



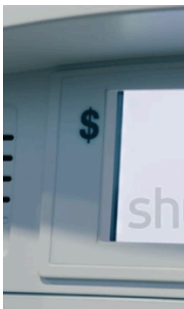
LCV24-CA45-ISCI PENDING Script "Money-SPN" v.1
:30 SPANISH DIGITAL

VIDEO	AUDIO	BACKUP
-------	-------	--------

<p>Open on image of Michelle Steel that is then covered in cash.</p>  <p>SOURCE: https://ktla.com/news/local-news/rep-michelle-steel-tests-positive-for-coronavirus-after-questioning-need-for-mask-mandate-in-orange-county/</p> <p>GFX LOWER (SMALL): FOTO: PAUL BERSEBACH/THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER GFX TRANSLATION:</p>	<p>MUSIC:</p> <p>VO: ¡Que tan rico es vivir como Michelle Steel!</p> <p>Translation: How sweet it is to live like Michelle Steel?</p> <p>(Play on words in Spanish: "rico" means "rich" and also "sweet")</p>	
--	--	--

<p>PHOTO: PAUL BERSEBAC H/THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER</p>		
<p>Image of a gas and oil factory. We then transition to the next scene by \$100 bills wiping the screen.</p>  <p>SOURCE: https://www.shutterstock.com/video/clip-2644451-fir-e-oil-refinery-richmond-california</p> <p>GFX: DINERO DE LA INDUSTRIA DE PETRÓLEO Y GAS GFX TRANSLATION: MONEY FROM THE</p>	<p>VO: Se ha llenado los bolsillos gracias a la industria del petróleo y gas...</p> <p>Translation: She's lined her pockets thanks to the oil and gas industry...</p> <p>ENG Version: She's filled her pockets thanks to the oil and gas industry...</p>	<p>Since 2019, Michelle Steel has raked in \$180,325 in campaign donations from the oil and gas industry.</p> <p>Michelle Steel, since 2019, has raked in \$180,325 in campaign donations from the oil and gas industry. (Open Secrets, accessed 09/11/24)</p> <p>Michelle Steel “and her husband” made “between \$5,313 and \$15,200” from “oil companies” as of a financial disclosure from May of 2020.</p> <p>“Rouda and the DCCC have tried to draw attention to royalty income that Steel and her husband have earned from oil companies – which totaled between \$5,313 and \$15,200 in the personal financial disclosure report that she filed with the House Clerk as a candidate in May of 2020. Assets in personal financial disclosures are reported in broad ranges.” (CNN, 10/17/21)</p> <p>Michelle Steel raked in “\$37,041 from oil and gas companies during her 2020 campaign,” including “Phillips 66, the largest customer of the Houston-based oil company Amplify Energy, which owns the Elly oil rig” that “spilled an estimated 25,000 gallons of crude oil off the coast of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach on Oct. 2, covering 13 square miles of the Pacific Ocean.”</p> <p>“U.S. Rep. Michelle Steel (R-Calif.) has carefully monitored efforts to salvage Southern California's wetlands after a major offshore oil spill, but the lawmaker's record shows she accepted thousands of campaign dollars from oil and gas companies and voted against disaster relief funding for other cities. A breached undersea pipe, apparently connected to the Elly oil rig, spilled an estimated 25,000 gallons of crude oil off the coast of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach on Oct. 2,</p>

