There’s no doubt that California is a leader when it comes to setting trends for the rest of the country. But there is one devastating trend rampant in the Golden State that consistently rings alarm bells here at NPG — its ongoing, unchecked population growth.

A recent story in the *Los Angeles Times* reported on how the Southern California Association of Governments is facing a major hurdle in trying to get the political leaders of each of the 183 cities and six counties in the region to put aside local interests and work together to plan for the future. The primary focus of their efforts is to balance the needs for open space, new housing units, job centers and transportation systems.

The catalyst for this exercise in cooperation is a projected population increase of 6 million people — over and above the current 17 million — who will flood into the area by the year 2030. That’s the equivalent of adding the population of Los Angeles - twice!

Typical for California, much of the focus for long-range planning is related to building new roads. However, another major concern is that the additional millions of people will exacerbate the region’s current housing crisis which is expected to get worse despite the fact that vast stretches of open space are already targeted for development.

What NPG finds surprising in the news reports about this cooperative effort is that the long-range planning is so narrowly focused. While paying attention to some areas of concern, the local leaders are not concurrently examining how the area will cope with the increased medical, energy, and water needs and the extensive environmental damage that will result from an additional 6 million people.

But regardless of the issues of cooperation or preparedness, is NPG the only national organization willing to ask “What’s wrong with this picture?” Isn’t California only planning to adjust to their problems rather than solving them?

What is so unfortunate about this story is that it contains no reports of local leaders working together to stop this regional population crisis from developing in the first place. And as Don Mann, NPG’s President noted: “Immigration is the driving force behind Southern California’s devastating population growth. Pressure must be brought on our federal government to halt illegal immigration and drastically reduce legal immigration.”

**GETTING OUR MESSAGE OUT**

If you’re scanning your radio channels and happen across an enlightening and intelligent discussion of immigration and population issues, it’s very possible that you are listening to the well-informed voice of David Simcox, one of NPG’s Senior Advisors. In recent months, as more Americans focus on immigration and population issues, Dave has become a very sought-after expert guest on talk radio. As an advocate espousing the critical need for immigration reform and a national population policy, he reinforces NPG’s mission to hundreds of thousands of citizens nationwide via the airwaves. During December and January, Dave was the guest on one-hour call-in radio shows in such diverse locations as Cheyenne, WY; Tucson, AZ; Orchard Grove, MO; Fayetteville, AR; Abilene KS; Keene, NH; Newburg, NY; Harrogate, TN; New Orleans, LA and Las Vegas, NV. As he prepares to take on an even more active media schedule in the coming months, NPG wishes to extend a special thanks to Dave for his ongoing efforts to get our message out.
In order to move population policy to the forefront of debate, NPG recognizes that we can’t do it alone — we must have help. That is why we have recently called on America’s Governors to lead the charge.

We know that our Governors, rather than our leaders in Washington, DC, are closest to the problems of traffic gridlock, urban sprawl, overcrowded schools, overwhelmed social services, and damage to our environment. Governors can best see firsthand how runaway population growth and out-of-control immigration are having a severe impact on our everyday life, and ultimately on future generations to come.

With that in mind, NPG has launched a new initiative to increase our interaction with the Governors of all 50 states and is reaffirming our long-standing effort to work closely with them and their agencies and staffs in providing expert advice and research in areas of immigration, population, and environmental policy.

NPG’s most recent contact with our states top executives came in the form of a letter from President Don Mann urging them to make a commitment to establishing long term, no-nonsense population growth policies for their respective states. To demonstrate their willingness to assume a leadership role in the battle to bring immigration and population under control, the Governors have been asked to put special emphasis on these issues as they shape their legislative agendas and especially as they prepare to issue their individual Earth Day Proclamations for 2003.

Earth Day (April 22) is the designated day for all Americans to focus on the future of our nation and our planet. A synchronized call from our Governors to slow, halt and eventually reverse our country’s escalating population growth will hopefully increase the pressure on Congress to stop ignoring this critical issue and take long overdue action — especially when it comes to halting massive illegal immigration and drastically reducing legal immigration.

Concurrent with our initial letter to the Governors, NPG is also planning a powerful grassroots effort. Toward that end, all NPG members have recently received a personalized petition to the Governor of their state which they are urged to sign and return to us so we can deliver hundreds or thousands to each statehouse. If you have yet to return your signed petition, please do so immediately. In order to reach way beyond our membership, we will also post a copy of the petition on our website (www.npg.org) for easy access by the concerned general public.
WHO’S IN CHARGE HERE?

The question must be asked: Why is the Mexican government being allowed to get away with freely issuing Matriculas Consulares (Mexican consular ID cards) to illegal immigrants currently in the United States without the State Department or Treasury Department stepping into put an immediate halt to the practice?

Current estimates are that more than a million cards have been issued by the 48 Mexican consulates scattered across the U.S. through a very aggressive program on the part of the Mexican government which is also heavily lobbying states and other local jurisdictions to accept them as “legitimate” documentation. According to a Washington Post article in late December, the issuance of the cards are, in essence, “a form of stealth policymaking” and the Mexican government hopes the cards will lead to a de facto “amnesty” for Mexicans already in this country. By late 2002 their efforts were already paying off handsomely as more than 66 national banks, 801

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**MOURNING A FRIEND**

All of us at NPG join in mourning the loss of a good friend and true humanitarian, Dr. B. Meredith Burke this past December. For more than seven years, Dr. Burke served as a Senior Fellow of NPG. She was an invaluable ally and noted contributor of important educational and groundbreaking articles that appeared in academic journals and national publications strongly endorsing NPG’s mission to achieve and maintain an optimum population. Many of her population-related commentaries can be found today on NPG’s website, www.npg.org.

A native of California, Dr. Burke fought tirelessly against the over-urbanization of her state and made it her life’s work to educate others about the true causes of environmental decline. In addition to promoting positive social change, Dr. Burke fearlessly championed such hot-button topics as over-consumption, U.S. immigration policies, labor issues, women’s rights and excess fertility. She used her extensive education and expertise in her work as a consultant to the World Bank, U.S.A.I.D. and the U.N. Development Program. Her sharp wit, fierce dedication, and heartfelt compassion will be deeply missed by all of us who had the honor to call her our colleague.

**WE'RE MOVING OUR OFFICE...**

Next to the power corridors of downtown Washington, D.C, no city is home to more trade associations and non-profit organizations than Alexandria, VA., which lies just across the Potomac. And while NPG has rented space on Embassy Row in the heart of the nation’s capital for many years, we recently decided to make the move across the river to a brand new townhouse office.

Please note our new address:

NPG  
2861 Duke Street  
Suite 36  
Alexandria, VA 22314