next 50-100 years?

The United States must begin to confront the realities of unsustainable human population growth or face ever-increasing environmental destruction and the wholesale eradication of animal species in North America. 🐾

A version of this article appeared in Medium.com, which has published several articles by Ric Oberlink.

## CAPS' NEPA Lawsuit Update

In 2016, CAPS joined eight other plaintiffs in filing a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for its failure to consider the environmental impact of immigration under the National Environmental Policy Act's (NEPA) requirements. CAPS claims that DHS – and the INS before it – ignored NEPA's requirement to analyze the environmental impacts of its policies when immigration drove the U.S. population to grow by millions of people.

DHS has tried to delay the proceedings and use procedural maneuvers to avoid litigating the issue at hand—whether it has met its NEPA obligation requiring “any agency considering an action that will affect the environment to analyze and publicize those effects.” The court dismissed two of the five counts and DHS seeks a summary judgment on the remaining counts. The judge could rule on summary judgment at any

time. Win or lose on that motion, we will then be able to appeal all of the judge's rulings, including his previous dismissal of two counts.

Our attorney, Julie Axelrod, has written a draft of a working paper on the subject, entitled *A Seat at the Table for Citizens: Why the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Applies to Immigration and How Best to Implement This Long Overdue Reform*. The intent is to establish an academic grounding to demonstrate the significant environmental impact of the tens of millions of foreign nationals who have settled into the United States since NEPA was signed into law in 1970. NEPA should be applied to immigration laws, regulations, policies and other regulatory actions, but the huge population growth resulting from these



foreign nationals and their descendants has completely escaped environmental analysis.

For links to Julie's working paper draft and accompanying video presentation, please call the CAPS office and we would be happy to email them to you. 🐾

# What's NOT New? Fires Rage in California



Soda Rock winery in Sonoma's Alexander Valley was destroyed in the Kincadee fire. (Josh Edelson/AFP/Getty Images)

The Kincadee Fire, the Maria Fire, the Eagle Fire, the Tick Fire. Thankfully, this year's fire season—if there still is a fire season—has been much less destructive than those of the last two years. Is the media finally catching on? "Warming climate, population sprawl threaten California's future with more destructive wildfires," headlined a recent CNBC story. It noted, "A growing population, spread out into forested regions largely uninhabited until recently, is placing people and nature more at risk of being burned."

For more on the intersection among population growth, climate change, and fire danger, read "Fire, Fury and Flood" in your Spring 2018 CAPS newsletter or view it on [www.CAPSweb.org](http://www.CAPSweb.org). 🐘★



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## Laster's Lasting Legacy

Early in 2018, CAPS staff received a call from a Southern California estate attorney's office stating that CAPS was named in an individual's will. Having no additional information, we awaited further word.

We could never have imagined the generosity that was to befall us from a quiet, thoughtful, unassuming gentleman – which is how his long-time assistant describes Mr. Dale Laster, the benefactor and longtime supporter of CAPS. While we regretfully will never have the opportunity to discuss with Dale our shared concerns about the rapid population growth that will impact future generations; his impact, a reflection of his passion that became his legacy, is now ours to carry forth.

Dale is proof that we all have something to contribute, large or small –time, money, or action. His deep concern about overpopulation and the ensuing devastation to the quality of life in California and



A view of downtown from Echo Park, Los Angeles.

beyond will live on in our good works that continue in his honor.

If you would like to make a legacy inquiry or gift to CAPS, or would like to learn more

about our estate planning tools, please call us or visit the planned giving section of our website ([www.CAPSweb.org/donate/planned-giving](http://www.CAPSweb.org/donate/planned-giving)). 🐘★