<p>OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY</p>		<p>covering 13 square miles of the Pacific Ocean. Steel represents many of the communities impacted by the spill, and has been pushing for federal, state and local assistance to clean up the mess. But less than a week before the spill, Steel voted against a government funding bill that provided \$28.6 billion in disaster relief funds for communities devastated by Hurricane Ida. She also accepted \$37,041 from oil and gas companies during her 2020 campaign, according to Federal Election Commission data. Among those donors was Phillips 66, the largest customer of the Houston-based oil company Amplify Energy, which owns the Elly oil rig.” (<i>UPI</i>, 10/20/21)</p> <p>Michelle Steel has refused to answer “what her position is on banning new drilling off the West Coast,” and following the 2021 California oil spill, a political opponent said “When disaster strikes home, we know where Michelle Steel is – standing with her oil and gas industry donors.”</p> <p>“Former Democratic Rep. Harley Rouda, whom Steel defeated last year and is running again for this seat, spoke at the protest, and last week released a digital ad that attacked what his campaign says is Steel’s lack of position on the issue. ‘She refuses to answer questions about banning offshore drilling,’ the ad says. ‘When disaster strikes home, we know where Michelle Steel is – standing with her oil and gas industry donors.’ A Steel spokesperson did not directly respond to CNN’s questions about what her position is on banning new drilling off the West Coast. Neither did a spokeswoman for GOP Rep. Young Kim, a freshman Republican who flipped the nearby 39th District, another seat Biden carried last year that Democrats are hoping to contest in 2022.” (<i>CNN</i>, 10/17/21)</p>
<p>We cut to a shot of a gas pump.</p>	<p>VO: ... Y votó en contra de un proyecto de ley que les hubiera parado inflar sus precios.</p>	<p>May 2022: Michelle Steel Voted Against The Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act Which Passed 217-207 And Sought To Allow The Federal Trade Commission To Investigate “Price Gouging” Increasing Prices At The Gas Pump.</p> <p>“The House has voted 217-207 to pass a bill that gives the Federal Trade Commission the authority to investigate energy</p>



Translation:
 ...and she voted against a bill that would have prevented oil companies from price gouging.

SOURCE:
<https://www.shutterstock.com/video/clip-1091457345-gas-pump-filling-station-price-ticker-gouging>

GFX: LAS COMPAÑÍAS PETROLERAS INFLARON SUS PRECIOS
GFX TRANSLATION: OIL COMPANIES FREE TO PRICE GOUGE

companies for alleged price gouging as prices at gas pumps nationwide hit record highs. The vote was largely down party lines with four Democrats, Reps. Kathleen Rice of New York, Stephanie Murphy of Florida, Jared Golden of Maine and Lizzie Fletcher of Texas joining all the Republicans in voting no. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Katie Porter of California and Rep. Kim Schrier of Washington, gives the President the power to issue a declaration making it unlawful for energy companies to increase prices that are ‘unconsciously excessive’, and authorizes the FTC to enforce those violating the act.” [CNN, [5/19/22](#)]

In May 2022 Steel voted against the Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act. The bill passed by a vote of 217-207. [H.R. 7688, #Vote #232, [5/19/22](#); CQ, [5/19/22](#)]

Gas Companies Can Charge The Most Excessive Price They Want For A Gallon Of Gasoline, Save For “Emergency Situations.”


Patrick DeHaan, a “senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.com [...] criticized Florida government for not enacting consumer protections to prevent dealers from erecting ground-level signs camouflaged by shrubbery. Otherwise, it's legal for gas stations to charge what they want in non-emergency situations.” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, [07/30/16](#))

Since 1997, Oil Drilling In United State Has More Than Doubled, From 6.47 Million Barrels Of Crude Oil Produced Per Day To 13.13 Million Barrels Of Crude Oil Per Day.

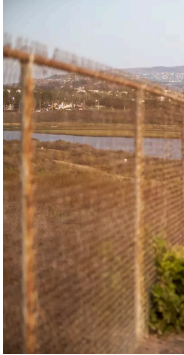
As of October 1997, the last year the U.S. Energy Information Administration has on the data browser, in the United States, there were 6.47 million barrels of Crude Oil produced per day, 51.72 billion cubic feet of Dry Natural Gas produced a day, and 95 million short tons of coal produced per day. As of April 2024, in the United States, there were 13.13 million barrels of Crude Oil produced per day, 102.73 billion cubic feet of Dry

