

Opinion: Governor Newsom and the Legislature Play at Politics while LA Burns

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Over a half century ago, I read an article in a magazine while waiting in a local doctor's office about the failure of the Sacramento government to address a growing crisis forming from managed neglect of state and federal lands. While the author's concern was primarily directed at the mismanagement of timberlands in the forests of California, it is sad to see those prophetic words have come to pass with increasing regularity.

Not as if Newsom and our state-led brain trust of Democrats can get out of the way of their own sheer stupidity, after all the incoming Federal administration of Donald Trump is far more "dangerous" than the roaring inferno engulfing Los Angeles. I suppose it is inevitable the state's voters end up with what they vote for: Bad Forest Management and a growing number of catastrophic wild fires over the last couple of decades.

"Climate Change" has become the only thing Newsom and his Sacramento pals can point towards despite the fact scientists have made it clear the climate in California hasn't changed measurably for centuries. No crisis "end of the world human causation ahead", just plain old Sacramento politics gone awry.

Years of "environmental" attention to anything but the welfare of citizens needs in California have led to forest and brushland mismanagement, reduction of water storage, and a minimal effort to be proactive at fire

prevention on federal and state lands. The consequences have been enormous with millions of acres burned just since Newsom has been in office and billions of dollars of loss in California.

In the coming weeks it will very likely be revealed the true extent of Newsom's role in what has happened over the past few days in our most populous City. Far be from me to point to our own tale of woe from the summer of 2023 where the regular occurrence of lightning storms each year set thousands of acres of state and national forest alight. Lightning storms which are forecast days in advance with no recognition that prepositioned firefighting assets could mitigate what has always been an annual event in the northern half of the State.

Billions of promised dollars for wild fire prevention siphoned off for "Democrat" priorities, water storage bungling, fire department budget cuts, and DEI policies in hiring subordinates in critical positions are likely to be just the "tip of the iceberg" if any "true" investigation of the failures surrounding the LA fires was to happen. Don't hold your breath folks, the spin has already begun.

I very much doubt Californians will learn much about the "human" causation of the LA fires when Climate Change is the much more "politically correct" boogiemaster to blame. Far be it, incompetent leadership will be painted with obvious failings on the part of either the Governor, Sacramento leadership or Los Angeles, as well.

I am not sure what kind of Democrat/Progressive nightmare has to happen in California before citizens in the State realize things have to change. Newsom and the current legislature simply are not understanding the abject failure of Sacramento's policies on Californians.

The current disaster with the fires in Los Angeles has played out numerous times for decades in other parts of the State. It takes years to restore some semblance of normality after such an event. Constant inadequacy on display by the Newsom administration will not change. Newsom has become the Governor fiddling while the State burns to the ground. Trump and Climate Change, REALLY?