		<p>Natural Gas produced a day, and 33 million short tons of coal produced per day. (U.S. Energy Information Administration, accessed 06/04/24)</p> <p>Over That Same Time Frame, Gas Prices In The United States Have More Than Tripled, Going From 1.197 Per Gallon To 3.603 Per Gallon.</p> <p>Since that same month, October 1997, gas prices in the United States have more than tripled, going from 1.197 per gallon to 3.603 per gallon. (U.S. Energy Information Administration, accessed 06/04/24)</p> <p>The Price Of Retail Gasoline Has Increased Nearly Three-Fold Since 1991.</p> <p>According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the cost of “U.S. Regular All Formulations Retail Gasoline Prices (Dollars per Gallon)” has increased from \$1.094 in February 1991 to \$3.134 in December 2023, the last month of data available. (U.S. Energy Information Administration, accessed 01/22/24)</p> <p>Latest Oil Profit Reports: Exxon Made A Company Record \$55.7 Billion, Chevron \$36.5 Billion, Marathon \$14.5 Billion, Valero \$11.6 Billion, And Phillips 66 \$11 Billion.</p> <p>“Oil company profit reports for 2022 are rolling in and the numbers tell the story we’ve suspected all along: Big Oil reaped record amounts as California families were fleeced at the pump. Five major oil companies have reported their 2022 profits, smashing last year’s highs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exxon: \$55.7 billion — setting a company record and bringing in \$6.3 million an hour Chevron: \$36.5 billion – doubling their 2021 profits, with executives flaunting their ‘outstanding results’ in an earnings call
--	--	--

		<p>Marathon: \$14.5 billion — Q4 profit of \$3.32 billion surged 331% from previous year Valero: \$11.6 billion – 866% higher than the previous year Phillips 66: \$11 billion — Q4 profit of \$1.9 billion up 46% over Q4 2021” (California Office of the Governor, 01/31/23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Oil And Gas Giant Shell” Reported The Highest Profit “In Its 115-Year History.” <p>“Oil and gas giant Shell has reported record annual profits after energy prices surged last year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Profits hit \$39.9bn (£32.2bn) in 2022, double the previous year's total and the highest in its 115-year history. Energy firms have seen record earnings since oil and gas prices jumped following the invasion of Ukraine.” (BBC, 02/02/23)</p> <p>Headline: “Big Oil’s Price Gouging Is Pulling in Big Profits”</p> <p>Headline: “Big Oil’s Price Gouging Is Pulling in Big Profits” (Jacobin, 11/03/22)</p> <p>Jacobin: \$40 Billion In Big Oil Profits In 2022 And “Americans’ Pain At The Pump From Big Oil’s Price Gouging.”</p> <p>“Three of the biggest oil and gas companies posted more than \$40 billion in quarterly profits this week, as Americans’ pain at the pump from Big Oil’s price gouging continues to be a key factor in the election. Such outsized profits suggest Democrats’ attempts to curtail Big Oil’s profiteering through rhetoric alone have failed, and that the pain of high gas prices and other financial hardships plaguing a majority of Americans will continue. ExxonMobil posted its biggest quarter ever on Friday, with nearly \$20 billion in earnings during the third quarter of this year. This was a 191 percent increase from the \$6.75 billion it raked in during Q3 2021.” (Jacobin, 11/03/22)</p>
--	--	--

		<p>Headline: “Exxon 3Q Profits To Climb From Last Quarter On Higher Prices”</p> <p>Headline: “Exxon 3Q profits to climb from last quarter on higher prices” (<i>Reuters</i>, 10/04/23)</p> <p>Headline: “Big Oil Was Quick To Jack Up Gas Prices At The Pump But Slow To Drop Them: Report”</p> <p>”Headline: “Big Oil was quick to jack up gas prices at the pump but slow to drop them: report” (<i>Salon</i>, 07/25/22)</p>
<p>Image of smug man over the image of Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve in Orange County</p>  <p>SOURCE: https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/video/portrait-of-business-man-putting-hands-in-pockets-stock-photage/13596</p>	<p>VO: Y cuando uno de sus donantes ricos quiso comprar tierras públicas, ella se encargó de que consiguiera una buena oferta, muy por debajo del valor del mercado...</p> <p>Translation: And when one of her wealthy donors wanted to buy public land, she made sure he got a sweet deal at well below market value...</p>	<p>Michelle Steel “facilitated” a deal to sell “a .32-acre piece of Upper Newport Bay parkland” to Buck Johns, her “wealthy political donor.” The former county land that Steel helped sell “abuts [Johns] private property,” and Steel helped sell it to him for just “\$13,000.”</p> <p>“Buck Johns is suing Orange County for a .32-acre piece of Upper Newport Bay parkland that’s become the center of attention for not only local activists, but a county grand jury and state agencies as well. Beginning in 2019 Johns attempted to purchase the land — which abuts his private property — for about \$13,000 from the county, a deal facilitated by Michelle Steel, then a member of the county Board of Supervisors, according to an Orange County grand jury report on the matter [...] Protestors march to fence site demonstrating against the proposed and failed sale of the property to a political donor, at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve in Back Bay earlier this month. County officials nearly sold the land for \$13,000 to Buck Johns, a wealthy political donor to Rep. Michelle Steel.” (<i>Los Angeles Times</i>, 09/16/22)</p> <p>“A wealthy GOP political donor’s effort to enlarge his backyard with public coastal parkland would ‘irreparably’ injure public access and impede wildlife movement in an otherwise ‘dedicated habitat area,’ read new court filings by County of Orange officials. The statements are part of what’s now a privatization battle over a protected land parcel in Upper</p>

[7558?adppo
pup=true](#)



SOURCE:
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-09-13/wealthy-o-c-insider-blocks-access-to-upper-newport-bay-with-fence>

GFX:
BENEFICIÓ
A SU
DONANTE
MILLONARI
O

**GFX
TRANSLATI
ON:**
BENEFITED
HER
WEALTHY
DONOR

Newport Bay, which has long been fenced off and sought for ownership by an adjacent property owner and longtime political power broker named Buck Johns. With the help of former county supervisor and current Congresswoman Michelle Steel, Johns nearly bought the land for \$13,000 in 2021, a price tag that county officials defended but sparked public backlash and a civic petition that ultimately slammed the sale’s brakes. [...] And a 20-page OC Grand Jury investigation report in 2022 found insufficient procedures for the sale of public lands, and voiced concern that ‘that the intervention of the office of a former Orange County Supervisor influenced the way in which a particular public land sale was handled.’” [Voice of OC, [2/22/23](#)]

The Land Was Sold For Only \$13,000 Even Though The Added Land “Would ‘Substantially Increase’ The Value Of The Homeowner’s Property.”

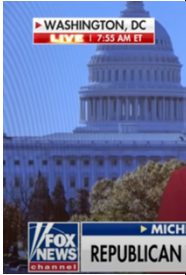
“The grand jury wrote that the appraisal for the property, which was paid for by the homeowner, came in ‘at only’ \$13,000, even though the added land would ‘substantially increase’ the value of the homeowner’s property. Despite the low price tag, the board voted to move forward with the sale in January 2021. The grand jury said that the staff report that was prepared ahead of the supervisors’ meeting did not mention the previous board resolution permanently designating the property as public trust land.” [Daily Pilot, [6/15/22](#)]

Adjacent Parcel 439-051-10 Had An Assessed Value Of \$1,199,147, Which Is 92 Times Higher Than The Assessed Value Johns Provided. [Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector, accessed [2/28/22](#)]

In 2023, Buck Johns sold his “3.5 acre Newport Beach estate” for \$23 million.

“3.5 acre Newport Beach estate of GOP donor Buck Johns sells for \$23 million The LLC buyer also owns Duck Farm next door for a combined 6 acres [...] The same entity acquired Duck Farm, the neighboring property made up of multiple parcels totaling 2.5 acres, for \$15 million in June 2023.”

		<p>(Orange County Register, 08/29/23)</p> <p>An Orange County Grand Jury Investigated The Sale Of Public Land To Private Individuals, Specifically Investigating The Sale Of Land Michelle Steel Was Involved In.</p> <p>“The county of Orange isn’t sufficiently notifying residents about the potential sale of public lands to private individuals, according to a recent report from the Orange County Grand Jury. In its document, ‘County Land Transactions: Will the Public Notice?’, the investigative body also identified a number of other faults with the procedures for the sale of public lands in Orange County, including that the county has also failed to properly notify involved state agencies, like the California Coastal Commission, about potential land sales. The grand jury said it chose to investigate the matter after receiving complaints from residents about the sales of public park land to private individuals. The county owns about 80,000 acres of park land. While it sometimes makes sense for the county to sell land to private people, these sales should be ‘carefully scrutinized’ so that there isn’t any unnecessary loss of valuable public land and to protect against politically fueled deals, the grand jury wrote. [...] For its report, the grand jury specifically investigated a proposed sale in the Newport Beach Back Bay area that sparked controversy last year. Voice of OC reporter Brandon Pho covered the deal, where county officials nearly sold a piece of park land to a wealthy political donor, whose home is connected to the parcel, for \$13,000. Initially, the county did not move forward on the homeowner’s proposal. But then, former county Supervisor Michelle Steel stepped in and advocated for the deal, and it gained traction, the grand jury said. Steel is referred to as ‘then-County Supervisor for District 2’ in the report. A spokesperson for Steel did not respond to a request for comment.” [Daily Pilot, 6/15/22]</p> <p>The OCGJ Report Was Drafted Commissioned After Multiple Citizen Complaints Were Made About The Sale Of The Newport Beach Property.</p>
--	--	---

		<p>“REASON FOR THE STUDY This issue came to the attention of the OCGJ after it received citizen complaints citing incidents of Orange County land designated as public space or parks being sold to private individuals. The complainants believed not only that these properties were under conservation easements that made the transfers inappropriate, but also that the assessed prices presented to the involved parties were unreasonably low. In particular, the nearly completed sale of a parcel of land located in the Newport Beach Back Bay Reserve raised significant concerns about a private individual purchasing this land and the land’s assessed price. Based on these complaints, the OCGJ endeavored to evaluate County land sale procedures, the County’s adherence with applicable use and conveyance restrictions, and the appraisal procedures for setting the land purchase price for County lands designated as parks, open space, or property held in public trust.” [Orange County Grand Jury Report, Page 41, 7/18/22]</p>
<p>Image of Michelle Steel. Money floods in.</p>  <p>SOURCE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjgiAnU-K1k</p> <p>GFX: ¿EL DINERO COMPRA A MICHELLE STEEL?</p>	<p>VO: El dinero no compra la felicidad, pero sí a Michelle Steel?</p> <p>Translation: Money can't buy happiness, but can it buy Michelle Steel?</p>	<p>Since 2019, Michelle Steel has raked in \$180,325 in campaign donations from the oil and gas industry.</p> <p>Michelle Steel, since 2019, has raked in \$180,325 in campaign donations from the oil and gas industry. (Open Secrets, accessed 09/11/24)</p> <p>Michelle Steel “and her husband” made “between \$5,313 and \$15,200” from “oil companies” as of a financial disclosure from May of 2020.</p> <p>“Rouda and the DCCC have tried to draw attention to royalty income that Steel and her husband have earned from oil companies – which totaled between \$5,313 and \$15,200 in the personal financial disclosure report that she filed with the House Clerk as a candidate in May of 2020. Assets in personal financial disclosures are reported in broad ranges.” (CNN, 10/17/21)</p> <p>Michelle Steel raked in “\$37,041 from oil and gas companies during her 2020 campaign,” including “Phillips 66, the largest customer of the Houston-based oil company Amplify Energy, which owns the Elly oil rig”</p>

<p>GFX TRANSLATION: MONEY DOES BUY MICHELLE STEEL</p> <p>Disclaimer: PAID FOR BY LCVVF. LCVVICTOR YFUND.ORG. NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE.</p> <p>Disclaimer: PAGADO POR HMP LCVVICTOR YFUND.CO ORG NO AUTORIZADO POR NINGÚN CANDIDATO NI COMITÉ DE CANDIDATO</p>		<p>that “spilled an estimated 25,000 gallons of crude oil off the coast of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach on Oct. 2, covering 13 square miles of the Pacific Ocean.”</p> <p>“U.S. Rep. Michelle Steel (R-Calif.) has carefully monitored efforts to salvage Southern California's wetlands after a major offshore oil spill, but the lawmaker's record shows she accepted thousands of campaign dollars from oil and gas companies and voted against disaster relief funding for other cities. A breached undersea pipe, apparently connected to the Elly oil rig, spilled an estimated 25,000 gallons of crude oil off the coast of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach on Oct. 2, covering 13 square miles of the Pacific Ocean. Steel represents many of the communities impacted by the spill, and has been pushing for federal, state and local assistance to clean up the mess. But less than a week before the spill, Steel voted against a government funding bill that provided \$28.6 billion in disaster relief funds for communities devastated by Hurricane Ida. She also accepted \$37,041 from oil and gas companies during her 2020 campaign, according to Federal Election Commission data. Among those donors was Phillips 66, the largest customer of the Houston-based oil company Amplify Energy, which owns the Elly oil rig.” (<i>UPI</i>, 10/20/21)</p> <p>Michelle Steel has refused to answer “what her position is on banning new drilling off the West Coast,” and following the 2021 California oil spill, a political opponent said “When disaster strikes home, we know where Michelle Steel is – standing with her oil and gas industry donors.”</p> <p>“Former Democratic Rep. Harley Rouda, whom Steel defeated last year and is running again for this seat, spoke at the protest, and last week released a digital ad that attacked what his campaign says is Steel's lack of position on the issue. ‘She refuses to answer questions about banning offshore drilling,’ the ad says. ‘When disaster strikes home, we know where Michelle Steel is – standing with her oil and gas industry donors.’ A Steel spokesperson did not directly respond to CNN's questions about what her position is on banning new drilling off the West Coast. Neither did a spokeswoman for</p>
--	--	--

		<p> GOP Rep. Young Kim, a freshman Republican who flipped the nearby 39th District, another seat Biden carried last year that Democrats are hoping to contest in 2022.” (CNN, 10/17/21) </p> <p> May 2022: Michelle Steel Voted Against The Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act Which Passed 217-207 And Sought To Allow The Federal Trade Commission To Investigate “Price Gouging” Increasing Prices At The Gas Pump. </p> <p> “The House has voted 217-207 to pass a bill that gives the Federal Trade Commission the authority to investigate energy companies for alleged price gouging as prices at gas pumps nationwide hit record highs. The vote was largely down party lines with four Democrats, Reps. Kathleen Rice of New York, Stephanie Murphy of Florida, Jared Golden of Maine and Lizzie Fletcher of Texas joining all the Republicans in voting no. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Katie Porter of California and Rep. Kim Schrier of Washington, gives the President the power to issue a declaration making it unlawful for energy companies to increase prices that are ‘unconsciously excessive’, and authorizes the FTC to enforce those violating the act.” [CNN, 5/19/22] </p> <p> In May 2022 Steel voted against the Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act. The bill passed by a vote of 217-207. [H.R. 7688, #Vote #232, 5/19/22; CQ, 5/19/22] </p> <p> Michelle Steel “facilitated” a deal to sell “a .32-acre piece of Upper Newport Bay parkland” to Buck Johns, her “wealthy political donor.” The former county land that Steel helped sell “abuts [Johns] private property,” and Steel helped sell it to him for just “\$13,000.” </p> <p> “Buck Johns is suing Orange County for a .32-acre piece of Upper Newport Bay parkland that’s become the center of attention for not only local activists, but a county grand jury and state agencies as well. Beginning in 2019 Johns attempted to purchase the land — which abuts his private property — for about \$13,000 from the county, a deal facilitated by Michelle Steel, then a member of the county </p>
--	--	---

		<p>Board of Supervisors, according to an Orange County grand jury report on the matter [...] Protestors march to fence site demonstrating against the proposed and failed sale of the property to a political donor, at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve in Back Bay earlier this month. County officials nearly sold the land for \$13,000 to Buck Johns, a wealthy political donor to Rep. Michelle Steel.” (<i>Los Angeles Times</i>, 09/16/22)</p> <p>“A wealthy GOP political donor’s effort to enlarge his backyard with public coastal parkland would ‘irreparably’ injure public access and impede wildlife movement in an otherwise ‘dedicated habitat area,’ read new court filings by County of Orange officials. The statements are part of what’s now a privatization battle over a protected land parcel in Upper Newport Bay, which has long been fenced off and sought for ownership by an adjacent property owner and longtime political power broker named Buck Johns. With the help of former county supervisor and current Congresswoman Michelle Steel, Johns nearly bought the land for \$13,000 in 2021, a price tag that county officials defended but sparked public backlash and a civic petition that ultimately slammed the sale’s brakes. [...] And a 20-page OC Grand Jury investigation report in 2022 found insufficient procedures for the sale of public lands, and voiced concern that ‘that the intervention of the office of a former Orange County Supervisor influenced the way in which a particular public land sale was handled.’” [Voice of OC, 2/22/23]</p> <p>The Land Was Sold For Only \$13,000 Even Though The Added Land “Would ‘Substantially Increase’ The Value Of The Homeowner’s Property.”</p> <p>“The grand jury wrote that the appraisal for the property, which was paid for by the homeowner, came in ‘at only’ \$13,000, even though the added land would ‘substantially increase’ the value of the homeowner’s property. Despite the low price tag, the board voted to move forward with the sale in January 2021. The grand jury said that the staff report that was prepared ahead of the supervisors’ meeting did not mention the previous board resolution permanently designating the</p>
--	--	--

		<p>property as public trust land.” [Daily Pilot, 6/15/22]</p> <p>Adjacent Parcel 439-051-10 Had An Assessed Value Of \$1,199,147, Which Is 92 Times Higher Than The Assessed Value Johns Provided. [Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector, accessed 2/28/22]</p> <p>In 2023, Buck Johns sold his “3.5 acre Newport Beach estate” for \$23 million.</p> <p>“3.5 acre Newport Beach estate of GOP donor Buck Johns sells for \$23 million The LLC buyer also owns Duck Farm next door for a combined 6 acres [...] The same entity acquired Duck Farm, the neighboring property made up of multiple parcels totaling 2.5 acres, for \$15 million in June 2023.” (<i>Orange County Register</i>, 08/29/23)</p> <p>An Orange County Grand Jury Investigated The Sale Of Public Land To Private Individuals, Specifically Investigating The Sale Of Land Michelle Steel Was Involved In.</p> <p>“The county of Orange isn’t sufficiently notifying residents about the potential sale of public lands to private individuals, according to a recent report from the Orange County Grand Jury. In its document, ‘County Land Transactions: Will the Public Notice?’, the investigative body also identified a number of other faults with the procedures for the sale of public lands in Orange County, including that the county has also failed to properly notify involved state agencies, like the California Coastal Commission, about potential land sales. The grand jury said it chose to investigate the matter after receiving complaints from residents about the sales of public park land to private individuals. The county owns about 80,000 acres of park land. While it sometimes makes sense for the county to sell land to private people, these sales should be ‘carefully scrutinized’ so that there isn’t any unnecessary loss of valuable public land and to protect against politically fueled deals, the grand jury wrote. [...] For its report, the grand jury specifically investigated a proposed sale in the Newport Beach Back Bay area that sparked controversy last year. Voice of OC</p>
--	--	---

		<p>reporter Brandon Pho covered the deal, where county officials nearly sold a piece of park land to a wealthy political donor, whose home is connected to the parcel, for \$13,000. Initially, the county did not move forward on the homeowner’s proposal. But then, former county Supervisor Michelle Steel stepped in and advocated for the deal, and it gained traction, the grand jury said. Steel is referred to as ‘then-County Supervisor for District 2’ in the report. A spokesperson for Steel did not respond to a request for comment.” [Daily Pilot, 6/15/22]</p> <p>The OCGJ Report Was Drafted Commissioned After Multiple Citizen Complaints Were Made About The Sale Of The Newport Beach Property.</p> <p>“REASON FOR THE STUDY This issue came to the attention of the OCGJ after it received citizen complaints citing incidents of Orange County land designated as public space or parks being sold to private individuals. The complainants believed not only that these properties were under conservation easements that made the transfers inappropriate, but also that the assessed prices presented to the involved parties were unreasonably low. In particular, the nearly completed sale of a parcel of land located in the Newport Beach Back Bay Reserve raised significant concerns about a private individual purchasing this land and the land’s assessed price. Based on these complaints, the OCGJ endeavored to evaluate County land sale procedures, the County’s adherence with applicable use and conveyance restrictions, and the appraisal procedures for setting the land purchase price for County lands designated as parks, open space, or property held in public trust.” [Orange County Grand Jury Report, Page 41, 7/18/22]</p>
--	--	---